

Bear Creek Hotline

District Website www.pcsb.org

Bear Creek PTA Website - www.bcpta.org

Bear Creek Website <http://www.pcsb.org/bearcreek-es>

Clawing Our Way to An Another A!



Willette Houston – Principal
Nikishia Dixon – Assistant Principal
Michele Nieset – Secretary
Laura Neuman – Cafeteria Manager 893-1381
School Phone 893-2332

Robert Poth, Area 3 Superintendent 588-2020
Pinellas County School Board 588-6000
Transportation – District Call Center 587-2020
Student Assignment 588-6210
Bear Creek Office Hours 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Student In Class Hours
8:35 AM to 3:05 PM

Principal's Corner



September 1-30, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Bear Creek,

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful summer break. I would like to thank all the families that came out for the Meet the Teacher event. We look forward to seeing everyone for Open House night on Tuesday, September 5th as well.

Only Pre-K parents are allowed to park in front of the Pre-K building starting at 2:50pm in spots 1, 2, 3 and 4. The special Pre-K parking ends at 3:05 pm, then the rest of the Bear Creek parents may use those spots.

Students at Bear Creek Elementary were recipients of community kindness last week as several organizations partnered to ensure that teachers and classrooms were equipped with extra supplies. Bear Creek Elementary would like to thank Channel 10 News and Grow Financial for collecting school supplies for our school. Goodwill Industries-Suncoast donated a truck and a driver who helped with the deliveries.

We would like the students to continue to have pride in everything they do from schoolwork, homework, to behavior and being the great students they are. We hope that you will continue to show Paw Pride by attending school functions, parent conferences, reading and signing agendas, and support school initiatives.

We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce our new staff members this year at Bear Creek. They are as follows: Nikishia Dixon – Assistant Principal; Brittany Jennings – 1st grade; Cathryn Raiola – 2nd grade; Christina Powers – 2nd grade; and Kayla Vance - Pre-K Assistant.

I am looking forward to a wonderful 2017-2018 school year as we “Continue clawing our way to an another A!” Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns (727)893-2332.

Willette Houston, Principal

Mark Your Calendars

Sept 05 - Back to School and Title 1 Annual Meeting @ 6:00-7:00 PM Starting in the Cafeteria!

Sept 10 - Grandparents Day

Sept 12 – Mid-Terms Reports Go Home

Grandparents Visit for Lunch
Sept 13th - 1st, 3rd and 5th
Sept 14th - K, 2nd and 4th
Invitations coming home soon.

Sept 15 - Oct 15 - National Hispanic Month

Sept 17 - Constitution and Citizenship Day

Sept 18 - Individual Picture Day!

Sept 21 - Skating Party @ 3:30-6:30PM

Field Trip Flyers coming home soon.

Sept 22 - First Day of Autumn

Oct 5 – Books for Breakfast @7:45am – 8:30am

Oct 6 – Wear Jeans for the Day for \$1

Fundraiser benefits 4th Grade

We will continue to use Guidelines for success as our school wide focus. The new Guidelines are:

Be Responsible

Encourage Others

Actively Participate

Respect All

Please review the guidelines of success at home!



Reminder!

Sept 5th, 2017 - Back to School & Title 1 Annual Meeting @ 6:00 PM in the Cafeteria.

District Website

One way to stay in touch with the happenings of Pinellas County Schools is to visit the district's website at www.pcsb.org

Once you go to the website you will find a link to Bear Creek's website. You can also now find our school's virtual tour through the district

Mission Statement for 2017-2018 - Providing all children with a challenging, high-quality education for their academic and vocational success.



Commitment to Character Words



August was - **"Respect"** - Treating yourself and others with courtesy and consideration.

September - **"Responsibility"** - Doing your best and taking ownership for your words and Actions.

Please Keep Saving!!

We collect Box Tops for Education, cell phones and empty laser and inkjet cartridges for recycling purposes. Send any of these items to school with your child. Newspapers can be brought anytime to the south parking lot. Drop yours in and support Bear Creek!



