



**BAY POINT ELEMENTARY
MAGNET SCHOOL**

BROADCAST

August-agosto 2008

Volume *XII*, Issue 1

Gaye B. Lively, Principal

Angela Owens, Assistant Principal

Christine Porter, Magnet Coordinator

5800 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712-5797

School Phone: 552-1449 Office Hours 8:00 AM - 3:15 PM

www.baypoint-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us



, Superintendent
(727) 588-6000 * www.pcsb.org

Dr. Barbara Hires, Region 5 Area Superintendent
(727) 893-2150

Principal's Note...

Dear BPE families and community,

I hope you enjoyed your summer in many ways. I know we each have appreciated this time to relax, rejuvenate and regain momentum. As we begin to think about the 08-09 school year, I look forward to the many ways we will meet our students' learning goals and am excited about some of the things we are doing differently this year. Our energies will continue to be focused around environmental science through all academic areas, implementing the new math standards and new reading program, and a great deal of emphasis on writing. I am excited about all of the things we have planned and the renewal of our Magnet focus areas. There will be early entry to classes so that we can make the most of the time for teaching. TV announcements will begin at 8:35. The 100% magnet seats, commitment form, and uniforms will help support the sense of pride in our community of learners. We are all becoming master learners in this fast changing world.

I would like to share with you the names of new members on our staff and welcome them to our "Bay Point Family". I'm excited that we have hired such top professionals as they will certainly be an active part of our future success.

Janna Greenwood - gr. 1, Shirley Scott gr.3, Robyn Pierson gr. 2, Joyce White gr 5, Karen Fradley, SLD, and Sonja Cairns will join us in grade 4. Carrie Jefferies moved to gr. 2. Our new Assistant Principal is Ms. Angela Owens. She brings a great deal of expertise and enthusiasm. They are each excellent additions to our staff and our children will certainly benefit.

I pledge my leadership to facilitate the growth of each of your children at BPE and will try my best to provide the best learning environment that I can. I ask for your partnership in doing so, so "Let the year begin!"

Mrs. Lively,
Principal

This month:

18th **Meet the Teacher**,
11:30 am to 1:00 pm

19th **First Day of School**,
8:25 am gates open
8:35 am—2:40 pm class in session

PTA Boo Hoo Breakfast—Parents of incoming Kindergarteners are invited to the school cafeteria for a light breakfast and plenty of tissues!

27th **Open House**, 6:00—7:30 PM
You've met the teacher, now learn what your child will be studying this year, classroom expectations and upcoming events.

27th **Young Astronauts** applications go home—due back on September 12th

29th **Volunteer Orientation/Workshop**,
9:00 am—Media Center

For new and returning volunteers, join us for a cup of coffee and find out what is in store this year; 9:00 am—Media Center

September

1st Labor Day—No School

3rd PTA Board Meeting, 5:00—6:30 pm

5th Father's Walk to School Day
Dad's—bring your child to school
First Friday—no uniforms

10th SAC Meeting, 5:00 pm
PTA Ice Cream Social & General Meeting, 5:30—7:00 pm

26th *Prince of Frogs*

30th Picture Day—no uniforms

Bay Point Elementary *Magnet School's mission is to promote highest student achievement in a safe learning environment by utilizing an integrated system of learning with an emphasis on math, science, technology and foreign language.

A Community of Master Learners

Who's Who in the Office

Our Principal, **Mrs. Gaye Lively**, our new Assistant Principal, **Ms. Angela Owens**, and the Magnet Coordinator, **Ms. Christi Porter**, are located in the main building.

You may find it useful to get to know some of these other members of the Bay Point family who are located in the Front Office:

- ◆ **Ms. Kerry Cunningham** is the Guidance Counselor.
- ◆ **Mrs. Nancy Wohlgemuth** is the Principal's secretary/bookkeeper and the office manager.
- ◆ **Mrs. Jodi Rivera** works with Ms. Porter as Magnet Secretary.
- ◆ **Mrs. Annie Tucker** is our Data Management Technician and she will assist you with any questions you have regarding enrollment, or your child's records.
- ◆ **Ms. Karen Leon** is situated in the work room and is the Instructional Assistant for our teachers.
- ◆ **Ms. Cindy Petelle** is our Family and Community Liaison. She will assist you with any questions you may have about volunteering or donating to the school.

