

# Leila G. Davis Elementary School

December 19, 2014  
2630 Landmark Dr.  
Clearwater, FL 33761  
727-725-7972  
[www.davis-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/](http://www.davis-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/)



Principal Kim Hill  
Assistant Principal William Durst

Area 2 Associate Superintendent:  
Mr. Robert Poth  
(727)588-5020

## A Message From Mrs. Hill

The Holiday season is upon us and the time to celebrate with family and friends is here. It is also the time of year when our hearts inspire the spirit of giving and generosity. During the holiday season there are many people in need of help and kindness. Let's practice and teach our children the importance of giving of ourselves. Davis Elementary is very appreciative for the generosity our parents, local businesses, and community members show us throughout the year. Without their support, many things would not be possible.

As prospective parents and visitors visit Davis the most frequently asked question is, "What distinguishes your school from the others?" Our answer is always, "Our very involved parents." You are the key to our success! Thank you for your ongoing support, the time you so willingly give to us through volunteering, your kind gestures and gifts, especially during this holiday season, and most importantly, for sharing your precious children with us.

As you celebrate the holidays and this 2014 year comes to a close, I wish all of you a peaceful and loving time with your families and a very "Happy New Year"! See you in 2015.



## Important Dates



- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| January 5  | NO SCHOOL   |
| January 6  | Second semester begins                                |
| January 9  | K-Kids meeting 7:45am                                 |
| January 14 | Report cards go home                                  |
| January 15 | Domino's Night  |
| January 21 | Gatti Town Spirit Night<br>5-8pm, FREE to PTA members |
| January 27 | PTA meeting 6pm<br>SAC meeting 7pm                    |
| January 30 | School newsletter available                           |

## Join our Email List!

If you have not already done so, please visit our school website at <http://www.davis-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/> and click on Join the LGD Email List to receive valuable and up-to-date information on all the happenings here at Davis.

## Media Center Collections

Don't forget to collect those Box Tops. This year each teacher is collecting Box Tops to earn an iPad or tablet for the classroom. Each Box Top helps to reach the goal of earning technology for their classrooms. The next collection date is January 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Volunteer of the Month

### Carol Buxton

Our volunteer of the month for December is Mrs. Grimberg's right hand helper. We thank her for all she does for Davis!

## Goodbye Ms. Calipari!

We wish a fond farewell to Ms. Gale Calipari, one of our star Kindergarten teachers. She made the difficult decision to retire this month. Ms. Calipari has been a part of the Davis family for 9 years and will leave some big shoes to fill. She has inspired so many of our students and will be sorely missed.

With her departure, we welcome her replacement Mrs. Angelle Gallers into her new position on our staff. She is very excited to get back to her passion of teaching and supporting those young learners at the beginning of their educational journey.



## Message from Mr. Durst

As we enter the holiday break I am excited to announce that the ST Math syllabus (JiJi) will be opened up even more to allow students to move forward with their progress. The two classes, one in K-2 and the other 3rd-5th grades, with the most progress earned during the holiday will receive an ice cream party in January.

For those parents who find the beloved penguin JiJi quite endearing and intriguing, Mind Research, the company behind ST Math is offering two different apps for your mobile devices. One is called **KickBox** and the other is called **BigSeed**. Both of these apps are multistep thinking games drawing on the concept of problem solving without the use of words.

## Kindergarten Registration

Start your child's education off with a strong foundation with Pinellas County Schools. Join us for kindergarten registration beginning Jan. 12, 2015 for the upcoming school year. If you have a child who will be five years old prior to Sept. 1, 2015, attend our upcoming Kindergarten Sneak-A-Peek open house at Davis Elementary on January 13, 2015 at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Outstanding Educator of the Year FINALIST!

We are very excited to announce that Krista Lemon has been named a finalist for Pinellas County Schools Outstanding Educator of the Year! We surprised her with this announcement at our ROAR Rally last week. There were over 110 nominees across the district and we are proud to have a finalist representing Davis Elementary! Mrs. Lemon's creativity and innovation in the classroom puts her at the forefront of the teaching profession. She will be recognized with the other nine finalists at the Evening of Excellence on February 24, 2015 at Ruth Eckerd Hall. At this gala, Mrs. Lemon's incredible work in the classroom will be highlighted along with Dr. Grego announcing the Outstanding Educator of the Year who will represent Pinellas County at the state level. We will have information available soon to purchase tickets for this event. We hope many of our Davis families will come cheer Mrs. Lemon on at the gala.



