

THE ORBITER

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PALM POINTE EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOOL @ TRADITION
FAU/SLCSD PARTNERSHIP
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Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

February was another busy month at Palm Pointe. We celebrated our fourth and eighth grade students' fabulous efforts on the FCAT Writing. WOW..... Did they work hard! Our wonderful PTO provided Happy Meals for the fourth grade and pizza for the eighth graders to offer a congratulations on a job well done. Thanks parents for the special treats. The food was enjoyed by all. We also said thank you to many of our Business Partners and Volunteers at an appreciation breakfast. Additionally, students participated in the District Science Fair and the District Spelling Bee.

We head into March with the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. Testing begins March 10 for all students in grades 3-8. Our PTO had provided treats for students and the Student Council will provide good luck treat bags to students. We know that our students are going to "Rock the FCAT."

Again, I thank you for sharing your most prized possessions with us. Your children are such Rockin' Rockets. We love working with them daily. Happy March and Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Debbie Snyder

A Special Thank you.....

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff I would like to commend our parents and community members for their involvement at Palm Pointe. As of January, we have recorded over 14,971 volunteer hours and have over 55 Community/Business Partners. Because of your involvement, we are able to accomplish so much more than we otherwise could. Hats off to you!



FAU CORNER

Our Good FIT and SMaRT subs are working diligently with our teachers and students. The following teachers have Good FIT Interns: Holly Herndon, Janine Brockelbank, Rene Kloorfain, Terry Howard, Dee Palmer, Jean Svet, Kathryn Smith, Melissa Bonet, Kris Demarais, Cindy Harrison, and Viviana Flores. These teachers are modeling lessons and insuring that the interns actively participate in classroom instructional activities. Palm Pointe was awarded \$19,000.00 by a private donor to support these programs. We are so grateful for this generous donation. In addition, we have had many visitors from FAU on our campus. They are quite impressed with our school and learning environment. Ms. Snyder and a group of selected teachers visited FAU Henderson Lab School for a Research Mixer. This is an example of the ongoing work with their teachers on Action Research.



Dr. Seuss Day!

Read Across America Day celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd, and the Media Center is sponsoring several events to be sure our Rockets are enjoying the celebration. We're already getting into the fun with a guessing game each day on the Palm Pointe Morning News show. Students are given four clues to a character from a Dr. Seuss book. Students turn in their guesses at the Reading Rooms before the end of each day. On March 2nd, the student from each grade level with the most correct guesses will win a prize and so will that student's teacher! We are also having a room decorating contest for the Kindergarten classes and a window or door decorating contest for our 1st and 2nd grade classes. The theme for the decorations is Dr. Seuss or reading. All rooms will be judged on March 2 and winners will be announced that day on the Morning News show.

Check out our website: We are now putting monthly newsletters and parent calendars on the website. Stay current with Palm Pointe's upcoming events by using the website. Log onto www.stlucie.k12.fl.us. Go to Parents, then to School Websites. Click on Palm Pointe Educational Research School @ Tradition.

FCAT Testing Schedules



Tuesday, March 10
Reading: Grades 3, 4, 6, 7, 8
Math: Grade 5

Wednesday, March 11
Reading: Grades 3 and 4
Math: Grades 5, 6, 7, 8

Thursday, March 12
Reading: Grade 5
Math: Grade 3 and 4

Friday, March 13
Make-up Testing

Monday, March 16
Science: Grades 5 and 8

Tuesday, March 17
Science: Grade 5

Make-up Testing begins after the first day of testing and continues through March 19

Palm Pointe Clinic News

IMPORTANT!

Sixth (6th) graders must have a Tdap before entering 7th grade. Immunization dates must be turned in to the school clinic on a blue 680 state form obtained at the time of immunization.

Call your pediatrician, Health Department or local clinic today for an appointment – DO NOT DELAY!!

Sixth Grade News

6th Grade Discovery Team

The 6th grade students in the Discovery Pod are always busy!

Mr. Abruzzo's 6th grade world history classes just embarked on the journey of a lifetime! Students are taking a tour of the world via the Internet. Students are busy researching and preparing their projects for presentation the week on 3/2/09.

Ms. DiBari's 6th grade students are reading The Great Fire. They are learning many new vocabulary words and how to find out the meaning of those words using context clues.

Mrs. Svet's math students are interpreting and drawing phenomena graphs, investigating and comparing slopes as rates, solving and writing algebra expressions using algebra tiles, listing outcomes and determining probabilities, and reviewing problem solving and test taking strategies,

Mr. Williams' science students are studying plant and animal cells. Cell models and websites are being used to study many cell functions including respiration and photosynthesis. Microscopes are being used to study both individual cell structures and bacterial colonies.

