

Pinellas Central Mustang Round-Up



October 2016

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,

Dear Parents and Students,

Happy autumn! October is the month we complete our first round of assessments and can take a good look at the work required to attain our achievement goals for the year.

The School Improvement Plan is where our goals for the year are documented. Our goals are to improve our academic scores in Reading/Writing, Math and Science. I want to share our major initiatives that will be the focuses this year to support and improve student learning. Our four initiatives are:

1. Collaborative planning with our coaches
2. Increasing the rigor of our lessons
3. Provide differentiated instruction through the use of formative assessment data.
4. Provide students with meaningful feedback on their work

Our goals also include providing a safe environment that promotes student learning. The commitment and dedication of the teachers and staff to all of our students' academic success, the significant involvement by parents in their child's success, and the motivation of our students to come to school eager to learn each day will promote meeting our goals.

We welcome all families to PCE for breakfast and lunch, to volunteer and for our family nights. A school to home connection has a huge impact on the educational success of children. Parents who attend parent conferences, check the planner daily, support their children with homework, and attend parent educational nights, demonstrate to their children the importance of school and education. Your involvement proves that we are a team working together for their success.

We are committed to providing each student with the opportunity to experience new challenges that will result in a rewarding school experience. We plan to continue programs that were successful for students in the past few years, as well as implement other research based programs to ensure success for all of our students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our school at (727) 547-7853. We look forward to meeting you and working with you to provide your child/children a productive and safe learning environment that supports student success. Thank you for all that you do for your children and our school. We could not do it without you. Just a reminder that breakfast is from 8:05-8:30. All students must be in class at 8:35. Tardy students must go directly to class.

Keeping our students and staff safe is a top priority for us. On rainy days with lightning present, students who walk or ride bicycles home will be held at Pinellas Central until the weather has cleared and it is safe to walk or ride again. Parents are welcome to pick up their children on these occasions. Please be aware that students held back by inclement weather may arrive home up to an hour late.

Cara A. Walsh, Ed.D.
PRINCIPAL



Mustang Round Up Announcements

NCLB – Non - Highly Qualified Status

Our outstanding teachers are dedicated to our students and to the goal of having them reach their highest level of academic achievement. Our teachers are all certified by the state of Florida and they attend professional development designed to keep them current with the best strategies to help our students achieve.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Highly Qualified Teacher Act requires a teacher to document subject matter competency. Until this is completed, the teacher has not met the highly qualified teacher standards of the NCLB Act.

Our teachers are all certified by the state of Florida and are qualified to teach the core academic subjects they are assigned. In addition, they attend professional development designed to keep them current with best practices in education. To that end, many of our teachers are in the process of obtaining their English as a Second Language (ESOL) endorsement.

This endorsement is designed to give teachers special strategies for working with students whose primary language is not English. This endorsement requires up to 300 hours of additional professional development. The following teachers are considered out of field for ESOL while working towards this ESOL Endorsement:

Kasandra Bodell ESOL

Laura Reitz ESOL

Donna Sweiss ESOL

Ronald Tuttle ESOL

Annette Wylie ESOL

I am confident that these teachers are providing effective instruction in a safe learning environment to all of their students.

Our teachers and staff work diligently to meet the needs of every student in our school. Your continued support of your child's education is appreciated. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Cara A. Walsh, Ed.D.

Principal



If your child has been absent and it is currently unexcused, please send a parent note or an appointment note explaining the 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.*

Pinellas County Schools Referendum supports teachers and students

The renewal of Pinellas County Schools Referendum will be on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. The Referendum strengthens reading, art and music programs, provides up-to-date technology, and helps recruit and retain quality teachers. Voters overwhelmingly supported the Referendum three times, including its initial approval in 2004. An independent citizens committee oversees Referendum expenditures to ensure money is spent as voters intended. The Referendum costs the average single-family homeowner less than \$5.50 a month. Every penny of the funding goes directly to Pinellas County classrooms. For more information, please visit www.pcsb.org/referendum.

Kindergarten

Students will be taking a trip to the Pumpkin Patch on October 14, 2016. Volunteers are needed, please make sure all volunteer paperwork is turned into office ASAP.



Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

Mark your calendars! The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Pinellas Central Elementary the week of October 24th-28th. If you would like to volunteer to help with the book fair please email Ms. Jordan at jordanchr@pcsb.org. We hope to see you all at the book fair!

Pinellas County School Food Service We Think Food... Because They Can't Think Without It.

Part time positions available.
Support your school community.
Keep busy and earn a little extra \$ while your children are in school.
Apply at www.pcsb.org, Employment.



