



Wiregrass Ranch High School
2909 Mansfield Boulevard
Wesley Chapel, Florida 33543

Newsletter-December 2014/January 2015

From the Principal.....Robyn White

As we enter the last month of the first semester and the holiday season is almost here, please remember to keep up with all the activities planned during this short month of school. The most important activity is always attending school, arriving on time (leave early to avoid the traffic and always drive slow with students everywhere) and being prepared for the rigorous schedule leading up to semester and end of course exams. Our exam schedule is posted on the website along with other December state required testing. All students take semester exams. For honors and AP classes, the semester exams represent 15% of the semester grade. This is important for all college bound students regardless of grade level. Semester grades are the reporting grades provided to colleges and universities. For the class of 2015, this semester grade will be the final grade calculated for class ranking. In addition, class of 2015 college bound students should follow the timeline related to requesting transcripts from Student Services. Transcript requests must be submitted by December 12th to be processed before winter break.

Finally, the WRHS ABC (Assist, Believe, Care) program is open to help needy families in our community. Our school provided food and gifts to five needy families during the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to our students, teachers, clubs, families, PTSA and community sponsors, we've collected "tons" of food items and gifts for our communities most needy. Contact Mr. Matthew Felderman in Student Services if you need assistance or would want to provide food or gift items. Thank you all for a very successful first semester. Enjoy a safe holiday season and visit our website for information about our wonderful school and programs. Contact WRHS @ 813-346-6000 or visit our website for information or to view our newsletters online @ <http://wrhs.pasco.k12.fl.us>

Teacher hours - 7:00 - 2:30 pm
Student Services - 7:00 - 3:00 pm
Administration office hours - 7:00 - 4:00 pm

Classes in session - 7:25 - 1:56 pm

WRHS Outstanding Senior

We are pleased to announce that Antonio Medina has received the WRHS Outstanding Senior Award. Antonio demonstrates a high level of scholarship, leadership, service, and citizenship and stands out as one of our top seniors. He was among 10 seniors nominated by the student body and then received the highest number of faculty votes to make him our Outstanding Senior of the Year. Please be sure to congratulate Antonio.

Long Run at the Ranch 5K&1 Mile Run

The 9th annual Long Run at the Ranch 5K and 1 Mile Run will be held on February 28, 2015. This event is a great experience for established runners looking to run a fast 5k and for beginners as well. Registration is available online at www.active.com or look for us at www.longrunattheranch.com.

ABC Committee

The ABC committee would like to thank our WRHS students, parents, faculty, and PTSA for another successful Thanksgiving food drive. This year we were able to serve 5 families complete holiday meals. This was only possible with everyone's support. The next venture for us will be looking for volunteers to "adopt" a student or family for Christmas. Last year was a great success and we look forward to this year being as well. If you would like more information on helping a family for the holidays or are in need of assistance please call Matthew Felderman at 813-346-6031. Thank you from the ABC Committee.

Chorus and Band

The Wiregrass Ranch Chorus, under the direction of Solangi Santiago, will present a Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00PM. The Wiregrass Ranch Band, under the direction of Patrick Duncan, and the Orchestra, under the direction of Dean Donataccio, will present a Winter Concert on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00PM. Both performances will be held at The Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. Admission is free.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are still on sale for \$70. Prices will increase on 1/1/15 so order your copy today! Orders may be placed by visiting ww.yearbookforever.com, or see Ms. Martin in room 4-104.

FBLA

FBLA District competition is January 7-10, 2015. Members should be preparing for their competition. Awards Ceremony is January 15th at WCHS PAC. Contact Mrs. Fraser at dfraser@pasco.k12.fl.us if you have questions or would like to volunteer to help with these events.

Calendar

Winter Vacation-school closed	12/21/14-1/2/15
Planning Day-no school for students	1/5/15
Students return	1/6/15
Report Cards	1/8/15
Holiday-Martin Luther King Day-No School	1/19/15

Semester Exam Schedule

The exam dates for WRHS are as follows: Monday, 12/15-Periods 1 & 4; Tuesday, 12/16 - Periods 2 & 5; Wednesday 12/17-Periods 3 & 6; Thursday, 12/18-Period 7; Make-up exam day 12/19.

WRHS Athletic Boosters News

Holiday Fundraiser-please see the PTSA NEWS. Our next WRHS Athletic Boosters General Membership Meeting will be on 12/8/2014, at 7:30 pm in the WRHS cafeteria. Hope to see you there.

Cheerleading

WRHS Cheerleading will be attending their first competition of the season on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at the Tampa Convention Center.

The dates for their other competitions are: Best of Pasco January 10, 2015 at Zephyrhills High School, Regionals January 17, 2015 at Flagler High School, and States January 30 & 31, 2014 at Silver Spurs Arena.

