



PTA Connection
presents

COUGARS' ROAR

Curtis Fundamental
Elementary
PTA
everychild.onevoice.

OCTOBER 2016

Pamela Metz-Easley
Principal

Kelly Westerlund Pena
PTA President

Laura Daniels
1st Vice President, Public
Relations

Sherri Amato
2nd Vice President, Volunteer
Coordinator

Andwynette Glenn
3rd Vice President, Programs

Cathy McCarthy
Treasurer

Estelle Valsamis
Recording Secretary

Anne-Maire Nurnberger
Corresponding Secretary

The PTA Connection Cougars
Roar is a publication of the
Curtis Fundamental Elementary
School PTA. It is designed to
keep you informed about all the
happenings at Curtis. It is
published on the 1st of each
month unless indicated on the
school calendar

**Curtis Fundamental
Elementary School**
531 Beltrees Street
Dunedin, FL 34698
Phone: 727-738-6483
FAX: 727-738-6488

www.pcsb.org/curtis-es

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Hello Parents!

Election season is well underway. There are many important decisions to be made at the top this year. There is another important decision to be made at the county level, and I wanted to share this information with you as they affect our schools.

Voting ballots in November will include a vote on "Referendum 2016". The Referendum strengthens reading, music and art programs; provides up-to-date technology; and helps recruit and retain quality teachers.

Pinellas County voters have supported the half-mill property tax three times since 2004, all times by large margins. An independent committee meets regularly to oversee the distribution of funds and ensure that money is spent as voters intended.

The Referendum also;

- Supports all students through new or expanded classroom libraries, additional supplies, increased training opportunities for teachers, and updated computers and technology.
- Funds intensive small-group literacy programs that help students read at grade level, instrument rental fees for students that can't afford them, and paid admission for field trips to museums and art galleries.
- Provides all schools with equitable funding for quality art supplies, equipment and technology that help students produce strong and award-winning works of art.
- Supplies instruments for elementary music classes, and equipment such as furniture, risers and music stands to ensure equity among music programs throughout the district.
- Helps recruit and retain quality teachers: Eighty percent of the Referendum revenue supplements teacher salaries. For the 2016-17 school year, the supplement will provide teachers with an additional \$3,827.

Thank you for allowing me to share this information with you. Your voice matters, and it counts. No matter how you vote in November, I hope you will make your voice heard. Hope to see all of you on campus soon!

Thank you,

Kelly Westerlund-Pena, PTA President



– October 5 –

Walk to School Day

– October 7 –

Open Court at 8:15 a.m.

– October 11 –

End of 1st infraction & grad-
ing period

PTA Meeting 7pm

– October 12 –

Pro-Ed Day

Mixed Bag Orders Due

NO SCHOOL

– October 19 –

Chipotle Spirit Night

– October 21 –

Trunk or Treat

– October 24 –

Picture Retakes

– October 25 –

Report Cards Go Home

-- October 31 –

Character Parade

Clinic Schedule

Mrs. Miklos' Class
9/23 – 10/03

Mrs. Eberle's Class
10/4 – 10/13

Mr. Blacklin's Class
10/14-10/24

Mrs. DeWese's Class
10/25-11/02

Mrs. Reed's Class
11/03-11/14

Mrs. Werlau's Class
11/15-11/30



We're excited to host the 1st annual Curtis Family and Friends Trunk-or-Treat! This event will happen on campus on Friday, October 21st starting at 6:00 pm. It is a free event open to all Curtis families and friends.

How can you help? We need some creative and crafty parents to decorate their trunks for the trick-or-treaters. Set up for parents with decorated trunks will start at 5:00 pm. At 5:45 gates to the parking lot will be closed for the safety of our walking trick or treaters. Trick or treating will end promptly at 7:30 pm where at that point decorated cars can leave the parking lot. Due to the safety of our trick or treaters, we'll need volunteers to help with parking and departure.

If you would like to participate in setting up a decorated trunk, contribute treats or small bottles of water for the event, or volunteer the evening of the event to monitor and help with setup, parking and cleanup please visit the sign up genius:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0945a4ab28a0f85-trunk>

Please email or call Nicole Delfino at nmdelfino@yahoo.com or [727-631-5418](tel:727-631-5418) with any questions.



