

Palencia Pirate Families,

Wow! I had a lot to say this week! I ran out of space in the Pirate Post, but wanted you to be aware of the following activities and needs at Palencia Elementary.

First, we have started our new Positive Behavior Program at Palencia. It began with all students receiving a lanyard and name badge. We are adding a "bead" program. If a student is caught going above and beyond in demonstrating traits of character and leadership, then a staff member can give the child a bead, which will be added to their lanyard. Rewards will be given for increments for every 5 beads earned. These beads are not easily earned and earning them should be highly regarded. Because our classrooms already have a high level of expectation for every student, a child cannot earn a bead from their own teacher. We hope that this program will help show our students the benefits of positive character and leadership.

We have a few areas in our school where we could use some help. We are looking for some furniture to create "Learning Spots". We are looking for some comfortable chairs, couches and tables to place in the hall on the upper deck. If you or a company would like to donate or sponsor some furniture, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact me at andersa@stjohns.k12.fl.us if you are interested in helping with this project.

An additional need is our garden areas. Mrs. Damiano is working very hard to keep our gardens active. I was able to watch her teach a lesson in the garden just this morning. If you have a green thumb or don't mind a little dirt, and are willing to help with the gardens, please contact Mrs. Damiano at (904) 547-4018.

Finally, I have had lots of questions regarding Accelerated Reader. It is true that we are not using Accelerated Reader or Math here at Palencia this year. The following bullet points are some of the reasons for this decision:

- Staff Discussion
- Need to move to a 1:1 environment
- Budget constraints
- We are currently giving our students many other assessments that will provide similar information
- We were able to find another program that was similar and much more cost effective for math
- Classroom teacher has the ability to promote reading within their classroom

I have discussed this matter with the staff, and all agreed this was the best course of action this year. I have been impressed with the continued emphasis on reading. If you have any questions or concerns about this please feel free to contact me for a more detailed explanation.

In closing, I have been spending time in classes and have been very pleased by the lessons and learning I have seen. It is evident that the teachers are working very hard to develop lessons that meet the needs of our students. I am looking forward to spending more time in the classrooms and watching the students engaged in learning.

Thank you,

Captain Allen Anderson

While we have your attention First Mate Mrs. Norwich has information to share as well.

We wanted to take a minute to remind you that the District's **Home Access Center (HAC)** is on line for all of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms. This technology can provide access by your "registered" and "confirmed" e-mail address to your child's Interim Report Card, attendance, and academic information on a daily basis

Gifted Referral Information

•**Deadline to submit gifted screening request to Kathy Cook, Guidance Counselor: October 24, 2013**

**Screening of all second graders (coordinated by guidance counselor):
November 18 to November 22, 2013**

•**Deadline to submit private evaluations to Kathy Cook, Guidance Counselor:
January 15, 2014**

Any questions about the gifted process can be directed to Kathy Cook or refer to our website
www-pes.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Are you living in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground; on the street; in abandoned buildings; or living with friends or relatives due to an economic hardship, are you a teenager and living independently or with someone other than a parent or legal guardian; then you may be eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact your school Computer Operator Cindy Williams or your local Homeless Liaison-Mr. Chris Stone @ 547-7589 for more details. You may also visit: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/student/homeless/>

ESE Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

October 17, 6-8pm. 40 Orange Street, 3rd floor auditorium

The purpose of the Parent Advisory Committee is to identify barriers experienced by exceptional students and their families. This information is then shared with those who can effect changes (administration at schools and Exceptional Student Education staff at the district level). A copy is also provided to those who attend the meeting. If you need special accommodations, please contact Nancy Morrison (547-7672) one week prior to the meeting. The District contact for the Parent Advisory Committee is George Freeman (547-7704).

The Ancient City Privateers' annual family friendly Pirate Gathering on Francis Field in downtown St. Augustine will be **Friday, November 8, 2013, from 9 am to 1 pm**. Admission is a 'buck-an-ear' (\$2) per student. Come ashore and see the pirate mutiny, weapon demonstrations, sailor's encampment, Thieves Market, and hear stories of the high seas, history, and shanties! We welcome **all** pirates!