

The Northwest Star

December 2022

Marie Brainard, Principal

Amanda Wahl, Asst. Principal

Michael Vigue, Area 4 Superintendent

5601 22nd Ave N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727-893-2147 Cafeteria - 727 893-1236

Northwest Parents,

We want to thank all of you that participated in the Great American Teach In. It's so exciting to see all the career opportunities for our students.

Students will be taking the STAR/FAST progress monitoring cycle #2 assessment throughout December. Ask your child's teacher for specific dates. Please encourage your child to focus and show what they know. They need to take their time (stamina) and focus. This assessment is testing end of year grade level benchmarks/standards. We do not expect students to be at 100%. Teachers use this assessment to drive their instruction based on the benchmarks that have already been taught, and not mastered, and what benchmarks they still have yet to teach. We use this information to identify students needing additional interventions, ELP or Promise Time invitations. We know our students are capable of greatness. Let's SHINE bright like the Northwest Stars we ARE!

School Wide behavior incentive: We are excited to experience our fifth School Wide Behavior Incentive (PBS: Positive Behavior Supports) for all those students making the right choices every day and all the time. We will be having Polar Express PJ Day on Thursday Dec. 22nd for students that have earned an 80% or above for the month of December (1-21). Way to go students! The Northwest Staff is so proud of the students earning at least 80% daily, every day. This is a great way to kick off Winter Break! A special thanks to the PTA Board and the members of PTA for sponsoring these events! Check out the school web site for photos of past incentives.

December 8th: Winter Concert: This year we will be having our concert at the Palm Lake Church (beside our school). Due to the smaller size of the church, we will have a split performance. All are welcome to stay for both. **Kindergarten and Chorus will perform at 6:00 (be there at 5:30). Dress your best.**
Grade 1 and handbells will perform at 7:00 (be there at 6:30) Dress your best.
Let us come together and enjoy our talented children.

Report card criteria for grades 3-5

Principal's List= All A's, E's, V's in conduct

Honor Roll= A's, B's, E's, V's, S's in conduct

Perfect attendance= Zero absences and up to 2 tardies

From our Northwest Family to yours, we wish you all a Wonderful Holiday Season!
Mrs. Brainard, Mrs. Wahl and the Northwest Staff

Dates to Remember

Dec. 1-16: STAR/FAST progress monitoring cycle #2 begins

Dec. 5- School Wide Behavior (SWB) incentive for November: homework pass

Dec. 8- Palm Lake Church

Dec. 22- School Wide Behavior (SWB) incentive for December: Polar Express Day

Dec. 23- Jan. 6 Winter Break: School Closed

Jan. 9- School re-opens: Happy New Year!



Salvation Army Canned Food Drive

The Salvation Army canned food drive will continue through Dec. 1. Thank you to all the families who have contributed so far! Please consider sending in a nonperishable item to help those in our community who are less fortunate.



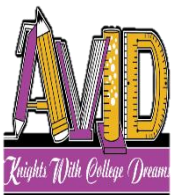
PBIS




Greetings from the PBIS Team! Thank you for coming out and participating in our PBIS/Safety Night. We hope you had some fun with your child/children and learned something along the way! As you know, our school rules (called Guidelines for Success) are our STARS. This stands for Safety First, Think Like a Problem Solver, Aim for Your Goals and Share Positive Friendships.

This month we would like to focus on Safety First. Here are some ideas on how you be safe at home...

- Teach your child your phone number and address. You never know when they might need it.
- Teach your child to be always aware of their surroundings. You can turn this into a game, asking your child details about things as you head into the grocery store or as you go for an afternoon walk.
- Monitor their phone and/or social media to ensure appropriate use
- Actively supervise children in and around water
- Know your child's friends and teach them what a good friend looks like



This month's AVID focus is creating a strong college-going culture on campus. We are working on encouraging students to think about their college and career plans. We have covered our walls with college pennants and banners, and teachers are speaking to students about their

college and career experiences. 

**Communication
Corner**
with Mr. Gigliotti & Mr.
Everling

Two Ways to Build Expressive Language in the Car

- **Sequencing:** Ask your child to sequence the events for the day by using transition words. (For example, First we will go to the store. Then, we will go to the park.)
- **Describing:** Describe the items you see on the way to your destination by playing "I Spy." Encourage you child to tell the function, part, etc.



Proactive Behavior Tips from Mrs. Accola

The holidays are among us and that means your students might be spending a lot of time at home with you. Here are a few tips that could help curb some of the behaviors we see during the holidays.

1. Maintain a routine. Sure, we might push bedtime back a few times in order to make memories. Just make sure that you are not doing it too often, and that your child is getting adequate rest. Younger students might stay up later one night but go to bed earlier the next night.
2. Make your expectations explicitly clear. You might want to set boundaries around screen time, snacks, and other activities your students do not participate in during the school day. Of course, adults also must work and maintain our sanity. My recommendation is to hold off on the screen time until you really need or want it. This makes it much more desired by the student.
3. Do some homework every day. That could look like reading, Dreambox, practicing multiplication facts, writing letters to loved ones for the holidays. Going on a road trip? Have the kids read the road signs or play the "ABC" game for the ones who are not quite reading yet.
4. Communicate. Feeling overwhelmed and snap at your child? Be vulnerable and apologize. You can say something like "I'm sorry kiddo. I am feeling overwhelmed right now and I think I need some quiet time. Could you go find something quiet to do for five minutes and then I'll come check on you?" Tell your kids, "When you (behavior) I feel (feeling). What I would like to see is (appropriate behavior.)" I.e.: "When you scream and yell to get my attention, I feel frustrated. What I would like to see is you saying my name in a normal tone, and then waiting for me to respond. If I do not respond right away, count to 10 and then say my name again."

I hope you'll try at least one of these recommendations!



The cafeteria will be selling snacks daily in the café. Ice cream is still only on Friday (for now), but we are selling other snacks during the week (chips, cookies, etc). Prices range from \$0.50-\$1.25.