

September 2017

Curtis CHRONICLE

531 Beltrees Street Dunedin, Florida 34698

www.curtis-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us 727-738-6483

Richard F. Knight, Principal, knightri@pcsb.org

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

Dates to Remember

– September 1 –

Open Court 8:15 a.m.

– September 1 –

Volunteer Orientation

Immediately Following

Open Court

– September 4 –

NO SCHOOL

Labor Day

– September 12 –

PTA Meeting 7:00 pm

– September 14 –

Mother/Son Date Night

Celebration station

Clinic Help

Volunteers are still needed in the clinic until we have a fulltime nurse at the school every day. Please call the front office if you are able to volunteer some time helping out kiddos who may just need a Band-Aid, ice, or a short rest in the clinic.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2017-2018 school year. This has been a wonderful opening to the school year. All of our students are getting acclimated to their classrooms and their new teachers. Our teachers are hard at work creating a learning environment that meets the needs of all of our students.

I would like to share with you our school goals for the year:

- Students will track their own progress towards high achievement.
- Teachers and students will use Goals and Scales in all classrooms to focus on standards and success!
- All lessons will be differentiated to meet the diverse needs of all of our students!

These goals will be a focus for our students and staff all year long.

I would also like to welcome our new families. There is so much to learn about being an active part to this learning community. Be sure to ask any questions you have. Our Parent/Student Handbook Calendar is a wealth of information to you-arrival and dismissal procedures, lunches, PTA meetings, attendance and much more. Please refer to it often. Be sure you "like" our Facebook page and are on our Constant Contact list. Our office staff is always willing to answer any questions you have about being a part of this wonderful learning community!

Please help us in welcoming Mrs. Carrie Brown. Mrs. Brown is our new Gifted and Talented Teacher. She comes to us from Pasadena Fundamental.

I am thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful community! I am looking forward to a great year here at Curtis Fundamental!

Sincerely,
Richard Knight,
Principal, Curtis Fundamental Elementary

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.

OPEN COURT

Our first Open Court will be Friday, Sept. 1st. This tradition has been carried on for many years as a way to recognize student achievements at school and in the community. It is scheduled for the first Friday of the month. Students may bring awards or recognitions they have received recently in the community and have a chance to share those with the entire school. Join us in the celebration in the auditorium at 8:15!



MUSICAL MOMENTS



Kindergarten has been learning to identify the names of different classroom instruments

1st has been classifying (big word) instruments into pitched and un-pitched

2nd has been classifying instruments into Membranes (skin), Metal and Wood

3rd-5th have been identifying aurally (ear) and visually various instruments in the band and orchestra family



4th grade Chorus begins Wednesday, August 23 from 1:10-2:00

5th grade Chorus begins Thursdays, August 24 from 12:20-1:05

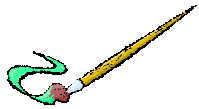


Behavior is a priority for learning, especially in a fundamental setting. Choosing fundamental means you want them to learn to their best potential in a structured learning environment. Music classes are 45 minutes once a week. I am constantly monitoring learning and behavior during class. When behavior effects the learning of other children in the class, we have an issue. I've decided to try a new "emoji" system this year. The children will have multiple chances to show me E behavior. All children come into the music room with V behavior (breathing and following directions). E means going beyond what is expected. Please praise your children for V and E behaviors in music class and on report cards. V is the expectation in music. S means we haven't been following the rules the entire time. N means a written warning. If you ever have any questions, please email me at noordhoekh@pcsb.org

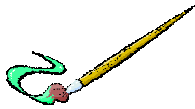
Arrival and Dismissal Procedures



Our arrival and dismissal procedures help to get students to class on time and expedite the movement of traffic in the mornings and afternoon. The Dunedin Blue Jays have graciously offered their parking lot for our parents for before and after school parking. Parking in their lot and walking the short distance to Curtis is not only healthy but is often more timely than the car-line! It is also a great way to spend a little extra time with your child to discuss their day at school.



ART NEWS



Welcome back to school for another exciting year in art! I am thrilled to be able to tell you that we will be getting a new iPad art lab this year from the Art Department to use for creating digital art! This is possible through the additional funds allocated through the referendum to support art programs in our schools. Thank you for voting last year to renew the referendum for another four year term!

Currently in grades K-2 we are looking at how artists use lines and shapes in their art to create drawings and patterns. In grades 3-5 we are working on putting together our portfolios and sketchbooks that will be used in the art room throughout the year to keep track of our artistic growth.

UPCOMING EVENT

Kids Art Fest at the Dunedin Fine Art Center Saturday, September 9th 10:00-2:00. This is a free event at the art center with lots of hands on art activities for children. We will have a make and take booth sponsored by Curtis at the event so come out and join us for a fun, artsy Saturday!

Important Dismissal Information!



Do you have a different pick-up routine than usual?

Please send a note to your child's teacher the morning of the change in pick-up. Only call the office with changes if it is an emergency. If your child is an aftercare van rider, you must notify the office in writing. Please include the child's name, their teacher's name and the name of the aftercare provider.

