



Home of the Eagles

Connections Azalea Elementary

April
2017

BE EMPOWERED. FOR LIFE. IT'S THE AZALEA WAY.

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Message by Mike Rebman

Greetings Azalea Families,

I hope you had a restful Spring Break. We are in the midst of FSA testing for our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Teachers and students have been working all year and are prepared for the test. The outcomes of these tests determine many things. Our school grade, promotion for third grade and for fourth grade, the scores are used to determine placement in advanced classes in 6th grade. Please remember to have your children here on time with lots of rest and a good breakfast.

Our PTA Carnival is Friday, April the 7th. We have staff lined up to sit in the dunk tank, bounce houses, games, prizes and great food. We hope to see all our families there. I know I can't wait to see everyone. This is a great family event and you don't want to miss out!

Parents of eligible students have received letters regarding Summer Bridge. We will continue to send these notices home, as we hope you will take advantage of this five week extended school year. Students may attend any school listed on the website, but most of our students are zoned for Northwest. I will be at 74th St. Elementary this summer helping cover their summer bridge program and hope to see Azalea students. While Summer Bridge focuses on remediation, any child can attend. Simply log onto www.pcsb.org to the Student Reservation site.

As the year comes to a close, teachers will be meeting to form our class lists for the 2017-18 school year. Great care is taken during this process to form balanced classrooms. I do not take specific teacher requests during this process. Every teacher at Azalea works with families and students to ensure their academic success. If you would like to send me input into the type of teacher you believe your child works best with, I will accept these until April 28th. Unfortunately, if you send in specific teacher names or after the April 28 deadline, I will be unable to use these in the planning of our class lists.

With just two months of school left, it is very important that our students continue to work hard, be to school every day and on time and be good citizens. We continue to teach and learn as we prepare students for the next grade level.

This coming 2017-18 school year we were very fortunate to receive federal Title One money to help student achievement. We are in the planning phase, but we will use our funds for intervention teachers, professional development, collaborative planning, and other instructional needs. Every year you apply for free/ reduced lunch, these funds are determined based on this percentage.

As always, we appreciate your support of our school and students. Remember, Be Empowered for Life. It's the Azalea Way.

SAT 10 and FSA Schedule

3rd Graders: April 27-May 2 Math

4th Graders: April 10-13 ELA
April 24-28 Math

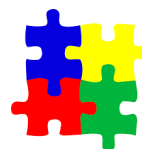
5th Graders: April 10-13 ELA
April 17-21 Math
May 1-5 Science



Character Education

Focus for March: *Self-Control* – Managing your emotions and choosing acceptable behavior.

ASD News



Azalea Elementary has 5 self-contained Autism Spectrum Disorders units serving grades Pre-k through 5th grade. Our ASD teachers are Mrs. Lin (Pre-K), Miss Sanchez (K-1st), Mr. Landfair (1st-2nd), Mrs. Graham (2nd-3rd) and Mr. Carneiro (4th-5th). The 7th annual Surfers for Autism is a free event that will be held on Pass A Grille on July 8th. Visit www.surfersforautism.org for more information.

April is Autism Awareness Month. On April 3, students and staff wore light blue and an autism awareness puzzle sticker to show their support of autism. Thank you for your continued support of people with autism.

The Promising Pathways Conference on The Road to Best Practices in Autism will be held at Florida Gulf Coast University Cohen Center on April 8th from 9am-4pm. This is a free event. Visit their website to find more information at <http://www.fgcu.edu/events/PromisingPathways/index.html>.

P.E. News

The Physical Education Team would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with the Walk A Thon, it was a huge success. We will continue accepting donations from the Walk A Thon. **We would also invite any volunteers to sign up with Mrs. Ramos to help with our next big event which is our annual FIELD DAY! It will be held on Friday April 21st** and we need many volunteers to make this special day successful like it has been in the past. Flyers with information about when you can volunteer will be sent out. Again, Thank you for your partnership with us and our school!!

--Physical Education, Azalea Elementary

Music News

Spring Music Concert for Kindergarten

Tuesday, May 9th

Azalea Elementary, covered court 8am-9am

Students will wear their regular school uniform.

Please arrive several minutes early to sign in the front office and bring a lawn chair for seating.

Thursday, May 11th

Azalea Middle School, 7855 22nd Ave N, 7pm-8pm

Parents please have your child arrive at 6:30pm

Students are to wear their springtime best!

Girls- a dress or skirt & blouse. **Boys-** slacks and shirt.

Students who participate in both concerts will attend a special party at school the following week.

Spring Music Concert for 4th & 5th Chorus

Tuesday, May 9th

Azalea Elementary, covered court 8am-9am

Students will wear their Azalea music t-shirt, navy khaki uniform bottoms, and school appropriate shoes.

Please arrive several minutes early to sign in the front office and bring a lawn chair for seating.

Thursday, May 11th

Azalea Middle School, 7855 22nd Ave N, 7pm-8pm

Parents please have your child arrive at 6:30pm

Students will wear their Azalea music t-shirt, khaki uniform bottoms, and shoes (shoes they would wear during the school day, no flip flops).

Take Stock in Children

We were recognized last Wednesday night for achieving an A grade and improvement in reading and math achievement at the Take Stock in Children event at the St. Petersburg Coliseum. We received a large banner stating that we are an A school, so we will be hanging that proudly and visible for parents and our community. Also at that event, Nina Ramos, 5th grade student, received a 4 year college scholarship. Congratulations Nina and the entire Ramos family.



Successful Students

COME TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY

PAY ATTENTION

LISTEN TO DIRECTIONS

ASK QUESTIONS

TRY THEIR BEST

WORK QUIETLY

LOOK FOR MISTAKES

MAKE CORRECTIONS

HAVE SUPPLIES READY

ARE ORGANIZED

FOLLOW SCHOOL RULES

AND HELP OTHERS



MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

In addition to all the other great Reading programs we have here at Azalea Elementary, this year we have purchased " myOn ", an exciting new literacy program that gives our students access to a personalized library of over 5,000 digital books!

myON integrates student ability with technology, to match their reading level with their preferred choice of books. Teachers and students can monitor their reading achievement. As parents, you can share in the learning and excitement with your child through his/her personal dashboard. The dashboard will illustrate how many books they have opened and read, as well as their reading growth.

