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Get engaged in  
education  
make a difference



# "Pioneers for the Future"

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER  
2018



**PINELLAS  
COUNTY  
SCHOOLS**

AN EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY  
INSTITUTION  
FOR EDUCATION  
& EMPLOYMENT

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## A note from Mrs. Buckles.....

Dear Pioneer Families,

Student engagement are two words that describe what is happening in our classrooms this year. I am both excited and quite humbled by the work our students are engaging in their content instruction. Students are engaged in sustained longer periods of independent reading and writing in response to what they are reading. Being in classrooms frequently, I get to listen in on student thinking in rigorous tasks. Students working in groups to problem solve or engage in discussions is a complex level of work. As we progress through this year, we will continue to present students with rigorous task that require deep thinking in complex text.

Also, this year, we are focused on Class Meetings. Time devoted to Class Meetings address students' emotional and social needs and opens pathways for learning to occur. Last month our School Advisory Council hosted the Annual Parent Workshop Night where Mrs. Webster shared information about Class Meetings and our school initiative, "It Starts With Hello". I believe our families found it most beneficial.

It is the time of year that we host many events that invite our families and community members on campus to commemorate and celebrate events together. I was overjoyed with the tremendous school wide - community participation at Pioneer Day, Veteran's Day Program, and the Great American Teach In. Thank you to the classroom teachers, staff members, community members, parents, PTA and SAC members who contributed their time and energy scheduling meetings, planning events, setting up furniture, and cleaning up afterwards. We could not do it without your support.

The holidays are upon us and the next weeks to come will be busy to say the least. When we return the new year will bring a change to morning drop off. Construction on the Blue Jays Rehabilitation Center will begin this January. When we return from the holiday break, the access gate from Vanech Park will no longer be available to us. The property within the chain link fence along Garrison Road belongs to Pinellas County Schools. The district is working on plans to open that space for car access and parking. The staff at Garrison-Jones wishes for all our families to have a fun-filled Thanksgiving Holiday. We will look forward to our scholar Pioneers return on November 26th ready to work hard.

Sincerely,

*Karen Buckles*

Principal

# Counselor's Corner

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## WHY MODEL GOOD CITIZENSHIP?

Children learn by what they see, not by what they hear. Parents who exhibit responsible behavior teach their children on a daily basis about the behavior that is expected of them.

Citizenship is something that needs to be nurtured to become a habit. Children who see parents demonstrate concern for others in society learn that this is a positive activity which is of value to their family. Repeated exposure to positive, caring behavior teaches a child compassion and concern for society, near and far.

Citizenship is something that crosses cultural and economic boundaries. Helping our neighbors, participating in charitable acts, caring for the environment, and voting are concrete habits which families can practice without spending much more than time and effort.

You can model good citizenship by being a good neighbor, volunteering in your community, taking care of the environment, obeying laws, and participating in government.

### Three Words A Day for December:

- Dec. 1 Faces show feelings.
- Dec. 2 Love someone else.
- Dec. 3 Do something well.
- Dec. 4 Giggle lots today.
- Dec. 5 Happy thoughts stay.
- Dec. 6 Think things through.
- Dec. 7 Manners are important.
- Dec. 8 See others' qualities.
- Dec. 9 Politeness wins praise.
- Dec. 10 Don't repeat mistakes.
- Dec. 11 "No" is okay.
- Dec. 12 Finish projects started.
- Dec. 13 Use lifeskills daily.
- Dec. 14 Keep on working.
- Dec. 15 Smiles are contagious.
- Dec. 16 Take initiative now.
- Dec. 17 Respect our world.
- Dec. 18 Help the needy.
- Dec. 19 Yes to life.
- Dec. 20 Change is constant.
- Dec. 21 Follow your star.
- Dec. 22 Give away smiles.
- Dec. 23 Spread sunshine everywhere.
- Dec. 24 Give your all.
- Dec. 25 Merry Christmas wishes.
- Dec. 26 Share the wealth.
- Dec. 27 Care about lifeskills.
- Dec. 28 Use teamwork daily.
- Dec. 29 Ambition never ends.
- Dec. 30 You made it!!