We would like to invite parents and families to participate in the annual Duke Energy Great American Teach-In on Wed., November 16th from 9am until 2pm. This nationwide event is designed to bring parents and other community members back to school. You may choose to tell students about your job, career, hobby, or read a story. If you can participate for the day, or even just an hour, please consider taking part in this wonderful activity. In order to participate, it is necessary to pre-register. For more info, Contact Jamie Carpenter, at 547-7853 ext. 2101.

*Parents please remember that it is not safe to drop students off on 58th street or in the parking lot. Please drop off student at the open slots in the drop off lane.

Mustang Round Up Recognitions & Department News



ADOPT-A-CLASS

Adopt-A-Class is a program at Pinellas Central Elementary that encourages local businesses, organizations, or individuals in our community to become an involved and proud supporter of our students – our future leaders, their dedicated teachers, and school by making a \$50 - \$100 tax deductible donation. 100% of your donation goes directly to the class or program of your choice, enhancing the teacher's limited classroom budget enabling the teacher to purchase educational items that will enhance the classroom and the students' education. Our goal is to get every teacher adopted!

Norris Precision Manufacturing for adopting Ms. Bodell's class.

Clearwater Bailer & Filter for adopting Mrs. Brnada, Mrs. Georgia, and Ms. Hallenbeck's classes

Thank you!



October Patrols of the Month

Tereza Vlhova- She helps Mrs. Bodell tremendously in the morning. She helps the students with alphabet work, reading and putting papers together.

Da'Mya Broughton- She is prepared to assist where needed and does a great job welcoming staff, students, and visitors as they enter our school.

Eva Levi- She is quick to be on post and completes her duties in a timely manner.

Our new captains- Zoey Phillips and Nicholas Kennedy

Technology



Thank you to everyone who returned their student laptops. If you have not yet returned your laptop, please return it to Ms. Jordan as soon as possible. You should have your laptops reissued at this point. If you would like a laptop and are in grades 3-5 look for a yellow form that was sent out and return it to your child's teacher. If you have any questions or need another form, please feel free to contact Ms. Jordan at 547-7853 or jordanchr@pcsb.org.

Library News



The library is open and students in Kindergarten and First grade will be visiting each week with their class. They may check out 2 books. They are allowed to keep the books up to 2 weeks. Second through Fifth grade students will be able to visit the library once a week during their lunch. These students may check out 3 books and keep them for up to 2 weeks. Please encourage your students to read to you at home. Also make sure students are being responsible and taking good care of their books at home!

News Crew



The Pinellas Central News Crew has been working hard to deliver the news to teachers and students. Each of our 4th grade students will get a chance to be part of the news show. We just finished highlighting famous Hispanic Americans during Hispanic American Heritage Month. Ms. Jordan and Mrs. Rosen want to thank all of the students and teachers for tuning in, and all of the 4th graders for working so hard!

Music News



We are off to a great start in music this year. Students have been singing and playing lots of instruments. 1st and 2nd graders have been singing about Pete the Cat...one of our favorites! 4th and 5th graders have been playing lots of Orff instruments along with songs and books. 3rd grade has been celebrating the 202nd anniversary of the National Anthem. Kindergarten students are learning to use their singing, speaking, whisper, and shouting voices. Ask your child to sing for you today!

Musically,
Ms. Duffy

Art News



Our school is a member of Artsonia.com, an online student art museum. Artsonia manages school art galleries in a safe and educational manner, developing students' pride and self-esteem and involving parents and relatives in student arts education. Visit Our School's Art Gallery by going to www.artsonia.com and search for our school by name. Or you can follow the link <http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=77360>

Mustang Round Up Department News

PE

This school year has been off to an active and healthy start. All students have completed the FitnessGram pre-test. We are very pleased with the effort that our students have given for these fitness tests. We will be testing them again in the spring to see the healthy gains they have made through the school year. Starting in October we will begin team sports lessons for all of the students. We will be teaching skills in basketball, soccer, hockey, and football. Just a reminder, students can bring only **water** out to P.E. Also, students cannot participate at P.E. if they're wearing sandals. This is for the safety of the students.



Counselor's Corral

Congratulations on a great beginning of the school year! Thank you for making sure your child is here at school on time every day! We've been working on the Character Words of the Month: respect and responsibility. For October, the Character Word is Cooperation- getting along with others and working together to accomplish a goal. October is also Red Ribbon month! Red Ribbon month serves as an opportunity to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

The theme this year is "I Elect to be Drug Free." Thank you for all your support for Pinellas Central!

