

Panther Pride Press

Principal's Message

I cannot believe it is already November! I am so thankful to be here at Ponce! Our staff is second to none, the students are amazing, and our families are supportive. Thank you all for your continued support of Ponce! Together we can move this school towards continued success! Later in the month we will be hosting a Field Day on November 10th and the Great American Teach In will be on the 15th. If you are interested in coming to speak to a group of students about your career, please contact the front office and ask for David. He can help coordinate your schedule. We look forward to seeing you there! I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving break! Enjoy this time with family and friends.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our first ever Trunk or Treat! We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did. Please take a moment to provide us some feedback below.

Trunk or Treat Survey

Please circle your answer choice then return to school.

1. My child had fun trunk or treating and seeing staff in costumes and cars decorated.
Yes or No
2. I enjoyed the food served on the food truck. Yes No or I didn't try it
3. The cost of the food truck was reasonable Yes No or I didn't try it
4. The Icee fundraiser to support furniture for the media center was of reasonable cost.
Yes or No
5. I joined the PTA for \$5 and my child was able to jump on the bounce houses. Yes or No
6. I paid \$1 per jump on the bounce house and thought it was a reasonable cost.
Yes No Didn't jump
7. Do you have any other feedback that could provide to us? _____

Mrs. Blackman

PONCE PTA NEEDS YOU!!

Ponce PTA helps create a strong community for our children and uses membership money to fund school programs throughout the year. It's only \$5.00 to join and there is no commitment to attend any meetings! Send your cash or check in an envelope to Ponce PTA. The class with most membership will get a popcorn party!!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.pcsb.org/ponce-es

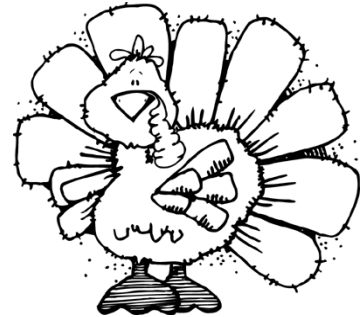
Upcoming Events

- 11/10 Field Day
- 11/14 Picture Retakes
- 11/15 Great American Teach In
- 11/17 All Pro Parent Event
- 11/20-11/24 Thanksgiving Holiday



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

The Thanksgiving Food Drive will be from 11/1-11/16. Canned and boxed food items are needed. All items will be given to the Salvation Army to help our community.



Please consider donating at least one item. This a great way to show the character word of the month: Citizenship.

PONCE DE LEON ELEMENTARY

1301 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
 Clearwater, FL 33756
Phone (727) 588-3573
Fax (727) 588-3700

Mrs. Stephanie Blackman
 Principal

Dr. Barbara Hires
 Area 2 Superintendent
 (727) 588-5020

Mr. Greg Logan
 Assistant Principal

Transportation
 (727) 587-2020

STAY INFORMED!

Newsletters will be sent home and posted on the school website on the first Friday of the month. Be sure to log in and check out what is going on around Ponce de Leon!

2017-2018 COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

- City of Largo
- Largo Rotary Club
- Elks Lodge #2159-Largo
- Kiwanis, Springtime City, Clearwater
- Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church (Pack-a-Sack)
- St Paul United Methodist Church
- The Backpack Lady

Hello!

If I have not had the pleasure of meeting you in-person, I am Courtney Klingman, MSW, School Social Worker at Ponce de Leon. I have been at Ponce for the last five years, and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many students and families!

Did you know that starting as early as kindergarten, good attendance has been shown to increase the likelihood of a student **graduating from high school**? You can have a significant impact on your child's educational success, simply by ensuring they are at school each day, on-time.

Other benefits from good attendance include: higher reading levels, improved math skills, less difficulty transitioning to school for younger students, free breakfast and free lunch at Ponce! **School starts promptly at 8:35am**; if your child is planning on eating breakfast at school, it is recommended they are dropped off at 8:05am. If they are not joining us for breakfast, they should be dropped off between 8:20 and 8:25am to ensure they have enough time to get into their class and settled.

When a child arrives late to school, it significantly impacts their day and disrupts their classmates. Not only are they missing out on valuable reading instruction, they do not have time to easily transition from home expectations to school expectations with the rest of their class.

At Ponce, we typically have about 20-30 students who are late each morning, which is a significant number of students missing out on important instruction. **Please help our teachers and your child by getting to school on-time.**

What we need from you!

Here are ways to ensure attendance success:

Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.

Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.

Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Only keep your child home if they have vomited more than twice in 24 hours.

Remember that frequent stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety, so please contact your child's teacher, the school counselor, or school social worker if you feel your child may be experiencing a social/emotional concern that may cause them to miss school. We are here to help.

Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.

Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school. (Source: www.Attendanceworks.org)

As always, if there is a family concern or any other issues that are keeping your child from attending school, please contact your child's teacher, or contact our front office so that we may provide you with any support or resources you need.

Thank you,
Courtney Klingman, MSW, School Social Worker

Family Engagement Survey

PANORAMA
EDUCATION



According to all the research, Family Engagement is a crucial part of student learning and school improvement. At Ponce De Leon Elementary school we want to gather your feedback to know how we can best serve your child, and co-partner with you to promote academic excellence.

Control Click the link below to go directly to the survey. The survey window will be open from Monday, October 30 through November 17, 2017. Thank you for your cooperation.



<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/pinellas/poncedeleon/surveys>



Get informed, stay
relevant and grow with
PCS Parent University



Pinellas County Schools Parent University will be held 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, November 11, 2017 at John Hopkins Middle School, 701 16th St S, St. Petersburg. Parent University is an opportunity for parents and caregivers to move about the Resource Café and speak with district leadership and staff about ways to support their children's academic life from kindergarten through 12th grade. In-depth information will be provided about a wide variety of PCS programs. The departments represented at the Café include:

- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education
- College and Career Readiness
- Exceptional Student Education
- STEM Academies
- Gifted/Advanced Education
- Student Services
- Guidance
- Family & Community Relations
- Juvenile Welfare Board
- Pinellas Education Foundation

The First Book *Fall in Love with Reading* book distribution program will also be available to families from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There will be approximately 40,000 books that will be free of charge to participants. Families will have an opportunity to build their home libraries. Parents can receive five free books for each child that attends.

Spanish interpreters will be on hand.