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"Pioneers for the Future"

AUG. / SEPT. 2019



**PINELLAS
COUNTY
SCHOOLS**

AN EQUAL
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INSTITUTION
FOR EDUCATION &
EMPLOYMENT

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A note from Mrs. Buckles.....

Dear Pioneer Families,

On behalf of the entire Pioneer Staff, we extend a huge welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year. The beginning of the year always holds such excitement and promise. It is also the time of year when we share our hopes and dreams for the coming year as well as identify our goals and determine how we will spend our time, energy, and resources.

September 4th we will share our School Improvement Plan during our School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting. This is a great time to come and hear the curriculum goals for the year. SAC is a great time to learn about and become involved in the education of your child. If you would like to become a member of SAC, please contact our SAC Chairman, Damon Kuhn at kuhn.damon@spcollege.edu.

September 3rd is our Traditional Open House for parents of children in grades PreK through 5th grade from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m.. This is the best time to hear from your child's teacher on curriculum, instruction, classroom processes, and expectations. September 5th is our Dual Language Open House for parents of children in PreK through 5th grade from 6:00 until 7:00 with a mandatory parent meeting beginning in the cafeteria at 5:00 p.m..

This year we continue our work around student wellness through morning circles. Our teachers plan daily circles and pioneer students respond by sharing and generating their thoughts. The topics that come up can then inform any larger scale insights a classroom teacher might want to implement. Pioneer teachers are running circles so that all students have this experience regularly. We believe that belonging is a necessary precondition for our pioneer students to thrive. Teachers intentionally create opportunities where students learn about each other, talk to each other, and support each other. We believe daily circles are a way heighten our Pioneer PRIDE!

I speak for all our Garrison-Jones Pioneer Staff when I say, it is a privilege to serve our school community. At Garrison-Jones we believe anything is possible, and we will blaze a trail into the future – especially if you are a PIONEER! We look forward to seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,

Karen Buckles

Principal

WELCOME

Meet our New Behavior Specialist!

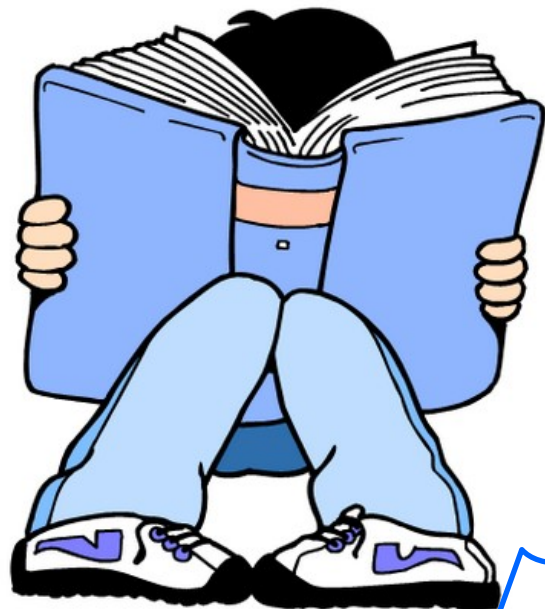
My name is Ben Westrich (Mr. B). I am the new behavior specialist. I was born in Tampa and raised just south of here in Bradenton. I served in the Marine Corps straight out of high school for five years. I attended St. Petersburg College, the University of Tampa, and Christ Church College, Oxford. I came to teaching about 4 years ago, where I began subbing while attaining my teaching certificate. I usually read about 30 hours a week. I mostly read fiction, but I also read quite a bit of history. I love working in the yard and have a self-professed green thumb. I love working with our kids and look forward to working with everyone.

LIBRARY PAGES

All Garrison-Jones students will be making their way through library orientations in the month of September. They will be introduced to the parts of the library, types of books (fiction, non-fiction...) and proper book care, just to name a few of the things covered. Please make sure that your students keep their library books in a safe place and return them on time.

As a side note, we have over 250 books that have NOT been returned from last year. If you receive a note home with your child, please look for those books at home. Oftentimes they just get misplaced with the rest of the books on your child's bookshelf. Your student will not be allowed to check out a new book if they have any outstanding, and no one wants that! We want books in the hands of all of our students!

Thank you—Mrs. Williams





Important Dismissal Information!

