



Palencia Elementary Newsletter

Pirate's Post

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

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Calendar of events:

- **November 19:** Interims issued
- **November 19:** Grandparents Thanksgiving Luncheon
- **November 21- 23:** Thanksgiving Break
- **November 29:** Pirate Chorus at BJs Warehouse Club @ 6:30.
- **December 6:** Pirate Players Performance @ 6:30.

Happy Thanksgiving! We are so thankful for our wonderful parents and students. We wish you all a fun, festive holiday break next week.

STEM Learning and the Lego® Lab: Across the country, there is an emphasis by lawmakers, educators, and business leaders to strengthen our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education for our children. This is a particular goal for us here at Palencia as we believe STEM education should have a strong foundation at the elementary level. One of the unique enrichments we are able to offer your child is our LEGO® Lab. While constructing projects with Lego bricks each week, our children explore engineering, architecture and physics concepts and develop problem solving and critical thinking skills! We are so grateful to **Bricks4Kids**, a business located in our community, for their assistance with this program. Bricks4Kids generously donated ALL of our Lego Learning Kits (including motors) and assisted us with lesson plans for this resource! Our new Lego Lab staff person, Krystina Nelson-Armstrong, started in the lab today!

Dogs on Campus: Some parents bring their dogs with them when they bike or walk to school to pick up their children. Please make sure that your pet is on a leash. In addition, since animal/child interactions can be unpredictable, please keep your pet on the outer perimeter of the bike rack (on the grass area) away from where students walk past. We need to keep all children, as well as your pet, safe.

~ Captain Don Campbell

ART ROOM UPDATE!



Thank you so much to all the parents and students who helped support our art program by placing an order for our Art to Remember fundraiser. We were able to raise approximately \$1200 for art room supplies and equipment!!! YAY!! The orders should arrive to school before the end of November and will be stored in the art room. If you would like to pick them up, instead of having your child bring them home, please email Mrs. Wardley at morganj2@stjohns.k12.fl.us or call Ms. Day in the front office. The funds will be spent on paints, ceramic glazes, a rolling cart for clay projects, and other supplies! THANK YOU!! Thanks also to Stefanie Carpenter and the PTO for all of their help with this project. We could not have

managed it without them!!

Mrs. Wardley also created a video for the DavidsonCares.com grant program. Please go online and vote for our art program video! If our school gets the most votes, we can receive up to \$1000 for our arts programs!! Here is the link: <http://www.davidsoncares.com/palencia-elementary-school.aspx>

Our Cave of Art turned out amazing thanks to the help and support of our fabulous PTO president, Laurel Madson. Most students got to tour the cave during art class or the Pancake dinner night. Here are some great pictures that Mr. Farnum took for us that you can check out if you were unable to attend: [Click here.](#)

Also thank you to the Sprecher family and others for organizing and gathering so many great reusable and recycled supplies for the art room! Mrs. Wardley and our students really appreciate it!!! THANKS!

Physical Fitness Initiatives

As we begin our second quarter, grades 3-5 are starting their **Mileage Club** program. This program is sponsored by our fabulous PTO and run by the classroom teachers. Each student has received mileage card worth 20 laps, which on our course totals 4 miles. The course is set up around the PE field and the teachers are welcome to come out with their classes at their convenience. Once students complete a full card, they earn a foot token and a chain to continue collecting their mileage tokens. Whenever students complete a card, they will earn a foot token of their choice. This program lets the students run, jog and or walk for exercise during the day to help stay alert in the classroom and gain improved fitness. The students are really excited to kick this program off. If you have any questions about mileage club, please e-mail Coach Brougham at broughj@stjohns.k12.fl.us

On Thursday, November 15th, Palencia Elementary Physical Education students took part in the 2012 *Stack Up!* Last year, 412,259 stackers participated to break the previous year's STACK UP! record of 316,736. Tens of thousands stackers demonstrated their sport stacking skills from across the United States and around the world in countries such as Hungary, Germany, Israel, South Africa, New Zealand, Columbia, and Taiwan. Our students took part in this event to try to break the Guinness Book World Record of the most people sport stacking at multiple locations in one day. We had several different sport stacking activities for the students to do during our PE class yesterday. Did we help set a new record? We'll find out soon. For more information on this event please visit http://www.thewssa.com/stackup/2012_stackup/



IT'S A CONTEST!

