



BAY POINT ELEMENTARY  
MAGNET SCHOOL

# BROADCAST

September-septiembre 2008 Volume XII, Issue 2

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Julie Mastry Janssen, Ed.D,  
Interim Superintendent

(727) 588-6000 \* www.pcsb.org

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## Principal's Note...

Dear Parents and community members,

In these fast changing times, it becomes even more vital to equip our children with higher level thinking, problem-solving skills, comprehension skills, and social interaction skills, so that they will be able to make intelligent and responsible choices as young adults. I urge each of our staff members, parents and community members to join together, set priorities, value the time set aside for learning, and reach our common goals as a team for your child.

In order to optimize teaching in limited time, we are starting announcements at 8:35 so that all students are in their seats and ready to begin instruction and learning by 8:40. The late buses will arrive earlier as the routes are finalized. The car drop off process moves faster as the opening weeks pass. Our mandatory drills for the first two weeks were successful. Classes are being readjusted and balanced. Thank you for your help for making it such a successful opening.

Our PTA's Ice Cream Social is Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7PM and the School Advisory Committee is meeting at 5PM the same evening. The school improvement plan is being finalized and implemented. Much of our efforts will be focused on increasing our students' writing skills. We will be writing more in each of the other academic areas this year. Rigor, relevance, relationships and responsibility are the focus of our academic program to improve the gains students make each year. You may view the school improvement plan at [http://www.flbsi.org/0809\\_sip\\_template/Login.aspx](http://www.flbsi.org/0809_sip_template/Login.aspx). Budget items will be added as soon as we receive the final budget allocations.

State allocations and District allocations have been severely cut this year and our teachers are trying conserve materials, copying, and consumables. They have posted wish lists if you are able to contribute throughout the year. These items might include hand sanitizers, Kleenex, markers, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your child. They are what school is all about!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lively

## This month:

### September

1<sup>st</sup> Labor Day—No School

3<sup>rd</sup> LEGO *Mindstorms* Club, 2:40—4 pm  
PTA Board Meeting, 5:00—6:30 pm

5<sup>th</sup> Father's Walk to School Day  
*Dad's—bring your child to school!*  
First Friday—no uniforms

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

10<sup>th</sup> SAC Meeting, 5:00 pm

11<sup>th</sup> Last Day to Vote-Student Choice Lunch

26<sup>th</sup> *Prince of Frogs*

30<sup>th</sup> Picture Day—no uniforms

### October

3<sup>rd</sup> First Friday —no uniforms

4<sup>th</sup> PTA Fall Festival

17<sup>th</sup> No School

BOOKMARK THE SCHOOL WEB PAGE...

<[www.baypoint-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us](http://www.baypoint-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us)>

...access teacher web pages  
...staff e-mails on the faculty page  
...the online version of this newsletter allows you to click on any links mentioned

...other news you can use, like science fair booklets, and field trip forms, are also available online

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*

## I'm Fit, I'm It!

...Ms. Julie Ryczek

Let's start off the school year the right way with Healthy Goals:

**G** Goals: Goals encourage healthy eating and a healthy weight instead of pushing a "diet."

**O** On Time: Make it a goal to be on time to school every day.

**A** Active: Make it a goal to get moving and be physically active.

**L** Labels: Read food labels and avoid foods that are high in sugar, fructose, corn syrup, saturated fats, trans fats and calories.

**S** Snacks: Choose a variety of healthy snacks like vegetables, fruit, low fat yogurt, nuts, low sodium crackers, peanut butter and pretzels.

Have a happy and healthy year.

## Noticias Olé

...Sra. Gómez

¡Hola! The **FLES** (Foreign Language in Elementary School) team salutes you and wishes you a Fantástico school year. Our team members are:

**Sra. Gómez** from Puerto Rico

**Srta. Jakubik** from Venezuela

**Sra. McGill** from Bolivia

**Sra. Van Deilen** from Cuba

**Our Mission Statement:** The mission of the Bay Point Elementary FLES Program is to provide sequential, content-related instruction in the Spanish language to Bay Point students by involving parents, teachers, and staff in meaningful language experiences and ongoing assessment.

**FLES Principles:** The Bay Point Elementary FLES Program...

...uses only Spanish to provide daily instruction and activities which enable students to naturally acquire functional language.

...integrates a variety of language development activities with the elementary curriculum, resulting in a meaningful language practice which enhances overall student cognitive growth.

...provides opportunities for parents and classroom teachers to practice Spanish throughout the school day and at home.

...seeks to use the Spanish language and culture as a vehicle to accomplish goal of highest student achievement.

We are very proud of our FLES Program. ¡Español es chévere, Olé!

### 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](http://www.baypoint-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us)

## MealpayPlus System In Place

Parents who want to register their child/ren online in the MealpayPlus system to pay for school meals via credit card will need their student's ten digit id #. You can find these numbers on last year's report card, student class schedules or class assignment, Student ID Cards, emergency notification card or other information provided on first day of school.

