

# PANTHER PRINT PRESS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5      MAY 2022



## Message from the Principal... Greetings Ponce Families,

**This has truly been an amazing school year!** Getting to know you and working with your child has been such an enjoyable experience for all of us here at Ponce. As we move into our final weeks and days of the school year, there are a lot of things happening on campus, which include the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) for students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade, end of the year celebrations, Moving Up ceremonies for PreK, Kindergarten, and 5th grade students, and last day of school procedures. You will find all of this information within the newsletter.

**Our goal is to finish the school year academically strong!** Help us by keeping your child's focus on learning and exhibiting positive behavior to the very last day of school. Moreover, prevent loss of learning by registering your child for **Summer Bridge**.

**Have fun and enjoy your summer!  
Stay Safe!**

Dr. Antonio Smith  
Principal



**We love pets, but please leave them at home!** There are many people in our Ponce Family with allergies and/or concerns about the dogs that have been at school during arrival and dismissal.

***Thank you for your support, understanding, and cooperation!***



May

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UPCOMING EVENTS	2
SUMMER BRIDGE	2
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	2
PTA NEWS	2
TITLE I SURVEY	3
FSA TESTING DATES	3
TITLE I PARENT INFO	3
SCHOOL NURSE	3
SCHOOL UNIFORMS	4
WATER SAFETY	4
SUMMER LEARNING	4

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 3 & 4: FSA Reading testing—4th & 5th Grade students only.
- May 6: Students return all library books to Media Center
- May 10 & 11: FSA Mathematics testing—4th & 5th Grade students only.
- May 13: 1st Grade Field Trip—Clearwater Marine Aquarium.
- May 13: Title I Comprehensive Needs Assessment Due.
- May 17 & 18: Statewide Science Assessment (SSA) testing-5th Grade students only.
- May 20: PreK Moving Up Ceremony - Ms. Cyndi & Mrs. Tessa 's class (9am-10am). Ms. June & Ms. Lucy's class (1:30pm-2:30pm).
- May 20: 5th Grade End of the Year Field Trip—Astro Skate
- May 23: PreK Moving Up Ceremony - Ms. Kyndra & Ms. Ciara's class (9:00am-10am).
- May 24: Last day for students to bring backpacks to school.
- May 24: 5th Grade End of the Year Cookout.
- May 25: Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony (9:15am-10:00am)
- May 26: Unclaimed student medication must be picked up by 12pm. See Nurse Norton.
- May 26: 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony....Details coming soon.
- May 26: **Last day of School-Early Release at 12:50PM.**
- May 26: Report Card Distributed
- May 26: **Pick-up student medication from School Nurse by 12PM.**
- June 6-June 30: Summer Bridge begins. Grade K-4 (8:00AM-2:00PM Mon-Thurs)
- June 6-July 22nd: Summer Bridge VPK (8:00AM-5:10PM Mon-Fri)
- August 10: First Day of School

## Summer Bridge Registration Information

Summer Bridge provides engaging learning activities over the summer to prepare students for maximum success when the next school year begins. Most of all, Summer Bridge is designed to be fun for students!

Elementary school students have continued to show impressive gains, with many students moving from “below proficiency” in reading, math or science to “at or near proficiency.” Most students who came to Summer Bridge already scoring “at or near proficiency” still showed promising learning gains.

Did you know? Students with excellent Summer Bridge attendance will be awarded a ticket for free admission to a local art venue! Each ticket will grant admission for one student and one adult guest in July 2022. **Participating partners include Imagine Museum, Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, The James Museum, Chihuly Collection Presented by the Morean, Tampa Museum of Art, The Ringling Museum of Art, Dunedin Fine Art Center and Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg.**

**Transportation is available for eligible students!** Sign up today!

**To register your child for Summer Bridge, visit [www.reservation.pcsb.org](http://www.reservation.pcsb.org).** You will need a parent username to register. If you don't have one, you can get one by bringing a valid photo ID to any PCS school.

### Summer Bridge Information:

Grade K-4 Dates: (June 6 through June 30)

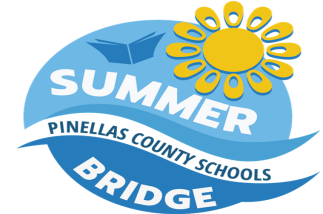
Student Hours: 8:00AM-2:00PM (Mon-Thurs)

*\*5th Grade students attend Summer Bridge at their designated Middle schools.*

### VPK Information:

Dates: (June 6 through July 22) (Mon-Fri)

Student Hours: 8:00AM-5:10PM



### Last day of School: Early Release Day!

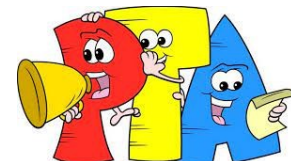
The Last day of School will be on **Thursday, May 26th**. Students will be released 2 hours early at **12:50PM**. Please make arrangements to pick up your child on-time.



