



# Belcher Elementary

Home of the Bobcats



March 2019

2215 Lancaster Drive Clearwater, FL 33760

727-538-7437

Volume 1, Issue 2



*From* **Principal Roth**



Greetings Belcher Families,

It is difficult to believe, but our school year is more than half over! The semester point is past, and we are on our way to spring. We are looking at our mid-year data, so we can see the growth of our students and use this data to make any adjustments needed to ensure our students are getting the best education possible. Please be sure to meet with your child's teacher as they are setting up conferences now.

Remember to check our school website often as we have many activities coming up for students and families. We don't want you to miss out on all our family events. I want to remind you as well that we have a very active PTA and there is room for more to become involved.

Between the weather and cold and flu season, our students have been experiencing an increase in cold symptoms. Please continue to encourage frequent hand washing, keeping hands away from the face and mouth and coughing into the inside elbow rather than into the hands. In fact, we have an article with more information later in this newsletter. Please encourage your child to dress appropriately for the weather. I recognize that this is especially challenging in Florida because the weather in the morning can be very different by mid-day. If your child is missing any articles of clothing, please check our lost and found area in the breezeway by the Main Office. We clean this area periodically and donate to a local clothes closet or to needy students so this is a good opportunity to remind you to write your child's names or initials on their jackets, sweaters, etc.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support of our school and our Bobcats.

Lisa Roth

## March

- 1st- Volunteer Café 9-10:30 AM
- 6th- PTA Spirit Night- Tijuana Flats 4:00- 8:00 PM
- 8th- Pro Ed Day- NO SCHOOL for students
- 11-15th- Spring Break- NO SCHOOL
- 19th- PTA meeting 4:30 PM in media center
- 19th- SAC meeting 6:00 PM in media center
- 21st- Spring Photos- School Picture Day
- 29th- Report cards go home

## Up-Coming Dates -April

- 4th- PTA Spirit Night- McDonald's 5:00-7:00 PM
- 5th- Volunteer Café 9-10:30 AM
- 9th- 5th Grade Enterprise Village Field Trip
- 9th- PTA meeting 4:30 PM in Media Center
- 9th- SAC meeting 6:00 PM in Media Center
- 11th- Spring Concert 6:00-8:00 PM
- 11th- Science Expo
- 12th- Volunteer Appreciation Event 9-10:30 AM
- 12th- Honors Assemblies
- 19th- Pro Ed Day- NO SCHOOL for students

## March— Honesty

Using truthful speech and behavior.

## April— Self Control

Managing your emotions and choosing acceptable behavior.

# News you can use

## Guidance

This month we are wrapping up Self Control in 2nd grade and starting Testing Tips in grades 3-5 for the upcoming FSA.

Commitment to Character for February is Tolerance. March is Honesty.

Thank you,

Carol Ballenger

School Counselor

Belcher Elementary School

727-538-7437 ext. 2013

## Future Largo Middle Students....

We hope to see many of the incoming 6th grade families at

Largo Middle

School's Parent

Night on March 7th

from 6:00-7:30pm.



## Homework Helpline

Pinellas County Schools Homework Helpline, (727) 547-7223, offers free homework help for students in grades 1-12. The Homework Helpline is staffed by teachers certified in math, science, language arts and social studies. Help is available from 5 to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, on all school days, except when there is no school the following day.



Hello Students & Parents, A message from your school SSO. I would like to reiterate some safety tips for you to share with your children.

Safety tip number one: Never open doors or gates for someone you don't

know, if they need to get into the door or gate they will have a key. For more questions regarding this ask your Teacher. Second, make sure doors and gates are always closed. If you see one open let your Teacher, or the nearest adult know that it needs to be closed. Third, if you see something say something. Don't confront the issue, let the closest adult or Teacher know. Thank you for letting me share some tips to help us all be safe here at Belcher Elementary. Always feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached through dispatch at (727) 547-7221 and or at the school at (727) 538-7437.

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Parents,

School begins promptly at 8:45 AM. Please be sure to have your children on time as we begin FSA testing.

# Specials

## Physical Education

### Stress and Your Child

According to the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, all children feel stress from time to time: starting school, getting used to a new sibling, adjusting to a growing body during the preteen years, conflict at home, illness, parental separation, school problems. You can teach children ways to handle new or frustrating situations and manage stress.

