

THE STINGRAY POINT

John M. Sexton Elementary School Publication



August 2019 **Back to School Issue**

What's Happening

August 14th
Schools Open! Welcome Back!

August 20th
Kindergarten Night 6:00 PM

August 20th
Scout Night – the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts will be here at 6:00 PM

August 30th
Vision Screening

September 2nd
Labor Day Holiday—No School

September 3rd
Sunshine Math Kickoff
PTA Meeting followed by Math Night with Dr. B 6:30 PM

September 9th
Fall Picture Day

September 27th
All Pro Dads & iMoms 7:30 - 8:30



New School Hours
8:45 – 2:55

The school gates open at 8:15 for breakfast.

Please do not drop your child off before 8:15.

A Message from Mr. Pleshe

Welcome back from what I hope has been a relaxing and enjoyable summer! The faculty, staff and I are extremely excited for all the great things we have planned for this school year. We thank all of our families for their continued support of our policies and procedures:

- **New School Hours:** We would like to remind all of our families of our new school hours of 8:45 AM -2:55 PM. It is vital that our students arrive on time as our learning is bell to bell.
- **Security reminder:** Due to our continued focus on safety, after the first 3 days of school, families will no longer be able to walk their children to class even if they try to sign in. Families will be allowed to eat with their child for breakfast or lunch any day.
- **Dismissal:** Students will not be called to the front office after 2:30 PM for pickup, nor should your student meet you at the front office for dismissal. If your child is a car rider or walker, please meet your child in the car circle at 2:55pm. Our staff will direct you to pull up at the appropriate number and your child can get directly into your car.
- **Calendar:** Be sure to visit our website calendar to stay up-to-date on our school events and to get important school information. Staff contacts and email links are available on our website as well.
- **Uniforms:** We remind families that we are a uniform school, so we are asking families as we begin the new school year to review our uniform guidelines.
 - a) **Tops:** Navy blue, light blue, teal, purple or white polo shirts or the Sexton Elementary T-shirt.
 - b) **Bottoms:** Navy blue pants, shorts, jumpers or uniform dresses. No Jeans!
 - c) **Jackets/Sweaters:** For wearing in the classroom, Navy blue or white, but outdoor wear may be of any color.
- **Positive Behavior Incentive System:** Many times, our most challenging students get the most tangible rewards because we are rooting for them to make good choices and

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PARDON OUR DUST!

We are in the midst of getting the exterior of the building painted.

The projected completion date is the end of October.

MATH CORNER WITH DR. BRODNEY

Math Night September 3rd, 6:30 PM

Come and see what your children will be learning in math this year.

We'll work through the problem solving models that they will use, and you'll see what the big emphasis is in each grade level.

We'll also show parents some great online sources for kids to get help or just to work while at home.

Finally, we'll preview the new Sunshine Math program that Sexton is using this year.

There will be games, door prizes, and snacks!

PRE-K PARKING LOT AND DROP OFF/PICK-UP

Parents, if you are not a Pre-K parent, please, please, please do not use the Pre-K lot for arrival or dismissal. The area becomes very congested and difficult to navigate when non Pre K families use this lot. We get multiple complaints each month. So, if that was you last year... thank you for not using it this year. You know who you are and so does everyone else (LOL).

offering incentives to behave. In an effort to recognize those students who consistently make good choices, we are instituting our Positive Behavior Incentive System. N.U.T.

No Uniform Today! How does this work?

Each day students have the potential to earn 5 Dojo Points.

Students can earn a point each day for the following:

- 1) Arrive on Time (This means students must be in class prior to the last bell)
- 2) In Uniform (Correct bottom & top)
- 3) Classroom Behavior (Student was successful following classroom rules)
- 4) Special's Behavior (Student was successful in specials following the rules)
- 5) Agenda signed by parent

Points are cumulative. Once a student has earned 25 points, they may use their coupon on Friday to come in their nonuniform dress code appropriate shirt. Students must present a parent signed coupon to the teacher Friday morning.



N.U.T. is a program instituted by the Administration of John M. Sexton and can be revoked at any time. Students who do not earn or comply with the rules will be asked to call home and change into a uniform.

CLINIC NEWS WITH NURSE PAULA

Welcome back Sexton Stingrays!!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I am Paula Nuhn, Registered nurse for Pinellas County schools and your school nurse here at Sexton.

