

# SEXTON STINGRAY NEWS

A John M. Sexton Elementary School Publication



[www.pcsb.org/sexton-es](http://www.pcsb.org/sexton-es)

December 2021 Issue

## Upcoming EVENTS

**December 6-10:**  
Scholastic Book Fair

**December 8:**  
YReads! Family  
Game Night  
6:00-7:15 PM

**December 10:**  
Winter Concert

**December 18-31:**  
Winter holidays - No  
school for students



**January 3, 2022:**  
No school for  
students

**January 17:**  
Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day. No  
school for students



## A Message from Mr. Pleshe

As we enter December, our minds shift to the holiday season ahead and I begin to think of all of the things I am grateful for this year. Every day I see happy children, invested teachers, and programs that are flourishing. I am extremely grateful for the community that is being nurtured and grown at our school and for the role you play in creating this environment.

Teaching children an attitude of gratitude requires helping them to look at their life from a point of appreciation rather than from a deficit. Having them understand other's feelings and having empathy is a hard concept for children. Grateful children look outside their one-person universe and understand that their parents and others do things for them... prepare dinner, dole out hugs, buy things. On the flip side, kids who aren't taught to be grateful end up feeling entitled and continuously disappointed. Helping your child appreciate what they have now will help them later in life.

*Tony Pleshe, Principal*



This Holiday Season, please consider selecting **John M Sexton Elementary PTA** as your *Amazon Smile* Charity. Your Amazon Charity of Choice doesn't cost you anything and helps us earn rewards for 2022.

**Simply go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/change> and update your charity of choice.**

*From the Sexton PTA we hope you have safe and happy Holidays!*

# TITLE I

At Sexton Elementary, we know that our students' success is based on the strength of the relationship that is built between home and school. We desire parents to be an integral part of your child's education so that together, we can meet the individual needs and achieve academic success.

Thank you for entrusting your child(ren) to us each day, as we continue to work to make Sexton Elementary all that it can and should be. We encourage parents to take an active role in providing input on our Title I Schoolwide Program and Budget.

If you would like to join our team and provide input or simply learn more about our Title I Program please call 727-570-3400. We look forward to seeing you at future events!

## A **HUGE** Thank You

Sexton would like to THANK all of our business & community partners for their kindness and generosity throughout the month of October:

4<sup>th</sup> Street Pizza,

Chick-Fil-A on 4<sup>th</sup> Street & WaWa located at 2 different locations; 6200 34<sup>th</sup> Street North & 8601 4<sup>th</sup> Street North.

Your commitment and support to our school is extremely appreciated!