### Join the PTA!

We are looking to elect a new PTA Board. There are open positions to fill, including PTA President, Treasurer, and Secretary. **We need you!** If you are interested, please

contact **Tina Angles**  
[anglest@pcsb.org](mailto:anglest@pcsb.org).



## **Title I Comprehensive Needs Assessment & Parent Engagement Survey**

Title I Comprehensive Needs Assessment and Parent Engagement Survey is used to determine how our school will use Title I funds for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. The goal of Title I is a higher quality education for every child. Its purpose is to address the academic needs of students and to assist them in meeting their state's academic standards. Title I funds are provided to schools by the federal government. We would love to have your input in regard to how funds are utilized to support student achievement.

A paper version of the survey in English & Spanish will be sent home with students. Please complete and return the survey no later than **Friday, May 13**. You may access the online version of the survey by visiting

<https://forms.office.com/r/QGGL6p1uNy> . **Thank you for your continued support!**

### **Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Testing Information**

- 3rd Grade FSA ELA: Reading—April 5th & 6th
- 4th & 5th Grade FSA Writing Component—April 7
- 4th & 5th Grade FSA ELA: Reading—May 3rd & 4th
- 3rd Grade FSA Mathematics—May 5th & 6th
- 4th & 5th Grade FSA Mathematics—May 10th & 11th
- 5th Grade Statewide Science Assessment—May 17 & 18th

By working together, we can make your child's testing experience positive and successful. **Here are some helpful tips:**

- Make sure your child well rested by going to bed at reasonable time.
  - Have your child eat a healthy breakfast at home or school.
    - Make sure your child arrives to school on time.
  - Gently encourage/motivate your child to do his/her best on the FSA test.

### **Message from Nurse Norton:**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The school year ends on May 26th. Pinellas County Schools (PCS) policy does not allow us to send medication home with students or store it for Summer Bridge.

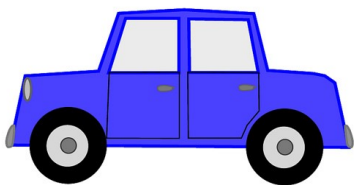
Please arrange to come to school to pick up any unused medication, including inhalers and epinephrine devices.

**Any unclaimed medications will be disposed of on Thursday, May 26th, 2022, at 12:00 noon without exception.**



A big **THANK YOU** to all of our families that drive through car line with a bold car tag for students— this saves so much time!

Thank you for making our car line safe and smooth!



### **Title I Parent Station & Budget**

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

### **Lunch Pals**

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](mailto:Daviskr@pcsb.org)

Call-(727)588-3573 EXT. 2001



# School Uniforms for next year! Where to purchase?

Ponce de Leon Elementary School has adopted a modified school uniform dress code policy for the upcoming 2022-23 academic school year. Please see below for school uniform color information and where to purchase. **Beat the rush...get your uniforms early.**

Girls/Boys (Shirts/Tops) Colors: **Navy Blue, Red, White, or Light Blue.** Shirts must have a collar.

Girls/Boys (Bottoms): **Navy Blue, Khaki/Tan.**



Order Online  
at [www.FrenchToast.com](http://www.FrenchToast.com)



## Fun in the Sun: Water Safety Tips

The following information is important to teach to children and reiterated

### **Never go near the water without an adult.**

While swimming can be fun, it's important for young children to know that the fun can't begin until a "Water Watcher" is present. Once an adult is watching, summer swimming fun can start. Drowning can happen quickly and quietly, which is why actively watching your swimmer is a necessity. Even after the summer months, make sure your child knows never to go near the water alone and to always have a swimming partner. Prevent unsupervised water access by installing barriers around your pool or hot tub and remove any pool toys that could attract children to the water.

### **Wear a lifejacket.**

Life jackets should be worn at all times while in a boat, raft, inner tube or on a dock. If a child cannot swim or is an inexperienced swimmer, lifejackets should be utilized at all times while in the water.

### **Learn how to swim.**

Swimming Lessons have been shown to reduce drowning incidents, which is why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children ages 4 and older learn to swim. Even if your child has taken swimming lessons, never assume that their risk of drowning has subsided. Always be cautious of pool floats or toys that could interfere with your child in the water. Learning how to swim should be a fun activity, promoting aquatic awareness and minimizing intimidation.

### **If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1 or find an adult.**

Make sure your child knows to call for help or find an adult when trouble occurs.



Students can often fall behind in their learning during the summer months, in a phenomenon that is commonly referred to as "summer setback" or "summer slide."

## Tips to Prevent Summer Learning Loss

1. **Use Your Surroundings to Build Literacy Skills**
2. **Make Time to Read Together**
3. **Use Online Resources to Develop New Skills** (myOn, Dreambox, Istation, Starfall)
4. **Encourage Kids to Write Daily**
5. **Help Your Child Build on Prior Knowledge**
6. **Build Your Own Library**
7. **Use STEM Toys to Make Learning Fun** (educational robots, Lego, Connetix)