

Mustang Round-Up

Pinellas Central Elementary School Newsletter
ISSUE 4

Daphne Miles
Principal

Stacey Raspitz
Assistant Principal



A message from Ms. Miles...

It's Winter Break! Thank you for a very successful first semester of the school year. I am proud of our scholars as they have made tremendous academic progress. I am thankful for the PCE faculty and staff. They are committed to making every day count for our scholars. Also, I want to thank you as parents for partnering with us to make our school a special place of learning.

Winter Break is December 24, 2018 - January 7, 2019.

It is now time to take a well-deserved break to enjoy with family and friends. On behalf of the entire PCE faculty and staff,

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a wonderful New Year

*Sincerely,
Ms. Miles*



Patrols of the Month- November

Blake Currier- Blake is always willing to step up and help with fellow patrols with their duties. He keeps a positive attitude and is a great role model. Way to go Blake!

Zemarie Barnachea- Zenmarie is a great role model on post and in the classroom. She is always doing her best job and can be seen helping lead others in the classroom. Congratulations Zenmarie!



Upcoming Events



12/24-1/7 Winter Break, no school for students.

1/10 Pizza Hut Spirit Night

1/17 Kindergarten Round Up-Incoming K student 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

1/18 Report Cards

1/21 School Closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/24 Publix Math Night

1/28-2/1 Literacy Week 2019

2/6 BJ's Spirit Night

2/8 Valentine's Dance 6:00-7:30

2/18 No School for Students

3/1 Movie Under The Stars



Literacy Corner:

6 Tips to Keep our Scholars Reading Over Winter Break

Everyone loves school holidays, even teachers! Being able to relax and not operate on a schedule is an important part of each and every break from school. Now that school is out for two weeks, there are lots of things to do that are far more fun and interesting to do on a vacation than read, right?

Research clearly shows that when children put down their school books during a break, their reading ability drops with it. Therefore, because of this, it is vital we encourage our scholars to read widely and often while on winter break.

Here are five tips to make sure your children engage in reading over the break:

Make reading time fun and quick. Read together with funny voices. Try humorous books to engage your reluctant readers. Aim for 10 minutes a day of reading together.

Visit a bookstore or the local library. While you are out Christmas shopping, stop at a local bookstore or the book department of Walmart or Target. Let them browse through the books. Think about buying a book or two for a Christmas gift. During the break, take them to the Public Library. Even if they don't check books out, they can spend time reading them. Check their backpacks. They should all be bringing books home to read from school.

Allow your child to choose what they want to read. Children, just like adults, will rarely read anything that they don't love or enjoy. Having choice lets you child have control over the reading process.

Have a screen free night: This is probably the most difficult of all in our world of technology. If a whole night seems out of the question, try to set aside 30 minutes where everyone, even you, are reading. You could read anything - the newspaper, magazines, cookbooks, comic books, novels – any printed material works that will allow you to read and talk together about what you are reading.

Read together using supportive strategies. Decided how they want to read, silent or aloud. Try a paired reading – they read a page, you read a page – make it a contest to see who reads it best. If your child comes to a word they don't know or aren't sure of try these strategies:

Wait, give them a chance to figure it out on their own.

Ask: Does it make sense? Does the picture give a clue? Can you read on for more information?

Word parts: are their word parts you are familiar with?

Tell: Ask, "Is the word _____ or _____? Let them choose base on letters and sounds.

Establishing a time each day where reading habits can be supported will not only establish your family as active readers, but will give them the best boost for starting the school year back in January.

Happy Holidays!

Emily Shelly
Literacy Coach



PE NEWS

The last few weeks before vacation your child will be participating in a variety of Fitness Games that are sports oriented and support components of fitness. Some of the games we will do outside during P.E. will be aerobic bowling, a fitness circuit, and a bucket run. Enjoy your winter break and stay active.

P.E. Team

Music News

Our chorus has done an amazing job this season!

Last week they performed for students and on they performed at the Holly Jolly Pajama Party!

Great job PCE Chorus!



Art News

Kids Tag Art Pinellas
PCE 5th graders designed a unique vanity tag during art class.

Kids Tag Art Pinellas is a Florida Standards-aligned curriculum where Pinellas County 5th graders design their own unique vanity tags (front license plates) during art class. The 2018/2019 school year features nearly 2,000 designs that can be viewed and purchased at kidstagartpinellas.org.



Kids Tag Art Pinellas is a community partnership program made possible by partnerships between the Pinellas County Tax Collector's Office, School District, and generous community sponsors. More information can be found at <http://taxcollect.com/kids-tag-art-pinellas/>.

Student of the Month

—
November 2018

Congratulations for showing
CITIZENSHIP

Kindergarten: Jeremy J., Evelyn N., Sophia H., Layla H., Jesiah M.

1st Grade: Yamilliz J., Eric T., Kouture B., Lexi D., Christopher J., Vy H.

2nd Grade: Madelyn M., Aiden W., Christian V., Lyna L., Shelby W.

