



THE PIRATE POST

Palencia Elementary School

October 28, 2025

Ms. Catherine Goodrich, Principal
Ms. Theresa Cooper, Assistant Principal

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 31:
Dress Like a Pirate

Monday, November 3:
SAC meeting @ 4:00PM
Media Center

Tuesday, November 4:
PTO Meeting
Cafeteria @8:40am

Tuesday, November 11:
Veteran's Day
Student/Teacher Holiday

Thursday, November 13:
Interims Issued

Monday, November 24 -
Friday, November 28:
Thanksgiving Break

Greetings PES families!

Oh! Today's fall weather sets the stage nicely for celebrations, holidays, and family time ahead. This Friday, October 31st PES will enjoy our annual tradition of "Dress Like a Pirate Day". Did you know that each grade level will have professional photos taken of all students in their Pirate costumes? Next time you are at school, take a look...you can see photos from years past in our main hallway. So cute! If you or your little one is not embracing pirate themed dress this year, that's okay. We ask that students wear red, black, or white that day. No other costumes and no toy weapons, please.

Parent and teacher conferences are in full swing. This is a valuable time for information sharing and collaboration on how to help your student thrive this school year. Of course, the elementary years lay the foundation for middle school, high school and beyond. Your involvement now, in the early years, will make a difference in long term outcomes. We understand that scheduling can be complex, so please know that phone or virtual conferences are also an option. Contact your child's teacher to set something up. 😊

Acknowledging the special role grandparents (or grandparent figures) play in our children's lives has also been an important part of PES history. Years ago, when school was in session the Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving, we welcomed grandparents to PES for food, fun, and family time. In recent years, the master school calendar was adapted, and we now have the whole week of Thanksgiving off from school. To honor the "grandparents day" tradition, the school and PTO now partner to organize a card exchange instead. See details here! <https://palenciapiratespto.com/> We hope you choose to participate.

Our School Advisory Council (SAC) meets this coming Monday, November 3rd at 4:00 PM in the Media Center. Feel free to join us to learn more about our school and school improvement plans.

I continue to be proud and grateful for our school community's support. We have something special at PES.

Respectfully,

Catherine Goodrich
Principal
Palencia Elementary School
(904) 547-4010

FOR THE LOVE OF LITERACY

OCTOBER
2025

Author Emilie Buchwald once said, "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." This powerful quote reminds us of the importance of early reading experiences shared between children and parents. One of the most valuable gifts we can give to our children is to support them as they develop reading skills and emerge as readers. However, reading is more than just sounding out the words on a page or a screen. Confident, active readers develop understanding, make connections, and learn to think critically. Ultimately, comprehension is the goal of reading and needs to be intentionally developed and nurtured during this journey.

As parents, you play a vital role in helping your child develop strong reading comprehension skills that will support their success across all school subjects and beyond. Whether you're winding down with a bedtime story or diving into a nonfiction book together, these strategies will empower you to guide your child in becoming a confident, thoughtful reader—laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Select Appropriate Tests

Students who are using all of their mental energy to decode words in a text will not have the remaining brain capacity to understand what they've just read. Make sure your child can read approximately 90% of the words without help or frustration.

Including them in the selection process is equally important. A child will be more engaged with a text if it's interesting and sparks their curiosity. Encourage selection of texts from a variety of genres—mystery, adventure, nonfiction, poetry—to discover what they love.

Teach Them to Self-Monitor

Encourage your child to read aloud and actively monitor their understanding. Reading aloud naturally slows the pace, giving children more time to process the text. As they decode each word, they also hear it, reinforcing both fluency and comprehension.

Guide them to pause periodically and ask themselves, "Does this make sense?" If something feels confusing or unclear, prompt them to re-read that section. This strengthens their reading skills and builds confidence.

Make Connections

Good readers draw on prior knowledge and life experiences to help them understand what they are reading. Help your child relate the text to their own life, other books they've read, or the characters they know. Ask:

"Does this remind you of something we've done before or another book you've read?"

"How is this character similar to or different than a character in another book?"

Because this involves higher-level thinking skills, it's a good idea to model this strategy regularly for your child. As you're reading together, point out when and how you've made connections.

