

# BOBCAT NEWS

NOVEMBER 2015

## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Our annual Fall Fest was spectacular! It truly was a family affair that required a tremendous amount of planning and assistance to make it special for our kids. Thank you to all who participated in helping to make this event so memorable. ☺

We have lots of exciting activities planned for November!

- ✓ November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am in the cafeteria is Donuts with Dad.
- ✓ November 12<sup>th</sup> will be the PTA Reflections Night in the cafeteria at 6 p.m. BCE students will showcase their work in a variety of mediums (photography, visual, drawings, music...) This year's national theme is "Let your Imagination Fly..."
- ✓ November 16<sup>th</sup> is a student Bully-Free Presentation with Omega Man
- ✓ November 17<sup>th</sup> is our annual Turkey Trot during PE times and Astroskate at 2:35
- ✓ November 18<sup>th</sup> is the Great American Teach-In. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to come and speak to a class(es) about your career, read a book or share a craft. This is a great learning event for all of our students.
- ✓ November 30<sup>th</sup> our annual Giving Tree begins

I hope you and your family have a wonderful and relaxing Thanksgiving. Please take some time to spend with your family and friends. Always know that I am thankful for you and your child. The families here at Brooker Creek are among my many blessings.

**Donna Gehringer, Principal**

Brooker Creek website: [www.brooker-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/index.html](http://www.brooker-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/index.html)

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability in any of its programs, services or activities. "The mission of Brooker Creek Elementary is to enable students to reach their highest level of learning within a safe and positive environment."

Donna Gehringer, Principal    Area 1 Associate Superintendent, Mr. Ward Kennedy, 727-507-4500    Abby Cannata, Asst. Principal  
[www.brooker-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/index.html](http://www.brooker-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/index.html)  
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*A note from Mrs. Cannata, Assistant Principal.....*

Over the past two months if there is anything I have learned about Brooker Creek, it is that our parents are actively involved in their child's education. It is so refreshing to see so many family members taking part in their student's academics. As we approach the holiday season, first let me say THANK YOU for welcoming me so warmly to BCE. Second, as we continue to move forward and the busy season approaches us, please let me encourage everyone to keep striving and pushing your student(s) towards excellence. Brooker Creek is what it is because of the constant support, involvement, and encouragement of our staff, parents, and students. When the holiday breaks come, remember to pick up a book and read with or to your child. As we leave October and plunge into November, consider challenging your student to read something new or something that can help facilitate family discussions. Remember to ask your child daily what he/she has learned in class. Ask what the most challenging part of the day was or what they feel like they were strongest in. Talking and reading with your child provides many opportunities to talk about important issues, build close relationships, and create family memories.





## **Mrs. Prillhart's Counselor Corner**

Thank you so very much to our BCE family for participating and promoting Red Ribbon Week at our school! It was so exciting to see all the students and staff wear red, jeans, bright colors, a mustache and school spirit throughout the week. I would also like to thank our PTA for sponsoring our school-wide event, especially for the daily themed stickers, ribbon, and spirit stick to promote the national theme of "Respect Yourself" and Be Drug Free!

BCE's East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club October Student of the Month Award recipient is Haiden Hull in Mrs. Bender's homeroom. Haiden consistently displays exemplary character. She is unfailingly positive and kind to her teachers and classmates. Haiden always applies herself to her school work and frequently goes above expectations. She is self-motivated and always does her best because she loves to learn. In her free time Haiden enjoys reading, drawing, rollerblading, and playing with her sisters.

Saahil Verma was nominated for the Fall Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce Student Achievement Award by his two 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers; Mrs. Drose and Mrs. Hickman. They believe he is very deserving of this honor because Saahil is such an awesome role model for his classmates. He is a self-motivated student who has a strong drive and eagerness to learn. He is always polite and kind to his peers and teachers. Saahil serves as one of the student council representatives for his class. They congratulate Saahil on this great citizenship achievement.



## **OPERATIONAL**

### **Campus Locked**

The campus will be locked and closed at 4:00 each day. If a student forgets a book, homework, or anything else at school, they will not be permitted to go back to the classroom.

