

SEXTON STINGRAY NEWS

A John M. Sexton Elementary School Publication



www.pcsb.org/sexton-es

September 2021 Issue

Upcoming EVENTS

September 6:

Labor Day – No school for students

ATTENDANCE SPIRIT WEEK

September 7:

Wear sunglasses!

September 8:

Wear crazy socks!

September 9:

Wear a hat!

September 10:

Wear a Sexton t-shirt!

September 13:

Mr. Pleshe's Reading Challenge Begins

September 18:

Garden Work Party

October 7:

End of 1st quarter

October 8:

No school for students.

October 29: 9:00

Halloween Parade & Drive Boo!

A Message from Mr. Pleshe

Hello Sexton Families,

I can't believe that August is over and we are moving into September. As Mrs. Gardner and I walked the campus and classrooms, we are so impressed with how great our students are adjusting to school life. At Sexton, we believe it is important for families and schools to work together and share responsibility for student success. We very much value family members' expertise about their children. Families know a student best and we can learn from you. Also, we want our students to know the importance of school. Communication between home and school is key. I strongly encourage you to sign up for Class Dojo if you have not. It is a great tool to use for communicating. You are able to contact me directly, see classroom stories, schoolwide stories and posts about upcoming events.

Speaking of events, we are going to have to cancel some of our after school events in September due to current spike in Covid cases. We have been fortunate here to have low numbers of positive cases. We are continuing to follow district guidelines which is helping keep all of Sexton safe. We are currently cancelling our reading night here at school but stay tuned for a possible alternative. The Drive Boo is back! (Hopefully with a few twists.) We moved that to Oct. 29th which is the same day as the Halloween Parade. Watch for more information to come out in the October newsletter.

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All parents or family members are welcome to have lunch with your child. For the safety of everyone, please limit your visit to once a week.

This year's fundraiser will kick off on September 20th. Last year we raised enough money to start our



recess playground project. The swing set is on our campus and ready for the install. PTA has decided that all proceeds from the fundraiser will go to buy additional playground equipment.



Tony Pleshe, Principal

CURRICULUM CORNER:

Hello Sexton Families! As your learning specialist, I will be providing monthly curriculum updates to keep you informed of instructional shifts, strategies, or resources to support your child. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out by phone or email.

The vision of Pinellas County is “100% Student Success” for career, college and LIFE. To work toward this vision a K-5 Reading/Literacy Plan is utilized. This year, our students in grades K-2 will receive literacy instruction based on a new set of English Language Art (ELA) standards. A product of literacy experts, teachers and stakeholders, Florida’s Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) standards are designed to establish Florida as the most literate state in the nation. Students in grades 3-5 will receive literacy instruction based on the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) and the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). At Sexton, we are a community that encourages our students to develop a passion for reading and writing. We look forward to motivating and inspiring our students to achieve beyond their potential.

Fondly, Mrs. Gardner



MEDIA CENTER NEWS FROM JANA BAILEY

Hello Sexton Stingrays! My name is Mrs. Bailey. I'm your new Library Media Technology Specialist. Previously, I was an elementary school teacher for 22 years, including two years as a 3rd grade teacher at Sexton five years ago! I'm so excited to be a Stingray again.

Do you have a favorite back to school book? Mine is *Brand New Pencils, Brand New Books*, by Diane deGroat. The main character is an opossum named Gilbert. Mrs. deGroat has written several books about Gilbert and I highly recommend them all!

I hope to get the library/media center open soon for orientation and checkout. I can't wait to meet each and every student and share my love of books with you!



PCS CONNECTS

If you are the parent/guardian of a 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader your child will be assigned a laptop to use this year. Please take a moment to view the Parent Orientation PCS Connects and Parent Presentation Internet Safety PowerPoint presentations. They will give you information about PCS Connects, which is the 1-to-1 laptop program, as well as tips on keeping your child safe when your child is using the Internet.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE!

I am looking for **two parents and two community members** to serve on the School-Based Library Information / Classroom Instructional Review Committee. This is a committee that **meets on an as-needed basis**. We meet to review items that are formally challenged as controversial, or if a teacher is requesting to use instructional materials that are outside of the formal District/State selection process. **Please email me at baileyja@pcsb.org** if you are interested in volunteering for this committee or have a friend or family member who would be willing to serve.

