



Palencia Elementary Newsletter

*Pirate's Post***THE CAPTAIN'S LOG****Calendar of events:**

- **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.
- **April 4:** 2nd grade play: *How Does your Garden Groove* 6:30 p.m.
- **April 8:** SAC Meeting 4 p.m.
- **April 9:** **Bag It Up** for Goodwill. 8:00 a.m.
- **April 11:** 1st grade play: *Dinostar!* 6:30 pm.

Show your School Spirit!

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

Welcome to spring! Today is officially the first day of spring and very appropriately your children start their Spring Break tomorrow! I wish you all a safe and fun-filled vacation with your family. Students do not return until April 2nd.

Rest up because when we return, we will have entered our fourth quarter - the busiest time of year for elementary school. We have multiple dramatic productions planned: for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades, as well as our first musical production, *101 Dalmatians*. The Chorus will perform a Spring Concert. We will host an Art Show, conduct a Goodwill clothing drive, and hold a Spring Book Fair. Fifth graders will give speeches, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will participate in the STEM fair, and 2nd graders will hold a Flea Market. We will celebrate Earth Day with a variety of "Green" activities. Field trips will abound and all children will take part in Field Day events. The school staff will dazzle us all with a Talent Show. Oh, and I almost forgot, our older students will be taking the FCAT!

Teachers will be doing their final prep for FCAT in the first two weeks after we return from break. Testing officially begins on April 15th for all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The testing continues into the second week for our 5th graders, who take their math assessments on computer (state-wide) for the first time. If you would like to help proctor for these tests, please sign-up up with Noel Day at the front office.

Yes—Spring has truly sprung! Enjoy!

Captain Don Campbell

April Lunch Menu: [Click Here](#)



All Star Performances in April

Following Spring Break, we are returning to school in a flurry of activity starting with 2nd grade! 2nd grade students will be celebrating the arrival of spring with their musical, *How Does Your Garden Groove?* The vegetable-laden musical will debut on Wednesday, April 3rd with a 9:00am performance for students in our cafeteria. The following night, April 4th, we will repeat the performance for friends and family at 6:30pm. If you are a 2nd grade parent, please check your child's class newsletter for information on

costumes or email your child's teacher directly.

The following week we will be going back in time – millions of years back! – with *Dinostars!*, starring our talented 1st grade students. This musical is a celebration of our favorite Jurassic creatures in an “American Idol”-type performance and will costar 5th graders Bobby Wiesner and Jake Barron and 4th grader Gracee Jackson as the Judges. Performance dates are Wednesday, April 10th at 9:00am for students and April 11th at 6:30pm for friends and family. We will be looking for volunteers to help decorate the stage for the production; costumes will be coordinated by the classroom teachers.

On April 25th and 26th, we change gears from very large dinosaurs to some very tiny – but equally memorable “characters.” *Squirm* is the Kindergarten celebration of everything that makes you say, “EWWW!” Spiders, worms, snakes... things that we think of as “gross” can be truly wonderful and we are going to prove it! Our student performance will be on the 25th at 9:00am and the performance on the 26th at 6:30pm will be for friends and family. We will need volunteers to tackle the stage decoration for this production and the costumes will be coordinated by the classroom teachers.

Parents, if you know your child will not be able to attend an evening performance due to a conflict, please send an email to either your child's classroom teacher or to Mrs. Dowdie at dowdiek@stjohns.k12.fl.us. This will allow us to plan accordingly. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Bag It UP for Goodwill!

Start gathering your gently used clothing, shoes, books, household items, and toys over Spring Break for Goodwill's *Bag It Up* event! Goodwill will be collecting these items as the students enter school on **April 9th**.

This event is win-win. By donating to a good cause, our school and students will reap rewards. If 60% of students participate by bringing in donations, our school will receive a \$1000.00 contribution. Every student who brings in a donation will receive a coupon for a free frozen yogurt from Yobe as well as a Good Citizen Award. Two lucky students will be drawn to receive a Family 4-pack to Walt Disney World or a Fun Pass for 4 to the Alligator Farm.

