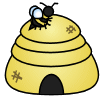
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**September Newsletter**

**Buck Lake Elementary** 488-6133 braswellc@leonschools.net

<http://teacherweb.com/FL/BuckLakeElementarySchool/Braswell/newsflash1.aspx>

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Since the children and I have spent the last week getting to know each other, I thought that you might like to know a little about me. I received my teaching degree in Early Childhood Education at FSU and I have been teaching for 36 years. For 24 years I have taught 1st grade and I have also taught kindergarten, K\1 and preschool. I have been at Buck Lake for eighteen years. I have earned National Teacher Certification and since that time, I have been very active as a mentor for other teachers, teaching classes in classroom management, vocabulary development, and art education. In addition to mentoring other teachers I have mentored FSU student teachers for the past 28 years. I enjoy working with others in my field and I feel that it is my responsibility as a teacher to continue to develop skills that can be used in the classroom with children.

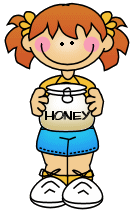
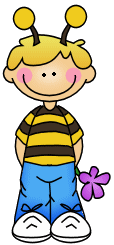
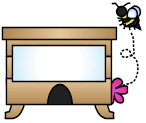
I love teaching 1st grade! First grade children are so excited about learning. The most rewarding part of teaching this age is helping children learn to read. I have spent years studying the reading process and how children learn to read. I enjoy helping them to master the many reading strategies that will enable them to become confident, independent readers. Even after all of these years of teaching, watching children learn is very exciting!

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**A Great Start!** After only two weeks of school, I can tell it’s going to be a great year! I have a wonderful class and everyone has settled into our routine and is working well together. It has been fun getting to know my students. During the next few weeks I will be assessing the academic knowledge of each child as well as learning their individual working behaviors and learning styles. While I am getting to know the children, they are learning the first grade “way of work” as well as getting to know their classmates and sharing special traits about themselves.

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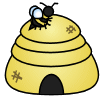
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I am sure that you have heard about “Friday Free-Day”, so I thought I’d explain how this special day works into our weekly work routine. Each week, Monday—Thursday, students are given daily assignments. Some assignments are completed with teacher help and some are done independently. When all assignments are completed, the student earns “Friday Free-day”. During “Friday Free-day” students are allowed to choose enrichment activities such as LEGOS, blocks, writing center, computers, games and art. If a student’s work is not completed by Friday, they will receive help from me on Friday to complete their work. As soon as the assignments are finished, the student is free to have “Friday Free-day”. Generally the students will have one assignment that they need to complete on Friday. If however, a student consistently has many assignments that are not complete, we will need to address problems with work and study habits. **Each Monday**, I will send home the previous week’s work with a work\study grade. If your child had difficulty completing the assignments, I will note whether it was because of “lack of understanding” or “work and study habits”. Sometimes children worry that they will not get Friday Free-day. Do not let your child be upset if they still have an assignment that needs to be finished on Friday. Just assure them that they need to come to school and that I will help them finish so that they can have their free time!!

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**Homework** Homework for 1st grade will officially begin after Labor Day. At that time, I will send a “Homework Edition” of my newsletter, explaining the homework that your child will have each week. Starting this week, I am sending home a folder that is called “Homework Folder”. This folder will be sent home each afternoon and should be returned to school each morning. We will use this folder as a way to communicate. All notes, forms and money should be sent to me in this folder. I will check each child’s folder as they arrive and look for communication from you. Remember that email is a good way to contact me.

1st grade **Open House** will be on Tuesday, September 21nd at 5:30 pm. This year we are inviting students to bring their parents to the classroom to share the space where they spend so much of their time!

I will send more information about Open House as the date draws near.

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