



# BLAZER BULLETIN

A MONTHLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020



## VISION

Every learner is inspired and supported to be a confident, innovative, and dynamic thinker who will shape a new and better world for the future.

## MISSION

Our learning community is committed to providing high-quality learning experiences that will empower students to pursue personal passions and ambitious goals through self-efficacy, innovation, and perseverance.

## THE PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Blazer Families,

It's almost Spring Break! As I look back at the past few months, I am grateful to have met so many new colleagues, students, and families. All of us are making new friends and learning from each other. Friendship is indeed the greatest gift we can give ourselves. This first year is truly a remarkable opportunity to leave our legacy as the First Families of Elisa Nelson Elementary. Our PTA has created the perfect opportunity to do just that! Parents, I encourage you to participate in the upcoming brick fundraiser. Not only will this support our PTA in their efforts to add picnic tables outside the café, but also build your family's legacy on our campus forever. I hope that we can have as many bricks as possible with all our first families' names engraved to inspire future generations to build strong school-family partnerships.

As I reflect on our partnership, I am reminded of our family events and extracurricular opportunities that would not have been possible without your support. In collaboration with parents, our teachers and staff have organized, a School Beautification Day, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, an Open House for Parents, two Book Fairs, Grandparents Day Breakfast, Parent Connect, Picture Days, Great American Teach-in, Awards Ceremonies, Student-led Conferences, Veterans Day program, SEM Showcase, Chorus Concert, and Reading Under the Stars. Our Blazers have participated in several before and after school clubs including Principal's Multicultural Advisory Committee (PMAC), National Elementary Honors Society, Safety Patrol, Blazer Broadcasting Company (BBC), STEM Club, Spanish Language, Lacrosse, Bricks for Kids, and daily morning activities that stimulate the mind and energize the body to support a healthy and wholesome school environment. Blazers have participated in the Battle of the Books, Mighty Mu, Spelling Bee, All County Honors Chorus, District level Art Exhibitions, PTA Reflections competition, and the Maria Edmonds Achievement Awards.

An integral part of our collaborative commitment are our adopted core values, The Blazer Traits. These traits empower students to pursue personal passions by strengthening their self-efficacy and perseverance. The Blazer Trait for the month of March is COURAGEOUS. At school, children are exploring how they are being courageous when they take learning risks and encourage the sharing of bold ideas and opposing viewpoints during various learning experiences. Teachers are engaging students in conversations about what "courageous" looks like and what it feels like. These explicit efforts are just one way in which teachers are supporting our students daily, in building their confidence and meeting the social and emotional needs of all our children. Parents, your support in reinforcing the Blazer Traits at home will be the key to their success. You can help by engaging your child in a brief dialogue about how they are courageous when they try a new food or a new sport or when they set ambitious goals and persevere to achieve them. Together, we can ensure that our fearless Blazers achieve the extraordinary!

I am beyond proud of our beautiful school that is home to all our Blazers, families, faculty, and staff.

Thank you!

Go Blazers!!

*Hema Adhia*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAGNET COORDINATOR

Greetings!

I am excited to announce that our classes for the 2020-2021 school year are filling up! Our new families are looking forward to learning more about our school and are ready to get involved. Be on the lookout for future opportunities to connect with them.

In February, we welcomed Dr. Joyce Van Tassel-Baska, a respected leader in gifted education, for a site visit. She observed classrooms in our Center for Gifted Studies, spoke with a few students, and then met with a parent focus group. Additionally, she spent time with Mrs. Adhia and myself. The purpose of her visit was to assist the district and the 3 Centers for Gifted Studies in aligning our instruction and resources, determining current and future needs – while creating an important relationship for support.

Our Center for Literacy Innovation welcomed Mr. Carl Gordon and dogs – Ruby, Max and Hope!! These highly trained therapy dogs will begin visiting our students on Monday mornings to encourage a love of reading! We are thrilled to have them on campus and are looking forward to seeing the continued success of our students.

As always, please let me know if I can be of any assistance!

*Mrs. Taylor*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

The Blazer Trait for the month of March is:

### **Courageous**

We are fearless in our approach to achieve the extraordinary.

We bravely defend our own views, take learning risks and encourage the sharing of bold ideas and opposing views.

On Friday February 28th, all Elisa Nelson students were part of an anti-bullying presentation, presented by More2Life. This one day fun, interactive and dynamic classroom curriculum presentation for 1st-5th graders helps to change the culture in schools by covering bullying prevention, identifying different types of bullying, how to properly deal with bullying, and how to stop bullying.

*Mrs. Rice*

## THE HUB NEWS

### Battle of the Books:

We had a team of 4 students compete in the Battle of the Books at the district. Our team came in 3rd place in our round. The students did a great job!

### Clever:

Clever is a place where students can access all the schools technology recourses in one place. Many teachers will also have additional pages to support classroom learning.

### Library Check-in & out:

Fines and overdue notices have gone out mid-February. Some notices were based on your students previous school. If you have any questions please let me know!

*Ms. Martin*





## ART NEWS

I would like to recognize some of our Blazers for their amazing artistic achievements. The following students have been chosen to have work displayed in one of our county student art exhibits.

