

# PSE Newsletter

## Volume I



Greetings Panthers!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. We are excited to welcome all our students and families back to PSE as an "A school". I would like to thank our students, staff, parents, and community for all the hard work in helping our school attain incredible success last year. Our theme this year is "Diving into a Sea of Knowledge." It is our mission to provide a safe environment where all learners are empowered to reach their fullest potential. As we get FOCUSED this year, please do not forget to download our Focus Parent Portal in order to stay connected to your child's educational journey. I am looking forward to serving as your proud principal and strive to have another fantastic year. Lastly, remember that the School Advisory Council (SAC) is a perfect way to stay connected with the updated events and school business. Please join us at our monthly meetings. The yearly calendar will be shared at our first meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 2:00 pm. Please know that my door is always open if you have any questions or concerns.

Your Proud Principal,  
Denise Hanson

### Important Dates:

8/21- Open House for PK, 1, 3, and 5

8/27- Coffee with Administration  
@9:00am in PSE Cafeteria

8/28- Open House for K, 2,4, and ASD

8/30- Kona Ice @1:45

9/2- No School

9/3- SAC Meeting @2:00pm

9/4- PTO Meeting @12:15pm

9/7- PSE Family Night at FAU Football Game

9/13- Dot Day

9/23-9/27- Fall Bookfair

9/27- Interims Issued

10/1 - SAC Meeting @2:00pm

10/2- PTO Meeting @12:15pm

10/3- No School

10/8- Fall pictures

10/14- Teacher Planning Day

10/15- Quarter 2 begins

Be sure to follow us on X  
(previously Twitter)  
[@principalpse](https://twitter.com/principalpse)



# News from the Office

## Drop Off Policy

Please be aware of our "item" drop off policy for the 2024-2025 school year. We will accept items up until 8:30 AM daily. Items may include lunches, water bottles, snacks, projects, homework, etc. This policy was established to minimize the disruptions to our academic day and ensure extra safety on campus. We thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Morell.



## Back to School

### Free and Reduced Lunch

Please don't forget to apply/renew your application for free and reduced lunch today! Breakfast and lunch is free for all students this year, however, still please visit <http://www.myschoolapps.com/> to complete an application.

### Volunteer Application

If you are interested in volunteering, please be sure you have registered on the following website. This application must be completed every year.

<https://www.browardschools.com/volunteer>

### Register to Ride

If you are a bus rider, you must register at: <https://www.browardschools.com/register2ride>



# Information

## Wireless Device Policy



Established 1915  
**BROWARD**  
County Public Schools

### Important Update For K-12 Students WIRELESS DEVICE POLICY

**Disconnect  
To Reconnect**

POWER  
OFF



AIRPLANE  
MODE



#### WIRELESS DEVICE USE NOT ALLOWED DURING SCHOOL DAY

##### Effective in the 2024/25 School Year

- ➔ All wireless devices must be powered off or in airplane mode during the school day, from bell to bell, including passing periods and lunch unless authorized for instructional purposes.
- ➔ Wireless devices include cellphones, laptops, smartwatches, tablets, headphones, airpods, and other two-way communication equipment.
- ➔ Students violating policy are subject to disciplinary action.

For more information and FAQs, visit  
[browardschools.com/wirelessdevices](https://browardschools.com/wirelessdevices)

##### Devices Include:



- Cellphone
- Smart Watches
- Earbuds
- Headphones
- Tablets
- Laptops

## Labeling Items

Please ensure that all students items including lunchboxes, water bottles, and jackets are labeled with their name. This will help us in returning these items when lost to the front office.

## FOCUS

The Focus Parent Portal account gives families convenient and secure access to their student's school information, including school grades, attendance, interim reports, report cards, and more, anytime and anywhere. Register for the Focus Parent Portal at [browardschools.com/focus](https://browardschools.com/focus)

## Attendance

Attendance matters at Park Springs. Regular attendance is a key factor in a child's academic success. Regular attendance is when a student attends more than 95% of the academic school year; this may include up to 8 absences in a 180-day school year. Please use the school calendar so vacations are planned around school days. We understand that exceptions may arise, but attendance is key to strong student success, and we appreciate your partnership!