Mixed Bag Fundraiser

We're happy to have the fall Mixed Bag fundraiser back this year! You can shop from both catalogues: one featuring fantastic fashion and recycled bags and the other featuring home goods, gifts and wrap. Catalogues have been sent home in your students folder. The fundraiser will run through Wednesday, October 12th. In order to ensure product arrival before the Thanksgiving break, we urge you to complete and submit all orders by 10/12. On-line shopping is welcome from any local or distant family or friends - simply use the Curtis Shopping Code: 48502 on <http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com/>.

Happy Shopping!

Book Fair Crew



Help a matey out and volunteer at our fall book fair that will be setting sail November 7th-11th.

If you would like to join our CREW, please visit on the link below.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090448A8A92AA13-curtis3

Argh me matey, until we sail again argh...

Spirit Nights 2016-2017

We are excited to announce that we have organized new spirit fundraisers for the 2016-2017 school year. Each month will feature a different restaurant. Kicking off the season **Chipotle** by Countryside Mall will be giving 50% of proceeds to Curtis PTA for orders placed on October 19th between 3 and 8pm. **You must tell the cashier that you're supporting Curtis Fundamental PTA to make sure that proceeds go to us.** Look out for flyers and invite your friends and family. Dine in or take out let's make this a great event! Upcoming restaurants include Jersey Mikes and Sweet Tomatoes. Please email vanessajwooding@gmail.com if you have suggestions for other restaurants to host us during the coming school year.



CHIPOTLE
OCT 19th 3-8pm

Walk To School Day

Please join us for this fun annual event that brings together families and community members to celebrate the benefits of walking.

Wednesday October 5, 2016

Meet Blue Jay's Parking Lot 373 Douglas at 7:20am

Start walk 7:40am

Arrive at school at 8:00am

Special Guest: County Commissioner Debrah Kynes

Next PTA Meeting

Tue Oct. 11th

Safety Night

K-2 in Curtis Cafeteria

3-5 in Curtis Auditorium

7PM

Newsletter Ballot Results

We have received the Newsletter Preference Ballots and will be reviewing them at our next board meeting. Thank you for taking the time to vote, we greatly appreciate your feedback.



The Annual Courtyard Scarecrows



Autumn has arrived and that means our annual tradition at Curtis will soon take over our campus—**Scarecrows!** This is a time when your family can decorate a scarecrow as a storybook character and bring it to school to display. There were so many great scarecrows in our courtyard last year! Discuss with your family what storybook character you would like to decorate and then bring it to school and plant it in our courtyard anytime in October. I understand that the Principal from the Black Lagoon will be returning to classes (and the courtyard) this month!

The storybook character parade is scheduled for October 31st this year. Your child may come to school dressed as their favorite storybook character. Our P.E. dept. has activities planned for the whole school. Join us that morning on the covered court for this fun and active event. The students need to bring a change of clothes so they can resume classes following the parade.

School Mission:

Teachers, students, staff, parents and community are partners in Education. We join together to assure a focus on highest student achievement by implementing the Plan/Do/Study/Act cycle. Our goal is for each student to learn and to be successful.

PE NEWS

We have just finished the following units:

K-2: Movement concepts

3-5: Olympics

Our upcoming units are:

K-2: Throwing & Catching

3-5: Football

We are having a great time during Physical Education class despite the heat! They are enthusiastic and energetic. You can hear the sounds of excitement daily. We love our jobs.

PATROLS:

Thank you to Dr. Kochenaur for the Patrol shirts and the water bottles to use for those chosen Patrol of the Month. Also, a big shout out to Kevin Bakewell, Mrs. Bakewell's Brother, for donating 50 new patrol belts and badges. Wahoo!

The Patrols are doing a wonderful job, I am so proud of their commitment and hard work. Please, for their safety, limit phone use in the car line. It is a hectic time, it only takes a few seconds for an accident to happen.

PATROLS ARE STILL WAITING TO BE ADOPTED. ANYONE INTERESTED PLEASE STOP BY THE FRONT OFFICE TO PICK UP A PAW PARTNER BROCHURE.