Many students are realizing that their cells are working harder than they thought. Cells, actually, do all the work only to die unappreciated. What a tragedy!

Ms. Bourisquot's language arts students are working on improving word choice and preparing to read Tuck Everlasting.

6th Grade Atlantis Team

Mrs. Kuba's students are reading the non-fiction novel, The Great Fire. The students created engaging lessons on fire safety to teach to their first grade buddies. The novel provided the inspiration for these lessons! In cooperative learning groups, the students have also been creating bubble maps, sequencing flow maps, and cause and effect multi-flow maps to reflect their understanding of events in The Great Fire. Ms. Shaffer's class is working on a very engaging project entitled "Historical Landmarks around the World". The project will teach students research skills, presentation skills, and how to use PowerPoint. Students will end the project with a 3-5 minute PowerPoint presentation in which they will be expected to know their presentation rather than just read it!

Students have already begun the projects and are very excited!

In language arts, the students created an "I am" poem. They were enthusiastic while creating their final products, as they were all about themselves, and sharing that information with their peers.

In Mrs. Bourke-Johnson's class, the students are working on measurement and are engaged in pre-algebra equations. They are excited to be adding "letters" to their numbers and solving for the unknown variables. She is also using technology to enhance lessons.

Mr. Bois and Ms. Shaffer are incorporating FCAT math skills into their curriculum to enhance student success on the upcoming FCAT.

Ms. Shaffer and Mrs. Kuba are in the process of creating centers for interdisciplinary units as we prepare for upcoming testing.

Seventh Grade News

Team Apollo

In Math, we are working on problems of chances--probability lesson. We are also working on slopes: slope of a line and slope intercept form. The students in pre-algebra will be given a chance to show their artistic side by creating a 3 dimensional model of slopes. Algebra 1 students just did a magnificent job on 3D slopes, and the Pre-Algebra students got some ideas for their project. Currently, the students in Algebra 1 are focusing on systems of linear equations by graphing and elimination.

In Science, students have just completed their studies of various biomes. They had the opportunity to see how limiting factors affect populations as well as create group Power Points on different ecosystems which they presented to their peers. Students are currently looking at cycles in the

Team Apollo Continued

environment and how people affect those cycles. Students played a game related to the carbon cycle, did an experiment on how bare ground versus covered ground affects the water cycle, and lastly how nitrogen is recycled in the ecosystem. Students will be working on an interdisciplinary project regarding the Titanic in the upcoming weeks.

World Geography students are exploring Europe! Students will be researching a country of their choice to find information about the people, customs, music, food, history, economy, and geographical features. Students will be presenting their projects to the class and incorporate a cultural activity/cultural dish to be shared with all.

Mrs. Cruz's Language Arts class will be writing scripts to re-enact the major events in modern European history (Industrial Revolution, World War 1, Holocaust, World War 2, and Cold War). Students will be performing their plays in front of reading buddies!

In Reading, students are currently reading a novel titled, *SOS Titanic*. As part of an interdisciplinary unit, students will be studying details about the backgrounds of some of the real people who sailed on Titanic. This will include details about the three social classes on board, their living conditions on board the ship, and what happened to them when the ship sank and afterwards. The introduction will include basic details of the actual Titanic story (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?). All information will then be consolidated into individual Power Point presentations.

Team Columbia

It's Greek to me!! During February, all of the teachers created an interdisciplinary unit on Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece. In World Geography, students learned about the culture and civilizations. In Language Arts, students learned about Mythology. In Reading, students learned the Greek alphabet. In Science, students researched a Greek Scientist. In Math, students studied Roman numerals and tessellations. At the end of the interdisciplinary unit, each teacher dressed as one of the Goddesses. Language Arts: February was Black History Month and your child did a research project on a person and presented it to the class. Looking ahead, students will be starting a Web quest in the middle of March.

Eighth Grade News

In Reading, students completed timelines, family trees, and CD's focusing on the main idea of "Among the Hidden." The students did an outstanding job. We are currently working on locating main ideas and supporting details in stories. We are also excited about using the Gaggle program. The students have the opportunity to participate in a research project that utilizes the computer for all of their class work. No more paper and pencil. Many are finding this to be a great alternative way of learning.

Language Arts classes are working on the "Anthology of Poetry". This is a project that consists of 61 total typed poems of 33 different categories. They will produce a book that will

be bound with a table of contents, title page, and poem pages. Also, my students will go online to poetry.com and publish one of their poems with a copyright.

