

# Bear Creek Hotline



District Website [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org)

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

Willette Houston – Principal	Robert Poth, Area 3 Superintendent 588-2020
Nikishia Dixon – Assistant Principal	Pinellas County School Board 588-6000
Lisa Robinson – Secretary/Bookkeeper	Transportation – District Call Center 587-2020
Laura Neuman – Cafeteria Manager 893-1381	Student Assignment 588-6210
School Front Office Phone 893-2332	Bear Creek Office Hours 8:15 AM to 3:55 PM

**Student In Class Hours**  
**8:45 AM to 2:55 PM**

## Principal's Corner

January 1-31, 2020

## Mark Your Calendars

### Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Bear Creek,

Happy New Year! Welcome back after two restful weeks off for the winter holiday break. Teachers and students will be reviewing the guidelines for success as the students get back into the routine of learning.

I want to thank all the families that attended our Winter Concert and want to thank Grace Bible Church for letting us use their church. Kudos to our students and Mrs. Robinson-Thomas, the music teacher for the wonderful performances. Thank you to the teachers that came out to assist and support our students.

If any fifth grade students need to apply for a magnet or fundamental school for next school year, starting on January 8th is the time to put in your request for the 2020-2021 school year. Last day to apply is January 18th.

On January 13th, we will start to register new Kindergarteners for the 2020-2021 school year. **Bear Creek will host a Kindergarten Open House on Tuesday, January 14th at 5:30 PM for all new incoming Kindergarteners and Parents.** All new Kindergarten students must turn 5 years old on or before September 1st, 2020. Please call the front office staff and they will help you with any questions you may have regarding registration.

**Please attend our PTA Board meeting** that will be held on Tuesday, January 21st, at 6PM. Immediately following will be the SAC meeting. We always welcome more parent and community participation.

Please come out on January 28th, 2020 for **"Math for Muffins."** From 7:45 am to 8:30 am, parent and students can come out for muffins and juice. All parents will receive math tip sheets which will help utilize math strategies at home.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of teaching your children each and every day. We are anticipating 100% success for all students. Our theme this year is **"Relationships + Efficacy + GRIT = 100% Student Success!"** As always, please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

*Willette Houston, Principal*



Guidelines for success as our school wide focus.

- Be Responsible
- Encourage Others
- Actively Participate
- Respect All

Please review the guidelines of success at home!



[www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern](http://www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern)

### Mentoring Month

Thank you to all our Mentors!

- Jan 8 - 17** Apply for District School Application Program Begins
- Jan 10** - Family Lunch Day
- Jan 10** - Wear Jeans for the day for a \$1 Fundraiser Benefits 1st Grade
- Jan 13** - *Ready, Set... Kindergarten Registration Begins for 2020-2021 School Year*
- Jan 13 - 21** Pasta for Pennies Fundraiser for Leukemia and Lymphoma
- Jan 14** - Ready, Set... Kindergarten Bear Creek Open House @ 5:30 PM
- Jan 17 - 23** Scholastic Book Fair

### No School Reminder!

Martin Luther King Day  
Monday, January 20



- Jan 21 - Jan 31** Apply for Pre-K3 and VPK Seats for 2020-2021 School Year
- Jan 21** - Class Pictures
- Jan 21** - **Report Cards are Ready on your Focus Account**
- Jan 21** - PTA & SAC Meeting @ 6 PM
- Jan 24** - Hands-on Problem Solving Program
- Jan 28 - Feb 1st** Literacy Week
- Jan 27** - 100th Day of School
- Jan 28** - Math for Muffins @7:45 AM - 8:30 AM
- Feb 7** - Family Lunch Day
- Feb 7** - Wear Jeans for the day for a \$1 Fundraiser Benefits Kindergarten
- Feb 7** - Mid-Term Reports Go Home
- Feb 14** - Valentines Day - One of our days when children can bring treats to school.
- Feb 17** - No School for Students



## Why is attendance so important?

- **Good Attendance** - Student has missed fewer than 5% of school days (generally less than 4 or 5 days in a semester)
- **At-Risk** - Student has missed between 5% and 10% of school days (generally between 5-9 days in a semester)
- **Chronic Absence** - Student has missed 10% or more of school days (generally 9 days or more in a semester)

***Let's All Strive for Good Attendance!***

## Bear Creek



## Winter

## Book Fair

January 17th - 23rd  
Open Monday - Friday  
@8:45 AM - 3:00 PM

  
Read Every Day. Lead a Better Life.



