

THE ORBITER

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PALM POINTE EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOOL
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Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

I am so excited to begin our seventh year at Palm Pointe Educational Research School. We are very proud of our partnership with Florida Atlantic University and the St. Lucie County School District. We are the only Charter Lab School in Florida. Wow! We had such an incredible beginning to our journey. Congratulations on being an "A" school again this year. That is an amazing accomplishment. We opened as an "A" and have remained an "A" each year despite more rigorous standards. Welcome back to our returning Rockets and welcome to our new Rockets. Thank you so much for helping your child adjust to new schedules, new classroom, new teachers, and new routines. We know returning from summer break can be an adjustment and all of our Rockets are doing an amazing job. As educational standards continue to raise, maintaining academic focus throughout the school day is paramount. Because of late lunch times for K-2 students, they will be provided a "working" snack in their classroom mid-morning. Many of you have provided snacks and we appreciate it. However, students in grade 3-8, will need to eat a healthy well-balanced breakfast and lunch so that they will be ready to learn throughout the school day. Snacks will not be provided during the school day. If there are medical issues with your child, please contact the school clinic or your child's teacher. On behalf of the Administrative team, we look forward to a marvelous 2014-2015 school year!

Debra Snyder, Principal

Spirit Shirts

Please remember Spirit Shirts may be worn on Friday only. PE uniforms are part of the spirit day dress code. Shirts are available in the office.

Planners

Planners are mandatory for all students K-8. They are on sale for \$5.00 in the front office.

Lunch

Parents are invited to lunch. Visitors are not permitted to eat at the student's lunch table. Special tables are set up at the front of the Auditoria or you may eat outside in the picnic area with your child/ren only. Just to let you know the awnings that were blown off are being repaired! Hopefully they will be reinstalled soon. Adult lunches are \$3.00. Please sign in at the front office and receive a visitor's pass before proceeding to the auditoria. If you are giving permission for extended family or friends to have lunch with your child a note must be sent to the front office prior to the lunch date. We encourage you to save lunch visits for special occasions so that your child can socialize with classmates the majority of scheduled lunch periods.

Citizen of the Month

The Citizenship Award is given to one student in each class in grades K-5 and one student per homeroom class in grades 6-8. Elective and resource teachers also choose a student each month. These students were selected based on Palm Pointe's School-wide Rules:

✓Take Responsibility ✓Engage in Your Learning ✓Act Respectfully ✓Make Safe Choices

Dates and Times for Citizen of the Month Award Ceremonies:

9/17, 10/15, 12/12, 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/22, 5/13,

All assemblies are at 10:00 am in the Auditoria. Parents & family members can report directly to the Auditoria. Congratulations to all!

PTO NEWS

Welcome Back Rockets! We trust your summer was amazing!

The PTO meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in room 1-123.

Our first PTO meeting is 9/3 and starts promptly at 8:50, of course your children are welcome.

Come, have dinner with your family and see your friends.

Our first "Family Night Out" will be held at **Big Apple Pizza** on Gatlin & PSL Blvd.

on 9/17/14 from 4:00pm-9:00pm. The info [flyers](#) must be presented prior to ordering.

As promised, we are excited to announce that your PTO is hosting the **Yankee Candle Fall Fundraiser** from 10/1/14-10/15/14. The beautifully scented packets will be sent home with your child. We will also raffle a

KING sized 13 pound BALSAM & CEDAR 4 wick candle during the month of October.

Dogs on Our Campus

In chapter 3.00 School Administration Policy section 3.703 Student Service Animals, it states a dog can be on campus only if it's a service dog. The dog owner should have proper insurance, be identified as a service dog and is and will be liable for any damages caused by the dog. Parents & family members, please do not bring a dog onto campus before or after school unless it is a service dog. Thank you for your understanding and support of this policy. It is for the safety of our students.

If your child is having difficulty coping with divorce or separation, please contact the Guidance Department for additional information about "High Hopes for Kids". It is small-group counseling provided by Castle at Palm Pointe. K-5 Counselor: Mrs. Kuba
6-8 Counselor: Mrs. Tang (772) 345-3245

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:45 pm

Supervision

We will begin to supervise students at 1-8 car drop off at 9:10 am each day. Students will be asked to sit on the bench until the gate opens at 9:15 am. Parents once staff supervisor arrives, please leave the car line. It is important so that all students can enter in a timely fashion.

