

The Panther Playbook

Pines Lakes Elementary
A School Wide Title I School



Susan F. Sasse, *Principal*
John Hoolihan, *Assistant Principal*

January 2019
pineslakes.browardschools.com

A Message From Our Principal

Welcome back from Winter Break and Happy 2019 to all our Panther families! The new year is an exciting time for us all. I find myself energized and more ready than ever to continue our mission of preparing our next generation to be problem solvers and innovative thinkers! Kudos to those families who participated in our Winter Break STEM Family Challenge. We are excited to see just how far our students' minds have been expanded through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. You'll see these projects, along with many others, on display during our STEM Family Night on Tuesday, January 29th. Our committee is excited to judge these creative projects and announce the students who earned a copy of the book from this challenge.

This week we begin the second half of the school year. How time flies when we're having fun! Speaking of fun, we have Welcome Back Week activities planned for our students. Look for the flyer sent home in December, or check our website for details.

Each month in this section of the newsletter, an area of instruction is highlighted to better inform parents and families of our core work: improving student achievement. In the first half of this school year, we've covered BEST targets, STEM, Daily Dose, CARE Cycle Assessments and iReady to name a few. I appreciate our parents taking the time to carefully read and make note of the contents in our monthly newsletter.

This month, I'm dedicating this space to KINDNESS. While the traditional subjects are certainly important, as a mother and a principal I also value teaching character traits to our children. Continuing the tradition I started here years ago, I act as the "Kindness Queen" on our Monday morning announcements. Students (and staff) are encouraged to nominate someone who embodies one of our Power of Three principles- Taking Care of Self, Taking Care of Others, & Taking Care of our Environment. This is a great way to highlight individuals for going out of their way to spread kindness. Don't forget to follow me on Twitter (@Sasseprincipal) to see how kindness grows at PLE. Wishing you a peaceful and productive 2019!

"Glitter, Sparkle, Shine, but most of all be KIND!"



@Sasseprincipal

A Message From Our Assistant Principal Mrs. Sasse

Happy New Year

Panther Family! I hope that your time away was well spent creating holiday memories that will last a lifetime. Entering our building each day I am inspired by the collaboration and teamwork that surrounds our school. I see teachers, parents, non-instructional personnel, cafeteria staff and our facilities teams working with each other to make Pines Lakes Elementary the best school in all of Broward County. Teamwork is critical to the success of the most important people in our building, students!

From the bottom of my heart I want to take time to thank each member of this community for helping to ensure that students are here on time and ready to learn! This means that your child is in his/her seat prior to 7:50 am. Mrs. Sasse opens the school doors ten minutes earlier so that your child can start their day with a hot breakfast and still have ample time to make it to class, unpack their belongings and have an awesome day. Packing your child's book bag and having it ready to go by the door helps to make your morning less chaotic. When we arrive on time, we model responsibility to our next generation. It's important to remember that showing up late not only impacts your child, but also sets off a chain reaction and interruptions in the learning of others.

As I monitor the academic progress of our students, I'm confident that we are moving in the right direction. Last year our school was in the 92nd percentile for academic growth and we are continuing with the work needed to earn our "A"! Our dedicated teachers are available to meet with parents to provide detailed information regarding your child's academic or social progress. Checking your child's book bag each night and using their agenda book helps you to stay informed. Setting goals with your child will help you to stay focused and celebrate their accomplishments. If you need help with this process, please reach out to your child's teacher. Together, we can make 2019 our best year yet!

Mr. Hoolihan



@Mr_Hoolihan

Important Dates

1/8.....	Welcome Back! Tuesday 1/9: Crazy Hat Day Wednesday 1/10: Word Day Thursday 1/11: Dress For Success Friday 1/12: Favorite Color Day
1/8.....	Quarter 3 Begins
1/11.....	Student Of The Month Recognition
1/21.....	Dr. Martin Luther King Day- No School
1/25.....	SAC/SAF Meeting 7:30 AM
1/28.....	Class Pictures
1/29.....	STEM Family Night 6:00 PM
1/30.....	Reports Cards Issued

Safety First

From Officer Soubasis



As we start our "winter season" and the cold fronts come through students are wearing their winter clothes to school. They are leaving numerous articles of winter clothes behind throughout their day. We are finding these articles of clothing around the campus (common play areas, café, multi-purpose areas, field, media center, and basketball courts). We are also finding lunch boxes, ball caps, reading 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 as long as possible, then will be 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. As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year.

BSA

Please be advised that during the month of January and February, Pines Lakes Elementary School students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be taking the BSA (Broward Standards Assessment). The BSA will be an 80-minute computer-based test given in two sessions on the following days:

- January 22 & 23 Grade 3: English-Language Arts
- January 24 & 25 Grade 3: Mathematics
- January 23 & 24 Grade 5: Science
- January 30 & 31 Grade 4 & 5: English-Language Arts
- February 5 & 6 Grade 4 & 5: Mathematics



STEM-azing Stuff

Mrs. Funk, STEM Coach

Happy New Year PLE Families!

