



# THE PIRATE POST

## Palencia Elementary School

December 17, 2025

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

# THE CAPTAIN'S LOG



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, December 19:**  
Second Quarter  
First Semester Ends  
Early Release @ 1:45pm

**Monday, December 22/  
Thursday, January 1:**  
Winter Break  
Student/Teacher Holiday

**Friday, January 2:**  
Teacher Planning Day  
Student Holiday

**Monday, January 5:**  
Classes Resume  
Second Semester Begins

**Friday, January 9:**  
PTO JAX Icemen Event

**Monday, January 12:**  
SAC Meeting @4:00PM  
Media Center

**Tuesday, January 13:**  
PTO Meeting @ 8:40AM

**Thursday, January 15:**  
Report Cards Issued

**Monday, January 19:**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Student/Teacher Holiday

Happy Holidays Palencia Elementary Families,

The spirit of giving and supporting each other is alive at PES! This month, our school community rallied together to enrich the holidays for over 28 families in need. Pirate Giving Tree families were identified through confidential communication with our school counselor, Lindsey Taylor. From there, individuals from our community signed up and purchased wish list items for little ones who would not have had quite as prosperous of a holiday otherwise.

While we are out of school, remember to sneak in time for reading with and to your children over the break. Even older elementary age children enjoy being read to. You can use "in the moment" opportunities to enhance academic skills. Having your child help to read recipes, measure ingredients, count out the correct number of utensils to set the table, write place settings, etc... are all authentic ways they can feel empowered, while enhancing skills they will use throughout life.

On behalf of the entire PES faculty and staff, we wish all our school families the very best this holiday season. We hope you have safe travels, laugh often, and create wonderful new memories with loved ones.

We look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday, January 5th, 2026.

Together in Education,

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

DECEMBER 2025

# FOR THE LOVE OF LITERACY

By Laurie Misch - Instructional Literacy Coach



## PALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

School-Wide Spelling Bee Competition



**SPELLING BEE CHAMPION, RAFAEL R., REACTS AS HE SPELLS THE WINNING WORD CORRECTLY.**



**MS. GOODRICH CONGRATULATES SPELLING BEE CHAMPION RAFAEL R.**



**THE 2025 PES SPELLING BEE CHAMPION, RAFAEL R., STANDS PROUD.**

Fifteen talented fifth-grade spelling bee finalists stepped onto the stage in the Palencia Elementary School cafeteria on Friday, November 21, ready to showcase their impressive spelling skills. After weeks of preparation and hard work, these students faced the challenge of spelling some of the most difficult words in front of teachers, parents, and classmates.

Round after round, the competition grew more intense until only four finalists remained: Remington D., Rafael R., Hamza A., and Evelyn L. each showed impressive determination as they tackled challenging words in multiple rounds. In the 16th round, Rafael R., a student in Ms. Gray's homeroom, secured the championship by spelling the seventh-grade level word *compassionate* correctly. Rafael will proudly represent our PES Pirates at the St. Johns County School District Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at First Coast Technical College in St. Augustine. We wish him the best of luck as he advances to the next level!

\*compassionate: (adjective) - feeling or showing empathy and concern for others



# CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK

JANUARY 26–30, 2026



## READ WHITE AND BLUE

“Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!” is coming January 26–30! This statewide event reminds us that reading is the key to freedom and opportunity—just like the values our country was built on. The Florida Department of Education encourages students and families to make reading a proud part of their daily lives. Here at Palencia Elementary School, our Pirates are ready to set sail on a patriotic journey of learning, building strong foundations for success through the power of reading!

### LITERACY WEEK ACTIVITIES:

**MONDAY, JANUARY 26:** LITERACY WEEK KICKOFF!

WEAR STARS, STRIPES, OR RED–WHITE–BLUE OUTFITS TO KICK OFF OUR WEEK!

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27:** REPRESENT YOUR STATE!

WEAR CLOTHES OR ACCESSORIES REPRESENTING A FAVORITE U.S. STATE (SPORTS TEAMS, COLORS, SYMBOLS).

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28:** WEAR YOUR WORDS!

CHOOSE A WORD THAT REPRESENTS AMERICAN VALUES (FAIRNESS, KINDNESS, PEACE, COURAGE). WEAR YOUR WORD PROUDLY AND SHARE YOUR WORD AND ITS MEANING WITH A CLASSMATE.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29:** CELEBRATE OUR AMERICAN HEROES!

DRESS LIKE YOUR AMERICAN HERO AND WEAR THEIR NAME. DRESS AS REAL–LIFE FIGURES FEATURED IN CHILDREN’S BIOGRAPHIES—SCIENTISTS, ACTIVISTS, LEADERS, ATHLETES.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30:** WE ARE A COMMUNITY!

