



Orange Hunt Elementary School

SPOTLIGHT

on learning

December 2011—January 2012

Happy Reading Days!

By Jason Pensler, principal and Sarah Brooker, asst. principal

As the weather starts to turn cooler and outdoor play becomes less predictable, the all too familiar comment “I have nothing to do!” rears its head. We encourage you to take this opportunity to read with your children. Reading is an important lifelong skill which impacts just about everything we do. Reading carries over into all subject areas at school. Children who read well will do well in other subjects because so much learning depends on this skill. Here are a few tips you can utilize to support



your child’s reading development:

**Read books you love and let your children see you read.*

**Read the same book again and again if you wish!*

**Don’t let your children get stuck on a word when they are reading; help them through it so they do not miss out on the story itself.*

**Good readers are curious, so take some time to answer your child’s questions about their reading.*

**Help them predict what will happen next in the story.*

**Continue reading to your children, no matter how old they are!*

In addition to these tips for preparing your students to be strong readers, we provide you with the



Mrs. Vierra’s fourth through sixth grade “Strolling” Strings Classes played beautiful music for our students during the holiday season.

testing window dates for the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, so you can begin to prepare accordingly. Students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take the SOLs at various times from March through May as detailed below.

During the winter holiday season we have many reasons to gather together, be thankful and to celebrate. We partner with

you as we note the successes, gains and developments of your children both academically and socially. We look forward to working together to ensure 2012 is filled with health, happiness and the joy of learning.

All of us at Orange Hunt wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year! 📖

SOL Tests—Save the Dates!

Here is the Standards of Learning Testing schedule for your reference:

3rd Grade:

May 15: reading
May 17: science
May 23: history
May 25: math

4th Grade:

May 16: reading
May 22: math
May 24: history

5th Grade:

March 6 & 7: Writing
May 17: reading
May 24: science
May 29: math

6th Grade:

May 18: reading
May 23: history
May 30: math



Recycling Corner

By Cheri Fischer, reading specialist

Reduce—Reuse—Recycle are very familiar words to the staff and students at Orange Hunt. For the past few years we have been increasing the amount of items we recycle while decreasing the amount of paper we use. This year we are expanding our recycling efforts by joining three brigades in TerraCycle. TerraCycle is an organization that collects waste which traditionally has not been recyclable and upcycles that waste into new products.

Each TerraCycle brigade collects a specific waste product. We have joined the Elmer's Glue Crew Brigade, the GoGo Squeez Brigade, and the Kraft Cheese Brigade. We collect empty Elmer's glue bottles, caps, and glue sticks; empty GoGo Squeez pouches; and wrappers from Kraft, Cracker Barrel, Velveeta, Philadelphia, and Breakstone products. When we send our collected items to TerraCycle they are made into a wide variety of new items such as backpacks and lunchboxes.



Ms. Stanley's second graders diligently do their part to reduce, reuse and recycle!

Our participation in TerraCycle not only reduces the amount of waste in landfills, but also raises money for charities of our choice. For each waste product we send, TerraCycle awards us two cents. We will be updating our collection graph and the money we've earned on the bulletin board in the cafeteria. At the end of the year, our students will help decide where we will donate our earned money.

You can learn more about TerraCycle by going to www.terracycle.net or by searching "YouTube" for TerraCycle videos. Information about our brigades and collections can be found on the Orange Hunt website. Please help us by sending in items we are collecting and we'll keep you posted on our progress throughout the year! 📖

Mark Your Calendar!

- ◆ Dec. 23-Jan. 2: No school—Winter holiday
- ◆ Jan. 5: Rising first-grade Language-Immersion Information Meeting, 6:30 p.m., cafeteria
- ◆ Jan. 16: No school—Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
- ◆ Jan. 27: End of second quarter
- ◆ Jan. 30 & 31: No school—teacher workdays



One, Two, Three FOCUS



It's the most wonderful time of the year! Clockwise from above: Madame Beau pays a visit to our sixth graders; Mr. Hale's Japanese ambassadors greet the president during a "White House" visit; The Bookworm helps students during our Book Fair; Ms. Meyer's kindergarteners are dressed for Thanksgiving; Mrs. Fraedrich's fifth and sixth graders rehearse for the Winter Concert.



Orange Hunt Elementary School

Orange Hunt Community Working Together Leading Every Child to Success!

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