

Paul B. Stephens School

2935 County Road 193, Clearwater, FL 33759

Telephone: 727-725-7982 FAX: 727-725-7985

While in the mist of the Holidays and looking towards the New Year, I like to take some time to reflect on all that I have to be thankful for. I am thankful for our students, their parents and guardians. I appreciate you working with us to help your students become the best they can be. I am thankful to work with such a dedicated and hardworking staff. They do whatever it takes to teach our students in a caring and safe environment. I am thankful for my family, that my children are happily married and healthy. I am especially thankful for the light of my life, my grandson, who keeps us busy and laughing. I am also thankful that Mick, our 11 year old dog, is still healthy and enjoys our long walks. During these turbulent times I am thankful to live in a safe and free country, and I pray for those who aren't as fortunate. What are you thankful for?

Thank you to all who attended the PTA Silent Auction and put in bids on the items. We all had fun and raised funds to support the PTA, which in turn supports our teachers and students.

Our Holiday Extravaganza has increased student participation each year. This will be our best year ever! Our gym will be filled to capacity. We hope you will be joining us.

Please take some time to review the homework sheets with your students over the holidays. This will help lessen the amount of regression that may occur when they are not in school.

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season
and a happy New Year.

Gail Cox, Principal



Upcoming Events

December 5

Special Olympics Basketball

December 7

PTA Holiday Shop through
December 11

December 10

Holiday Extravaganza
6:30 PM

December 18

Pajama Day
Assembly 10:30 AM

January 5

Student Return to School

January 18

Martin Luther King Holiday
Day – NO SCHOOL FOR
STUDENTS

January 21

PTA Meeting 1:30 PM

January 29

Assembly 10:30 AM



**With the upcoming holidays,
please don't forget to save your
BOX TOPS!!**

*Thank you for your recent donation of
BOX TOPS!!*

*With your help, we received a total of
\$350.40!!*



Please submit all your BOX TOPS to your
School Coordinator by
Monday, February 22, 2016
(Rose - Main Office)

Bus News

Our bus drivers and bus assistants play a critical part in safely getting your children to and from school. As you can imagine, this is a very complex process, and we appreciate working in partnership with you to help it run smoothly!



A few reminders:

- Students should be at their stop 10-15 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. With absent riders and varying traffic patterns, we need to stay as close to the scheduled route as possible to get students to school on time.
- Please be at the stop 10-15 minutes prior to the scheduled drop-off time. In the event that the bus is a little earlier than scheduled, it is often stressful for students to have to sit and wait for the person who is meeting the bus. Also, many locations are not suitable for buses to sit and block traffic for extended periods of time.
- If your child will not be riding for a day or other period of time, please communicate that to the bus staff. They can then adjust the route and let other parents and guardians know so that the route still runs smoothly.

If you have any questions or concerns, or want to share things that are going well, please contact Randi Latzke, assistant principal, at latzker@pcsb.org or 727-725-7982. We value your input and want to provide the very best transportation support to our students!

Randi Latzke, Assistant Principal



Student Council News

The Student Council **Car Wash was a huge success!** Thank you to all the students who helped wash cars and to staff and parents who trusted us with their vehicles. We **raised \$314.00** to help pay for shipping of our Military Boxes and our end of the year pizza party.

The **Thanksgiving Food Drive** began the first week of November, and we've already received over 150 pounds of canned goods. Several turkeys have been donated, and we are going to be able to provide Thanksgiving meals for at least 15 local families in need this year. Thank you to all who contributed!



Clinic Corner

Holiday Tips

Balancing the hustle and bustle of shopping, cooking and family get-togethers during the holidays can sometimes take a toll on you and your family's mental health. Here are some tips to help you enjoy the holidays for what they are – a time to enjoy with your family.

- Remember to stick to your child's usual sleep and mealtime schedules when you can, to reduce stress and help your child and you enjoy the holidays.
- Don't feel pressured to "over-spend." Help your child make a gift for family members or other important adults and friends. Chances are, those gifts will be the most treasured ones and will teach your child many important lessons that purchasing presents can't.

Have a safe and healthy Thanksgiving from all of the nurses!!