3rd Grade: Isabelle R., Roberto R., Isabella A., Edi R., Alanis O.

4th Grade: Abigail H., Caden F., Yadhu J., Allisa D.

5th Grade: Gusmary M., Brandy S., Mia D., Alisyn J.

Occupational and Physical Therapy

Move to Learn

Today more children than ever before are starting school unprepared for the demanding skills of near-point work and whole-body coordination on the playground. Insisting that children do paper and pencil tasks before they have good motor control can lead to learning skills on an under-developed background. This can lead to a poor grasp of classroom tools and poor penmanship.

It's important that children spend a good amount of time outdoors playing to develop skills that will benefit them not only in PE but in the classroom as well. Physical activity helps improve body awareness, posture, mental clarity and focus/attention. It also helps to relieve stress and it helps build foundations for social skills.

Parents, you can help your child by limiting screen time and by going to the playground or playing outside every day. This should be as important as doing homework. Add movement activities before sitting down to complete homework or incorporate movement into homework. For example, when learning spelling words or math skills try spelling the words or reciting math problems while he/she is doing jumping jacks or jumping side to side over a rope that is on the ground.

Title I News



One of the most important factors in a student's success is parental involvement. As such, we are pleased to provide you with this year's Parent's Guide. In an effort to better serve our families, this year's guide comes in a calendar format to help you keep track of important dates, while still containing valuable information that will be helpful to you and your child throughout the year.

Link to electronic calendar: <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/9688>

Family Engagement

We are in the season of giving! Now is the perfect time to register as a volunteer or mentor at our school! As an active volunteer you will know firsthand of the volunteer opportunities at our school, be involved in your child's school and class, are able chaperone a field trip with your child. As a mentor to a student, you will be visiting with an assigned student once a week during their lunch time. You can talk about school, hobbies, or extra-curricular activities. You will have the opportunity to help a child build greater success by being a listening ear and a friend. These memories are endless, and we appreciate our volunteers and mentors offering their time to us!

Please contact our Family & Community Liaison, Ms. Hullum at hullums@pcsb.org if you are interested in volunteering or mentoring.

Welcome

PCE would like to welcome a new member to our Mustang team! School Security Officer, Stan Schneider.

We are so excited to have him here with us and over the past couple of weeks our students have had the opportunity to get to know him. You can find him roaming the halls and keeping us safe!

Welcome to the Mustang family Mr. Schneider!

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!

Are you planning a family trip for the holidays? As you think about your arrangements, we want to stress the importance of sending your child to school every day possible. Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. It's time to break that cycle. We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school.

Put simply, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation. We recognize that holidays are an important time for reconnecting with families far away. The costs of plane tickets often influence when you want to travel. But keep in mind the costs to your children's education if they miss too much school— and the message you will be sending about the importance of attendance. Even if you've got a homework packet from the teacher, it doesn't make up for the interaction and learning that happens in the classroom. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until vacation starts and the first day back. You can help us convey that message. This holiday season, give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration begins Jan. 14

Beginning Jan. 14, parents can register their children for kindergarten for next school year. We will hold our registration kick off on Jan 17th from 6pm-7pm... Families will have opportunities to register for kindergarten, explore classrooms, meet teachers and find out how to get their children ready for kindergarten.

Pinellas Central Clinic

We are collecting new and gently worn clothing items that you may be getting rid of. If your student has outgrown something consider donating it to our clinic! We are mostly in need of bottoms (shorts & pants) in all sizes. Please remember us when your student outgrows their clothing.

Pinellas County Schools

Did you know that Pinellas County Schools has begun to use text messages as an additional way to communicate with families in the 2018-19 school year. Text messages will only be used to communicate information related to school emergencies. Parents/guardians of students in Pinellas County Schools can text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587 to begin receiving text messages from the school district. Opting out is easy: send the message "Stop" to 67587 at any time.



If you already receive recorded phone messages from your child's school on your mobile number, you are ready to opt in to receive text messages. If you do not already receive recorded phone messages on your mobile phone, please contact your student's school to provide a mobile phone number and update the information in FOCUS (student information system).

Update Your Address

Planning to move? According to the Code of Student Conduct, if you have moved over the summer or will move during the school year, parents are required to give the school their new address within five days of their move. If the school discovers that you have moved and you have not told them, your child could be considered to be "found out of that school's attendance area." This could mean an immediate change of school for your child and your child could be deemed ineligible for athletics and other school activities and risk being assigned to the wrong Middle School after completing 5th grade. Follow these easy steps to update your address and to keep the district informed.

Steps to change your child's address during the school year:

Log in with your User ID and Password to the [Student Reservation System](#)
Click on **Change of Residence Address** link and follow the steps.



Proof of Residence Requires two of the following items: utility bill for power, water, cable, sewer or land-based telephone (not cellular); rental agreement or lease; closing document; Pinellas County tax statement with homestead exemption. The items must be recent and include the name of the parent/guardian and the service/home address.

If more information is needed, you may email Tiffany Gipson our DMT at Gipsont@pcsb.org