



## Palencia Elementary Newsletter

# Pirate's Post

## THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

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### Calendar of events:

- **September 27:** Fall Pictures
- **October 8:** SAC Meeting @ 4 pm. All parents invited.
- **October 9:** Art to Remember Packets go home.
- **October 10:** Nissan Charity Golf Tournament
- **October 12:** Deadline for first Boxtop Collection Contest
- **October 16:** Gifted Parent Advisory Meeting
- **October 19:** Deadline for Gifted Screening Referrals

The Palencia ship continues to sail along smoothly with 532 students now on board. We will be adding three associate teachers to our crew very soon!

**Technology:** Our digital textbooks are now fully operational. Teachers initially accessed the text on their laptops for projection to the class as a whole. As of Sept. 10th, though, students have been able to access their textbooks on their iPads. iPads are shared by pairs of students, which works well as they collaborate and learn together as well as individually. For more information about our digital learning, read the article on the next page.

**Student Leadership:** All teachers spent time in the first weeks of school introducing students to Covey's Seven Habits of Leadership. We are now seeing that leadership in action with our Student Leader program for 4th and 5th graders. Safety Leaders are now on duty at our entrances, hallways, and cafeteria as well as on our buses. Our Green Team, which will provide the school with more awareness and information about recycling and other environmentally important topics, had their first meeting yesterday. More student leadership groups, such as News Crew, Yearbook Team, and Student Mentors, will start soon.

**Interims:** For this quarter only, we will not be sending home an interim report. We are still in the process of gathering data on your children. We will be scheduling individual conferences for parents in the next month or so. If you have questions before this time, please contact your child's teacher.

**Volunteering & Visiting classrooms:** We love our volunteers, but please arrange with your child's teacher in advance to volunteer or schedule a visit. Drop-in visits in the morning during the arrival period are not permitted.

**Halloween:** At the September SAC meeting, it was decided that PES students will have the opportunity to dress as Pirates on October 31st (provided they stay within district dress code requirements). Other costumes will need to be reserved for trick-or-treating events in your neighborhoods.

~ Captain Don Campbell

## Technology Update

We are in full swing now with students using their iPads to access the textbooks in class. In addition, students are using the online apps for educational activities and practice. It is amazing to see 2nd graders e-mailing their assignments to their teachers already. These digital natives learn to use these tools so quickly!

Did you know that you can access all of your student's textbooks from home?

Your child's teacher will send you home directions (if he/she hasn't done so already) with your child's user name and password. The Pearson online books

are available on both Mac and PC formats. You must have Flash on your computer to access some of the features of the text on:

<https://www.pearsonaccessnet.com>

If you have an iPad tablet or smart phone, the Pearson books are available on an app you can find by searching "Pearson etext."

For now, we are keeping the student iPads at school. Your child's homework should not require that they use

this online tool for homework. We are also not allowing students to bring their personal tablets to school at this time.

We will be holding a Parent Technology Night very soon. Stay tuned for more details!



**Congrats  
to Ms.  
Royal's 4th  
grade  
class. They  
have  
already  
earned a  
Popcicle  
Party with  
over 500  
Boxtops!**

## Ask Mrs. Damiano, Cafeteria Manager

*Hello Ms. Damiano,*

*I'd like to know what non-milk drink options are available in the cafeteria. I'm mostly interested to know if you have lactose-free milk available or perhaps non-dairy or non-soy options. I've instructed my boys not to drink milk everyday only every other day but they tell me there is nothing else to drink. I know that juice is available because one of the boys' purchase history shows he is purchasing juice. However, the other one tells me he never sees juice or bottled water. Can you please set the record straight so I know if I need to send drinks to school? ~ Wondering*

Dear Wondering,

We have fruit juice 75c and bottled water 60c for sale, but students will need to be sure they have funds in their accounts for the items. I no longer have the option (per the State Department) of providing students with an alternative choice of drink as a part of their meal unless the allergy or intolerance is "LIFE THREATENING". (New Meal Patterns that passed in Congress this Spring)

I hope this is the clarification helps!

*Kathleen Damiano*

## District News

### *Your Input is Needed!*

Our school district is undergoing SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation this year. SACS accreditation is necessary for many things, including student scholarships. This accreditation is a year-long process during which our district schools are required to compile extensive documentation and conduct stakeholder surveys. There is a survey for parents, one for students, and one for employees. SACS expects a very high completion rate for this project.

We are asking that all parents go to <http://advanc-ed.org/survey/public/4625647> and complete the survey for Palencia Elementary. If you are not able to complete the survey on line, please contact Mrs. LaBello at (904) 547-4013 and we will arrange to deliver a paper copy to you.

Thank you so much for all of your support as Palencia Elementary and the St. Johns County School District goes through this important process.

### *Gifted Screening*

St. Johns County School District screens all second grade students each year to identify those who may be eligible for gifted services. Second graders will be screened in November. Students at other grade levels are screened on a referral basis. Teachers and parents may request the gifted screening. October 19, 2012 is the deadline to request gifted screening. Requests should be made to our guidance counselor, Mrs. Cook.

### *Gifted Parent Advisory Meetings*



10/16/12	The Webster School
1/8/13	Durbin Creek Elementary School
3/19/13	Ocean Palms Elementary School
5/13/13	Julington Creek Elementary School

\*All meetings are from 3:30 to 4:30

## Alert Now

When we need to contact you, we use the contact system, Alert Now. Our Alert Now system will only notify one number in our file when we do general Alert Now messages. However, we are able to upload additional numbers for special situations.

If you have a special need to have more than one parent/guardian notified during normal Alert Now messages, please contact Mrs. Day at 904-547-4011 and provide her with the additional number(s). Should there be an emergency notification, all numbers provided to us will be used.



### Did you know:

Mrs. Able's class needs only 37 more boxtops for a popcicle party!  
Mrs. Case's class needs only 65! Can they do it?

How is your class doing?

## Bikers Galore!

We are so pleased to see so many of our students making the heart-health choice of riding their bikes to school each day. We have so many in fact, that we don't have enough bike rack capacity for all of them!

Please be patient; additional bike racks have been ordered and should arrive soon.



## PTO News Flash

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

Don Campbell, Principal  
Kasey Baker, Assistant Principal

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



**Our Wonderful  
Sponsors!**

Put on your dancing shoes for Palencia's annual community Street Festival from 12pm- 7pm on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>! The PTO will be cutting the rug too with a booth next to PES Business Sponsor, Bozard Ford.

Visit the PTO table to get details on upcoming events, **order spirit wear/** accessories and purchase tickets to the annual **Pirates and Pancakes Dinner** to benefit the start of the Vegetable and Hydroponic gardens. Save the Date: pull out your smart phones and add the Pancake Dinner to your calendar for the evening of Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup>. In addition to sweet maple syrup and fluffy pancakes, enjoy a special performance given by the Palencia Pirate Chorus this evening.

In the meantime, keep clipping and sending in **Box Tops**. The contest runs through October 12<sup>th</sup>. A fabulous Popsicle party will be awarded to classes collecting 500 or more box tops! For more information, please visit the PTO website: [www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com](http://www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com). Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook too!

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