Parent Tips: What Parents Should Know About Bullying

What is Bullying?

The Pinellas County Schools Policy against Bullying and Harassment defines bullying as: Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. In bullying situations there are always 3 key elements present:

Imbalance of Power
Intent to Harm
Repeated Behavior

Bullying/Harassment at school can be reported:

Verbally or in writing to the principal or the principal's designee
Anonymously using the designated anonymous reporting procedure at each school or by going to:

<http://bullying.pcsb.org>. or

<http://harassment.pcsb.org> or

by calling the Campus Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-873-8477 or

Text keyword TIP144 plus your message to CRIMES (274637).



Carline Concerns

For the safety of all students, please only drop children off in the carline where safety patrols are stationed. Students should not be dropped off in the side parking lot, the staff parking lot, or across the street. Additionally, parking on side streets across from the school may result in a ticket by the Pinellas County Sherriff's Office. If you have questions you may review the arrival and dismissal procedures in your Curtis calendar.



THUMBS UP! TO OUR CFN BROADCAST TEAM MEMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Layla T, Ryann K,
Madelyn T, Parker R, Myah C

News from the Office

Please make note of the new office policy, we will no longer be calling for students 30 minutes prior to dismissal without previous notification.

News from the Media Center

Parents: The St. Petersburg Times has provided us with 60 licenses to the electronic edition of the Times. Students and teachers can use the electronic edition in class or at home. It is an exact replica of the printed paper and can be accessed on any computer with Internet access, iPad or Android tablet, or eReader.

To log onto the electronic edition and for App download instructions:

- Go to nieonline.com/tbtimes/
 - Click Log in here
- Enter the user name 'Curtis'

Musical Moments



K-1 are learning basic keyboarding (piano) skills. How to hold their hands correctly and identify the patterns of black keys. They are learning how to keep a steady beat. If you have a piano or keyboard at home I would encourage you to sit with your child and discover patterns and practice hand placement.

2nd - Singing and Playing Sol-Mi patterns on Orff instruments

3rd - Learning notes B and A on the Recorder. **Warning, when the kids do bring them home, they cannot forget to bring them back for their music day. If the Recorder is absent on their music day they will get a written warning.

4th - Musical contour has been our latest discussion. The "shape" of the melody they hear. At home practice would be to take a pencil to paper and follow the melody of a song they hear being played. Probably would have them listen first, then try to draw in air with hand and then use paper and pencil.

5th - Using Orff instruments playing Mallet Madness

Chorus- preparing for auditions and will soon begin choreography.

One more thing....THANK YOU TAX PAYERS of Pinellas County! I applied for Performing Art Referendum funds and was granted \$2,000 towards the purchase of Ukulele's and method books!

Art Room News



We have been very busy in the art room during the month of September!

Kindergarten has been working with lines and shapes to complete a scarecrow collage.

First Grade has been working on using patterns in their art while working on a picture of overlapping hands.

Second Grade has been working on how artists use texture in their art. We drew a charcoal drawing of a teddy bear and then drew an animal of our choice showing texture.

Third Grade has been working on showing space (distance) in their art while working on a scarecrow drawing. After drawing a scarecrow from observation they drew the scene around their scarecrow using their imagination. Our third grade scarecrows ended up in some pretty interesting places!

Fourth Grade has been learning about contour line drawing, gestures and shading. We worked on a contour line drawing of our shoe and are now working on a gesture drawing using oil pastels to learn more about shading.

Fifth Grade has been working very hard to plan and organize both a piece of art work and writing on the theme "On My Block". I love hearing and seeing all the stories describing unique and interesting places in their neighborhood or home.

Artsonia coming soon:

I will be sending home an introductory letter and information about Artsonia in the coming weeks. Artsonia is the largest student online art museum in the world. It will allow you to share your child's art with friends and relatives and begin creating an electronic portfolio of your child's work. I will begin uploading art that we are doing in the art room to each child's art gallery page soon. Please look for the information that will be sent home and take the time to follow the steps to register your child and give permission to allow their artwork to be seen on our school's Art Gallery site.