

# 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 Class Hours  
8:45 AM to 2:55 PM**

## Principal's Corner



September 1-30, 2019

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

Welcome back to school! I hope all our Bear Creek families had a wonderful summer break. I would like to thank all the families that came out for the Meet the Teacher event before school began. We look forward to seeing everyone again for Bear Creek's Title I Open House Night on Thursday, September 26th.

On Friday, Sept. 6th, 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 visitor's pass and return the pass when you leave through the front office. 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 2:55 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: Nicole Sackett and Melia Borland - 3rd grade teachers; Carrisa Roberts - 1st grade teacher; Deanna House - Kindergarten; Julie Bridge - Pre-K3 teacher; Brittney Miles - PE Asst. Coach; Frances Malave - Reading Coach; Sheri Shedrick - Reading Recovery and Krista Gibbons - Data Management Tech.

I am so excited to get our new school year underway. 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*

## Mark Your Calendars

- Sept 3 - No School - Labor Day
- Sept 4 - No School because of Hurricane Dorian
- Sept 6 - Family Lunch Day - Bring Your ID
- Sept 6 - Wear Jeans for the Day for \$1**  
Fundraiser Benefits Fifth Grade
- Sept 10 - Individual Picture Day!**
- Sept 11 - Mid-Terms Reports Go Home
- Sept 17 - PTA/SAC Meetings @6:00PM**
- Sept 23 - First Day of Autumn

## Title I Open House Night

**Thursday, September 26th**  
**Back to School Night and**  
**Title 1 Annual Meeting**  
**@ 6:00-7:30 PM**  
**Starting in the Cafeteria!**

- Oct 3 - Skating Party @ 3:00-5:45PM  
Field Trip Flyers coming home soon.
- Oct 4 - Family Lunch Day - Bring Your ID
- Oct 4 - Wear Jeans for the Day for \$1  
Fundraiser Benefits Fourth Grade
- Oct 11 - End of 1st Grading Period
- Oct 14 - No School for Students**
- Oct 15 - PTA Meeting @ 6:00PM

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 at <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.



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

**Mission Statement for 2019-2020 - Providing all children with a challenging, high-quality education for their academic and vocational success.**



**Commitment to Character Words**

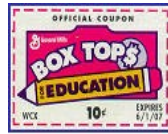
August was - "**Respect**" - Treating yourself and others with courtesy and consideration.

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

**Box Tops for Education!**

There is a new way of collecting Box Tops! Download the Box Top App on your phone, scan your store receipt and the money automatically is sent to the school. Please keep clipping the older ones and sending them into the front office with your child(ren).

Thank you for supporting Bear Creek fundraising efforts!

**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 1 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 online at [asd.pcsb.org/schoolwiresforms/volunteer/](http://asd.pcsb.org/schoolwiresforms/volunteer/).

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 and show ID 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. All Level 2 needs to wear their level 2 issued badge on campus.

**If you're a returning volunteer you to reactivate your profile on the volunteer system every 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 6<sup>th</sup> - 5th Grade, October 4<sup>th</sup> - 4th Grade, November 1st - 3rd Grade, December 6<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, January 10<sup>th</sup> - 1st Grade, February 7th - Kindergarten, March 6<sup>th</sup> - Pre-K, April 3rd - ESE Specialist, May 1st - Office**

\*Uniform tops or Spirit T-shirt must be worn.

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

**Duke Energy Great American Teach-In**

The Annual Great American Teach In will be held at Bear Creek Elementary on November 13, 2019. 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. 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 Lily Giering, Family & Community Liaison at 893-2332 x2107 for more information.

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

**On Thursday, September 26th, starting at 6pm in the Cafeteria,**

we will host our Title 1 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.



### **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 Creek.



## **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 10th 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.





## Did You Know!!! ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Why September Matters:

Research has shown that attendance habits established in September persist over the whole year.

Students who missed fewer than 2 days in September continued to average fewer than 2 days absent each month.

Students who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely than those who missed fewer than 2 days to be chronically absent for the year.

Nearly 9 out of 10 students who missed more than 4 days in September were chronically absent that year.

Chronic Absences (or missing 2 or more days of school a month, whether excused or unexcused) as early as Pre-K is associated with poor reading skills and retention in the 3rd grade. By the 6th grade, it is considered as early warning indicator that a student will drop out of high school.

# 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.



## Arrival for Breakfast

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

- \* All students are invited to have a free hot breakfast from 8:00-8:35 AM in the cafeteria.
- \* All students arrive by car or walk to school are to enter the school at the car circle and walk through to 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, 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 2:55 PM. Please pick up your child(ren) on time.

## Attention Parents and/or Guardians!!!

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

Please return everything from the first day packet to school! 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.

DOING THE MOST GOOD™

### THE SALVATION ARMY HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE

For residents living in South Pinellas County (South of Ulmerton Rd.)  
(Greater St. Petersburg, Seminole, Pinellas Park, and only Largo zips 33773 and 33778)

The Angel Tree program is for low-income families with children ages 12 and younger.  
Senior Christmas Food Baskets are for Seniors (ages 65+).

**Registration: September 16-20, 2019**

9/16	Monday	9—11:30 am and 1—4 pm
9/17	Tuesday	9—11:30 am and 1—4 pm
9/18	Wednesday	9—11:30 am and 1—4 pm
9/19	Thursday	10—11:30am and 1—7 pm
9/20	Friday	10—11:30 am and 1—4 pm

**LOCATION:**  
The Salvation Army  
3800 9th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

**Please bring the following documentation:**

- ♦ Picture ID for all adults in the household (copies are acceptable).
- ♦ Birth Certificates for all children in the home, 0—12 years of age.  
*Child's immunization record with date of birth can be used in lieu of a birth certificate.*
- ♦ Verification of Income (i.e. Pay Stubs, Unemployment, Social Security Benefit Statement, Child Support Statement, Letter of Support, SNAPs, TANF, etc.)
- ♦ Proof of Residency (i.e. Utility bill, Lease) Applicant must live South of Ulmerton Road.
- ♦ If you are not the legal parent, please provide proof of custody of the child.
- ♦ Come prepared with Clothing Sizes (Pant, Shirt, and Shoes) and a Christmas Gift Wish for all children 0—12 years of age.

For more information, please contact  
The St. Petersburg Salvation Army (727) 550-8080