



Palencia Elementary Newsletter

Pirate's Post

Calendar of events:

- **February 26:** FCAT Writes for 4th grade
- **March 1:** Dr. Seuss Day
- **March 4:** Boosterthon Kick-off
- **March 6:** Kindergarten Registration
- **March 13:** Boosterthon Fun Run
- **March 21:** Last day of 3rd Quarter
- **March 22:** Teacher Planning; Student Holiday!
- **March 25–29:** SPRING BREAK
- **April 1:** Teacher Inservice; Student Holiday!
- **April 4:** 3rd Quarter Report Cards go home.

Show your School Spirit!

Monday—Red
Tuesday—Black
Wednesday—Green
Thursday—White
Friday - Spirit Wear

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

Fitness counts! In addition to our focus on academics, we promote health and fitness at Palencia Elementary as well. We have the Mileage Club program for all classes, coordinated by Mrs. Brougham, where students collect card punches for walking or running laps. One student, **Christopher Kinsey**, has already logged 72 miles! We also have two after-school running groups: Girls on the Run and Ahoy Mates Running Club.

On March 9th, many of our staff and students got a chance to showcase their running prowess at the district-sponsored Character Counts race. Several teachers and students placed in their age groups. Congratulations to Mrs. Cooper who received a 3rd place medal, Mr. Farnum, Mrs. Degutis, and Mrs. Brown who took 2nd place honors, and Mrs. Stecher, who won 1st place in her age group! Students who received medals in the 3K included **Hampton Riedl, Joseph Wozniak, Kelsey Priest, and Michael Savo-Matthews**. **Nick Sanchelli** received a medal in his age group for the 6K race!

Another fitness initiative took place last Wednesday—Jump Rope for Heart. Jenny Brougham (supported by the rest of the resource team and our wonderful parent volunteers) coordinated this all-day event where each grade level got the opportunity to participate in a variety of jumping stations AND earn \$4317.00 for the American Heart Association. Despite the rainy weather, the exercise continued in our common areas and a great time was had by all! Congratulations to **Brandon Strout** who was the top sponsor collector for this event.

Now we have another fitness opportunity on the horizon—the Boosterthon Fun Run. Students will spend 7 days learning about fitness and good character before our Fun Run **finale on March 13th**. This health-conscious program will also support future fitness goals for our school—a new playground!

A great loss: Our Palencia family was saddened by the loss of one of our own this week. Zac Van Ekeris, an extended day teacher, died in a motorcycle accident on Tuesday. “Mr. Zac” brought joy to students and staff every day here and will be greatly missed. Information about funeral arrangements can be found on the following page.

~ Captain Don Campbell

February Lunch Menu: [Click Here](#)

Readers are Leaders!

In this issue we are acknowledging our **3rd grade students** who met their Accelerated Reader (AR) goals in the first semester. Congratulations to: *Gilbert Birdwell, Charlotte Fritz, Kenneth Ponzetti, Kendall Miko, Jade Plummer, Tom Zak, Reva Morley, Gabe Ohlson, Dylan Stojanovic, Ruby Jones, Auralyn Jones, Jack McCormick, Duncan Ledyard, Chloe Tinker, CJ Woody, Carter Gramlich, Parker Anderson, Samantha Brooks, Nick Farraye, Heba Haq, Christian McGlothren, Brodie Mongon, CJ Quevedo, Christopher Achatz, Audrey Ausilli, Jack Boyette, Sean Caracciolo, Jacob Epperson, Reese Geary, Alyssa Giraud, Cassidy McNeil, Saylor Minock, Shelby Pamer, Brayden Patalano, Colos Powell, Cade Sapp, Dylan Adams, Isabella Carney, Olivia Conte, Amol Deshmukh, Evan Graff, Haven Hinkle, Carissa Jonnet, Leila McNeill, Matthew Mungal, Ari Nalven, Haydyn Pouncey, Harrison Silverio, Luke Stanley, Clayton Tedder, Grace Weiler, Jackson Callaghan, Tate Carpenter, Zakiah Fox, Parker Giles, Lauren Jones, Lana Karjono, Journey Lewis, Izzy Paczkowski, Giles Pickens, Amelia Porter, Abigail Sawyer, Dylan Schmidt, Anthony Zangrilli, Marquelle Whiteman.*

Final Arrangements

We have received the following information regarding the funeral arrangements for “Mr. Zac.” The funeral will be held on Tuesday, February 26th at 11:00 am at Craig Funeral Home. The address is 1475 Old Dixie Highway in Saint Augustine. There will be a celebration of his life afterwards at the family home.