In Math, the students in Pre-Algebra are working on Geometry concepts and application problems. In Algebra, the students are continuing to work with Quadratic functions and graphs. Students in Science are exploring the field of chemistry. Last month, students worked together to observe physical and chemical changes. There was fizzing, color and temperature changes everywhere as various materials were mixed together. Currently, students are learning how to read and use the Periodic Table of Elements. They are working in groups of two to research and present information on one of the families in the Periodic Table. From this information they will be able to predict what elements will bond with each other in order to create new molecules and compounds. It's hard to believe, but we even find some time to play Element BINGO once in a while!

Resource News

Technology News for Grades 6-8

The Biotechnology Lab @ Palm Pointe

The first semester ended with our very first Dragster Rally. All the students who built cars in the Research and Design module had the opportunity to race their cars, while fellow classmates looked on. It was a very exciting day as students watched the little wooden cars finish a 60- ft -course in less than two seconds. The overall winner was the car built by Zachary LaPointe, a 6th grader, finishing in 0.868 seconds and clocking an average speed of 51.5 miles per hour. Second and third places went to Zach Hale and Alexia Leon, both 8th graders.

What a wonderful start we have had to our second semester. Students from the Agricultural Science class at Westwood High School visited with our 8th graders to share a hands-on lesson on becoming a Plant Breeder. At the end of the activity, Palm Pointe students took home strawberry seeds on a sponge and a variety of herb seeds planted in a glove to start their own garden. Classes are working very hard toward winning the Hot Ticket Challenge and an Ice Cream Party from Kilwin's in Tradition. The second quarter winners, a 6th grade class, had their treat last Friday. To earn a Hot Ticket, students must get all their daily RCA questions correct. Hot tickets are also earned if they score 100 % on the Post Test. For each ticket earned, the class gets a sticker on the challenge board. At this point, the 4th period sixth grade class is in the lead.

Students continue to enjoy the hands on activities in the Biotechnology Lab. Though the instruction is challenging, many are seeing the links between what they learn here and their Science and Math classes. We are all looking forward to a very rewarding semester.

Spanish

School Spanish classes are completing the introductory section on exchanging basic personal information such as name, place of origin, etc. In the 6th grade classes they are starting to identify school items, talk about their class schedule and describe their classes. The 7th and 8th graders are completing the introductory conversational phrases and are beginning to create their dialogues using the vocabulary. Once that is complete they will be designing a travel poster for a Spanish speaking country which they will present to the class along with a recipe from the country. In the elementary classes, we are using the *Español Para Tí* program to introduce the students to the basics of Spanish conversation and Hispanic culture.

Physical Education (Middle School)

Our first semester has come and gone. Our students learned a wide range of skills from catching, throwing, hitting, "hand eye coordination", etc...

But most of all they learned the proper way to eat and exercise to stay fit. We had students show great improvement on their fitness tests, "the mile run, push-ups, sit-ups". It was sad to see them go but they leave with better knowledge in fitness and athletics. My new students for this semester are getting their baseline test scores recorded, so we can set a program they can follow to have the same improvements as my first semester students. Our P.E. department has expanded to include Palm Pointe Staff in after school activities such as "Volleyball, Basketball, and Walkers Club" to promote fitness as well as STAFF BUILDING during the month of February which is Healthy Heart Month.

PTO News:

Congratulations to the Winners of the Box Top contest in January. We collected 14,561 box tops. Thank you to Mrs. Janet Patrick for the long hours of counting and cutting.

KG- Mrs. deGraaff,
1st grade- Mrs. Wiggins
2nd grade- Mrs. DiSalvo
3rd grade- Mrs. Boyer
4th grade- Mrs. Kloorfain
5th grade- Mrs. Enoch
6th grade- Mrs. Kuba

7th grade- Mrs. Sherwood

8th grade- Mrs. Allen

The School will receive a check for \$1456.10 for your work! Keep saving Your Box Top Labels.



Congratulations to the following students for representing their class as Citizen of the Month for February.

Kindergarten: Alex Buchanan, Townes Pagano, Brandon Simpson, Robert Thompson, Caitlin McKenna, Jaime Williams, Ty Dargis

1st Grade: Madison Brockelbank, Anthony Zirger, Lauren Pimenta, Alyssa Tisdale, Kaylee Farineau, Tamsin Kernick, Kaylee Lloyd, Shelby Schaefer

2nd Grade: Noah Romelien, Julia Kelly-Fiornascent, Samantha Helton, Orret Hall, Yasmine Brutus, Mikeyla Cabrera, Alexander Lopez, Joshua Matthews

3rd Grade: Ashley Petrow, Catherine Miller, Caelan Mahieu, Alejandra Monzon, Celeste De Los Santos, Kathline Vernet, Melanie Lopez, Jordan Fry

4th Grade: Kiara Laurent, Nicole Ruppert, Sophie Phillips, Adriana Novoa, Selena Velazquez, Aaron Hernandez, Taylor Tucker, Crystine Atkinson

