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## FROM A PRINCIPAL'S DESK

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Dear FPS Family,

One of my favorite parts of the day is in the morning during drop-off time. I love to stand between the school and parking lot and watch as students and parents arrive for another day of school. It's also been a great way to see parents and/or grandparents and children together and figure out who goes with whom. I love seeing how many of the children move quickly toward the school, anticipating another day of learning, eager to see teachers and friends once again. It brings back lots of good memories.

My word to focus on this month is FAMILY. I've been thinking about how God has blessed us with families, how he accomplishes so much within the framework of the family. I've also been thinking about our school family. Included are students, parents and other family members, teachers and staff, volunteers and our school board. Even the guy who brings the pizzas for lunch on Fridays feels like he is part of the school family.

Just as in your family each person has their role to play, their contribution to make, so it is with our FPS Family. It requires all of us working together, each bringing our gifts to the table, in order to reach our potential and help our children be all that God made them to be. I am humbled each day by our teachers and seeing all the hours they pour into their classes, all the sacrifices they make as they minister at our school. They are worth their weight in gold. I just wish we could pay them accordingly! We appreciate more than words can express our volunteers and the gift of time they give on a weekly basis. Our school is blessed with a tremendous board that is committed to helping us live out our mission.

And to our parents and other family members who make sacrifices in order to have your children here, thank you. Packing lunches, helping with homework and laundering uniforms can feel like pretty thankless work most days. But all those little things you do are contributing to your child's education and the people they are becoming. It is also an example to our children of what it means to be family.

All God's Blessings,  
Mr. Gil Livesay  
Elementary Director



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Feb. 6-10**

Pasta for Pennies fundraiser

**Feb. 10**

Dr. Barnes visits (dental hygiene program)

**Feb. 10**

Elementary Progress Reports go home

**Feb. 14**

Happy Valentine's Day/VPK 50s Dance

**Feb. 15-16**

Bake Sale hosted by Kinders

**Feb. 17**

Parent Committee mtg

**Feb. 20**

Presidents' Day, NO SCHOOL

**Feb. 24**

Yearbook orders due



We're on Facebook.

## MRS. SACCA'S WONDERFUL ONES

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Happy New Year to old friends and new ones. It is so great to be back here at First Presbyterian School. I am enjoying this class. We have curious minds and exploring hands. This year so far we have learned about snow, weather and sounds. Looking into February, we will talk about the Groundhog and shadows, hearts, teeth, Presidents and pets. Our color for February is Red. This class is active in art, music, science and will do our best to participate in Chapel on Wednesdays. I hope your children are enjoying their time here as much as I am with them.

In His Love,  
Mrs. Sacca

## MRS. MCLEOD'S ONE YEAR OLD'S

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Welcome back! The children are doing GREAT! We welcome Aubree and Jaison to the classroom. We also welcome Ms. Heidi to the classroom. We talked about the winter weather. We made snow in the classroom. Brrr cold hands. We made penguins and polar bears. For a real fun activity we had dinosaurs in the classroom. Where are they? What happened? We talked about the color red and the heart shape. We are looking forward to February. We will talk about the color purple and the heart shape. We will also talk about who loves us. We will talk about shadows. The dentist visit is February 10th, so we will talk about brushing our teeth.

Dates to remember: Groundhog Day Feb 2

Dentist visit	Feb 10
Bake Sale	Feb 15 & 16
No School	Feb 20

God Bless!  
In His name,  
Mrs. Mcleod & Ms. Heidi

## TERRIFIC TWO'S

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Wow! We are officially in our new room. All of the children have adjusted well and even seem to like the new room better.

This month we have so many fun themes beginning with transportation. The children love hearing about all the different ways to get from Point A to Point B. Next we will learn about how important it is to brush our teeth and how to take care of them. Then during the week of Valentine's Day we will talk about our feelings and how to express them. This week we will also have a Valentines Party so keep a look out for more information. After Valentines week we are going to explore the pond and everything around it. Last we will learn about WHAT and WHO are on the farm!

Our color this month is blue and the shape is the diamond. Thank you for your help and participation.

