

# The Panther Playbook

Pines Lakes Elementary  
A School Wide Title I School



Susan F. Sasse, *Principal*  
Amrita Balroop, *Assistant Principal*

December 2019  
pineslakes.browardschools.com

## A Message From Our Principal

As you and your families are gearing up for the approaching holidays, we too are preparing for a very busy December at PLE! Please make note of the days, times and information within this newsletter for our Field Days, PTA Holiday Store, and Winter Show. We hope to see you at many of these exciting school traditions!

At Pines Lakes Elementary, we provided targeted instruction to all children using the Florida Standards as our framework. To ensure that our students are provided the enrichment and interventions they require to be successful, we have developed mini-assessments in reading, math, and science for students in grades 2-5. Every four weeks, PLE students show what they know! Our teachers use data from these assessments to provide students with targeted remediation or enrichment. We will be recognizing students who are working hard and demonstrate proficiency with a special event during the school day. Students who score 70% or greater on any of the three subject areas will be acknowledged as a "Smart Cookie" and receive a special treat. For each score of 70% and higher, students will receive one entry into our year end giveaway! Additionally, students in kindergarten through fifth grade are expected to complete i-Ready lessons weekly. Recommended usage is 45 minutes per subject (reading & math), with an expected pass rate of 70%. The class with the most number of i-Ready lessons passed will receive a pizza party. The top 3 students each month will receive a chance to "PIE" the Principal & Assistant Principal at the end of the year. Please look for the flyer coming home with your child.

We are excited to recognize the hard work of our students and hope you can find time to discuss with your child and reinforce their hard work. With so much happening at our school this month, I am sure our paths will cross for me to wish you a Happy Holiday in person. But in case I don't see some of you, I'll pass along my wishes now for a STEMazing holiday season! Thank you for sharing your "gifts" with me - your PAWsome children! I am so blessed to serve as your principal!

*Mrs. Susan Sasse*



@Sasseprincipal

## A Message From Our Assistant Principal

The commitment to Pines Lakes has been in full effect from students, parents, instructional and non-instructional staff in 2019! Diligence and perseverance are evident as Mrs. Sasse and I visit classrooms, we see a growth mindset here at PLE. Our students are improving their academic skills and our teachers continuing to lead students and give them the tools they need to succeed. At Pines Lakes we work together to ensure that all students have a plan for success. Parents, your partnership with us is valued and it is our hope that you work collaboratively with your child's teacher to foster their love for learning and help them reach their goals both academically and socially. We thank you for your continued support.

As the holiday season approaches and the year ends, I cannot help but to remind you all to take time to reflect on your goals. Here at PLE one of our goals is to embrace "Kindness" year-round. I challenge you to remember to spread kindness especially at this time of year, often acts or words of kindness can improve someone's day. This initiative we have been practicing at PLE has cultivated a positive culture and environment for learning.

PLE has also embraced the motto, "It Takes An Entire Village To Raise A Child". This year we are thankful to our school and community partners who are always willing to share their time and resources to assist our organization. A special thank you to the following partners in education: Bahama Breeze, Comerica Bank, Jamba Juice, Parent Volunteers, Pines Lakes Elementary PTA, Two River Church, YMCA, Broward County Library, Flanagan High School UTAP Program, Mario's Pizzeria, Pembroke Pines Police Department, Southwest Focal Point Community Center and Valic. We are extremely thankful for your support and dedication to our students, faculty and staff!

Wishing you all a safe and happy holidays!



@AP\_Balroop

*Ms. Amrita Balroop*

## Important Dates

- 12/7....Chorus Snowfest Performance at Charles F. Dodge City Center 5:00PM.
- 12/10 - 18.....PTA Holiday Shop
- 12/12...Chorus/Recorder Winter Show 6:30PM  
Individual Picture Day Make-Ups
- 12/13.....Chorus Winterfest Fieldtrip to Airport

### FIELD DAYS 2018

Pre-K - VPK	12/09 – 8:30 to 9:30 AM
K	12/10 - 8:30 to 10:30 AM
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	12/11 – Full Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	12/13 – Full Day
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	12/16 – Full Day
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12/17 – Full Day
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12/18 – Full Day

- 12/20..... Early Release Day  
11:50 AM
- 12/23/19 – 1/6/20.....Winter Break
- 1/7/2020.....School Resumes

## Safety First

From Officer Soubasis



Hello Everyone!

As we enter our "winter season" there are many students leaving their jackets, gloves, sweaters, etc. behind throughout their day. We are finding these articles of clothing in many different areas of the campus (common play areas, café, multi-purpose areas, field, media center, and basketball courts). We are also finding shoes, lunch boxes, ball caps, glasses and other non-winter related articles. Please help your children keep track of their belongings by writing their name on their property so it can be returned if located. Unclaimed and unidentified articles will be kept for a week then placed in a donation bin. If you believe your children may be missing some of these articles, please visit the office or tell your children to check the lost and found areas for their property.