In myON, students have their own virtual backpack of books from which to choose. There are many other features, such as highlighting, drawing, dictionary, quizzes, and a 'read to me' option. Students can also rate the books they have read, and share with other students!

myON can be accessed anywhere with Internet... school, home, libraries, and on mobile devices—for online and offline reading. Students log in with their R2.D2 user, and s.8 digit district password.

For more information on myON and links to videos and reference materials, please visit: www.myON.com

Book of the Month

Every month we buy a new book for every classroom and always have a copy for you to peruse in the front office. It dawned on me that I should be sharing it here because many of you probably never see it or know about it. The books are based on, but not limited to, character development and the development of growth mindsets. Below is the March book of the month and the book for April.

March

[Fantastic Elastic Brain.jpg](#)

Did you know you can stretch and grow your own brain? Or that making mistakes is one of the best ways your brain learns? Just like how lifting weights helps your muscles get stronger, trying new things without giving up—like finding the courage to put your face in the water the first time you're at a pool—strengthens your brain. Next time, your brain will remind you that you overcame that fear, and you will be braver!

April

[My Mouth is a Volcano.jpg](#)

Louis always interrupts! All of his thoughts are very important to him and when he has something to say, his words rumble and grumble in his tummy, they wiggle and jiggle on his tongue, and press firmly against his teeth, right before he ERUPTS (or interrupts). His mouth is a volcano! But when others begin to interrupt Louis, he learns how to respectfully wait for his turn to talk. Told from Louis' perspective, this story takes an empathetic approach to the habit of interrupting and teaches children a witty technique to help them manage their rambunctious thoughts and words.

STEP Club

Thank you LaToyia Rushing, 1st grade teacher, for your leadership as the club advisor. The mission of the STEP (Students Targeted for Educational Performance) program is to provide a school-based support structure for minority students in order to optimize academic achievement through encouragement, support and guidance.

Toiletries – Our STEP club is collecting toiletries. Please send them in to the attention of the club advisor, Mrs. Rushing, 1st grade.

2017 K-5 District Science Showcase and Family Science Day

Who: The K-5 District Science Showcase is open to all Pinellas County families and the public. This event is NOT just for students who have projects at the showcase.

When: Sat. May 13, 2017 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.
(See volunteer form for volunteer hours)

Where: St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus
2465 Drew Street
Clearwater, FL. 33765

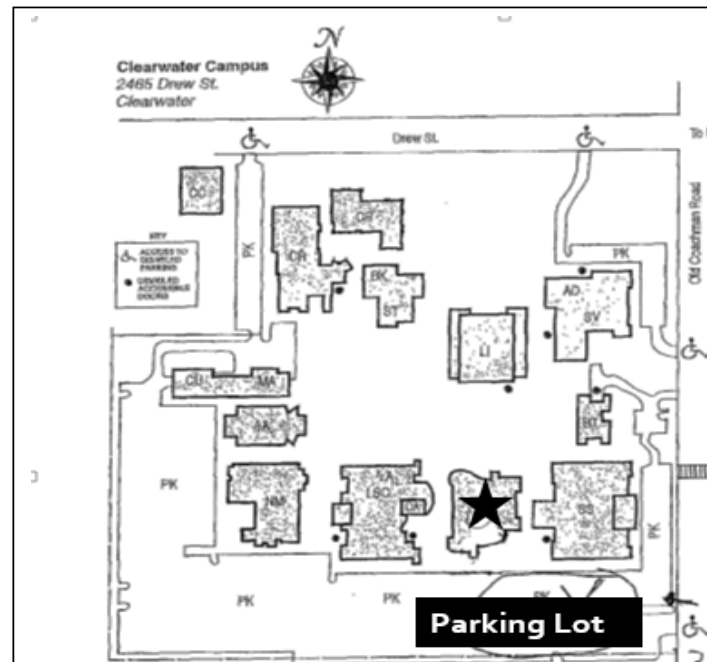


What: The 2017 District Science Showcase held at St. Pete College, Clearwater Campus will display of 300 science research projects representing Pinellas County Schools. Families are invited to spend an hour or spend the whole day participating in various activities.

Other Exciting Opportunities offered at the Science Showcase

- Science Scavenger Hunt through 300 Science Research projects
- Hands on Investigations and STEM Challenges for parents and students

Cost: FREE for ALL



The District Science Showcase will be held in the Ethics-Social Science Bld. Enter the parking lot from Old Coachman Rd. on the southside of the campus. The Ethics-Social Science building is located on the map by a ★

Gifted News

Please thank and congratulate all the gifted students who completed a community service project in February, including one of our 4th grade students, Gavin DeSoto, who was recognized on Bay News 9 as part of their Everyday Hero's on February 27th for his project (see link below). These projects really show them that one person, even a child, can make a huge difference in our community!

Organizations that benefited from gifted community services projects are as follows: *Police Athletic League Farm, CASA, Sheriff's Department, Feed the Homeless, Pet Pal, Pray for Police Officers, Blood Banks, Humane Society, SPCA, Valentines for Military Members, Love and Care Baskets, Azalea Park, Ronald McDonald House, A. C. T. Safety, Alpha House, Lake clean ups, Salvation Army, Organic Gardens, Helping Elderly Neighbors, Mary's Outreach, WNMF Radio, Friends of Strays, St. Pete Police and Fire Department, Project Linus, Picking air potatoes, Candy for Migrant Children, Valentine's for Spring's residents, Pinellas Hope, Clothes to Kids, St. Pete. Hunger Project, NOMAD Art Bus, Treasure Island Shells - Positive messages, Faith House*

As part of our Ancient Egypt theme this year, students are starting to prepare for their end of year project. This year the students are choosing someone from Ancient Egypt to become for Egyptian Wax Museum. Students will dress in character and perform for the other classes, at their grade level, in early May. This incorporates research, leadership, and performance skills as well as understanding of the content.

