



Paul B. Stephens School

2935 County Road 193, Clearwater, FL 33759

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

Welcome... Students, parents and community friends to the 2015-2016 school year! We look forward to a successful year as we go on our **Road Trip to Success**.

It's hard to believe that we have already completed more than a month of school. We had a wonderful turnout for our Open House. The staff enjoys the opportunity of showing off the exciting learning activities the students will experience.

Thank you for your patience as the city makes improvements and our street is under construction. Hope it will be finished soon!

Welcome to our **new staff** members:

- Randi Latzke - Assistant Principal
- Ken Clawson - Teacher
- Nancy Davis - Teacher
- Don Kreischer - Teacher
- Kathy Montalbano - Teacher
- Robert Spartz - Teacher
- Joyce Vitraelli - Teacher
- Rosemary Vault - Interpreter
- Jackie Tartaglia - Café Manager
- Kaylen Hayes - Café
- Carrie Szurly - Classroom Associate
- Mark Smolenski - Classroom Associate
- Yolanda Thompson-Jamison - Classroom Associate
- Colleen Andryusky - Clerical Assistant

It's almost time for the **Flu season** to start. Check with your doctor about flu shots. Please keep your student home if they are ill.

We will be sending home **homework** related to our Unique Learning System curriculum.

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Upcoming Events

October 2

School Picture Day

October 3

Special Olympics State Aquatics

October 11

PTA Family Bowling

October 13

Blood Mobile 8-11 AM

October 15

PTA Meeting 1:30 PM

October 15

SAC Meeting 6:30 PM

October 19

Professional Development Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

October 30

Halloween Parade and Assembly 10:30 AM

November 5

Student Council Food Drive begins

Calendar Continued...

November 6

School Picture Retakes & Graduation Pictures

November 12

PTA Pizza Dinner and Silent Auction 7:00 PM

November 13

Special Olympics State Fall Classic

November 13

Student Council Food Drive Ends

November 18

Great American Teach-In

November 19

PTA Meeting 1:30 PM

November 20

Assembly 10:30 AM

November 25

Thanksgiving Holiday begins

November 30

Students return to school

Please take a few minutes every night to review and complete assignments with your student. The more opportunities our students have to experience and review the items, the more likely they will respond to instruction during the school day.

We have **new Home Communication sheets**. Please read these over and send a note back to the teachers when needed.

It's been a long, rainy, hot summer, and we are all ready for a taste of fall and pumpkins. Enjoy!

Gail Cox, Principal

Do you know a child in grade PreK (4 years old) to grade 12 in need of school clothes?

The easiest and best way to refer a child for shopping is to verify that the family has the **free/reduced lunch letter** and have them call **Clothes to Kids** to make an appointment. If you can't find your free/reduced lunch letter, contact your school social worker, Melynda Farnham, for a referral letter at 727-725-7982 ext. 2006. Eligible children receive a week's wardrobe.

**Would you like to make an appointment to shop?
Please call 727-441-5050**

Clearwater Store:
1059 N. Hercules Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33765

St. Petersburg Store:
2168 34th Street S
St. Petersburg, FL 33711



Clinic Corner

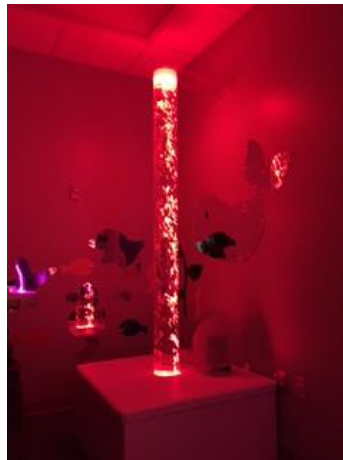
As we enter the time of year when respiratory illnesses become more prevalent, please remember these health tips:



- Wash your hands often with **soap and water** for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact such as kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or shirt sleeve – NOT with your hands.
- Clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs. Increase the frequency of cleaning if someone is sick.
- **Stay home when you are sick, and keep your child home if they show signs of illness.** This is the best way to prevent the spread of illnesses. Also remember if your child has a fever (100 degrees or higher) they must be fever free without medication 24 hours PRIOR to returning to school.

Following these tips can help to slow the spread of many illnesses – common cold, flu, enterovirus, and other pathogens that can lead to disease.

We hope these tips will be helpful and that you find health and happiness this new school year.



New Sensory Room

Thanks to the support of the entire Paul B. Stephens staff, the “Sensory Room” has officially opened this school year, 2015-2016. The new and improved Sensory Room is a unique adventure through tactile and visual exploration. Students, as well as our staff, have been learning the meaning of relaxation.