### **Bus Business**

Here is some good information to know for bus riders:

*If a bus rider wants a friend to go home with him/her, the friend cannot ride the bus. Even if the friend is a bus rider on another bus, they still are not permitted to go on a bus other than the one to which they are assigned.*

*Students who are not bus riders cannot ride the bus.*

*Parents and unauthorized adults are not permitted by law to board a bus.*

*Students are expected to wear a seatbelt, remain seated and keep their hands to themselves during the ride.*

*Students are expected to listen and follow the driver's instructions.*

*Students may only board and exit the bus at the stops the district has assigned to them.*

Following these tips will keep students safe.

### **Cafeteria**

- We welcome parents to eat lunch with their children. When eating outside you may only take your own child from the cafeteria.
- Cafe expectations for students:
  - Use restaurant manners.
  - Use indoor voices.
  - Raise your hand.
  - Walk when movement is permitted.
  - Clear off table and line up in an orderly manner.



## News from the Art Department

The following 5<sup>th</sup> grade art students had their artwork submitted for “*A Creative StART: Pinellas County K-5 Schools*” Art Show: Branden Eivich, Luke Ostrowsky, Abigail Smith, Riley Sanders and Xander Garff. The good news is that Branden Eivich had his Surrealism Perspective accepted for this countywide show that will be displayed at the Dunedin Fine Art Center! Branden and his family will be invited to a reception in January, 2016! We certainly are proud of all our artists who entered!!

Also, we have 5 students in K-4<sup>th</sup> grade who now have their artwork on display at the **Area I Office/Ozona Service Center** county office: Avery Moore, Maja Roksel, Alexander Wojtulewski, Gloria Nagel and London Wofford. Their artwork will be on display at this county building through December 14<sup>th</sup> for all to enjoy!!

BCE had quite the attendance at the “**Annual Administration Building Art Exhibition Reception**” with all 12 artists and their families attending on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>!! This is a yearlong art show and students will receive their returned artwork back in late May, 2016. It was wonderful to see all the artists and their families there!!

**Art Classroom Updates:** In the art room we’ve been getting into the Fall season with all K-5<sup>th</sup> grade art classes working on their Fall Collages.

“**Artist of the Month**” for November was awarded to William Richard for his most creative Cityscape Perspective Painting. William continues to produce great artwork often times thinking outside the box with his creative thought process! A Big Congratulations to William! Please look at his cool Cityscape by the cafeteria!

“**Super Art Class Awards**” were awarded to the following classes for their super behaviors for the month of October:

Kdg. – Mrs. TenBieg

1<sup>st</sup> grade – Mrs. Skryd

2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Mrs. Miller

3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Mrs. Fox

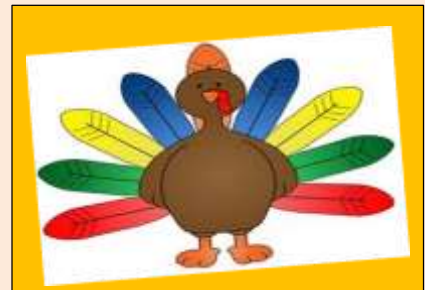
4<sup>th</sup> grade – Mrs. McKinley

5<sup>th</sup> grade – Mrs. Drose

\*\*\*\*\* **SCARECROW “BOB”CAT VOTING** \*\*\*\*\*

**BCE Parents and Staff** ~ We invite you to Vote and click “**Like**” on Dr. Kochenour & Associates Facebook page for our Brooker Creek Elementary Scarecrow constructed by our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Students for a possible win. Voting takes place November 6th-18th. The top 3 places will receive Gift Cards for enrichment supplies going back to our school. Dr. Kochenour sponsors our Safety Patrols and we thank him very much!!

Have a creative day! Mrs. Laurie Mullins, Art



## Volunteer Spot

Fall Festival was a great success! Thank you to our amazing PTA and volunteers for organizing such a fantastic family friendly event. What a wonderful way to kick off the school year.