I hope that students are thirsty for all the new knowledge that will be coming their way as this quarter begins. Through their continuous exposure to STEM education throughout the curriculum, our students will be called upon to use higher order thinking skills and be problem solvers. Project based learning in STEM provides our teachers the opportunity for students to collaborate, explore, and experiment. Elementary aged students are curious and inquisitive by nature, and research shows that students exposed to STEM education at a young age will be much better prepared as they progress from one grade level to the next. A critical component of STEM education comes from asking questions. Providing students with the answers right away does not allow them the chance for critical thinking. They must be given time for a "productive struggle" and come up with a solution. When your child asks a question, ask some follow up question in return. Taking the time to ask your child these deeper questions will show you what they have learned and identify areas that may need a bit more focus. If our students are able to identify the "why" behind the "what, then we as educators and parents know that they are on the track.

Please keep an eye out for our next Family STEM Night flyer!
Hoping to see you there on January 29th!

Loving Literacy

Mrs. Benitez, Literacy Coach



Waking Up From Holiday Break: How To Get Your Kids Ready For School After the Holidays

From all of us at Pines Lakes Elementary, Happy 2019 Panthers! We're excited for a new year of more learning adventures. We know that getting into the swing of things after the holidays can be tricky, especially since the months between winter and spring breaks are crucial to end the school year strong.

Unplug and Get a Good Night's Sleep

Much like summer, winter break brings less restrictions on TV, computer and video games. It's easy for kids to become night owls when they know they can sleep in the next morning. Both of these habits can make the first week back to school challenging, even for the most motivated student. Before sending them back to regular routines, lessen screen time and ease back to a reasonable bedtime.

Remember Breakfast

Healthy, filling breakfasts are one of the most important factors in a child's ability to focus in class. If they arrive to school hungry, they will likely be sluggish and distracted from the get-go. If the breakfast they did eat consisted of sugary cereal or doughnuts, they will often experience an energy decline an hour into the day. Start the day off right with a nutritious and filling breakfast, such as oatmeal or toast with peanut butter.

Get Organized

Take inventory of your child's school supplies. Do they need refills on paper or pencils? Are folders exploding with old papers? Does their backpack have wrappers crumpled at the bottom? Help them return to school with pencils sharpened and folders organized. Teachers will thank you!

Read...

and not just with your child. Get back into the habit of reading the notes that come home from school. Take the time each day to check for letters and flyers from the school. This will make it much easier for everyone when the time comes for permission slips to be turned in or conferences to be scheduled.

Check In

You may have had a parent-teacher conference just before the holiday season. If not, take a moment this month to check in with the teacher about your child's progress, especially if you have concerns. It is still early enough in the year to work on behavior or skills that may be holding your child back from reaching their full potential.

Back to Homework

Just like at the start of the year, your child will have to get back into the habit of regular homework. So will you. Decide if what you were doing in the fall was the best schedule for fitting in homework, and reorganize it if necessary.

Happy 2019!

"PAWSITIVE" PTA NEWS

families had a safe and happy new year. our holiday shop a success. Night. Hope to see you there!

Contest! Your artwork could proudly be displayed on our 2018-2019 PLE yearbook. As always, you can reach PTA via email at Pantherprideple@yahoo.com

Holiday Shop- Thank you to all of our volunteers and families for making There will be a PTA meeting held on January 29th at 6:00pm, directly followed by STEM

*Don't Forget: January 11th is the deadline to submit your drawing for the Yearbook Cover

As always, you can reach PTA via email at Pantherprideple@yahoo.com

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



Happy New Year to you and your family! The ESE Department at Pines Lakes hopes that you had a relaxed holiday break and that you were able to spend time with your loved ones. We would also like to welcome our new preschool students who are starting with us this January. Our preschool family continues to grow every week. The wonderful thing about our program is that early interventions prepare our students for a successful academic life and we are excited to get started. On behalf of the ESE Department at Pines Lakes Elementary, I wish you a great 2019.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

What is the SIP?

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is a set of goals, objectives and action steps, that drives our educational activities relating to school improvement and education accountability. Parents, teachers, and administrators all have a role in developing these goals. Each plan shall address issues relative to budget, training, instructional materials, technology, staffing, student support services, specific school safety and discipline strategies, and other matters of resource allocation, as determined by district school board policy, and shall be based on an analysis of student achievement and other school performance data.

PLAN DE MEJORA ESCOLAR

El Plan de Mejora Escolar es un conjunto de metas, objetivos y pasos que impulsan nuestras actividades educativas relacionadas con el mejoramiento escolar y la responsabilidad educative. Padres, maestros y administradores, tiene el papel de desarrollar dichas metas. Cada plan debere abordar temas como: presupuesto, entrenamientos, materiales, tecnologia, servicios para el estudiante y estrategias de disciplina y seguridad y otros asuntos de asignacion de recursos determinados por el distrito escolar basado en los datos del rendimiento escolar.

Healthy Hearts and Minds

Mrs. Yolove, Guidance

December's Character Trait was Kindness. Students show they are kind by being friendly, generous, and considerate to others. This aligns with our school "Power of Three" focus. This month we are proud to highlight one of our students who exemplifies KINDNESS - Matthew. Matthew shows kindness to everyone he meets. He's constantly smiling as he walks through the halls and is always ready to help a friend in need. Congratulations to Matthew for being recognized as our schoolwide Kid of Character!



Welcome back! The PTA hopes that all of our PLE

Holiday Shop- Thank you to all of our volunteers and families for making