Mentoring Opportunity



Are you interested in mentoring a student here at Curtis? We are expanding our Lunch Buddy Mentor Program and are seeking additional adult mentors. Mentors are required to attend a district training prior to mentoring. The dates for training are posted in the front office. For more information please contact our school counselor, Melinda Watson at 738-6483 ext: 2038 or watsonmel@pcsb.org



News from the Library



HATS OFF! TO OUR FIRST CFN BROADCAST TEAM OF THE YEAR FOR AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

Asher H, Grace Ly, Ty Z and Andrew B

[CFN TEAM ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR WERE SENT HOME LAST WEEK.]

Clinic Information

Pinellas County school nurses identify and assist students with health-care needs during the school day. A clinic card is sent home with each student at the beginning of every school year. Please complete this card promptly and update the information as often as needed. During this school year, students will be screened for vision, hearing, and BMI as mandated by state statute.



If you do not want your student to be screened or to receive health services while in school, please submit this request in writing to your school and School Health Services.

Our school's screening day is March 22, 2018. For questions regarding nursing services or screenings, please call 727-588-6320.

Parent Tips: What Parents Should Know About Bullying



What is Bullying?

The Pinellas County Schools Policy against Bullying and Harassment defines bullying as: Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. In bullying situations there are always 3 key elements present:

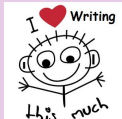
***Imbalance of Power**

***Intent to Harm**

***Repeated Behavior**

Bullying/Harassment at school can be reported:

- *Verbally or in writing to the principal or the principal's designee
- *Anonymously using the designated anonymous reporting procedure at each school or by going to <http://bullying.pcsb.org> or <http://harassment.pcsb.org> or
- * calling the Campus Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-873-8477 or Text keyword TIP144 plus your message to CRIMES (274637).



CURRICULUM



We've had a great start to the new school year!! Teachers and students have gotten to know each other and learning is underway. During the month of September, the focus in Reading is Literature.

Kindergarten and first grade build good reading habits, while second grade refines these habits; third grade launches the year with intensity, determination, & independence; fourth grade starts with a study of myths & traditional literature; and fifth grade reads between the lines, grasping themes by following characters and their struggles. Number Concepts are the focus in Math. Kindergarten will reinforce recognition of numbers and counting; first grade will work on addition and subtraction concepts; second grade works on number concepts to 1,000, while third grade adds and subtracts within 1,000; fourth grade will review place value while adding and subtracting to the millions; and fifth grade will also review place value, and work on multiplication and expressions. The emphasis in Science is Life. Units vary from grade to grade, but there's always something exciting to learn in science!

September is also a time when teachers will assess students' level of progress in reading, math, and science. This baseline data will allow the teachers to refine their lesson plans to student needs.

As always, continued support at home with your child's learning is essential to ensure their academic growth.

What's Happening in P.E.

WELCOME BACK



Welcome Back to Curtis P.E.!! We have had a great start to another year! Our first few weeks were filled with processes and procedures along with many cooperative games and activities. With the heat so extreme, most of our lessons are under the covered court. Even though we take frequent breaks to use the water fountain, water bottles are much easier and convenient for the kids. Please send a water bottle if you are not already doing so.

Celebrations/Snacks

As many families are aware, our school has been recognized through the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for meeting stringent standards set by the Alliance's Healthy Schools program! We are so proud that we received gold recognition and would love to remain a gold school. There are many ways you can help! Two ways are by sending healthy lunches and snacks with your child and by having healthy only celebrations in the classrooms. More information will be communicated to our families, PTA, and staff in the next few months. In the meantime, here is a list of healthy snack ideas: Fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, whole grain crackers, pretzels, or cereal bars, small whole grain bagel, low fat or air popped popcorn, graham crackers, low fat cheese sticks, trail mix, low fat yogurt.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at woodkaju@pcsb.org.

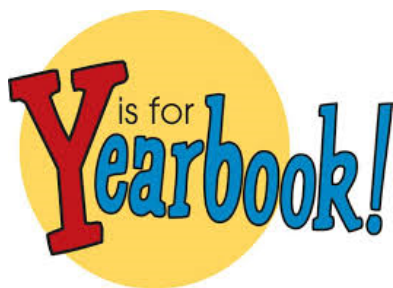
PATROLS

Mrs. Manley would like to thank all of our patrols for a great beginning!! As a reminder to parents, A.M. patrols begin their duty at 7:30 and P.M. patrols end at 2:20.

UPCOMING:

K-2: Building A Foundation (Movement Concepts)

3-5: Recreational Games



Our vendor, Pictavo, is busy putting their final touches on newly updated Community Software. They have planned releasing their newly redone interface in early

October. Please watch for more information then (ordering will not be available until then). If you would like to email

any photos that you have taken or will take around campus, please feel free to do so at CurtisYearbook@outlook.com. Please make sure to include the event, teacher name and the student's name as well. If you would like to assist in any portion of the making of the yearbook, please also contact me!