# Safety



## FORTIFYFL

Submit a tip easily via our anonymous FortifyFL app. Provide as much detail as you can, including names of people involved, physical descriptions, school name, social media handles, etc. You can download the app or visit <https://www.getfortifyfl.com/> for more information



**BROWARD**  
County Public Schools  
**ALYSSA'S  
ALERT**

### Mobile Duress Alert App

Alyssa's Alert is a mobile duress alert application that empowers staff members to immediately notify first responders in the event of an emergency. Receive potentially life-saving aid with the push of a button.

#### Get Help Instantly

Upon activation\*, local first responders & District personnel receive an immediate notification of the emergency.

#### Easy to Use

Select one of the three buttons (shown right) to activate Alyssa's Alert. Assistance will immediately be dispatched to your location.\*\*

#### Stay Connected

Administrators will be able to push important updates regarding an emergency situation to anyone who has downloaded Alyssa's Alert.

\*Duress buttons can only be activated while physically on school property.  
\*\*Only if first responders may access location information upon button activation. Under no other circumstances is location information accessible.

#### DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW

Scan this Code  Use the QR Code or search for "SaferWatch" on the Google Play or Apple App Store.

Visit Learning Across Broward and search for "Alyssa's Alert" under the "Courses" tab to learn more about using Alyssa's Alert in the event of an emergency.



Alyssa's Alert is a mobile duress alert application that empowers staff members to immediately notify first responders in the event of an emergency.

### STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL



#### HOLD

In your room or area. Clear the halls.



#### SECURE

Get inside. Lock outside doors.



#### LOCKDOWN

Locks, lights, out of sight.



#### EVACUATE

To the announced location.



#### SHELTER

Using the announced hazard and strategy.

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Broward Schools has transitioned to the Plain Language Emergency protocol. This language will be used to conduct our monthly safety drills and in the event of an emergency.



## SAFERWATCH

SaferWatch is a web based and mobile app system that allows users to report an incident as they see it happening or submit a tip later. It also provides real time communication during the situations. Visit <https://www.saferwatchapp.com/> for more information.





# PTO

## Parent Teacher Organization



Hello from the Park Springs Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)! Thank you for supporting the PTO at the Kindergarten Screening and Meet & Greet events! We enjoyed meeting you!

Open House nights are perfect for shopping our full spirit wear collection and learning more about the PTO events and activities. See us at both Open Houses and introduce yourself! Online orders are always welcome!

Join the PTO as a member with a \$10 donation to our annual fund. Membership means you're supporting your school! Want to volunteer? We would love to have you! Please fill out the county volunteer application at [browardschools.com/volunteer](http://browardschools.com/volunteer).

Volunteers are welcome for PTO Meetings, Book Fairs, Ice Cream Day, and so much more! No time to volunteer at school? Support the PTO in other ways! Attend a Spirit Night at a restaurant, attend evening events at Park Springs, or take home a small project to complete on your own time. All events are included on the school calendar.

## PTO MEETING DATES

**All meetings will begin at 12:15pm.**

9/4	10/2	11/6
12/4	1/8	2/5
3/5	4/2	5/14



Follow us on social media on Facebook @parkspringsetempto and Instagram @parkspringstop. Links to these sites and more can be found at [linktree.com/parkspringstop](http://linktree.com/parkspringstop).





# Pre K and Kindergarten

## Pre K

We are so excited to start the 24-25 school year! Many of our little learners have never been in school before, so our Pre-K classes are starting the first quarter learning the rules and routines, as well as learning/practicing the different safety drills. While each of our Pre-K Programs are different, we are all working on communication, independent functioning skills, social skills and lots of academics in our own special way. We do our best learning through hands on opportunities, learning about sharing, functional play, and having fun with many fine motor activities. During calendar time, we are learning the days of the week, months of the year and counting each day. Our first focus is "All About Me," where we learn about our school, our friends, our families and ourselves! We look forward to a great rest of the year!

## Autism Spectrum Disorder/Special Programs

Welcome back PSE family, We are excited for this school year. Panther Pals will start in October. We will be participating in the Special Olympics as well as other inclusive activities that will be led by our Panther Pals. Please reach out with any concerns/questions.

