

SEXTON STINGRAY NEWS

A John M. Sexton Elementary School Publication



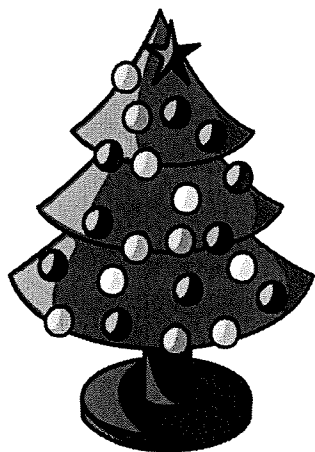
www.pcsb.org/sexton-es

December 2023

Upcoming EVENTS

December:

- ♦ **4th-21st:** Testing for Math and ELA K-5th
- ♦ **21st:** End of First Quarter
- ♦ **22nd:** No School Winter Break
- ♦ **25th-29th:** No School Winter Break
- ♦ **1st-5th :** No School Winter Break
- ♦ **Jan 8th:** Classes resume students return back



A Message from Mr. Pleshe

Hello Sexton Families,,

Here we are in the month of December! The school year is more than 1/3 of the way through and shortly we will be celebrating the winter holidays. Looking for a few gift ideas, especially ones that don't cost a lot of money? This holiday season give your child and family the gift of time. Relax at a park for a day and have a picnic. Take a nature walk at a local preserve. Visit the local library. Enjoy a meal together as a family. Have a night in with the family and play a favorite board game. The most important things in life are family and friends, so this holiday season make an effort to spend quality time with both. As parents, you are extremely important to your children. This month, make it a goal to spend an evening, day or weekend with them. Remember, bigger is not necessarily better. The time you spend with them does not have to be at a theme park or fancy resort!! It can be reading a book together, playing catch, decorating cookies, or telling stories together. This is the time to provide your child with the memories he/she will never forget. The holiday season is all about giving, and the quality time you spend together can be better than anything wrapped up in a bow under the tree! Please remember that students should continue to read, write and practice their math facts over winter vacation! Reading and writing can be about topics they enjoy and shared with parents and siblings alike. Students can also write some resolutions to ring into 2024!

To all of our Sexton families, warmest holiday wishes and here's to a prosperous new year for all!

Continued next page

Tutoring and Clubs

We are coming to an end with our Promise Time and Enrichment Clubs for the first semester. These are the dates that we will be in session:

- December 5th and 6th
- **Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 20th**

Jammin StingRays, Singing StingRAYS, and Battle of the Books will continue on with these dates:

- December 12th and 13th
- December 19th and 20th

Tutoring and Enrichment Clubs will begin again on January 16th, 17th, & 18th

- ♦ Parents in December, please be looking for new enrollment for Enrichment Clubs and spaces for tutoring. I will be sending that information out the 3rd week in December. Please make sure you get it back to the school after the holiday break.
- ♦ **YREADS** will be ending its year before the holiday break on Thursday, December 21st. If you have any questions relating to that, please contact Ms. Suzanne. Thank you! Mrs. Hubble

A BIG THANK YOU

Sexton would like to **THANK** the following businesses for their generosity to our school & students for the month of November. Hungry Howie's on 4th Street, Dunkin Donuts on MLK, Popeyes Chicken, Local Pizza Company, Chick-Fil-A, McDonald's on 4th Street & Smugglers Cove Maderia Beach. Your kindness and commitment to Sexton is greatly appreciated.



Great American Teach-In

Sexton Elementary would like to THANK all the AMAZING Presenters who joined us for the GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN. This year our campus was filled with every profession from caring for tropical fish to taking the best photo. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with our kiddos.