Parent Drop-off and Pickup: At Garrison-Jones Elementary we say, "Safety First"! Parents, please be aware of the crosswalks when driving on and off the campus. There are ongoing concerns about pedestrians following a safe path. We teach our students to use the center sidewalk during arrival and dismissal. We ask our parent pedestrians to model "safety first", use the center sidewalk, and not walk through the parking lot.



Noteworthy News from Mrs. Greene

4th and 5th Grade Chorus Permission slips have been sent home with the students that showed any interest in the Garrison-Jones Chorus! They are due Friday, September 6! Please have your child put it in the mailbox on the Music Room door before or after school. Order forms for T-shirt uniforms will be coming home soon! Thanks.

5th Graders, who would like to audition for the All County Concert or the All State Concert, will need to pick up a purple information packet from Mrs. Greene. This is how we select our Round-Up singers.

Also, information on the Afterschool Strings Class will be coming home soon!

September's Character Trait

Responsibility

Doing your best and taking ownership for your words and actions.

*"Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today...
Never trouble another for what you can do yourself."*

- Thomas Jefferson

Counselor's Corner

Rachel Poole

pooler@pcsb.org

Zoe Ryan

ryanz@pcsb.org

Mission Statement

To advocate for an environment that supports high achievement for all students and decreases barriers to learning, allowing students to become effective learners, responsible citizens, and productive members of a global workforce. In collaboration with other educators, families, and communities, our comprehensive school counseling program will maximize student potential and enable all students to experience educational success by providing preventative and responsive services in the areas of academic, career, and personal-social development to help students overcome challenges that interfere with learning and reach their fullest potential.

What Does An Elementary School Counselor Do?

The elementary years are a time when students begin to develop their academic self-concept and their feelings of competence and confidence as learners. They are beginning to develop decision-making, communication and life skills, as well as character values. It is also a time when students develop and acquire attitudes toward school, self, peers, social groups and family.

Classroom Guidance Lessons & Character Education

Guidance lessons in the academic, career and personal/social domains are aligned with both the Florida Standards and the American School Counseling Association mindsets and behaviors. Topics taught in guidance lessons include: respect, responsibility, cooperation, citizenship, kindness, self-motivation, tolerance, honesty, self-control, caring, and courage.

Bullying Prevention Education

In compliance with Florida Statute 1006.147 (The Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act), Pinellas County Schools requires that all students receive bullying prevention education. In classroom guidance lessons, students learn the definition of bullying, strategies for preventing bullying, and what to do if they witness or are involved in a bullying situation. This year we will be implementing the Owleus Bullying Prevention Program. This is due to the responses from the survey given to parents and students last year.

Individual & Group Counseling

Students who need additional support outside of the classroom setting may participate in individual or group counseling sessions with Mrs. Poole. Counseling in the school setting is short-term and focused on helping students be successful in school. Counseling addresses a variety of topics which may include: social skills, appropriately expressing and/or handling emotions, communication skills, family changes, conflict resolution, goal setting, study skills, and test-taking skills

Parent and Teacher Consultation

Mrs. Poole is available for consultation with parents and teachers to support the social and emotional needs of students. Consultation topics often include home-school relations, helping students achieve success personally, socially, academically self-esteem building, behavior management, dealing with crisis, and referrals to community agencies.

Bullying Policy: Reports and Investigations

Bullying reports can be made by students, parents, or staff members by completing the online reporting form found at <http://bullying.pcsb.org>. Any report of bullying that occurs at school or at a school-sponsored event must be investigated. Investigation must be completed within ten school days. Parents of all students involved will be notified of the investigation as well as the outcome (either substantiated or unsubstantiated). Additional information about Pinellas County Schools' bullying policy is available at https://www.pcsb.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=932:bullying-prevention&catid=130.

The Pinellas County Schools Policy against Bullying and Harassment (Policy #5517.01) defines bullying as **systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress** on one or more students and may involve but is not limited to: teasing; social exclusion; threat; intimidation; physical violence; theft; public humiliation; or destruction of property. **Three things that are generally present in a bullying situation are repeated behavior** (although it may be the first time you heard about or witnessed the behavior), **imbalance of power** between the person who is bullying and the victim of bullying (could be a physical imbalance or a difference in status), **and intent to harm** (either physically or emotionally).