In His Name,  
Ms. Derosia and Miss Kennedy

## THREE YEAR OLDS

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We are off to a fantastic start to the New Year. Last month our classroom was turned into a winter wonderland and then we rocketed off to outer space. The children enjoyed both units. This month again is full of fun and learning. We will start February off with a unit on Dental Health and end the week with a visit from a Dentist with a presentation on "Dental Hygiene". We will also stop on February 2nd to look for our shadows on Groundhog Day. The next week we will have a week of hearts, love and friendship and celebrate Valentine's Day with a class spaghetti luncheon. We will also be exchanging Valentines Cards: we have 16 children in our class. Please check the bulletin Board for the luncheon signup sheet. I will also be looking for

parent volunteers to help set up the luncheon. The Valentine lunch will be Tuesday February 14th. We will end the month studying terrible lizards: the Dinosaurs. Letters for February are X, V, D and H. The shapes will be heart and oval. The numbers will be 7 and 8. Bible time: we will wrap up with Moses and Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land.

I will start working with the children on writing their first names. The correct way to have your child write their name is to have them use a Capital letter for the first letter then lower case letters for the rest of their name. This is the best way to teach them to write their names as this is how they will need to write their names in VPK classes. I want to encourage you to also be working and reinforcing your child's efforts in practicing writing their first names.

In-school registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin March 1st and 2nd please be sure to register your child as the free VPK classes fill up quickly and you will need to be registered to secure a spot for the free VPK class in the fall. Details will be forth coming toward the end of February; check family folders for more information.

Please do not forget show and tell every Friday. This is an important activity for your child as it builds self-esteem as they get to go in front of the class to share. This also greatly enriches their social skills. Show and tell should be the color, shape or letter we are learning about or something related to the weekly class theme.

The winter community service project is Pasta for Pennies which starts February 6th. We are collecting pennies to support research on cancer blood diseases like leukemia. Please send in your extra pennies and put them in the collection jar on the community table.

Thank you to all the parents who have been ordering Scholastic books; we have been able to earn free books and listening stories on CD for the class. February book orders will be due Friday February 24th.

February 4 year old Birthday Blessings to Jermari 4th, Trinden 19th, Abbigail 29th.

God Bless you and your families.  
Mrs. Babin and Mrs. Morrison

## VPK: MRS. FREEMAN

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This month we will have a lot going on, so please stay informed by reading our class bulletin board. Progress reports went home on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The first week of February I will be setting up conferences. If you would like to have a conference please let me know and I will set up a time.

We are going to have a **50s Dance** in the fellowship hall. We will be dressing like the 50s so please be thinking about an outfit for your child to wear that day. Valentine cards will be given out that day as well (more information to come). We have a lot of fun so come join us that morning, February 14th. Have fun creating an outfit for you and your child to wear that day.

Our themes will be: **Opposites, Dental health**, (a local dentist will be here to talk with our children on the 10<sup>th</sup>), **Valentines/feelings**, past and present **Presidents** (no school 20<sup>th</sup>) and **Farm** (farm animals will be visiting us during that week). When we do the letter Pp we will have a pajama party on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Your child will come in their pajamas with sneakers (no slippers please). We will have a pancake breakfast, our show 'n tell will be that day, and we will have a fashion show with our pajamas.

Letters will be O-S and numbers 15-18. The shape will be a heart and the color will be pink. Our **memory verse**: "God is love." 1 John 4:8. Please work with your child at home to remember our Bible verse.

**Pasta for Pennies** starts February 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a fundraiser for the whole school. We collect money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The class that collects the most will receive a lunch from the Olive Garden. We would love to be the winners, so send in your change and those green bills too for another great cause.

**Open House** will be on March 10th. We have a carnival for this event and it is open to the public and all of you. I will need your help in manning a game during this event. Look for more information to come.

We are in the process of adopting a manatee for our class. Look at your weekly newsletter to see which one of the manatees

they decided on. We will be doing a graph to see which manatee we will adopt. The class will receive a class picture of the manatee so look for the picture as well. Thank you for all who helped by donating money toward this great cause.

The children have done very well with writing their first and last name. We are very proud of them all; there is not one that complains about doing their name every day. What a great group of children we are blessed with. Thank you for having your children here every day and on time. That helps us to accomplish all that we need together. Thank you for your prayers and support.

In His Love,  
Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Hindalova

**February Memory verse:** God is love. 1 John 4:8

**February Birthdays:**

Dustin 1<sup>st</sup>

Nicholas 8<sup>th</sup> (we will celebrate his birthday in class on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a non-scary looking clown coming to our class for this event. If your child is afraid of clowns please explain that this clown is a nice one and will be doing special things for us.)