I wish you and your family a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

**Remember to label all jackets, sweaters, and lunchboxes with your child's name!**

### EARLY SIGN OUT

If a child is at lunch, specials or recess during Early Sign-Out, backpacks **CANNOT** be retrieved.

We apologize for any inconvenience.



# STEM-azing Stuff

Mrs. Funk, STEM Coach

Greetings PLE Families,

Happy December! Our first Family STEM Night of this year was a great success, and I hope that those of you that were able to come out truly enjoyed the Star-studded evening. The flyer for our Winter Break STEM challenge will be sent home soon and I hope to see many families participating in this fun activity!

Although snow and ice are not part of winter here in South Florida, for those of you that travel over the break, I'm sure you will encounter your fair share of these wintry conditions. Icy roads are a huge problem and many states use salt trucks during the winter. Do you know why??? Salt and ice react chemically to help melt the ice. Salt also reduces the freezing temperature of water, making it colder than just the ice alone. You can use this principle for a fun and delicious STEM activity and make your own ice cream! All you need is milk, sugar, any toppings you like, 2 zip lock bags, salt and ice.

Fill a small plastic bag with 1/2 cup milk, 1/2 tbsp. vanilla and 1 tbsp. sugar. Next, half fill a large plastic bag with ice. Have your child pour 6 tbsp. of salt over their ice then place the small bag in the large bag. (Rock salt works best.) Have them seal their large bag and start shaking for 5 to 10 minutes. They will be able to see through the clear bag what the salt does to the ice, and how their ice cream is made. Experiment with different ingredients and enjoy!

I hope to see you all at our next Family STEM Night on January 29th.



## Loving Literacy

Mrs. Benitez, Literacy Coach



### Give the Gift of Reading This Holiday Season

Reading with your child and encouraging your older children to read are among the most important things you can do as a parent because you will be providing your children with the opportunity to become better and more confident readers as they grow. If your family is bilingual, books in your first language or bilingual books are great options for your children — research shows that strong reading skills in a child's first language will allow them to become stronger readers in their second language.

#### Book Recommendations

Good books are wonderful gifts! Young children can enjoy the magic of a book's story and illustrations again and again, and when they read with you they will practice their reading skills and learn something new.

**What about e-books?** It's tempting to let the device do the work — read the story, play a game and interact with your child, but there's no substitute for quality parent-child conversation.

**Finding and Sharing Great Kids' Books:** Here's some advice about how to find a good children's book and what to do once you're reading together. What to look for: Look for award-winning books. Each year the American Library Association selects children's books for the Caldecott Medal for illustrations and the Newbery Medal for writing. Check the book review section of newspapers and magazines for the recommended new children's books.

**Remember:** There are many ways to gather books and share a love of reading with a child. Borrowing books from your local public library and swapping favorites with neighbors are good ways to learn about new books.

**What to do:** It's important to read to your child, but it's also important to listen to them read. Your support and encouragement helps them develop their skills. Listen carefully as your child reads. Take turns. Read a paragraph (or page) and have your child read the next one. Tell your child how proud you are of his or her efforts and skills. If your child has trouble reading a word, you can help in several ways: Guide him/her to use what they know about letters and sounds to sound out the word. Ask him/her to skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and then say a word that would make sense in the story. Supply the correct word.

**Remember:** Your child may be focusing more on how to read each word than on what they mean, so your reading helps to keep the story alive.

**Happy Holidays!**

## “PAWSITIVE” PTA NEWS

Our Family Game Night was a success. Thank you to all the families that participated!

We are still accepting PTA Memberships. The membership fee is \$5.00 per person. Although we would love your time, volunteering is not a requirement to join PTA.

PTA Will host a Holiday Shop from December 10<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Please look for the flyer and envelope coming soon. We are in need of volunteers. Come out and support our students as they shop for their loved ones. If you are interested please contact us at [pantherprideple@yahoo.com](mailto:pantherprideple@yahoo.com)

We wish all of our families a Joyous Season!

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 Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158.

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 Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158.

## Exceptional Student Education

Dr. Taber, ESE Specialist



It's hard to believe that another year is quickly coming to an end. This school year our ESE Panthers have been working extra hard to achieve great success not only academically but socially as well. The student's success is the result of team work between the teachers and the parents. I would like to personally thank our parents for proving us with the necessary support to help your child success. The ESE Department hopes that 2020 brings you not only health, happiness, and prosperity. On behalf of the ESE team at Pines Lakes Elementary, we wish you and your family a peaceful holiday season and a wonderful New Years!!

Happy Holidays.

## Healthy Hearts and Minds

Mrs. Yoloye, Guidance

Congratulations to Bella who is selected as our Kid of Character for the Month of November. Bella is a true representative of this month's character trait of kindness. She is always willing to help her teacher and fellow classmates when needed. Her sweet demeanor never goes unrecognized, which makes her truly deserving of this award. We are so proud to have such a sweet and caring student in our school.



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