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**PINELLAS
COUNTY
SCHOOLS**

AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
INSTITUTION
FOR EDUCATION &
EMPLOYMENT

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"Pioneers for the Future"

OCTOBER 2015

A note from Mrs. Buckles.....

Dear Pioneer Families,

I would like to thank everyone for an outstanding school opening! I am excited for the new school year for a variety of reasons, but most importantly, I look forward to working with the students, staff, and parents to make Garrison-Jones Elementary School the best educational experience for our students.

Our staff works each day to empower our students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We believe it takes all three to develop our students as independent thinkers and problem solvers within the classroom.

In addition to our daily academics I strongly encourage our students to participate in some of our extracurricular opportunities. We provide many opportunities throughout the school year to enrich students in an enjoyable and meaningful way. We believe this is the foundation for growing responsible citizens that give back in their communities. Guidance lessons are conducted in the classroom promoting character education and the skills necessary for personal growth. We have student leadership opportunities such as Student Council, Student Orientation Team, Principal's Multicultural Advisory Committee, Yearbook, Girlfriends, and more. We have after school clubs such as Beginning and Advanced Strings, Book Club, Scottish Dance, SPLASH Spanish, and the Runner's Club. We also offer clubs that challenge the academic mind, like STEM, Advanced Math, Math club, and ST Math.

Extracurricular activities foster a special way to make a connection with classmates and teachers alike. Garrison-Jones Elementary has an outstanding staff. Our teachers are the type of educators that offer these opportunities for our students. After school activities also help students acquire a greater sense of Pioneer PRIDE in their school. Over the next few months, notices will come home announcing the kick-off of the various activities. I encourage your involvement, input, and participation on campus in these varied activities.

Please feel free to contact me at bucklesk@pcsb.org, or (727) 469-5716 ext. 2015, or out front around the flagpole.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Karen Buckles, Principal

Garrison-Jones Elementary



Send a Note!



This is a reminder for all parents regarding the importance of sending in a note to your child's teacher whenever they are going home a different way.

This includes:

- ⇒ **LEAVING EARLY**
- ⇒ **GOING HOME WITH A FRIEND OR A DIFFERENT ADULT**
- ⇒ **A DIFFERENT AFTERCARE PLAN**

We also do NOT allow any dismissal after 2:00 without a note. This is for your Child's safety which is our # 1 concern always.

Thank you for your help in keeping all of our students safe!

Sincerely,

Garrison Jones Elementary Front Office





Arrival and Dismissal Safety

We recognize that two of our busiest activities, arrival and dismissal, occur daily and require adult supervision. Many of our faculty and staff support the safety of our students by rotating at posts around our school. These adults open car doors, help with busses, monitor the café, and remind students to walk in transition to and from class, etc.

Each morning our faculty and staff assume their duty stations at **8:05am** and remain on post until the bell rings. We need your help to ensure that students are safe each morning and are asking all parents and families to please be cognizant of arrival times. If you are experiencing a need to drop your child off earlier than supervised hours begin, please let our office staff know and we can help to put you in touch with one of the many before and after care programs that are available at our school. We wish all of you a safe and healthy 2015.

Renee Nellenbach

Assistant Principal
Garrison-Jones Elementary School



Counselor's Corner

Vanessa Lofstedt, M.A.

lofstedtv@pcsb.org

<http://pcsb.org/lofstedt>

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. This year, we celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the week of **October 26th – 30th**.

More information about how we will celebrate will be sent home with your child during the week of **October**

Character Trait of the Month



Getting along with others and working together to accomplish a goal.

Going beyond "How was your day?"

Questions to ask your child after school to get a conversation started.

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today?
2. What was the worst thing that happened at school today?
3. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
4. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
5. Tell me about what you read in class today. What did your teacher read to you today?
6. If you could choose, who would you like to sit by in class? Who would you not want to sit by in class? Why?
7. What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
8. Who did you sit by at lunch today? What did you talk about?
9. Can you show me something you learned today?
10. What part of school is your favorite?
11. Tell me the name of 3 kids you sat next to today.
12. What was the most interesting/funny thing your teacher said today?
13. What class rules does your teacher say are important?
14. Tell me one interesting fact about your teacher.
15. What's your favorite time of day at school?
16. What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
17. Did you get frustrated with anything at school today?
18. Were you able to finish all of your work today?
19. Tell me about a new word you heard today at school.
20. If I called your teacher tonight what would she/he tell me about you?



Positive Behavior

Garrison-Jones is a Positive Behavior Support school. Our students and staff adhere to the Guidelines for Success, also known as school-wide expectations. You will often hear us refer to these expectations as Pioneer PRIDE. We will continue to use PRIDE Passes as our reward system to reinforce students that demonstrate Pioneer PRIDE. Students with PRIDE Passes will be invited to celebrations throughout the year (dates TBA). Ask your child to share what they know about Pioneer PRIDE.

Pioneer PRIDE

"Pioneers for the Future"

Participate Safely

Make **R**esponsible Choices

Interact with Respect

Do Your Best

Enjoy Everyone's Success

Filling buckets with PRIDE!