Students in the gifted program are chosen based on their classroom performance, a gifted checklist, and an IQ test. If your child has been doing extremely well on his/her grade level testing and report card, please discuss the possibility of having your child screened for the gifted program. Teachers and/or parents/guardians may refer a child for gifted screening.

-- Karen Lyens, Gifted Program Teacher

Bay News 9 – Every Day Heroes - 4th grade students Gavin DeSoto was featured based on his gifted community service project. Gavin donated bears to children in harm's way. See article:

http://www.baynews9.com/content/news/baynews9/news/article.html/content/news/articles/bn9/2017/2/24/everyday_hero_boy_do.html?cid=rss

Summer Bridge

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. Contact the school for additional info or help with the registration process.

School pictures and Rays tickets

Reminder to turn in your *spring individual pictures* by April 7th. You can either turn in the pictures that you received or the money to place an order.

If you are going to the Rays game and are buying tickets, the form and the money are due April 11th.

Parent Input

As the current school year makes its final turn around the track, we begin making plans for next school year (2017-2018) and we would like for you to provide us with information about your child.

The school will be accepting written input (letters) or emails that you would like to provide regarding your child's placement for the 2017-2018 school year.

Please do not submit requests for specific teachers. Grade level teaching assignments can change over the summer. In the past, these unexpected situations have forced the school to make teaching assignment changes over the summer time:

- A teacher transferring to another school site
- A teacher receiving a job promotion.
- An unexpected leave of absence.
- A teacher submitting a resignation.

Written input (letters) must be submitted in a sealed envelope to our elementary front office, to the attention of Principal Mike Rebman or you can email me by the close of the school day, Friday, April 28, 2017. The school will not be accepting letters after this date. Your letter will include your child's name, your name, date, the character qualities of the teacher you'd like for your child, and why this would be the right fit.

Student placement consideration will be determined by the Class size amendment (18:1 K-3, and 22:1 4, 5), achievement, behavior, and diversity. We will share any written input you provide to us with the teams. We assure you that our staff will work as a team putting students' needs first, and your input will be strongly considered, but requests will not be guaranteed. Before the end of the school year a generic grade level materials list will be posted on our school website.

In early August, prior to the start of the school year, students and families will be invited to campus to Meet the Teacher, view class lists, review individualized class supply sheets, and tour the school. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 727-893-2187.



PARENT UNIVERSITY

Pinellas County Schools (PCS) and the Alliance for Public Schools will be hosting our spring Parent University at Gibbs High School on **Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., General Session will begin at 8:30 a.m.**

Students will have the opportunity to receive any (or all!) of the following FREE services: Hearing and/or vision screening; school and/or sports physical; Adolescent vaccines to include incoming seventh-graders and computer access to sign up for PCS Parent Portal. Parents must preregister and bring a government-issued photo ID to use some of the services listed.

There will be a plethora of workshops offered as well as Resource Café. Resource Café is an opportunity for guests to visit tables, and have one-on-one conversations with district departments, district leadership and PCS Board members.

Free childcare is provided for children in grades K-5 (with advance registration) Go to www.pcsb.org/parentuniversity for more information.

How to support your child struggling with homework

<http://www.momseveryday.com/home/themomseverydayshow/headlines/?article=408403865>

Homework struggles are real and no one understands that better than Matt Larson, PhD. He is currently the president of the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics. Prior to that he was a school district map supervisor and a high school and middle level math teacher. Here's his advice on handling homework you may not even understand yourself!

"There's a long history in the United States of homework falling in and out of favor. It cycles about every 15 to 20 years. And for a while, we really emphasize homework, and then there's a backlash to it and we back off. Here's the most important thing to keep in mind: students need to practice. Anyone who is good at whatever it is they do engages in practice - whether that's athletics, playing a musical instrument, whatever it might be, you have to practice.

"If your child comes home with some homework and you're not sure how to do it, first of all, that's okay. Ask a lot of 'why' questions. Ask your child if they worked one like this in class. Ask your child to explain how they did it in class. Ask your child perhaps if they could draw a picture or use another strategy.

"Don't communicate any messages like, 'Oh, math was hard for me when I was in school too, so I'm not surprised you're struggling with this.' This is a great opportunity to maintain a positive attitude, support your child in persevering. But if they get stuck that's okay! In fact, if they get frustrated, just stop the whole process and encourage your child to go back to school the next day and asked for help.

"Teachers today in many states are in the process of implementing new standards. Those new standards are more rigorous, focused than they've been in the past. So teachers are working very hard to in some cases learn new content and do new instructional strategies right along with the students. I think it's really critical for parents to be supportive of teachers, and not just their child in the classroom. Go to a Parent-Teacher Night, Curriculum Night - whatever it might be called at your school. Ask questions. As a parent, I would ask questions like, "Is my child just learning how to do something, or they also learning why it works?" And to make sure there's a problem-solving focus in the classroom."

School Advisory Council

The **School Advisory Council (SAC)** is a team of people representing various segments of the community -- parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, business/industry people and other interested community members.

Each Florida school must have a SAC. This requirement fits well with Pinellas County public schools since our district always has encouraged parent and teacher participation in strategic planning. As required, each SAC includes the principal and an "appropriately balanced" number of "stakeholders." These stakeholders are individuals representative of the ethnic, racial and economic makeup of a given school's community. Each SAC is responsible for strategic planning for the school improvement plan for its school. The organization works jointly with the principal and staff after analyzing relevant data.

