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make a difference



**PINELLAS
COUNTY
SCHOOLS**

AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
INSTITUTION
FOR EDUCATION &
EMPLOYMENT

PRINCIPAL

KAREN BUCKLES

(727) 469-5716

**ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL**

RENEE NELLENBACH

(727) 469-5716

**REGION I
ASSOCIATE
SUPERINTENDENT**

PAT WRIGHT

(727) 507-4766



"Pioneers for the Future"

JANUARY 2015

A note from Mrs. Buckles.....

Dear Pioneer Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your holiday break. Welcome back to Garrison-Jones for the second semester. Our schedule remains busy and we appreciate the support of our parent community.

Parents often ask me what they can do at home to support their child's education in respect to the new core standards.

The Florida Standards provide clear expectations for what your child should know and be able to do in reading, writing, speaking, listening, language, and mathematics. If you know what these expectations are, then you can work with the teacher and help prepare your child for the challenge.

Find ways to make reading fun. A few suggestions to provide home support is to read non-fiction books and articles with your child, such as biographies or historical stories. Ask your child's teacher for a list of grade level non-fiction books titles. When reading with your child, ask them to make sense of what they read and draw their own conclusions. Providing this time at home will help reinforce how to dig deeper into difficult pieces. When it comes to writing or retelling a story, ask your child to use evidence from their reading to support what they say. Moreover, ask your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions. You can also do this in writing activities from what they read. Write together using evidence and details. Make it a game - taking turns using evidence. Helping to strengthen your child's vocabulary and reinforce that language is power!

In mathematics homework, encourage your child to show their work and explain how they arrived at their answer. Spend time helping them practice and memorize math facts. This type of home support will help provide success in more advanced math problems. Find opportunities to do the math that they encounter in daily life. Help your child to use math in real world situations such as recipes or determining how much pizza to order or how much of tip to include on the restaurant check. Children need to see that math is all around them.

You are the most important influence in your child's life. This type of home support will help your child's academic success in the classroom.

Should you have any questions about these strategies, please feel free to contact me at bucklesk@pcsb.org, or call me at 727-469-5716 ext. 2104.

Sincerely,

Karen Buckles

Principal, Garrison-Jones Elementary

IMPORTANT SCHOOL SAFETY NEWS



Each day the faculty and staff of Garrison-Jones Elementary strive to ensure a safe learning environment for all students. One of our primary methods of preparation in the event of an emergency is to practice safety drills on a consistent basis. So far this year our students have had the opportunity practice exiting the building each month in an orderly fashion during our fire drills. We have also provided students with the opportunity to practice a duck and cover drill in the event of severe weather and a lockdown drill in the event of a campus emergency. This ongoing practice helps us to proactively review our plans and refine our systems. We will be continuing our monthly fire drills and will be repeating our other safety drills during the second half of the school year. Please consider talking with your students about the importance of safety drills. For some students these drills can sometimes cause concern or anxiety. Your support not only helps the students to review the expectations, but also provides a positive home school connection while reminding them that all of us are here to maintain their safety.

In addition to our safety drills, our faculty and staff often review our safety protocols for campus activities and events. 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 8:15am and remain on post until the second 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



Important Dismissal Information!

Do you have a different pick up routine than usual?

Please send a note to your child's teacher the morning of the change in pick-up. If your child is an aftercare van rider, you must notify the office in writing or call. Please make sure that you have also called the after care provider van

Friendly Reminder

The gate at Vanech Park closes exactly at the first bell (8:30) as the teachers have to get to their classes, and the gate opens in the afternoon at the second bell (2:35).



Homework Helpline

547-7223

Homework help is available from 5pm to 8 pm, Monday through Thursday, on all school days, except when there is no school the following day.

Pinellas County Homework Helpline offers free homework help for students in Grades 1 through 12. The Helpline is staffed by Pinellas County schools teachers who are certified in math, science, language arts and/or social studies. The helpline has a dedicated staff with access to the same textbooks that are used in your child's classroom. For example, if a student needs help with #4 on page 156, Homework Helpline teachers can open the book to the same problem and provide assistance!

Counselor's Corner

Vanessa Lofstedt, M.A.

lofstedtv@pcsb.org

<http://mrslofstedt.weebly.com>

Character Trait of the Month: Self-Motivation

Working in a careful and consistent manner without giving up.

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."

