It is hard to believe that March has arrived and this month our students will begin state assessments. We are confident that the teaching and learning at Pinellas Central has prepared our students to successfully complete the Florida State Assessments this year. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be taking Florida Standards Assessments in literacy and math and our 5th grade students will also take the FSA Science assessment. Testing will continue this year in April and into May.

Breakfast is served from 8:05AM – 8:35AM. This allows students to leave the café in time to be in class when instruction begins at 8:35AM. Students who eat breakfast at school should arrive no later than 8:15 in order to have time to eat and arrive to class on time. The café staff begin preparation for lunch at 8:35, therefore, breakfast is not available for tardy students.

Please remember how important it is for students to attend school regularly and to be in class on time. Bell to bell instruction is expected at PCE and students even a few minutes late may miss out on important learning.

Summer Bridge information was sent home last week for many students. All students are welcome to attend. If you are interested in your child attending Summer Bridge, please let their teacher know or look on the school website where registration information is posted. This is an excellent summer program that will facilitate continued learning during the summer break. Although we are not a Summer Bridge site this year, there are several elementary schools from which to choose. Register early and apply for the YMCA or RClub for after school care.

Remember to check the calendar for this month’s events. Thank you for partnering with us in education and I look forward to seeing you.

Dr. Cara Walsh, Principal

http://www.pcsb.org/pincen-es
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/pincens](http://www.pcsb.org/pincens) 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 Full 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](http://www.vpkpinellas.net). For information about Pre-K 3, visit [www.pcsb.org/prek3](http://www.pcsb.org/prek3) or call 727-588-6000 ext. 2184. For more information about VPK, visit [www.pcsb.org/vpk](http://www.pcsb.org/vpk) or call 727-588-6513.

---

Could your child benefit from extra learning opportunities over the summer?

Registration for Summer Bridge is underway. Summer Bridge is especially important for students who are not performing on grade level or need additional help to stay on track. Summer Bridge provides engaging activities and focused instruction to prepare students for maximum success. Most Summer Bridge programs will run Monday through Thursday from June 6 to July 13. Register and find the latest information at [www.pcsb.org/summerbridge](http://www.pcsb.org/summerbridge). Contact the school for additional info or help with the registration process.

---

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.

---

6th PTA Board Mtg. 5:30

7th Parent University at 6:00, FSA, AVID, & Science Fair Projects on Display

9th K-2 Field Day

10th 3rd-5th Field Day

13th-17th Spring Break school closed

20th Professional Development & Teacher Planning Day

21st Spring Picture Day

21st-27th 1st and 2nd Grade SAT 10 Testing

28 & 29th 3rd Grade FSA Reading Test

28th McDonald’s Spirit Night 4 p.m.-9 p.m. & Skating part at Astro Skate hosted by Kindergarten 6 p.m.-8 p.m. $6 cash only

31st Report Cards Go Home
In December we made nominations for Outstanding Volunteer of the year! Alyssa Tuccio as our adult nomination for all of her help in Mrs. Herman’s class and Edna Mae Root (Mae) was nominated in our Senior category for all of her help throughout the school.

We are proud to announce that Mae has won Outstanding Volunteer in the Senior category for our area and will be recognized at an upcoming Pinellas County School Board meeting as well as a county wide Volunteer Appreciation breakfast. We are so proud to have her here! As always, a big thank you to all of our volunteers for all you do!

Thank you to our community partners who have generously made donations to our school this month!

Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority for donating brag tags, attendance incentives and clothes to our clinic.

Radius Church for including us in their Love Week by donating underwear to our clinic.

Patrols of the Month

Jonathan Ulloa-Delgadillo- He is very helpful on his bus. He makes sure students are wearing their seatbelts and assists the bus driver as needed.

Kaylee Mejia- She came on to patrols with lots of great enthusiasm! She always steps up and looks for other duties she can help with as well as doing an outstanding job on her own post!

Matthias Alvarez-Matias- He is a great student helper to one of our students who needs help getting around and getting breakfast. Matthias is a great friend and helper for him.

MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to our All-County Chorus students!

Andrew Currier

Eva Levi

Keyonna Stokes

Nicholas Williams

These fifth grade students will be representing PCE at the All-County Honors Music Festival at First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg on Saturday, March 4th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the event.
ESOL

Students are in the process of taking the Florida State WIDA: Access 2.0 assessment for ESOL. This test is given in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Below is some more information about the test:

- Helps students and families understand students’ current level of English language proficiency along the developmental continuum.
- Serves as one of multiple measures used to determine whether students are prepared to exit English language support programs.
- Generates information that assists in determining whether ELLs have attained the language proficiency needed to participate meaningfully in content area classrooms without program support.
- Provides teachers with information they can subsequently use to enhance instruction and learning in programs for their English language learners.
- Provides districts with information that will help them evaluate the effectiveness of their ESL/bilingual programs.
- Meets, and exceeds, federal requirements for the monitoring and reporting of ELLs’ progress toward English language proficiency.

