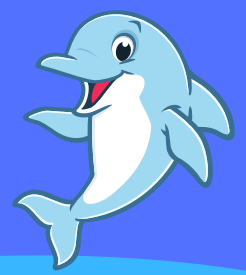




MILDRED HELMS ELEMENTARY IB WORLD SCHOOL MESSENGER

561 S. Clearwater-Largo Road Largo, FL 33770
(727)588-3569 www.pcsb.org/mildred-es

Vision: 100% Student Success



December 2024

PRINCIPAL'S POINTS OF PRIDE

Dear Mildred Helms Elementary IB World Families,
Welcome to winter and the last three weeks of the first semester. Throughout December, we will be sharing our Season of Giving, supporting our vision of community involvement, international mindedness, and 100% Student Success.

Our December SAC meeting will be held on December 2, 2024, at 5:30pm in the Media Center. We look forward to sharing information on our school recognition plan, the upcoming magnet application period for 5th graders, and a look forward to our family involvement activities for second semester. We welcome your input on any of these items.

Midyear state STAR and FAST testing begins tomorrow and runs through December 20th. The results will show student progress through the first half of the year. Results will be posted in FOCUS as well. Please ensure that your child is at school on time each day so that they may test within in their own homeroom.

Our Winter concert will be held on Tuesday, December 11th featuring our first grade and our fourth and fifth grade Dolphin Chorus. For the first time, our Dolphin Chorus will be featured on stage at Largo Central Park on Friday, December 13th.

Just a reminder, the end of the second grading period is Friday, December 20th. There will be no school for students December 21st - January 3rd. School resumes on Monday, January 6th as this is a hurricane makeup day.

We hope you can join us and share in our Season of Giving.

Happy Holidays!

Respectfully yours,
Mrs. Brennan

Upcoming Events

- 12/3 SAC Meeting
Media Center 5:30pm**
- 12/10 PTA Meeting 5:45pm
Winter Concert 6:00pm**
- 12/13 Chorus Concert at
Largo Central Park 6:30pm**
- 12/19 5th Grade Enterprise Village
Field Trip**
- 12/23 - 1/3 Winter Break**

Mrs. Cooper's Corner

Dear MHES families,

It is hard to believe that we are just a few short weeks away from the end of our first semester of learning! What an amazing semester it has been watch the amazing progress our scholars have made!

Everyone has been working hard and it is once again time for our state progress monitoring with our FAST PM2 testing in December. You will receive results this month for both Reading and Math as an update from your students PM1 scores.

What is PBIS? PBIS, which stands for "Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports," is a way schools and families can work together to teach children how follow expectations by focusing on positive actions and praising good choices. It's like a system for helping kids learn the right things to do in different situations so everyone feels safe and respected. Here at Mildred Helms, we have 3 Guidelines for Success: Respect for Self, Respect for Others, and Responsibility for All. Ask your student about them!

Our PBIS party and store shopping for the end of Quarter 2 is fast approaching. Thank you so much to all that have so generously donated items! Our students are so excited to shop with their hard earned IB bucks they have received for following our Guidelines of Success. If you have items, you would like to donate please feel free to reach out to me: cooperkar@pcsb.org or (727) 588-3569.

I hope that you all have a wonderful, relaxing, and safe Winter break and I can't wait to see what a fantastic semester 2 we have!

Thank you!
Mrs. Cooper



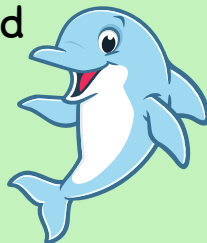
PTA NEWS!

PTA had a great turn out for the Veterans Day Program and would like to thank Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Clemens for their support and assistance!

The next General PTA Meeting will be Tuesday, December 10th in connection with the Winter Chorus concert. We hope to see you there!

Thank you to the following for supporting our school!

Goodwill Books
Lotz of Blessings
Buddy's Furniture
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
American Legion Axillary Post 119
Town of Belleair



Ms. Coleman's Book Nook



This month in Media we are focusing on award-winning books and analyzing what makes a book a "great" book. Younger grades are focusing on online safety and having media balance, while older students are focusing on strategies to use when they come across cyberbullying. Be sure to look for the Digital Responsibility packets coming home this month and participate in the family activities suggested! Happy Holidays to All!

Chorus Concert

Celebrating Holidays from Around the World
Tuesday, December 10th
6:00pm
MHES Cafe



Chorus Concert in the Park
Friday, December 13th
Largo Central Park
6:30pm



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

Book of the Month



Click the book cover for a read aloud of the book of the month!

