

PALM HARBOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Pinellas County Schools contacts web: www.pcsb.org - Phone: (727)669-1140 PHCS Web: pcs.org/ph-cs

Greetings PHCS!

The 2016-17 school year has been off to a great start, we have doubled our enrollment since this time last year! One of the areas where enrollment has really picked up is in our co-enrolled high school credit recovery classrooms.

PHCS is honored to be collaborating with Palm Harbor University High School, Tarpon Springs High School, Countryside High School, and East Lake High School to run afterschool Grad-Point computer labs that provide the class time and teacher assistance our north county high students need to recover credits and graduate on time.

We have also started our first online course, Online GED, that offers students the opportunity to complete their GED preparation via distance learning.

Another booming program is our evening ESOL Classes at Palm Harbor Community School. For years, the daytime ESOL program enrolled more students than the evening. So far this year, both have enrolled over 100 students and compete for top enrollment.



At PHCS, we are proud to offer a variety of classes, including adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED and High School Credit Recovery. To meet the diverse needs of students, we offer a combination of day and evening programs in Clearwater, Oldsmar, Palm Harbor, and Tarpon Springs. All of our programs are open-enrollment and adult learners are encouraged to join a class at any time. As a Pinellas County school, we follow the PCS K-12 calendar with the exception that we are open year-round.

Greetings PHCS!	1
Countywide graduation 2016	1
Thanksgiving Celebration	2
Halloween Parties	2
Oldsmar ESOL Events	3
Adult Career Pathways	3
Spotlight on Students	4
Stories from CAP CENTER	5
Project Prosper comes to PHCS!	6
PHCS Locations & Hours	7
Pinellas County Adult Education Centers.....	8

Countywide graduation 2016

Two hundred and four students from district high schools, six adult education schools and two Pinellas Technical Colleges celebrated their commencement at Countywide Graduation on Thursday evening, September 15th, at the Pas-

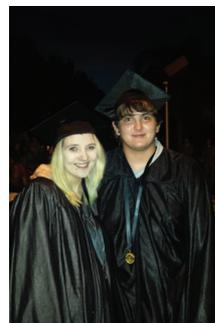
adena Community Church. Some 1,500 family members, friends and faculty in the audience cheered, as graduates dressed in caps and gowns accepted their diploma, embarking on a promising new journey.



Tamara de Foster receives her diploma after completing ESOL classes.



Ashley Warpup, (Oldsmar) and teacher Donna Gauthier



PHCS graduates Erika Glass and Cory Ziegler

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Thanksgiving Celebration

Each year we have a Thanksgiving celebration with our evening ESOL students. Everyone takes special care to create a dish from their country that they can share and that will inspire conversations during the event. This year, students brought their husbands, wives and children. Food from all over the world was made and shared as we celebrated Thanksgiving together.

Students and their families took turns explaining in great detail what they were thankful for this Thanksgiving. Many were

deeply thankful for their teachers at Palm Harbor Community School, while others told stories of coming to our country and their quest to learn the English language. Children even took part in the activity, giving thanks for various reasons.

The notes, shaped like leaves explaining what they were thankful for were then placed on the Thanksgiving tree. Awards were also presented to those students who had moved up a level in the ESOL program. This is truly an inspiring event each year and everyone had a great time!



Halloween Parties



Our ESOL students from our Oldsmar and Palm Harbor Facilities don't stop with celebrations; we also have parties! This year we held Halloween and birthday parties where the students and faculty had the opportunity to dress up, (well, some of us dressed up) and try their skills at carving a pumpkin!

This was the first time many students had carved a pumpkin. It turned into an evening of conversations and sharing from all the different cultures and present at the party, this turns into a great place to learn about different parts of the world and the people from the various countries. Word games were played where the students were able to enhance their English vocabulary, through the playing of the games.

The carved pumpkins were given to the students who won the game and awards were passed out to students who had progressed to the next level in the ESOL classes.

Yet another annual event at our school that we look forward to!



Library Tour

Camille Lackey and her ESOL students from the Oldsmar Facility took a field trip to the local library. It was a beautiful day and the students handed in library card applications in anticipation of receiving their first library card in the United States! The students got to hear from the library director who explained different internet programs they could access from home with their new library card. Students enjoyed their tour of the Oldsmar Library.



Book Club

Camille Lackey and her ESOL Book Club from the Oldsmar Facility celebrates the completion of a book that partially takes place in France by having lunch at a French café.



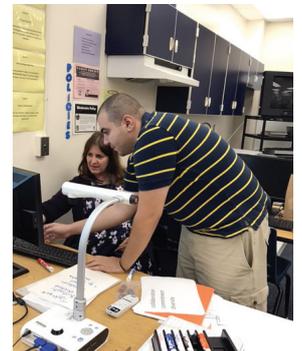
Adult Career Pathways



Hello Everyone,

My name is Angela Faiola. I am the lead adult ESOL teacher at PHCS. I teach evening classes at PHCS, morning classes at our Oldsmar Facility, and afternoon classes at in Countryside Library. Teaching adult ESOL is my passion. It is amazing to see how immigrants from so many different countries, different cultures, and religions, come to the U.S. and put in so much heartfelt effort to succeed! It is not always easy, yet they never give up. This is contagious because I feel our team never gives up either!

