

Pinellas Central Mustang Round-Up



February 2017

VISION: Professional Community of Educators promoting 100% student success

CORE VALUES: Professional – Passionate – Positive

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of Pinellas Central Elementary is to create a safe and positive learning environment where all individuals feel valued and challenged to reach their highest potential.

Principal's Message

Our staff all strive to demonstrate our core values; passionate, professional and positive as we work with you and your children every day and these values are seen in our students as well. They are passionate about learning. Be sure to look at your calendars and encourage your children to do their very best in their assessments.

This month brings us the beginning of our state testing and we look forward to our students showing what they know. Students in grades third through fifth, are preparing for the Florida Standards Assessment coming in the next few months. We are very proud of the work our students are producing in class and know that they are prepared for the upcoming assessments. Our fifth and fourth graders will complete an assessment in writing in late February with other subject area tests for third, fourth and fifth graders being assessed in March, April and May. Our first and second graders will be taking the SAT 10 assessment in March which covers reading and math.

All of our students are continuing to develop their reading, writing, and math skills to meet the Florida Standards. An expectation for all students is to complete assigned homework which includes reading nightly. This supports their learning in every subject area. Thank you for instilling the importance of completing homework as well. Great study habits support students in their class work, assessments and throughout their education.

Dr. Cara Walsh

Principal



This newsletter is dedicated in the memory of Mr. Blanchard who dedicated over 46 years of service as a partner in education to the students of PCE.

Mustang Round Up Announcements & Reminders

Beginning January 3, 2017 all student absences must be reported in writing directly to the school office. There are 2 ways to complete this requirement.

1. Go to our school website www.pcsb.org/pincen-es and click on the report student absence button in the top right corner of the home page. You will be directed to an email that will be sent directly to the Student Records Office. Please include all information as listed below.

2. Return a written notice form (see back page of newsletter), a hand written explanation from you or proof of a medical appointment to the school front office.

NOTE: Reasons for absences can no longer be reported in agenda books because documents must be filed in the student records office.

Telephone calls will not excuse an absence. Please submit the written note upon the students return to school.

All notes explaining absences must include the following:

Students Name

Teacher

Date of Absence

Reason for Absence

Please see the Student Code of Conduct for the list of reasons absences are excused and other expectations (Pages 33-36).

- *Note: A parent may excuse 5 absences per semester (10 per year) that meet Code of Conduct criteria. Further absences after these would require additional documentation.*

We appreciate you following these new district wide procedures as we strive to maintain accurate student attendance records.

New online registration for Pinellas County Schools Pre-K 3 and VPK

Pinellas County Schools is implementing a new online application process for Prekindergarten for 3 year olds and Voluntary Prekindergarten. The application period for Pre-K 3 and VPK for the 2017-18 school year will be March 20-April 9, 2017. In the past, parents had to visit elementary schools to apply for a seat. Starting March 20, they will be able to apply online. Families interested in VPK will also need to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility from the Early Learning Coalition at www.vpkpinellas.net. For information about Pre-K 3, visit www.pcsb.org/prek3 or call 727-588-6000 ext. 2184. For more information about VPK, visit www.pcsb.org/vpk or call 727-588-6513.

Dates to Remember

6th PTA Board Meeting at 6:30

6th - 10th Book Fair

10th - Class Picture Day

10th - Valentines Dance

16th - PDQ Spirit Night

17th - Student Led Conferences 8:05-12:00

20th - No School for Students

28th - 4th * 5th Grade FSA Writing Test

Dear Families,



It is time again for our Scholastic Book Fair!

The book fair will be held in our Media Center from February 6th-10th. Please come and view all of the great Scholastic books! You can even donate a book to your child's classroom. Can't wait to see everyone at the Book Fair!

Ms. Jordan



Valentine's Dance

February 10th 6:00 pm.-7:30 p.m.

Come join us for a fun night of dancing as our PCE cafeteria is turned into our dance hall! Cost is \$3 per person and tickets will be available for advanced purchase. Children 2 and under are free. Parents can relax and enjoy refreshments in our parent lounge (art room).

PDQ Spirit Night February 16th



On February 16th, come join us at PDQ located at 4601 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL 33781 for Spirit Night from 4 p.m.-9p.m.