## Kindergarten

Welcome Kindergarten Families! We have been loving the time spent getting to know each other and learning the rules and routines of the classroom. For the first few weeks our ELA (English Language Arts) focuses on foundational skills and routines. We are working on the letters of the Alphabet. This month in math, we will be working on numbers 0 to 5. We look forward to "Diving into Kindergarten" together this year!





# First and Second Grade

## First Grade

Welcome First Grade Families! We are excited to begin a new school year and we are looking forward to "Diving into a Sea of Knowledge." We have been spending time getting to know each other and learning the rules and routines necessary to help build a classroom community of learners.

For the first few weeks our ELA (English Language Arts) instruction focuses on foundational skills and routines that foster independent thinking and reading. Our ELA time will include establishing routines, phonological awareness, shared reading, phonics, shared writing, and independent reading.

This month in math, we will be adding and subtracting within 10. We will use pictures and manipulatives to add and subtract as we build fluency.

We look forward to working together to make your child's 1st grade year a wonderful experience!

## Second Grade

We are diving into learning this year in Second Grade and so excited to be able to teach this new group of students. This will be a wonderful year of social, emotional, and academic growth for these boys and girls.

In ELA, we will be focusing on helping the students really understand what they are reading and to ask/answer questions about the text. We also will work on building rigor and stamina in our young readers. Our spelling words each week focus on a phonics rule, and it is important that the children (and you) understand what the rule is so that it cannot only be applied to the spelling words, but also to numerous other words. The students will be working on basic facts and relationships, number sense (place value) and concepts, and numbers to 1,000 in the first quarter.

In science, we are learning about the scientific method and the steps to perform an experiment. We will be learning all about matter. In social studies, the concept this quarter is geography. As always, please contact your child's teacher, if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to making this year in 2nd grade the best possible!

Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at (754)-321-2150 or email us at: [eeo@browardschools.com](mailto:eeo@browardschools.com).





# Third - Fifth Grade

## Third Grade

We are so excited to welcome our third graders back to school! We look forward to seeing you all at our Open House on August 21 at 6 pm where you will learn more about our curriculum and a typical day in third grade.

In the first quarter, we work on building stamina, responsibility and independence. We also work on developing problem-solving skills. In math, we focus on the concept of multiplication. A great resource to practice fluency with addition, subtraction and multiplication facts is [speedymath.com](http://speedymath.com). In Reading we are learning to ask and answer questions with text evidence for both fiction and non-fiction. We also will learn to identify the central idea of informational text and compare and contrast non-fiction. Third graders should be reading books on their level in a variety of genres. In Social Studies, we will learn about the constitution and in Science we will learn about Animal Classifications and Adaptations. We look forward to seeing our students develop great work habits and grow throughout the year.

## Fourth Grade

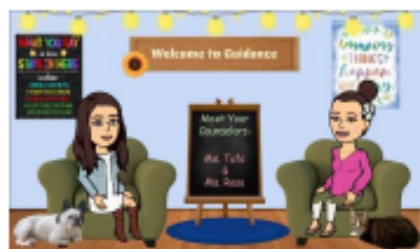
Hello and welcome to Fourth grade! We are so glad you are here! :) Just a reminder to please return all the paperwork that went home in your child's communication folder and your child's online code of conduct. It is imperative that all of this is done to ensure the safety of your child. Our open house is scheduled for 8/28 at 6pm. Please remember that this is for parents only and that we will be giving lots of important information. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher through email or their method of classroom communication.

## Fifth Grade

On behalf of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team, we would like to welcome all our new students. We are so excited to meet you and look forward to "Diving into a Sea of Knowledge" this school year! Now that you are "O-Fish-ally" in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we know that you will step up to the academic challenge and try your very best! This year you will learn about many fun science, social studies, reading and math activities. Parents the Park Springs Elementary school website has useful links on information you need to start the school year. Please be sure to fill out all necessary forms such as code of conduct and emergency contact information. More parent information to come at Open House.