*Thanks a million!*

Sheila Salg, Family and Community Liaison



# Warmest Wishes

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

## Winter Break

December 18th -  
January 3, 2022

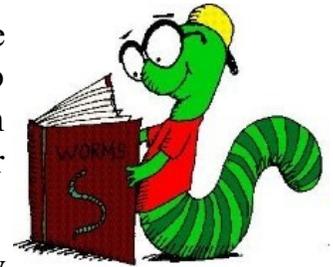
School resumes on  
January 4th



## LIBRARY NEWS FROM MRS. BAILEY, AKA THE BOOKWORM

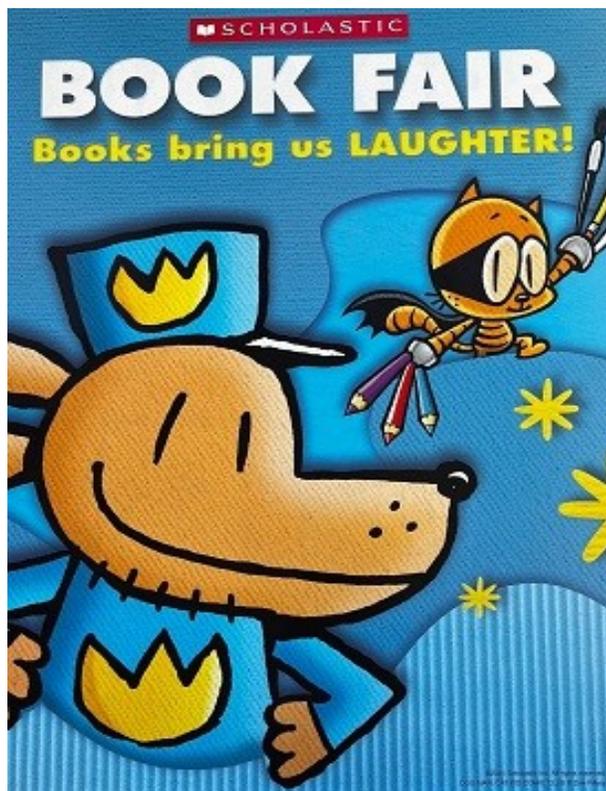
### Battle of the Books Club Meets with Author Adrianna Cuevas!

Have you heard of the **Battle of the Books Club**? 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to join at the beginning of the school year. Club members read 15 books known as the Sunshine State Readers and then compete against Battle Clubs from other schools to show their knowledge of what they've read.



Our club recently had the privilege of meeting virtually with author Adrianna Cuevas. Her book, *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*, is one of the Battle Club books. She also has a new book, *Cuba in My Pocket*, about a young boy coming from Cuba to America in the 1960s. When asked what advice she has for aspiring writers Mrs. Cuevas responded, “Be observant and read ALL the time!”

The Battle Club would like to say a BIG thank you to local independent bookstore, **Tombolo Books**, and their events coordinator/bookseller, Kelsey, for organizing and moderating the virtual visit.

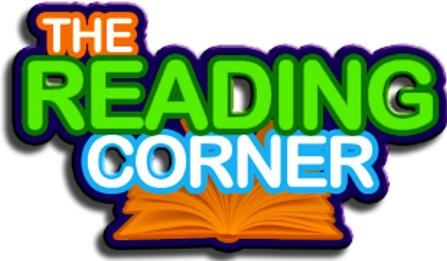


### *The Book Fair Is Coming! The Book Fair Is Coming!*

The Sexton Elementary Fall Book Fair will be held the week of December 6th. We will need volunteers to help make the book fair a success for our Stingrays!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sexton's librarian, Mrs. Bailey at [baileyja@pcsb.org](mailto:baileyja@pcsb.org).

*Thank you!*



By: Mrs. Hubble  
 MTSS at Sexton Elementary

As we come into this holiday season, make sure your child does not slide backwards in their reading. Two weeks without reading is a long time. Make sure your child(ren) read daily for 20 minutes. It could be anything they would like; newspaper, magazines, and of course books! It might also be a great time to get to your local library and register for a library card. All you need is: one proof of your name and current address. It could be...

- driving license.
- Council Tax card
- rent card
- bank statement (less than three months old)
- utility bill for electricity, gas or telephone (less than 3 months old)
- tenancy/lease agreement
- medical card
- benefit or pension book

*Happy Reading!*  
*Mrs. Hubble*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Our students in Kindergarten though 5th grade will be taking the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) beginning on Tuesday, November 30th.

We ask that you ensure your child gets plenty of rest the night before the assessment, and that your child is present on the scheduled testing days.

Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions relating to MAP.

<b>Tues 11/30</b>	4th: Burns	4th: Broadbear	
<b>Wed 12/1</b>	KDG	5th: Rivera	5th: Green
<b>Thurs 12/2</b>	KDG	1st Grade	3rd Grade
<b>Fri 12/3</b>	1st Grade	2nd Grade	
<b>Tues 12/7</b>	4th: Charsley	4th: Broadbear	
<b>Wed 12/8</b>	5th: Walk	5th: Bennett	
<b>Thurs 12/9</b>	1st Grade	3rd Grade	
<b>Fri 12/10</b>	1st	2nd Grade	



St. Petersburg K9 Unit presenting during GATI

# PORTION CONTROL: *How much is enough?*

## WHAT'S A HEALTHY PORTION ?

If you're not sure how much you should eat, everyday objects offer guidance on what makes up a healthy portion size.