How can you help your child succeed?
1. Make sure your child is well rested and attends school regularly.
2. Encourage your child’s efforts to learn English and every subject he/she studies in school.
3. Encourage your child to eat healthy foods.
4. Make sure your child does his/her homework every night.
5. Meet with your child’s teacher to discuss his/her progress.

ART NEWS

Congratulations PCE Artists:

Clearwater Arts Alliance Youth Art Month
Amerie Akuffo - 3rd Grade
Earlina Guzman - 5th Grade

Ceramic & Sculpture Exhibition
Diana Phan - 3rd Grade
Yoshy Martinez - 3rd Grade
Amerie Akuffo - 3rd Grade

Counselor Corner

Character word for March is Honesty.

Honesty: Using truthful speech and behavior

Dinner Dilemmas

Week 1 Situation: The game is tied in extra innings. Sam’s team could win if he can make it to home plate. Sam is tagged before he touches home plate. The umpire calls him safe. Dilemma: On one hand Sam knows if he does not say anything his team wins the title. On the other hand Sam knows he should be honest and tell the truth about being tagged. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?

Week 2 Situation: Sue finds a five dollar bill in the hallway at school. Dilemma: On the one hand Sue could give it to the fundraiser to help her school. On the other hand Sue could turn it into the office knowing it probably belongs to someone. Discussion: What is your advice for Sue?

Week 3 Situation: The school principal recognizes a number of students over the intercom for helping in another class. Sue’s name is announced even though she did not participate. Dilemma: On the one hand Sue could keep quiet and receive the certificate. On the other hand she knows an honest person would tell the principal she did not earn the recognition. Discussion: What is your advice for Sue?
SAVE THE DATE: 5K Celebration on May 6th at Poynter Park in St. Petersburg, Fl.

Help Support Our Team through Site Sponsorship
For More Info, call (727) 547-7853 (school) or Mrs. Bohrnsen at bohrnsenk@pcsb.org
Mustang Round-Up Department News

Occupational & Physical Therapy Corner: Brain Gym Activities to Enhance Primary Thinking Skills

Organization: Being able to move your eyes in every direction is very important; understanding “left, right, up, down and center” will help students write letters, words, and numbers in proper order. Movements that can help with this are the Earth Buttons (November newsletter), Space Buttons, and the Balance Buttons.

1) Space Buttons: Place 2 fingers above your upper lip, and place other hand on your lower back. Hold this position for 4-6 breaths while looking up and away and then down and close to your feet. Change hands and repeat.

2) Balance Buttons: To do this activity, you can stand, lie down, or sit. Place 2 fingers just behind one ear and place your other hand on your belly. Make sure your head is looking straight ahead (not up or down), and hold position for 30 seconds. Switch hands and repeat.

Spelling: Proper spelling requires using short term memory and long term memory. Students use short term memory to sound out each letter in order, and use long term memory to recognize words. Movements that help with spelling are The Thinking Cap (November newsletter), The Owl, and The Elephant.

3) The Owl: This activity helps maintain proper posture while working. First, grasp the top of one shoulder with your opposite hand and squeeze the muscles firmly. Then, slowly turn your head to look over that shoulder and exhale slowly (you can make a “who” sound like an owl!). Continue to squeeze that shoulder as you slowly turn your head and look over the shoulder and exhale slowly again. Do three times then repeat on other shoulder. Make sure to relax during this activity.

4) The Elephant: Stand with knees bent, lift arm to point, and “glue” your cheek to your shoulder. Look into the distance and trace a large lazy 8 with that arm (remember to keep your cheek “glued” to your arm). When you’re tracing, use your abdominal muscles to move your body, your arm will look like an elephant’s trunk. Repeat on the other side.

Math: Movements that help with math are The Elephant, The Owl, The Calf Pump, Neck Rolls (January newsletter), and The Gravity Glider.

5) The Calf Pump: Stand with your back against a wall then put one leg in front of you. Lean forward by bending the front knee and place hands on that knee. Make sure to exhale while moving, press your back heel towards the ground, and don’t let your bent knee go past your toes. As you stand back up, take a deep breath. Do this three or more times on each side.