### Commitment to Character Word for

January is  
"Self-Motivation"  
Working in a careful and consistent manner without giving up.

## Application Period for Choice Programs - Opens in January, 2020

Families can apply for magnet, fundamental and career programs January 8 - 17 at <https://reservation.pcsb.org>. All parents need to have a focus account login in order to apply for the programs. If you have lost your focus account user name and password, just go into any Pinellas County School and ask for another. Please bring in your ID in order for us to re-set your focus account. For more information, families can visit [www.pcsb.org/choice](http://www.pcsb.org/choice) or call 727-588-6210.

**Acceptance period will start on February 10th to 21st, 2020.**

### Ready, Set... Kindergarten

Parents will be able to start the kindergarten registration process for the 2020-2021 School Year on

**Tuesday, January 13th, 2020.**

All new Kindergarten students must turn 5 years old on or before September 1st, 2020. In order to get started you will need to have a Focus Account to get the registration started and then we will need a Birth Certificate, 2 Proofs of Residency, Physical Exam Certificate and a Florida Certificate of Immunization. Please call the front office staff and they will help you with any questions at 893-2332.

**Ready, Set... Kindergarten Open House will be Tuesday, January 14th at 5:30pm.**

### Pre-K3 and VPK Registration for 2020-2021

Pinellas County Schools is beginning the online application process on January 21st - 31st, 2020, for Prekindergarten for 3 year old children and Voluntary Prekindergarten for 4 year olds.

Parents need to have a Focus Account to be able to apply online. If you do not have one please stop by any Pinellas County School to obtain an user name and password and to received step by step instructions on the application process and what paperwork you will need to register.

Pre-K 3 is for children who will be 3 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2020. For information about Pre-K 3, please read more on the Districts website [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org) or call 727-588-6000 x 2184.

VPK is for children who will be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2020. For more information about VPK, visit [www.pcsb.org/vpk](http://www.pcsb.org/vpk) or call 727-588-6513.

Parents will also need to log back into the district's Student Reservation System on February 24th - March 6th to accept an invitation for Pre-K 3 and VPK programs.

The front office at Bear Creek is open from 8:15 am to 3:55pm and our number is 893-2332. Please call the front office staff and they will help you with any questions.

# Thank you to all our wonderful Mentors!

It's Mentoring Month and Bear Creek students and staff want to thank all our dedicated mentors for taking time out of their day to come in to mentor our students. 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 Lily Giering, Family & Community Liaison @ 893-2332 x 2107, or feel free to stop by the school.



## Art News!



Congratulations go to three fifth grade students Donald H., McKenna M. and Marco T., they have the honor of having their artwork on display for the Kids Tag Art Pinellas Contest. This art contest is sponsored by the Charles W. Thomas, Pinellas County Tax Collector's office and Pinellas County Schools. Their artwork and all of the other Bear Creek students are available for viewing and can be purchased on the Pinellas County Tax Collectors website. The award ceremony will be held on Thursday, January 16th, 2020 at Largo High School.

Congratulations go to three fourth grade students Imani A., Addisyn B. and Morgan C., they also have the honor of having their artwork on display at the Morean Arts Center. This year's theme is "I Wonder...." The Word and Image Arts in Education Partnership with Pinellas County Schools and the Morean Arts Center. Their award ceremony and open reception will be on Saturday, February 8th. Artwork will be on display from January 17 - February 23, 2020 at the Morean Arts Center in the Risser Galley located at 719 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg.



### Math Corner- with Mrs. Hobbs

Are there any good books that make math part of the story?

Math turns up in the most unexpected places! You'll find it somewhere between the covers of almost any book- novels, mysteries, biographies, legends, and adventures. Books can spark students' math imaginations.

You'll soon start finding the math in everything you read. Counting objects, naming shapes, exploring measurement and finding patterns are just some mathematical concepts books can unlock. This is just one more way to bring your family together.

One of my favorites: *Rooster's Off to See the World* by Eric Carle  
-How many turtles, frogs and fish joined Rooster on his trip?

### Attention all Volunteers!

Hands-on Problem Solving is coming to Bear Creek on January 24th. This program is for all 4th and 5th grade students. We need volunteers to help facilitate the activities for the day. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Lily Giering, Family & Community Liaison @ 893-2332 x 2107, or feel free to stop by the school.