

TOGETHER PCS

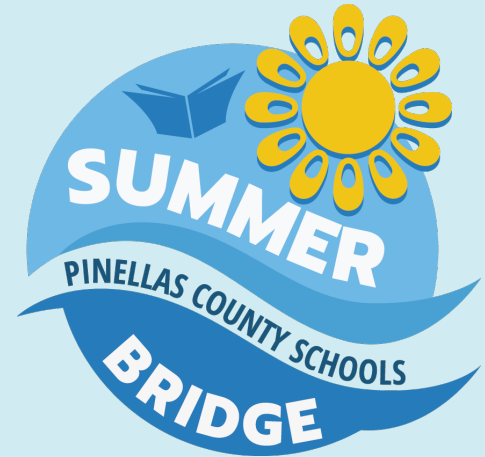
KEEPING PACE WITH PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Welcome to TogetherPCS, the district's monthly newsletter featuring students, staff, alumni, coaches, curriculum, community partners and so much more!

In this issue, we celebrate Earth Month with Palm Harbor University High School alum Aadith Moorthy, founder and CEO of Boomitra, who just received The Earthshot Prize. We also feature our first student contributor from Lakewood High School's Center for Journalism and Multimedia (CJAM), program, who profiles a student headed to FBLA Nationals this summer. And we relive the experience of 600 PCS middle and high school students who attended MacDill STEM Day through photos.

Do you know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS? Please click the "Nominate Here" button below. Let's do this TOGETHER!

[NOMINATE HERE](#)



Summer Bridge registration is underway. Most elementary and middle school programs will take place from June 3-27. Summer Bridge provides engaging learning activities over the summer to prepare students for maximum success when the next school year begins. Summer Bridge is especially important for students who need extra help to stay on track. Learn more at www.pcsb.org/summerbridge.

WHAT'S INSIDE



Limited seats available for PCS

Summer Enrichment Camps

Several Pinellas County Schools summer camps still have space available. Options include STEM, visual arts, movie making, mural painting, journalism, history and 3-D printing. Career exploration, auto mechanic technology and cooking camps are also available through Pinellas Technical College.

Most summer camps will take place in July. Space is limited.

Please note that there is a new application process. Families can learn more and find information about applying at:

www.pcsb.org/summercamps



St. Pete High Art Teacher inspires students to embrace their differences

What started as a means to encourage her students to enter an art competition transitioned into the art teacher herself being on a billboard-sized display.

St. Petersburg High School Visual Arts Teacher Rachel Koral first learned of the 'Embracing Our Differences' annual outdoor exhibit last fall and immediately thought of her students. The exhibit, which started in 2004, uses the power of art and prose to promote inclusion, kindness and respect and is displayed in Sarasota's Bayfront Park as well as St. Petersburg's Poynter Park.

"I told them, if you do it, I will do it also," Koral said of entering the competition. "In the end, it became something much bigger. It proved that anything is possible and that there are opportunities outside the classroom as an artist."

Watch the video and read the full article

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Aadith Moorthy has never shied away from solving big problems.

As his Palm Harbor University High School chemistry teacher Bob Dull can attest, Moorthy not only challenged his teachers to develop more complex concepts, but he also solved them in unconventional ways.

That same problem-solving ability has matriculated into Moorthy's life work, except instead of chemistry equations, Moorthy is now

addressing climate change on a global scale.

Moorthy was awarded The Earthshot Prize on November 7, 2023, in Singapore. The award is championed by Founder and President Britain's Prince William and is often compared to the Nobel Prize or the Oscars of environmental action.

“Winning The Earthshot Prize has definitely helped us accelerate, because it’s a growing brand out there in the sustainability world,” Moorthy said from his office in San Mateo, California. “And having the recognition enables us to ultimately work with more clients, work with more partners, work with more farmers and just accelerate our scaling.”

[Read the full article](#)



Aadith Moorthy, founder and CEO of Boomitra and a 2014 graduate of Palm Harbor University High School, was recently awarded The Earthshot Prize.





Mark your calendars and plan to join us on April 23 for a star-studded evening at the Mahaffey Theater, celebrating the arts and entertainment as students compete in the Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Program. Created by Dr. Jeffrey Walker and the Pinellas Education Foundation, Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Competition is a year-long initiative that helps students hone their audition, portfolio and performance skills. Participants in Walker's Rising Stars compete for college scholarships in six categories: Culinary Arts, Dance, Instrumental, Theater, Visual Arts and Vocal Performance. For the first time, this is a FREE ticketless event! Visit pinellaseducation.org/walkers to see the student finalists who will be performing and learn more about the event.



Congrats Coach Murphy

Gibbs High School's boys' basketball coach Larry Murphy has been named the *2024 Florida Dairy Farmers Boys Basketball Coach of the Year* on Wednesday.

Murphy led Gibbs to a 27-5 record and the Class 4A state championship this season, the program's first state title since 1969.

"It's quite an accomplishment to be recognized by your coaching peers in the whole state of Florida," said Murphy, who has been the head coach at Gibbs for 20 years. "It took all of us - great assistant coaches and a winning team. It's been amazing to be honored for all of the hard work."



ARE YOU A PCS ALUM?

Are You a PCS Alumni? What are you up to now? Use the link below to update Pinellas County Schools on family, career and life for a chance to be featured in TogetherPCS! Tell us more.



22-year bus driver receives keys to Habitat home

After months of construction and \$200,000 worth of contributions by 65 Tampa Bay area CEOs, Tangelia Butler, who has driven a bus for Pinellas County Schools for 22 years, is now a homeowner.

Habitat for Humanity provided Butler and her four children, two who are St. Petersburg High School students, with keys to their new home on Friday, March 29.

"We're moving in tonight!" Butler said from in front of her new home, surrounded by family, friends and school district employees, including more than 25 fellow bus drivers. "If you have a dream of home ownership, never give up."

Butler said her frustrations and feelings of defeat crept in regularly as she searched for many months for an affordable home in St. Petersburg. When she was accepted to Habitat for Humanity, she "cried and cried."

Watch the video and read the full article

Lakewood High student headed to FBLA nationals

By Guest Student Writer Julia Fauer

Junior Leland Kilborn originally joined Future Business Leaders of America as a sixth grader at Bay Point Middle School. Now, he will compete in Coding & Programming at the national FBLA competition this summer.

Kilborn is a scholar at Lakewood High School in the Center for Advanced Technology Program. He joined FBLA in sixth grade because his friends were joining, and he believed that it would be a fun experience. He has loved it ever since.

In previous years, Kilborn has competed in multiple FBLA disciplines including Coding & Programming, Business Etiquette, Computer Problem Solving and Community Service.

The state competition was held March 15-18 in Orlando. The national competition will be held from June 28 to July 3 also in Orlando. This will be his second time competing at the national level.

Read the full article



Middle and high school students from 15 Pinellas County schools had the opportunity to participate in a MacDill STEM Day on Thursday, March 28 at MacDill Airforce Base. Students toured various static aircrafts on the flightline and viewed aerial demonstrations throughout the morning and afternoon.



Watch more here



The Superintendent Says...

"As we quickly near the end of the school year, I am thoroughly enjoying awards season. From Carwise to Vyrle Davis, Maria Edmonds to PRIDE, the Honors breakfast and Road to Recognition, Pinellas County Schools has so much to celebrate. And it all starts with our driven and dedicated scholars. Keep up the great work!"

To help spread the word, please forward this newsletter to community members who are interested in public education. Sign up by clicking the button below.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



VISION: 100% STUDENT SUCCESS

MISSION: EDUCATE AND PREPARE EACH STUDENT FOR COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE

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