I am passing on some important information regarding vaccination and physical requirements. Pinellas County schools require that all students have up to date vaccinations to attend school. If your child is in PK or Kg, please review their shot records with your pediatrician or the health department to ensure they are up to date. If you have a Temporary Medical Exemption, please review the expiration date. This means your child will be due for the next round of vaccinations BEFORE the expiration date.

Most children 1st grade and above have had all their shots and are coded a "1". Please review your child's shot record (680 form) to see if he/she is coded a "1". If the code is a "2" your child's record is incomplete. If this is the case, please call your pediatrician or go to the nearest health department location.

Physicals are also required for entry to Pinellas County schools and for PK and Kindergarten. The Pinellas county Health Department gives FREE shots and physicals, you can find a location at the following link: <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/locations/index.html>

I look forward to another wonderful year with your children here at Sexton!

Paula K. Nuhn, RN 570-3400 X 2110

7:45 AM to 3:15 pm Monday through Friday



PROMISE TIME

We are very excited to be once again offering after-school tutoring and enrichment clubs to our Sexton Stingrays!

Keep watching the newsletter and info that will be sent home from teachers.

Looking forward to another great year of helping our students reach their full potential!

Kelly Grimshaw





Hope each of you enjoyed your summer break as much as we had? The Front Office is excited to introduce a few new staff members to the Sexton Family. Penny Bishop is our new Secretary/Bookkeeper. She comes to us with years of experience and is a joy to meet.

For those who were with us last year, you may have noticed an assistant that helped out during the afternoon hours. This year we will have Ashley Fischer with us full-time. She's extremely personable and will be a great addition to the Front Office.

HAPPY SCHOOL YEAR!



BUS CIRCLE INFO:

This year we have 5 School buses and several

Before/After care vans that use our bus circle. We do have a Roberts Recreation Center bus that does pickup and drop-off between our school and Roberts Recreation in St. Pete. (For more information on this, please contact Roberts Rec. Center at 893-7754.) These are the only vehicles that will be using our back bus circle. YMCA drop off and pick up is located in this area as well.

Due to safety concerns and district policy, all students that are car riders must be picked up in the front car circle. For the first week of school, we will be placing color-coded tags on all bus riders, day care van riders, YMCA, walkers and bike riders. Please leave the tags on your child's backpack for the start of the school year. Car riders do not need a tag.

SEXTON ELEMENTARY PTA

Welcome Sexton Families,

I would like to re-introduce myself formally as Sexton Elementary School 's PTA president, Lisa Brugge. I have a second grader here at Sexton. Many of you may remember me from the previous school year where I promised to learn and grow to better serve you. As promised, I have spent many hours and days this summer and over the past school year learning everything I can and reaching out to the many different levels of PTA to gain knowledge. It is with knowledge that I am eager to start the 2019/2020 school year.

I'm excited to meet our many new families and to see familiar faces again. I have a strong board surrounding me that are also diligently working to bring you the best possible local PTA. Michelle Brake is our Vice President and the grandmother of 2 fifth graders at Sexton. Mindy Hoston is our Treasurer, she is the mother of a second grader at Sexton. Gina Broadbear is our secretary, and a fifth grade teacher, she also heads up the monthly family breakfasts under All Pro Dads. Michelle Jacobsen is a third grade teacher and is the chair of our events committee. Keesha Graham is also a third grade teacher with a child in fourth grade; she is our parent and teacher communication committee chair.

I am excited to announce that we are working to further expand our membership. Last year we grew to 72 members which was 155% growth. We as an entire PTA and school are excited to see this growth continue. With this outstanding growth and working closely with Mr. Pleshe, we are able to bring more family nights and activities to the school. Our annual Fall Festival and Valentine's Day Family Dance are slated to happen. The Forever Roses will be available in greater quantity and for a longer period of time. The Sexton PTA is also offering the Callaway discount card again, and we will have our Spirit wear and shirts for sale year long. We will be kicking off the school year with Coffee and Kleenex for our new parents on the first day of school and a "Welcome Back" treat for our Sexton teachers and staff. We are also looking forward to some more school and community improvement projects.

The Sexton PTA is a lot more than fundraisers and fun. We are here to help and support you and your children throughout the year. Our mission continues to be to "Make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering them and their families, so that all children are our children." Please reach out to us if you need help in advocating or finding a strong voice to help meet your child's needs.

Most importantly The Sexton PTA would be nothing without each of our students, families, teachers and staff. I want to personally thank each of you for being involved last year and for continuing to help us reach our mission and goals.

Thank you and please remember we are a phone call or email away,

Lisa Brugge, Sexton PTA President
sextonptapresident@gmail.com

