

Ponce de Leon Elementary School Panther Pride Newsletter Fall 2021

Ponce de Leon Elementary School Vision:

We are dedicated to building a community of successful problem solvers who are prepared to be responsible citizens and celebrate diversity.

Ponce de Leon Elementary School Mission:

We are committed to:

- Develop tolerance in all students
- Provide a structured, safe learning environment
- Instill the belief that all students can learn
- Link standard-based instruction to real-world application
- Teach students to persevere when faced with challenges
- Ensure continuous learning for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are off to a great start of the new school year! We are glad to have our students back in school to embark on an incredible journey of fun and learning. Students have been busy engaged in academics and building new friendships. Our students are excited for learning and we are committed to making every effort to build on their positive energy as we progress through the school year.

Currently, teachers and staff are busy assessing students to identify strengths and areas where improvement is necessary. Assessments such as Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Istation's monthly ISIP, and Running Records used for evaluating reading levels, will be help target enrichment and gaps in learning to be strategically addressed through differentiation during core instruction and research-based interventions.

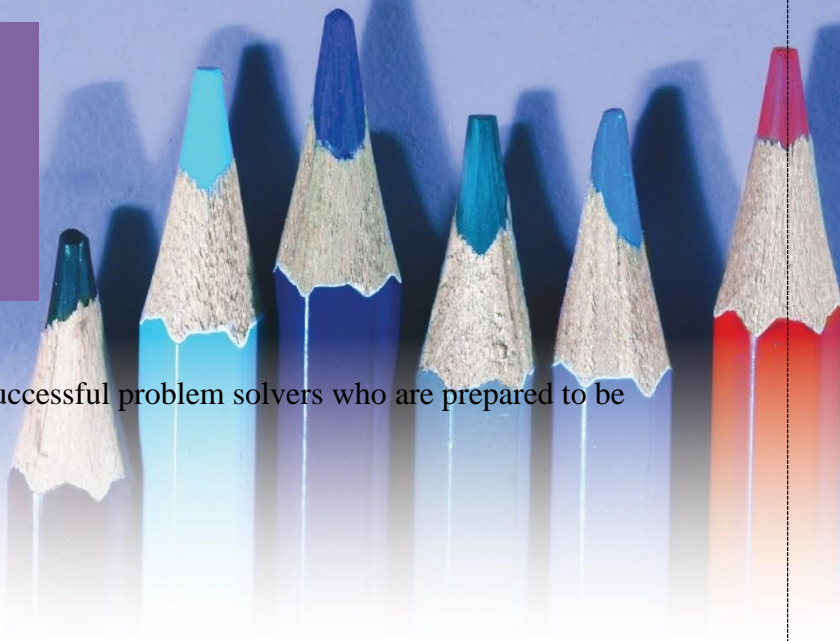
In the absence of school grades, we marched on with our C grade from the previous year. Our audacious goal for the year to have 55% of students at or above expectations in ELA, 60% in mathematics and science.

Our school theme this school year is to **Just Believe**, which means for our students and staff to believe in our capabilities as a school to increase and accelerate academic learning.

If need anything or have questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact the school to receive assistance. We are here for you!

Educationally yours,

Principal Smith



PBIS: The Panther Stop & Shop

At Ponce, we strive to create caring, safe, and comfortable learning environments for all children at our school. We focus on creating relationships with our scholars and to understand their backgrounds and how these can affect some of their behaviors in school. We ensure our students feel safe with us and are excited and eager to come to school each day.

This school year we were able to bring back our school store, *The Panther Stop & Shop*. Students are able to spend their Panther Paws that they have earned by following our school PRIDE guidelines for success. **The acronym PRIDE stands for (Participate Safely, Restore Relationships, Interact with Respect, Do your Best, & Enjoy Everyone's Success).** There will be two carts for our scholars to shop at beginning Wednesday, September 1st. Scholars in grades K-2 will visit the cart in the courtyard weekly, Tuesdays- Fridays 8:15-8:40. Scholars in grades 3-5 will visit the cart on the PE covered court the same days/times.

I also wanted to introduce new forms to add to our Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) school-wide plan. We are excited to send home Positive Referrals as often as possible and these are sent home in addition to our weekly **Proud Panther awards**.

We realize there may be times when we may have to reteach students appropriate and acceptable school behavior. We will be implementing Thinking Sheets, which will be utilized to help your child reflect on misbehavior and establish a positive plan for correcting their behavior. Our older students will write about how their behavior affected others. This is our way of helping our students determine appropriate behavior characteristics, while giving them coping skills and strategies to prevent future misbehavior.

Additionally, our school will be utilizing Level 2, and 3 behavior tracking forms. These forms will be used to match the type of behavior that is being displayed. If your child receives a misbehavior form, these are expected to be signed and returned to school. These discipline forms will help guide a conversation at home to determine why this behavior occurred in school and give to your child and their teacher the support and assistance needed to prevent it from occurring again.

- **Level 2** – This level of misbehavior is handled within the classroom; however, a member of administration/designee will meet with the student to discuss the behavior and work toward a resolution. Examples include excessive classroom disruption, mild threats, mild physical contact, ongoing defiance, or an inappropriate verbal exchange.
- **Level 3** – This level of misbehavior requires intervention from the Student Services Team/Administrator. This misbehavior could result in a referral and will result in a phone call home from a member of the behavior team. Examples include physical aggression, leaving the classroom, theft, having illegal contraband, weapons, property destruction, or severe verbal aggression with intent to harm.

