Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

The month of September proved to be a busy month. We had our first Citizen of the Month assembly, where we honored many students based on the school-wide expectations. Also, we had over 350 participants in the Flu Mist Program and over 200 dads show up for Dads Take Your Child to School Day. Our biggest celebration last month was over 650 students participating in our Summer Reading Program Celebration. Students were treated to a BBQ and a $5.00 gift certificate to the upcoming Book Fair: “Rocket Readers Rock” at Palm Pointe. Students completed comprehensive pretests in reading, math, science and social studies. This information will help teachers determine curriculum direction and focus. As always, thank you for your support. You help make Palm Pointe the best!

Debra Snyder, Principal

Lunch

Parents are always 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 children. Adult lunches are $3.00. We ask that you limit your visits for special occasions. 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.

Mark Your Calendar

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

- October 6
- November 3
- December 15
- January 2
- February 16
- March 13
- April 20

Supervision

We will begin to supervise students at 1:55pm-2:00pm or until your child arrives. Students must be picked up at their lunch period. No student is released if the teacher is present. Thank you for your assistance. This is a very important matter. Remember, no changes in dismissal may be made after 3:30pm each day.

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 it disrupts 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.

Citizen of the Month

The Citizenship Award will be given to one student in each grade in grades K-5 and one per homeroom class in grades 6-8. Elective and resource teachers will 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

Math Facts at Home

Most students are successful in higher order thinking math skills when they are fluent in basic math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Parents are encouraged to provide support by following these tips for teaching math facts at home:

1. Practice a few facts at a time.
2. Add a few more facts when previous set is mastered.
3. Practice what has been mastered.
4. Answer math facts without hesitation.
5. Set realistic, individual fluency goals.
6. Develop a routine of daily practice sessions.
7. Sessions should be short.
8. Provide corrective feedback.
9. Progress monitor success!

Source: www.teachhub.com

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PTO News

On October 6, MOE’S in St Lucie West, is hosting our first Family Night Out from 5:00pm-9:00pm. MOE’s will donate 10% of the proceeds to Palm Pointe. Have dinner and see your friends. The flyer does not need to be filled out. 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.

ESOL Corner

The goal of the ESOL program is to help your child acquire English proficiency to meet appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion. Our teachers ensure that your child will receive the most current interventions/strategies to meet his/her academic needs. In addition, your child will receive appropriate statewide accommodations such as: extended time on standardized testing in a small group setting and the availability of a word-to-word translation dictionary.
Supporting Reading at Home

1. Talk about books, especially the great ones: The Common Core says that children need to “read books worth reading”. We all know that reading ANYTHING is great for kids, but they should be exposed to great writers and challenging content too. Lead by example!

2. Ask your children questions about what they're reading: One of the key shifts with the Common Core is its requirement that students (both orally and in writing) cite evidence from the texts they're reading to make an argument. Try asking questions that require your kids to talk about the content of the books they're reading. For example, have them give reasons why a favorite character was heroic or clever or forgiving.

3. Push your children to read nonfiction: Reading fiction is still a key part of learning to read, but the Common Core elevates the importance of nonfiction, or “informational text”, as the authors of the standards call it. Does your son love gross bugs? Get him a book about cockroach infestations and let him dig deep into a topic that interests him. You might have a future scientist in your house!

4. Encourage your children to write, write, write: The Common Core State Standards emphasize the fundamental link between reading and writing. Writing to persuade by citing evidence is a key 21st Century skill. Encourage your children to keep a journal or blog, or write a letter or an e-mail to their favorite author.

5. 100 Book Challenge has begun in grades K through 3 and 6th through 8th reading classes. Students are reading at least one half an hour a day in their classroom and are expected to read one half hour at home each evening. Parents, be sure that you initial your child's reading log so he/she is given credit for the half hour of reading he/she does each evening. We are excited to see students reading and talking about their books. As of October 3rd, your 1st through 3rd grade students and 6th through 8th grade reading students should have 82 steps and kindergarten students should have 65 steps. Check your child's log to see how many steps your child has? Thank you for supporting this awesome program, and encourage your student to read, read, read.

BULLY PREVENTION MONTH INCREASE TOLERANCE

October is Bully Prevention Month. We have planned many activities at PPE to assist with preventing bulling and protecting students. We will teach embracing acceptance, emphasizing commonalities, embracing diversity, teaching tolerance and promoting acceptance. Students will participate in a poster/essay contest and on October 15th students will be encouraged to wear orange and sign a contract that proclaims… "I Don’t Bully." Read more about Bully Prevention month in the attached newsletter.

Parent Information Resource Center

Did you know there is a Parent Information Resource Center located in the front office- FAU room? You can find a number of brochures and videos in English and Spanish. Some of the topics include:
- WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL
- LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR RAINY DAYS
- HELPING CHILDRENcope with divorce, ADHD, depression, etc.
- PARENTS ARE TEACHERS TOO

PPE Tweets

Did you know that Palm Pointe has an official Twitter Account? We will be tweeting information as a way to keep families and friends of PPE updated. How can you find us?

1. Create a Twitter Account if you don’t have one.
2. Search for Palm Pointe K-8 in the search box.
3. Click the Follow button.
4. Next to the Follow button is a small icon/ cog with more user actions, click on it.
5. Scroll down to Turn on Mobile Notifications and click on this if you want tweets sent directly to your mobile device.
Now you will be updated with important information and reminders about PPE and see what’s happening in our school. Our goal is to have 500 followers by the end of October! Who will be our first follower?

Every Friday only is Spirit Day

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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

@ Palm Pointe K-8

For important updates or like us at Palm Pointe K-8