FRUIT	MEAT	PASTA OR RICE	ICE CREAM	FISH	PANCAKE
 1 cup = Baseball	 3 ounces = Deck of cards	 ½ cup = Tennis ball	 ½ cup = Two golf balls	 3 ounces = Checkbook	 4-inch compact disc
POTATO	CHEESE	VEGETABLES	OIL OR BUTTER	PEANUT BUTTER	BAGEL OR ROLL
 Computer mouse	 1½ ounces = Four stacked dice	 A large egg or light bulb	 1 teaspoon = Thumb tip	 2 tablespoons = Ping-pong ball	 Hockey puck

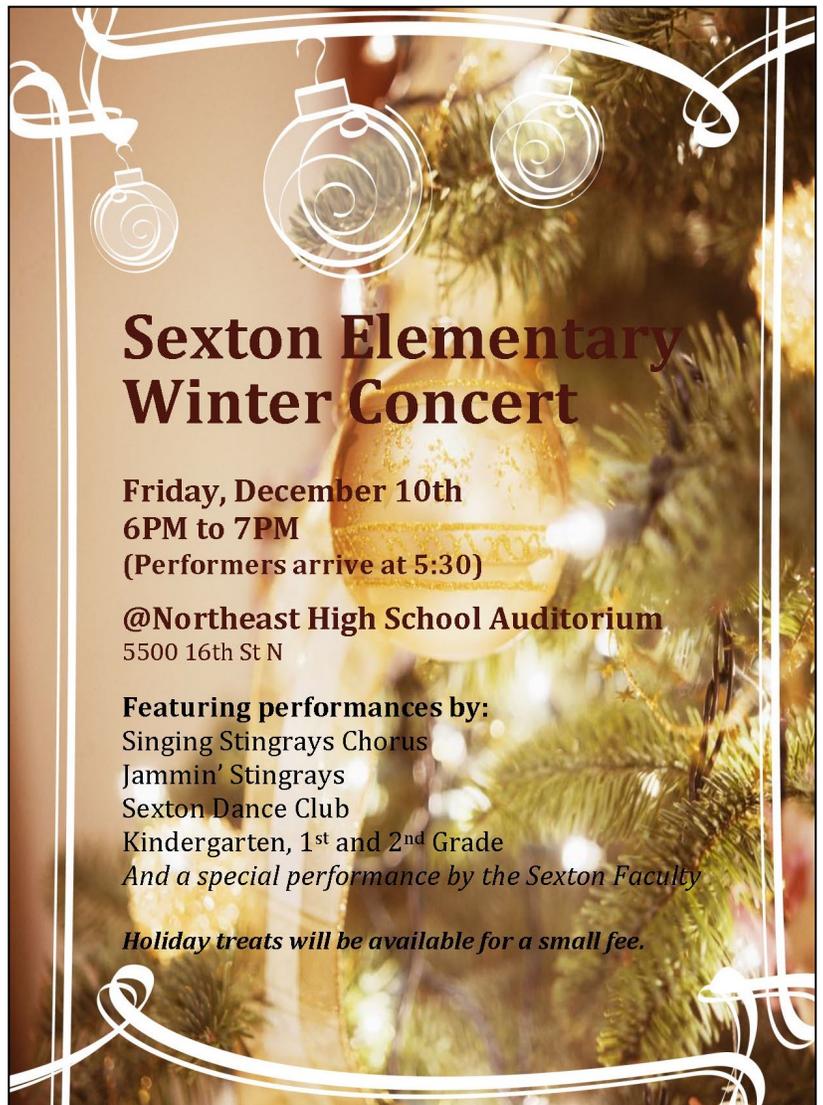
## The Problems of Eating Too Much

- Becoming overweight
- High Blood Pressure
- High cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Bone and joint problems
- Breathing problems
- Sleeping problems
- Depression

## Healthy Foods, Healthy Portions, Healthy YOU!

Thank you to our AMAZING Great American Teach-In speakers! The students and staff alike enjoyed the many unique and inspiring presentations.