Osei 23<sup>rd</sup>

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**VPK: MRS. CUMMINGS**

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Will it be spring or did the Ground Hog see his shadow? Hmm?!?

We had a great time seeing the manatees at Blue Springs. Thank you to all who chaperoned. During the month of January we focused on Winter. We talked about winter animals and bears. We really enjoyed our Teddy Bear picnic.

This month we are talking about Nursery Rhymes, Dental Hygiene, Valentine's Day/Feelings, Presidents' Day and Farm. On Friday February 10th we will have a visit from a Dental Hygienist. On Tuesday February 14th we will have a Valentine's Day 50's dance and a Valentine card exchange. More information will be sent home. There will be no school Monday February 20th for Presidents' Day. March 2nd we

will have a visit from a Petting Farm. More information will be sent home.

I will introduce letters Nn, Xx, Vv, Yy and have one review week. Numbers for the month are 18-21. Our color this month will be Pink. Our shape will be the Heart.

Please continue to check your file folders and class bulletin board daily.

God Bless,  
Mrs. Cummings, Mrs. Veitch & Mr. Chris

February Birthdays: Erica 26th

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**VPK: MRS. ARRESEIGOR**

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February will be a fun, busy, and exciting month in our classroom. We will continue to work on our letters, writing our name, and recognizing numbers and shapes. Our colors for February are pink and red and numbers are 15-22.

The first week of February we will have a special visit from a local dentist. He will do a presentation on Friday, February 10th at 9am. He will show the children how to properly brush their teeth and general dental health overall.

February 14th will be our 50's dance in the fellowship hall. We will be dressing like the 50's. Valentine cards will be given out that day (more information to come). We have a lot of fun and hope you can come and join us that morning in the fellowship hall. Have fun creating an outfit for you and your child and bring your dancing shoes.

Pasta for Pennies starts February 6th. This is a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the class that raises the most "pennies" (other coins and paper money are accepted as well) will receive a complete lunch from Olive Garden.

Thanks to all our wonderful parents and grandparents that came with us to Blue Springs. The children are still talking about the great time we had together outside of school. We have picked the manatee that we are adopting and his name is Margarito. He has scars on his back and is missing his right flipper. We are waiting for our official picture.

Heads up on Open House. This event will take place March 10th. In- school registration for fall will start on Tuesday, March 6th. We will need volunteers to help make the Open House Carnival a success. Please look for more information and a signup sheet.

Blessings to all!

Mrs. Arreseigor and Mrs. Bodger

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## KINDERGARTEN

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January flew by and I can't believe its February already! Throughout February we will continue with a busy schedule. First, the children will celebrate the 100th day of school on Friday, February 3rd. We will have fun with our "Hip, Hip, Hooray, It's the 100th Day" Celebration. Stop by and see some of the very interesting items to count and bundle in groups of ten. Also, during February we will learn about Groundhog Day, have a small Valentine's Day Party, and celebrate Presidents' Day on Monday, February 20th by not having school.

The school project to help the Leukemia Foundation's "Pasta for Pennies" will be February 6-10. The class that collects the most for a donation wins a lunch from Olive Garden. Bring in your donation and help the Leukemia Foundation. Also, this month it is our class's turn to provide the Bake Sale for the entire school. So help out by sending in 3 to 4 dozen goodies on February 15th and 16th.

Please remember to check the bulletin board outside the classroom for weekly news. Also, check the large bulletin board beside Room 2. The Kindergarten class decorated it this month.

Have a Happy February,  
Mrs. Burton

\* Happy Birthday to Shelby on Feb. 15th!

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## FIRST GRADE

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What a super busy new year!! Our first grade class worked so hard this month. In Reading we are continuing the unit about our

neighborhood around us. We also read Ramona Quimby and went to the play. In Bible we are talking about God's gift of a Savior. We will discuss Jesus as a young boy and move through the many miracles of Christ. We are finishing up Math Journal 1 and moving to our second Math Journal. This is a good time to start memorizing math facts. We will also continue talking about time and money and introduce the quarter. In Social Studies we will talk about the presidents and introduce maps. In our Science lessons we will talk about machines and get ready for the Science Fair in March. Your first grader will have the opportunity to use the scientific method and complete a science project. Keep an eye out for information to follow. We continue writing in class and learning how to plan a paper and stay on topic. We had another successful bake sale. Thank you for all the support of our parents and coworkers. I am looking forward to the month of February. So many exciting things are in store!!