### Some Signs of Child Stress:

- Physical: headaches, stomachaches, vomiting, wetting
- Emotional: fear, irritability, sadness
- Behavioral: crying, nervous tics, losing temper
- Interactions with others: withdrawing, teasing or bullying, extreme shyness

### Helping Your Child Cope with Stress:

- Help children talk about what is bothering them. Don't force the talk, but offer opportunities such as bedtime or car trips. Instead of asking, "What's wrong?" ask, "How are things going at school?" Respect their answers; criticism may cause them to stop sharing.
- Work off stress through physical activities like bike riding, walking, or swimming.
- Spend one-to-one time through hobbies you do together, making time to talk.
- Encourage healthy eating; it makes young bodies better able to handle stress.
- Eat meals together as a family; it helps kids eat better food, have better school grades, fewer problem behaviors, and better peer relationships than kids who don't eat with their family.
- Show kids how to relax by remembering or imagining pleasant situations like a favorite vacation or happy experience.
- Give short back or shoulder rubs and hugs to help kids relax.
- Teach kids that mistakes are learning opportunities and that everyone makes mistakes.
- Tell or read stories that show a child successfully coping with stress.
- Model ways to handle stress — exercise daily, eat healthy, relax with hobbies, and encourage mealtime sharing.

## Art Update

Fifth grade is getting ready for their field trip to the James Museum. We have been learning about the art of the horse through history, as well as the importance of horses in Native American cultures.

Three 5th graders had their work chosen for the 3+ Dimensions: K-12 Sculpture/Ceramic/Movie Exhibition to be held at Gibbs HS. This is a great honor as this a juried exhibition and competition is really tough.

Fourth grade just finished a unit on Industrial Design. We studied the work of famous industrial designer Raymond Loewy and made clay models of their favorite drawing of a future product, from their sketchbook.

Third grade is finishing their work on Symmetry Under the Sea. Students created an underwater drawing and a fish sculpture to go with it.

Second grade is finishing learning about animals in the jungle with artist Henri Rousseau. We drew a picture of a jungle and made clay animal sculptures as well.

First grade is finishing working on their Bird Sculptures after finishing a unit on bird prints with Japanese artist Ohara Koson.

Kindergarten is learning that art can express feeling with colors, as well as people's expressions. Look for their large feeling poster to go home this week.

Parents thank you for all the encouragement you give your children to create at home. I love all they drawings and fun art projects they bring in to show me.

Teresa Testa, Art Teacher

## Bully Free Zone!

5517.01 - POLICY AGAINST BULLYING AND HARASSMENT Statement Prohibiting Bullying and Harassment It is the policy of the School Board that all of its students, employees, and volunteers learn and work in an environment that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The Board will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited. This policy shall be interpreted and applied consistently with all applicable State and Federal laws and the Board's collective bargaining agreements. Conduct that constitutes bullying, harassment, or discrimination, as defined herein and in F.S. 1006.147, is prohibited. For more information...

<https://www.pcsb.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=3651>



Oceans of Fun Concert,  
Science Fair Viewing, and  
PTA Event

April 11th at 6pm  
Performers:  
Kindergarten,  
2nd Grade and Chorus

All invited to attend



Congratulations  
All County Chorus  
Participants  
2019



Victoria Ngo  
Riley Ornduff  
Emma Weiser

# From the clinic

Healthy & tasty foods  
that strengthen your teeth!



## KIDS AND TEETH CLEANING

### HOW TO BRUSH YOUR TEETH

Good brushing technique should take 2 minutes

Divide the mouth into 6 sections and take 20 seconds to brush each.

Start with outer surfaces of the lower jaw

Then the inner and then the biting surfaces

Repeat with the upper jaw

Small circular movements near the gumline is most effective.

All children up to three years old should use a toothpaste with a fluoride level of at least 1000ppm (parts per million). After three years old, they should use a toothpaste that contains 1350ppm to 1500ppm.