Discuss Vocabulary

Many young readers encounter an unknown word and continue reading without actively trying to understand, leading to a deficit in their comprehension. As you read together, discuss the meaning of unknown or tricky words. Use them in a variety of contexts and connect them to things your child already knows.

Engaging activities like acting out words or playing "I Spy" games with new vocabulary can make learning more fun and memorable. Offer praise when your child learns and uses new words correctly—this positive reinforcement builds confidence and encourages continued learning.

Encourage Deeper Thinking

To further develop comprehension, ask open-ended questions before, during, and after reading to support their thinking and processing.

Before –

- Using the title, pictures, and other text features, make predictions about the text before reading.
"What do you think this text will be about?"

During –

- Reflect and Infer:* Stop and reflect every so often. Encourage "why," "how," and "what if" type of questions. *"Why did the character do that? What would you have done?"*
- Visualize:* Make mental images. Ask: *"Can you picture what's happening?"*

- Make Predictions:* Make an educated guess about what will happen next. After reading, revisit their predictions to determine if their predictions were correct.

After –

- Summarize:* Encourage your child to retell the story or summarize in their own words. What were the main events from the beginning-middle-end? Focus on the main idea and key details. Ask, *"What were the most important events?" "What was the problem and how was it solved?"*
- Evaluate:* Ask their feelings about what they read: What stood out to them and why? What are their opinions about the text? How could the story have ended differently?

Every conversation about a book is a step towards deeper understanding. Keep reading and discussing texts and your child will not only develop as a reader, but will value the memories made when sharing the adventure of a book together!

P.E. NEWS

*Coach Brougham and
Coach McMahon*



We welcomed students to P.E. 15 times during the first quarter. We established expectations and focused on safe movement practices. With the recommendation for children to get at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily, this increase in P.E. time has supported students in reaching that goal.

Over the past nine weeks, students participated in a variety of small and large group activities to develop movement skills and practice fair play. Upper grades focused on basketball, volleyball, and two square, while younger students enjoyed golf putting.

Currently, we are working on throwing with accuracy and proper form. Students are also enjoying favorite games like Trash Can Shot, Battleship, and Hula Hut. After the throwing unit, we'll shift to fitness activities.

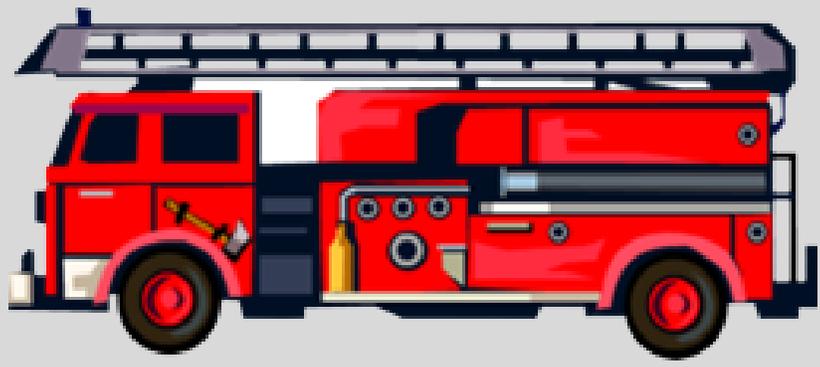
The district-wide Character Cup is set for March 26 at Toco High School. Fifth graders interested in representing Palencia will receive details and applications closer to winter break.

Thank you for continuing to send your children in athletic shoes—they help keep everyone safe. Please remember that we hold P.E. classes outdoors year-round, so jackets may be needed as the weather cools.

St. Johns County Fire Rescue visited our Kindergarten Pirates for Fire Safety Month!

Our students learned about fire prevention and what to do in case of a fire.

Thank you to our local firefighter heroes for spending the morning with our kindergarteners!







Congratulations to our Character Counts **FAIRNESS** Recipients from September

Kindergarten

Joshua E.
Leia G.
Ckyree B.
Penelope L.
Catie D.
Connor P.

1st Grade

Hailey D.
Thomas K.
Quinn Z.
Maximo P.B.
Wyatt I.
Hallie V.
Ember A.
Azai R.
Zuri W.
Oliver G.

2nd Grade

Penelope R.
Lennox Y.
Lyla T.
Kellan T.
Isla C.
Acelyn J.
Eli B.
Madeline D.
Rosie W.
Gunner K.
Ava O.
Henry E.





