

# Bear Creek Hotline

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

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



Willette Houston – Principal  
Nikishia Dixon – Assistant Principal  
Lisa Robinson – 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 8:15 AM to 3:45 PM

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

## Principal's Corner



September 2018

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. Thank you for being flexible for the cancellation of our Back to School night, due to the weather. We look forward to seeing everyone for the new rescheduled Open House night on Thursday, September 27th. This Friday we will have our very first Family Lunch Day. Parents who wish to participate will be required to present identification and sign into the front office for a pass. Visitors without a Level 2 clearance will be escorted to the cafeteria.

Only Pre-K parents are allowed to park in front of the Pre-K building starting at 2:30 pm in spots 1, 2, 3 and 4. The special Pre-K parking ends at 2:45 pm, then the rest of the Bear Creek parents may use those spots.

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 all 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: Anne-Marie Nemeth - 3rd grade teacher; Jeffrey Conard - PE Coach; Emily Wyman - Reading Coach; Tyler Brooks - Technology Tech; Vanessa Sheeley - Paraprofessional; Amanda Reed - Psychologist; Artesha Andras - LPN; and returning Gifted Teacher Deborah Davis.

I am so excited to get our new school year underway. Our theme this year is "Changing the narrative, one student at a time. We are Authors of our own story!" As always, please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

*Willette Houston, Principal*

## Mark Your Calendars

Sept 11 – Mid-Terms Reports Go Home  
**Sept 17 - Individual Picture Day!**  
Sept 18 - PTA/SAC Meetings @6:00PM  
Sept 20 - Skating Party @ 3:00-5:45PM  
Field Trip Flyers coming home soon.  
Sept 22 - First Day of Autumn

## New Date for Open House

**Thursday, September 27th**  
**Back to School Night and**  
**Title 1 Annual Meeting**  
**@ 6:00-7:30 PM**  
**Starting in the Cafeteria!**

Oct 5 - Lunch with your Children Day  
Oct 5 – Wear Jeans for the Day for \$1  
Fundraiser benefits Kindergarten  
Oct 12 - End of 1st Grading Period  
**Oct 15 - No School for Students**  
Oct 16 - PTA Meeting @ 6:00PM

## Thank you to our Neighborhood Community Partner

A special Thank you needs to go out to Grace Bible Church for their generous supply of emergency uniforms. The uniforms are used if our students should need a change of clothes, due to an accident during the school day.

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!**



## 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](http://www.pcsb.org)

Once you go to the website you will find a link to Bear Creek's website. Or, you can log on to the Bear Creek website directly <http://www.pcsb.org/bearcreek-es>.

You can now find our school's newsletter, clubs and activities, events, peachjar flyers, lunch menus, volunteering, you can report a student absence on the schools website and so much more.

**Mission Statement for 2018-2019** - Providing all children with a challenging, high-quality education for their academic and vocational success.



## Commitment to Character Words

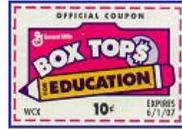


August was - **"Respect"** - Treating yourself and others with courtesy and consideration.

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, background check 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.

## Volunteer Registration and Background Screening Procedures

All new volunteer applicants must complete a [volunteer registration form](#) and provide a [Government Issued ID](#) to the school. The Family & Community Liaison at the school will process your application in the volunteer system. A **Level 1** (National Background Screening at no cost to the volunteer) will be processed by the District Office Of Strategic Partnerships.

Please confirm with the Family & Community Liaison at the school if additional **Level 2 screening** is a requirement for volunteering. When the applicant has been Level 1 background checked approved they will receive an email with the volunteer's user ID and password to log their volunteer hours in the volunteer system. No longer is the school logging in the hours.

Volunteers are required to sign in at the front office, and wear a volunteer name tag while on campus or at a school sponsored event. All Level 1 volunteers will be escorted to and from their volunteer destination and will be in line site of a PCSB Employee or Level 2 volunteer.

**If you're a returning volunteer you do not** need to complete another volunteer registration form. If your child is attending a new school please contact the Family & Community Liaison at the new school and ask to have your volunteer profile connected to the school. Please log on to reactivate for the new school year.

If you have any questions please contact, Lily Giering, Family and Community Liaison at 893-2332 x2107.



## Jeans Day!

Your child has the opportunity to wear **jeans**. This is an in school fundraiser by bringing **\$1** to their teacher on select dates listed below.

All of the money collected will be used to support different grade levels or departments each month.

*September 7<sup>th</sup> - Pre-Kindergarten, October 5<sup>th</sup> - Kindergarten, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, December 7<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, January 11<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, February 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, March 8<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, April 5<sup>th</sup> - PE, Art and Music, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - ESE Specialists*

\*Uniform tops or Spirit T-shirt 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 8:15-8:40 AM in the cafeteria.
- \* All students may begin to go to class when the first bell rings at 8:30 AM.
- \* The last bell rings at 8:45 AM, and class begins.
- \* Anyone arriving after 8:45 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 2:45 PM. Please pick up your child(ren) on time.

## 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 17th 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.



## Adopt-A-Class

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](http://www.pcsb.revtrak.net).

For more information stop by the front office or call the Family & Community Liaison, Lily Giering at 893-2332 x 2107.

### 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



### Review of the 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 Spirit 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 a designated 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.

## Did You Know!!!

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

1. An estimated 5 million to 7.5 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.
2. Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
3. By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
4. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just **two days a month** and that's known as chronic absenteeism.

The academic impact of missing that much school is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused. (Retrieved from <http://www.attendanceworks.org/facts-stats-school-attendance/>)

If your child misses school 2 days per month, by the time they leave elementary school, they have lost over  $\frac{1}{2}$  year of education (60% of one total school year).

If your child misses 3 days per month, by the time they leave elementary school they have lost almost a year's worth of education (90% of one total school year).

Help your child succeed, ensure they attend school daily.



# 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!*

## WHAT'S NEW!

Attention Parents/Guardians:

**Report cards** will be electronically published in FOCUS for students and parents. This will allow students and parents to conveniently access report cards *anytime* within FOCUS.



## Duke Energy Great American Teach-In

The 25th Annual Great American Teach In will be held at Bear Creek Elementary November 14, 2018. 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. Lily Giering, Family & Community Liaison at 893-2332 x2107 for more information.



## ATTENTION CAR RIDERS

**Thank you** to those parents who are following our car circle procedures in the mornings and afternoons. Please remember to place the names of your child(ren) in the front window (passenger side) of your car as you approach the car circle. Please add your children's grade levels on the card as well. There is no parking in the car circle while we are dismissing students. Remember to remain with your car, especially in the afternoon and when exiting you must turn right. This is for everyone's safety and we appreciate you following this Bear Creek procedure.

**Only Pre-K parents are allowed to park in front of the Pre-K building starting at 2:30 pm in spots 1, 2, 3 and 4. The special Pre-K parking ends at 2:45 pm, then the rest of the Bear Creek parents may use those spots.**

Please be courteous to our neighbors along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South. We ask that if you are parking your car along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue that you park on the street and not their lawns or in their driveways. We have great neighbors around Bear Creek who often watch out for our school during non school hours. Let's make sure they are able to carry on with their regular activities while our school is in session.