PTA Connection
presents

COUGARS' ROAR

Curtis Fundamental
Elementary
PTA
everychild.onevoice.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Mr. Richard Knight
Principal

Kelly Westerlund-Pena
PTA President

Laura Daniels
**1st Vice President, Public
Relations**

Sherri Amato
**2nd Vice President, Volunteer
Coordinator**

Lauren Thacker
3rd Vice President, Programs

Char Leininger
Treasurer

Estelle Valsamis
Recording Secretary

Anne-Maire Nurnberger
Corresponding Secretary

Like us on Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
CurtisFundamentalElementary](http://www.facebook.com/CurtisFundamentalElementary)

CONTACT US

Curtis T-Shirts:
curtisteeshirts@gmail.com

Yearbook:
curtisyearbook@outlook.com

**All other PTA questions/
comments:**
curtiscougarspta@gmail.com

A Message from your PTA



Welcome back to our returning families! To our new families, welcome to Curtis Fundamental! We hope you all enjoyed the fun-filled summer days, and it is with great enthusiasm that we invite you to get ready for another exciting and successful 2017-2018 school year. Your PTA has lots of exciting events planned. On behalf of the PTA Executive Board and all the volunteers, we wish everyone a very productive year ahead!

STUDENT LEARNING

With the money we get from member dues, sponsorships and fundraising **Curtis PTA** actively enhances student learning at the school.

We buy:

- *Scholastic readers for each classroom
- *Dictionaries for 1st grade
- *Literacy intervention kits
- *Classroom equipment - including a gridded white board for 4th grade math



These materials are above and beyond what students in other schools have access to as a result of your support. Thanks for all you do!

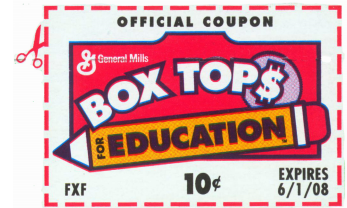
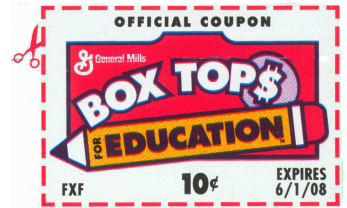
Box Tops

It's time for our Box Tops collection to begin again at Curtis, so please start collecting and sending them in now

The rules are simple:

1. Find Box Tops on participating products and cut them out.
2. Stick them onto the collection sheets or put them in a bag or envelope.
3. Send them into office

*Please ensure they are cut along the dotted pink line and send nothing that expires before 11/17. You can also sign up and support our school at www.boxtops4education.com. You can get coupons for Box Tops products and also enter for chances to win bonus Box Tops.



FALL T-SHIRTS

Fall Tee Shirts will be distributed this month. Help is always appreciated on tee shirt distribution day. You can email

curtisteeshirts@gmail.com

and let us know if you are interested in helping out.

YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

5TH GRADERS

Keep an eye out for our yearbook cover page contest. Information will go home in the fall.

upcoming EVENTS

Mother/Son Date Night

Celebration Station – Clearwater
September 14th - 5:00 - 8:00 PM.
\$15.99 per person

Fall Fundraiser / Charleston Wrap

Beginning in October! Look for catalogue and order forms coming home the 1st week of October.

Trunk or Treat

Friday, October 20th at the Curtis Campus.

Become A Sponsor!

PAW PARTNERS (A.K.A. Class Sponsorship)

There is still time to be a class sponsor! We have a number of teachers and specialists that are not fully sponsored and we could use your help. Any amount that you donate is greatly appreciated.

Where does the sponsorship money go you may ask? Items are purchased for their individual classes like books, classroom supplies, science materials, classroom incentives and many more items.

Sponsorship forms are available in the front office or you can email Kristie Lyerly at kalyerly@gmail.com.

A big thank you to all the families and businesses who have donated so far. It is truly appreciated by all.

Curtis PTA is proud to host

MOTHER/SON DATE NIGHT

CELEBRATION STATION

24546 US-19, Clearwater, FL 33763

Thursday, September 14th, 5:00PM-7:00PM.

\$15.99 per person

Tickets include Pizza, salad bar, drinks and
UNLIMITED OUTDOOR RIDES!

Order forms will be in your child's folder. Please
complete and return ASAP



Treasurer's CORNER

Hi Curtis Families, my name is Char Leininger and I'm your new PTA Treasurer. I'm excited to dive into everything! Since our budget was approved I have started making deposits from our first day packets and Splash Day. I have also started to write checks for our PTA conferences, Boo Hoo Breakfast and the maintenance lunch. This year we will be giving everyone an update on the monthly bank account balances including our income and expenses for the month in this newsletter and at the PTA meetings. So happy to be part of this school and PTA!

*Thank
you*

*We would like to thank the
Valsamis & Wadland families for
sponsoring the Back to School
Teacher Breakfast!*