School Hours

8:25 AM Gates Open

8:35 AM—2:40 PM Class in session

3:15 PM School Closed—*Any students not picked up will be sent to the YMCA for after-school care*

Office Hours

8:00 AM—3:15 PM

Phone: 727-552-1449

School Website: www.baypoint-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us



Some things you need to know...

- ◆ **Uniforms are mandatory this year.** Check the school website at <www.baypoint-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us> for more information. You may purchase colorful T-shirts with the school logo from the PTA. The order form may be found at <www.bpepta.org>
- ◆ **All visitors to campus** (including parents who wish to walk their child back to the class) must sign in on the computer in the Front Office.
- ◆ **Present your driver's license** each time you enter the school. Volunteers also sign in on the computer.
- ◆ **All visitors and volunteers are asked to wear an ID.** One will be printed when your ID is scanned.
- ◆ **Enter the school through the new gate** after signing in. Do not walk through the Front Office.
- ◆ **Gates are locked during school hours.** Please exit through the Front Office, not the side gates. Remember to sign out.

These measures are in place to keep your child safe. Though the staff may know you well, please help us by cooperating.

Review the First Day Packet

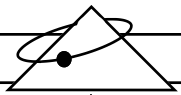
Your student will receive a first day packet of information from his/her classroom teacher which contains some items which need your attention. Please note:

- ◆ On the **YELLOW CLINIC CARD**, be sure you include the name(s) of those who are authorized to pick up your child from school if you are unable to do so. The contact phone numbers should be kept up to date throughout the school year.
- ◆ Parents of new students must sign and return the **MEDIA RELEASE FORM**. If the form is not returned by August 29th it is considered a "no".



Nutritious Meals Help Your Child All Day Long

- ◆ Breakfast is served beginning at 8:20 AM for \$1.00. Lunch costs \$1.75 a day.
- ◆ Free or reduced cost meals (breakfast -30¢, lunch -40¢) are available to eligible students. Fill out and return the forms you receive in your first day packets.
- ◆ Do put money in an account for your child, that way you do not have to dig for change every day. To do this, contact the **Cafeteria Manager, Deloris Smith** (You may find Ms. Smith in the cafeteria, or by calling 552-1459). Checks may be made payable to: *Bay Point Elementary Food Service*.
- ◆ Menus may be found at: <http://www.pcsb.org/is/fsmenus/home.html>
- ◆ If you prefer, you may pack a lunch from home. Drinks, like milk or juice may still be purchased.
- ◆ *Please remind your child that they should not share their lunch with a friend*—this not only insures your child is eating what you pack— it also protects those with food allergies from unwittingly eating something harmful.
- ◆ *Check with your child's teacher before sending in goodies (cupcakes, chips, etc.) for the class.* School Board policy strictly limits the amount of sweets and snacks that may be served on campus.



KEEP THE CARS MOVING

- ◆ **Post the sign** we provide with your rider(s) name(s) in your windshield. This way we are able to call the children as you arrive.
- ◆ **Pull up all the way**—do not stop at the cross walk. This allows more cars into the driveway and cuts down on congestion on 22nd.
- ◆ **Double traffic lanes are unsafe** as it is difficult for drivers to see children crossing in between cars— please be patient and wait in a single car lane.
- ◆ **Turn right!** Left hand turns slow everything down as drivers cross each other’s paths. If possible, enter the school with a right turn off of 22nd Street. Likewise when exiting the school drop off zone, turn right onto 22nd Street toward 54th Avenue.
- ◆ **If you must park, do not** park in the drive through lanes, please use a parking space.
- ◆ **Do not double park** - even “for a minute” - it blocks others in.
- ◆ **Do not drive** in the Bus Circle in the front of the school.
- ◆ **Use the crosswalk.** This sets a standard for the children so that they do not run between cars or buses. If adults act appropriately, the children will be more likely to follow the rules of the road.
- ◆ **The teachers and staff** take turns at the thankless task of traffic duty to insure your child’s safety. Please be courteous to them and help them do their job by doing your part to insure the car circle moves safely and quickly.

About Electronic Devices

Students are not permitted to have cell phones on campus. They will be confiscated.



Label Your Child’s “Stuff”

Every year, the school accumulates a mountain of sweaters, lunch boxes, jackets, and backpacks. More often than not, the items are never claimed and are donated to local charities.

Please take a moment now to write your child’s name on all the inside of all personal items.

Did you know...