Pinellas County Schools encourages volunteerism! The school district recognizes that volunteers promote family and community involvement and provide meaningful experiences for students. We love and need our Brooker Creek Volunteers and there are many ways to get engaged at our school!

Pinellas County School Board policies require that all volunteers undergo a criminal background screening. Board policies also require that certain volunteers, those who have unsupervised contact with students, undergo Level II screening, an additional level of screening that involves fingerprinting. This requirement pertains to all volunteers who have unsupervised contact with students, including chaperones, drivers and volunteer coaches.

**ALL Returning volunteers must re-activate their volunteer status every year regardless of level and prior to volunteering and attending field trips. You can choose to update your status from home or at any school, but please do not attempt from cell phone. To activate please follow the steps below:**

Go to <https://portal.pcsb.org/focus/> from home or click on the icon from school computer.

You will need to enter your v.account and password to reactivate.

\*Your log-on name will be: v.(period)last name followed by first name initial (example: v.smithj). If first initial only does not work due to commonality of last name try first 2 initials, and so on until it comes up (example: v.smithje).

\*Your password will be: Last name (Capitalize the first letter, the rest lower case) followed by birth year (example: Smith1978)

\*Click on volunteer, located at the top left under the word FOCUS

\*Click on add hours

\*Complete the questions.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and your interest in volunteering. We look forward to seeing you and greatly appreciate your support at Brooker Creek. If you need assistance please contact Jennifer Jajuga, our Family & Community Liaison, at the front desk.

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We appreciate your understanding and the passion you share with us to keep students safe.

## Volunteer Reminders

Please remember to LOG IN ALL of your volunteer hours.

Remember, any time spent on or off campus counts,

And every hour helps us achieve our goals.

Our school is a success because of YOU!!



## ♪ November Notes from Music ♪

♪ Save the dates for chorus

**Chorus Winter concert 6pm Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**Chorus Spring concert 6pm Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

♪ **Little Kids Rock Guitar**

We still have space in guitar after school for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students interested please ask Mr. Ross for a sign up sheet. Lessons are on Wednesday, 2:35 pm to 3:35 pm.

### **Recycle those Pringles Cans!**

Please continue to send in empty, clean & dry Pringles cans as they make great practice pads for our drumming. Thank you to all the donations so far... keep munching!



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# Media and Technology News



## Book Fair News:

Thank you very much to our BCE students & families for your support during the Book Fair! It was exciting to see so many Bobcats visit during the evening of the Fall Festival. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful volunteers who assisted throughout the Book Fair. Thanks for all of your help!

**Be sure to mark your calendars for our Spring Book Fair during the week of April 25<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>!** It will be a great opportunity to stock up on books for summer reading. We will be open during the evening of the Spring Chorus concert, too. BCE volunteers will be needed and much appreciated!

## Library News:

The media center is a place where kids learn to enjoy reading. When a student chooses the books that interest them, they are more interested in reading. Remind your child to choose a just right book. ***Please take time to share their books with them. By sitting together looking at the pictures, reading the captions and talking about the story, you are building memories and modeling good reading habits that will last your child a lifetime.*** If you would like to view our inventory of books, please go to <http://destiny.pinellas.k12.fl.us> and select Brooker Creek Elementary. This will give you a direct link to all the books that we have in our collection available for checkout.

Our students have been doing a much better job of returning books on time. We greatly appreciate their efforts, as well as your encouragement for them to do so. We would like students to remember their student ID cards, as this greatly enhances the check-out system.

## Technology News: Why is Keyboarding Important?

Learning efficient keyboarding is vital for today's learners. Typing games are a great way to help build a solid foundation in keyboarding skills for elementary students. Listed below are **some links to free online websites that will help your child practice this important skill.**