# Ms. Tufo and Ms. Rasa's COUNSELOR CORNER



## COUNSELOR CHAT

HELLO PARK SPRINGS FAMILIES!  
WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER  
EXCITING SCHOOL YEAR! WE ARE  
SO EXCITED TO WORK WITH OUR

### Ways to calm my worry



## MEET YOUR COUNSELORS

### Ms. Tufo:

Hi everyone! I am so happy to be back at Park Springs for the 24-25 school year. This is my 15th year as a PSE Panther Counselor and my 22nd year as a School Counselor for Broward Schools. I was also happy to represent our school as the Broward County Elementary School Counselor of the Year Finalist for the 2019-2020 school year. I have two boys, one in middle school and one in high school. Both are PSE graduates! I could not have been prouder to have had both of my children attend such a wonderful school. Park Springs is truly the best! I am looking forward to another amazing year to work with students, families, and staff, as well as working with Ms. Rasa, the other half of our dynamic counseling duo! We have lots of exciting school-wide activities planned for our students and will again be visiting classrooms throughout the year. We will also be available to provide several in-school counseling services for students. I am looking forward to another awesome school year!

### Ms. Rasa:

Hello PSE family! Coming back for my 4th year here at Park Springs Elementary is just so exciting because I can truly say being that I have worked at many schools in my 14-year career, that Park Springs is top notch, the best school I have had the pleasure to work at! From our awesome administrators to amazing teachers, hardworking staff, supportive families, and outstanding students, this is the place to be! And to work with Ms. Tufo has truly been the highlight of my career. I admire her dedication; we make a great team! We love working with our PSE students and families through small groups, classroom guidance, and individually. Helping students and families is our passion. I know this year is going to be a great one. If there is anything that we can help you with, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

## COUNSELING SERVICES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**Our Services:** As part of the school counseling program, we offer many services that include checking in with students, running small guidance groups on a variety of topics, visiting classrooms to teach lessons in the areas of academic, social, safety, college and career readiness, as well as collaborating with families and staff. We are visible all around our campus at morning arrival and dismissal, in the cafeteria, in the hallways, and on our morning news. We are familiar faces so that our students and families know who we are and can come to us whenever they need. If you need assistance with any of our services or have questions, please contact the office or you can email us any time.

### Upcoming Activities:

We have some exciting activities coming up in the first quarter. Please be on the lookout for information on Start with Hello, Peace Week, College and Career Day, Red Ribbon Week, and Anti-Bullying Week as we move through the quarter. We will also be getting special visits from some special guests this year- Auntie Bully and Positive Polly. We are sure your children will tell you all about it!



# Specials



## PE

We are so excited for the 2024-2025 school year at Park Springs Elementary. I would like to welcome all incoming PreK and Kindergarten students to PSE, as well as any new students starting their first year here. I would like to also welcome back all of our returning students to PSE. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting school year full of exercise and knowledge about health. In our first quarter, we will touch on water safety, which is extremely important knowledge living in South Florida. We will begin our units about movement and spatial awareness as well. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [Bartsheib@browardschools.com](mailto:Bartsheib@browardschools.com).

## Art

Welcome to the artroom! I am so excited to welcome new artists and familiar faces back into our art studio. This year we will learn that art is a safe space to create and grow; we will learn about artists, experiment with materials and techniques, and have a lot of fun. Artists will practice trying new things and learn that an artist lies in all of us. Most of our completed artwork will either be displayed in the halls or kept in the artroom so the artists can keep a year-long portfolio; so, don't panic if you don't see a lot of art coming home in your artists' backpack. I am keeping it safe here and will send it home in May. The artroom is a fun and messy place, so we are always graciously accepting donations of dish soap, microfiber cloths, and baby wipes. If I can answer any questions for you, or if you would like to volunteer - my email address is [katherine.soli@browardschools.com](mailto:katherine.soli@browardschools.com). It will be a great year!

## Music

The music program at Park Springs provides an age appropriate, socially accepting environment that affords our students the opportunity to experience, learn and grow. Our varied program meets the needs of students on many levels: physical, creative, quantitative, and early literacy while adhering to guidelines set forth in the Sunshine State Standards for Music Education.

Throughout our music classes, students will be able to dance, sing, play instruments, learn about different styles of music, different cultures, instrument families, composers and so much more.