LEARNER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

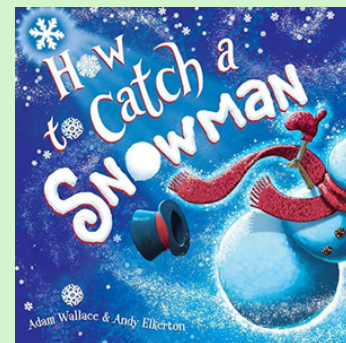
Open-Minded

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.



Let's have some winter fun and think creatively!

1. **Click on this book cover to listen to a read aloud!**
2. **Think about the way you could catch a snowman... sketch a picture and share it with your family!**
3. **Share your snowman trap with your classmates when you get back to school!**



Congratulations to Our Inquirers of the Month of November!

PreK/VPK: Sincere S., Luna S., Basily J.

Kindergarten: Titan H., Teddy S., Julia O., John T., Chandler P.

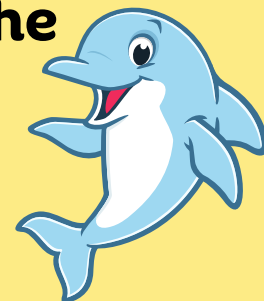
1st Grade: Maia H., Lukas L., Lincoln V., Waylon I.

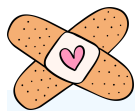
2nd Grade: Adrionna W., Aria S., Bella H.-P., Tenae W.

3rd Grade: Carleigh W., Charlotte W., Nathan H., Nehemiah W., Samuel H.

4th Grade: Maleeya M., Dallas G., Victoria R., Arthur H.

5th Grade: Gabriella F., Mariah J., Landon T., D'Treyvien H.





Ms. Meinke's Nurse's Station

Pests Come to School, Too! Tips for Parents on Two Common Household Nuisances

As we return from an extended break from school, a reminder to all families that two common household pests continue to live year-round in Florida! Please see below for some tips for parents:

Head Lice:

Lice aren't dangerous and they don't spread disease, but they are contagious and downright annoying! Lice cannot jump, hop or fly, but they can run very quickly. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice. A child cannot "catch nits" – nits (lice eggs) can only be laid by live lice. Here are ways you can help prevent your kids from getting lice:

- The best prevention is continuous surveillance! Inspect your children's heads regularly for signs of head lice and treat anyone who is found to have lice or nits close to the scalp
- Tell kids to try and avoid head-to-head contact with other children while playing or at school
- Tell kids not to share combs, brushes, hats, scarves, bandanas, ribbons, barrettes, hair ties, towels, helmets, or other personal care items with anyone else

Bed Bugs:

Bed bugs are another nuisance that is on the rise! Bed bugs do not transmit disease, but they can cause significant itchiness, anxiety, and sleeplessness. Bed bug infestations are also very difficult and expensive to control. Usually, bed bugs will hide during the day and only come out to feed at night. Unlike head lice, they do not live on a person, but they can hitchhike from one place to another in backpacks, clothing, luggage, books and other items. Actual bed bug infestations in schools are uncommon, but here are ways you can help to stop the spread:




- Like head lice, vigilance against bed bugs is the first line of defense!
- If the school contacts you with news that your child was found with bed bugs in his/her belongings, take it seriously and inspect your home
- Make sure you have good lighting while inspecting – use a flashlight whose light beam can be seen even when overhead lights are on
- Look on bedding or in areas where people sleep the most (sofas, other nap areas). Check in areas where items brought home from school or sleepovers may mix together.

It is a parent's responsibility to remove and eliminate head lice and bed bugs from the home so as not to cause reintroductions into the school, which could put other families at risk of infestation. Any student found at school with any live biting insect or pest will need to be excluded from school until the biting insect or pest is removed. For additional information regarding head lice or bed bug treatment or prevention, please contact your school nurse.

MHES CALENDAR



December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 SAC Meeting 5:30pm	4	5 International Volunteer Day!	6	7
8	9	10 PTA Meeting 6:00pm Winter Chorus Concert 6:00pm	11	12	13 Chorus Concert @ Largo Central Park 6:30pm	14
15	16 PBIS Celebration  Las Posadas	17	18 PBIS Shopping	19 5th Grade Field Trip to Enterprise Village	20	21
22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas  Happy Hanukkah	26 HAPPY KWANZAA	27	28
Winter Holidays 12/23/24 - 1/3/25 No School for Students						
29	30	31 				
Students return to school 1/6/25!						



Visit us at <https://www.pcsb.org/mildred-es>
for the most up to date information!