## I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...

I HAVE A FEVER	I AM VOMITING	I HAVE DIARRHEA	I HAVE A RASH	I HAVE HEAD LICE	I HAVE AN EYE INFECTION	I HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL
Temperature of 100 degrees F or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching, and/or pus draining from eye	Hospital stay and/or emergency room visit

## I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM...

Fever free without the assistance of medication for 24 hours (i.e., Tylenol, Motrin, Advil)	Free from vomiting for 24 hours.	Free from diarrhea for 24 hours.	Free from rash, itching or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home.	Free from drainage and/or have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Released by my medical provider to return to school.
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If your child has strep throat or another bacterial infection, he/she should stay home until the antibiotic has been given for at least 24 hours and your health care provider has given permission for your child to return to school. We encourage you to seek medical attention when your child is sick and to follow your health care provider's recommendations about returning to school and other activities.

# Volunteer

*From* **Principal Roth**

I want to give a very special thank you to all of our volunteers and mentors! Your dedication to our students is incredible and because of you we can help our students achieve at higher levels. Thank you so much for going above and beyond to make every student feel special. Remember to sign in and out each time you volunteer. Every minute counts!

Lisa K. Roth

**PTA**

*everychild.one voice.*

Joining our PTA is fast and easy!

Please email Tiffany Young, our

membership chair, if you are interested at [Youngti@pcsb.org](mailto:Youngti@pcsb.org). Membership forms and school t-shirts are available for purchase anytime between 8:00-2:30. Please see Ms. Young in the office

Our next meeting is March 19th at 4:30 PM.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

March 1st– Volunteer Café 9:00-10:30 AM  
March 1st & 4th– Door Decorating 9:00 AM  
March 21st– Spring Picture Day 8:00 AM  
April 1st & 2nd– Door Decorating 9:00 AM  
April 5th– Volunteer Café 9:00-10:30 AM  
April 9th– Enterprise Village



ALL students receive free breakfast and lunch.

**Outstanding School Volunteers**  
Congratulations to this year's Outstanding Volunteers at Belcher Elementary School!

**Hunter Koch, Kristina Tubbs, & Kathy Wills**

Lunch menus for the district can be found at: <https://pcsb.nutrislice.com/menu>

Payments to lunch accounts can be made at: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com>

# Enrichment Clubs



## PMAC

The Principal's Multicultural Advisory Committee, known as PMAC, is a multicultural group that models and promotes tolerance and acceptance of people regardless of their appearance, gender, race, ethnic group, religion, or physical ability. Belcher's PMAC Committee is in need of more 4th grade dedicated and enthusiastic members!

We meet on the first Friday of each month.

## Girlfriend's Club

*Mission: To create a supportive environment for young ladies in Pinellas County that will promote student achievement, encourage positive behaviors, enhance self-discipline, develop personal dependability, cultivate high self-esteem, build strong relationships, encourage community service, and provide positive role models.*

*Here at Belcher our Girlfriends Club meets weekly on Thursdays.*

## STEPS

**February in STEPS we are talking about leadership qualities and what type of leader do the kids feel they are. We will also be discussing our upcoming field trip in April to SPC Clearwater. Info sheets will go home next week.**

## Gifted Update- Mrs. Stefanko

Gifted classes are working on Historical Fiction projects at home and are studying the historical events of the 1970's and 1980's in class. We will begin construction of our Decade Parade floats in April, so if any parents who are registered volunteers would like to help, please let Mrs. Stefanko or Ms. Young know what days and times you are available!



## Fishing & Estuary Club

Fishing club is fishing in Allen's creek catching redfish, sheepshead, and black drum. We meet weekly on Fridays.

## STEM

This month 2nd grade STEM is learning about airplanes and wing design. 3rd grade is learning about parachute technology.

We meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays.

## Garden Club

We meet the first Thursday of every month. This school year we have both male and female students planting, harvesting, and maintaining our school garden. So far, we have harvested some great tomatoes and green peppers. The cafeteria has been using them in our farmers salad. At our next meeting we will be joining the girlfriends club to go over nutrition.

Thank you to Home Depot on Gulf to Bay for the donation of mulch & homer buckets.



## Promise time

Promise time is an extended learning opportunity to our students. This is provided by the use of a digital learning program I-ready and small reading and math groups. This program takes place Monday-Thursday here on campus.