



Palencia Elementary Newsletter

Pirate's Post

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

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Calendar of events:

- October 22: End of 1st Quarter
- October 22-25: Scholastic Book Fair
- October 25: Pirates and Pancakes Dinner 5- 7 pm.
- October 26: Student Holiday/ Teacher Planning Day
- October 29: Report Cards go home
- October 31: Halloween with School Pirates Photo
- November 1: 3rd grade Drama Production @ 6:30

Congratulations: We are so blessed at Palencia to have such a wonderful, dedicated staff! It is that time of year when we get to recognize two superstar teachers and a support staff person for going above and beyond every day. This year, we would like to congratulate **Kristen Harrington** as our Teacher of the Year, **Cheryl Kerekes**, Rookie Teacher of the Year, and **Andy Knight** as our Support Staff winner.

New Additions to our Crew: Over the past few weeks, we have added three new teachers to our staff! With our growing student population, some grade levels have gone over the state cap of 18 students (in grades K—3) and 22 students (in grades 4—5). Because of this, Mrs. Simpson's 4th class welcomes Ms. Eden Andrews, and Mrs. Bank's Kindergarten has expanded to add Mrs. Bonnie Olson. Finally, Mrs. Holmes 5th class in delighted to have Mrs. Kim Capelli as their second teacher. As Mrs. Capelli was formerly our Lego Lab teacher, we will soon be hiring a replacement for her there and also an additional 1st grade teacher to assist in Mrs. Davis' 1st grade classroom.

Bicycle Etiquette: We are so pleased to have so many students biking or walking to our school. This is great for the health of our students and our environment. With all of these people using our sidewalks though, we have experienced a bit of congestion. Although there are handy bike paths throughout much of the Palencia community, all students end up on the same sidewalks entering the school grounds.

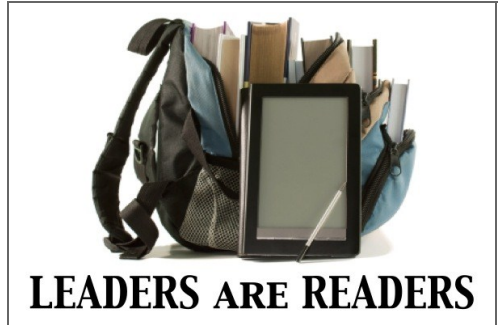
We would like to remind all parents and students biking to school to be considerate of those pedestrians sharing the sidewalk with you. Please let walkers know if you are coming up behind them and take care if you need to pass. It is recommended that you walk your bike after you reach the crossing guard, and required that you walk your bike after turning up to enter school grounds. In the afternoon, we release bikers and walkers separately, to relieve some of the crowding issues but in the morning, we are relying on your thoughtfulness.

~ Captain Don Campbell

Reading Homework

Has your child ever told you on occasion that he or she has no homework? Impossible! Students at Palencia Elementary have homework every night. Even when written work might not be assigned, students are expected to be reading at home daily.

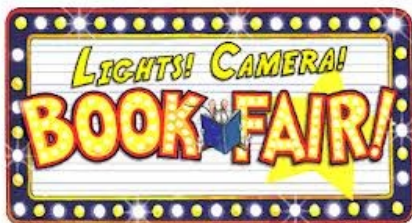
This independent reading outside of school is vitally important to your child's future success in school. Studies have shown that reading 20 minutes per day outside of school makes an enormous difference in a student's fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. 20 minutes per day adds up to 1,823,000 words per year. Students who do not read outside of school have no way to catch up with this.



With our Accelerated Reader (AR) program, teachers and administrators are able to track how much students are reading and whether they are comprehending what they read. To encourage reading and participation in the Accelerated Reader program, we help students set goals, offer incentives, and help students track their success. For each of the four school quarters, students set an individual AR Reading goal with teacher assistance. Goals are based on either a number of books that students should read or a number of points to try to earn within the quarter by passing AR quizzes on each book read. Students use the STAR Reading Assessment to determine their AR level range. This helps them to know which books to choose that are appropriate for their reading level development. Books for AR may come from the PES Library Media Center, home, the classroom or the public library. See the PES Media Web Site for additional information.

With the Accelerated Reading program, a score of 70% will count as passing, but research has shown that the most gains are made when students average 85% or more on these quizzes. You can track your child's performance in the AR program. To access your child's AR records, ask your child for his or her user name, and password to log into the [AR Home Connect](#) website. You can even click on email setup on this site to receive emails informing you when your student takes a quiz and the test results!

PES SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR



When: October 22-25 **Where:** PES Media Center

Be sure to visit our Scholastic All STAR Book Fair! It is a great opportunity to enhance your home library for your child, assist PES teachers in expanding their classroom book selections, & purchase gifts for upcoming holidays. It also helps to raise \$\$ for our beautiful Media Center & Reading Programs.

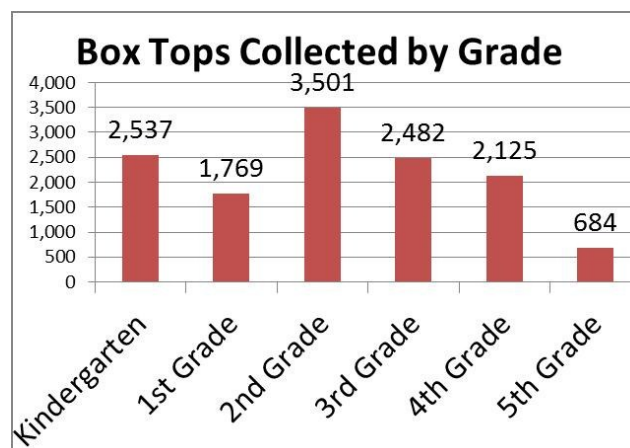
Don't miss out-we have some extended hours so all families can visit during Pirates and Pancakes and Chorus Performances on Thursday night. Look also on the school web site for information about online book fair ordering where you can shop at home and/or get something that became out of stock at our fair.

