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# "Pioneers for the Future"

MAY? JUNE 2015



**PINELLAS  
COUNTY  
SCHOOLS**

AN EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY  
INSTITUTION  
FOR EDUCATION &  
EMPLOYMENT

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## A note from Mrs. Buckles.....

Dear Pioneer Families:

It seems like just a few weeks back our doors opened for the first day of school. It is even harder to believe we are ready to close the doors to the school year. Before our school year ends, I want to thank you for such an amazing year here at Garrison-Jones. We know our children enjoy and value learning more, when their teachers and parents have a strong partnership. We thank you for your support this year and appreciate the collaborative effort that contributed to our children's success. Thank you to our outstanding parent leadership on our School Advisory Council (SAC) and our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). These parent organizations are the corner stone of our school.

Your children are coming home with their final report card of the 2014-2015 school year. As you look over your child's progress, you should see evidence of their hard work and their accomplishments. With that said, I want to thank the exceptional work of our deeply committed teachers in your child's success. And without exception, it is you, our families that help and support our teachers to provide the best education for your child. Together, we honor the excellence that makes being a Pioneer For The Future a great place to learn, a great place to work, and a great place to be!

Every student went home with a book and a calendar as a Kick Off to summer reading. We know that students who stay engaged in reading return to school mentally fit and ready for academic rigor. The public library creates numerous engaging events throughout the summer for our students. Make sure you check out their calendar on our school website at <http://www.pcsb.org/garrison-es>.

Have a happy, safe, and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to seeing you when school resumes on August 24, 2015.

Sincerely,

*Karen Buckles*, Principal

Garrison-Jones Elementary



Looking for something fun to do this summer?

College for Kids is back at Garrison-Jones this year.

College for Kids is a fun, educational camp sponsored by St. Petersburg College. Taught by certified teachers, the students will build and launch rockets, explore different cultures, learn how things fly, learn about different types of energy, create artwork, participate in team sports, work with computers, and much, much more. Join us for a week or two or stay all eight weeks.

For more details go to [www.spcollege.edu/C4K](http://www.spcollege.edu/C4K), or call 727/341-3000. (The website will give you more specific details as to what classes are offered each week. No two weeks are the same. Click on the Garrison-Jones site for details.)

We hope to see you this summer!



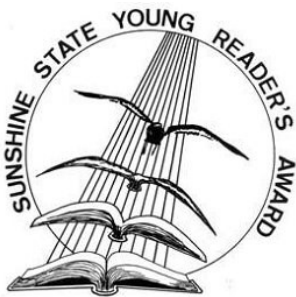
As the school year comes to a close, our minds and hearts are filled with reflection. It's been a great year! Our students are improving in their learning in a whole range of areas from Literacy and Numeracy to Performing and Visual Arts, from Athletics to Student Emotional and Social Learning in English as well as Spanish. As a community of teaching and learning we have shared so many experiences that will remain with us in the years to come. The strength, dedication, and passion of our community makes Garrison-Jones a truly special place.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to all of you who have contributed in ways small, large and unimaginable! We have such hard working and caring staff members who have made a huge difference to our students this year. Their commitment is outstanding and our kids are the beneficiaries. Our dedicated parents and guardians who have helped their children in the learning process; the partnership between home and school is important and I know that thanks needs to go to our families for supporting their child's learning. The success of our school depends on your fundraising support, helping in the classrooms, helping on fieldtrips, volunteering in the office at our school events as well as your participation on PTA and SAC.

I want to encourage you to spend precious time relaxing with your families this summer and I also want to encourage you to continue reading throughout the summer. The summer activities calendars went home with our KG-4<sup>th</sup> grade students and are a great support to keeping students learning in preparation for the new school year. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to be your assistant principal this year. I am looking forward to next year!

*Renee Nellenbach*

Assistant Principal, Garrison-Jones Elementary



## READ THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS BOOKS OVER THE SUMMER!!!

Students in grades 2-4 were sent home with a checklist of the upcoming Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Battle of the Books list for next year. The list is also included below. All the books are wonderful summer reads, even if your child chooses not to participate in our school battle, so have them read one, two or even all of them!!!