Are you interested in being on our SAC committee? You will be a part of reviewing our school improvement plan, reviewing school wide learning results, etc. Be a part of how we run our school. Please see the nomination form attached at the end of this newsletter. [Azalea SAC nomination form.doc](#)





Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

This annual event, which will be celebrated nationally on Thursday, April 27, will not take place within the district due to the administration of the Florida Standards Assessments.

However, we do provide a very flexible means for you and your child/children to take part in this day when it does not conflict with the state of Florida testing window. You can request suitable times and days for you and your child/children to participate in such a day as long as it does not conflict with already scheduled activities at the school and gaining prior approval of all parties concerned.

If the child/children are not scheduled for testing and a parent wants to take them out of school on April 27th to participate in the Take Your Son/Daughter to Work Day at their workplace, then such an absence would be an excused absence. Please work through the principal(s) of the school(s) of your child/children to arrange a Take Your Child to Work Day.



In an effort to increase families reporting student absences in a timely manner, we are implementing an electronic method as another option you can utilize. Our thoughts are that this will keep us better informed on why students are not in school and allow us to target resources to best support our families. On our website you will find a new icon that says "Report Student Absence". This icon is on our website page located with the other global icons. When families click on this icon it generates an email that will go to the Outlook mailboxes of two individuals designated at the school. Families can use this method to report absences in addition to all the existing ways such as calling and writing notes. You are also able to include an attachment such as a doctor's note.

ATTENDANCE WORKS

Help your child reach his or her maximum potential.

Our slogan for attendance this year is Attend Today. Achieve Tomorrow. Our average daily attendance is 95.3%. Any day missed is lost instructional time that cannot be replaced. Visible learning, synthesizing analyses of 138 factors that affect achievement show that teacher instruction using high yield strategies is ranked 4th and students' self-assessment of their learning is #1. Students that are not in school cannot achieve at their highest level. So...Attend Today. Achieve Tomorrow.

NBA



Never Been Absent (NBA) is our NEW way of tracking and celebrating perfect attendance on a monthly basis and of course it will be basketball themed. We will do this by individual student and by grade level celebrating the classroom with the highest daily attendance average. We will also maintain a courtyard bulletin board where we can track this information for all to see. This is extremely exciting as this is yet another way we monitor and support our little eagles.

Special thank you to our social worker Renee Hazen for overseeing this wonderful initiative. Another special thanks to Tina Glenn-Speights, one of our teaching partners, for sharing basketball memorabilia from the LA Clippers (NBA Team) with the school per son Marreese Speights who plays for the team. Our school received wristbands, posters, books, etc. for our students. More incentives to support our students coming to school every day. We are so excited to tie literacy with attendance because as you know, Attend Today. Achieve Tomorrow.

Dress Code We have been noticing and increase in students that are out of uniform in some capacity (ie. jeans). The student may be wearing uniform shirt but they have jeans on. We are a uniform school and our policy is below.

Azalea Elementary MANDATORY School Uniform Policy

<p>SHIRTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White, navy blue, black or light blue • Polo style ONLY (knit/cotton) • Collared and sleeved • 3 to 4 buttons or no more than 7” zipper at neckline • NO logos or contrasting colors • Shirts TUCKED IN and clean 	<p>T-Shirts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azalea t-shirts on Friday ONLY • Club t-shirts may be worn on club day and on Fridays 	<p>Winter Wear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long sleeve shirts or undershirts may be worn under uniform shirts – ONLY white, navy blue, black or light blue • Sweatshirt or sweaters on campus – ONLY white, navy blue, black or light blue • Winter coats allowed outside ONLY • Please label all outerwear
	<p>Shoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneakers ONLY • NO Healy’s, Crocs or knee high sneakers 	
<p>Pants, Shorts, Skirts, Skorts, Capris, or Jumpers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy blue, black or khaki • No denim or jean styles (no square pockets in rear) • No fleece (sweat pants) • No leggings • No spandex • No low rise or “hip huggers” • Fitted, neat, and not worn below undergarment line • Shorts, skirts, jumpers, and skorts must be long enough to fall below finger line 	<p>Socks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid colors ONLY – white, navy blue, black or white • Tights – white, tan, navy blue or black 	<p>Head Wear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hats worn inside buildings • No bandanas worn on heads • No distracting hair color (purple, green, etc. Painted hair is not allowed)
	<p>Belts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belts are optional • If worn, they need to be black, navy blue, brown or khaki with a small buckle 	<p>Non Uniform Days</p> <p><u>Must adhere to guidelines in the Student Code of Conduct</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual picture day • Enterprise Village • Fifth grade graduation • School approved sports day • Scouting meeting days - scouts may wear their scout uniform

Azalea T-shirts and sweatshirts are sold through our PTA

Consequences for Noncompliance

Azalea Elementary has a mandatory uniform policy. All students must arrive to school in uniform every day. If the uniform policy cannot be supported by the family, ultimately the parent should request a school without uniforms.

First Offense: There will be a teacher/student conference as to why the student is not in uniform. A letter of notification on non-compliance will be sent home. The letter must be signed and returned to the classroom teacher.

Second Offense: Student will be referred to the office for a uniform conference. A mandatory parent contact will be made to remind parents of the uniform requirement. A second reminder letter from the office will be sent home to be signed and returned to an administrator.

Third Offense: Student will be referred to the office for a uniform conference. A mandatory parent contact will be made by the social worker to remind parents of the uniform requirement and to see if parents need some assistance with compliance.

Fourth Offense: Mandatory parent conference with school leadership.

Fifth Offense: Final parent conference to include input from the Director of School Operations to discuss an administrative transfer to school where uniforms are not required.

Dismissal Alert - Front Car Circle



Please do not cross the street at any point other than our crosswalk. Also, please do not walk onto our campus via the exit of our front car circle. This is dangerous even if it appears convenient. This also models to our young children of not following the rules.

Additionally, when parking on 16th Ave N. for dismissal. There is NO parking on the north side closest to the recreation building. There are signs posted and when cars are parked on both sides of the street it makes it challenging for our school buses to navigate through. Thank You.