God Bless,  
Mrs. Spellacy

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## SECOND AND THIRD GRADES

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It's official: we are halfway through this school year. Time really does fly. Thanks to all the amazing parents who helped out with holiday hoopla, class parties, field trips and student projects in December and January. Please check your child's folder daily for important correspondence, homework, graded work, etc. and contact me immediately if you have questions or concerns about your child's performance or behavior. It takes a team effort to support a child's educational success and I really love my teammates here at First Pres. With that in mind, please ask your children to refrain from playing on the small playground if they are over 3 years old. It can be not only destructive but also dangerous.

In February the students will present their cereal box book reports at the Valentine's Party on the 14th. Parents, be sure to check out your child's poetry book. They have worked hard writing and word-processing these phenomenal

keepsakes. Last month in art we made dragons, lotus flowers, lanterns, and fortunetellers to celebrate Chinese New Year. This month we will be making Valentine's Day surprises and batik wall hangings. Next month I'd like to do some sewing. Parent volunteers for art are welcome as I can always use extra hands and creative ideas. We have art Tuesday and Friday from 9-9:30 and the 4th and 5th graders have art at the same time on Monday and Thursday. So much fun!!

Academic focus in this quarter will be on multiplication, reading comprehension, and stepping up our writing in 3rd grade. 2nd graders will be challenged to add and subtract multiple numbers with 2 or more digits as well as reading fluently and with understanding at grade level. We will also be visiting the Pioneer Center in Barberville this month. Next month we look forward to Science Fair and Open House. Please pray for our school as we begin building next year's student body. I know it can be a sacrifice to keep your child in a private school in difficult economic times, but I have personally seen the difference this school has made in so many young peoples' lives. Thank you for partnering with us to help each child fulfill his or her potential both academically and in character. Our children are our greatest resource.

Second quarter Kudos-  
Perfect attendance-Terry, Samantha, and True  
Super citizens-Breanna, Terry, Samantha, Jonathan, Ashton, and Spencer  
All O's-John and Spencer  
O's & S's-Sara & Samantha  
All A's & B's- Breanna, Jonathan, and Ashton

Mrs. Wallace

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## FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADES

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It's hard to believe that it's February. Many thanks for those that helped us out during the Holiday season with parties and field trips. We will be having a Valentine's Party so be looking for the sign-up sheet for ways you can help. Congratulations to Academic All-Star Kate Spellacy for getting all A's on her report card for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grading period. Also, congratulations to Super Students Kyra Pienaar, Leon Rolle, and

Kodiak Wallace for getting all A's and B's on their report cards.

During February, we will be discussing African-American History month as we move towards the study of the Civil War both in Florida History (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and US History (5<sup>th</sup> grade). We will be working on biographies of famous African-Americans, writing both an essay and doing a PowerPoint presentation. In Science, we will start to learn about physical science. This will include properties of matter, machines (levers) and studies of force and motion. In Math, 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be doing double-digit multiplication and dividing, while 5<sup>th</sup> graders will work more with fractions and long division. Science Fair will be the first week of March so work with your child in selecting a project. We will be preparing a puppet show for our reading buddies to be performed in February or early March.

In Christ,  
Ms. Nix

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## COACH ANTHONY

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This month in Physical Education our students will be working on the following: catching, loco-motor skills and chasing, fleeing and dodging, and jumping and landing. Students will demonstrate the following: throwing, catching an object from different directions, absorbing force from a thrown object, proper eye focus, and a controlled landing when jumping. We will work on understanding how balance affects striking and hitting and demonstrate chasing, dodging, and fleeing skills. Students in pre-k thru 1st grade will demonstrate a checklist of basic motor skills. Games we will be playing include: run & bases, cone dodge ball, five touches, cookie monster, tennis ball scramble, and team jump rope, to name a few.

Go Lions!

Coach Anthony  
Physical Educator

## PARENT COMMITTEE

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Thank you to all who participated in the first Parent Community Committee (PCC) meeting of 2012 on January 13. Our next meeting is on Friday, February 17 from 6:30-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a potluck dinner followed by a short meeting. Childcare is provided. Check your class bulletin board or Facebook for more information. We look forward to meeting you and discovering your vision for how our parent community can support and enhance our school.

Regards,  
Parent Community Committee