~John Quincy Adams

7 Ways to Motivate Children

*Adapted from 7 Proven Ways to Motivate
Children to Do Better in School.*

[www.greenville.k12.sc.us/greerms/parents/
motivate.pdf](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/greerms/parents/motivate.pdf)

1. Set proper expectations - have high expectations and communicate them to your child. Base your expectations on your child as an individual who has strengths and weaknesses.
2. Help your child set goals – make them specific and measureable, and write them down.
3. Show your child that you think school is important.
4. Support your child's learning style – does your child learn best by hearing, seeing, or doing?
5. Speak the language of encouragement – notice effort and progress, not perfection.
6. Reinforce learning at home and in the community - activities that can increase their knowledge and understanding are also lots of fun.
7. Encourage your child to be resilient by empathizing with them, providing reasonable choices, changing your approach when it isn't work-

NEW WEBSITE

Visit my new website for information about the comprehensive counseling program at Garrison-Jones:

- About me
- Classroom lessons
- Individual and small group counseling
- Character education
- Community services
- Pioneer PRIDE
- Gifted program
- Bullying reports and investigations

[http://www.pcsb.org/
domain/2541](http://www.pcsb.org/domain/2541)

TEST PREPARATION SMALL GROUP

Starting later this month, I will be facilitating small groups focusing on test-taking skills and test anxiety.

If you have a student in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade who may benefit from this group, please call or email me at lofstedtv@pcsb.org.

Please note that due to group size, not all students who are referred will be able to participate.

Speech

On Tuesday, **January 27th 2015** the annual vision and hearing screening will be conducted at Garrison-Jones. Those who will be tested are:

- ◆ **kindergarten and 1st grade** will be testing for hearing and vision
- ◆ **3rd grade** will be vision only (unless new to the county then hearing is also done)
- ◆ **all new to county students**
- ◆ **and teacher referrals.**

Parents will be notified only if your child does not pass the screening. You will be notified of a vision failure, by letter, soon after the screening. Hearing failures will be rechecked 2 to 3 weeks after the initial screening. This allows time for illnesses such as colds, which may temporarily affect hearing, to clear. You will be notified by letter of a hearing failure.

If you do not wish to have your child participate in the screening or would like to refer your child for the screening, please notify the school in writing by **January 23rd, 2015 (attention: Ms. Lindsey Wegner) or email Ms. Wegner at wegnerma@pcsb.org.**

FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Did you know that the media center also collects recycled printer cartridges? Garrison-Jones is still participating in an on-going recycling program "Hands On Recycling." The program provides an opportunity for our school to turn in used cell phones, empty laser and ink jet cartridges to CASH!

It's so easy to do! Save those old cell phones, laser and ink jet cartridges from printers, copiers and fax machines. Please drop them off in the media center. Your place of employment can help too. We can have them picked up from your work location all year. There is a form available in the media center if you are interested. Bring the form to school, or call toll free 1-888-486-7654 to set up your business sponsorship. Remember that every cartridge or cell phone we receive is money for our school. Together we can make a difference for our students and the world we live in. Thank you!

Mrs. Suzanne Williams

Library Media/Technology Specialist

Garrison-Jones Elementary

williamssuz@pcsb.org

Fun Fact!

In the Middle Ages most European Countries used a different calendar and celebrated New Years Day on March 25th!



DAILY BREAKFAST CHOICES

Choose up to 2 Grain Choices such as cereal (=1), toast (=1), pancakes (=2), cinnamon Texas toast (=2) **OR**

Choose a 1 Grain and 1 Meat Choice such as a breakfast sandwich (=1G/1M)

Must choose at least 1: Fruit or Juice

May choose 1: Milk

DAILY LUNCH CHOICES

Choose 1: Entrée

May Choose: 1 Milk

Must choose at least 1: Fruit or Vegetable

January

Mon	Tue	W
5 Professional Development Day N  dents!	6 Chicken Biscuit <u>Choose One:</u> Seasoned Pork Tacos Max Cheese Sticks w/ Marinara Chicken Caesar Salad Italian Twist Combo <u>Choose:</u> Refried Fiesta Beans, Veggie Dippers	7
12 Pizza Pocket	13 Sausage Biscuit	14
<u>Choose One:</u> Teriyaki Chicken & Rice Bowl w/Roll Giorgio Cheesy Bread w/Marinara Chef Salad Chicken Caesar Wrap <u>Choose:</u> Stir Fry Vegetables, Tossed or Romaine Salad	<u>Choose One:</u> **Feature Item** Cheesy Bean Empanada Rib B Que Sandwich Chicken Caesar Salad Italian Twist Combo <u>Choose:</u> Baked Beans, Veggie Dippers	
19 No School	20 Breakfast Sausage Bagel	21
	<u>Choose One:</u> Mini Calzones w/Marinara **New Entrée** Bar B Q Pork on a Bun Chef Salad Italian Twist Combo <u>Choose:</u> Baked Beans / Veggie Dippers	Pr
26 French Toast Minis <u>Choose One:</u> **New Entrée** Bean & Cheese Burrito Hamburger/Cheeseburger Farmers Salad Chicken Caesar Wrap <u>Choose:</u> Tator Tots Tossed or Romaine Salad	27 Chicken Biscuit <u>Choose One:</u> Seasoned Pork Tacos Max Cheese Sticks w/ Marinara Chicken Caesar Salad Italian Twist Combo <u>Choose:</u> Refried Fiesta Beans, Veggie Dippers	28
<p>January 20th is a NEW MENU for the new year. Watch for fresh lunch options in your cafeteria and give them a try!</p>		