...you can access teacher web pages, the newsletter, and important news through the school website? Bookmark this page: <www.baypoint-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us>

Problem With the Bus?
Call Transportation at 587-2020

Help Your Child Succeed

What can you do to help your child succeed in school? Plenty—You are their primary teacher!

- ◆ **Take every opportunity to read with your child.** This can be a bedtime story, the Sunday comics, or during a trip to the library.
- ◆ **Have your child read to you.** Third graders will be expected to score well on the reading portion of the Florida Curriculum Assessment Test (FCAT) in order to move on to the fourth grade. Find out *now* if your child is struggling.
- ◆ **Check your child’s assignment journal** each evening to learn about the homework they have, or to read notes from their teacher.
- ◆ **Come to Open House to meet the teacher.** Keep in touch throughout the year.
- ◆ **Join the PTA!** Get to know the other families at the school. It is a great way to keep on top of what is happening.



WALKERS, BIKERS AND BUS RIDERS

Take a moment to review these safety tips with your child:

- ◆ Always cross the road at a crosswalk, obey the Crossing Guards.
 - ◆ Look both ways before crossing a street.
 - ◆ Do not walk or ride between parked cars or buses. Go to the intersection to cross.
 - ◆ Wear a bicycle helmet when riding a bike.
 - ◆ Arrive at the bus stop in time for the bus.
 - ◆ Do not run to or from the buses.
 - ◆ An adult should present at the bus stop.
- The number for the Transportation Call Center is 587-2020 if you have questions about school buses.



Thank You PTA!

Thank you for providing the agendas for students, the parent handbook, and our soon-to-be wireless campus!

The faculty and staff appreciated the wonderful welcome back breakfast on Monday.

Thank you so much for all you do for the school!

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Lisa Brody, Chairman

Welcome Back Bay Point Families and Staff,

On behalf of your School Advisory Council (SAC) I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families and welcome back our returning families to what will be another successful year as part of the Bay Point Family. I recently had the pleasure of attending the School Improvement Plan (SIP) Training with all Bay Point teachers and support staff. Let me assure you that our children are in good hands this year! The enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to providing our children with a high quality education was evident. As we prepare for this year as a school community, we will be focusing on enhancements to our children's education through our annual School Improvement Plan. This year, Bay Point Elementary will open its doors for the first time as a 100% Countywide Magnet School and with required uniforms and it is anticipated that these new changes will have a positive effect and build upon the sense of pride and community that we share as a school. As your SAC we will be working closely with our school administration, teachers and community to develop a plan that will provide for the academic achievement of all students. However, I think it is important to remember that the success of our school depends upon a partnership between the students, the school and the parents. Together we can and will continue to provide a learning environment that will allow every student to achieve. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of SAC if you have any questions or concerns.

The first SAC meeting is at school, at 5:00 pm on September 10th

PTA Events

The PTA will be participating in a PCCPTA Backpack Challenge - we are going to ask for school supplies to put together backpacks for children who get pulled from their homes and have nothing. More information to follow.



Save these dates:

Ice Cream Social/General Meeting - Sep. 10
5:30-7 pm School Cafeteria

Fall Festival - Oct. 4 - time TBA

This fun event can only be a success if everyone helps—plan to man a booth for a shift, or perhaps join a planning committee

Parent-Teacher Association

Lynn Bittner, President

VP Activities

Cissy Blevins, Debbie Griffin, Jerry Blevins

VP Programs

Dawn Ottaviani, Robin Cook, Diane Hodge

VP Ways & Means

Kim Porterfield, Chris Hudgens, Lydia Hickey

VP Membership

Dawn Smith

Secretary

Karen Esin

Treasurer

Anne Lynch

Teacher Liaison

Gretchen Ackerson

Committees

BPE Merchandise/T-Shirt Sales

Dawn Ottaviani, Dawn Smith

Keep up with the latest PTA news at:

WWW.BPEPTA.ORG

Welcome Back Volunteers!