BECOME A MENTOR

All children deserve at least one adult in their life who will listen to them, guide them and cheer for them. Mentors do change lives, and the smallest investment of time can provide a lifetime of rewards.

Bear Creek is looking for dedicated, caring individuals who are willing to mentor students. All that is required is a 2 hour training workshop and a once a week meeting with your student.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact

Karen Norton, Family & Community Liaison

@ 893-2332, or feel free to stop by the school.

School Health Services

We have a school nurse assigned part time. Medications should be taken at home whenever possible. If medications (both prescription and over the counter) are required at school, a medication card must be completed each year.

The medication policy for parents is as follows:

- No medications are to be brought in by students.
- No medication is to be accepted without a medication card filled out in the school clinic or front office, not to be taken home.
- All medicine must be in an unopened box.
- All medication must be counted with parent and a staff member.
- Any medical treatments or scripted medication or over the counter must have a Doctors order to accompany it.

Please remember to turn in the yellow clinic card promptly with the important health and contact information and note any health needs on it for us to better serve your child(ren), and also update the information as often as needed.

For questions regarding nursing services or screenings, please contact the school nurse.

Thanks for your help!

Angela Almeida, RN Bear Creek School Nurse
at 727-893-2332.



Jeans Day!

Your child has the opportunity to wear **jeans** to school on **Friday, October 6th** as an in school fundraiser by bringing **\$1** to their teacher on Friday, October 6th. All of the money collected will be used to support different grade levels or departments each month.

This month we support

The 4th Grade Classes!!

*Uniform tops must be worn.

*Jeans must fit at the waistline and must not have holes or tears.

Attendance



We would like to remind students to please arrive at school on time.

- * All students are invited to have a free hot breakfast from 8:00-8:25 AM in the cafeteria.
- * All students may begin to go to class when the first bell rings at 8:15 AM.
- * The last bell rings at 8:35 AM, and class begins.
- * Anyone arriving after 8:35 is late and needs to go to the front office for a tardy pass.
- * Any absence requires written documentation from parent or proof of a medical appointment.
- * Please remember that school ends Monday through Friday at 3:05 PM. Please pick up your child(ren) on time.

If any Grandparent would like to volunteer at our school, please stop by the office for a volunteer registration form or call the school office and a form will be sent home with your grandchild.



We will celebrate Grandparents Day on Wednesday, September 13th and Thursday, September 14th. We will invite the visitors to join their students for lunch on those days. Classroom teachers will be sending invites home with your grandchild.

The invite will go home with your grandchildren's lunch times and date. Bear Creek adult lunch is \$3.50 per person, adult salad is \$4 each or you can come with your own lunch. We hope to see you come out and enjoy some time with your grandchildren.

Picture Day is Coming!



Information regarding this event will be coming home soon. What a great way to get a high quality photo of your child!

Uniforms are not required on this day!! Students may wear an outfit of their choice on

September 18th Only!

All students must follow the minimum dress code standards stated in the Pinellas County School's Elementary Code of Conduct booklet, which came home in the first day packet.

Attention Parents!!!

We ask that all parents please make sure you read the handbook in front of your student's agenda book.

Please make sure everything from the first day packet to school is returned! Please make sure all signatures are on paperwork and PTA member dues are attached.

If you have any new emergency phone numbers throughout the school year. Please stop by the front office to make the changes or use your portal username and password and make the changes.

Attention all Parents, Guardians and Students!!!

Per Pinellas County District rules and to eliminate interruptions to the valuable classroom instruction time, we ask that you **do not bring in any birthday celebration items to the school on your child's birthday.** Which means no cupcakes, cakes, balloons or any items you would normally bring to celebrate your child's birthday.

We do let the students come to the front office to pick out a free book, which is provided by PTA on their birthday.

Physical Education

Our Bear Creek students have physical education 3 days a week and Pre-K is 5 days. It is important to be mindful of the heat and sun. Please help your children remember to drink plenty of fluids before school, with water being the best choice. It is permissible to wear hats and sunscreen to PE classes, but we ask that the children drink the water when the class is over. It is also important for the children to wear shoes that are appropriate for outdoor play. Please send a note with your child if your child needs to be excused from PE class for some reason.