Clothes to Kids

Clothes to Kids provides new and quality used clothing to low-income, school-age children in Pinellas County, free of charge, so that every school-age child has quality clothing and may attend school with the confidence and self-esteem needed to achieve academic success.

Requirements for Shopping at Clothes To Kids

(1) You must live in Pinellas County. (2) Your child(ren) must be school-age (4 year old PreK-12th grade) and attend a Pinellas County school. (3) Your family must be considered in financial need of assistance.

If you receive free/reduced lunch, call Clothes to Kids at 441-5050 to schedule an appointment. *You will need your free/reduced lunch letter to shop.*

If you do not receive free/reduced lunch but need assistance (your family or child is currently receiving services from another social service agency, or your family is in crisis due to a fire, flood or medical issues), you may be able to receive a referral to Clothes for Kids from Mrs. Lofstedt (school counselor) or Ms. August (the school social worker). Once you receive the referral, you can call Clothes to Kids to schedule your appointment. Eligible children may shop twice in a twelve-month period (a referral is needed each time). Please call or e-mail Mrs. Lofstedt for more information.

Homework Helpline

547-7223

Homework help is available from 5pm to 8 pm, Monday through Thursday, on all school days, except when there is no school the following day.

Pinellas County Homework Helpline offers free homework help for students in Grades 1 through 12.

The Helpline is staffed by Pinellas County schools teachers who are certified in math, science, language arts and/or social studies. The helpline has a dedicated staff with access to the same textbooks that are used in your child's classroom. For example, if a student needs help with #4 on page 156,

Homework Helpline teachers can open the book to the same problem and provide assistance!

There is a lot of exciting learning happening at GJES! Students are back into the full swing of routines and we thank you, parents for all of your support! 😊 Please check out & “like” our Facebook 📷: www.facebook.com/GarrisonJonesES



Find us on:
facebook®

English Language Arts and Math Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing is September 3rd -25th. A good night's sleep and healthy breakfast will ensure student's best on the test! Please let us or your child's teacher know if you have any questions.

Regular student dismissal is at 2:55 PM. Please make alternative after-care arrangements if are unable to pick-up at regular dismissal. ***Any changes in how your child goes home must be sent in a written note to the front of-
fice, otherwise they will be sent home with their routine dismissal procedure.** On occasion, it may be necessary for you to pick your child up from school before 2:55 PM for an appointment or an emergency. Note that our policy is stated in the office that there are not student dismissals after 2:00 PM without prior written notification.

Kind regards,

Erica Pollick

Assistant Principal

Garrison-Jones Elementary School

HELP

NEEDED!

Would you love to help at Garrison-Jones, but can't volunteer during the day? Mrs. Williams is in need of a volunteer to layout the monthly newsletter (*Yes! The very one that you are reading right now!!*) If you are interested, and have a few hours a month to spare,

please call the school at
727-469-5716

or e-mail

Mrs. Williams at
williamssuz@pcsb.org
Thank you!!!



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ART NEWS SEPTEMBER 2019

This year we have a lot of exciting projects planned for our students in Art! In addition to the traditional mediums (paints, clay, etc) we also have and Art iPad lab. Every student will create at least 2 digital artworks this year. I can't print everyone's work so the best way to see the digital art is on the Artsonia online Kid's Museum. From there you can screen shot their work to print it yourself or there's also a variety of products that can be purchase with their art on it. It is a fundraiser but my main objective is to use Artsonia as an online portfolio of your child's art work. This way you can see ALL of your child's artwork.

Permission slips will be going home in the next couple of weeks. Please follow the directions to online. If you previously signed up on line you do not need to do it again. The site is very secure and doesn't show any personal information.

We are fortunate to have Mrs. Peters our Art Itinerant teaching 3 classes here at GJE. The art mobile from the Museum of Fine Art in St. Petersburg has been at GJE for the last couple of weeks. All k-5 classes got to have a museum experience along with fun activities. Please ask your student about their experience.

This year I am focusing on Growth Mindset which is the belief that students can develop their abilities through dedication and hard work. Second through fifth grade students brought home a quote of their choice to color and bring back. The quotes and sayings will be posted around the school.

"Whether you think you can or think you can't - you are right."

– Henry Ford

Thank you for your continued support of the arts!

Mrs. Strawn
Art Teacher
strawne@pcsb.org