January 15, 2015

Kudos
Jessi Switzer, Jessica Maxwell, Carolyn Featherly, Amy Wood, Raisa Polk and Becky Maxwell: I just wanted to tell all of you thank you so much for everything you do! [Our daughter] loves her school, and is excited to go everyday. I know this is because each of you are doing an amazing job at making learning fun and really understanding [her]. You all play a huge part in our life. Since age 3, when [she] was diagnosed with autism (I wish you could have met her then, you would never believe this was the same child) we have hoped and prayed that she would be successful. All the right people have been placed in her educational experiences. We’re so glad you are all part of this!!! – Carissa and David Mangione

Ms. Marks and Ms. Kaburis: I thought about you both and the things you do for the school that often go unnoticed… I wanted to THANK YOU both for EVERYTHING you do! For all of the sacrifices you make on a daily basis for our school, our staff, and our children here at CWTES. I want to THANK YOU for having a vision and having the guts and strength to pursue that vision and most importantly, for making that vision become more of a reality each and every day…I know I tell you now and again how much I appreciate your leadership and the direction you are taking our school, but I wanted to let you know once again what you mean to our school, our students and myself. – Daniel Bowman, Leadership Coach

Dependent Spouse Coverage
Please check your emails for a benefits update from Communications regarding dependent spouse coverage.

Professional Development Videos
There will be no professional development videos this week.

WGES 5K Announcement
Watergrass Elementary is hosting the WGES PTA 5K for our K5 races on February 7. Please visit http://bit.ly/1CaScwE for an invitation where you can register to participate.

Hiring Freeze
The District recently was notified that we are losing an estimated $2,000,000 in FTE funds, due to a statewide proration of per-student funding. This year, the state had more students enroll in K-12 schools than they were expecting, causing them to prorate the per student funding level downward to cover the cost of these additional students. Because we did not budget for this reduction in funding, we have started the process of identifying how we can cover this unexpected loss of funding. To address the lower revenue, we are instituting a 6-week hiring freeze before new or vacated positions are advertised for district-level positions. Critical hiring needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, and if an offer has been made to fill a current vacancy, that commitment can be honored.

Legislative Update
Committee weeks are in full swing in Tallahassee, and the 2015 Legislative Session is quickly approaching in March. The Superintendent and board members have already begun meeting with our legislative leaders on assessments, evaluations, instructional materials, classroom technology needs and other issues. School Matters will continue to provide updates as these matters progress.

District Makes AP Honor Roll
The District School Board of Pasco County is one of only four Florida public school districts to be named to the College Board’s 5th Annual Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll for expanding opportunity and improving student performance on AP exams. Read the press release.

January is National Mentor Month. Thanks to all of you who mentor our students! I encourage schools to recognize their mentors throughout the month.

Students at R.B. Cox Elementary learned about musical notes by utilizing musical instruments and computer-based applications.