



BLAZER BULLETIN

A MONTHLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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 PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we wrap up the first month of this academic year, I am amazed at the enthusiasm and self-motivation exhibited by our Blazers. This year may have turned our world upside down and forced us to think of a completely different way of doing things. Most certainly, we faced challenges that were beyond our imagination.

We know that when we face challenges, we learn and grow in exponential ways. I recently read that having our world turned upside down, sparks our creative genius. Author and reporter, Eric Weiner, points out that when there are extreme changes we experience "schema violation" which inspires "cognitive flexibility" resulting in unconventional and creative solutions to problems we face. This month Blazers focused on learning what it is to be dynamic. I was pleased to see the growth mindset each of them exhibited as they adapted to a new way of learning, a new way of collaborating with teachers and peers, and a new way of expressing themselves.

As a community, we have grown as dynamic learners. I am impressed to see our Blazers learning online and in the traditional classroom adapting to new processes. Often, we tend to judge our learning gains solely through grades. Dynamic Blazers focus on the process of learning and place emphasis on the quality of their efforts.

Along with supporting our own efforts, it is also important to support each other. The social and emotional well-being of all our students is of utmost importance. Under the guidance of Ms. Ross, School Psychologist, teachers are embedding restorative social circles, and growth mindset activities on a regular basis. During our schoolwide event, Start with Hello, students will participate in activities all week. These experiences are designed to promote a sense of mutual support and strengthen our positive school environment where students take care of each other.

I am so proud of each of our students for being dynamic learners and taking charge of their own learning. Speaking of taking charge, Student Led Conferences are coming soon! Teachers will be working with students to prepare for conferences with students leading the conversation with their parents and guardians about their goals, their learning process and action steps towards success.

Go Blazers!

Hema Adhia



A note from Ms. Alford

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Hello Blazer Families,

Welcome September! On our campus and into our homes, I have found an environment that is caring, nurturing, and committed to teaching every child. This month will bring us many opportunities to show our Blazer Trait of the Month: *Dynamic*. According to our Blazer Traits, *Dynamic* asks the following of each Blazer:

We are active, self-motivated, and enthusiastic learners. We exhibit a growth mindset by assuming responsibility, identifying needs, and applying problem-solving approaches to learning and growing. We are process-oriented and strive to adapt to new ideas and circumstances.

In many ways, each of us is being called to be more dynamic than ever before. Throughout each productive change, it is important to remember that we are in this together. Please review this trait with your student and continue to support us at home.

BLAZER TRAITS



The Blazer Traits are a set of ten personal traits we aim to develop in all Elisa Nelson Elementary students. We believe that our students will actively lead their own path towards lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. In doing so the Blazer Traits will guide their path to success.

COLLABORATIVE

We listen carefully and respond thoughtfully to multiple perspectives from individuals and groups while effectively expressing our own ideas. Developing a shared vision, we strive to create unity to achieve our collective goals.

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.

HUMANITARIAN

We believe we can change the world! We investigate and analyze complex world issues, generate supportive arguments from multiple perspectives to create awareness and inspire change.

INTELLECTUAL

We utilize a variety of research tools and methodologies to gain significant knowledge and intelligence through the study of foundational concepts of a field of study. We develop as scholars and strengthen our academic aptitudes through purposeful questioning, critiquing, and logical organization and presentation of information.

REFLECTIVE

We think deeply about personal strengths and weaknesses to take charge of our own learning. We set personal goals, design plans of action, and address both benefits and obstacles to achieve academic, personal, social, and emotional wellbeing and balance.

CONFIDENT

We ask questions, express wonderings, communicate understandings, and voice opinions to promote self-reliance and personal balance. We have a strong sense of self-efficacy and partner with teachers and parents to direct and influence our own learning.

DYNAMIC

We are active, self-motivated, and enthusiastic learners. We exhibit a growth mindset by assuming responsibility, identifying needs, and applying problem-solving approaches to learning and growing. We are process-oriented and strive to adapt to new ideas and circumstances.

INNOVATIVE

We aim to design creative products and solutions that address problems locally, nationally, and globally. We analyze the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of information from diverse sources, forecast effectiveness, and illustrate divergent solutions and perspectives.

