

November 2016

Volume 2- Winter Edition

The Counselors' Corner

Pinellas Park Middle School Counselors' Newsletter



Information about
District Application
programs inside!!!!

#BRACEYOURSELVES

#WINTERISCOMING

Extended Learning Program (ELP)/Tutoring and Credit Recovery is offered to all students Tuesday through Thursday from 4:15pm-5:45pm. Students in the program are served dinner and there is even transportation Available! If you would like to sign your student up, please see your grade level counselor for an application.

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Hello Thunderbird Family and Friends,

As you may be aware, in the next few weeks, our students will be ending the first semester of the school year. This means that that we will have completed half of the 2016-2017 school year. Where has time gone? With the second semester near, we are drawing closer to several important events happening on campus. Here's to ending 2016 with a BANG and starting 2017 off STRONG!

Important Dates Coming up:

November 21st-25th: Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Break

November 29th. 6:30-8pm: PPMS Cambridge Night

December 1, 2016: National Junior Honors Society Induction @6:30pm

December 12th-16th: Final Examination week

December 19th- December 30th, 2016: Schools closed for Winter Break

January 2nd, 2017: Second Semester begins

January 6, 2017. 8:15am-8:55am: Coffee with the Counselors Parent Workshop *

January 4th, 2017 : 630PM-7:30PM Talented Identification Program Search (TIPS) family night



* More information
available within this
volume!

Winter Break



One of the many ways School Counselors can advocate for students is by helping families when in need. During the holidays, many families are stressed due to the overwhelming financial burden associated with Christmas. If you would like help with getting toys for your student, please see your grade level counselor. This year "Toys for Tots" has changed the process for application. This year, it begins with families. Here is how you can apply:

1. Go to www.toysfortots.org and select 'Request Toys' 2. Select your State 'Florida'
3. Select your County 'Pinellas' 4. Click on the Banner 'Click Here to Register for Toys'
5. Next you will be asked to enter your Email Address 6. The system will send you a link to that email address.
7. Select the emailed link and you will be taken to the registration page 8. Fill out the form entering your name, address and date/time for toy pickup.
9. Fill out the form for each child by adding name, age and school they attend
10. Your counselor will then receive a request to approve your application.

To discuss if your family is eligible, or if you need help with registration, please contact your grade level counselor.

Now that a new year is amongst us, it is the perfect reason to make a resolution to improve school attendance. At Pinellas Park Middle, we recognize our students with awesome attendance with parties, free time, and extra curricular activities. Aside from this, research states that there is a direct correlation between good student attendance and student success. Here are some ways that you can support your student having a great attendance record.



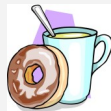
Tips for Attendance Success

- Know the Pinellas County Schools' Attendance Policy
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Prepare for school the night before
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to school
- Avoid scheduling appointments and vacations for your child when school is in session

(Juvenile Welfare Board)

BULLYING PREVENTION

Coffee with the Counselors Workshop



Join us for coffee and breakfast on January 6th, 2017, when the PPMS School Counselors will be holding a Quarter 2 workshop where a team of teachers provide you and your student(s) with strategies to have a successful Quarter 2 and remainder of the year. Strategies include, homework help, tutoring, application of what is learned at school to 'real life' and other ways to support what your student is learning at school. This is an RSVP event. *To learn more/RSVP, contact your Counselor.*

Hello Thunderbird families!

At Pinellas Park Middle we strive to end Bullying on this campus. It is important that all students feel safe at school. If bullying does occur to someone you know, students should remember the "Three R's":

- Recognize—identify if the incident is on purpose, repeated and/or wrong
- Report—tell a teacher/counselor and fill out a witness statement
- Refuse—do not get involved with the bullying

8th Grade & District Application Programs

Hello 8th grade families! We have had a lot of exciting events happening in 8th grade. This year is flying by and it is time to start thinking of where your student will be going to high school! (Yikes!) Pinellas County Schools offers families a wealth of educational choices suited to student interests, talents and abilities. There are many wonderful programs in the county and I encourage you to explore what will be best for your student. The application period is open from January 4-13th. You must have access to parent portal to apply. This was the biggest issue I saw last year. Do not delay, make sure your parent portal is set up and ready to go! I highly encourage your students to shadow at their school of interest. And go check out the discovery nights at the school! More information can be found at www.pcsb.org/choice Please contact

Pinellas Park Thunderbirds are Committed to Character!!



Commitment to Character, the Pinellas County Schools district model for character development, utilizes a common language, teachable moments, literature, service learning, and modeling to teach character in all curriculum areas. Each month, our school will recognize one character trait. The PPMS Positive Behavior team will be holding monthly breakfast celebrations honoring those students who show an outstanding commitment to character!

November

Citizenship

Being law abiding and involved in service to school, community and country.

December

Kindness

Being nice and considerate toward others.

January

Self-Motivation

Working in a careful and consistent manner without giving up



Pinellas Park School Counselors



Mr. Fletcher

6th Grade Counselor



727-545-6400 ext 2013

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The mission of the Counseling Department is to assist the administrative team and instructional staff with the goal of helping students at our school achieve maximum potential within the academic disciplines, while providing a world-class education to students and ensuring that they have social interactions and college and career ready mindsets that have relevance to the real world.

Mrs. Norton

7th Grade Counselor



College Reach-Out Program

Specialist

727-545-6400 ext 2017

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Ms. Sobo

8th Grade Counselor

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Take Stock In Children School

Ambassador soboa@pcsb.org

6th Grade Corner—Mr. Fletcher

Hello Thunderbird families!



We are almost at the halfway point of the school year and our 6th graders are making their impact here at Pinellas Park Middle School. On October 27th, the 6th grade team held a Positive Behavior event called “Hot Dog Day”. Teachers and staff grilled hot dogs, made snow cones and baked cookies for the “Hot Dog Day” event. Any student that had no referrals, 90% attendance and no tardies were allowed to attend and nearly 300 of our 6th graders reached this criteria! That is 75% of all 6th graders! We are so proud of 6th graders making a positive impact in school. Our next Positive Behavior event will be held in December just in time for the holidays.

As part of the district school guidance goals, we are implementing the ‘Career Cruising-Learning Styles’ assessment to every 6th grade student this year. If you have not heard about ‘Career Cruising’ is an engaging online interface gets students excited about exploring their options, interests, and aspirations through career activities and assessments. In the 6th grade, the student are completing the ‘Learning Styles Inventory’ which allows each student to determine if they are a Visual, Auditory or Tactile learner. At the end of the assessment, each student received their results. This is a great opportunity to talk with your child about their unique learning styles. For more info - <https://public.careercruising.com/en/home/>.



Photo above: Almost 300 6th grade students in line to

Photo right: Nate L. helping pass out snow cones.

