

Important Upcoming Dates

**2/2: C2C
Celebration**

2/5: SAC Meeting

2/9: Rays Rally

**2/13: 5th Grade
Field Trip to
Enterprise Village**

**2/16: Valentine's
Dance**

**2/19: No School for
Students**

**2/20: Spring and
Class Pictures**



Sunset Hills Elementary School

**February
Newsletter**

**Message From
Administration**



As we celebrate and surpass our 100th day of school, we want to thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and school as we collectively strive to provide optimal opportunities for learning each day. We also want to thank our families for their diligence in having the students at school on-time and well-prepared for learning. Last year 85% of our students were present in school more than 90% of the time. This year our goal is to have at least 90% of our students in school more than 90% of the time. Currently we are at 87%. Please continue to be mindful that our students' academic day continues until dismissal each afternoon. It is very important that students are not dismissed early unless an unavoidable appointment or emergency is involved as valuable instruction and/or assignments from the teacher can be missed.

As always, thank you for supporting the wonderful teaching and learning taking place at Sunset Hills.



FSA Testing is Right Around the Corner!

For information regarding test session lengths for all Spring 2018 FSA assessments, please visit the FSA Portal at www.FSAssessments.org, click on the Students and Families icon, select the Frequently Asked Questions card, then select the question: “How long are the tests?”

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

§ **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing or during breaks (e.g., restroom), even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them. If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated.

§ **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All FSA tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads: “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement on their planning sheets, worksheets, or work folders.

§ **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states: “Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the test items or passages after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting online, for example, on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, or Instagram.” Please make sure your student understands that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to blogs or social media websites, etc. While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.

§ **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. In addition, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) employs Caveon Test Security to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will be invalidated.

From Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

Thank you for attending Astro skate! We had over 160 students attend, making it tons of fun and a nice fundraiser to support your classrooms and students. Next Astro date... April 5th.

Please remember the rules-

The event ends at 5 PM- you need to pick up your kids on time. This is a volunteer run event, please respect their time.



All students may join us. Bus riders- return the slip to ride the bus by April 3rd at 3PM.

Walk in attendees must pay at the door and a parent or guardian must enter to sign in with the PTA so we know we have your child. Parents may join us. Food is not provided but you may send money with your child. We are not responsible for your child's extra money.

Feb 16th Valentine Dance 6 - 8 PM

Join us for tons of fun at the Monster Mash! Another fun free event for your family. Dance off in Beast Mode! Enter a monstrously fun contest to raise money for the Heart Association. Learn a new MONSTER STOMP dance! And tons more fun for all. See you there!



March TBD

General Meeting of PTA to elect a volunteer election committee

Honoring Dr. Seuss-

We are changing up our Seuss Night! Look for details coming soon.



Thank you to all the families who participate, and support our PTA. Your enthusiasm allows us to advocate for stronger schools, better education and a growing community. If you are not yet a member, you can still join by grabbing a membership envelope in the office and paying \$5.00. Nothing else is required of you. There are no required volunteer hours or required meetings. To be a member simply means that you are part of a national not for profit group that advocates on a local level for children and families all over the US.

This year we have been able to purchase playground equipment. Ask your kids about giant Connect Four and Jenga! We have purchased special storage for the Rays Ways Store to help maintain the store easily for our staff, also school planners were purchased for all students,. We have supported literacy by encouraging reading events and purchasing books and joining literacy challenges with the Library. We supported Red Ribbon Week with extra goodies to give away. We supported 10 families with holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We give each child, on each testing day, a snack and water to help them focus and encourage their mental focus. There are always needs within our school and classrooms and the PTA Board works hard to represent the members' wishes by answering these needs.



February Student Celebrations Rich Smith



Sunset Hills Elementary Attendance

December Attendance = **87%** of all students have attended **90%** of the school year.