Help With Holiday Gifts



If you have **children 0-12** and would like to receive gifts for them through Toys for Tots this year, **register** at one of the following centers:

- **High Point Family Center**, 5812 150th Ave N, Clearwater, FL 33760. (727)533-0730
- **Graydi Family Center**, 13420 Adams Circle, Largo, FL 33774. (727)584-7200 Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-1pm only; Wed 4pm-6pm only
- **Dunedin Academy**, 1408 County Rd 1, Dunedin, FL 34698. (727)520-5145 Mon-Wed 3pm-6pm or by appt.
- **Mattie Williams NFC**, 1003 Dr. MLK Jr St N, Safety Harbor, FL 34695. (727)791-8255
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. NFC**, 900 N MLK Jr Ave, Clearwater, FL 33755. (727)-442-5355 Tues and Wed 10am-2pm only



Distribution days are December 18th and 19th at 2310 Starkey Road, Largo, FL 33771. For more information, visit the Toys for Tots website at:

<http://st-petersburg-fl.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/request-toys.aspx>

From the COLORFUL CORNER of PBS

The holidays are upon us and what a great time to fire up the kiln. We have started our **pottery unit** and are making clay bowls, owls with pasta texture and learning to throw pots on the wheel!

Recently students made 12 large ceramic bowls for the PTA auction and they were best sellers, great job PBS artists! All glazes we use are dinnerware safe, so your projects are safe to eat and drink from.

Enjoy and Happy Holidays!



PTA News

Our school year has been flying by, and the PTA has been very active with many events, and with many more to come. We currently have 26 family members and 45 staff members who have joined the PTA. There is still time to join! As an added incentive, the discount cards to area businesses have arrived and will be given as a part of your membership.

We had a very successful **Silent Auction** on November 12th. Many thanks go out to the families who came out to support our school! A big thank you also to the staff members who helped out to make the auction go so well. Of course, many thanks go out to the businesses whose generous donations made our auction possible!

We have 2 exciting PTA activities to look forward to during the month of December. The annual **Holiday Shop** will go from December 7th to December 11th. The **Holiday Extravaganza**, which will be on Thursday, December 10th, seems to get more wonderful every year! There have been 75 students to sign up to participate in this year's extravaganza. Ms. Beverly, the Glee Club, and all the students have been working hard to get ready for this event. The theme this year will be Holiday Road Trip!

Thank you for helping to make the Paul B. Stephens PTA a strong connection between school, families and the community!

Behavior Tip

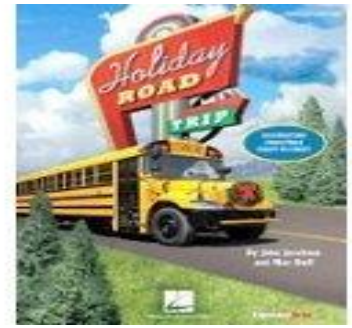
Lower the Volume



When faced with someone who is aggressive and shouting, keep your face neutral and lower the volume and pitch of your own voice. Nine times out of ten, they will quiet down to hear what you are saying.

Holiday Partnership Continues

The **Insurance Professionals of Pinellas** have once again “adopted” some of our students for their holiday gift program. This year they are able to buy gifts for **18 students!**



Holiday Extravaganza

Rehearsals and preparations have begun for the **December 10** Holiday Extravaganza. This family centered evening starts at 7:00 PM with the student presentation of **Holiday Road Trip**. This delightful musical relates the journey of students and a very special bus driver as they travel across the USA. The students encounter various musical styles during their stops along the way.

Over **75 students** have already returned their permission slip indicating their participation in the musical. Please mark your calendar to come here this very upbeat musical.

Volunteer Information

Just a friendly reminder for you to be a **current volunteer**.

If you are a returning volunteer, you do not have to fill out a new volunteer registration form. All you need to do is **“activate”** in the volunteer system in Focus prior to volunteering. Please **DO NOT** activate using any mobile device. To do so may result in an **INELIGIBLE** volunteer status.

To activate your volunteer profile, go to <https://focus.pcsb.org/focus>. Log in using your v.account: (last name first initial - all lowercase)* and password: Last name (Capitalize first letter), followed by your 4-digit birth year.

Example:

Login: v.smitha

Password: Smith1973



***Please note:** Focus will add additional letters to a volunteer's Username if another PCS volunteer shares a common last name. If you experience difficulty signing in Focus, please contact me for assistance.

Click on the “Volunteer” button in the upper left hand corner, Click on “Add Hours”, answer the questions, and don't forget to log your hours. **(It is highly recommended that volunteers should NOT re-activate using a mobile device, as this method has been known to input the answers to the criminal offense questions incorrectly.)**

Any volunteer that did not log any hours last school year: your profile has been deactivated and archived. To be reinstated in Focus, please email **Rose Egnacheski, Volunteer Coordinator: egnacheskir@pcsb.org

If you have never been a registered volunteer in Pinellas County Schools, then you will need to fill out a Volunteer form and provide a state photo ID. Rose will process the paperwork and let you know when you have been approved to be a volunteer.



Please remember to log **ALL** service hours in Focus.
Thanks for all you do!

... do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart!