*Athlete vs. Mathlete*

C.W. Mack

*Alien in my Pocket: Blast Off!*

Kate Ball

*Eight Keys*

Suzanne LaFleur

*Fortunately the Milk*

Neil Gaiman

*Freaky Fast Frankie Jo*

Latricia Clifton

*Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom*

Christopher Healy

*The Hypnotists*

Gordon Korman

*Kizzy Ann Stamps*

Jeri Watts

*Nerd Camp*

Elissa Weissman

*Olivia Bean Trivia Queen*

Donna Gephart

*Pie*

Sarah Weeks

*A Snicker of Magic*

Natalie Lloyd

*The Fourteenth Goldfish*

Jennifer Holm

*Three Times Lucky*

Shelia Turnage

*White Fur Flying*

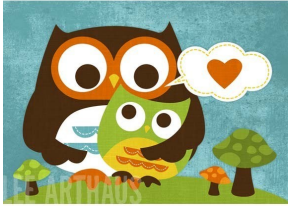
Patricia MacLachlan

# Counselor's Corner

Vanessa Lofstedt, M.A.

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## Character Trait of the Month: *Caring*

*Being kind, friendly, considerate, and willing to listen, give, and share.*

*"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, and an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."*

*Leo Buscaglia*

## Raising Kids Who Care

*Instead of telling your children, "The most important thing is that you are happy," tell them, "The most important thing is that you are kind, and that you are responsible for others."*

*Help your children appreciate others. Expect your children to appreciate you. Their relationship with you will be a primary model for their other relationships.*

*Support your child's developing maturity. Maturity, including the ability to manage destructive feelings, to balance and coordinate our needs with others, to empathize, to receive feedback constructively, to be reflective, and to adjust our behavior, is at the heart of both morality and lasting well-being.*

*Praise your children for specific accomplishments and occasionally tell them how great they are. But avoid constant praising. When children are praised all the time, they can feel judged all the time.*

*Don't make high achievement the goal of a life. Too much achievement pressure can diminish children's sense of self, make them less able to care for others, and more likely to experience others primarily as competitors and threats.*

*Help your child register kindness and unkindness, justice and injustice in the world. Express your own values, and connect them to your child's experiences and interpretations.*

*Don't seek to be your child's friend. You can be very close to your child in many ways, but it's vital that children experience you as an authority, that they idealize you at certain points in their development and see you as someone they want to emulate. Children come to appreciate others as independent and distinct when we appreciate them as distinct.*



# NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY:



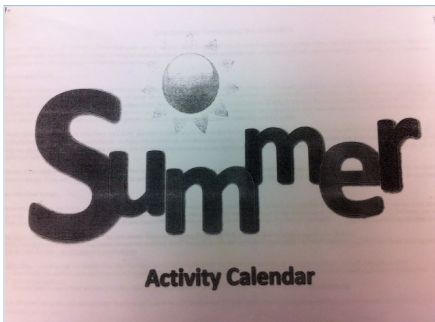
**PARENTS: PLEASE HELP THE LIBRARY BY SEARCHING YOUR HOME BOOK SHELVES FOR ANY GARRISON-JONES LIBRARY BOOKS. INVENTORY HAS BEGUN, BUT THE BOOKS MAY STILL BE RETURNED IN THE FALL IF YOU FIND ONE! AS LONG AS IT CAN BE PUT BACK ON THE SHELF IN GOOD READABLE CONDITION, YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE FINED.**

We currently have many overdue items, as well as books “missing” but not checked out, which may have accidentally found their way to your house! If you received an overdue notice and feel that you have returned the book, please check in your child’s classroom or after school care. Once inventory is complete, all books that have been returned to the library will be confirmed.

## “My hero”

### Clearwater Public Library System Short Story Contest

The Clearwater Public Library System is holding a short story contest this summer for all children in Pinellas County. The subject is “My Hero” which matches their summer reading theme. Entries will be judged in age group categories of Grades K-2 and 3-5. A gift card prize will be awarded to the winners at the public library award ceremony on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. You can pick up an entry form at the public library or from Mrs. Williams in our school library.



Don't forget to use your Summer Activities Calendar and Reading log! All students in grades K-4 were sent home with a Summer Activities Calendar. It is packed with fun summertime ideas and activities to keep the kids learning and having fun all summer long. Please keep it in a safe place at home, use it, and return it to school with your student in August. Garrison-Jones wants to be the school that has the highest returns and participation in our county. If we do, we can be eligible to win some exciting things for our school!!! Details will be announced soon!