Once registered, parents can place money on account very easily using their credit card, by school and student name. Student ID is needed for first time registration only. Register online at:

[www.14.mealpayplus.com/default.aspx](http://www.14.mealpayplus.com/default.aspx)

Parents may still pay the cafeteria manager, Mrs. Smith, directly by cash, check or money order between 8:00 am and 9:30 am daily

## Please Return Your Clinic Cards

- ◆ 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".
- ◆ **LABEL your children's clothes**, lunchboxes, jackets, etc. Every year we accumulate several large boxes of unclaimed items.

## Problem With the Bus?

Call Transportation at 587-2020



## Welcome Back to the Library!

...Mrs. Bonnie Parker

Another year is started and there are many exciting things happening in the media center.

The **Sunshine State Young Reader Award Program** is an excellent way to nurture lifelong reading and to motivate students in grades 3-5 to read high interest contemporary literature. Our school will be participating in the **Battle of the Books** in the spring using these 15 Sunshine State Young Reader Award Books. The battle is a fun question and answer type game that will be played in the spring with the top group going to the county level to "battle" other schools. If you have a student in these grades, please encourage them to start reading these books as soon as possible to ensure they have all 15 read by March of 2009 and can be a part of our winning team.



**Reading Counts!** is a great program available to students in all grade levels. After reading a high interest, age appropriate book, a student takes a computer-generated quiz. The student can demonstrate completion and comprehension of the book by correctly answering multiple-choice questions. *Reading Counts!* is a fun way for students to keep track of their reading progress while making steps towards reaching their reading goals.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming November 10-14. Many exciting books will be available at our school library for purchase. Profits are being used to help support the school's library as well as the classroom teachers. This year all classroom teachers in grades 3-5 received a copy of *No Talking!* By Andrew Clements to start their classroom collections of Sunshine State Young Reader Awards. Teachers in grades K-2 received election materials to help teach about the upcoming Presidential election. And, all classroom teachers received a 1gb camera card and a USB travel drive to record pictures all year long. We also purchased many copies of Adobe PhotoShop and Adobe Premiere for our computer lab for students to learn how to create incredible multimedia projects. All of these things, as well as equipment and library supplies, were purchased with profits from last Spring's Book Fair. Look for flyers around the first of November and again, a big thank-you for supporting literacy in our school.

The **Digital Camera Club** will again be looking for budding photographers. Look for details coming home soon about this year's Digital Camera Club.

## Counselor Corner

...Ms. Kerry Cunningham

Welcome back! Please be watching your child's backpack for some information regarding upcoming guidance groups. Also, I will be sending home information on the classroom guidance lessons for each grade level. Any input or questions are welcome! Give your child a few weeks to adjust to the new school year and if concerns start to pop up after that time, do not hesitate to contact me or your child's teacher.

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,  
we borrow it from our children.*

...Native American Proverb

## Thank You

Laurie Carrion and **Kingston Technology Co., Inc.**

For the donation of

*Computer Memory for Dummies*  
booklets they provided our staff!

**Jabil Circuit**

For donating backpacks filled with supplies for students

## Young Astronauts Ready to Launch Another Great Year

...Mr. John Barfield, YAC Coordinator

Welcome back to another great year at Bay Point, from your Young Astronaut's Club! We are excited, and looking forward to another interesting, fun year of activities and learning. Applications for the group will go out around August 27. They will be due back to your classroom teacher by September 12. Members chosen will be notified by September 20.

**All returning members MUST FILL OUT AN APPLICATION!** Students are chosen randomly, with an equal number of boys and girls. A waiting list will be made for those not chosen. We are always in need of adult volunteers to assist group leaders, if you are interested, make note on the application. One word of thanks to a former BPE teacher. Ms. Brenda Denbigh has left for an opportunity at another school. Her assistance last school was invaluable. The good news is, that she has offered to be a volunteer for our group, so we will see her again! Thanks Brenda!

**YAC is an all volunteer run organization**, we appreciate all of the support from parents, teachers, and Mrs. Lively! Thank you all!

## Your Parent-Teacher Association

...Mrs. Ottaviani, VP Programs

Welcome Back to a new year of learning at our wonderful school. We are so glad to see you! A special welcome goes out to our new Kindergarteners and Teachers. We have a busy year ahead of us. Here are just a couple of items to start the year off.

There are three proposed amendments that will affect our schools significantly this November. They are Amendments 5, 7 and 9. Please take a moment and review these issues. There are summaries and question and answers on the Pinellas County Council of PTA's (PCCPTA) website. The address is [www.pccpta.org](http://www.pccpta.org). If you are unable to find the information, please contact a Board Member and we can get you a copy of the three summaries.

The PCCPTA is having a "2009 Backpack Challenge." The goal is to collect 2009 filled backpacks by April 24, 2009. We are looking to raise 36 for our school. This is one per classroom. Did you know that on the average, every day in Pinellas county 250 kids wake up in the morning not knowing where they're going to sleep that night; the average luggage for a child in foster care is a Hefty garbage bag; many times a child is pulled from their home in the middle of the night for safety reasons and expected to go to school the next day with no supplies?