We hope all of our students have a safe and successful year at Bear Creek.

Dress Code

Bear Creek is a uniform school. This policy can be found in the front of your child's agenda book. Please purchase appropriate clothing. Please remember:

- * Shirts should be polo style with collars. The shirt colors are light blue, navy blue or white.
- * Bear Creek T-Shirts are allowed to be worn everyday.
- * Pants and shorts are to be regular uniform clothing of khaki or navy. No Cargo style! Capri pants, skorts, dresses, skirts for girls are allowed.
- * Shorts, skirts and skorts should be mid thigh length or longer.
- * It is **not** acceptable for students to come to school in baggy pants or cargo style bottoms and jeans. Every month we will have the opportunity to wear jeans on the first Friday.



Please purchase appropriate clothing. The dress code for Pinellas County Schools can be reviewed on the district website or in the front of your child's agenda. We would expect visitors to Bear Creek to follow the district website as well. Thank you for helping us set a positive example for our students.

TITLE I News

September Events

- Dee Kwiatkowski, MTSS Coach/Title 1

I would like to welcome back all of our new and returning students and their families to Bear Creek.

As most of you know by now, Bear Creek is an A school this year. But what you may not know is that Bear Creek is the ONLY Title I school in the District to earn an A. That is quite an accomplishment and we are so proud of our administration, staff and especially our students and families who made it all possible. We have a lot of work to do this year to maintain that A, but we are confident that with your support we will continue to be successful.

On Tuesday, September 5th we will host our Title1 Annual Meeting to discuss this year's budget, our Parent Involvement Plan and other important information.

After the Annual Meeting we will begin our Open House, where parents will have an opportunity to learn about Grade Level Expectations, Assessments, and Curriculum for the coming year from the teaching staff. The schedule is as follows:

6:00-6:10 - Staff Introductions (Cafeteria)

6:10-6:30 - Title I Annual Meeting Overview (Cafeteria)

6:30-7:00 - Session 1 (Classrooms)

7:00-7:30 - Session 2



This is going to be a great start of the school year and we hope to have a HUGE turnout!! See you there!

DID YOU KNOW???

Absenteeism in preschool and kindergarten can influence whether a child will be held back in third grade. Several studies document a link between chronic absence — missing 10 percent of the school year — in the early grades and a child's ability to master reading by the end of third grade. With 14 states (including Florida) now linking third grade promotion to reading performance, chronic absence can undermine the broader efforts to improve literacy.

Absenteeism in kindergarten can also affect whether a child develops the skills needed to succeed in school. A recently released study by researcher Michael Gottfried at the University of California, shows the negative impact of chronic absenteeism on both academic performance and social-emotional skills needed to persist and engage in learning. For more information go to <http://www.attendanceworks.org>

Attendance Works

Bear Creek Website <http://www.pcsb.org/bearcreek-es>

In an effort to increase families reporting student absences in a timely manner, we are implementing an electronic method as another option you can utilize. This will keep schools better informed on why students are not in class.

On our schools website you will find a new icon that says "Report Student Absence". This icon will be on each of our website pages located with the other global icons. When families click on this icon it generates an email that will go to the mailboxes of the two individuals we have designated for this purpose. Families should be informed that they can use this method to report absences in addition to all the existing ways such as calling and writing notes. You may also be able to include an attachment such as a doctor's note.

Thank you and Happy New School Year!



Adopt-A-Class

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

CURRENT VOLUNTEERS:

If you are a current volunteer from last school year you will need to REACTIVATE-

* Returning Volunteers can activate in Focus at www.pcsb.org and follow the instructions to - Activate your volunteer account in Focus.

NEW VOLUNTEERS:

If you are interested in volunteering, please pick up a form from the front office. **You may then send or bring it to the school with a copy of your driver's license. We must have an ID to process the form.**

Your information will be entered in the county database and the approval usually takes about 2 to 3 weeks.



Adopt-A-Class Information

Bear Creek is seeking partnerships which can include businesses and community members to be part of this program.