Lunch

Thank you for coming to our beautiful campus. We love having you with us. As a reminder, parents and families cannot have other students join them unless there is parent permission. This process takes into account our volunteering policies which ensures safety of our children and your protection.

Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals

See Azalea Elementary website home page in the NEWS section for a link

<http://www.pcsb.org/azalea-es>

SchoolStore.com

Continue supporting our school via our school based fundraisers like Schoolstore.com. Earning \$ for school is easy, just visit schoolstore.com web mall, register and then shop at their favorite online stores to earn! Every store donates a % back to our school.

Service learning

Our school has strong focus on service learning. We feel student benefits of service-learning include enhanced opportunities for learning, and personal and social skill development. Students gain increased knowledge of academic materials, their communities, and themselves. A couple examples of our service learning projects are Thankful Thursday and Puppies for Autism. Our gifted students and their families under the leadership of their teacher, Mrs. Lyens, engaged in other community service projects. You can find a project to support and how you can help by visiting our website under *Get Engaged*. Below are two examples of these fantastic projects.

- Help collecting old t-shirts to make tug toys for dogs at a local nonprofit dog rescue.
- Selling t-shirts on his website to earn money to purchase bears to donate to the fire department for kids in stressful situations.

Earth Force and Energy

Every Thursday our Earth Force club collects recyclables on campus. Thanks for their efforts to help us maintain a clean environment. Also, as a staff, we received an energy audit over Spring Break and we received a 100 total score. This includes unplugging equipment, shutting equipment down, shutting off lights, tactfully setting our air conditioning zones, etc. It takes a whole staff to achieve greatness, and we are doing just that. Thank you, parents, for being an Azalea eagle and part of our story. High-functioning organizations have all of their working parts working in unison. This includes parents, community members, staff and of course our students.



Fill the Bus

The district's summer reading initiative is aimed at putting books in the hands of students, tracking their progress and providing incentives to increase their engagement in reading. The district will be sharing opportunities for community members to fill the PCS Book Bus, which delivers books to students over the summer. **Community members will be able to donate funds online at www.pcsb.org/fillthebus or at the kickoff event at the Administration Building 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 6.** Opportunities to donate by check or at Barnes & Noble stores will also be available.

Puppies 4 Autism

Dear parents,

The students in Mr. Carneiro's ASD class are baking all natural homemade dog biscuits and selling them to anyone who would like to purchase some. 100% of the money raised will be donated evenly between:

- Our local SPCA to purchase pet supplies and food.
- Our local PARC organization to purchase supplies and food for individuals with disabilities.
- Our Azalea Elementary ASD units to help fund supplies and CBI's.

The students will be participating in baking dog biscuits once a week. In addition to supporting wonderful organizations, students will be learning important life skills. Cooking will be infused into the curriculum as a vital health and functional life skills component. Students will learn how to follow directions, work on reading and listening skills, sequencing, communicating appropriately with one another, use math for measuring and adjusting recipes, practice with a variety of practical kitchen utensils, and be an active participant in selling biscuits - which includes collecting money and dispersing change. Moreover, this will help motivate students, and increase self-advocacy and self-determination skills for their future.

We will be selling a bag of delicious homemade dog biscuits for just \$2. If you are interested in purchasing some, simply send the money enclosed in an envelope with the students' name on it and teacher's name. Thank you and Bone-Appétit!

Sincerely,

Mr. Carneiro





Adopt A Classroom

Want to help but don't know how? Become a partner and your students' education! Adopt a Class or Adopt our School

It's a great way to help!

Support Azalea Elementary by giving a monetary gift of your choosing to any classroom or specific department (including media, PE, art, music, technology and gifted class) you would like to sponsor. The classroom teacher/department will use the funds to purchase items such as computer software, computers, iPads, books, audiovisual aids, learning materials, pay for educational field trips, speakers and supplies.

Partnership Parks may include: Thank you letter from your class; Thank you letter from our principal; Opportunity to have your name displayed on our monthly newsletter/website and more...

* **Bronze \$25 - \$200+**: A thank you letter; Business name/logo listed on our website/newsletter

* **Gold \$300-\$800+**: A thank you letter; Business name/logo listed on our website/newsletter; A framed class or staff picture to show our gratitude

* **Platinum \$1000+**: A thank you letter; Business name/logo listed on our website/newsletter; A framed class or staff picture to show our gratitude;

Including 1 year of advertisement of your business on our website/newsletter

If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher or stop by the front office and pick up a form. Remember that together we can make a difference!



Volunteers/Parents & Guardians,

If you would like to help volunteer at Azalea, please stop by the front office for a volunteer form. If you have turned in a form for the first time, please be aware that you will receive an email from the district when you are cleared to volunteer (this may take a few weeks). This email will also include your username and password (V. Last name first initial/last name with the first letter capital and your birth year), which you will use to log hours each time you volunteer.

ex. John Doe

username : v.Doej

Password : Doe1981

For returning volunteers, please know that the volunteer system has changed. You may still use the same username and password as you have in the past to reactivate your account (Click on add hours and answer yes/no then, click on I agree). Once you complete this step you will be able to log your hours. The new website link is <https://focuspcsb.org/volunteer/index.php>. Please make sure to log your hours every time you volunteer as they are important to our school. You may do this either in the front office or at home. If you have any trouble accessing the system, please stop by the front office and I will assist you.

Please note that you must be an approved and activated volunteer to be able to go on field trips or volunteer in anyway. I appreciate your dedication to enhancing the student experience in 2016!

Yaritza Ramos

Liaison/Volunteer coordinator, ramosya@pcsb.org

School Beautification

We will be doing some landscaping. Not a huge project, but we could use some help. We need help with some mulching, setting up border stone, planting, etc. If you can help, please email Yaritza Ramos ramosya@pcsb.org



everychild.onevoice.®

Hello Eagles! We have lots of fun events in April! **Please join us for our Spring Carnival on Friday, April 7, 4:30-7:30pm.** Please scroll to the April calendar at the end of this newsletter for the dates of our April events!