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Pinellas County School Food Service is prohibited from a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave



2015

Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>Bacon, Egg & Cheese Pizza</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>**Feature Item**</p> <p>Buffalo Chicken Pizza</p> <p>Macaroni & Cheese</p> <p>Hummus Salad Plate</p> <p>Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Corn Nibbles, Romaine Salad</p>	<p>8 Sausage Gravy Toast</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>Rib B Que Sandwich</p> <p>Fernando's Cheesy Quesadilla w/Salsa</p> <p>Chicken Dipper Salad</p> <p>Turkey & Cheese Sandwich</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Broccoli, Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>9 Dunk'n Stick</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>Pizza Variety</p> <p>Ocean Treasure Fish Nuggets</p> <p>Veggie Double Dipper Salad</p> <p>School Favorite Sandwich</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Sliced Carrots, Mixed or Romaine Salad</p>
<p>Maple Pancake Minis</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>Chicken Nuggets w/Dip</p> <p>Stuffed Shells</p> <p>Yogurt Parfait</p> <p>Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Sweet Potato Waffle Fries, Romaine Salad</p>	<p>15 Egg, Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>Breakfast for Lunch</p> <p>Meat Lovers Stromboli w/Marinara</p> <p>Farmers Salad</p> <p>Turkey & Cheese Sandwich</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Deli Roasted Potatoes, Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>16 Rich's Cinnamon Roll</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>Pizza Variety</p> <p>Cheeseburger Sliders</p> <p>Tuna Chef Salad</p> <p>School Favorite Sandwich</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Spinach or Collard Greens,</p>
<p>Pumpkin Bread</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>**New Entrée**</p> <p>Chicken Tenders & dip</p> <p>Spaghetti & Meatballs</p> <p>Fruit and Yogurt Plate</p> <p>Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Pineapple Charles Blend / Romaine Salad</p>	<p>22 Scrambled Egg, Bacon & Biscuit</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>Teriyaki Beef Dippers w/Rice & Roll</p> <p>**New Entrée**</p> <p>Max Snax Quesadilla w/Salsa</p> <p>Chicken Caesar Salad</p> <p>Turkey & Cheese Sandwich</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Creamed Spinach / Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>23 Chicken Breakfast Bites</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>Pizza</p> <p>**New Entrée**</p> <p>Baja Fish Sticks w/Hush Puppies</p> <p>Chicken Dipper Salad</p> <p>School Favorite Sandwich</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Carrots / Mixed or Romaine Salad</p>
<p>Bacon, Egg & Cheese Pizza</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>**New Entrées**</p> <p>Beef Ravioli w/Roll or Beef a Roni</p> <p>Popcorn Chicken Bowl</p> <p>Hummus Salad Plate</p> <p>Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Corn / Romaine Salad</p>	<p>29 Sausage Gravy Breakfast Toast</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>**New Entrée**</p> <p>Grilled Cheese Sandwich</p> <p>Rib B Que Sandwich</p> <p>Chef Salad</p> <p>Turkey & Cheese Sandwich</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Tomato Soup / Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>30 Apple Cinnamon Muffin Top</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u></p> <p>Pizza</p> <p>Ocean Treasure Fish Nuggets</p> <p>Veggie Double Dipper Salad</p> <p>School Favorite Sandwich</p> <p><u>Choose:</u></p> <p>Broccoli</p> <p>Mixed or Romaine Salad</p>

A variety of fruits and juice are available daily! Students may choose up to 2 servings each of fruits & vegetables with their meal!

All menus are subject to change. We do our best to provide our customers with all of our planned options, however, occasionally weather, crops and



Noteworthy News

Congratulations to four of our 5th graders who were selected to participate in the All County Chorus and two of our 5th graders who were selected to participate in the All County Strings. These students will represent Garrison-Jones on March 7 in St. Pete at the All County Honor Concert.

Chorus: **Sarah Ayotte, Jaclyn Ellison, Lily Jackson and Autumn Schmeider**

Strings: **Samantha Castillo and Emily Merkel**

SPRING CONCERT NEWS! The Garrison-Jones Spring Concert has been changed to May 7th at 7pm. Please mark your calendars and plan for this night. The concert will include 4th and 5th grade choruses and both 'Strings' classes. We are so proud of their continued dedication and progress.

Welcome Back!

It's going to be a great year!