Thank you for your support!



Garden Work Party

Saturday, September 18th, 2021, 9:00–11:00 am

We need volunteers to help spruce up our garden and plant our first crop of the season! If you have a green thumb or just like to play in the dirt, please join us and help get our garden growing.

- Please remember to bring gloves, sun protection and a reusable water bottle—a cooler with ice water will be provided to refill your bottle as well as some healthy snacks.
- Also, if you have garden tools like shovels, clippers and rakes, please bring them with you.

Contact Ms. Velez with any questions: velezj@pcsb.org.

Welcome Back Sexton Families!

We're so excited to have on campus visitors and chaperones for our field trips and other events this school year. If you'd like to share these experiences with your child, please take a moment to register to volunteer.

Below is information on what it takes to get started. For those who've volunteered in the past, please reinstate your volunteer status and you're set. Go to the bottom of the screen and look for Online Volunteer Registration to complete.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email at salgs@pcsb.org or feel free to call me at (727) 570-3400 X2045.

www.pcsb.org/volunteer

Sheila Salg
Family & Community Liaison

A BIG Thank You!

Sexton would like to THANK all of our business & community partners for their kindness and generosity.

- Metro Diner
- 4th Street Pizza
- Dr. Pierce
Chiropractic Clinic
- Wallace, Welch &
Willingham Insurance
- Grace Lutheran Church & School
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Beall's Outlet
- Woodies Wash Shack



Your commitment to our school and staff is truly an invaluable part of the success of our students.

CLINIC NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Just a reminder to keep your student home if he or she isn't feeling well. Some general prevention tips include:

- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus.
- Avoid close contact with sick people and stay distanced from other people.
- Wear a face covering/ mask over your nose and mouth.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.





Welcome back parents and guardians! In the Counseling Corner you will find updates on school wide events, the character trait of the month, and the social-emotional learning (SEL) topic we are discussing in class. You will also find helpful resources to help reinforce these topics at home!

Start with Hello Week (9/20 – 9/24)

In every school and community nationwide, there are young people who suffer silently because they feel left-out, alone, or invisible. Those who are isolated can become victims of bullying, violence, and/or depression. **Start with Hello** teaches students the skills they need to see someone alone, reach out, and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation. This week students will learn to take small but powerful actions to promote inclusion and to support students who show signs of loneliness or social isolation.



Each day there will be a school wide activity to promote kindness and inclusion! Below is the schedule:

- Monday 9/20: Welcome parade
- Tuesday 9/21: “Say Hey” day
- Wednesday 9/22: Wear Green and pledge to be kind to others
- Thursday 9/23: “No One Eats Alone” day with conversation starts in the cafe
- Friday 9/24: “Spread Kindness” day

PACK-A-SNACK PROGRAM:

I will be sending home forms to join the weekend feeding program called Pack-A-Snack offered through Pinellas County Schools and a community partner. The snack pack is given to students who join on Fridays at NO COST. Please return the form to the front office if you want your child enrolled.

Delaney Clesen, School Counselor Clesend@pcsb.org 727-570-3400 x 2060

CAFETERIA NEWS: EVERY STUDENT RECEIVES A BREAKFAST AND A LUNCH EVERY DAY AT NO CHARGE TO THE STUDENT.

Students may take: Choice of Entrée, Choice of Milk, Juice and/or Fruit AND Hot and/or Cold Veggie options.

Every student must have ONE Fruit OR Veggie on their tray to ensure there is no charge for the meal.

If the student takes 2 veggies, 2 fruits and the milk, they will not be charged, as that is considered a complete healthy meal.

Students with lunch boxes are welcomed to come through the line to purchase items a la carte. Most fruits, veggies, milk and juice are \$0.50 each.

A la carte items...we sell bottled water and sparkling juice that students may purchase.

Prices for a la carte items range from \$0.25 to \$1.00. Second helping of the lunch entrée is \$2.50.

* *COMING SOON...We will sell a la carte smart snacks and ice cream. These items are an extra charge and will be available depending on availability.*



PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association, which is a volunteer-run organization with a mission to make schools a better place for students to learn and grow.

