



Panther Pride Press

Principal's Message

WOW! It is amazing that October is almost here and what a great start to the year we have had! It has been a pleasure seeing all of our families at Open Houses, our ESOL parent breakfast and our recent Connect for Success technology training night. I know I will see many more of you at our October events!

Please make sure you call the Ponce de Leon school office (588-3573)) no later than 2:30 PM if you need to change your child's method of going home for that day. Staff must have sufficient time to contact the teacher and student in order to make sure all students are safely dismissed to the appropriate locations. Also, if you must pick up your child early from school we ask that you do this before 2:35 so as not to interfere with the normal dismissal processes. Thank you for your cooperation. Our students are doing a GREAT job of getting to class on time each day! Thank you parents for getting them here in plenty of time to eat breakfast. With that being said, students are not allowed to be on campus before 8:00am. If you must drop your child off before 8:00 there is before care offered through Largo Rec in the cafeteria.

Please know that my door is always open if you have a question, concern or if you just want to say hello!

Sincerely,
Paula Texel



Parent Survey!!

In an effort to improve system practices, Ponce de Leon Elementary is conducting a Parent Survey. We value your opinion and ask that you take the time to complete this survey no later than October 3rd. In order to complete the survey, please go to: <http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/9806360>

Please be assured that your responses to this survey will be anonymous. Your honest opinion is appreciated. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

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Important Dates

- Cookie Dough Fundraiser Kickoff: 10/7
- PTA Board Meeting: 10/9
- NO SCHOOL: 10/20
- Cookie Fundraiser Money Due: 10/17



Family and Community News

"ELKS CARE ELKS SHARE"

Thank you to the Elk's Lodge 2159 (Youth Activities e-club) whose members contributed, made donations and volunteered their time at the fundraising luau for the children at Ponce. The filled backpacks and school supplies (two car loads) will certainly be put to good use throughout the entire year. A special thank you to Shari Samples who not only organized, prepared the food for the luau, but filled the backpacks, packed up the supplies and made the delivery to Ponce. We are proud to have Elks #2159 as one of our community

Thank You!

2014-2015 COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

- Belleair Towers
- Largo Elks Lodge # 2159
- Largo Elks Lodge #2159 -(Youth Activities e-club)
- Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church (Pack-a-Snack)
- Publix Supermarket (Highland Ave.)
- Publix Supermarket (Missouri)
- St Paul United Methodist Church



PANTHER CLOTHES CLOSET

We are in need of gently used clothing for our Panther's Clothes Closet.

Girls & Boys-shirts (S-M-L), Girls & Boys-shorts, pants (S-M-L). Socks any size.

You never know when a zipper may give way or a shirt gets torn. Your help is appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING A CLASSROOM

- Central Florida Contractors, Inc.
- David Nelson Construction Co.
- Estetica Diane (Two Classes)
- The Thorn Collection-Coldwell Banker Real Estate

Become a Mentor

WANTED: Mentors!

Would like to make a positive impact on a student's life? Become a mentor. Students who meet regularly with a mentor have often have improved grades, attendance, and most of all, self-esteem. This is beautiful opportunity make a huge change and support Ponce de Leon's effort to meet the needs of our students.

Come join us at the Mentor Recruitment Fair, Oct. 13, 2014.

If interested, please contact muscaroe@pcsb.org.

**Ponce de Leon Elementary
1301 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Clearwater, FL 33756
588-3573
588-3700 (Fax)**

**Ms. Paula Texel
Principal**

**Mr. Greg Logan
Assistant Principal**

**Mr. Bob Poth
Area 2 Superintendent
(727) 588-5020**

Need to Know Dates

Student Picture Day

Friday, October 3rd

Cookie Dough Fundraiser Kick Off

October 7th

Walk to School Day

October 8th

7:15am @ Office Depot

Cookie Dough Money/Order Due

October 22nd

Fall Festival

October 24th

All Pro Dads Breakfast

October 31st

7:30 am

Thanksgiving Break

November 24th - 28th

Hello Parents,

We are off to a great year and our students are working extremely hard. A big part of our student's success comes from our partnership with our families. Each year our school writes a detailed Parent Involvement Plan that outlines how we at Ponce de Leon Elementary will involve our families in their child's educational experience.

It is our hope that whenever you are in our office, that you will take a look through our Title I Folder and give your feedback on our plan. Our continued partnership will have long lasting effects on the students of Ponce de Leon Elementary. We look forward to a wonderful year with you and your children.

Sincerely,

Greg Logan, Assistant Principal

PTA & SAC

The Ponce de Leon PTA would like to thank all the families and staff who have joined PTA so far this year. **Our fall membership drive ends on September 30th!** The class who has the most memberships by the end of the day on 9/30 will win a pizza party!



What does your **\$5 membership fee** go towards? A portion goes toward paying the state and national dues required to have a PTA. The rest goes towards funding field trip buses, classroom supplies, and fun family events throughout the year!

On October 7th, the PTA will be holding our major fall fundraiser! We will be selling Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough! They are super delicious! We are still looking for a few volunteers who want to help pass out fresh baked cookies at dismissal for our kick off!

Strokes of Brilliance

The following students will be honored at the 2014-15
Pinellas County Schools Administration Building Art Exhibition on *October 15th*:



Raven Pride, 4th, "Letter t; o VanGogh"

Janaya Hipps, 2nd, "Cat Princess"

Paris Willis, 1st, "My Castle"

Jayden Basto
Janaya Hipps
Vanessa Paxtle-Maqueda
Raven Pride
Kevin Salvador
Elena Tiko
Elise Tuttle
Paris Williams



Music Notes

The music department is happy to welcome our new teacher, Miss Heather Haskell. Miss Haskell will be teaching music all day Mondays and Tuesdays and on Wednesday mornings. Mrs. Lehmann will continue to teach music at Ponce on Wednesday afternoons, and all day Thursdays and Fridays. We welcome Miss Haskell and the wonderful talent she brings to our Ponce de Leon musicians!

Health & Fitness

Another great school year has begun and we can't be more excited to work with the students in PE. We have a wonderful new addition to our department in Ms. Mueller, who brings over 7 years of experience with her as a PE teacher. We have been working on our fitness test the past few weeks and the students have done a great job. The students are learning about eating healthy and how to enhance their muscular strength and endurance, along with their cardiorespiratory endurance and flexibility. Keep up the good work kids!!! As a reminder, please remember to send students to PE with comfortable closed toe shoes and a water bottle if they prefer. Also, keep the Box Tops coming. We've purchased a lot of cool new equipment with your help.