Interested members can Adopt-A-Class with a tax deductible monetary donation of \$100 or more.

100% of donations are used to support classroom teachers with purchasing materials and supplies for students which enhance classroom learning opportunities.

This year you can either come into the front office and make a donation or you can go online and donate at www.pcsb.revtrak.net.

For more information stop by the front office or call the Family & Community Liaison, Karen Norton at 893-2332 x 2147.

Duke Energy Great American Teach-In

The 24th Annual Great American Teach In will be held at Bear Creek Elementary November 15, 2017. Members of the community are invited into the schools for an hour, a few class periods or a day. Participants may tell students about a career, hobby or personal experience; organize an activity; read a story or teach a class. This is a wonderful opportunity for speakers to interact with our students firsthand. Sharing your life experiences may change a student's life and is time well spent for all involved. If you, or someone you know, is interested in participating in this year's event, please stop by the school or contact



Mrs. Karen Norton, Family & Community Liaison at 893-2332 x2147 for more information.

Community Partners Donate Needed School Supplies.

Students at Bear Creek Elementary were recipients of community kindness last week as several organizations partnered to ensure that teachers and classrooms were equipped with extra supplies.

Channel 10 News and Grow Financial collected items including book bags, hand sanitizer, paper towels and colored markers and created Teacher's Toolboxes. In total, 400 Teacher Tool Boxes were assembled and distributed to 10 schools in the Tampa Bay area. Goodwill Industries-Suncoast donated a truck and a driver who helped with the deliveries.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

We are forming our SAC membership for the 2017 - 18 school year. SAC meets every other month on the third Tuesday in the evenings around 7:00 PM or immediately after the PTA Meeting has ended. The next SAC meeting will be held on September 19th. SAC discusses items relevant to school improvement issues. If you are interested in serving on SAC this year, please fill out the form below and return it to school.

_____ YES! I am interested in being a part of Bear Creek's School Advisory Council or SAC.

Parent Name _____

Phone Number and best time to reach you _____

Oldest Child's Name _____ and Teacher _____

Pinellas County Elementary School Menu

September

Fun Facts

Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" on September 14, 1814.