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF READERS AND LEARNERS! WEAR YOUR PES PIRATE SPIRIT WEAR AND SHOW YOUR PES PRIDE!

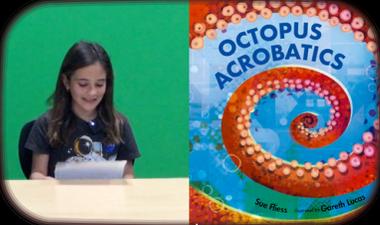




# KNOWvember Media Center CHALLENGE

Students showed their curiosity and creativity in this year's KNOWvember Non-Fiction Reading Challenge! After choosing a nonfiction book, participants completed a "Cool Fact Sheet" featuring an interesting fact they learned and an accompanying illustration.

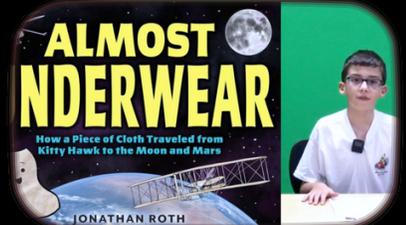
Congratulations to the students selected to appear on our morning news show to share their facts with the school! We're proud of all our readers for exploring new topics and celebrating the power of nonfiction!



Reese - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



Callyn - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



Christian - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



Amelia - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

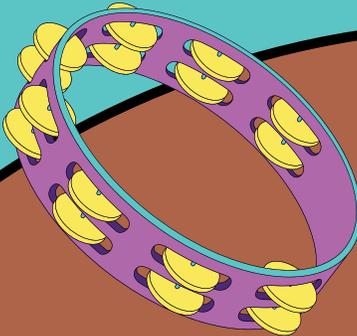


Natalia - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Thank you for supporting our art room by purchasing keepsakes through Art to Remember! Orders chosen to be shipped to the school will be delivered to students before Winter Break.

Still want to purchase a keepsake? It's not too late! You can still have your order shipped to your house when you order online at [ArttoRemember.com](http://ArttoRemember.com)





Greetings from the music room!



Palencia Elementary students are working hard and having fun in Mrs. Molina's music class! They are learning and practicing many skills while celebrating the joy of making music with others.

Great news! Students in grades 2-5 will be sharing some of the music they are working on together in class with YOU later this year! This informal performance opportunity helps students be more invested in working together and practicing musical skills with focus and intention with a shared goal to work toward. This also helps students gain experience in music that may help guide their future decisions when choosing elective classes in middle and high school.

Audience Info: 2 family guests will be allowed per student. The concerts will take place during the school day so that all students will be here and able to participate. Guests must be pre-registered school-approved visitors and will need to check into the main office when they arrive before being seated in the audience. Please plan to stay for the entire concert to minimize distractions and show support for all of the students performing. Following the concert, students will return to their classrooms with their teachers and continue their regular school day.

Friday, Mar. 6th: Concert #1 – Guests arrive beginning at 8:50 AM; Concert 9:20 – 10:10 AM

- 5th grades: Ms. Gray and Ms. Bruinsma
- 4th grades: Mr. Duncan and Ms. Downs
- 3rd grades: Ms. Caronna and Ms. Ledford
- 2nd grades: Ms. Case and Ms. Weber

Tues., Mar. 10th: Concert #2 – Guests arrive beginning at 8:50 AM – Concert 9:20-10:10 AM

- 5th grade: Ms. Gardner
- 4th grades: Ms. Schultz and Ms. Maxwell
- 3rd grades: Ms. Klauk and Ms. Hays
- 2nd grades: Ms. Young and Ms. Oester

Thurs., Mar. 12th: Concert #3 – Guests arrive beginning at 8:50 AM – Concert 9:20-10:10 AM

- 5th grades: Mr. Clark and Ms. Wadsworth
- 4th grades: Ms. Owen and Ms. Keller
- 3rd grades: Ms. Miri and Ms. Hughes
- 2nd grades: Ms. Andreoni and Ms. Suderman

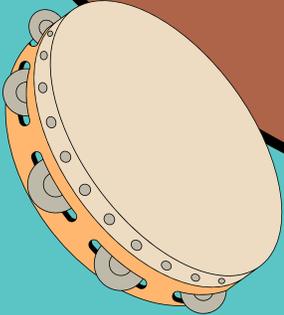
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Additional Upcoming Music Performance:

Wednesday, April 29th, is the Night of the Arts at Palencia Elementary School!

\*Please join us in the cafeteria from 6:15 – 7:00 PM for musical performances featuring the 5th grade Night of the Arts performance group!





