



# CURTIS CHRONICLE

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Richard Knight, Principal, KNIGHTRI@pcsb.org

Ward Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent, Area 1, 727-588-5023

DECEMBER 2018

## Dates to Remember

**No PTA Meeting  
In December**

**- December 11 -**  
Chorus Performance

**- Dec. 24 to Jan. 6 -**  
Winter Break

**- January 7 -**  
No school for students

**- January 8 -**  
Return to School  
&  
PTA Meeting  
In the Classroom

## *From the desk of the Principal*



Dear Curtis Fundamental Families,

In the month of December, all students will be assessed on the second round of MAP Assessments. Students will be taking the Mathematics and Reading portion of MAP on the computer. We have been encouraging all of our students to stay focused and to "Show what they know" on the test. Please remind your students, as we do, to take their time, use all the strategies they have been taught and to keep a positive attitude.

Based on district data over the last three years, the second MAP assessment is a good indicator as to how students in third, fourth and fifth grade may perform on the Mathematics and ELA FSA. Once testing is completed, teachers will be sharing your students results with you. The results we receive from this assessment help teachers to differentiate instruction based on individual needs so that students receive instruction in areas that they still need assistance in for Mathematics and ELA.

We will not be having a PTA Meeting or Open Court in the month of December. Our next PTA Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00. The focus of the PTA Meeting will be on what will be happening second semester in your child classroom. These discussions will take place either individually in each classroom or grade level. More information will be sent out about specific grade level locations as we get closer to the event.

We have also moved the location of the pick-up for parent PTA cards to the front of the school in front of the administration building. Make sure to stop by and pick up your card before you come on campus for all PTA events!

Winter Break begins December 24th and we look forward to seeing all our students back on Tuesday, January 8th. I hope everyone enjoys their Winter Break. Take time together as a family to create lasting memories!

Sincerely,

*Mr. Richard Knight*

**727-738-6483**

### School Mission

Teachers, students, staff, parents and community are partners in education. We join together to assure a focus on highest student achievement by implementing the Plan/Do/Study/Act cycle. Our goal is for each student to learn and to be successful.

# Counselor's Corner

*During Classroom Guidance in November, our topic was*

## **Gratitude.**

**Kindergarten:** We read the book *The Giving Tree*. The students then did an activity where they drew pictures and wrote about the people they can help by giving them their "gifts".

**First Grade:** The classes made Bucket Filler Friendship Chains. The students got into pairs and each got a strip of paper. On one side of the paper was the partner's name. On the other side, the students drew and wrote as many positive qualities about the other person that they could think of. The strips were colored and decorated, and then presented in front of the class. Each of the strips was stapled together to make a chain. The chain was a visual representation of the friendships that bind the class together.

**Second Grade:** The students practiced creating "Even If" statements. For example, "Even if it's raining outside, I can still read a book inside until it stops.". The students recognized that they have the power and control to make positive choices for themselves, even in negative situations. There is always something to have gratitude for, in every situation.

**Third Grade:** We read the book *The Bad Seed*, and then played the Gratitude Game. Students got into groups and were given a topic. The groups then had to come up with responses as to why they are grateful for that specific thing. For example, storms. They water the earth, end in rainbows, cool off hot days, etc. The goal of the activity was to encourage students to be grateful in unusual circumstances, and to remember that no matter how bad a situation or person seems, there is always good to be found.

**Fourth Grade:** We read the fable *The Lion and the Mouse*. The students took a closer look at the lessons of "Even the great need the help of the small" and "Treat others the way you want to be treated". We then had small group and whole group discussion about how the students have experienced this in their own lives.

**Fifth Grade:** The classes did a restorative circle activity using Gratitude Talking Cards. The students selected cards that they connected to or that reminded them of something they are grateful for in some way. There was time for quiet thinking, then partner turn and talk to communicate the gratitude connection with the image. The students then shared with the whole class what they heard from their classmates about gratitude. The exit task was, be grateful for what you have. Notice what is working and what is right in the world.

Classroom Guidance in December will focus on Career Exploration.

**Heidi Jolliffe** - School Counselor  
Jolliffeh@pcsb.org



# Media Center News



## **CFN BROADCAST TEAM FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**

Regan C., Ryan W., Stephanie K.,  
Luci C., and Anabela J.

## **Fall Book Fair A GREAT SUCCESS!**

Thank you parents, teachers and students for generously supporting our library and promoting reading at our fall book fair. The book fair proceeds help us to support the technology and library needs of our school. Thank you to all the volunteers for their many hours of time.

## **Internet Safety Lessons in the Library**

Students in Grades 3 -5 in the Library have been exploring a site Google created called Interland (<http://g.co/Interland>). It is a browser-based game that makes learning internet safety skills interactive and fun – just like the Internet itself. Be Internet Awesome provides fun, age-appropriate learning experiences built around five foundational lessons:

- Share with Care
- Don't Fall for Fake
- Secure Your Secrets
- It's Cool to Be Kind
- When in Doubt, Talk It Out

We invite you to check out the resources for families that are available at [g.co/BeInternetAwesome](http://g.co/BeInternetAwesome). We encourage you to ask your student about what activities they are participating in and continue the conversation at home – and who knows, you just might pick up a few privacy and security tricks yourself!