As mentioned in Mrs. Wardley's Art Update, **Davidson Realty** is offering a grant opportunity to our teachers and to our school. It is also a contest to see which of four schools, Palencia, Wards Creek, Mill Creek, and Pacetti Bay can generate the most support. Naturally we would love to see Palencia get the most votes!

Go view our four video contest entries—from Mrs. Wardley, Ms. Dowdie/Tahan, Mrs. Brown, and Ms. Stewart and vote daily to support one of these great causes. The voting period started November 8th and goes to February 1st. Every vote helps our school as well as the project you support! <http://www.davidsoncares.com/palencia-elementary-school.aspx>

A Musical Moment at BJs

Each year, BJs Warehouse Club partners with one school in the Jacksonville area and this year it is Palencia Elementary! BJs has been wonderful for providing food and drinks for our Grand Opening and other fundraising events, sheet cakes for Mr. Campbell's Birthday, coolers for our field trips and even a shopping cart for our Lost and Found items. This month our Pirate Chorus will be performing at BJs on **November 29th at 6:30**. They will also be offering the school part of the proceeds from every membership opened or renewed that evening. We hope you will join us for a little holiday shopping that evening! BJs is located at 8046 Philips Highway in Jacksonville. See you there!



The Green Team Globe

The Green Team is learning about energy. The types of energy we are learning about are fossil fuels and renewable energy. Fossil Fuels come from dead animal fossils (bones) and were around before dinosaurs. They are much cheaper than other types of energy. Renewable energy is more expensive but it puts out much less pollution than others. Renewable energy is from Mother Nature, such as Sun, Wind, or Water.

Some of the ways to save energy and stop pollution are:

- a. Turn off electronics when not in use....such as your computer, phones, ipods, televisions and small appliances.
- b. Replace your current light bulbs with LED bulbs. They have more life and less pollution.
- c. Close all doors and windows when air conditioners or heaters are running. This saves on loss of air or heat.
- d. Take shorter showers to save on hot water.
- e. Turn off water while brushing teeth or washing your face.
- f. Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- g. Turn the thermostat down on the hot water heater.

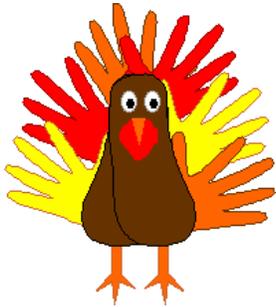
These are some of the ways that my family and others use to help to save energy and decrease pollution.

By Kaylie Dewitt, Green Team Member

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Don Campbell, Principal
Kasey Baker, Assistant Principal

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**Our Wonderful
Sponsors!**

PTO Gives Thanks!

The PTO is thankful to many people whose contributions produce extraordinary results. At our table, we celebrate our blessings and give thanks to our community. **We give thanks for:**

- ◆ The wonderful bakers who made delicious and remarkable goodies for the Pirates and Pancake Bake Sale. The treats looked too beautiful to eat and too delicious to ignore!
- ◆ Ms. Dowdie and Ms. Wardley, who generously share their love and delight of the Arts with children and families. Our children adore them both!
- ◆ Extraordinary volunteer, Cass Nagy, who volunteers at lunch shifts so often, children think she works at PES. Thanks Cass for rolling up your sleeves!
- ◆ The cheerful Crossing Guards who do their job with pleasure.
- ◆ The maintenance team- they always have a solution...thank goodness!
- ◆ The 200 + grandparents who will join their grandchildren for a special Thanksgiving luncheon. In fact, we're thankful, for all grandparents, who adore their grandchildren, no matter where they are on Nov. 19th. We love, love.
- ◆ Compliments and encouragements that continue to motivate our organization. Mr. Campbell & Mrs. Baker are wonderful cheerleaders of PTO initiatives and volunteers.
- ◆ Wonderful business sponsors that continue to give in more ways than just financial.
- ◆ Impressive teachers who go above and beyond ... Thank you for leading bike brigades, playing the ukulele in the hall, making an excellent McFlurry, baking cookies with students, creating videos for grants... but mostly for embracing our children's unique gifts.
- ◆ A committed membership- parents and guardians who support fundraisers and attend events; volunteers who get messy because it's what has to be done and committee members who generate ideas to keep projects fresh and advancing; win or fail, we do it together.
- ◆ Students who are working to learn and live with character. It is with love and pleasure that the PTO leads, funds, supports and volunteers- to make certain that our students have what they need to be successful.

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