## Class/Program Sponsorship

Davis Dreamers (\$300 and above)

Piazza Family  
Walkinshaw Family  
Hot Tuna Sushi Bar & Grille

Davis Partner (\$200-\$299)

Davis Friend (\$100-\$199)  
Carpet Barn & More

Davis Associate (\$35-\$99)

\*If you are interested in adopting a class, please see the front office or your child's teacher for more details.



## P.E. Shorts

After the holidays we will be back into the swing of things. The students will be working on the following units: hockey, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and field games. Each class spends two weeks on a unit before rotating to the next one. Shortly after those units are finished we will begin our spring fitness testing. This is the same testing we did in the fall. Known in the past as Fitnessgram, the county has renamed it "Being Fit Matters". At the end of the year you will get a printout of your child's assessment.

With the cold weather here, please make sure your child has a jacket and tennis shoes. Names on the tags would help us identify who the owners are. If there are jackets left on the court, you can find the unclaimed jackets in the Lost & Found.

Hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday break!

Coach Daily, Coach Stoll, Coach Harvey and Mrs. Dayes

## The Paint Palette

We have many students who are being recognized in art shows throughout Pinellas County for their amazing creativity and skill in the visual arts. At the Dunedin Fine Arts Center for the Creative Start Art show we will feature: *Bryce Meier 2<sup>nd</sup> grade*, *Alyssa Tobiassen 5<sup>th</sup> grade*, *Lenu Fonkwe 5<sup>th</sup> grade* and *Amanie Ahmed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade*. The reception will be held on **January 25<sup>th</sup>** from 1-3pm and the artwork will be on display from January 10-February 15, 2015. Invitations for these students will be sent home shortly.

We are also featuring some of our amazing 4<sup>th</sup> graders at the Word and Image art show held at the Morean Arts Center in St. Petersburg. *Maddie Lloyd*, *Tommy Sutton*, *Jessica Jones* and *Hailey Scheinman* will all have their "Personal Hero" inspired artwork on display for all to see. More information and invitations to follow.

Thank you for supporting the Arts at Davis and have a Happy Holiday Season!

Creatively yours,  
Miss Sullivan



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders made snowflakes in Art.



## Music Notes

### Chorus

Congratulations on two outstanding performances! The students received compliments from parents, teachers, and community members after their performance in downtown Safety Harbor. Special thanks to the Safety Harbor Kiwanis members for inviting us to perform, and to the parents who took time out of their weekend to bring their students to this wonderful community event. Tuesday night's show was equally spectacular with our added scenery, props, and speaking roles. We are looking forward to another great show in the spring!

### Kindergarten and First Grade

Many thanks to everyone involved in our first ever Winter Arts night for our youngest music makers! The Davis PTA provided the cocoa and crafts, Ms. Becky and the cafeteria staff provided the sweet treats, and the kindergarten and first grade teachers and students helped showcase our musical talents. Thank you to all who were able to attend, especially our volunteers; we couldn't do it without you.

### Recorders

Third graders have been learning the basics of recorder playing in December - hand position, air control, and covering the holes for different pitches. They are also starting to read notes on the treble clef staff, and are finding success at playing B, A, and G. Keep practicing at home if you would like, but remember to always have your recorder at school on your music day!

### "Bach" to the Future

Auditions for "Bach to the Future" solos will be in January; dates will be posted after winter break. Song files and lyrics will be posted on the music course page in Focus. Any interested students can familiarize themselves with the song(s) over the winter holidays.

We wish you all a safe, happy, and musical holiday season!

Mr. Martinez and Mrs. Dykes

## Media Center News



Istation is a new digital reading program that students have been using here at Davis for a few months. You now have access to Istation at home. Directions were sent home this week on how to download the app to your Ipads or the program to your computers.

Istation is hosting an Istation Home for the Holidays Challenge! Students are encouraged to log-in and use Istation at home during Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks. The **Istation Home for the Holidays** home usage contest starts Monday, Nov. 17, 2014, and continues throughout the holidays until Monday, Jan. 8, 2015. Log-in and read to help our school win!