Makayla K. , Zackary S. , Deeksha K. , Ben S. , and Summer K. all had work displayed in the Creative Start Exhibit at the Dunedin Fine Art Center in December and January.

Reagan R. , Paul S. , Grace B. , Taliah M. and Jayna B. currently have work hanging in the Word & Image exhibit at the Morean Art Center. For this show, students expressed their ideas both visually and in writing.

Oriana N. , Gavin B. , Andrew G. , Ben A. , and Erin R. were chosen to display work at the 3-Dimensional Plus Exhibit at Gibbs High School, which runs through March 8.

Lastly, Lydia E. and Brianna T. , will have art displayed during the month of March in the Youth Art Month Exhibit at Creative Pinellas, sponsored by the Clearwater Art Alliance. The theme for the show is Movement.

Congratulations to all!

*Mrs. Vertullo*



## MUSIC NEWS

General Music: Students are continuing to explore music through singing, dance, movement, and playing instruments. We have been working on appropriate rhythmic dictation and instrument technique throughout all grade levels.

SEM: The Music SEM Cluster has been learning the ukulele. Students are bringing Ukulele's home to practice as we prepare for our SEM showcase.

Performing Ensembles: Join us for our Spring Concert – April 9th at 6 PM! Our Chorus and Orff Ensemble will perform selected pieces for the second half of our two part series: "We Are Blazers."

Pinellas County All County Chorus: Congratulations to Lilybelle C. , Susanna S. , and Eriny Y. ! These three 5th Grade students were the first to represent Elisa Nelson Elementary at the Pinellas County Elementary All County Concert! These students rehearsed with students from across the district and performed on the stage at the Mahaffey Theater on Saturday, February 29th.

*Mr. Hayes*



## **PE NEWS**

Grades 1-2 have been working on throwing and catching. They have also practiced tennis skills, jump rope, locomotor. Next we will continue locomotor skills and throwing and catching and chasing and fleeing.

Grades 3-5 have been working on bowling, Lacrosse, Badminton, tennis and jump rope. Plus practicing for the fitness test which includes pacer, curl ups and push ups.

Next we will continue with life time sports like bowling.

*Ms. Rosenberg & Mr. Hemburger*

## SCHOOL NURSE

The vision and hearing team will be at our school on April 3rd. Per State Requirements, every student in Kindergarten, first, and third grade, will have a vision and hearing screen and a height, weight and BMI done. This includes new to the district students. Teachers may also request a screening if they have a concern.

Please be advised that if you want your child to be excluded from any of these screenings, we must receive a written request from the Parent/Guardian, to the School, for the Attention of the School Nurse as soon as possible before this screening date.

*Nurse Brooke*

## VOLUNTEER CORNER



### LUNCH PAL MENTORS NEEDED!

Lunch Pals is a lunch time mentoring program where businesses, community organizations and individuals are paired with a school to provide students with the additional presence of caring adults.

Apply at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/0313b2663e674d739b97839c383ec8d6>

*Kelly Reiser*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- MARCH 2 Read Across America
- MARCH 5 ~~SEM Showcase~~ - Cancelled
- MARCH 10 Spring Pictures
- MARCH 11 Lindamood Bell Parent Info Night 5:30 p.m. (CLI Parents) - The Hub
- MARCH 12 SAC Meeting
- MARCH 13 Field Day / End of 3rd quarter
- MARCH 16-20 Spring Break - School Closed!
- MARCH 23 No School for Students
- APRIL 1-2 FSA- 3rd grade ELA Reading  
4th/5th grade - ELA - Writing
- APRIL 6 Report Cards Distribution
- APRIL 10 No School for Students
- APRIL 14 3rd Quarter Awards Assembly



## REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCES

Per school board policy it is required that parents report ALL student absences to the school. It is imperative that we keep accurate records of student absences.

ALL absences **MUST** be reported to Mrs. Cerda the school DMT. Absences may be reported through the "Report Student Absence" link on the school website, email [cerdak@pcsb.org](mailto:cerdak@pcsb.org) or call 727-298-2788 ext. 2007

When reporting your student's absence, please make sure to include the following information:

- Student's full legal name and DOB
- Homeroom Teacher
- Date of the absence
- Reason for absence
- Any doctor notes should be brought in upon the students return to school.

School Board Policy 5500.05 Parents and students must do the following in connection with school attendance: A. Ensure the attendance of a child of compulsory school attendance age, as required by law. (F.S. 1003.24)B. Notify school personnel of their child's absence prior to the end of the school day of the absence, if possible and provide written notification within 48 hours of the child's return to school. Otherwise, the absence will be unexcused.C. If requested, provide documentation of illness from a physician or public health unit within 48 hours. The maximum number of days that a student may be absent without acceptable documentation justifying the absence is 5.

*Kim Cerda*

Many Thanks to our **Adopt a CLASSROOM** sponsors

This year \_\_ many classrooms were supported!



### DON'T FORGET TO LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS!

### A NOTE FROM THE PET RESCUE SEM CLUSTER

Many, many thanks to the students and families that have donated to our paper towel collection for the local pet rescues. We will continue to collect for this worthy cause through the month of April, so please keep those paper towels rolling in to us.

*Thank you... ♥*