Maderia Beach Alligator Wildlife Center - Rachel Chandler

Native American Presentation - Karen Welch, Cathleen Dickman & Charles Dunning

St. Petersburg K9 Unit

St. Petersburg Fire Department

Boyd Hill Nature Reserve - Kenneth Payette

Air Ambulance Worldwide - Julia Wise & Michael Johnson

EEG Technician - Valerie Widner

Truist Bank - Lauren Biser

Southeastern Guide Dogs - Elaine Ebaugh & Kelly Turner

Michael Becker - Artist

Sunkissed Photography - Amanda Mayer

Little Oceans Aquarium - Daniel Calvo

Coastal Waste Management - Evan August & Daniel Anspach

Duke Energy

We're also extremely grateful to Levy Industries & Vern Clausen for donating refreshments/snacks for this event!! Thank you both for your support and commitment to our school and your community. 😊



Sexton Elementary will be hosting a Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A on
December 7th from 5 - 9 PM.

There will be activities and their very own cow will be present. You can either order with a team member or through the mobile app, simply select "Yes, I want to support them, before finalizing your payment. Instructions are included below.

Come out and support our school and have a delicious meal while doing so!!



Community Care Event: Sexton Elem.

Mobile Instructions

If you want to support Sexton Elementary but would like to avoid the business of dinner rush, mobile order ahead!



1. Download the App (if you don't have it already)

If you don't have the mobile app, visit your app play store to download. If you already have the app, skip ahead!



2. Order Your Meal the Way You Like it!

Select the destination of your choice e.i. drive thru, carryout or dine-in, and proceed with ordering your meal



3. Support BEFORE Payment!

Before you finalize your payment and transaction, select the toggle on your screen "Yes, I want to support" for Sexton so that proceeds go to them. Then you are all set!

ANNOUNCEMENT

5th Grade ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a 5th Grade Parent Meeting on January 18th starting at 8:15 in the cafeteria. ALL 5th Grade parents and ONLY their student will be able to attend the meeting. There will be a lot of valuable information for our Sexton Families and we would like for you all to hear it firsthand. The information pertains to the end of the year field trip, testing, the talent show, and social media monitoring.

Please put this date in your calendar as more information about this date will be coming home at the end of the month in December for you to RSVP for Thursday, January 18th, 2024.

HOLIDAY DRESS-UP for Staff and Students

Let's go out with a bang for 2023

The week of December 18th-21st

This whole week the students can be out of uniform as long as they are dressed up like the days below:

Monday, December 18th-Merry Monday Morning

Wear your favorite holiday shirt

Tuesday, December 19th-Jingle Toes Day

Wear your jazziest holiday socks

Wednesday, December 20th-Be a part of Santa's Team

Dress like Santa, an elf, or a reindeer

Thursday, December 21st-Polar Express Day

Wear your PJ's to school!



If you would like to change your student transportation for the day or early release, please call or pick up **before** 2:30pm. This will help with communication between staff to make sure your student is in the right location for dismissal. To report a student absence we have a spot on the school website located at the top of the page " Report Student Absence" which will send an email to our DMT Cheryl Cunningham. You can also communicate this via Class Dojo.

Ms. Z, Front Office Staff



IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

The application period for prekindergarten programs is underway

PreK3 is for children who will be 3 on or before September 1st of the school year they are attending PreK3. VPK is for children who will be 4 on or before September 1st of the school year they are attending VPK. If your child is currently enrolled in PreK3 at a Pinellas County elementary school, you don't need to do anything. Your child will automatically be enrolled in VPK at their current school for next year.

If your child will be eligible for PreK3 or VPK next school year, you can apply now at reservation.pcsb.org. The application period is open until 5 p.m. on Dec. 13.

More information is available on the district website including a recording of a video information session. If you have questions, visit www.pcsb.org/early or call 727-588-6513.

If you have any questions or need help with any part of the process, feel free to contact Cheryl Cunningham at 727-570-3400 Ext. 2007, cunninghamc@pcsb.org or stop by the office between the hours of 9:00 – 2:00 and I will be more than happy to help you.

Cheryl Cunningham, DMT