The School Exclusion List indicates for which illnesses a child must be excluded from, or kept out of, school. It also indicates when medical notes are necessary for children to return to school after certain illnesses.

Exclusion Criteria Based Upon Sign and Symptoms

Fever
Exclude if oral temp is 101 or above, or if axillary/tympenic temp is greater than 100. Must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning.

Vomiting
Exclude if vomiting 2 or more times in 24-hour period. Exclude for the following day unless vomiting is known to be caused by a condition that is not contagious.

Diarrhea
Exclude if two or more loose stools in 24-hour period. Return to school when 24 hours pass without diarrheal stool.

Diarrhea with blood or mucous
Exclude with 1 or more loose stools with blood or mucous.

Localized skin infection
Exclude from contact sports. Exclude from school only if lesion cannot be covered until medical clearance is given.

Generalized rash of unknown origin
Exclude until rash is resolved or medical clearance is given.

If you have any questions about this list, please contact your child's school or the Pinellas County School Health Services Department at 727-588-6320.

For more information, visit our website at www.pcsb.org

The best protection from disease is **PREVENTION!**

Make sure your children receive their immunizations on time ...



...cough or sneeze into your sleeves...

...and wash hands frequently with soap and warm water



School Health Guidelines for Exclusion

If you think that your child has an illness that can be spread to others, please keep him or her home from school. Contact your health care provider for further assistance.

School Health Services
727-588-6320

A Quick Reference Guide for Parents

- Please keep your child home from school if he or she has one of the conditions or illnesses listed below.
- Report your child's absence to their school and consult their healthcare provider.
- Most of the conditions and illnesses are reportable to the Health Department during outbreaks only. *Illnesses noted with (*) are reportable for single cases.*

Conjunctivitis (Pink-eye)

Children who have pink or red eyes with white or yellow discharge - often with matted eyelids after sleep and eye pain or redness of the eyelids or skin surrounding the eye may have Purulent Conjunctivitis. They should be excluded from school while symptomatic or until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment. A medical note is required to return to school. Children with pink eyes who have a clear, watery discharge without fever, eye pain, or eyelid redness do not need to be kept home.

Fifth Disease (Erythema infectiosum)

The primary symptom of this illness is a rash, characterized by "slapped face" appearance and there is no specified exclusion for cases. Pregnant women and immune-compromised persons should seek medical advice.

Head Lice

Children should be excluded from school if they are experiencing head scratching and live lice or nits are present. The parent must bring the child to be examined in order to return to school.

Hepatitis A*
Children should be excluded until one week after the onset of jaundice or illness.

Influenza-Like-Illness
Children with a fever, cough and/or sore throat should be excluded until symptoms resolved.

Measles*
Children with fever, reddened eyes, runny nose, cough, dusky-red blotchy rash on day 3 or 4, should be excluded until 4 days after onset of rash.

Meningitis*
Bacterial/Viral - Children experiencing high fever, headache, and stiff neck should be excluded until recovered. **Bacterial Meningitis is immediately reportable to Health Department.*

Mononucleosis
Exclusion recommended until a medical note to return to school and/or resume physical activities is required.

Mumps*
Initially excluded. Children may return 5 days after the onset of parotid gland swelling.

Pertussis*
Children should be excluded until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic therapy, with a note from the healthcare provider.

Rubella (German Measles)*
Initially excluded. Child should remain at home until 6 days after onset of rash, with a note from the healthcare provider.

Scabies
Children with this condition should remain out of school until 24 hours after application of appropriate scabicial treatment has been completed.

Staphylococcal or streptococcal skin infections (includes MRSA)

Exclude children from school whose lesions cannot be covered. If lesion can be covered exclude from contact sports only.

Impetigo - May return 24 hours after treatment started, but areas/sores must remain covered.

Streptococcal pharyngitis (strep throat)
Children can return to school 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment if there is no fever.

Tinea Capitis (Ringworm of the scalp)
Children must be excluded from school until an oral antifungal treatment is initiated.

Tinea Corporis (Ringworm of the body)
Children should be excluded from school until an oral or topical antifungal treatment is initiated, unless the affected area can be completely covered.

Tuberculosis*
Children with this condition must be excluded from school until the local health department and treating physician state that the student is noninfectious.

Varicella (Chickenpox)*
Children should be excluded from school until all lesions have dried and crusted (usually 7 days/1 week after the onset of the rash).

Varicella Herpes Zoster (Shingles)
Keep children home who have lesions/ sores/blisters that cannot be covered. Child may return to school once all lesions are dried/crusted.

If you have any questions about this list, please contact your child's school nurse or the Pinellas County School Health Services Department

at
727-588-6320.