- Travis Upchurch: Motorcycle Stunts
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
- Air Ambulance Worldwide
- Boyd Hill Nature Park
- St. Petersburg Sector Coast Guards
- Miller Air Drones
- St. Petersburg K9 Unit
- Listen To Your Art
- St. Petersburg Fire Department
- Segal Funeral Home
- Florida Department of Transportation: Bike Safety
- Madeira Beach Alligator & Wildlife Discovery Center
- Megan the Jack of All Trades
- Nurse Emma Smolek
- Ms. McKenna Alkishawi: Human Resources Representative
- Jack Tunstill: St. Pete Air Pilot
- Ryan Hatcher
- Sally Bosco: Author



## Sexton Elementary Winter Concert

Friday, December 10th  
6PM to 7PM  
(Performers arrive at 5:30)

@Northeast High School Auditorium  
5500 16th St N

Featuring performances by:  
Singing Stingrays Chorus  
Jammin' Stingrays  
Sexton Dance Club  
Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
*And a special performance by the Sexton Faculty*

*Holiday treats will be available for a small fee.*

If you need more information, please contact the school social worker, Karen Marinari, at 727-570-3400 x2070



# GOT KIDS CLOTHES? WE NEED 'EM!

## WHAT IS CLOTHES TO KIDS?

We are a non-profit organization where kids eligible for free or reduced priced lunch or in-crisis shop, for a week's worth of clothes, free of charge. The selections at our stores are a combination of new and quality used clothing in the latest styles for kids.

## WHO CAN SHOP?

To shop at Clothes To Kids, your children must be school-age and eligible for free or reduced-price lunch through Pinellas or Hillsborough County Schools. All shopping at Clothes To Kids is by appointment only. Please call 727-441-5050 to make your appointment.

Kids receive a complete wardrobe:

- 5 pairs of new underwear
- 5 pairs of new socks
- 5 tops (including uniforms)
- 4 bottoms (including uniforms)
- 1 dress (optional)
- 1 pair of shoes
- 1 jacket (in season)



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

  @clothestokids  
[www.clothestokids.org](http://www.clothestokids.org)

Are you part of our **Clothesline**? Stay informed and sign up today!

## CLOTHES? YES PLEASE!

### WHAT DO WE NEED?

- Kids clothes (sizes 4 to 16)
- Adult size clothes (think pre-teens & teens)
  - young women - sizes 0 to 22
  - Young men - sizes 18 to 46
- **New** underwear and socks
- Shoes: Children's size 9 to adult
- Bras, belts, purses, hats, jewelry, backpacks

### WHAT DO WE REALLY LOVE?

- Shoes (tennis shoes, closed toed)
- Girls clothes
  - tops - sizes S to XL
  - bottoms - sizes 6 to 16
- Boys clothes
  - tops - size S to XL
  - bottoms - size 6 to 16
- Young womens pants - size 13 to 22
- Young mens clothes
  - tops - size S to XL
  - bottoms - size 18 to 46

### WHAT DO WE NOT NEED...

- Used underwear and socks
- Athletic uniforms or equipment
- Toys or books
- Used pajamas or swimsuits
- Excessively worn clothing
- Baby/toddler clothing
- Hangers

**All donations can be dropped off at the Clothes To Kids store nearest you!**

Clearwater Store  
1059 N Hercules Ave  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
727-441-5050