We want to thank you for your support this school year as we work together to ensure our students are gaining the best social skills possible!



Curriculum & Assessment Updates:

If you have a student in VPK or Kindergarten, they have likely started taking their first assessments of the school year. It's important for teachers to see where scholars are at academically so that they can better plan and differentiate instruction as needed for each student.

Teachers in grades K-5 may be reaching out to you soon for conferences and to discuss PMPs (Progress Monitoring Plans) for any student in need of remediation. A PMP is an active working document that should reflect any intervention a scholar is receiving to help remediate any academic or behavioral deficiency. Don't worry if you do not hear from your child's teacher at this time. Our MAP testing begins for students in 1st- 5th grades September 1-24. If you do not hear from your child's teacher regarding a conference at this time, please expect to hear from them in October after the first cycle of assessments are completed.

Educationally yours,
Mrs. Ohmer

Important Dates

Book Fair --- October 4th – 7th

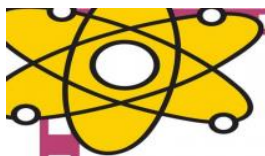
No School --- October 8th

Picture re-take Day --- October 22nd

Veterans Assembly- November 11th

5th Grade Field Trip to

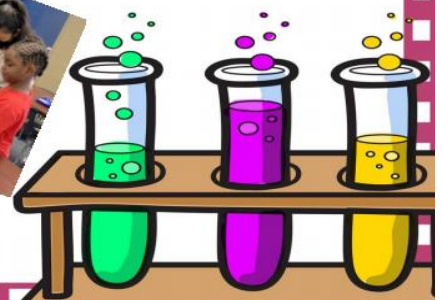
Enterprise Village --- November 16th



Science Surprises!

Many grade levels and classes visited the science lab over the last two weeks, to preview the lab and explore different science tools. Students were excited to be back in the lab and do hands-on exploration! First through fifth grade will complete many science lab units this year, relating to Earth science, physical science, and life science.

-Mrs. Perdue (Science Coach)



Updating Your Contact Information

We kindly ask that you ensure that your correct contact information is on file in order to stay informed about what's occurring at school and in the district. You can receive phone calls, as well as opt in for emails and text messages. The school district needs accurate contact information to send phone calls and emails about emergencies or severe weather, school or district events, and special application opportunities. To update your phone and email address, visit <https://www.pcsb.org/contactinfo>. Once there, you will log into the reservation system with your parent username and password. If you do not have a parent ID or forgot yours, you can get help at any public school. Please be sure to present a valid photo ID.

Title I Annual Parent Meeting

Our virtual Title I Annual Parent Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. If you would like more information about our Title I Annual Parent Meeting, you can find the presentation on our school's website.

Title 1 Parent Station & Budget

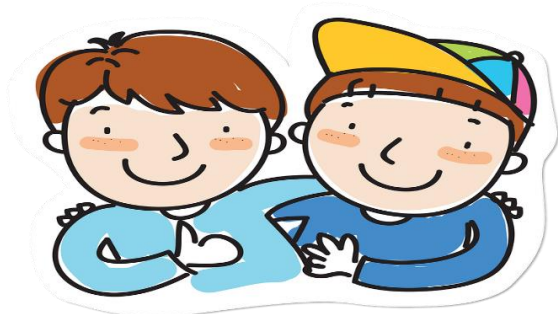
We have a Title I Parent Station in the front office that has resources for families. You will also find a copy of our Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP).



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

- Publix
- Winn Dixie
- Famous Tate
- WaWa
- Elks Lodge
- St. Paul's United Methodist
- The Point Church
- Madeira Fundamental
- The Point Church
- Largo Elks Lodge

We received back-packs full of supplies, Gift cards, A refrigerator for our P.E department, Dictionary's for all our 3rd graders, and a gift basket for Teacher appreciation week!



Cortez's Counseling Corner

You can help prevent bullying! Research shows that bullying incidents can be decreased with intervention. By recognizing the warning signs and taking action, you can help prevent bullying. If your child has experienced bullying behavior there are actions you can take to report it. Ponce de Leon Elementary School is a BULLY FREE ZONE. Every effort will be made to provide a safe learning environment for all staff and students. Incidents of student bullying will be addressed by staff members immediately. Instances of bullying can be reported to bullying.pcsb.org. This website will direct you to the Say Something Anonymous Reporting Site where you can submit a bullying tip. In addition, we have added a BULLY REPORT BOX that is located in the media center. Students will be able to anonymously report a bullying situation by filling out a slip and putting it into the box. Our school counselor will check the box daily.

art

Ponce de Leon Fifth graders are participating in TAG ART, a program sponsored by the Pinellas Tax Collector's office. This program allows 5th-grade students to become real-world designers, creating unique front license plate designs in art class that can be printed on real metal plates. Proceeds from tag sales and sponsorships are then donated to schools to pay for art supplies and art-themed field trips. The plates will be available for purchase the week of November 21st. Here is a link that explains the project:

https://taxcollect.com/kta_virtual_2021/

Wendy Bruce
National Board Certified Art Teacher



Hello Families! We are looking for mentors again for our Lunch Pals Program! We will continue to do virtual and In-Person this year. Please contact our Family and Community Liaison Kristin Davis.
Email- Daviskr@pcsb.org
Call-(727)588-3573 EXT. 2001

***** Friendly Reminder*****

**Please remember to bring your photo I.D. to pick up a student.
No early dismissal after 2:30 PM.**

**Office Hours: 8AM- 3:30PM
Phone Number: (727) 588-3573**

