

Working together we can
Get engaged in
education
make a difference



**PINELLAS
COUNTY
SCHOOLS**

AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
INSTITUTION
FOR EDUCATION &
EMPLOYMENT

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"Pioneers for the Future"

APRIL 2016

A note from Mrs. Buckles.....

Greetings Pioneer Families,

The month of April is when we begin the Florida State Assessments (FSA) for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students in Reading and Mathematics. Fifth grade students will also take the FSA in the content area of Science. These assessments align with the Common Core Standards and are administered to help us understand how children are progressing in their learning. The data from these assessments also assists us in making curriculum decisions at both the district and school level. If you are interested in learning more about standards-based instruction on a regular basis, please consider joining our School Advisory Council (SAC). We meet once a month for one hour. You will learn about and be involved in the implementation of our School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP is a working document of the goals we implement to positively impact student achievement.

Furthermore, I would like to extend a special thank you to all of our parents for supporting your children during the testing period. Your words of encouragement, helping them get a good night's sleep, and making sure they had a good breakfast, started the day off on a good note.

The month of April also marks the PTA Walk A Thon. Thank you to all parents for supporting the Walk A Thon. The Garrison-Jones PTA's goal is to purchase technology benefitting the entire school. The event also provides students a great opportunity to enjoy fresh air, an enjoyable walk with their friends, music and a treat. The Walk A Thon timing is a perfect release for our students during a busy testing month. Thank you PTA for creating this event for our students. We sure appreciate the PTA and the support from the community.

I am grateful for all of the students who attend Garrison-Jones Elementary School, HOME OF THE PIONEERS FOR THE FUTURE! Thank you for letting us be part of your child's education.

Warmest Regards,

Karen Buckles,

Principal, Garrison-Jones Elementary

100% Student Success

Together We Succeed - TEAMWORK!

Counselor's Corner

Vanessa Lofstedt, M.A.

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<http://mrslofstedt.weebly.com>

Character Trait of the Month

April: Self-Control

Managing your emotions and choosing acceptable behavior.

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go...”

— Dr. Seuss, *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*



General Strategies to Teach Self-Control

It is important to select age-appropriate goals for children who are learning self-control. Try simple goals first, where success is expected, one goal at a time. For preschool children, appropriate goals might include not interrupting or not fighting with siblings. For early elementary school children, appropriate goals might include complying with bedtime rules or showing anger appropriately (instead of hitting or screaming).

Some general strategies that often help children learn appropriate self-control behaviors include:

Take a break: Encourage children to “take a break” or a “time out” from a situation where they are feeling angry or upset.

Teach and provide attention: Children can learn to resist interrupting others by learning how to observe when others are not talking, so that they can join in appropriately. Be sure to provide children with attention at appropriate times so that they are not “starved” for attention and more likely to interrupt inappropriately.

Use appropriate rewards: Children need consistent, positive feedback to learn appropriate behavior. Praise and attention are highly rewarding for young children, as is special time with a parent. Be sure your child knows what behavior is desired!

Use specific activities designed to teach self-regulation: Parents can help teach even young children (ages 5–8 years) the skills that foster self-control, using activities such as those that follow. These skills include dealing with “wanting something I can’t have,” understanding feelings, and controlling anger.



As you know our Curriculum Night is just around the corner! Thursday, April 28th from 4pm-7pm our campus will be buzzing with the families and students as they celebrate the amazing learning that has taken place this year.

Student-led conferences: should be available for parents during the 4pm-7pm window.

Spring Dinner: will be served from 5pm-6pm for any families with pre-purchased tickets.

Concert: 2nd Grade will be performing during the dinner from 5:30-6:00pm. Students should arrive and meet Ms. Greene in the café @ 5:15.

Art Show: All students K-5 will have their artwork framed and displayed in and around the multi-purpose room. Frames will be available for purchase for \$25 but there is no obligation. The main goal of this show is to show all of the talented artists of GJE. Everyone that visits the art show will be able to put their name into a drawing for one of 5 free frames. All artwork will go home at the end of the year in student portfolios.

Book Fair: The Scholastic Book Fair will be going on throughout the evening in the Media Center.

Science Showcase: Science Boards from various individual students or whole group boards will be on display in and around the café and Stage. Boards should be identified clearly with either the student's name/grade/Science Teacher or the Science Teacher/Grade Level for entire class boards.

This is sure to be a wonderful evening of celebration! We hope to see you all here!



All students now have access to myOn through the entire summer. myOn provides a personalized literacy environment that engages all students at all levels with the largest integrated library of digital books with reading supports, customized to students' individual interests and reading level. Schools should have received student access information through librarians so they can get started reading on the platform. myOn will provide us with a way to track students reading progress throughout the summer so it will take a collective effort the market the use.

<https://www.myon.com/>



Ms. Strawn Invites You to...Come see our spectacular art show celebration!

See your child's original artwork beautifully framed for our school wide art show. I am very excited to be able to have a show where we can give each student the opportunity to share their favorite artwork with their families and friends. Please join us on Thursday, April 28 during Garrison-Jones Curriculum Night. Artwork from every student grades K-5 will be on display in the Multipurpose Room. Please come anytime between 4:30-7:00.

The main focus of this show is to feature each child's artistic accomplishments, however there is the option of purchasing the framed artwork to proudly display in your home or for gifts. All artwork will go home with the students at the end of the year in their art portfolios.



COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
OF PINELLAS, INC.

**May Thru
August 2016**



Free Back-to-School Physicals

Appointments available throughout the
Summer!

Evening & Saturday Appointments!

Schedule a school physical for your child(ren)!

You can request an appointment online:

www.chcpinellas.org

or call to schedule:

727-824-8181

back to
School



Accredited by the

ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION
for AMERICAN STUDENT HEALTH CARE - 2017



Why?

- Pinellas County Schools & community partners collaborate to make summer reading a priority in every home this summer!
- Prevent summer reading loss by promoting student participation in literacy activities all summer long.
- Increase opportunities for family engagement.
- Increase students' overall motivation to read.

ON THE FOLLOWING DATES,
PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL
BE ONSITE TO COLLECT BOOKS FOR
OUR *FILL-THE-BUS* CAMPAIGN:

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

PCS Admin Building
301 4th Street SW
Largo, FL 33770
727.588.6000
8 – 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016

Tyrone Square Mall
6901 22nd Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727.347.3889
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016

Largo Mall
10500 Ulmerton Road
Suite 216
Largo, FL 33778
727.587.0100
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016

Countryside Mall
27001 US Highway 19 North
Suite 1039
Clearwater, FL 33761
727.796.1079
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

GET *in the*
GAME!
Read!

How?

- Put books in the hands of every student in grades K-12.
- Distribute books through our mobile *Fill-the-Bus* campaign and center-based programs.
- Equip parents and caregivers to support new and striving readers at home.

