

# Classroom Times

News from Room 205  
Jacksonville, FL

January 5, 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 13  
Mrs. Archer & Mrs. Cowan

## FCAT Simulator

FCAT Simulator will be going home beginning this week. You will be loaned a copy of the program on a CD. Please install it on your computer and return the program to school so others may install it as well. Only a certain number of disks were made so we must share them. FCAT Simulator contains reading and math practice programs for the FCAT. It is an excellent resource that can be used for years to come.

## Context Clues

After grading a recent reading test, I noticed a common trend among all of the tests. Students were to figure out a new word by using context clues. The majority of students were unable to do this. So, we are focusing heavily again this week on using context clues to figure out what a word means. This is when you read the sentences surrounding the unknown word. If that does not work, you read additional sentences both before the word and after the word. You look at the word to see if there is a root word. You look for clues within the story to try to figure the word out. Please take some time to discuss and use this strategy with your child.

## Proud Panther

Proud Panther has continued his journey this past week with Will A. Rumor has it that he went to on a trip to the mountains. If you have a moment, please check out his blog. He has already been to quite a few places. Proud Panther will be visiting with Daniel. Way to go Daniel! Who will it be? We look forward to seeing where Proud Panther will go next.



## Thank You

We would like to thank all of the parents and students for a wonderful Winter Party. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the crafts. Thank you to everyone for sending in all of the delicious treats. Thank you for your support in making our party such a success. They students had a wonderful time! We hope you enjoyed everything they made as well. Again, thank you!

Important News Flash: The homework will now be posted on the blog for your reference. The address for the blog is <http://mrscowansclass.blogspot.com>.