We are a group of parents, family members, teachers, and administrators that work together to create fun events, purchase necessities for the school, and collaborate with others to make our students' time the best possible!

We are always looking for volunteers and you are more than welcome to join us!

sxtonelementarypta.memberhub.com/store

Volunteers are needed for the following upcoming events:



- Book fair
- Drive Boo
- Halloween Parade

Susana Colonne, PTA President

Susana.colonne@gmail.com

Select 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.

<https://smile.amazon.com/change>

Title I Annual Missed Meeting Notification

Did you miss our Title I Annual Meeting?

During our Title I Annual Meeting we discussed the following: Parent-School-Student Compact, our school and Pinellas County Schools Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP), Title I budget, academic expectations, assessments, Title I Parent's Right to Know, and the Title I Program.

Please review information from our Annual Meeting on our school's website.

We look forward to meeting you at future school events. Please call 727-570-3400, if you have any questions or concerns regarding our school or our Title I Program.

Stacey Raspitzi,
Instructional Coach





Celebrate Attendance Awareness Month!



#schooleveryday

September is Attendance Awareness Month! Being at school every day on time is important to the academic success of your child. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school year, or about **two days a month**, negatively affects a student's learning.

As part of Attendance Awareness Month, we are having a special Attendance Spirit Week from 9/7/21 – 9/10/21. At the end of the week, all students who were at school every day and on time will be entered in a raffle where 5 students will be randomly selected to win a prize. In addition, the parent of one of those lucky students will also win a prize!

ATTENDANCE SPIRIT WEEK DAILY THEMES

- 9/7/21 (Tuesday) With good attendance, your future is so bright, you've got to wear shades! *Wear sunglasses!*
- 9/8/21 (Wednesday) Sock it to absences! *Wear crazy socks!*
- 9/9/21 (Thursday) Headed for success by arriving on time! *Wear a hat!*
- 9/10/21 (Friday) Show Stingray Pride by being at school! *Wear a Sexton t-shirt!*

By: Mrs. Hubble
MTSS Coach
at Sexton
Elementary

Reading
Corner

We are so excited to present "**The Magic of Reading**" drive by in our Sexton family neighborhoods on Tuesday, September 14th. The wonderful teachers at Sexton will be in their cars and driving along the parade route. They will be passing out **BRAND NEW FREE** books for all the students who show up along the parade route. Please come out and enjoy this magical night. **The parade will start at 6:00pm and end at 7:00pm.**

BE LOOKING for the parade map that we will be sending home in the beginning of September to show the route we will be taking in our cars.

In addition to the parade, all the teachers at Sexton will be kicking off our **READING Challenge** week with a wonderful book called "**The Magician's Hat**" by Ex-NFL football player **Malcolm Mitchell**.

The teachers will be celebrating the magic of learning to read with activities at school starting the week of September 13th. Be sure to ask your child(ren) about the activities they will be doing that week.

Check out **Malcolm Mitchell's** UTUBE short video with your child(ren). It's very inspirational. Please take a few minutes you won't be disappointed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbYGCu26xVU>

September Elementary School Lunch



All menus are subject to change!
We do our best to provide our customers with all of our planned options; however, occasionally issues beyond our control do not allow it.