Volunteer/Business Partner Orientation

Tuesday, September 16 @ 9:30 am Launch Pad
Get involved in Palm Pointe... Be a volunteer.

This will be informative and give insight into ways you can help our school. Hope you can join us!

Communication

Monthly parent newsletters will be sent home at the beginning of each month starting in September. A monthly calendar will be included with the newsletter. Newsletters and calendars will also be available to view on our website.

Tardy Students and Early Pick Up

We guard instructional time. Every time a child enters late or is picked up early, not only does it disrupt their education, but the teacher and entire class. Please continue to refrain from having your child arrive late or from picking him/her up early. Please be reminded that 5 tardies and/or 5 early pickups in a nine week period will result in 1 unexcused absence. Thank you for your assistance with this very important matter. **Remember, no changes in dismissal may be made after 3:30pm each day.**

Dress Code

Thank you for supporting our "Dress for Success" for students. They look fabulous. Remember dress code guidelines are outlined in the student handbook and on our website.

Positive Behavior Support

We are excited about continuing the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program. PBIS is a collaborative approach to develop effective interventions for problem behavior. It builds environments where positive behavior is more effective than problem behavior so academic success can be achieved. PBIS uses the application of evidence-based strategies and a system to assist Palm Pointe in increasing academic performance, increase safety, decrease problem behavior and establish a

Picture Day

Elementary Picture Day is **Sept. 29th**. Middle School picture Day is **Sept. 30th**. Flyers with more information will be sent home soon.

Curriculum Night, Title One Meeting

What: For parents to learn about curriculum and Title one requirements

Where: Palm Pointe Educational Research School

When: Thursday, Sept. 18th

5:30-5:50 Title 1 Parent Meeting

6:00-6:30- Curriculum Session 1

6:40-7:10- Curriculum Session 2

Why: Curriculum presentation will allow you to learn about Skyward (parent reporting system), standards for context areas, curriculum, instruction, and so much more. Two sessions are scheduled for our families with more than 1 child.

A No Dress Code Pass will be issued to parents upon arrival for each child they have at Palm Pointe to be redeemed on Friday, September 19th.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

Tobacco Free District

Tobacco Free signage is going up around our district. School Board Policy 2.90 went into effect August 1, 2013 and is applicable to students, employees, parents, volunteers, spectators and visitors. No student, employee, volunteer, contractor or school visitor is permitted to use tobacco products of any kind or e-cigarettes:

- In any building, facility, or vehicle that is owned, leased, or rented by the District.
- On any district-owned, leased, rented, or chartered grounds and property – including all schools, district offices, athletic fields, practice fields, playgrounds, parking lots, administrative offices, maintenance, transportation areas, etc. At any off-campus, school-sponsored event.

Mark Your Calendar

On Early Release day's school ends at 2:10pm. The dates for the year are as follows:

9/24, 10/22, 11/19, 12/19, 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29, 5/20, 6/2, 6/3

ESOL Corner:

Based on the *Home Language Survey* that was completed in the registration packet, some kindergarten students will be given the IPT assessment (Oral Language Proficiency Test). If your child does not demonstrate proficiency in the English Language, Florida State Law mandates that we must provide your child with ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) services. This means that your child would receive additional academic support within their regular classroom by our ESOL paraprofessional, Iris Fantin. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kuba, K-5 Professional School Counselor. 772-345-3277

Collaboration with Riverdeep Immersion Subject English in China

Riverdeep Immersion Subject English (RISE) is one of the premier children's English learning companies in China. RISE is a subsidiary of Beijing Riverdeep International Education Technology Ltd, a Chinese-Foreign Equity Joint Venture and a leading private educational services in China. Riverdeep International Education LTD is a subsidiary of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and as such is the only company in China licensed to use HMH's educational resources. The company offers a range of educational programs, products and services focused on subject-based children's English learning. This International Education Program is on the cutting edge of all English learning programs in China. Using English as the language of instruction, the program combines subject knowledge acquisition learning with opportunities for practicing core competency skills, fundamental and unique skills, which enable people to become successful competitors and leaders in the international working environment.

