

# Panther Pride Press

## Principal's Message

What a wonderful start to the 17-18 school year!!! Welcome to our new families joining us this year and welcome back to all of our families that were with us in the past. We hope to see you for Open House on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Please check out page 3 for other upcoming events!

Ponce de Leon's mission 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. At Ponce, students will be exposed to AVID strategies appropriate for the elementary level. This means that we will purposefully teach children about organization, note taking,

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 assistant principal. Finally, if the issue is not resolved with the AP please contact the principal. If for some reason 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 use 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!

*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!!



THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING A CLASSROOM

Artsonia  
Wojcik Family  
Krauss/Baschab Family Foundation  
Shirley Jones  
Caliber Management Inc.  
Star Electric Services Inc.

**NEWS FROM THE P.E. COURT**

Welcome back to all our students. We started off our new year diving right in to our Fitness Unit and are almost done. We are so proud of our students and their hard work. In our Fitness Unit we discuss our muscles, our heart, and a "healthy plate." We encourage you child to exercise and eat healthy. We all love sweets, like ice cream and cake, but we talk about only eating those foods every once and a while. Your child learned the five healthy food groups: fruits, vegetables, grains, protein, and dairy. Next time you go to the grocery store, have your child pick out a good from each of the five food groups!

**BOX TOPS**

Our school collects box tops as a way to get new equipment for Physical Education. Please look at your boxes at home and see if you can collect some box tops too! Box Tops are on cereals, juice snacks, Chex Mix, Pillsbury products and many more. Thank you to all the families who have been collecting the Box Tops and sending them in. We were able to purchase new scoots, tetherballs, basketballs, wrist bands for team playing and many more assorted balls. Thanks again for taking a few minutes to cut them out and send them in!

**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

**CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR PANTHER CLOTHES CLOSET**

We are in need of clothing donations for our Ponce Panthers. We are always in need of underwear of various sizes for both boys & girls. If you are able to provide underwear, we do request that it be new and has never been worn. Please drop them off at our front office for the clinic. Thank you in advance for your assistance.



**WE'RE ON  
THE WEB!**

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

**SCHOOL DRESS CODE REMINDER**

We know the weather is warm and perfect for tank tops and sandals, but here in Pinellas County, we are conscientious of how we dress and look in the classroom. Please remember that tank tops are not allowed here in school.

Also, as a safety precaution, open toe or open heeled shoes are not to be worn on any day at school. Please make sure your child has shoes that enclose the whole foot.

Thank you so much!!

**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

**Upcoming Events**

- 9/4 School Closed
- 9/14 SAC 5:00
- 9/14 Open House 5:30
- 9/22 All Pro Parents  
Breakfast 7:35

**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!