PRINCIPLED

We exhibit honesty and integrity in all that we do and take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We have a strong sense of fairness and justice and show respect for the rights and dignity of all humans and animals and recognize the value of our shared planet.

RESOLUTE

We are driven! Our passion and perseverance drive our pursuit of ambitious long-term goals. We exhibit grit and change and grow in response to challenges.

Our partnership with families continues to grow and strengthen! Please mark your calendars for **October 1st**. That evening we will offer a virtual Parent Connect event with several sessions to choose from. Links to each of the sessions will be posted on the school website. Please log into the session(s) that best meet the needs of you and your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the front office.



PARENT CONNECT

OCTOBER 1ST

SESSIONS: 5:30PM - 6:00PM OR 6:15PM - 6:45PM

Come and learn more about a wide variety of topics that support the students and families of Elisa Nelson Elementary. Each topic will offer two sessions: 5:00pm – 5:30pm OR 5:45pm – 6:15pm. Links to the TEAMS Meeting will be posted on the school website.

TOPICS

CLI: <i>Linda-Mood Bell for Parents</i>	Social- Emotional Wellness	CGS: <i>Renzulli Learning and SEM</i>	Technology Toolbox
Ms. Ross	Student Services Team	Ms. Taylor	Ms. Martin

The NAGC has also published a TIP sheet for parents with ideas for how you can continue to support your learner during these times. Please visit this resource at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8rgj9vf>.



The poster features the school logo on the top left, which includes a horse and the text 'ELISA NELSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'ELISA NELSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL' and 'CENTER FOR GIFTED STUDIES & LITERACY INNOVATION'. A large red banner across the middle contains the text 'STUDENT LED CONFERENCES' in white, bold, capital letters. Below the banner, the dates 'October 9th - 14th' and the phrase 'Home Event for all Learners' are displayed. On the right side, there is a white box with two sections: 'What is the purpose of a Student Led Conference?' and 'How will this work?'. The first section explains that the purpose is to provoke discussion and reflection on student strengths and personal growth, and that these conferences are not in lieu of Parent/Teacher Conferences but as an avenue for students to share their personal points of pride. The second section describes how the work will be done: students will review portfolios and individual goals with parents at home, selecting artifacts to place in their portfolios, and parents will be provided with guiding questions and reflection tools to be completed and returned to the teacher.

At Elisa Nelson Elementary, we believe that Student Led Conferences offer a method for increasing student responsibility for learning. These conferences will empower our students to report to parents and significant adults on a range of topics and they will begin to see the importance of completing work, keeping track of work, and producing high quality work. These conferences led by students will allow parents and guardians to see evidence of student learning and development and provide an opportunity to support and celebrate student learning. Materials for the conference will be sent home on Friday October 9, 2020. Due to safety and wellness guidelines, this event will be held in your homes. Please find time between Friday 10/9 and Wednesday 10/14 to meet with your student and allow them to host this conference with you. Students are working hard to prepare for their conference and eager to share their growth, accomplishments, and progress toward our Blazer Traits.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to excellence for our Blazers.

All the best,

Calla P. Alford

Calla P. Alford
Assistant Principal
Elisa Nelson Elementary School
Center for Gifted Studies and Literacy Innovation



DIGITAL FLYER DELIVERY

As a reminder, Pinellas County Schools and Elisa Nelson Elementary School use Peachjar to send school information and approved flyers from community organizations digitally. In addition to important school events and information, these flyers contain programs and events offered throughout your community that help your child succeed. After-school sports, local family events, free community programs, and college prep are just a handful of the resources found in our district's Peachjar emails.

You can also find all school-approved digital flyers by clicking the Peachjar button on your school's website homepage.

Please make sure you have parent/guardian email addresses associated with your student's record so you are not missing these important flyers. The primary contact can keep their email address updated via the Student Reservation System (SRS). Please visit the front office if you have more than one contact, as additional email addresses need to be added/updated at your child's school.

To ensure smooth delivery of Peachjar flyers, we suggest you add the following address school@peachjar.com to your email contacts. When you receive your first Peachjar flyer email, be sure to click "always display images."

If you have questions about Peachjar, please contact the front office or email Sheila Kane, the PCS District Coordinator at kanes@pcsb.org We look forward to a great school year!
