Volunteer/Business Partner Orientation
Tuesday, September 16 @ 9:30 am Launch Pad
Get involved in our... 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.

Picture Day
Elementary Picture Day is Sept. 29th, Middle School picture day is Sept. 30th.

Dress Code
Thank you for supporting our “Dress for Success” for students. They look fabulous. Remember dress code guidelines are found 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 developing 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 school community.

PTO NEWS
Welcome Back Rockets! We trust our summer was amazing! The PTO meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in room 1-123.
Our first PTO meeting is 9/11 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 10/14/14-10/15/14.
The beautifully scented packets will be sent home will your child. We will also raffle a KING sized 13 pound BALSAM & CEDAR 4 wick candle during the month of October.

Citizen of the Month
The Citizenship Award is given to one student in each class in grades K-3 and one student per homeroom class in grades 4-8. 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:
9/7, 9/15, 10/15, 12/1, 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/2/5, 5/13.
All assemblies are at 10:00 am in the Auditorium. Parents & family members can report directly to the Auditorium. Congratulations to all!

Curriculum Night, Title One Meeting
What: For parents to learn about curriculum and Title one requirements When: Palm Pointe Educational Research School Where: 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: a. In any building, facility, or vehicle that is owned, leased, or rented by the District.

b. 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

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 Magnet School in Palm City. Wow! We have 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 3-6, 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 Sawyer, 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.

Lunch
Parents are invited to lunch. Visitors are not permitted to eat at the student’s lunch table. Special tables will be 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 their pass before proceeding to the auditorium. 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.

Palm Pointe Educational Research School is a TRADITION FAU/SCSD PARTNERSHIP 10680 ACADEMIC WAY, PORT ST LUCIE, FL 34987 (772) 345-3245 Ph (772) 345-3250 Fax Website: www.tradition.fau.edu or www.stlucie.k12.fl.us

THE ORBITER
Volume 7, Issue 1
September 1, 2014

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.

If your child is having difficulty coping with divorce or separation, please contact the Guidance Department for further 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

If you have any conflicts with the information about your child, you must contact the school

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 it 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 your students.

THE ORBITER
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 SCLSB 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.

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” 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**

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Students may wear any Palm Pointe T-Shirt on Spirit Day.