### Character Trait of the Month for November

#### **Citizenship**



*Being law abiding and  
Involved in service to  
school, community  
and country.*

### Character Trait of the Month for December

#### **Kindness**



*Being nice and  
considerate toward others.*



# Noteworthy News:



**Congratulations to the 5th Graders who came out to sing at Pioneer Day on November 3! They sang some amazing movie song selections and they were fantastic.**

**The 3rd Grade Veteran's Concert was November 12 and we had a wonderful time celebrating our military families at Garrison-Jones by singing patriotic tunes at our assembly!**

## **Here are the upcoming performance dates:**

**The Kindergarten and First Grade Holiday Concert will be December 6 at 6:00pm in the school cafeteria. Students should be dressed in their finest holiday attire.**

**The 4th and 5th Grade Chorus Holiday Concert and School Play will be December 6 at 7:30pm in our cafeteria. 4th Grade Chorus should be dressed in their finest holiday clothes. 5th Grade Chorus should be dressed in all black/dark clothing due to the black-lights.**

**5th Grade Chorus will also be in the Dunedin Holiday Parade at 4pm on December 8 and Christmas Caroling at the Old Fashioned Downtown Festival at 6pm also on December 8.**

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**\*2nd Graders will perform at our Curriculum/All Things Garrison-Jones Night in the spring**

**All 4th and 5th Graders will need a Soprano Recorder (a flute-like instrument) starting November 26 in music class. Please bring one from home or borrow one from Ms. Greene.**



## **THANKSGIVING BREAK WILL BE HERE SOON!**

### **Log into Clever at <http://clever.com/in/pcsb>**

Select the Thanksgiving Break Challenge icon at the top of the page. Visit these links for our Thanksgiving break challenge and see Ms. Pollick for a reward!

### **Grades K-2:**

<https://sway.office.com/E5ZSqD52WHAcDHf?ref=Link>

### **Grades 3-5:**

<https://sway.office.com/TF7whcmganXHukHq?ref=Link>

We have a new program for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students called the Personalized Learning Pathway (PLP) in Clever. PLP imports individual student scores from the MAP Assessment and students have individualized online work in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math based on their MAP RIT score. Students will work through several activities including videos and text and complete one or more tasks to practice using the standard. Students are directed to complete work on their own paper and turn the work into their classroom teacher after break.

Please continue to encourage your child to use Istation, MyOn, ST Math and Dual Language RAZ Kids at home to strengthen their math and reading skills. We appreciate your support each and every day. Thank you for all you do to bridge the home and school connection!

English Language Arts, Math, and Science Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) second round of testing is happening during December 1<sup>st</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Ask your child what their goal is for this round of MAP testing? How many points of growth are they looking for? A good night of sleep and a healthy breakfast will ensure student's best on the test! Please let your child's teacher know if you have any questions.





## PIONEER and PRIDE Binders

An important part of AVID Elementary is helping students learn the skills they need to create and maintain an organizational system for their school materials.

Our older students have two binders:

**PIONEER binder**: stays in the classroom and organizes the students' response journals.

**PRIDE binder**: where the student keeps their planner and materials to go home every day.

We also use a color coding system to help students quickly and easily locate their materials:

**Math- blue**

**Reading -red**

**Writing- purple**

**Science- green**

**Social Studies- yellow/orange**

## COLLEGE SHIRT MONDAY

We encourage students and staff to wear a college shirt on Monday to promote a college-going culture in our school!



Each month we will be including information about the AVID program and strategies we are using at Garrison-Jones Elementary School.

We are excited to be using AVID strategies to help our students become college, career, and life ready!

## What is SLANT?

The SLANT strategy is used to enhance learning and student performance by creating a behavior incorporating the conscious use of positive body language.

It is a simple technique to encourage and remind students on being attentive and active in class.

From: <https://k12teacherstaffdevelopment.com/tlb/what-is-the-slant-strategy-and-how-does-it-improve-student-achievement/>