All Meals Include Choice of assorted Fruits & Vegetables

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>6</p> <p>LABOR DAY— NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>7</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Beef or Pork Tacos Cheesy Bread Chicken Caesar Salad PBJ Kit</p> <p>CHOOSE: Marinara Cup * Corn Niblets Romaine Side Salad</p>	<p>1</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Chicken Nuggets Pasta & Meatballs or Meat Sauce Yogurt & Fruit Parfait Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p>CHOOSE: Corn Niblets Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>2</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Mandarin Orange Chicken with Rice & Chow Mein Noodles Grilled Cheese Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Tomato Soup *Mixed Side Salad</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Pizza Cheesy Fish Filet Sandwich Apple a Day Salad Deli Carver Combo Sub</p> <p>CHOOSE: Green Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>
<p>13</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Chicken Tenders & Cornbread Backyard Pizza Burger Fruit & Yogurt Plate Turkey Club Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Mixed Vegetable Medley Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>14</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Max Cheese Sticks Chicken Vegetable Dumpling w/ Chicken Fried Rice Chicken Caesar Salad PBJ Kit</p> <p>CHOOSE: Marinara Cup * Green Beans * Romaine Side Salad Assorted Fruits & Juice</p>	<p>8</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Macaroni & Cheese Tacho Chicken Bowl w/ Breadstick Chef Salad</p> <p>CHOOSE: Ham & Cheese Croissant Broccoli Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>9</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Chicken & Waffle BBQ Pork Flatbread Yogurt & Fruit Parfait Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Crispy Fries Mixed Side Salad</p>	<p>10</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Pizza Boneless Dill Chicken Wings w/ Roll Apple a Day Salad Deli Carver Combo Sub</p> <p>CHOOSE: Green Beans Veggie Dippers</p>
<p>20</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Chicken Sandwich/h Loaded Beef & Cheese Nachos Fruit & Yogurt Plate Turkey Club Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Santa Fe Black Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>21</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Breakfast for Lunch Mozz-Stuffed Garlic Breadsticks Chicken Caesar Salad PBJ Kit</p> <p>CHOOSE: Marinara Cup Deli Roasted Potatoes Romaine Side Salad</p>	<p>22</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Chicken Nuggets Pasta & Meatballs or Meat Sauce Yogurt & Fruit Parfait Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p>CHOOSE: Corn Niblets Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>23</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Mandarin Orange Chicken with Rice & Chow Mein Noodles Grilled Cheese Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Tomato Soup Mixed Side Salad</p>	<p>24</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Pizza Cheesy Fish Filet Sandwich Apple a Day Salad Deli Carver Combo Sub</p> <p>CHOOSE: Green Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>
<p>27</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Hamburger or Cheeseburger Sliders Chicken & Waffle Fruit & Yogurt Plate Turkey Club Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Country Baked Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>28</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Beef or Pork Tacos Cheesy Bread Chicken Caesar Salad PBJ Kit</p> <p>CHOOSE: Marinara Cup * Corn Niblets Romaine Side Salad</p>	<p>29</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Macaroni & Cheese Tacho Chicken Bowl w/ Breadstick Chef Salad</p> <p>CHOOSE: Ham & Cheese Croissant Broccoli Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Featured Entrée: Cheesy Pull-Aparts Southwest or Italian BBQ Pork Flatbread Yogurt & Fruit Parfait Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Crispy Fries *Mixed Side Salad</p>	<p>17</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Pizza Chicken Tinga Tacos Apple a Day Salad Deli Carver Combo Sub</p> <p>CHOOSE: Country Baked Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>
<p>16</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Corn Dog or Hot Dog Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy & Roll Yogurt & Fruit Parfait Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Corn Niblets Mixed Side Salad</p>	<p>15</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Teriyaki Beef Dippers & Rice or Creamy Cheesy Cavatappi Pasta or Chef Salad or Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p>CHOOSE: Steamed Broccoli Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>16</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Chicken Nuggets Pasta & Meatballs or Meat Sauce Yogurt & Fruit Parfait Ham & Cheese Croissant</p> <p>CHOOSE: Corn Niblets Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>17</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Pizza Chicken Tinga Tacos Apple a Day Salad Deli Carver Combo Sub</p> <p>CHOOSE: Country Baked Beans Fresh Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>CHOOSE ONE: Featured Entrée: Cheesy Pull-Aparts Southwest or Italian BBQ Pork Flatbread Yogurt & Fruit Parfait Chicken Caesar Wrap</p> <p>CHOOSE: Crispy Fries *Mixed Side Salad</p>

DAILY BREAKFAST CHOICES
Hot or cold breakfast choices are available daily, i.e.:
Breakfast Sandwich, Pancakes, Cereal & Toast, or Cereal Bar & Toast.
Must choose at least 1: Fruit or Juice.
May choose 1: Milk
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; Skim, Low Fat White, or Fat Free Chocolate.
Available for lunch daily: Meat or Meatless Entrée, Entrée Salads, Cold Sandwiches, Hot & Cold Vegetable choices, Variety of Fruits (fresh or cupped) & 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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider/employer.