Just mention you are with Pinellas Central Elementary when you order. Drive through orders count too! We hope to see you there ☺

Mustang Round-Up Announcements, Thanks, & Recognitions



All 4th and 5th Grade Students will be taking the Florida State Assessment in Writing on Tuesday, February 28th. This assessment is a one day test lasting 120 minutes.

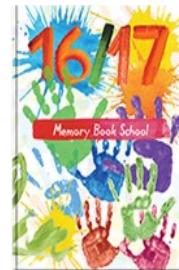
All testing will begin at 8:45am please ensure that your child arrives to school on time, has a healthy breakfast and is ready to do his/her best. For more information on this assessment please visit <http://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/>

ON SALE SOON...

2016-2017 PCE Yearbook

\$10 per book

Watch your child's agenda for information on how to order at school and online.



When: 2/28/2017

What: McDonald's Spirit Night

4:00 pm—9:00 pm

10191 66th St N. Pinellas Park, FL

&

Astro Skate Skating Party 6pm—8pm

\$6 admission (cash only)

10001 66th St N, Pinellas Park, FL 33782



Patrols of the Month



Andrew Currier- He is always on time and has done a great job assisting our new kindergarten teacher Ms. Gantz.

Hayden Kelley- Is always ready to go in the car circle in the morning. He is great at following the guidelines set for patrols to make sure all students are remaining safe!

Aleeyah Johnson- She is a great help to Mrs. Bodell in the morning. She cuts out materials to prep for math, sorts books and helps with preparing folders for her students. Great job!

Our new captains will be:

Eva Levi & Colby Redding

Way to go Patrols! Keep up the great work!

Title I Center Presents...

Father May I Read to You?

Giveaways & Prizes

Yes, you may.

Thursday, March 23rd
5 PM to 7 PM
Title I Center

Snack provided

RSVP by March 10th, call 727-893-2988
2499 25th Street South, Saint Petersburg

We would like to thank all of our mentors for the difference they make in the lives of our students!

Mrs. Scott

Mrs. Gipson

Mrs. Dressback

Mr. Tuttle

Mr. Brindley

Mrs. Robertson

Dr. Walsh

Mrs. Rosen

Mrs. Shelley

Heather Scott

Richard Rock

Mrs. Ristoff

Mrs. Brnada

Dr. Wohl

Ms. Sweiss (Ms. Dee)

Mrs. Jordan

Mrs. Herman



The Gardening Club would like to thank Home Depot located at 4040 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, for donating plants and soil to us.



February is Pinellas County Volunteer Appreciation Month. Thank you to all our volunteers for everything you do to make our school a wonderful place. We appreciate you giving your time to us.



Mustang Round-Up Department News

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



The Character Word for February is **Tolerance**. Tolerance is respecting the individual differences, views, and beliefs of other people.

Here are some ways we can practice **Tolerance**:

- Listening to and respecting different points of view
- Looking past outer appearances
- Enjoying what others have to offer

"Share our similarities, celebrate our differences"

M. Scott Peck

Have an awesome February,

Mrs. Rosen

VISUAL ARTS NEWS



.Congrats PCE Artists!

Kids Tag Art Award of Excellence

Gabrielle Detone - 5th Grade

Adam Hite - 5th Grade

Connor McConnell - 5th Grade

We are learning about:

Kindergarten - We are creating paper sculptures using zigzag and curly forms.

1st Grade - We are creating a cityscape using overlapping and good craftsmanship.

2nd Grade - We are creating a totem pole using symmetry, storytelling, and good craftsmanship.

3rd Grade - We are creating a digital painting of a hippo using the app ArtRage, monochromatic colors.

4th Grade - We are creating a painting of an owl using monochromatic colors.

5th Grade - We are learning about vessels from different cultures and time periods. Then we will create an advanced coil vessel.



ART VOLUNTEER NEEDED

What: Help photograph and upload student artwork to Artsonia

Who: Anyone

When: Once a week or bi-weekly

Requirement: Must be a registered volunteer through the front office

Please contact me if you are interested woodwardj@pcsb.org or 727-547-7853

DR. WOHL'S CORNER



I thought it may be helpful to discuss discipline this month. I hear parents describing many types of punishment in an effort to teach appropriate behavior to their children. So, let's talk about what **effective** discipline looks like.