Congratulations to our Character Counts **FAIRNESS** Recipients from September

3rd Grade

Lawson C.
Anna Lynn G.
Catalina P.B.
Madeline R.
Vallen H.L.
Cali P.
Savannah S.
James M.
Taylor R.

4th Grade

Antonella U.D.L.
Mathias H.S.
Leyla G.
Matthew D.
Natalia B.
Harrison P.
Andrea A.
Keegan H.
Isabella E.
Caleb H.
Evan S.
Max L.

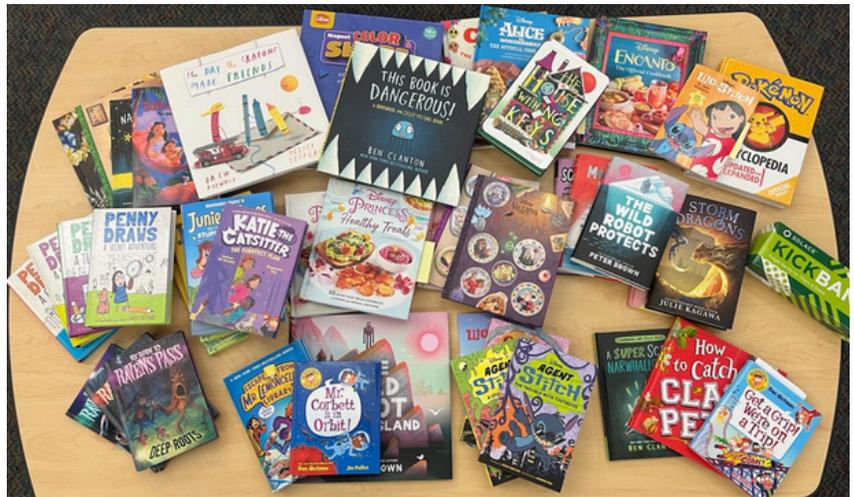
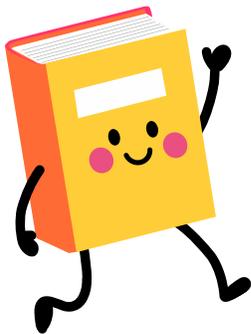
5th Grade

Ainsley N.
Andrew B.
Karina M.
Journey B.
Jasper B.
Graham M.
Whitney D.
Jasmina J.
Christian G.
Taylor T.



Wow—thank you to our incredible school community for your overwhelming support in purchasing items from our Media Center Amazon Wish List! Your kindness and generosity have truly blown us away. Thanks to you, our students now have even more tools to explore, create, and grow their love of reading. We are beyond grateful for each and every donation —you’ve made a big difference, and we can’t thank you enough!

THANK
☺ YOU



NEWSFLASH

MEET THE WPES NEWS CREW

OUR AMAZING NEWS CREW PRODUCES AND DELIVERS THE WPES MORNING NEWS THAT IS RECORDED AND VIEWED BY STUDENTS EVERY MORNING. THE NEWS CREW MEMBERS TAKE ON A VARIETY OF JOBS AS ANCHORS, SCRIPT SUPERVISORS, RUNNING THE TELEPROMPTER, CAMERA TECHNICIANS, AND EDITORS. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING OUR STUDENTS STAY “IN THE KNOW” WITH OUR DAILY HAPPENINGS.



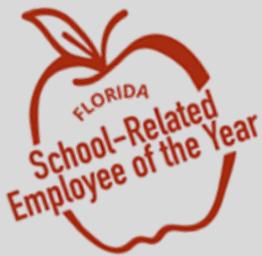
FEATURING:

WHITNEY D
LAUREN D
AIDEN F
ELI H

GABBY P
CAROLINE S
MACKENZIE T
LILY Y



**PALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2025 SCHOOL RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
CONGRATULATIONS!**



**PICTURE:
MRS. GALLI & MRS. GOODRICH**

"SILVIA WORKS SO HARD TO MAKE TEACHERS JOBS EASIER. SHE IS SO THOUGHTFUL AND THOROUGH IN TAKING CARE OF IEP SCHEDULING AND ALL THINGS ESE."