Kindergarten Registration

Ahoy future Palencia Pirates! Don't miss our 2013-2014 Kindergarten Registration on April 3 from 9 to 1:00 p.m. in the Palencia conference room. Your child must be 5 years old by September 1st, 2013 to be eligible for Kindergarten. Please bring the following documents with you: Birth certificate (original), Immunization Record (Form 680) and a physical completed in the past 12 months. Proof of Residency (please see our web site for Residency Requirements)

Battle of the Books

Each year our district's elementary schools build excitement for reading with the Battle of the Books competition. Students are challenged to read the 15 Sunshine State Young Reader Awards (SSYRA) books for the year and then compete in a school competition to show their expert knowledge of those books. This year will be Palencia's inaugural entry into the competition. In order to be eligible to be on the school team of five students (plus three alternates), students had to read a minimum of 10 of the SSYRA books and pass AR tests on them. They then competed against each other to be on our school team that will compete against other St. Johns County schools.

The following students competed within the school to represent Palencia Elementary: Christopher Achatz, Samantha Brooks, Nicholas Farraye, Kenneth Garrido, Heba Haq, Norah Monon, Brodie Mongon, Christopher Quevedo, Adam Bernstein, Kimberly Brooks, Caroline Hunt, Grace Jackson, Garrett King, Christopher Kinsey, Macy Ledford, Jennah Long, Malcolm MacEwan, Sydney Ott, Gavin Paull, Olivia Peoples, Emma Queener, Augusta Rose, Ashley Stanley, Emily Stanley, Michael Xidea, Maya Albold, Kyle Kastor, Ryan Regan, and Jessica Valyou,

After factoring in each students' "Battle" scores with the number of books read and AR percentages, the 2013 Palencia Battle of the Books team is: Ashley Stanley, Michael Xidea, Heba Haq, Maya Albold, and Malcolm MacEwan. Alternates are: Augusta Rose, Caroline Hunt, and Adam Bernstein. Congratulations to these students! They will compete on May 9th at Sebastian Middle School.

ARTS ALIVE Is Looking For Talented Students!

The St. Johns County Education Foundation (SJCEF) is hosting its second annual Performing Arts Alive competition this year. All students, grade K-12, are encouraged to come showcase their talents as singers, dancers, musicians or actors at this year's competition. Auditions are being held March 19-21 from 4-6 p.m. in the auditorium at the St. Johns County School District Office located at 40 Orange Street in St. Augustine. No registration is necessary prior to auditions, but interested students will need to bring a CD with their music, if applicable. Students auditioning need to dress neatly, modestly, and appropriately for the style of their talent. Both group and individual auditions are encouraged.

Upcoming Events from Parks and Recreation

Easter Egg Hunt- St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Thursday, March 28th** at three local parks: Treaty Park located at 1595 Wildwood Drive St. Augustine, Veterans Park located at 1332 Veterans Parkway, St. Johns and Al Wilkie Park located at 6140 Main St., Hastings. The hunt will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. at each location and is for children ages 8 and younger. Please remember to bring your Easter basket to hold all the candy filled eggs and be ready for a special appearance from the Easter Bunny prior to the hunt! Don't forget your cameras! www.sjcfl.us/recreation

Just Tri It! Kids Triathlon will be on April 28th at the Solomon Calhoun Center!

Children ages 5-14 can join in the fun and JUST TRI IT! This is a non-competitive event giving everyone the chance to participate in a Triathlon. Early registration will begin Monday, February 25th. Space is limited so register early at www.sjcfl.us/recreation for more information contact Jamie Baccari at (904) 209-0377 or jbaccari@sjcfl.us.



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Our Wonderful Sponsors!

PTO News

Thanks to the support of generous families and sponsors, the students successfully earned pledges worth **\$20K** through the Boosterthon! The funds will benefit the building of Phase 1 of the playground. Please collect and turn in the pledges! At the Fun Run, the students were pumped up running to the latest hits, participated in silly games such as wacky dance moves and of course felt extremely motivated to run at least 25 laps. Anyone see Flash Farnum running with the 3rd grade? In fact, the majority of students ran over 30 laps!! It was a school celebration- great job everyone!

Your wonderful support of PTO sponsored events and programs allow the PTO to support many areas of PES. Thank you for helping the PTO to make a difference. See your dollars at work:

- ◆ Donated \$7,400 to our teachers for their needs
- ◆ Donated \$3,000 to Vegetable Garden
- ◆ Donated \$500 to Coach Brougham to start the Mileage Club
- ◆ Donated \$500 to the Green team to start their efforts
- ◆ Donated \$450 to the Lego Lab
- ◆ Donated \$600 to the Drama Club
- ◆ Donated \$1,800 to the Art Dept.
- ◆ Donated \$4,175 to Media and AR
- ◆ Donated \$500 to the News Team
- ◆ Purchased compost barrels for the cafeteria for \$1,000

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