



## Palencia Elementary Newsletter

# Pirate's Post

## THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

### In This Issue

Meet the Media Specialist	2
Dress Code Details	2
Palencia Picture Day	2
Musical Notes	3
The Artist's Alcove	3
Art Donations List	4
PTO News	4

### Calendar of events:

- **August 24:** Boo Hoo Breakfast for Kindergartner parents 8:30 am
- **August 27:** Recycling Assembly.
- **September 3:** Labor Day
- **September 10:** SAC meeting at 4:00 p.m. All parents are invited to attend.

Ahoy, Palencia Pirate Parents,

Our ship has set sail! The great launch included an afternoon Open House of guided tours, our Caddyshack fundraiser, and an awesome Grand Opening this past Saturday. Thank you PTO for your incredible efforts! Since then we've experienced a few squalls (afternoon storms) but the crew has proved sea-worthy and our precious cargo, your children, have been safe and happy.

Learning the ins and outs of arrival and dismissal have been our first priority this week. Below are some important tips and information on those topics:

#### Arrival:

Students may enter the building at 8:10 each morning. Classes start at 8:30 and students will need to come to the office for a tardy slip at that time.

#### Bike Brigades:

We currently have teachers accompanying students to school from three points. They will be leaving from those points **at 8:05** each morning and children can join them at any point. **ALL STUDENTS NEED TO BE WEARING A HELMET!**

**Las Calinas/Kensington:** The starting point is Las Calinas and Battersea. They follow Battersea to Holland, Holland to Tavistock, Tavistock to Emslie, to Shannon Road, and into school.

**Palencia North Loop:** The starting point is La Mesa Drive and North Loop Parkway. They continue along North Loop to Palencia Village Drive.

**Palencia South Loop:** The starting point is Monterey and Marshall Creek Bluff. They follow the bike path on South Loop Parkway to the crosswalk on Palencia Village Drive.

#### A few critical notes on dismissal:

- ◆ Always carry picture ID. We will be diligent about checking identities before releasing your children.
- ◆ No dismissal changes can be made after 2:30.
- ◆ Send all dismissal changes to our front office clerk, Noel Day. 547-4011 or email: noel.day@stjohns.k12.fl.us

We are anticipating smoothing sailing now into the rest of the school year!

~ Captain Don Campbell

## Meet the Media Specialist



Dear Palencia Family,

I am excited to embark on this new school journey with you as the PES Library Media Specialist. I am a local St. Augustine High School and Flagler College graduate.

Prior to returning to work in Saint Johns County I worked at four different private American international schools (Canadian Academy in Japan, Rabat American School in Morocco, International School of Aberdeen in Scotland and International School of Yangon in Myanmar). All of these schools

were accredited in the United States and were also International Baccalaureate schools.

I opened the Library Media Center at Liberty Pines Academy in 2008 and spent four years building a K-8 Library program that received the Florida Power Library Award.

As a Library Media Specialist, it has always been my mission to provide high quality books for every child at his or her reading and interest level and to create an environment where the entire community feels comfortable and welcome to come for every resource or technology need. Although we are not quite open, once we are I believe the Library Media Center Cove will be an important place for our community. Look for more information in the next few weeks on the PES Media Center web-

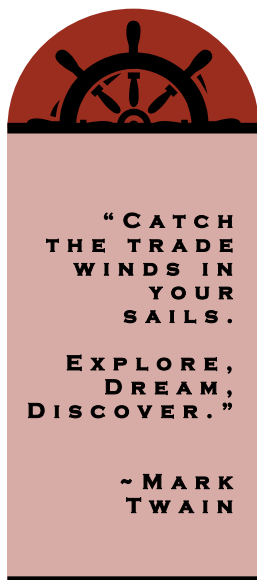
site regarding reading programs, resources available, and more.

Finally, we currently have a fundraising drive, Funds4Books, <http://www.funds4books.com/fundraiser.aspx?pincode=754d> taking place until October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Additionally, we will take gently used book donations that will either go into our collection or into a grade level classroom. It will take us several years to achieve the qualifications and resources needed for PES to become a Florida Power Library school. We appreciate any support that will help us succeed in meeting the needs of our entire community of teachers and learners.

Regards,

*Melanie Tahan*



## Dress Code Debrief

Our students look so great in their new, back-to-school attire! There was a sea of red polo shirts that first day. We continue to encourage our voluntary uniforms which are **red, white, or green** polo-style shirts with tan or black shorts, skorts, skirts, or slacks.

Please remember our SJCS D's Code of Conduct parameters for school attire.

- Students must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for the learning environment. Middle school and elementary school students must wear shoes that have a back or strap on the heel.
- Skirts, dresses, shorts, baggies, culottes, no shorter than four inches (4") above the top of the knee, are acceptable.