The room was funded through various grant opportunities and community support. It took a team to get the room spruced up, from the original music scores by Tim Burnaman and murals from under the sea by Suzanne Gentry. The feng shui surroundings were carefully arranged by the entire occupational and therapy team.

PTA News

Welcome to the new school year families and staff! We had a good turnout at our general meeting during Open House. So far we have had 19 family members and 39 staff join the PTA. There's still time to join! Discount cards for area businesses will soon be given out to members who have joined this year.

Monday, September 21st will be the start of our **Fall Fundraiser**, featuring the products of Charleston Wrap. This company features a wide variety of items available for purchase. In addition to the 2 weeks of the fundraiser, online ordering will be available until December 31st.

Our **Fall Family Bowling** event will be held on Sunday, October 11th starting at 1:00 PM. This family favorite activity will be held at Dunedin Lanes again this year. In November, we will have our Silent Auction, with a pizza dinner served prior to the auction.

Our PTA has new and returning **Officers** this year. New Officers include: V.P of Membership - Nancy Clawson, V.P of Ways and Means - Christine Stolz, and Secretary - Kelly Moore. Returning Officers are Mary Page - Treasurer and Donna Kane - V.P of Activities. The Paul B. Stephens PTA Officers are looking forward to leading the way to a prosperous new year!

Hello from the ART room

Welcome back to another colorful year in the ART room! I am excited about our year and all of our fantastic projects planned.

Our year will consist of 5 week art units, focusing on a different medium each unit. The units are: DRAWING, PAINTING, CLAY, SCULPTURE, MIXED MEDIA and DIGITAL ART.

We have begun the year with a DRAWING unit. We are learning about lines, shapes and the art of Paul Klee. All students have a sketchbook this year and are keeping their notes, pictures and doodles in it. The sketchbook will be sent home at the end of our drawing unit.

The ART room has not been adopted yet. Please consider us! Your adoption fee will help pay for some unique ceramic glazes and clay materials. Thank you!



Congratulations Dale!

Dale Armstrong received a silver medal for his division paddling 0.75 miles in the first ever Special Olympic State Paddle Boarding competition at Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota. Dale was one of 88 athletes to compete this year. A good time was had by all.

IMPORTANT!!!

Parents, if your student has **therapy appointments** that impact their school day, either arriving late or leaving early, we must have a **letter from you or the therapist** stating their therapy times days and times.

Download the PCS Family Engagement Mobile APP!

Stay in touch with PCS information wherever you are – on your phone or tablet!

Important information at your finger tips:

- Schools
- District Calendar
- Florida State Standards
- Parent Portal
- Tools to Support Learning
- “Get Engaged” in Education
- Parent Tips
- Resources
- And more!



The PCS Family Engagement Mobile APP provides parents access to extended classroom opportunities, family engagement tips and opportunities, and parent “How To” videos. There is information about parent workshop schedules, parent peer support, and information that will support student learning and school improvement.

The PCS Family Engagement Mobile APP is free to download and is available for both Apple and Android Mobile devices. To download the APP, simply type “PCS Family Engagement” in the search box of either the Apple iTunes APP Store or the Google Play Android APP store.

The APP has direct links to all PCS schools, Parent Academy and mentor workshops, daily engagement tips, videos, academic support, Florida Standards and much more. The APP also allows for more effective communications with families via its direct messaging feature.

Download the **FREE mobile APP** on Apple or Android phones and tablets.

Search by typing “PCS Family Engagement.”





It's Submission Time!



Please don't forget to submit your **Box Tops** for our school **by Tuesday, October 20, 2015**. This is an easy way to earn **free money for Paul B. Stephens School**. You can send them in with your child or drop them off to Rose in the main office. Thanks for your support!

Behavior Tip

Managing behavior that is challenging can be very stressful for parents of children and adults with special needs, but it's important to see it as a form of communication.

Challenging behavior indicates there is a problem in learning and *not* in the person.

The following idea is just a suggestion for managing behavior.

Use a Break Card. A break card can be useful for averting meltdowns. It gives a person the means to communicate their wish to leave an unpleasant situation. They simply need to hand the card over. A break card is useful in school or out and about.

Go to this website to learn more about breaks and the break card:

<http://tinyurl.com/Break-Card>



Welcome Volunteers!

As we embark on a new school year, there are many opportunities to volunteer and help improve the learning environment of our schools. Please remember that all volunteers and/or visitors are required to sign in at the front reception desk.

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: egnacheski@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!