- Our Goal = 90% of all students attend 90% of the school year.
- Stingrays, we need to improve our school-wide attendance by 3% in order to reach goal.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Sunset Hills Elementary is Committed 2 Character Education:

*"I pledge myself to C2C, respect and responsibility. Honesty and motivation, too,
I'll use these traits in all I do!"*

Congratulations to our December C2C students of the Month for Kindness: Rubi Riverea, Olivia Collins, Mason Doddridge, Evan Harris, Kayleigh Phillips, Paige Lanczak, Liam Wehr, Emma Ristevski, Yianni Hatztheodorou, Taylor Lanczak,

Makayla Natezel, Eleftherios Mastrovasilis, Avery Vessey, Mekenna Collins, Adison Schnek, Jennevieve Kuhl, John Koulianos, Scarlett Beckton, Tiana Pavlovic, Brylee Housh, George Hatzileris, Maya Weinstien, Aliyah Rader, Ava Stone, Bleu Close, Katie Blackburn, Addie Davis, Emma Wells, and Jessica Sudbrink.

Our C2C trait for February is **Tolerance**:

Respecting the individual differences, views, and beliefs of other people.



Dinner Dilemmas To create family discussions that promotes Character Education.

Dinner Dilemmas To create family discussions that promotes Character Education in Pinellas County.		
February Tolerance Respecting the individual differences, views, and beliefs of other people.	<p>Week 1 Situation: Sue was in her guided reading group. Everyone was taking turns reading aloud. Some in the group were slow and cautious readers. Dilemma: On one hand Sue became impatient for her turn. On the other hand Sue knew she should be tolerant toward all readers. Discussion: What is your advice for Sue?</p>	<p>Week 2 Situation: The kids in Sam's class overhear Tony ask to make two Mother's Day cards. The kids start making fun of Tony because he has two moms. Dilemma: On one hand Sam knows he should be tolerant of other people's families. On the other hand Sam feels peer pressure to go along with the crowd. Discussion: What is your advice to Sam?</p>
	<p>Week 3 Situation: All the neighbor kids wait at the same school bus stop. One girl has cerebral palsy. She goes to a special school and rides a different bus. The kids are consistently making fun of her. Dilemma: On one hand Sue and Sam have joined in the taunting in the past. On the other hand, this is Tolerance month at school and they have pledged to practice tolerance. Discussion: What is your advice for Sue and Sam?</p>	<p>Week 4 Situation: A student comes to school with a hat on after chemotherapy. Her hair has fallen out. Kids grab the hat and toss it around. She begins to cry. Dilemma: On one hand Sue choose not to join in. On the other hand Sue feels she should speak up about tolerance towards those who look different. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sue?</p>

The C2C Character trait in March will be

Honesty: Using truthful speech and behavior.



After School at Sunset Hills



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

February 2018

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A newsletter for the families and students of the afterschool program at Sunset Hills Elementary



THIS MONTH...

February 19th, 2018- Presidents' Day

School out Day @ Sunset Hills Elementary

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

★ Please remember that you must bring a **PHOTO ID every time** you come to pick up your child as some staff may not be familiar with you

★ Please have your child arrive no later than **8:05am** if they plan to eat breakfast with us at the Y during morning care

★ If your child will **not** be attending afternoon care please **call** the site phone (727)943-7870 or send an **email** to Miss Alice at avokes@suncoastymca.org prior to dismissal. Ensuring every child's safety during dismissal is our main priority! We appreciate your cooperation!



Happenings...

February 19th, 2018 is President's Day and also a School out Day. The host site is Sunset Hills Elementary. Please be sure your child brings 2 healthy snacks and a lunch with them. No food is provided on this day. Hours of care are 6:30am - 6pm.

New Staff...

Please be sure to welcome our newest group leader Mr. Tre.

Hot Topic...

Clubs will begin have begun again. The children are having fun learning about science, sports, drama, and creating special crafts.

We will be celebrating Valentines' Day. Our party will be on February 14th, 2018. Please be sure to sign up for donations if you are able. The sign up list will be at the sign in/out table.