"SILVIA IS ALWAYS WILLING TO LEND A HAND WHENEVER NEEDED!"

"SILVIA ALWAYS GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR EVERYONE AT PALENCIA. SHE IS EXTREMELY DEDICATED IN ALL AREAS OF HER JOB WHETHER IT BE SCHEDULING, COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS, OR HELPING STUDENTS AND STAFF."

"SHE IS ORGANIZED, CARING, LOYAL, AND TAKES PRIDE IN HER JOB. SHE IS SO DESERVING OF THIS AWARD."

PTO NEWS



UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

T 11-04-25 PTO Meeting

SA 11-08-25 Mother/Son Night

W 11-19-25 Grandparents Day Cards

GRANDPARENTS' DAY MAIL EXCHANGE

Calling all Grandparents!

We will be celebrating Grandparent's Day this year with an old-fashioned mail exchange on

Wednesday, November 19th

We would love for each child to receive **no more than two cards** from their grandparents. We understand this is not always possible and of course another special relative or family friend may write a card instead. The PTO will ensure that all students receive mail.

How It Works:

1- Please ask your child's grandparents to send a card to their grandchild. Cards should be addressed to the school and must include your child's name, teacher's name and grade.

For example:

< grandchild's name >
< teacher's name & grade >
Palencia Elementary School
355 Palencia Village Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32095

Remember to share
Teacher's Name and
Grade with
Grandparents!

2- Please make sure all cards are mailed by **Saturday, November 1st**. Cards must arrive in time for the PTO to sort and prepare for delivery on **Grandparent's Days, November 19th**.

3- Cards will be delivered to the children on Grandparent's Day, after which they will write a response at school. The students will bring their finished cards (including envelopes and stamps) home to be addressed by you and then mailed back to their grandparents.



If you have any questions, please email the Grandparents Day chairs at pes.ptogpd@gmail.com.

CAMP MOM-SON

Adventure together, memories forever

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025
4:00PM - 7:00PM

Hope Pavilion
899 Palm Valley Rd,
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32081

\$70 per Mother/ Son
\$30 each additional sibling

Ticket deadline Tuesday, October 28th, 2025
Ticket includes Chick-fil-a dinner, DJ, obstacle course, outdoor games, movie, crafts and more!

Outdoor Event. Wear your casual camp attire or purchase custom Camp Mom-Son attire on the site below. Dress for the weather and pack bug spray, flash lights & movie blanket

Scan here for Mom-Son attire

Scan here for tickets



Save the date STEM Night
Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025



Art rocks > Birthdays rock > Music rocks
Pirates Rock > Schools rock > Sports rock >
Students rock > Teachers rock

RESERVE THE ROCKS

STEP 1: SCAN here to book the rock or visit palenciapiratespto.com

Bryce Brushworks
 202.590.6759
jessica@brycebrushworks.com

STEP 2: contact Jessica for rates & availability

Your Donation Matters

Pirate's Bounty

clothing | food | essential items
for Students In Need

All donations fund food bags, clothing, and other necessities for Palencia Elementary School students in need.

To sponsor a child it costs
 \$33 a month | \$150 half-year | \$300 whole year
 Any \$\$ amount is appreciated!

\$\$

AHOY, PALENCIA PIRATES!

IT'S TIME TO ORDER SPIRITWEAR FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR!

SCAN HERE TO SHOP HIGH-QUALITY STYLES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Scan here

EVERY ORDER SUPPORTS THE PALENCIA ELEMENTARY PTO!

We would love to see you at our shop:
5150 Palm Valley Road, Suite 200,
Ponte Vedra Beach

FIELD-HOUSE-QUALITY-GOODIES

G★B

Athletics

The GIFTED BOUTIQUE

A DIVISION OF THE GIFTED BOUTIQUE

Palencia Elementary

SIGN UP FOR PTO TODAY!

 Boosterthon	 Mother Son Event	 Daddy Daughter Event
 Hospitality Team	 Communications Team	 Be the Change Sea Turtle
 Online Auction	 Fore the Kids Golf Tournament	 Grandparents Day

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

For more info contact:
 Brooke Paarlberg - (904) 495-8411
pes.ptovpofevents@gmail.com



PALENCIA
ELEMENTARY
PIRATES
PTO

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CORPORATE SPONSORS

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