Mrs. Scott, Media Technology Specialist  
[scottsha@pcsb.org](mailto:scottsha@pcsb.org)



Mr. Martinez leads the chorus at the Safety Harbor Arts Festival.

## Homework Helpline

The Pinellas County Homework Helpline, (727)547-7223, offers free homework help for students in grades 1-12. The Homework Helpline is staffed by teachers certified in math, science, language arts, and social studies. Help is available from 5:00pm-8:00pm, Monday through Thursday, on all school days. The only exception is when there is no school the following day. Please take advantage of the great resource. Best of all...it is free.

# The PTA Page

December 2014



## Message from our President

Parents and Students,  
Wow – can you believe 2014 is almost over! The school year is flying by and a new year is about to begin. The PTA is working hard to prepare for our spring Walk for Davis fundraiser. This is our second of two fundraisers during the school year to help raise the money needed to meet our budget. Look for materials to come home the end of January. Thank you in advance for your support.

Thank you also to the families that helped this month by purchasing a holiday gift for the giving tree. Your generosity is much appreciated and will bring joy to several students at Davis this month.

The holidays are wonderful for many reasons – time off of school and work, visiting with friends and family, the excitement of giving and receiving gifts, and let’s not forget all the delicious food! I hope you take the time to enjoy the holiday season and make some special memories with your family. Life is short so enjoy every minute of it. Happy holidays and many blessings for the New Year to you and your loved ones,

Amy Christensen, Davis PTA President

## WE NEED YOUR HELP PARENTS:

Parents,  
The following classrooms do not have a room “mom” or “dad” to help organize the class party. Please consider volunteering for this position if your child is in one of these classes. You would need to be a registered volunteer with Davis and help to plan the end of the year class party. The students truly enjoy having their parents help out in the classroom. Please let your child’s teacher know if you would be willing to fill this position. Thank you very much!!

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Beach
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Russo
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs. Moffitt
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Bailey
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Peterson

## UPCOMING EVENTS – DON’T MISS THEM

We have some fun activities planned for the new year. I hope you will join us.

January 21<sup>st</sup> – Davis night at Gatti Town  
Bring the family between 5:00 and 8:00 pm

February 6<sup>th</sup> – Father Daughter Dance in the cafeteria from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. This is always a fun event. Tickets will be on sale in January.

February 20<sup>th</sup> – Mother Son Bowling at Countryside Lanes from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Our first annual bowling event. Tickets will be on sale late January.

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Spring Fling from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. This is always a big event with lots of fun for the entire family. Be sure to mark your calendar so you will be able to attend.

## NO SCHOOL DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Parents, Be sure to mark your calendar for the days school will be closed in the spring:

- January 5      LAST DAY OF WINTER BREAK
- January 19     MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
- February 16    PRESIDENTS DAY
- March 16      DAY BEFORE ST. PATRICKS
- March 30 – April 3    SPRING BREAK
- May 25        MEMORIAL DAY

## Calendar of Events

Dates to Remember		
Dec.	22	Winter Break Begins
Jan.	6	School Resumes
Jan.	21	Gatti Town Night 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Feb.	6	Father Daughter Dance 6-8:00 pm
Feb.	20	Mother/Son Bowling 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Feb.	20	Walk for Davis Fundraiser

# Ready. Set. Register.

Get ready for **Kindergarten** at  
**Leila G. Davis  
Elementary School**

Children must be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2015 to register.



January 13th

6:30pm

Leila G. Davis Elem.  
2630 Landmark Dr.  
Clearwater, FL 33761

- Register for Kindergarten\*
- Meet teachers
- Ask questions
- Find out about aftercare
- Learn how to be involved

\* Bring a government issued photo I.D. for a User I.D. and Password to start the registration process.

Attend our Sneak-a-Peek  
**Open House**  
**Jan. 13th**

Discover Pinellas County Schools' award-winning elementary programs: art, music, gifted services, STEM academies, physical education and other enrichment programs. Visit [www.pcsb.org/KG](http://www.pcsb.org/KG) for more details.

Kindergarten  
registration  
begins  
Jan. 12, 2015