We are making plans for next year. Are you interested in chairing an event or serving as a Board member? Do you have an idea for a program or special event? Now is the time to start talking about it. Please e-mail or call any of the Board members, or talk with Yaritza Ramos or Mr. Rebman.

We have been challenged by our county PTA to add 17 new members. If you have not joined, now is a great time to do it! You can print up an application on the school website and send in your form and five dollars to your child's teacher. Remember, grandparents and other community members can join as well!

-- Lisa Signorelli, PTA President, lsignorelli@tampabay.rr.com

To get engaged:

- Join the PTA!
- Watch the school calendar, your e-mail and our Azalea Elementary Facebook page for info on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.
- Complete a volunteer application, so you are eligible to volunteer. You can download the form on the school website, under the Get Engaged tab.
- Attend events with your family! You will meet your kids' classmates and fellow parents.

PCS Parent Cadre Meetings

Several of our SAC and PTA board members have attended the Parent Cadre Meetings and brought back important information from the school district to share with our school. PCS Superintendent Dr. Grego created the Parent Leadership Cadre in an effort to empower families to be advocates for Pinellas County Schools. The initiative, which supports Item 7, Goal 5 of the district's Strategic Plan, invites School Advisory Council and Parent Student Teacher Association chairs from each school to regularly scheduled evening sessions with Dr. Grego. The sessions rotate each month among families of elementary, middle, and high school students who live in north, mid, and south Pinellas. In this way, parent leadership at every school in the district has three opportunities to meet with the Superintendent between September and May. Each session includes a presentation by Dr. Grego on key issues facing the district and a question-and-answer session during which time parents can share their concerns. Links to the parent cadre meeting notes can be found on the PCS website: <https://www.pcsb.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=9519>. Meeting notes from the March 23 meeting are attached at the end of this newsletter.



Parents eFlyer Info

We have moved to this green way of work to share flyers. Right now we have two pages of flyers for Azalea Elementary in our PeachJar. These are flyers not only from our school but from the community related to the Arts to Lacrosse to BBQ cook-offs. PeachJar is a great resource for our families. We have saved 52,250 sheets of paper and 6.3 trees have been saved. In addition, posting school flyers in this electronic backpack removes a significant administrative burden from teachers, office staff, and volunteers. You will receive electronic flyers from your child's school only, once per week.

No action is required on your part. You will receive a welcome email from our service provider (Peachjar) that includes a username and password. This is provided to give you the opportunity to manage your account and flyer delivery preferences. You do not need to login to receive or view school eflyers but you must login in order to "opt-out" of this delivery service. Please keep in mind that this new electronic method of school flyer delivery will replace all paper distribution of flyers at your child's school. By opting out, you may miss pertinent information pertaining to your child and other school events.

This system is used exclusively for distribution of school-approved flyers. Your email address will not be shared or used for any other purpose. To view school-approved eflyers, simply click the Peachjar button on your school's website homepage. We also suggest you add school@peachjar.com to your email contacts. When you receive your first eflyer, be sure to click "always display images."

RESOURCES



Websites for Azalea Elementary Students

Resource Title	Link/URL	Student Login/Username	Password
ST Math	www.stmath.com Click on JiJi, select "Homework"	R2.D2	s.XXXXXXXXXX
IStation	http://pcsb.org/Page/7549	R2D2 (note: no dot after the R2 and before D2)	s.XXXXXXXXXX
Think Central	https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do	R2.D2.pinellas	s.XXXXXXXXXX
World Book Encyclopedia	http://www.worldbookonline.com/link/schools/pinellas/	pinellas	Select <Azalea Elementary>
Learn 360 – Educational Videos	https://media.pcsb.org/	R2.D2	s.XXXXXXXXXX
Brain Pop	http://www.brainpop.com/	azalea_es	pinellas52
Gale Databases /Kids Info Bits	http://access.gale.com/pinellas/access.html	Select <Azalea Elementary>	Pinellas
National Geographic for Kids	http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/	Create your own	Create your own
myON Books	www.myon.com	R2.D2	s.XXXXXXXXXX
Destiny	http://destiny.pcsb.org/	none	none
Azalea eBooks (go through Destiny)	Destiny > Azalea Elem. > catalog > Universal Search	none	none
Azalea eBooks (direct to website)	http://www.mackinvia.com	RD.D2	pinellas
Azalea eBooks (go through Focus)	Log into Focus, http://portal.pcsb.org Then click on Mackinvia, under programs	R2.D2	s.XXXXXXXXXX
Teaching Books	http://www.teachingbooks.net	student@pcsb.org	Select Azalea Elementary
Tampa Bay Time Edition	http://tampabay.com/nie	azalea	news
TypingWeb	http://www.typingweb.com/	none	none

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Fill the Bus 9:00am-4:00pm; PRIDE Award Ceremony	7 School Carnival 4:30-7:30pm	8 Autism Conference, FGCU 9:00am-4:00pm; Vyrle Davis Awards 8:00-10:00am
9	10 PTA Board Meeting 6:30-8:00pm	11 ASD Family Night 5:00-7:30pm	12 Blood Drive 12:00-3:00pm	13	14 No School for Students	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Field Day (During school hours)	22 Parent University 8:00-11:30am
23	24	25	26 Azalea Elementary Battle of the Books	27 Volunteer Brunch 9:00-10:00am	28	29
30		Notes Autism Awareness Month				

Note: Please scroll to attached SAC nomination form and Parent Cadre meeting notes attached at the end of this newsletter.



Return to the school office by Friday, May 19th

AZALEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 SAC COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FORM
 2017-18 School Year

What is SAC or the School Advisory Committee?