ART NEWS

On November 20th the art department and book club organized a "We are Thankful for Art" book fair and fundraiser at the Barnes & Noble at the Shops at Wiregrass. Over 45 students and adults were involved with the event. There were "Artist In Action", Drama Improvisation, Music, Face Painting, Story Time and Gift Wrapping. Artists, businesses and the PTSA donated a new Nook, Spirit Baskets, and paintings. The art department and students would like to thank Barnes & Noble, the sponsors for the donations, teachers and guests for their support for a very successful book fair. It was wonderful to see our students showcased in the store full of happy children, proud parents and teachers. **Thank you!**

Mentors Needed

Wiregrass Ranch High School has been working non-stop to create and provide interventions to a population of our school that needs urgent attention. These are the students that are silent, not motivated and that feel that life has pushed them aside. Many of them have no discipline issues at all, but are failing classes. As the holidays approach, I would like to call on the school community to offer their help in volunteering for a one on one mentoring program. We are looking for adults who can serve as role models and who will commit to working with a student **to motivate, challenge and inspire the student to do his/her best.** Many of these kids have no one that they feel they can really trust in their lives. We are looking for mentors to serve as trustworthy people in these students' lives. Unfortunately, a lot of these kids have issues outside of academics. They need to come to school and feel comfortable. **They need someone that is going to believe in them. Can it be you?** Our hope is that mentors will assist these students in setting some life goals: finding a part time job or getting a driver's license. A lot of these kids have never set goals for themselves. Having an adult show interest in them will hopefully get these kids motivated, which will help increase their success at school.

In addition to mentors, our school is also looking for parents that would like to volunteer to become part of the supervision system on the grounds at WRHS. If you would like to be part of the Safety Proctor System, please contact Mrs. White at 813-346-6000. Safety Proctors will conduct rounds every period at each of the proctor stations/areas and immediately report any risk and/or concerns to the appropriate officials. The Safety Proctors will work very closely with Discipline Instructional Assistants and administration. If interested in becoming a mentor and/or a safety proctor, please complete the volunteer application found at the Pasco County website and contact the school to express your interest.

WRHS Athletic & Band Boosters and PTSA

The WRHS Athletic & Band Boosters along with our PTSA have joined forces to have a Holiday fundraiser from now until December 15th. Support WRHS and help our community. A portion of the proceeds will be used to purchase holiday meals for area families in need. It is simple – by purchasing Village Inn & Honey Baked Ham gift cards and Texas Roadhouse rolls with honey butter vouchers through us, you will save money and help WRHS help families in need.

- Get a head start on holiday gifts-everyone loves the gift of food!
- Buy a pie or two to take to holiday parties as your easy contribution or as a hostess gift
- Purchase your entire holiday meal(s) or a portion of it and make this holiday season EASY ON YOU!!
- Save your gift cards and keep your rolls frozen until after the holidays

You can find order forms at Student Services and or the front office. Forms are also available by going to our PTSA's website at www.wiregrassptsa.org. Thank you for your support!

PTSA News

The end of the first semester is fast approaching which means the holidays are almost here. If you are looking for ideas...well...look no more. PTSA have many spirit wear items at the school store located in front of the cafeteria. You can also view and purchase all items at our "online store" at <http://www.wiregrassptsa.org> and click on the Store tab on the top. Happy shopping and thank you for supporting your PTSA. WRHS PTSA will once again purchase wish list items for our very own WRHS ABC (Assist, Believe & Care) families. We cannot wait to start shopping and making all of our ABC families' wishes come true! PTSA's winter clothes/blanket drive will be continuing until December 15th. As mentioned in our November newsletter, our school has adopted Pasco High School and its feeder pattern schools. Gently used clothes of all sizes are welcome. A collection bin is located in Student Services. In addition, the Key Club is helping collect deodorant and the Drama Club is helping with the clothes/blanket drive. Thank you both for all your help! The WRHS Athletic & Band Boosters and PTSA's joint fundraiser will go on until December 15th. Support WRHS and help our community by purchasing Village Inn & Honey Baked Ham gift cards and

Texas Roadhouse rolls with honey butter vouchers. A portion of the proceeds will be used to purchase holiday meals for families in need. See more details in this newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. Whatever holiday you celebrate, may you find peace, happiness and health in the up-coming year. Fondly, PTSA.

Academic Honor Code for WRHS

As a student at **Wiregrass Ranch High School**, you have entered a community of student scholars and educators who are committed to excellence in education. Take the time to read and think about what you want your education to mean to you. It is assumed that all students will pursue their studies with integrity and honesty. This means that all work for which the student wants to receive a grade, credit or recognition will be the work of the individual student. Academic honesty is a very serious commitment to make so please do not do so lightly.

Students have the responsibility (1) uphold the highest standards of **academic integrity** in the student's own work, (2) refuse to tolerate violations of **academic integrity** in the school community, and (3) foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of your class and in the Wiregrass Ranch High School community.

Violations of the following infractions will result in severe disciplinary action by your teacher, which will include – but are not limited to – a grade of F on the assignment/test, a referral, and parental contact. The following are considered egregious infractions of the academic honor code:

I. Cheating

- A. Copying, in part or in whole, from someone else's test;
- B. Altering or interfering with grading;
- C. Using or consulting any of the following during an examination; any sources, consulting with others, use of electronics equipment including cell phones and PDAs, or use of materials not authorized by the instructor; or
- D. Committing other acts, which defraud or misrepresent.

II. Plagiarism

- A. Incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs or parts of another person's writings without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as your own;
- B. Representing another's scholarly works such as written assignments or projects as your own;
- C. Submitting a paper purchased from a research or term paper service, including the Internet; or
- D. Undocumented Web source usage.

III. Other Specific Examples of Academic Dishonesty

- A. Purposely allowing another student to copy from your paper during a test;
- B. Giving your homework, written assignments or other academic work to another to plagiarize;
- C. Having another person submit any work in your name;
- D. Lying to a teacher to improve your grade;
- E. Altering a graded work after it has been returned, then submitting the work for re-grading;
- F. Stealing tests;
- G. Forging signatures of parents or other students on documents; or
- H. Collaboration without permission of your teacher



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Published 11/21/14