# Congratulations to our Character Counts **CITIZENSHIP** Recipients from November

## 1st Grade

### Kindergarten

Kenzie H.  
Emmett B.  
James E.  
Mia R.  
JJ K.  
Emma K.  
Rosalee H.  
Veronica J.  
Prestyn L.  
Raymundo R.L.

Maverick O.  
Davis G.  
Ephraim L.  
Ainsley W.  
Mango G.  
Leonid S.  
Mia P.  
Nika W.  
Ursula L.  
Vihaan S.

### 2nd Grade

Harley W.  
Maya T.  
Charlotte G.  
Harper C.  
Hazel P.  
Lucas G.  
Vivian S.  
Luke R.  
Sofi K.  
Jace B.  
Drew D.  
Ava Y.





# Congratulations to our Character Counts **CITIZENSHIP** Recipients from November

## 4th Grade

### 3rd Grade

Charlotte G.  
Meile M.  
Brody A.  
Elisabeth H.  
Brittney G.  
Cadence F.  
Benjamin K.  
Piper P.  
Kenzie C.  
Xander V.  
Harry S.  
Arya S.

Max L.

Charlotte S.  
Azalea W.  
Camden K.  
Ava N.  
Guadalupe R.J.  
Everett M.  
Victoria J.  
Reese V.  
Louis C.  
Maria G.A.  
Jordan D.

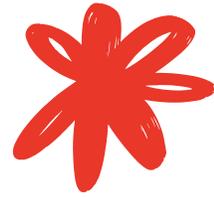
### 5th Grade

Claire L.  
David T.  
Tristan R.  
Alexis A.  
Taylor T.  
Juan F.A.  
Reese K.  
Fabian A.  
Eli H.  
Evelyn L.



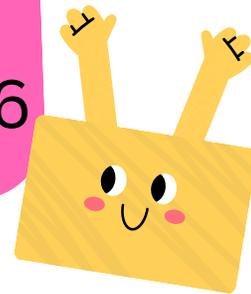


# GIRLS ON THE RUN 5K



SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, January 12, 2026



Girls on the Run is a 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade program that encourages girls of all abilities to recognize their individual strengths and celebrate connections with others. The curriculum blends physical activity with skill development that helps enable girls to adapt to a variety of situations.

A team of 8-20 girls meet 2 days a week for 1 hour and 15 minutes after school for engaging and fun teacher (coach) led lessons, and practice runs which prepares them for the final 5K (typically at UNF on a Saturday end of April or first weekend of May.) Registration opens at 6 am on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade girls will be getting flyers to take home. Parents can also register at [gotrnefl.org](http://gotrnefl.org) on or after Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>.



# PTO NEWS



## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- F 01-09-26 Jax Icemen Spirit Night
- T 01-13-26 PTO Meeting
- SA 01-24-26 Daddy/Daughter Dance

PALENCIA ELEMENTARY PTO PRESENTS

# Denim & Diamonds

## DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

Come enjoy Dinner, Dancing, and Fun  
All sprinkled with  
Denim Chic & Diamond Sparkle

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

MARRIOTT RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
500 S Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092

\$85 - Daddy / Daughter Ticket  
\$40 - Additional Daughter\*

Sign in - 6:00 PM  
Doors open - 6:30 PM

DRESS IN YOUR FAVORITE DENIM WITH A TOUCH OF SPARKLE

palenciapiratespto.com  
Tickets available only for current PES students

Join your fellow Pirates for a night to remember with the Icemen on Friday, January 9th at 7:00pm!

Come out and support this school wide fundraiser, as \$5 of each ticket purchased will be donated back to Palencia Elementary!

Tickets available through the link or QR Code below!

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:  
<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Palenciaelementary26>

With questions, please contact Gerry Brown  
[Gerry@jacksonvilleicemen.com](mailto:Gerry@jacksonvilleicemen.com) 407-758-8713



This Thanksgiving, PES PTO showed appreciation by spoiling our teachers and staff with a warm and festive holiday lunch offered by Pacific Sushi House. We're so grateful for everything our teachers and staff do, and we loved celebrating them this season of gratitude. We hope this Thanksgiving lunch brought a little joy and a well-deserved break to their busy day.





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 [paenciapiratespto.com](http://paenciapiratespto.com)

*Bryce Brushworks*  
 202.590.6759  
[jessica@brycebrushworks.com](mailto: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 Paencia 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 HOCKEY - CHEER - GOLFING  
**G\*B** The GIFTED  
 Athletics BOUTIQUE  
A DIVISION OF THE GIFTED BOUTIQUE

## Paencia 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](mailto:pes.ptovpofevents@gmail.com)



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PIRATES  
PTO

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