Warm regards,
Mrs. Rosen, Guidance Counselor



Dr. Linda's Corner

Hello again. This month I would like to talk about spending time with your children. It's so important to spend *quality* time with our children. The emphasis is on the word "quality". Sure, we may fix them dinner, drive them somewhere in a hurry or just be in the house with them. That's good of course, but what I'm talking about is the pleasant time together talking about his/her life and friends that build a relationship. I call it "bonding" time. This time builds intimate relationships and trust. Know his/her friends and experiences. You'll be glad you did when later this relationship makes them feel comfortable with discussing issues openly with you. The good news for our busy lives is that even a few minutes a day devoted to this one-on-one can have a big effect in letting them know you care and are there for them.



Occupational & Physical Therapy Corner:

Brain Gym: Finding your PACE (see illustration below)

PACE is a great movement activity that can be done before sitting to do homework. This activity helps set the "PACE" for learning. With the PACE program, start at the E and work backwards so the order would be ECAP. It should take no longer than 3 minutes.

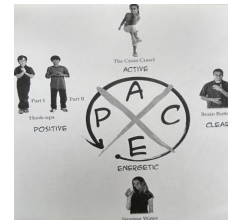
1) Energetic: Sip water, hold each sip in your mouth for a moment before swallowing. Our body is around 60% water so we need water for our body to function properly. Water is a good conductor of electrical current so it will help the brain to fire off its electrical connections.

2) Clear-Brain Buttons: Make a U shape with one hand and place your thumb and index finger of that hand in the soft depressions just below your collar bone and to each side of your breast bone. Place your other hand on your belly button. Keep the hand on your belly button still while the other hand gently rubs for a count of 20 as you move your eyes slowly to the left and the right along a horizontal line. Switch hands and repeat.

3) Active - The Cross Crawl: Stand or sit comfortably. Smoothly touch one arm/elbow to its opposite knee, then the other arm/elbow to its opposite knee. Work in a slow, rhythmical manner for a count of 20.

4) Positive - Hook-ups: Part 1: Cross your ankles. Next extend your arms in front of you with thumbs pointing down and cross one wrist over the other; then interlace your fingers and draw hands up towards your heart, hold like this for at least a count of 20 breathing slowly, with your eyes open or closed. As you inhale, touch the tip of your tongue to the roof of your mouth just behind teeth and relax your tongue on exhalation.

Part 2: When ready, uncross your arms and legs, feet flat on the floor, and touch your fingertips together in front of your chest, continuing to breathe deeply for another count of 20 while holding the tip of your tongue on the roof of your mouth when you inhale.



Academic Skills the Activity MAY Enhance:

Brain Buttons: crossing the midline when reading, keeping one's place while reading, correct ordering of letters/numbers, and left-to-right scanning for improved consonant blending, eye-hand coordination for writing or keyboarding

Cross Crawl: spelling and writing, listening, reading and comprehension

Hook-ups: clear listening and speaking, test-taking and similar challenges, work at the keyboard

Mustang Round Up Department News & Dates To Remember

ESOL News



The students at Pinellas Central celebrated the International Day of Peace on September, 21st by decorating their peace people with their hopes for peace in their school, home and the world.

Our Principal's Multicultural Advisory Committee is off to a great start for the new school year! This committee is made up of representatives from each 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade class who meet monthly. The newly elected Multicultural Committee officers are: President, **Keyonna Stokes**; Vice President, **Aleeyah Johnson**; Recorder, **Nang Piang**; Correspondent, **Joko Porciuncula**.

Miss Herdman & Ms. Coletti

Title I

Thank you for your input on the 2016-2017 Parent Involvement Plan (PIP). The surveys that were turned in indicated a need for parent trainings in the areas of AVID, standards/testing and reading and math work-shops. We have put those recommendations into our plan. A copy of the PIP is located at the parent center in the front foyer of the school. Thank you again for your continued support!



- 3rd- PTA Fundraiser Orders and Money Due
- 3rd-5th Grade Fieldtrip to Enterprise Village
- 5th- Jersey Mike's Spirit Night
- 7th- Fall Picture Day
- 10th- Student Led Conferences 8:05-12:00
- 11th- End of Report Card Period
- 12th- No School for Students
- 14th- Kindergarten Fieldtrip to the Pumpkin Patch
- 18th- Pre-K Fieldtrip to Pinellas Park Fire Station
- 18th- Astro Skate and McDonald's Night 6-8pm
- 24th- Scholastic Book Fair Starts
- 25th- Report Cards Go Home
- 27th- Spooky Story Night & Book Fair 6:00-7:30pm
- 28th- Scholastic Book Fair Ends