- Parents, staff and community
- Meet four times a year
- Give input on the School Improvement Plan
- Review student data
- Help to build parental involvement at Azalea
- Great way to learn more about Azalea

We are looking for a diverse group of parents, grandparents or other family members interested in being a part of this group for the 2017-18 school year. If you are interested in joining the School Advisory Council for next year, please fill out the nomination form (everyone who wants to serve is elected to serve), return it to Mr. Rebman (scan and email is acceptable) and mark your calendars for our first meeting on September 11 at 8:30 am.

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you have a child currently attending Azalea? _____

If yes, how many and in what grades? _____

Briefly explain why you would like to be a part of the SAC: _____

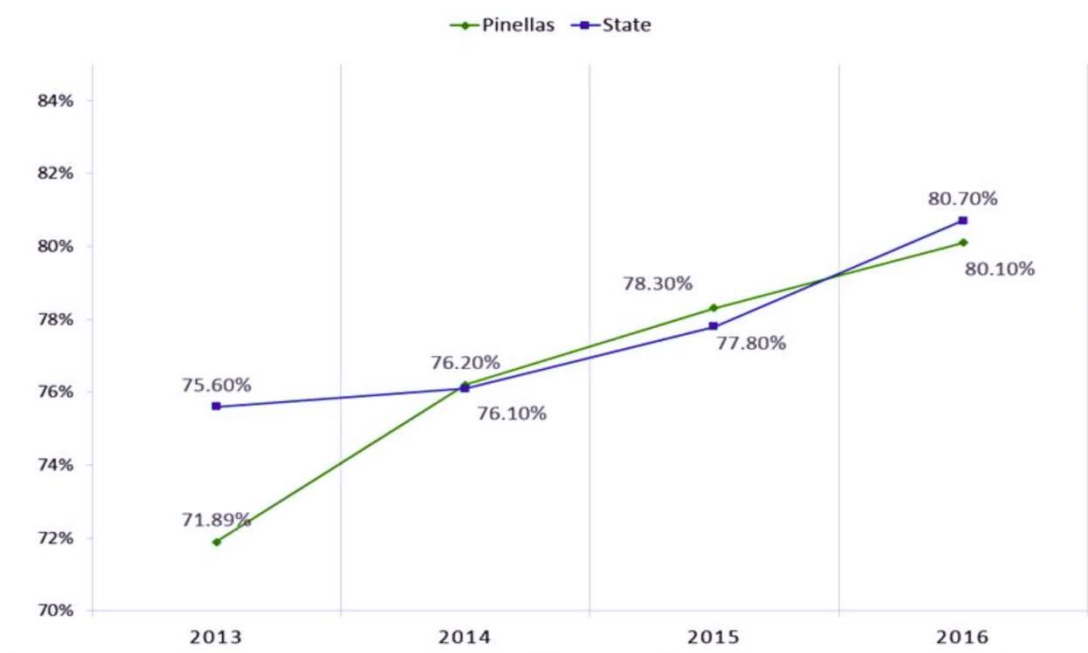
NOTE: Any experience you have is valuable, but it is not necessary to have any past experience. We need volunteers that are interested in making Azalea the best environment we can provide our children.

Our first meeting of the school year is September 11 at 8:30am in the Principals Office.



Parent Leadership Cadre March 23, 2017

Graduation Rate



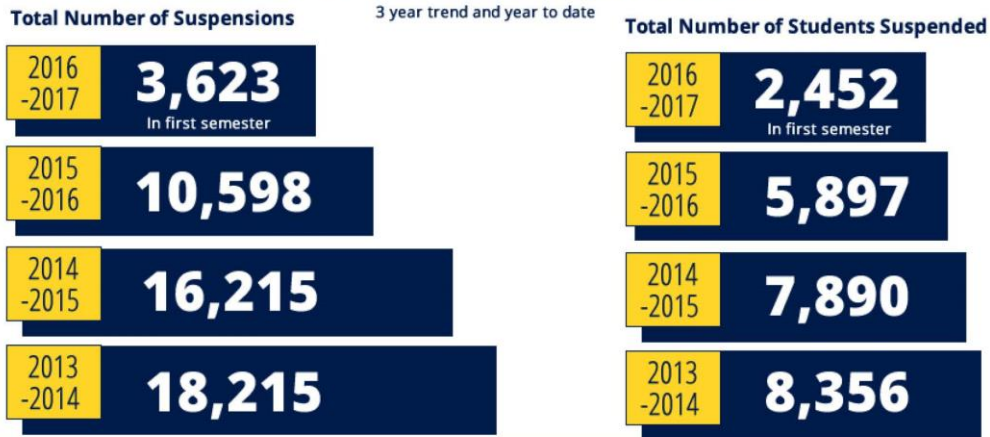
District	Graduation Rate Percent Change from 2012-13 to 2015-16
PINELLAS	8.2%
DUVAL	6.7%
PALM BEACH	6.0%
ORANGE	5.4%
HILLSBOROUGH	4.9%
BROWARD	3.4%
DADE	3.3%

7 Largest School Districts

2016 Largest School District Grades	% of Schools with a A, B or C	% of Schools with a D or F
PINELLAS	91%	9%
PALM BEACH	90%	10%
DADE	88%	12%
ORANGE	83%	17%
BROWARD	82%	18%
HILLSBOROUGH	78%	22%
DUVAL	74%	26%

41.8% - Drop in Out of School Suspensions - 3-Year Trend
30.3% - Drop in Student Disciplinary Referrals - 3-Year Trend
69.2% - 1st Semester Drop in Elementary Suspensions
27.6% - 1st Semester Drop in Districtwide Suspensions

