

# BES Tiger Tracks

## FCAT WRITING is February 9-11, 2010

Each February, 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the state of Florida take the FCAT Writing Test. The students are given a prompt which they will read independently and decide what type of writing the prompt is asking them to perform.

Fourth graders are asked to perform either a Narrative or Expository. A narrative is a story that takes the reader through time. It has a beginning, middle and ending. An expository is a paper in which the student must explain something. These papers must be planned, written and edited in a 45 minute time frame. The papers will be sent to the state where they will be scored on a scale of 0-6 with 6 being the highest possible score.

An **example of a narrative prompt** might be: Everyone has learned many things in their lives. Think of something you have learned and write a story about that time. An **example of an expository** might be: Everyone knows that reading is important. Think about some reasons that reading is important and write a paper explaining why reading is important.

**Parents can help** their fourth grader by discussing how they might answer different prompts. Here are some examples to help you toss around ideas:

**Narrative** – A time you went on a trip. A time you were lost. A time you were frightened. A time you were lost. The best day of your life. The worst day of your life.

**Expository** – Someone you look up to and why. Someone you would like to visit and why. Why is diet and exercise important to your health? What is your favorite time of year and why? What's your favorite after school activity and why? What do you want to be when you grow up and why?

On the evening before the test, please be sure that your child gets plenty of rest. If they don't eat breakfast at school, be sure they get a good breakfast before they head out the door. Students should have a good attitude about taking this test. Help them see this as a challenge to see how much they've learned. They have worked hard this year let it shine through!