Students get to choose a menu item for lunch to be served on September 24<sup>th</sup>. They may vote online before September 11<sup>th</sup> on the PTA webpage at [www.bpepta.org](http://www.bpepta.org)

## PTA Events

### Ice Cream Social & 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting

September 10<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm – 7pm  
at Bay Point Elementary 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

[www.bpepta.org](http://www.bpepta.org)



## We Count on Your Support

...Ms. Cindy Petelle

The **Adopt\*A\*Class** program at Bay Point Elementary helps teachers add those little extras to their classroom. In the past, the program has funded cushions for reading centers, "pockets" for chairs in Kindergarten and field trips. You can adopt a specialist as well. The Science Lab would benefit from adoption to buy feed for the critters, the Music program may fund T-shirts for members of chorus or Tech to keep up with the latest advances. The \$100 donation would be spent this year. Check with your employer; some will match what you contribute. Talk to a teacher to see what they have planned to do if they are adopted.

Looking for other ways to contribute? Teachers have **wish lists** filled with items they need for their classrooms. Boxes of tissues and anti-bacterial products are just two of the many consumables that teachers need throughout the year.

Some businesses run promotions to benefit our school. If you shop at **Sweetbay**, check your receipts for School Dollars. Turn them in to the school and we can redeem them for cash. **Domino's Pizza** will give the school a percentage of sales if you give the delivery man the coupon we distribute on Thursdays Domino's Pizza Dough Night.



Collecting **Box Tops for Education**, found on General Mills products, are a simple way to contribute. Each coupon is worth a dime, and those dimes add up to hundreds of dollars each year. If you shop on-line, try registering at the Box Tops portal. You can shop at over 60 stores like Best Buy, Target, JCPenney and Shutterfly and a portion of the proceeds are credited back to BPE. The page is at: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/>

But the number **1** way to contribute to the school is to **volunteer**. We challenge each parent to take the **3 for Me** pledge—that is, volunteer at least three hours this year. That's one field trip, or one PTA event or coming in several times on your lunch break. When you volunteer, you tell your child that education is important.

- ◆ Great American Teach-In—November 19<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Consider joining the PTA and taking an active role
- ◆ Bookmark this web page for forms and mentor training dates:

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

## **School-Related** **Constitutional Amendments** **Headed to Supreme Court**

Lawsuits involving three proposed constitutional amendments, which are expected to have an effect on public education in Florida, are headed to the Florida Supreme Court for oral arguments Sept. 8.

Amendment 5, dubbed the “tax swap” amendment, was thrown off the Nov. 4 ballot as a result of a lawsuit that is under appeal. Amendments 7 and 9, which would insulate private school vouchers against court challenges, were left on the ballot because of a circuit court ruling in a lawsuit. For more information, visit the Florida School Boards Association’s website, [www.fsba.org](http://www.fsba.org).

## **School Board’s Final Budget** **Public Hearing**

The school board will hold its final public hearing on Sept. 9 regarding the 2008-09 budget. The board is expected to approve a \$1.46-billion budget 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.

During the last five years, the school board has cut \$51.8-million from the operating budget by eliminating positions, reassigning employees, closing schools, reducing the number of assistant principals and giving no employee raises. In addition, the district used reserves of \$10.8-million for a total in cuts of \$62.6-million. For more information, visit [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org).

## **Volunteers Needed**

Through volunteering, families can have an active role in their child’s education as well as the operation of the school. People of all ages are needed to help operate schools and to help students succeed. The volunteer who reads to a young person may spark an interest in or love of reading, while the business partner who leads a tour of a workplace or teaches math or computer skills expands the classroom walls and prepares students for a world of possibilities.

For more information on how you can become a tutor, mentor, office/clerical assistant, library helper, ESOL tutor or classroom partner, call (727) 588-6405.



It’s a simple fact, when parents are involved in their children’s education, kids do better in school.

Three key points to help you help your child achieve in school:

- Actively organize and monitor your child’s time.
- Help with homework.
- Talk to your child about their school day.

**Tip of the Month** – Education first starts at home. Begin by reading to your child and encourage him or her to continue reading and learning.



## **Nov. 15 Is Deadline for** **Young Heroes Nominations**

Here’s your chance to nominate students who have given of themselves through community service or who inspire others through their deeds and strength of character.

Winning students will be profiled on WPDS-TV14 and on the district website, and introduced at a school board meeting. Winners also will receive a \$500 Savings Bond and attend an end-of-year breakfast with the superintendent.

Nomination forms are available on the district website, [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org).

## **Emergency Information**

With hurricane season in full force, please remember that the school district posts its emergency messages, such as school closings due to hazardous weather, on the emergency phone line, (727) 588-6424; on the district website, [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org), and on Pinellas County Schools’ television, WPDS-TV14 located on Bright House Networks Ch. 614, Knology Ch. 14 and Verizon Ch. 46.

## **September/October Special** **Observance Days**

Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 30  
Second Day of Rosh Hashanah, Oct. 1  
Edi-al-Fitr, Oct. 2  
Yom Kippur, Oct. 9  
Succos or Sukkot, Oct. 14 & 15  
Shemini Atzeret, Oct. 21 & 22