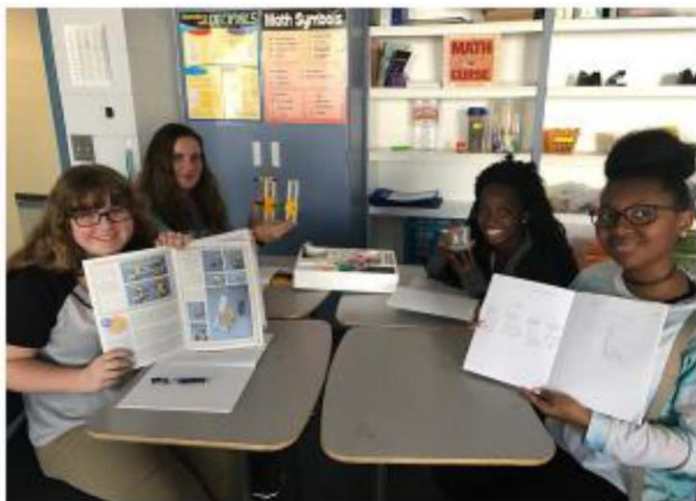
Out of School Suspensions



6



STEM Academies in Elementary and Middle Schools



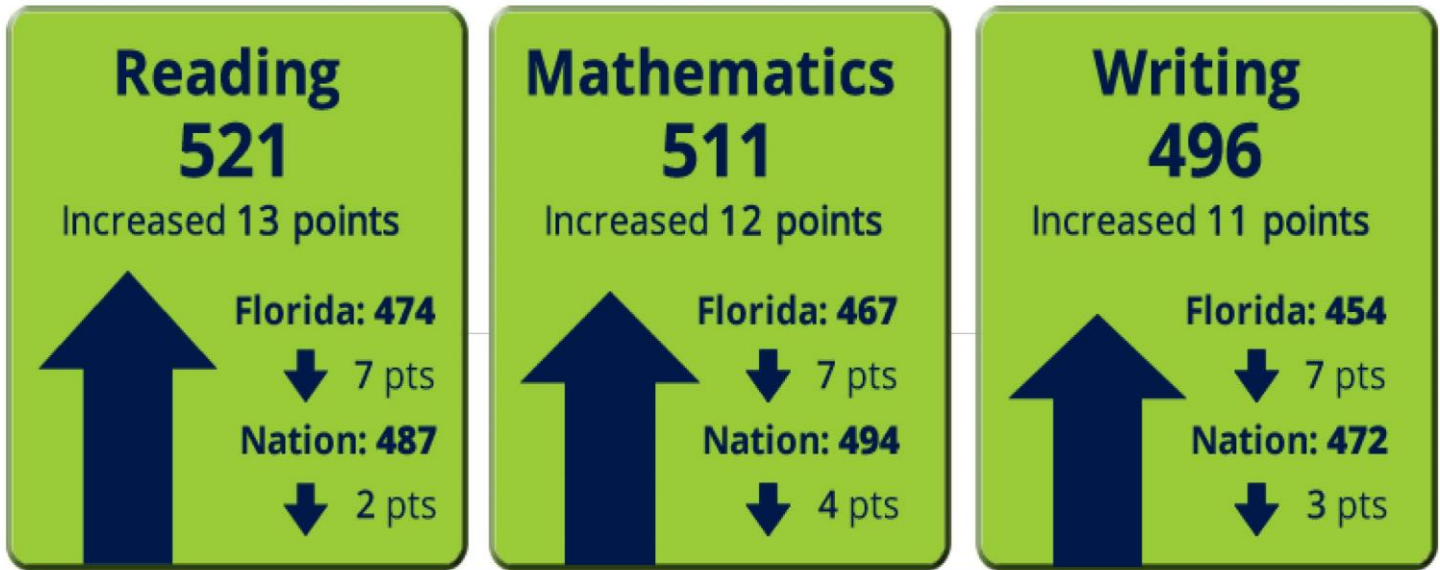
9

STEM Academy Participation and FSA Scores

- A STEM Academy student is **3.26 times** more likely to earn a proficient score on the state math assessment.
- A STEM Academy student is **3.68 times** more likely to earn a proficient score on the state science assessment.

10

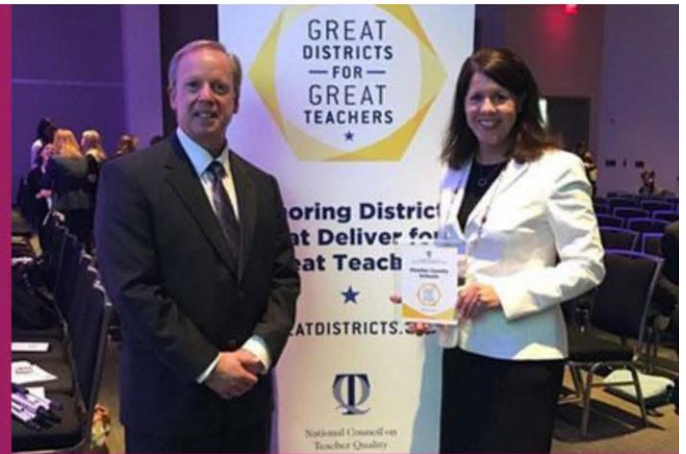
Pinellas SAT Mean Scores 2016



Pinellas Education Foundation and Ford NGL Career Education Luncheon



Pinellas County Schools named one of the nation's Great Districts for Great Teachers



12



13



8-11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 22



**PARENT
University**
**PINELLAS
COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**FREE PARENT
WORKSHOPS**



Starting Right, Now opens Haven South facility



John Hopkins Middle Junior thespians receive high marks at state competition

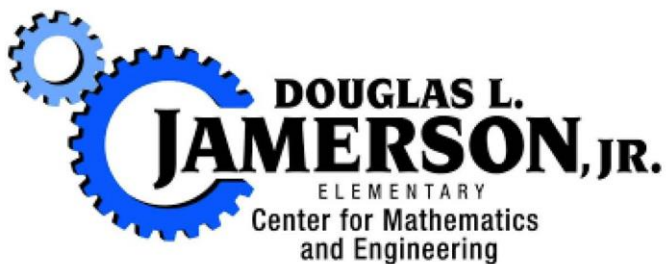


18

Seminole High School hosted the Innovation Through Personalization Conference



19



Lakewood High's girls basketball team reaches state finals



Tampa Bay Times photo.