Monday: 8:30-3:00, **Tuesday** 8:30-3:00, **Wednesday:** 8:30-2:00, **Thursday:** 8:30-3:00 & 5:00-8:00

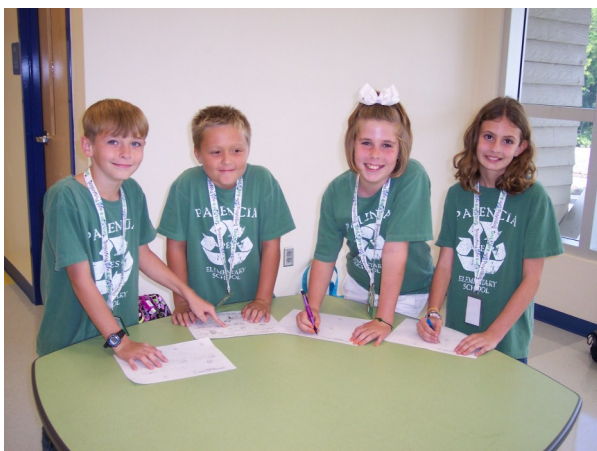
PLEASE REMEMBER to include **TAX money (6%)** if sending money to school with your child to purchase books. All checks should be written to **PALENCIA ELEMENTARY**. Cash, Checks or Credit accepted.

Box Top Bonanza!

Our first PES Box Tops Contest is officially over. Through the contest period of August 20th to October 12th we collected 13,098 Box Tops representing **\$1309.80** for our school! Parents, teachers, and students have done an awesome job collecting and turning in their Box Tops and everyone wins as a result of our collective efforts. The three top classes were **Mrs. Case's** 2nd grade class with 953 Box Tops, **Mrs. Haden's** Kindergarten with 860, and **Mrs. Ables' 3rd grade** with 714. Mrs. Harrington, Ms. Royal, Mrs. Stecher, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Worthington, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Banks, and Ms. Kusiak's classes also all had over 500 Box Tops! Keep collecting! Who knows how much we can earn for the whole year!



The Green Team Globe



Here is what we learned in the past week. Plastic has only been around for about 100 years. Plastic is in everything.

Americans buy more bottled water than any other country. We drink an average of 222 bottles of water per person per year or 4 bottles of water every week. Each day in the U.S. 60 million water bottles are thrown away. Each Year the U.S. throws away 100 billion plastic bags which clutter landfills, clog drains and drift into the ocean. Did you know plastic will never decompose?

~This article is brought to you by Ellie O'Donnell, Green Team Student.

Become a Surrogate parent for an Exceptional Student

There are exceptional students in our community who very much need an educational surrogate parent. An educational surrogate parent is an individual who has been appointed to act in the place of a parent in safeguarding a child's rights in the special education decision-making process. The educational surrogate parent represents the interests of the child in all areas relating to the exceptional student education process and the provision of a free appropriate public education. A surrogate parent is not someone who takes care of the child (like an adoptive parent or a foster parent). A surrogate parent is not financially responsible for the child.

Educational surrogate parents have a very important role. They help the child and the school; they also help their community meet the needs of its exceptional students. The opportunity to share your time, use your skills, build relationships and see the results in your own community and in the life of a child are the rewards of being an educational surrogate parent.

We will be hosting a training on November 16, 2012, from 8:00 – 10:00 at 40 Orange Street, please contact Jill Bullard at 547-7712 to register. If you have questions about becoming a surrogate parent please contact Tina Kennon at kennont@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



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!**

The PES PTO has a lot of good news to report. Thanks for your participation. You deserve a round of applause!!

Pirates and Pancakes is on Thursday, October 25th. We've had a huge response! As a result, we've already raised over \$1,000 for the vegetable and hydroponic gardens. It's going to be a great night in thanks to the Pirate Chorus performance and the fabulous Media Center Book Fair staying open late. Good times guaranteed!

The PTO is trying a new fundraiser. Rather than asking you to purchase food items, such as cookie dough, where the PTO receives only a percentage of your purchase amount, we are humbly requesting a donation specifically for the build out of Phase 1 of the PES playground. This means that **100% of your financial donation will be applied to the playground campaign.** This straight forward campaign has the potential to make a major financial impact to the playground fundraising goal. A donation where we keep 100% is a big deal for our school. A heartfelt thank you to the generous donations made to the playground campaign. Thank you in advance for your consideration. To make an online donation, please visit www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com.

There are many ways to be involved with the PTO. A weekly email with the subject, *Volunteer Opportunities*, announces several activities or initiatives that would enjoy your participation. We use an "app" called, Sign up Genius, to help us manage sign ups. Currently, we need volunteers the evening of Pirates and Pancakes to help with many tasks, such as food prep and busing tables. Please consider sharing your time and talents with your PTO. We'd love to get to know you better. Visit www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com for more information on ways to get involved.

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