Recently I started a series of workshops called Career Pathways- Are You Ready for the Workforce? Our students have gained many benefits from attending these special classes; a deeper understanding of what is expected from the workplace and/or college is obtained as well as discussions about the students' goals through their career pathways. The students work as teams, take a pretest and post test to self assess their learning and have a final team activity. Students can earn a certificate for attendance and use it on their resumes. These workshops have been very educational and the students enjoy them very much. I can't wait for the next series!



Oldsmar elementary book fair

On November 10, the librarian and principal of Oldsmar Elementary School graciously allowed the ESOL students at PHC/ Oldsmar to visit the school's annual Book Fair and make purchases for their children. The students were very excited to be able to participate in this event and many purchases were made!



Perfect attendance

The following students, in the GED class at the CAP center, made gains both in Reading and in Math the month of August and September, partly due to perfect attendance. Since September was attendance month at Pinellas County Schools, our students, Precious Fields and Lisa Villanueva, lived up to this motto: Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!

Congratulations on a job well done!



U.S. Citizens

GED teacher with Yanet Finale, GED and ESOL student, attends the CAP Center classes in Tarpon Springs. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. Yanet became a U.S. Citizen on Friday, June 18, 2016. We are really proud of her effort and perseverance. Congratulations!



Santiago Solano an ESOL student at the Oldsmar Facility, achieves his goal of becoming a U.S. citizen!



Wyatt Stahl

Wyatt Stahl performed as Hagar in the locally written and directed play, Queen Esther. The play was held at the Cypress Forest Recreation Center in Oldsmar. Wyatt did a fantastic job with his lines, and in one scene, he entertained the audience by juggling apples for nearly three minutes! Wyatt is a GED student in Donna Gauthier's class in Oldsmar.



3 Graduates

3 recent graduates to speak at their Coffee and Conversation. The new graduates spoke about their past experiences as GED students as well as their new experiences as SPC college students. They also offered advice and answered questions from current GED students.

GED teacher, Tanya LeClair brought 3 recent graduates.



Stories from CAP CENTER

Tutoring is a wonderful, fulfilling way to help students succeed. Students express that the one-on-one attention helps them retain information and makes them feel important. Here are the retired professionals that donate their time each week at the Tarpon Springs Union Academy Cap Center GED class. Meet Daniel & Rayette Bouldrick who retired from Pinellas County Schools in 2014 with plans to relocate to Georgia and help spoil their grandson.

Their plans were put on hold when Rayette suffered a severe stroke just weeks after retiring. During Rayette's rehabilitation process, they realized they still had a passion for teaching/helping students learn. They started volunteering in the after school program at Citizens Alliance for Progress (CAP) in Tarpon Springs. This was very therapeutic for Rayette as she taught middle school math. When summer came, they asked Ms. Sigmon, GED teacher, if she needed assistance in the adult education program and she obliged. They tutored ABE/GED math students during the summer and are still there now helping prepare students for their GED exams. Rayette is still recovering from the stroke, but they both are very enthused about helping adult students who have returned to school to pursue a GED diploma. Small study groups are a great, interactive way to learn and the Bouldricks' team makes the students feel special. They are cheerful and true role models for struggling students. Everyone in the class is working hard to improve their 21st century skills for college and career dreams!

Meet Jim Ditz, who was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer at the Union Academy

Family Center in Tarpon Springs. Jim has been our math tutor at the CAP Center since 1996. He dedicates his time and energy twice a week working with students whose success on the GED was due in part to his dedication, help, and consistency. Students who attend regularly are always in their seats ready to work when Jim arrives. He has a way of making them feel good about themselves. "Jim is very helpful and polite. I appreciate him a lot for taking time out of his day to help me," said GED student, Karen Wood. Jim's manner is soft, but focused. An example of this would be in his explanation of detail. He makes the math fun and not laborious. Some students favor this style over working in groups because he's able to individualize the lesson and drive home the point in a subtle way. He is a perfect role model for the kids. Working with low achieving students and families presents its own challenge. Jim is like a surrogate parent, who the kids look up to. They say that it's all in the presentation. With that said, Jim Ditz softens the blow when the going gets tough. He's able to engage the students in a non-threatening way. As student Cathy Spain put it, "He is a good person. He always takes time to explain everything to me. He never leaves me alone until I understand the problem." There is not much that goes unnoticed. His impact on the curriculum is enhanced, especially on busy days and when an extra hand is appreciated. Because of the faithful CAP tutors' efforts, there has been improvement in test scores and attendance. There's an old saying that goes like this, "People may forget what you have and what you have done, but they will never forget how you made them feel." This