Please make every effort to insure your child is in compliance with these district rules.



## Musical Notes from Mrs. Dowdie

Ahoy, Pirates! We have lots of events on the horizon in music – prepare to set sail on a fun-filled year!

First things first: you may have heard that every grade level will be doing a musical performance this year. You heard correctly! In the fall we will have performances by third, fourth and fifth grade classes. In the spring we will feature our kindergarten, first and second grades.

There will be other opportunities for our musical students: the **Pirate Chorus** will begin its inaugural year with rehearsal on the first Monday after Labor Day. We are scheduled to have our first public performance on October 13<sup>th</sup>, so we will be working very hard for the first few weeks!

Pirate Chorus will be open to all fourth and fifth grades students who wish to join; in addition, any student in kindergarten through third grades may audition to participate. Auditions will be held before and after school on August 27 and 28, and before school on August 29<sup>th</sup>. In order to audition, you must have a song memorized and bring accompaniment on a cd. Any questions? Ask Mrs. Dowdie.

Finally, We will have the **Pirate Players**, who will be putting on a play before winter break. Auditions for the Pirate Players will be in September – watch for information to come! Can't wait to see what kind of great things we create together this year!



## The Artist's Alcove

To all my fellow Palencia Pirates,

I am excited and thrilled to have the opportunity to inspire a lifelong love of the visual arts in our amazing and innovative school. Art is my passion and I feel so fortunate to be given the opportunity to share the exciting and powerful experiences that artistic exploration and creation can bring. I am

looking forward to a fantastic year full of artistic discovery and growth. The arts promote brain development, self-expression, creative problem solving, physical dexterity, and a positive self-esteem. Art is a universal language that helps to link us to our history and culture and support higher-order and divergent thinking skills. I believe that the arts are the key to academic success.

In order to provide the best possible learning environment for our budding artists, we will be discussing our behavior expectations as well as going over procedures and materials during the first week of art class. **Art can be messy! Please make sure that your child wears appropriate clothing or brings an art smock (old t-shirt) on their art days.**

### RECYCLING AND ART:

We use all kinds of materials for our art projects! Many items may be things that you normally throw away. Environmental awareness will be an important aspect of our art program and we will certainly put all recycled and donated items to good use. If you have something you think we might be able to use --please give me a call (904 547- 3760) or email: morganj2@stjohns.k12.fl.us or stop by the art room, room 125 before or after school hours. **You can see a list of Recycled items that I might be able to use on the next page!**

Jamie Wardley



**"I believe that the arts are the key to academic success."**

~Jamie Wardley

Palencia Elementary School  
355 Palencia Village Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32095

904- 547-4010  
www-pes.stjohns.k12.fl.us



#### DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING ART MATERIALS:

- aluminum foil (for sculpture)
- plastic Chinese takeout containers w/ lids
- clear packing tape
- colorful duct tape/masking tape
- sponges
- wash cloths/towels
- stickers
- coffee containers
- brown paper bags
- metal cookie trays
- cookie cutters
- used blender
- heat gun
- mat board scraps
- hand held mirrors/plastic mirrors for portrait drawing
- ribbon/fabric
- q-tips
- Cool Whip or other plastic containers with lids (washed please)
- plastic wrap
- wood scraps (unusual shapes)
- egg cartons

### *PTO Highlights!*

The PES Parent Teacher Organization is already 500 members strong! That's because, every parent/guardian is a member. If you update the classroom bulletin board, work the lunch room shift, help set up for an event, wear Spirit Wear or make a financial contribution toward a fundraising goal- you're a member. If you're for the school, for the teachers and for the students, you're a member. No dues required to make a difference at PES! Stay informed by registering on the PTO website:

[www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com](http://www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com)

The Grand Opening events were a success! 800+ guests attended the Open House. Over \$5,000 dollars was raised specifically for teacher grants at Caddy Shack Spirit Night and history was made at the ribbon cutting as the Pirates blasted their cannons in honor of PES. Most importantly, on the first day of school, the student buzz at the car pool lane indicated that the Tacos at lunch were delicious! Now, full sails ahead to adventure and exploration.

Many are asking how to get involved. Here's what you can do: **1.** Register as a St John's County School Volunteer **2.** Visit the PTO website to submit your contact information to stay connected **3.** Sign up for an event or pick an activity that interests you. Gifts come in all shapes and sizes- your talent is in high demand! Friends and neighbors are welcomed to participate too.

**"Helping Hands"** kicks off Wednesdays, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am with breakfast. Volunteers work on teacher projects such as laminating, photo copying or scissor cutting. Your gift of time is appreciated by teachers. It's a great activity to make new friends and enjoy many laughs. Helping Hands meets every Wed at 8:30am.