St. Pete Store  
2168 34th Street S  
St. Pete, FL 33765  
727-441-5050

Tampa Store  
5011-H W Hillsborough Ave  
Tampa, FL 33634  
813-616-6430

# December

# Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> The nationwide labor, driver and product shortages are having a significant impact on our school cafeterias. We may need to change our menus without notice to accommodate the shortages while still offering students a variety of healthy menu options. This menu may not reflect what is actually offered in your cafeteria if substitutes are necessary. We apologize for any inconvenience.</p>				
<p><b>For Menu &amp; Nutrition Information or to download the app on your device! Visit <a href="http://nutrinslice.com">nutrinslice.com</a></b></p> 		<p><b>1</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Chicken Nuggets Pasta w/ Meatballs or Pasta w/ Meat Sauce Yogurt &amp; Fruit Parfait Ham &amp; Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Corn Niblets Sliced Cucumbers Side Salad</p>	<p><b>2</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Mandarin Orange Chicken Rice Bowl w/ Chow Mein Noodles Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chef Salad Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Tomato Soup Mixed Side Salad</p>	
<p><b>6</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Hamburger Sliders or Cheeseburger Sliders Popcorn Chicken &amp; Waffle Fruit &amp; Yogurt Plate Turkey Club Wrap</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Country Baked Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>	<p><b>7</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Beef Tacos or Pork Tacos Cheesy Bread Chicken Caesar Salad PB&amp;J Kit</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Corn Niblets Marinara Sauce Cup Romaine Side Salad</p>	<p><b>8</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Macaroni &amp; Cheese Tacho Chicken Bowl w/ Garlic Breadstick Chef Salad Ham &amp; Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Broccoli Florets Sliced Cucumbers Side Salad</p>	<p><b>9</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Managers Choice BBQ Pork or BBQ Chicken Flatbread Yogurt &amp; Fruit Parfait Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Crispy Fries Mixed Side Salad</p>	<p><b>10</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Pizza Variety Boneless Dill Chicken Wings &amp; Roll Apple -A- Day Salad Deli Carver Combo Sub</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Green Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>
<p><b>13</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Chicken Tenders &amp; Roll Backyard Pizza Burger Fruit &amp; Yogurt Plate Turkey Club Wrap</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Mixed Vegetable Medley Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>	<p><b>14</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Max Cheese Sticks Chicken Vegetable Dumpling w/ Chicken Fried Rice Chicken Caesar Salad PB&amp;J Kit</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Green Beans Marinara Sauce Cup Romaine Side Salad</p>	<p><b>15</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Teriyaki Beef Dippers &amp; Rice Cavatappi Pasta Alfredo Chef Salad Ham &amp; Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Broccoli Florets Sliced Cucumbers Side Salad</p>	<p><b>16</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Corn Dog or Hot Dog on a Bun Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, &amp; Roll Yogurt &amp; Fruit Parfait Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Corn Niblets Mixed Side Salad</p>	<p><b>17</b> <u>Choose One:</u> Pizza Variety Chicken Tinga Tacos Apple -A- Day Salad Deli Carver Combo Sub</p> <p><u>Choose:</u> Country Baked Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>
<p><b>December 20 - January 3</b></p>				
<p><b>Winter Holidays</b></p>				
<p><b>Classes Resume Tuesday January 4, 2022</b></p>				



**DAILY BREAKFAST CHOICES**  
Hot or cold  
are available  
daily, i.e.:  
Breakfast Sandwich, Pancakes, Cereal or Cereal Bar & Toast.  
**Must choose at least 1:**  
Fruit or Juice.  
**May choose 1:**  
Milk  
Fat Free Skim, Low Fat White, or Fat Free Chocolate.

**DAILY LUNCH CHOICES:**  
**Choose 1:** Entrée,  
**Must choose at least 1:**  
Fruit or Vegetable (may choose up to 2 servings each of fruits & veggies with their lunch meal)  
**May choose 1:**  
Milk  
Fat Free Skim, Low Fat White, or Fat Free Chocolate.  
**Available for lunch daily:**  
Hot Entrée, meat or meatless  
Entrée Salads,  
Cold Sandwiches  
Vegetable choices  
Hot & cold  
Variety of Fruits  
fresh, cupped,  
100% juices



In accordance with Federal Law and US Department of Agriculture policy, Pinellas County School Food Service is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Av. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410; or email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider/employer.