Participate Safely ★ Interact with Respect ★ Make Responsible Choices ★ Do Your Best ★ Enjoy Everyone's Success



Noteworthy News:

Great news, 5th Graders can learn to play the Scottish Bagpipes! Please contact Ms. Greene if you are interested in signing your child up for this elite Dunedin tradition. Lessons start October 12th.



Who: Any 5th grader

What: Lessons to play the Scottish Bagpipes

When: Mondays and Wednesdays 5:25 pm-6:10 pm

Where: Dunedin Highland Middle School Band Room

Mark your calendars!

Garrison-Jones Chorus permission slips are due by September 30th. The 4th and 5th Grade Chorus classes begin on October 1st in the Music Room with Ms. Greene.

The After-School Strings permission slips are coming home soon!

Kindergarten and First Graders are beginning to work on their holiday music for a special concert on December 3rd at 7:00 pm.

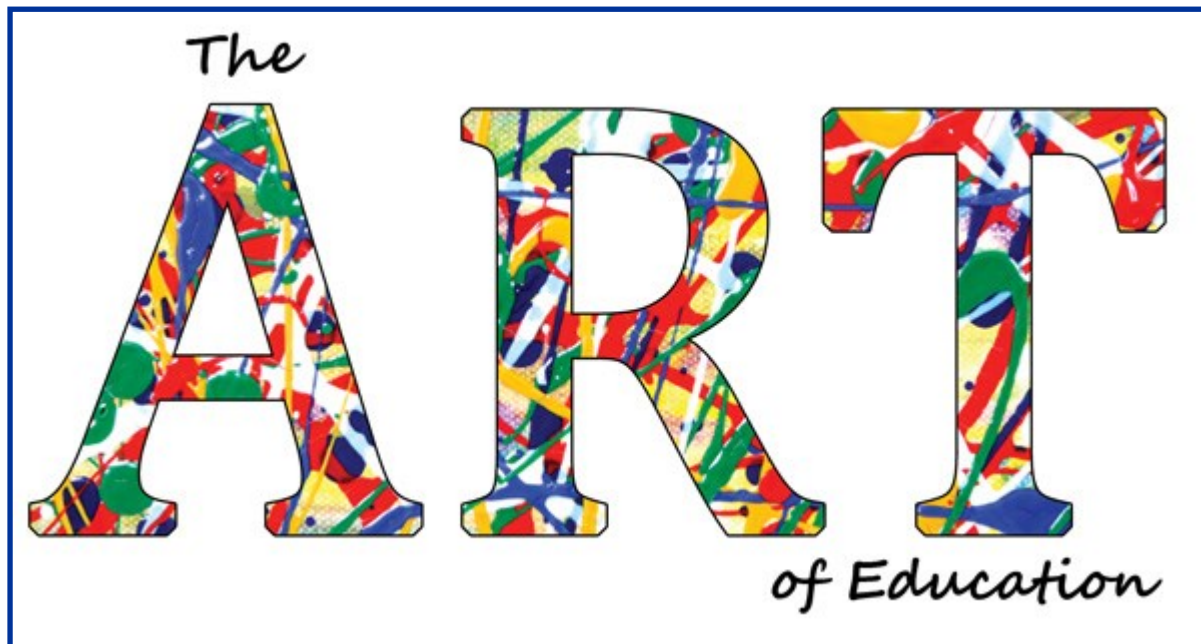
Second Graders will perform at our Curriculum Night in the spring. This month they have been comparing rhythm and steady beat on xylophones.

Third Graders are beginning to work on patriotic music for the Veteran's Day concert on November 11th at 9:00 am.

Fourth and Fifth Graders have learned how to accompany a song on xylophone melodies and drum rhythms for an African tune and the Choruses are beginning to work on their holiday music and their winter play for December 8th at 7:00 pm.

The date has changed for the 5th Grade Chorus to sing at Pioneer Day. It is now November 14th at 11:00 am.





Rock Garden Project: We have been very busy in Art Classes making our “rocks” for our community art project. This year we are creating a rock garden where each student will have their own unique rock on display. Their unique rocks will also be on display on Artsonia.

Artsonia is an online art gallery that many Pinellas County Schools, as well as schools nationwide use to showcase student work. Permission slips will be going home soon for kindergarten and new students. Once the permission form is filled out (you can also do that online through the website) you will not have to fill one out each year.

Artwork on Display: This year Garrison-Jones Elementary has 18 students with artwork on display at the Pinellas County Schools Administration Building in Largo. A reception will be held for those students and their families and friends on Wednesday, October 14 from 5:00-7:00 pm. The artwork will be on display through May 2016.

Art Homework: Any student may earn extra credit by creating any artwork at home and bringing it in to me during their art class time. It can be as simple as a pencil drawing on the back of an envelope or as elaborate as they like. I do not have to keep it. It should be an artwork that takes 20 minutes or more to complete.

“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.” ~

Edgar Degas