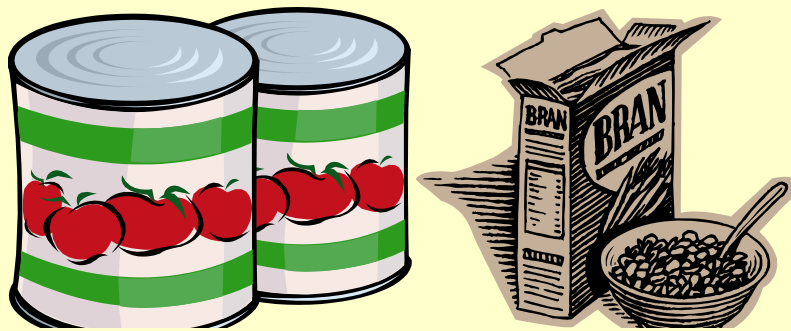
- <http://www.typingweb.com/>- TypingWeb - Free online typing tutor & keyboarding tutorial for typists of all skill levels. TypingWeb includes entertaining typing games, typing tests, and free official typing certification.
- <http://typingclub.com/> - TypingClub - Master touch typing using this free game / educational program. This online program will assist you with learning and improving your typing speed.
- <http://e-learningforkids.org/Courses/EN/K0001/index.html> -Keyboarding Skills course from E-Learning for Kids. Ages 5-12. Become a master Type-E-Chi. *Requires Flash*

**"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."**  
— Dr. Seuss



# STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council will be sponsoring the Salvation Army Canned Food Drive starting **Nov. 3rd** and ending **Nov. 18th**. Please send in cans, dry and non-perishable food items to help others this Thanksgiving Season. Each classroom was provided with a box for the collection.



## P.E. HIGHLIGHTS

We just completed "The GATORBALL UNIT" Kindergarten/ 1<sup>st</sup> grades worked on catching and throwing various objects. The unit was a great success!!!!

We are just starting a unit on Jumping. We are introducing "Tinikling" along with long and short Jump Ropes in Kindergarten-fifth grades.

We are getting to embark on another "TURKEY TROT RUN". It will take place on Thursday, November 19th during your child's P.E. time. We encourage parents to come out and cheer their son/daughter on. Remember, this is a fun event and every child should focus on running/ walking and having fun. Please make sure your child has eaten a good breakfast and has had plenty of fluids the morning of in order to prevent overheating.

This is an exciting day for the kids, so let's make it a positive experience for all.....

Thanks,

P.E. DEPT





***Cleaning out your child's closet? Please consider donating them for a worthy cause to help students in Pinellas County.***

*Brooker Creek and the Principal's Multicultural Advisory Committee will be sponsoring a clothes drive to benefit Clothes To Kids. CTK is a non-profit organization that provides new and quality used clothing to low-income children, school-age in Pinellas County, free of charge.*

## **Please bring your child's clothing donation now until November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Bring NEW or GENTLY USED and LAUNDERED clothing  
***Children's size 4 to adult XXL***

*Clothes To Kids will accept any clothing or shoes that are GENTLY USED. They will also accept NEW clothes, underwear, and socks. Please place the new clothes in a separate bag.*

***It is the goal of CTK to provide each eligible student (K thru 12) with a week's worth of clothing. All underwear and socks are new. All other clothing is a combination of new and quality used clothing. We distribute 250-300 wardrobes a week and must constantly replenish our inventory to ensure every child leaves the store with a complete wardrobe. Clothing drives, financial donations and key partnerships help achieve our goal to provide a week's wardrobe to every eligible student.***

### **MOST WANTED INVENTORY**

<b>Female Wardrobe Needs</b>	<b>Male Wardrobe Needs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shoes (<i>especially sneakers</i>)+</li> <li>✓ New Socks</li> <li>✓ New Underwear (<i>bikinis</i>)</li> <li>✓ Junior Pants sizes 13 -30</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shoes (<i>especially sneakers</i>)+</li> <li>✓ New Socks</li> <li>✓ New Underwear (<i>especially Boxers</i>)</li> <li>✓ Boys Bottoms sizes 4-16*</li> <li>✓ Young Men's Bottoms sizes 18-46*</li> </ul>
+Shoes – child's size 9 thru adult	*We need hip jeans! +Shoe sizes Boys 12-6, Young Men 7-12

***Thank you for helping to  
"CLOTHE A CHILD AND CHANGE A LIFE"***