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

<p>HARVEST of the MONTH</p>	<p>=====> Florida Avocados!</p>	<p>Visit nutrislice.com for Menu & Nutrition information. You can also download the app on your mobile device!</p>	<p>Johnny Appleseed Born September 26, 1774</p>	<p>1 Egg & Cheese Breakfast Taco <u>Choose One:</u> Pizza Potato-Crusted Fish Sticks w/ Corn Muffin Loaf Chicken Caesar Salad Italian Sub <u>Choose:</u> Corn Veggie Dippers</p>
<p>4 No School</p> <p>LABOR DAY</p>	<p>5 Egg, Ham, Cheese English Muffin</p> <p>SCHOOL FAVORITES DAY</p> <p>Students choose the menu</p>	<p>6 Chicken Biscuit</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Chicken Drumstick w/ Hush Puppy Cheeseburger Meatloaf w/ Roll Yogurt Parfait Ham & Cheese Croissant <u>Choose:</u> Mashed Potatoes w/ Brown Gravy Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>7 Cheesy Bacon Toast</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Beef OR Pork Tacos Cheesy Bread Chef Salad Chicken Caesar Wrap <u>Choose:</u> Marinara Cup Refried Fiesta Beans Leafy Green Side Salad</p>	<p>8 Pancake Pup</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Pizza Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo w/ Breadstick Chicken Caesar Salad Italian Sub <u>Choose:</u> Spinach OR Collard Greens Veggie Dippers</p>
<p>11 Apple Cinnamon Texas Toast</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Hamburger or Cheeseburger Roasted BBQ OR Herb Chicken w/ Roll Fruit & Yogurt Plate Turkey & Cheese Hoagie <u>Choose:</u> Green Beans Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>12 Scrambled Egg, Bacon, & Biscuit</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Hot Dog w/ Nutribon Cookies Grilled Cheese Farmers' Salad Jamwich Kit <u>Choose:</u> Tomato Soup Romaine Side Salad</p>	<p>13 Glazed Dunker</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Chicken Tender Basket w/ Oven Fries Spaghetti & Meatballs Yogurt Parfait Ham & Cheese Croissant <u>Choose:</u> Broccoli Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>14 Bacon, Egg & Cheese Pizza</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Breakfast for Lunch Max Sticks Chef Salad Chicken Caesar Wrap <u>Choose:</u> Marinara Cup Deli Roasted Potatoes Leafy Green Side Salad</p>	<p>15 Morning Sausage Roll</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Pizza Ocean Treasure Fish Nuggets w/ Roll Chicken Caesar Salad Italian Sub <u>Choose:</u> Oven Baked Beans Veggie Dippers</p>
<p>18 Blueberry Bash Mini Waffles</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Chicken Sandwich Loaded BBQ Pork & Cheese Tots w/ Roll Fruit & Yogurt Plate Turkey & Cheese Hoagie <u>Choose:</u> Sliced Carrots Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>19 Egg & Cheese Croissant</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Max Quesadilla Corn Dog Farmers' Salad Jamwich Kit <u>Choose:</u> Salsa Cup Oven Baked Beans Romaine Side Salad</p>	<p>20 Cinnamon Roll</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Teriyaki Beef Dippers w/Rice Macaroni & Cheese Yogurt Parfait Ham & Cheese Croissant <u>Choose:</u> Broccoli Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>21 Sausage Biscuit</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Popcorn Chicken & Waffle Mini Calzones Chef Salad Chicken Caesar Wrap <u>Choose:</u> Marinara Cup Mixed Vegetable Blend Leafy Green Side Salad</p>	<p>22 Egg & Cheese Breakfast Taco</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Pizza Potato-Crusted Fish Sticks w/ Corn Muffin Loaf Chicken Caesar Salad Italian Sub <u>Choose:</u> Corn Veggie Dippers</p>
<p>25 Maple Pancake Minis</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll Pizza Crunchers Fruit & Yogurt Plate Turkey & Cheese Hoagie <u>Choose:</u> Sweet Potato Waffle Fries Veggie Dippers</p>	<p>26 Egg, Ham, Cheese English Muffin</p> <p>SCHOOL FAVORITES DAY</p> <p>Students choose the menu!</p>	<p>27 Chicken Biscuit</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Chicken Drumstick w/ Hush Puppy Cheeseburger Meatloaf w/ Roll Yogurt Parfait Ham & Cheese Croissant <u>Choose:</u> Mashed Potatoes w/ Brown Gravy Sliced Cucumbers</p>	<p>28 Cheesy Bacon Toast</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Beef OR Pork Tacos Cheesy Bread Chef Salad Chicken Caesar Wrap <u>Choose:</u> Marinara Cup Refried Fiesta Beans Leafy Green Side Salad</p>	<p>29 Pancake Pup</p> <p><u>Choose One:</u> Pizza Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo w/ Breadstick Chicken Caesar Salad Italian Sub <u>Choose:</u> Spinach OR Collard Greens Veggie Dippers</p>

DAILY BREAKFAST CHOICES

Hot or cold breakfast choices are available daily. i.e.: Breakfast Sandwich, Pancakes, Cereal & Toast, or Cereal Bar & Toast. Must choose at least 1: Fruit or Juice. May choose 1: Milk Skim, Low Fat White, or Fat Free Chocolate.

DAILY LUNCH CHOICES:

Choose 1: Entrée. Must choose at least 1: Fruit or Vegetable (may choose up to 2 servings each of fruits & veggies with their lunch meal) May Choose: 1 Milk; Skim, Low Fat White, or Fat Free Chocolate. Available for lunch daily: Meat or Meatless Entrée, Entrée Salads, Cold Sandwiches, Hot & Cold Vegetable choices, Variety of Fruits (fresh or cupped) & Juices

All menus are subject to change!

We do our best to provide our customers with all of our planned options; however, sometimes crops, weather & availability have other issues!

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Pinellas County School Food Service is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W. Whittier Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 726-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 8/17/2017