...Ms. Cindy Petelle

Welcome back to another great year at Bay Point Elementary Magnet School—we missed you this summer! There are a few “housekeeping” issues to take care of if you plan to volunteer this year:

- ◆ volunteer registration—Everyone was purged at the end of last year, so everyone needs to reactivate. Just sign in on the computer using your social security number and answer a few questions.
- ◆ field trips— Likewise the auto insurance forms were shredded at the end of last year. If you plan to drive on a field trip, you may want to fill out the insurance forms in advance
- ◆ new parents— Plan to register now. It may take up to two weeks to process your application, so do not wait until last minute
- ◆ volunteer workshop— Join us at 9:00 am on August 29th in the Media Center for coffee and news
- ◆ Great American Teach-In—November 19th
- ◆ Adopt A Class if you are able, or help by volunteering, contributing to the teacher “wish list”, or by saving *Box Tops for Education*.
- ◆ Bookmark my webpage for forms and updates at:

<http://it.pinellas.k12.fl.us/teachers7/petellec/index.html>

Proposed Amendments Expected to Affect Public Education

Three proposed constitutional amendments, which will be on the ballot in November, are expected to significantly affect public education in Florida. Pinellas County Schools' citizens are urged to study each proposal carefully and to exercise their right to vote in November. Below is the ballot language for each amendment. For information about how these amendments could affect public schools funding, visit the Florida School Board Association's website, www.fsba.org.

Amendment 5 – Replacing state required school property taxes with state revenues generating an equivalent hold harmless amount for schools through one or more of the following options: repealing sales tax exemptions not specifically excluded; increasing sales tax rate up to one percentage point; spending reductions; other revenue options created by the legislature. Limiting subject matter of laws granting future exemptions. Limiting annual increases in assessment of non-homestead real property. Lowering property tax millage rate for schools.

Amendment 7 – Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide that an individual or entity may not be barred from participating in any public program because of religion and to delete the prohibition against using revenues from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

Amendment 9 – Requires at least 65 percent of school funding received by school districts be spent on classroom instruction, rather than administration; allows for differences in administrative expenditures by district. Provides the constitutional requirement for the state to provide a “uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools” is a minimum, nonexclusive duty. Reverses legal precedent prohibiting public funding of private school alternatives to public school programs without creating an entitlement.

Budget Update

The Pinellas County School Board tentatively approved a \$1.47-billion budget last month and a tax rate increase of more than 4 percent. The proposed new tax rate is \$8.06 for every \$1,000 of taxable value, up from last year's rate of \$7.73. The final public hearing and vote are scheduled for Sept. 9.

The need for a tax rate increase, which is being faced by school districts throughout the state, is due to a drastic decrease in state funding for schools. Districts are required to replace that missing state money with local funds raised through property taxes.

Earlier this year, the school board cut \$43-million from the 2008-09 operating budget through the elimination of positions, employee reassignments, school closings, reduction in assistants principals and no raises for all employees. The budget picture is expected to be equally bleak next year with the possibility of another reduction in state funds before the school year ends and additional cuts in 2009-10. The proposed school district budget is available at www.pcsb.org/budget.

Address Change

If you moved over the summer, you are required to give the school your new phone number and provide proof of residency. Please visit your child's school to update your address and provide appropriate verification (power, water, cable or home phone bill).

Stay Connected With Pinellas County Schools

Watch school board meetings live and in closed-captioning, as well as educational and entertainment programming on WPDS-Ch. 14 and on the Internet via the Ch. 14 website at www.wpds.tv. You can find Pinellas County Schools' television programming on Bright House Networks Ch. 614, Knology Ch. 14 and Verizon Ch. 46.

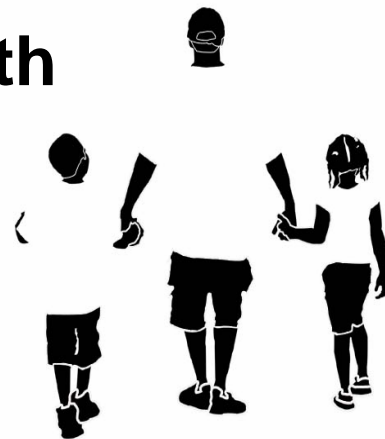
“MY DAD IS TAKING ME TO SCHOOL TODAY”

FATHER'S WALK 2008

Pinellas County Schools

Friday—September 5th

The *Fathers Walk* Pledge for Fathers and Men



- I will take my children or a child to school and I will be at a school on the first day to encourage all children to do their best every day at school.
- I am responsible for the education of my child.
- I will volunteer at my child's school three times this school year.
- I will pick up my child's progress report or grade report when required.
- I will meet with my child's teachers at least two times this year and support them in educating my child.
- I will teach my child the value of family as well as the value of education.
- I will work with my child's mother or guardian to achieve the best academic and social outcomes for my child even if I do not live with my child.

Call 727.327.2081 or

email: dreams4fathers@msn.com for more information