I think of effective discipline as that which teaches the lesson we are trying to teach with the least amount of negative side effects. For example, we can teach our child to swim by throwing him/her into the ocean or by giving him/her swimming lessons. Both ways may teach our child how to swim but the side effects are different. After being tossed into the ocean to sink or swim, s/he is likely feeling scared, angry and betrayed. His/her trust in you is broken also which will likely have big effects on doing what you say. Of course, this is an extreme example to make a point. But, although we may not throw our children into the ocean to learn to swim, we are not always supportive in our discipline. Let's take an example of teaching our child not to hit.

Effective discipline looks like this:

1. Calmly explain the house rule of no hitting.
2. State the consequence for hitting (time out, loss of a privilege etc.).
3. Calmly deliver the consequence every time.
4. Discuss how else the child could have handled the problem.

The more we yell, hit or over-punish (consequence is too harsh or too long) the less effective we will be in correcting the behavior. The supportive approach has positive rather than negative side effects and is much more effective.

Mustang Round-Up Department News

PE

Starting in February all students at PCE will be participating in golf, baseball and tennis lessons outside during P.E.. During the golf lessons, students will have an opportunity to putt, as well as drive with a pitching wedge. While learning about baseball/softball, students will get to hit off of a tee and perform an overhand throw. Students will be able to hit a ball with a forehand shot, and will learn how to serve in tennis. Your child's safety is always a top priority, and we will teach all students how to participate in each activity safely. Fitness homework for the month of February will focus on muscular strength and the activities are listed below. This is not a required assignment, but are just some suggestions to meet the recommended 30 additional minutes of physical activity for children.

Muscular Strength Activities:

- 5 Push Ups
- 10 Dips
- 10 Sit Ups
- 10 Lunges on Right Leg
- 10 Lunges on Left Leg
- 10 Squats

Mr. Tuttle
Mr. Wilson
Mr. Brindley
Mrs. King



Occupational & Physical Therapy Corner

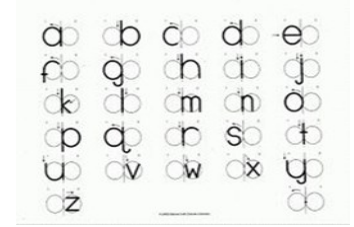
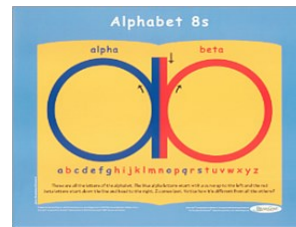
Brain Gym Activities to Enhance Primary Writing Skills

This month we are going to cover movements that address eye-hand coordination to help with writing. Writing helps to establish attention (focus), perception (meaning), and discrimination (distinguishing sounds). Body movements that address writing are: **Arm Activation (November newsletter)**, **The Double Doodle (December newsletter)**, **Lazy 8s (December newsletter)**, and **Alphabet 8s (see below)**.

Alphabet 8s: This activity practices the movements involved in forming lowercase letters. For most people, when their lowercase letter formation improves, the flow of creative expression improves as well.

To do this activity: Stand with feet shoulder-width apart. With hands clasped together, start "air printing" each letter of the alphabet. You may start seeing some similarities with how letters are formed (like c forms into an a, d, g, q and an r starts the m and n).

Tips - Do Lazy 8s before beginning this activity; Perform first in the air with hands clasped together and then eventually drawing them on paper.



Academic Skills the Activity MAY Enhance:

Alphabet 8's: fine-motor control, creative writing, penmanship, spelling, cursive writing

Taken from Brain Gym by Paul E. Dennison and Gail E. Dennison.

Title I News

Staying engaged as a family can be hard with juggling schedules. Attached is a link that will provide parents with quick tips to help stay engaged.

<http://pcsb.schoolwires.net/Page/433>



ESOL News

On Friday, January 27th, we celebrated the Chinese New Year! 2017 is the year of the rooster! During the parade our students that celebrate Chinese New Year came dressed in traditional dress. Check out the school website to see pictures of this fun event. Also, check out this website to learn more about Chinese New Year: <http://www.china-family-adventure.com/chinese-new-year.html#.VL57xsvQfIU>

