

# Northwest Monthly Star

November 2023

Casey Maker, Principal

Amanda Wahl, Assistant Principal

Michael Vigue, Area 4 Superintendent

5601 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
727 893-2147  
Cafeteria 727 893-1236

Northwest Families,

Thank you for a successful first quarter of the school year. I have seen wonderful partnerships forming between families and our teachers and staff here at Northwest. Throughout this first quarter we have had some dynamic experiences and opportunities, including our Open House and Title I Meeting, the launch of before and after school enrichment clubs, a Chick-Fil-a spirit night, various field trips, assemblies, and of course our amazing literacy night event. We are excited for the second quarter of school and our Great American Teach-In in November and Star Gala in December. Please continue to stay informed regarding school events by checking your email and visiting our school website. I look forward to working closely with you. throughout this school year.

Casey Maker, Principal

## **Pinellas County Listen and Learn**

You're invited to the next Listen and Learn Community Session. These events give PCS employees, families and community members opportunities to learn more about the district, ask questions and connect with Superintendent Hendrick and School Board members. Learn more at [www.pcsb.org/listenlearn](http://www.pcsb.org/listenlearn). The next session will take place from 5:30-7 p.m. on Nov. 8 at Hollins High School, 4940 62nd St. N, St. Petersburg

## **Free admission day at the Ringling Museum**

The Ringling is offering free admission to PCS students and their families from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18. No reservations are required. The museum is located at 5401 Bay Shore Rd. in Sarasota.

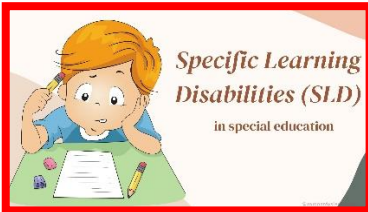
Future Dates:

November 11	Veteran's Day
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Great American Teach-In
November 20 - 24	Thanksgiving Break



Happy November! The Northwest Guidelines for Success are our school rules. They spell out the acronym STAR. They are Safety first, Think like a problem solver, Aim for your goals, Respect yourself and others and Share positive friendships.

This month, the PBIS committee would like to focus on our first Guideline for Success- Safety First. Some ways to help your child be safe is to teach them to never go anywhere with a stranger and teach them your phone number and address. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



## What is SLD ?

SLD stands for **Specific Learning Disabilities**. It is an umbrella term encompassing a range of learning difficulties that affect how individuals process, understand, and express information. SLD is not indicative of intelligence or effort but rather reflects a unique cognitive processing style. These disabilities can impact various areas of learning, such as reading, writing, mathematics, or listening comprehension. Specific Learning Disabilities can manifest differently in each individual. Dyslexia, for example, affects reading skills, making it challenging to decode words, read fluently, and comprehend written text. Dysgraphia involves difficulties with writing, including illegible handwriting and trouble organizing thoughts on paper. Dyscalculia affects mathematical skills, making tasks like counting, measuring, and problem-solving arduous. Northwest Elementary has many students with specific learning disabilities that are in our general education classrooms. These students are able to be successful with differentiation in core instruction, daily intensive interventions, and accommodations.

## The Great American Teach-In - November 15<sup>th</sup>

The Great American Teach-In provides an opportunity for parents and members of the community to come in and speak with students about their occupations, hobbies, or areas of interest. Although the focus of the Great American Teach-in is to give students information on a variety of careers, we also encourage volunteers to speak about hobbies, areas of interest, organize an activity, read a story or teach a class. Speakers can choose the amount of time they wish to speak for, from one hour to an entire school day. If you are interested in joining Northwest for this event, please contact our Family & Community Liaison, Karen Colon at 727 893-2147 x2001 or [colonka@pcsb.org](mailto:colonka@pcsb.org)

## Commitment to Character

Commitment to Character is the district model for character education. The goal of the program is to create a school culture that is saturated with such character qualities as respect, responsibility, honesty and self-motivation to promote the highest student achievement in a safe learning environment.

Rather than using a prescribed curriculum, the Commitment to Character model provides a menu of strategies that are infused through the regular curriculum with an intentional, conscious focus. Commitment to Character utilizes a common language, teachable moments, service learning, and modeling to teach character education in all curriculum areas.

The Commitment to Character trait for November is Patriotism - Demonstrating allegiance to one's country and being law abiding and involved in service to school, community and country.



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

**Suspicious Activity Reporting App** - FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. Visit [getfortifyfl.com](http://getfortifyfl.com) for more information and to report.