Grades in music class are compiled from these areas of growth as assessed by the teacher:

- >Academic progress - mastery of curriculum being taught
- >Participation/Effort
- >Behavior/Citizenship

In addition to general music classes during school hours, the PSE Music Program offers an opportunity for 4th and 5th graders to participate in our after-school PSE Chorus. Auditions for this year's PSE Chorus shall take place on August 27th & 28th. Weekly rehearsals are on Wednesday afternoons. Be on the lookout for additional information.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our music program, please feel free to contact me at: [David.Levitan@BrowardSchools.com](mailto:David.Levitan@BrowardSchools.com).



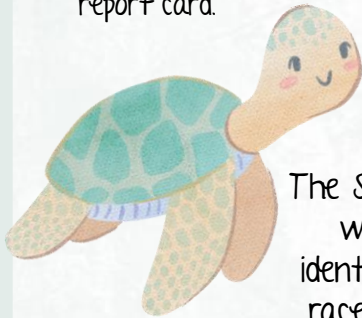
# Media

Students in all grades will be learning and reviewing the book care rules and procedures in preparation to borrow books from the PSE Media Center in a few weeks.

K-2 Students will practice choosing books and how to use a shelf marker. Students will learn library skills such as sections of the library, how books are categorized and where they can be found in the library as well as how books are labeled for easy finding.

Students in Third Grade will be reviewing library skills such as the parts of the library ie: fiction, nonfiction, biography, and the sections within the Dewey Decimal system to learn how to independently find books they would like to borrow and begin a unit on genre studies. Students will be given assessments and grades will count towards science on their report card.

Students in Fourth/Fifth Grade will continue to learn and review library skills, the Dewey decimal system along with science. Fourth Grade will begin science with a unit on Earth's rotation and revolution. Fifth Grade will begin science with a unit on plant life cycle. Students will be given assessments and grades will count towards science on their report card.



Book Fair will be coming back to PSE in just a few short weeks. We will have an on-campus fair for all students from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. All students will be able to shop during their scheduled Media specials time that week. Cash will not be accepted at the fair. We will be using E-Wallet only. More book fair information will be coming very soon! We will need lots of volunteers for the Book Fair (8:00am - 1:45pm).

All volunteers must be registered and cleared by BCPS.

Reading Across Broward is a BCPS program that promotes and encourages reading in all our students. Park Springs participates in the program every year and all students who participate receive a certificate from BCPS in a special assembly at PSE. Be sure to get your form and start documenting all your books! All forms are due April 3<sup>rd</sup>. No late forms will be accepted.



The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. The School Board also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department & District's Equity Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator at 754-321-2150 or email [eeo@browardschools.com](mailto:eeo@browardschools.com).



# Spanish/ Technology

## Spanish

Bienvenido! Welcome!

I am so excited to be teaching Spanish to our wonderful kindergarten, first and second grade students at Park Springs Elementary. Spanish for primary students in elementary school is an exploratory program where students are exposed to the culture and basic words and conversation in the language. The book we use is called "Descubre Espanol" (Discover Spanish). That is exactly what we will be doing...discovering and learning cultural uniqueness of various Hispanic countries around the world. Students will appreciate the different music, dances, celebrations, food and experiences shared by other children alike.

Our lessons will focus on word knowledge and simple sentences in the language, as well as making connections through communicating with others in Spanish. These lessons are reinforced with songs, videos, activities and workbook lessons. Have your child share with you what they learned in Spanish class and what they learned about other countries in the world.

## Technology

Welcome!

Another wonderful year awaits us at Park Springs Elementary Technology Class. I really enjoy watching our 3rd-5th graders learn how technology has evolved throughout the ages. During this quarter, students will also work on their keyboarding skills as they practice typing using various programs like typing.com, nearpod and arcademics. The goal is for 3rd graders to type 15 words per minute, 4th graders 20 words per minute and 5th graders 25 words per minute by the end of the year. During technology class students will be exposed to science lessons. Third through fifth graders will learn science topics covered in the fair games standards.

We have a busy year of coding, nearpod, arcademics, typing, science research and projects, music and art technology programs, bloojet, kahoot, word processing, powerpoint and so much more!