You did it! Congratulations

Odessa Elementary 5th grader Justin Fisher is among the top 50 semi-finalists out of 500 participants in USF Young Inventors!

“2014-2015 Champions of Pasco” Education Celebration
Good luck to all of the finalists for the Pasco Education Foundation’s teacher, school-related personnel, non-instructional non-bargaining employee, and school-based and district administrators of the year. The winners will be announced Saturday, February 1, at the Education Celebration being held at the Center for the Arts at River Ridge Middle/High School. The finalists are:

Teacher of the Year
Patrick Connolly, LOLHS
James Washington, ZHS
Marci Williams, WCES

School Related Personnel of the Year
Kelly Baker, SRES media/tech assistant
Bonnie Marquis, MLES instructional assistant
Karen Zummo, TEWMS custodian

Non-instructional Non-bargaining Employee of the Year
Neil Canalungo, District Complex plant manager
William Hartman, OTIS network specialist
Joshua Nelson, OTIS network analyst

School-based Administrator of the Year
Kimberly Davis, GHS principal
Jason Joens, RRMS principal
Latoya Jordan, LES principal

District-based Administrator of the Year
Rob Aguis, director of Career & Technical Education
Vanessa Hilton, director of Teaching & Learning
Melissa Musselwhite, director of Student Support Programs & Services

I am a 2nd grade teacher at Cypress and have been there for 10 years. I have had 4 principals before Mrs. Krapfl. I LOVE Cypress and have seen it go through many different transitions over the last few years... I really feel the need to give a “SHOUT OUT” to Mrs. Krapfl. Let me tell you why.....

Over the last few years we had so many transitions that I think our school had seemed to have gotten lost. This is not something that is easily or quickly fixed.... but surprisingly, it is changing. Mrs. Krapfl has put the positive back into Cypress... Her relationship with the students is great, as well... PLC’s... are FABULOUS!! Lots of new things are happening with curriculum and education across the district, state, and nation and I am not frustrated! Why? Our PLC time is being used wisely and my team is doing a FANTASTIC job.

- A very happy teacher---- Patty King

Educational Options
The application period for parents to exercise their educational options (school choice) begins Saturday, February 1, and runs through Saturday, March 1. District-wide SchoolConnects calls went out Thursday informing parents, and staff members who are parents, that the application window is opening. Go to the Educational Options web page on the district website for more information.

Mittye P. Locke Elementary School celebrated their 100 year anniversary on the 100th day of school.
Element 16 – Using Homework

Desired Effect: Students can describe how the homework assignment will deepen their understanding of content, or help them practice a skill, strategy, or process.

Why use homework?
Homework and practice are related, connected by the context when students are learning on their own and applying new knowledge. Effective teachers approach this kind of learning experience as any other – matching the planned activity to the learning goal. Effective homework should have reasonable time requirements, clear alignment with identified learning goals, and a clear purpose such as:

- **Homework That Helps Students to Deepen Their Knowledge** – Extend and refine students’ understanding by using strategies such as comparison, classification, creating analogies, and error analysis.
- **Homework That Enhances Students’ Fluency with Procedural Knowledge** – Assign exercises, activities, or performance tasks designed to enhance students’ fluency in using specific skills, strategies, or processes.

How can I meaningfully use homework?

- Ensure students have a way to check how they are doing with a specific procedure or skill as they practice it independently.
- Explain to students how the homework is designed to help them improve on the learning goal(s).
- Complete homework assignments yourself before assigning them to students. Estimate how long it will take for students to complete them and anticipate questions that may arise while students are working on the assignment.
- Give students feedback about homework assignments.

“Homework serves as a window through which you can view your students’ learning and attitudes toward their education.”
— Anonymous Author
### Evidence of Element 16 – Using Homework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Evidence</th>
<th>Student Evidence</th>
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| **Focus:** When appropriate (as opposed to routinely) the teacher designs homework to deepen students’ knowledge of informational content or practice a skill, strategy, or process. | **The Students:**  
• Can describe how the homework assignment will deepen their understanding of informational content or help them practice a skill, strategy, or process  
• Ask clarifying questions of the homework that help them understand |
| **The Teacher:**  
• Communicates a clear purpose for homework  
• Organizes students into groups and extends an activity that was begun in class to provide students with more time  
• Assigns a well-crafted homework assignment that allows students to practice and deepen their knowledge independently | |

### Effective Ways for Homework to Contribute to Learning


- **Provide a clear academic purpose** – Homework should enhance classroom learning by checking for understanding, practicing a skill learned in class, or reviewing for a test or quiz.

- **Personalize** – Students should have choices and opportunities to gain ownership of the assignment.

- **Differentiate** – Homework can be differentiated by time or choice.

- **Make it Do-able** – Students should be able to complete homework independently.

- **Make it Interesting** – Students are much more likely to complete homework when the assignments are clear, interesting, and fun.