5th Grade: Naja Hardmon, Alex Marrero, Kolin Teylan, Serina Spicuzza, John Rimes, Katrina Cesar, Nashly Jean

6th Grade: Valeria Tirado, Cassie Woods, Meraiya Otero-Turner, Devonte Parke, Althea Johnson, Alaina Schafer, Alejandro Vergara, Zachary LaPointe, Eusebio Novoa, Angelika Shaw

7th Grade: Matthew Gioccone, Michael Diaz, Alyssa Arocho, Ashley King, Joseph Dorrington, Kirsten Goss, Carson Quackenbush, Austin White, Cassidy Cintron

8th Grade: Anita Geslin, Jorge Mejia, Christina Cortez, Sonia Garcia, Erika Rodriguez

January Citizens of the Month

(Apologies for not including in last month's addition)

Kindergarten: Shannon Habyan, Traive Martinez, Analise Ramsingh, Chrissie Miller, Jake Montgomery, Nicole Martinez, Cameron Stott

1st Grade: Alessandro Tavera, Hena Malik, TaNaje Forte, Maria Prussing, Savannah Hawthorne, Jessica Lee, Cody Holsinger, Tristan Cavalier, Christian Smith, Jessica Hughes

2nd Grade: Laila Dib, Jasmine Cortez, Tyler Edwards, William Treu, Andy Risi, Morgan Rinker, Carly de Graaff

3rd Grade: Gregory Schafer, Aminda Murray, Matthew Hunt, Chloe Royals, Marisa Spicuzza, Stephanie Della Rocca, Samuel Massini

4th Grade: Ryan Chimelis, Chania Fraser, Jasmine Moss, Paula Hoheb, Avery Siders, Michael Smythe, Anderson Aurelien

5th Grade: Kasey McElheny, Maris Alcolea, Alexis Cabrera, Brianna Zirger, Jillian McGlade, Ashton Ellison, Shane Geiser

6th Grade: Jonathan Spircoff, Ryan Duffy, Laura Daughtrey, Amber Ferrante, Jody Drumheller, Amber Schwartz, Zachary Burns, Luis Morraz, Sydney Havee, Logan Mulderrig

7th Grade: Jordan Martin, Hannah Sides, Ashley Jones, Taylor Jones, AAlicia Medina, Wilande Michel, Andrea Herrick, Ana Barros, Alexia Stewart

8th Grade: Moniphae Wilson, Joshua Blair, Hunter Melton, Erica Molina, Alexia Leon

Student Council Activity

Student Council would like to introduce a new school wide

fundraiser, "***Soda Tabs***". Beginning March 2nd, we are asking students to collect soda tabs from home. There will be an ice cream party for the winning class in grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Turn in all tabs to your homeroom teacher, and they will be collected on **FRIDAYS**. All proceeds will be donated to the Shriner's Children's Hospital.

Band

Mr. Hatfield, Band Master, took five students to the FBA District 13 Solo and Ensemble Festival. Out of those five, four received the highest rating possible (superior) and the other student received an excellent (second highest). Three of these students have only been playing for five months.

Please be sure to congratulate these students.

Jorge Mejia 8th - Trumpet - Superior Rating
Theodore Cymbal 8th - Tenor Sax - Superior Rating
Amanda Grohowski 7th - Oboe - Superior Rating
Sakyah Maignan 7th - Bassoon - Superior Rating
Marc Sierra 7th - Euphonium - Excellent Rating

The band will also be participating in the District 13 Florida Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment Festival at St. Lucie West Centennial High School on March 4th. The students have worked hard and are looking forward to their performance.

Science Fair Winners

Palm Pointe students participated in the Treasure Coast Regional Science Fair. The following students earned awards for their hard work.

Congratulations! Jordan Martin in Mrs. Joseph's class. He won a Discovery Award for his project, "Magnetism Wisdom.", Amanda Fritz, in Mr. Williams's class. She won 3rd place in the category of Plant Sciences for her project "The Effects of Ethylene on Ripening Bananas", Logan Mulderrig in Mr. Williams's class. He won 2nd place in the category of Engineering and Transportation for his project, "Which Blade Design will Best Collect Wind?" Logan also won "Local Energy-Related Award", Michael MaGrann in Mrs. Joseph's class. He won 1st place in the category of Environmental Sciences for his project, "Weather Modifications: Can a Hurricane's Strength be Reduced?" Michael was also awarded a Discovery Award for his project.

District History Fair Winners

Congratulations to: Meraiya Otero-Turner who took 2nd place in the Junior Individual Exhibit (She will go on to Tallahassee for the State Competition), Emily Walukiewicz who took 4th place in the Junior Research Paper.