

Panther Pride Press

Principal's Message

Ponce de Leon is now on Facebook! Follow us to stay up to date with what's happening!

Ponce de Leon staff has worked to create a new mission statement for our school. The new mission of Ponce de Leon is to create a safe learning environment to prepare and motivate every child to be goal orientated and lifelong learners. This mission statement reflects our beliefs about students, learning, and the very important work that we do every day with your children.

In an effort to streamline a way of work for communication at Ponce de Leon and the Area Superintendent's office, we want to share the protocol for communication for parents. If you have a concern with:

1. Any school-based employees: First, speak directly with the teacher or person involved, if possible and appropriate. If the issue is not resolved, speak with the school administration. Finally, if the issue is not resolved with the principal, contact the Area Superintendent.
2. The school-based administrators: First, speak directly with the principal, if the concern is not resolved, contact the Area Superintendent.

Please also remember that at Ponce our first priority is to assure the safety of students in the building. We are often times not in our office and therefore not able to take phone calls because we are working with students and teachers. Every effort will be made to return your call by the end of business but in the event that it is not possible, we ask that you give us 24 hours to return your call. If your issue requires immediate attention, please indicate that so that we can make your call a priority. Thank you for your understanding!

There was an overwhelming response to my request for parents to serve on our school advisory council. Thank you so much for your interest! At this time I have built a roster in compliance with our school code which states that our council must be "representative of the ethnic, racial and economic status of our school community." I am requesting your support of the nominated SAC members below.

Please place a check mark that you either approve all nominations or place a check mark next to the names of those you do support.

Mrs. Blackman

Please return your completed form to your child's teacher.

	I support all nominations.
	Brandon Mai
	Ignacio Cajigas
	Krystle Swift
	Melanie Ushak-Potter
	Adam Pintor
	Gary Hargrett

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/3 Fundraiser Kickoff
- 10/5 Walk to school day
7:00 at Walmart
- 10/12 School closed for students
- 10/17 Fundraiser Ends
- 10/28 Fall Festival 4:30-7:30

GOLDEN SCHOOL REWARD

The Golden School Reward was presented by the Florida Department of Education to Ponce de Leon Elementary in recognition and appreciation for the support rendered to the *School Volunteer Program*.

Thank you volunteers!!

Without you this award would not have been earned. For more information on becoming a volunteer, please contact muscaroe@pcsb.org.

THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PINELLAS COUNTY (DOH-PINELLAS)

The DOH-Pinellas is providing no-cost Zika testing for pregnant women on a walk-in basis:

7:30 to 4:30, Monday-Thursday at these locations:

- Clearwater Health Dept. at 310 N. Myrtle Ave
(727) 469-5800
- Mid-County Health Dept. at 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo
(727) 507-4330
- St. Petersburg Health Dept. at 205 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street N
(727) 824-6900

2016-2017 COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

- City of Largo
- Einstein Brothers Bagels (Gulf to Bay)
- Hope Depot #6321 (Ulmerton Road)
- Largo Elks Lodge (#2159)
- Nationwide Appraisal Network
- Horace Mann Inc.
- Rob Ditro-The Backpack Lady Project
- Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church (Pack-a-Snack)
- Perkins Restaurant (Gulf to Bay)
- Publix Supermarket (Corporate Office)
- St. Paul United Methodist Church
- TJ Maxx (Missouri Avenue)
- The Optical Factory- Largo

THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING A CLASSROOM

- KCN Group-: Inadomi Family
- Krauss/Baschab Family Foundation
- Mears Contracting
- Milbratz Family
- Pinellas Classroom Teacher Association

PONCE DE LEON EAGLE NEST

Let's welcome our newest addition to the Ponce de Leon community. There is an eagle's nest located behind Missouri and Auburn St. (on the north side of the cell phone tower). The National Audubon Society has officially named this nest the "Ponce de Leon Eagle Nest."

**NOVEMBER IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
IN EDUCATION MONTH**

When schools work together with families to support learning, children are inclined to succeed not just in school, but throughout life. We recognize that a child's education is a responsibility shared by both schools and families during the entire period a child spends in school. The following are just a few suggestions of ways you can be involved with your child's education:

- Participate in parent/teacher conference
- Talk with your child daily about homework, classroom activities, and events
- Ask how you can support your child's learning at home
- Encourage reading, writing, and discussion among family members
- Be positive when talking with your child about school related activities.

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



**WE'RE ON
THE WEB!**

[www.pcsb.org/
ponce-es](http://www.pcsb.org/ponce-es)



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!

- November 4
- December 2
- January 6
- February 3
- March 3
- April 7
- May 6

THE PINELLAS COUNTY REFERENDUM IS UP FOR RENEWAL IN NOVEMBER

Referendum funds strengthen reading, art and music programs, provide up-to-date technology, and help recruit and retain quality teachers. Pinellas County voters supported the half-mill property tax in 2004, 2008 and 2012, all times by large margins. An independent citizens committee oversees the distribution of funds to ensure the money is spent as voters intended. Every penny of the money collected through the Referendum is locally controlled and goes to Pinellas County teachers and students.

Thanks to the Referendum, Pinellas County Schools have:

Strengthened Reading Programs

- * Every reading classroom and every content classroom (such as math, science and social studies) is equipped with a classroom library filled with diverse and up-to-date materials to supplement core instruction.
- * The Leveled Literacy Intervention program was expanded to all elementary schools. The intensive, small group reading program is for students in grades K-2 who need extra assistance to achieve grade-level proficiency.
- * Funds continue to provide middle and high school reading classrooms with materials that would not otherwise be available, including instructional software, engaging fiction and non-fiction, magazines and newspapers.
- * Teachers have the opportunity to attend trainings with nationally recognized literacy experts.

Invigorated Visual Arts Programs

- * All schools have equitable funding for quality art supplies, equipment and technology that help students learn new skills and produce strong, award-winning works of art.
- * All high schools, as well as several elementary and middle schools, have digital arts computer labs.
- * Thousands of students have participated in hundreds of field trips to art museums and galleries, exposing children to fine art. Since the Referendum was renewed, about 32,000 students have participated in field trips to museums and galleries.

Revitalized Performing Arts Programs

- * All elementary music classes received musical instruments. All schools have received supplies, such as band room furniture, risers, microphones and music stands, as needed, to ensure equity among music programs throughout the district.
- * Instrument rental fees are waived for children who cannot afford them.
- * The district has rebuilt string orchestra programs. Without Referendum funds, there would be no funding for string instruments, supplies, string teachers, string coaches and the All County string program.
- * Nearly every high school has had their auditorium sound systems upgraded.

Provided Enriching Up-To-Date Technology

- * Interactive Smart Boards have been installed in classrooms throughout the district, helping teachers provide engaging lessons. Teachers receive training and coaching in the use of this technology.
- * Teachers have more access to digital resources beyond core curriculum.
- * Funds cover maintenance, repairs and replacement parts to keep technology running and updated.

Recruited and Retained Quality Teachers

- * Eighty percent of Referendum revenue supplements teacher salaries, demonstrating the high value placed on recruiting and keeping quality teachers in Pinellas. The Referendum is providing each teacher a supplement of \$3,827 for the 2016-17 school year.