## *ART Room News*

The month of November has been a busy one in the art room. We have been making LOTS of handmade tiles in preparation for the mosaic project everyone will be working on in January with artist Heather Richardson.

Thank you to those families who have brought in donations of tiles for the project!

If you have any unwanted tile laying around or if you have a resource for getting tile please contact me.

## *Outstanding Artists*

Congratulations to the following artists for having their artwork chosen to be included in the Creative Start Art Exhibit at the Dunedin Fine Art Center:

**Julia H.**

**Mariana J.**

The exhibit will be open in January with a reception for the artists on January 13.

*Linda Hilterbrandt*





# Musical Moments

Song of the Month for December is “You’re a Grand Old Flag”

**Kindergarten** will be exploring high sounds, low sounds and sounds that stay the same. We are constantly practicing the difference between Pitched instruments and Un-pitched instruments. We will be identifying phrases through chanting, singing, moving, and instrument playing. We also will be learning how to maintain a Steady Beat.

**First grade** will be performing rhythm patterns over the Steady Beat. We will be practicing knowing the difference between Pitched and Un-pitched instruments. We will be identifying quarter notes and rests. We will listen for upward, downward, and repeated pitches.

**Second grade** will be singing, playing and Identifying low Do (pitch). We will explore the half note through movement and identify two tied quarter notes and half rest. We constantly discuss the difference between pitched and un-pitched instruments.

**Third grade** will be reading, writing and performing in 2/4 and 4/4 meter. We will be notating rhythms and bar line placement in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. We are constantly practicing using the classroom instruments and knowing the difference between pitched and un-pitched instruments.

**Fourth grade** will be identifying sixteenth notes by playing and reading while practicing notes previously learned. We will be reading high C,B,A, and G and low E and D and play them on classroom instruments.

**Fifth grade** will be performing themes and variations. We will be reading high D, C, B, A, G, F#, and F and low E, D, and C and playing them on classroom instruments.

## **CHORUS Concert is Tuesday, December 11th**

Please have the Chorus children at school by 7:30a.m. so they can put their things down, turn in their homework and meet me in the Auditorium before our morning performance for the school. Any questions, feel free to email me.



# PE News



Units: Students have been engaged in the following units:

K-2: Striking with your feet

3rd- 5th: Invasion games

Speed Cup Demonstration: Danielle Nutter from SpeedStacks.com presented the sport of Sport Stacking. The students were introduced to a pattern called 3-3-3 and were taught to stack and unstack the cups using a left/right hand pattern for speed. They also participated in a relay, using both small and large cups. The students really enjoyed the activity. If you are interested in purchasing the speed cups you can go to the following link: [www.speedstacks.com](http://www.speedstacks.com). It is a great activity that promotes right & left brain activation, energy expenditure as well as improved visual processing skills.

## Patrols

Second semester patrols will begin training the week of December 17th and they will take over permanently when we return from break. A letter will be coming home soon. Please encourage your child to take this job seriously, they have an important role within the school. If you have any questions please feel free to send me an email, [Manleys@PCSB.org](mailto:Manleys@PCSB.org).

## Healthy Eating Tips for Kids

FYI: Before bringing in unhealthy snacks for teachers/students, please remember we are a Healthy School. Thank you.

Be creative

Slow it down

Have fun in the kitchen

Eat together

Grow your own

Drink water

Choose healthier snacks

Eat breakfast





PTA Connection  
presents

# COUGARS' ROAR

Curtis Fundamental  
Elementary  
**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.

**December 2018**

Mr. Richard Knight

**Principal**

Laura Daniels

**PTA President**

Amber Warren

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Public  
Relations**

Marley Lindlay

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Volunteer  
Coordinator**

Sherri Amato

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Programs**

Char Leiningar

**Treasurer**

Anne-Maire Nurnberger

**Recording Secretary**

Brittany Maglio

**Corresponding Secretary**

Cynthia Weclaw

**SAC Liaison**

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**CONTACT US:**

**Curtis T-Shirts:**

[janacurtisshirts@gmail.com](mailto:janacurtisshirts@gmail.com)

**Yearbook:**

[curtisyearbook513@gmail.com](mailto:curtisyearbook513@gmail.com)

**All other PTA questions/  
comments:**

[curtiscougarspta@gmail.com](mailto:curtiscougarspta@gmail.com)

## A Message From Your PTA

There will be no PTA meeting for the month of December.

The Curtis Fundamental PTA appreciates all of your participation throughout the year to help make school events a success. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



## Yearbook News

We are so close to reaching our end of year goal! If you ordered your book, thank you for your support. If you haven't already, order today at <http://commpe.pictavo.com>. There's a limited number of available recognition ads, page sponsorships, and well wishes available so place your order before they are gone!

Don't forget to submit your photos for consideration to <http://commpe.pictavo.com>. If you have any questions, contact us at [curtisyearbook513@gmail.com](mailto:curtisyearbook513@gmail.com).

