

SEXTON STINGRAY NEWS

A John M. Sexton Elementary School Publication



www.pcsb.org/sexton-es

December 2022

Upcoming EVENTS

December:

- ◆ 16th: Field Trip: Erickson/Gross to Great Explorations
- ◆ 16th: All Pro Dads/iMoms Breakfast
- ◆ 20th: Winter Concert 6:00pm
- ◆ 23rd: No school for students

Dec 26th -
Jan. 6th
Winter
Break



A Message from Mr. Pleshe

Hello Sexton Families,

Welcome to the hustle and bustle of December. The month of December is often filled with many family activities and traditions. Just like in many of our homes, where we are preparing for guests, here at Sexton we too are looking forward to hosting families once again for the **Holiday Concert**. Students have been practicing and preparing songs in music class, along with dance and the Singing Stingrays.

We look forward to closing out the calendar year and moving into 2023 with a renewed sense of purpose. We started off the school year with the Power of Yet. As we moved through the first semester of school, I have noticed our student's mindset move from I can't to I can. This is a powerful shift. With this attitude our children can accomplish anything. I have watched students who struggled with reading or math become readers and mathematicians who persevere and overcome. The second semester will be filled with fun, but it will also challenge your child in new ways as we push our students to become the best readers, writers, mathematicians, and scientists. Thank you, families, for always supporting the school as we work together.

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who gave up a little bit of their time to visit during the Great American Teach-In. You not only shared a bit of yourself that day but also made the day full of learning and enjoyment for our students!

Our 5000 Role Models & SAVE club sponsored a schoolwide canned food drive in conjunction with the Salvation Army to help local families before Thanksgiving. Thanks to the generosity of our Frontier Families

Tony Pleshe, Principal

Library News from Mrs. Bailey, aka the Bookworm



Run, Don't Walk, to Your Nearest Public Library!

What are your plans for Winter Break? How about heading to your local library to sign up for a FREE library card? The St. Petersburg Library System has six locations open currently: Child's Park, James W. Johnson, Mirror Lake, North Library, South Library, and West Library (SPC). The St. Petersburg Library System is also part of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, which includes 14 additional libraries.

Public library cards are valid for THREE years (and don't forget... they're FREE!). Individual card holders can check out up to 50 books at a time and keep them for 28 days. WOW! You can also check out DVDs and music CDs. How exciting! This holiday season, give your child the gift of reading with a FREE public library card.

For more information, visit <http://splibraries.org/index.html>.

Sexton Elementary Winter Concert

Tuesday, December 20, 6:00- 7:00 PM
Northeast High School Auditorium
5500 16th St N

Featuring performances by:

Singing Stingrays Chorus

Jammin' Stingrays

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade

Sexton Dance Club

And a special performance by the Sexton Faculty



A **BIG** thank you!
Sexton would like to **THANK**
Susan Davis, and the
following businesses for
their generosity to our
school & students for the
month of November.
Printworks & Northern Air,
IHOP Restaurant in Pinellas
Park & Tijuana Flats in
Pinellas Park. Your kindness
and commitment to Sexton
is greatly appreciated.



RESPONSIBLE RIDING!

Just a reminder
that all students
riding a bicycle or
scooter to and
from school
MUST wear a
helmet! This is
not only for
student safety,
but it is the law!
Students not
wearing a helmet
while riding a bicycle or scooter can be
fined up to \$65.00. To avoid this fine,
please remind students to demonstrate
responsible riding and wear their
helmets!



Promise Time News

Happy Holidays!!! There will be no Promise Time or Enrichment Clubs on Thursday, December 8th. We will also be having a **HOLIDAY PARTY** for all Enrichment Club and Promise Time Students on Thursday, December 15th. It will be a festive party with cookie decorating, card making, and an ornament for the tree. **ALL** the students who are currently in Tutoring or Enrichment Clubs at Sexton will be invited to come on that day for the party even if your day to stay after school is not on Thursday. For example: if you are in a club on Wednesday but do not come to clubs any other day of the week, you are invited on Thursday also for the party. If you have any questions, please call the school. I will call your back.

The party will last from 3:15-4:15 with pick-up time **EXACTLY** at 4:15. Below are other important dates for the rest of December and beginning of January. Please mark your calendars.

No Tutoring or Enrichment Clubs on Thursday, December 8th

No Tutoring or Enrichment Clubs the week of December 19th-22nd

Tutoring and Enrichment Clubs will start back up the week of Tuesday, January 17th

I hope everyone has a terrific holiday with family and friends!
Mrs. Hubble, MTSS at Sexton Elementary

BE AN ATTENDANCE H.E.R.O. (Here Every day Ready On time)

In January, an Attendance Club will begin at Sexton. To be a member of the club, a student must have a 95% or higher attendance rate. Attendance rate is calculated by dividing the number of days the student is present at school by the total number of days since school started in August and is listed in Focus.

This means that even if the student does not have a 95% attendance rate now, the rate can increase the more days he/she is at school! The benefit of the Attendance Club is that each week a mystery prize will be awarded to a randomly selected member of the club. Another benefit is that research shows that the more days children are at school, the more apt they are to succeed in school.

Also, congratulations to the **66** students who earned an ice cream for having perfect attendance including no absences, tardies, or early releases in October!

The Benefits of Strong Attendance

- Helps to keep students from falling behind
- Keeps students on track for graduation
- Improves social skills
- Builds self-confidence as students interact with their peers and teachers
- Provides the path to a secure job in the future
- Students develop healthy life habits



Karen Marinari, LCSW

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 a Skunk Rescue to the Coast Guards who protect our waterways. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with our kiddos.

- Jack Tunstill- St. Petersburg Aviation
- Providence Span - St. Petersburg Aviation
- Madeira Beach Alligator Wildlife Center
- Florida DOT- Walking & Bicycling Safety Education (Vanessa Wheeler)
- Erica Smith - Attorney at Law
- Native American - Karen Welch & Charles Dunning
- St. Petersburg K9 Unit
- St. Petersburg Fire Department
- Nurse Emma Smolek
- Ryan Hatcher – Army
- Segal Funeral Home - Chuck Segal
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Pet Skunks Advocate & Rescue
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Megan Jarabek
- Boyd Hill Nature Reserve - Helen Taylor
- McKenna Alkishani