A Memorial Fund to honor Mr. Zac’s memory has been created. Funds in the account will be used to send children to Summer Camp who exhibit Mr. Zac’s qualities and who would otherwise not be able to attend.

The account for The Mr. Zac Fund has been set up at Prosperity Bank, 790 North Ponce De Leon, Saint Augustine, 32084. Donations will also be accepted at the Craig Funeral Home.



Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

March 1st is Dr. Seuss’s birthday and we have many activities planned within our classrooms and as a school to celebrate! All students are invited to dress “Seussically” for the day. We will also be participating in the ***Read the Most from Coast to Coast*** challenge that day sponsored by Renaissance Learning. Students will be trying to break a previous one day record for taking Accelerated Reader (AR) tests! Individual classes and grade levels will be celebrating with additional activities involving specific Seuss books.

Cell Phones at School

Your child’s cell phone can be a wonderful instructional technological tool—when it is utilized at a teacher’s direction and under their supervision. Please be aware that cell phones are subject to specific rules outlined in our SJCS D Code of Conduct. Student cellular communication devices must be turned off, stored in the student’s backpack, and not used during the school day unless so directed by the teacher. If students are using the device in violation of the Code of Conduct or Acceptable Usage Policies, it may be confiscated and only returned to the parent.

Summer Marine Science Program for 5th graders

Applications for the summer Marine Science Program will be passed out at all schools during the week of February 25th. Applications are due back to science teachers by March 7th. Applications can also be downloaded at any time from the website prior to April 15 at <http://www-grms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/> and click on the Marine Science link.

This summer program is available to all students in grades five through seven and has been sponsored by the school district since 1982. Three eight day sessions are held at Menendez High School with bus transportation provided. The dates for the three sessions this summer will be June 10th through June 20th, June 24th through July 11th, and July 15th through July 25th. (The school district will be closed during the week of July 1st through July 4th.) Small classes that average 14 students are separated by grade level. All instructors in the program are St. Johns County School District teachers.

The Marine Science Program is a carefully designed experience for responsible students who are interested in learning about our local marine environments. Learning is “hands on” in the field with students kayaking, canoeing, boating, hiking, snorkeling, sailing, windsurfing, surfing, etc. Specific grade level activities and curriculum are attached to the applications and are also available from the website.

More information about the program can be had by emailing John Gordon at gordonj2@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

ESE Survey

The Florida Department of Education is conducting a survey designed to provide the state with information on how well schools are supporting parents’ involvement in their child’s education. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), states must report this information to the federal government on an annual basis. All parents of children with disabilities and a current IEP (PK to 12th grade) are invited to participate in this survey. The survey is opened from February 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013. Please visit www.esesurvey.com to complete the survey.

A 2nd Kindergarten Round-Up

The next Kindergarten Registration Day is March 6th, 2013 from 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Please call Cindy Williams at 904-547-4017 to schedule an appointment. Please refer to the Kindergarten Registration Flyer for information on what is needed to register your child.

Hardship Waivers

The Hardship Transfer application process will begin on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, the new application will be live on the St. Johns County School District website:

www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/os/schoolserv/transfers.

If you have a child here at Palencia on an approved 2012-13 Out of Zone Hardship, this waiver will expire at the end of this school year. If you would like for your child to still attend Palencia next year and you are on an Out of Zone waiver you must apply again for the 2013-14 school year.

If you have any questions concerning this process, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Abbatinuzzi at 904-547-7583, and, as always, feel free to call Cindy Williams at 904-547-4017.

Palencia Elementary School
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Don Campbell, Principal
Kasey Baker, Assistant Principal

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



**Our Wonderful
Sponsors!**

PTO News

The PTO is focused on a mission to raise funds to build a safe and fun playground for our children. Thanks to generous business sponsors, wonderful parent support and grant awards, we are making steady progress.

While our fundraising goal of \$60,000 may seem like "mission impossible;" your attendance at PTO sponsored events and your financial support of the upcoming *Boosterthon Fun Run*, March 4th-13th, will take us there. Thank you for taking this mission to build a playground with the PTO. Please attend the next PTO meeting on March 8th at 8:45 in the Media Center to get a financial update and to share your ideas. Together we will continue to make strides toward our fundraising finish line!



Visit www.palenciaelementarypto.weebly.com to see a video about *Boosterthon Fun Run*. Like Us on Facebook too!

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