In January of 2012, a group of RISE Headmasters visited Palm Pointe. They were able to observe and collaborate with teachers and staff focusing on the promotion of Sino-US educational cooperation and communication which would foster the development of both schools and develop quality leaders of Subject English Education.

Miss Snyder, Mrs. Perez and 2 additional SLCSB employees spoke at Tsinghua University at a conference that was held in August of 2013 in China as well as speak at the Sino-US Principal's Summit on the "Cultivation of Global Talents Subject English Education Summit". They were able to discuss the differences between Chinese and American education and collaborate on how to prepare our children to become international leaders. While in China, they were also able to address and observe teachers in different RISE centers. RISE specializes in English Immersion and impacts over 20,000 students in over 28 centers throughout China.

While at Palm Pointe, in January, 2014, RISE began planning a Summer Institute where Palm Pointe teachers teach RISE students creating an "American" classroom in China. This became a reality in July. Four of Palm Pointe's teachers (Mrs. Rudzinski, Ms. Keys, Ms. Clancy and Mrs. Kuba), along with their 5 children spent 2 weeks teaching in Beijing and Shanghai. They were able to use American curriculum to teach reading, science, history and math as well as share the most effective teaching strategies with the RISE teachers. On top of the time spent teaching, they were able to visit some of the great Chinese wonders such as the Great Wall of China, the Beijing and Shanghai Zoo as well as the Terracotta Warriors.

Our teachers have returned from China with new knowledge and unique experiences. This collaboration will allow those teachers to help others begin to actively teach about Chinese culture in their own classroom and allow for cross-curricular development of lessons and units. One of the goals is to learn how to improve relationships and strengthen school-community connections with all cultures and share that with faculty, staff, stakeholders and the community.

CHAMPS

This year all of Palm Pointe is using a new classroom management system call CHAMPS. It is a positive approach to classroom management because it teaches students the expectations for all activities they will do throughout the day. There are 5 components to CHAMPS. Each letter of the word CHAMPS is a reminder of how students are expected to behave. The "C" reminds students of the voice level they can use for the activity. The "H" tells students how to ask for help when they need it. The "A" stands for the type of activity they will be doing. The "M" lets students know if they can move during the activity and for what purpose. The "P" reminds students what it looks like if they are fully participating. When students comply with all of the rules and procedures, the "S" stands for the SUCCESS they will experience! When students meet the CHAMPS expectations the teacher lets them know they are doing a good job by praising them and providing Rocket Fuel which students can use to "buy" incentives. When students don't follow an expectation, the teacher corrects the infraction and reminds the student of what needs to be done. Consequences are imposed if the infractions continue. Talk to your student about the CHAMPS expectations. He/She will be able to tell you more about them. If you have any questions about CHAMPS, you can ask your child's teacher.

Every Friday is Spirit Day.

September

Spirit Shirts are available for \$10.00 in the Front office. Students may wear any Palm Pointe T-Shirt on Spirit Day.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Holiday For All	2 E1	3 PTO General 8:50 am PTO Board 9:30 am F2	4 A3	5 Spirit Day B4	6
7 Bus Evacuation Drills 9/8 to9/18	8 Fire Drill 10:30 am C5	9 D1	10 Progress Reports Go Home (if requested) E2	11 Coupon Book Fundraiser 9/11-9/30 Educational Foundation F3	12 PBS Twin Day (5RF) Spirit Day A4	13
14	15 B5	16 Volunteer Orientation 9:30 am in Launch Pad C1	17 SAC 8:30 Citizen of the Month 10:00 PTO Family Night Out - Big Apple M/S Constitution Day Code Red Drill 2:30 D2	18 Title 1 & Curriculum Night 5:30-7:00 pm E3	19 No Dress Code for those students/staff attending Curriculum Night Spirit Day F4	20
21	22 PBS Activity (Details forthcoming) Sept. 22—Oct. 3 A5	23 Cultural Heritage ESOL Breakfast 9-10 am B1	24 Early Release— Students released 2 hours early Tornado Drill 10:30 am C2	25 Fall Holiday For All	26 \$1.00 No Dress Code to Support United Way Spirit Day D3	27
28	29 Fall Elementary Picture Day E4	30 Fall Middle School Pictures F5				