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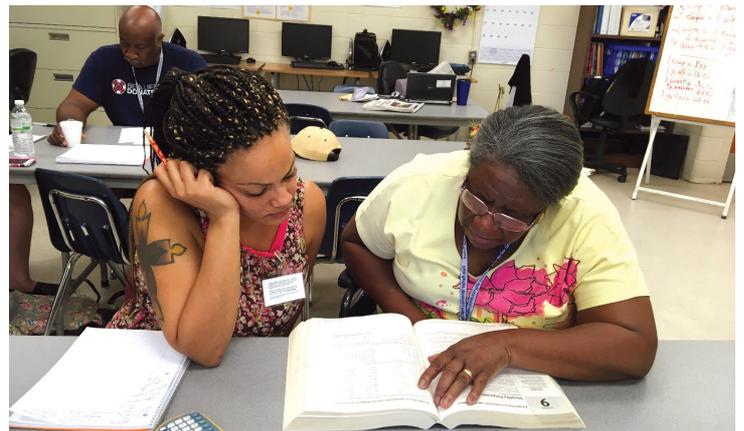


Jim Ditz receiving the Outstanding School Volunteer Award in 2010, and his wife Gertrude Ditz, Gayle Sierens (WFLA Anchorwoman) and Nancy, CAP GED teacher.

applies 100% of the time when you mention Jim Ditz's and Mr./Mrs. Bouldrick's names. They are second to no. Here is a big thank you to our wonderful retired professionals who faithfully spend many hours making dreams of earning a diploma come true.



Tarpon Cap Center Tutor Daniel Bouldrick assists Monica with math.



Tarpon Cap Center Tutor Rayette Bouldrick assists Angela with Polynomials to help her pass the GED exam this term.

Project Prosper comes to PHCS!

Volunteers from Project Prosper came to PHCS to talk to our ESOL students about important financial decisions over an 8-week period this Fall.

Did you know that Florida is home to 2.7 million foreign born residents while Tampa Bay is one of the top 25 leading metropolitan destinations for new immigrants? People come to our communities looking for a chance to create a new and better life for themselves and their families. Some of their stories speak of escaping persecution, while others speak of searching for opportunity. Whether we examine their motivations or remember the stories that make up our collective history of immigration, these journeys share a common thread. The commonality is simply a yearning for freedom and opportunity. Due to language barriers, the absence of or

Why Project Prosper?



Project Prosper provides an opportunity for some of the most vulnerable people to protect themselves and become positive contributing members of society.

limited exposure to banking systems in their countries of origin, their lack of credit and lack of opportunities to build credit, as well as the overall difficulties in adjusting to a new culture, immigrants and refugees have an overwhelming need for our services. Immigrants are often victims of predatory lending schemes and destructive financial practices that have the ability to create irreparable damage. Serving a majority of low-moderate income individuals (91% in 2014), Project Prosper provides an opportunity for some of the most vulnerable people to protect themselves and become positive contributing members of society.



Students earned a certificate for attending each class of the 8-week seminar.



Encourage Achievement and Lifelong Learning

The mission of Palm Harbor Community School is to educate and prepare each student for college, career and life. Palm Harbor Community School is located on the west side of the beautiful campus of Palm Harbor University High School at

1900 Omaha Street. Our school has been serving the educational needs of students age 16 and older in northern Pinellas County since 1996. Need your diploma? Palm Harbor Community School offers

high school Diploma options through High School Credit Recovery and GED classes. Need to learn or improve your English skills? We also offer ESOL classes across northern Pinellas County.

PHCS Locations & hours



Palm Harbor Facility, 1900 Omaha Street, Palm Harbor, FL 34583
ESOL M-Th 5:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./GED M-Th 5:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M.



Union Academy Center, 401 E. MLK Jr. Drive, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
ESOL: T -Th. 9:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M. / GED: M.-F 8:30 A.M. -1:30 P.M.



SPC Facility, 600 Klosterman Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34683
GED: Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M./ Friday 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.



Countryside Community Library, 2642 Sabal Springs Drive
Clearwater, FL 33761. ESOL: Mon and Wed 3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.



Oldsmar Facility, 400 Chestnut Street, Oldsmar, FL 34677
GED: M.-F 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./ESOL: M.-F 8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Pinellas County Adult Education Centers

Find a location near you

CLEARWATER ADULT EDUCATION CENTER **B**

540 S Hercules Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33764
727-469-4190
www.pcsb.org/caec

ARCTURAS ANNEX

1895 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd.
Clearwater, FL 33764
727-469-5817
www.pcsb.org/caec

DIXIE HOLLINS ADULT EDUCATION CENTER **C**

4940 62nd St. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33709
727-547-7872
www.pcsb.org/dhaec

LAKWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL **F**

1400 54th Ave. S
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
727-893-2955
www.pcsb.org/lakewood-cs

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY SCHOOL **D**

1717 54th Ave. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
727-570-3193
www.pcsb.org/northeast-cs

PALM HARBOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL **A**

1900 Omaha St.
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
727-669-1140
www.pcsb.org/ph-cs

PINELLAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

CLEARWATER CAMPUS **1**
6100 154th Avenue N Clearwater, FL
33760

727-538-7167
www.myptc.edu

PINELLAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE **2**

ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS
901 34th Street S
St. Petersburg, FL 33711
727-893-2500
www.myptc.edu

TOMLINSON ADULT LEARNING CENTER **E**

296 Mirror Lake Dr. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-893-2723
www.pcsb.org/tomlinson

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