

# The Panther Playbook

Pines Lakes Elementary  
A School Wide Title I School



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

January 2020  
pineslakes.browardschools.com

## A Message From Our Principal

Welcome back from Winter Break and Happy 2020 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 Wednesday, 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 2020!

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



@Sasseprincipal

*Mrs. Susan Sasse*

## A Message From Our Assistant Principal

Happy New Year Panther Family! I trust that you all had a well-rested winter break with your friends and families and are ready to be back in school! I am so excited to have you all back as we continue our journey to meeting our 2019-2020 goals. As we rise "To Proficiency And Beyond" it is important that we work as a team to help our students reach their academic goals. I know that our teachers, parents, non-instructional personnel, cafeteria staff and facilities teams are all working diligently to make Pines Lakes Elementary the best school in Broward County!

As I continue to monitor our school's academic progress, I have a few suggestions to help our students be prepared for learning. Students are encouraged to read every night to practice the literacy skills they are learning in school. It is important that they pack their bookbags the night before so that they are prepared for the next morning. Parents, our school doors open at 7:10 a.m. to allow students grades K-5 additional time to have their breakfast and be to class on time at 7:50 a.m. Getting them to school on time allows them the time they need to unpack their belongings and be prepared to have a great start to their instructional day. Please remember that showing up late not only impacts your child, but also creates interruptions in the learning of others. As a reminder, 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 bookbag each night and using their agenda book helps you to stay informed. Setting goals with your child will help you them to stay focused and celebrate their accomplishments. If you need help with this process, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Let's make 2020 the BEST year ever!



@AP\_Balroop

*Ms. Amrita Balroop*

## Important Dates

- 1/7-10.....Welcome Back Week!  
Tuesday 1/7: Crazy Hat Day  
Wednesday 1/9: Word Day  
Thursday 1/10: Cool Socks Day  
Friday 1/11: Wear your Favorite Color Top
- 1/7.....Quarter 3 Begins
- 1/10.....Kids Of Character 7:50 AM  
Field Day 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 1/15.....Class Pictures (Wear Uniforms)
- 1/20.....Dr. Martin Luther King Day- No School
- 1/22.....Curriculum Night 6:00PM
- 1/27-31.....Celebrate Literacy Week
- 1/28.....100<sup>th</sup> Day!
- 1/29.....STEM Family Night 6:00 PM  
Reports Cards Issued
- 1/31.....SAC Meeting 7:30 AM

## Safety First

From Officer Soubasis



Hello Panthers!

As a reminder...The State of Florida has initiated a new traffic law for ALL school zones and work zones. **NO HANDHELD CELL PHONES/DEVICES IN SCHOOL ZONES, WORK/CONSTRUCTION ZONES.**

Basically, "a person may not operate a motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device in a handheld manner in a designated school crossing, school zone, or work zone area. A motor vehicle that is stationary is not being operated and is not subject to the prohibition in this paragraph." **THIS LAW INCLUDES OUR CAR LOOPS.** For additional details on this new traffic law, you can search for Florida Statute 316.306 (3)(a)1. Please do not take offense when I, or another officer warns you or issues a citation. Have a safe happy new year.

Thank you!

### 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 is an 80-minute computer-based test given in two sessions on the following days:

- January 16 & 17 Grade 3: English-Language Arts
- January 27 & 28 Grade 5: English-Language Arts
- January 30 & 31 Grade 4: English-Language Arts
- February 3 & 4 Grade 5: Science



# STEM-azing Stuff

Mrs. Funk, STEM Coach

Happy New Year PLE Families!

May this new year bring endless opportunities for learning! The month of January has several fun and exciting reasons to celebrate, and of course, STEM activities can be integrated to make it much more interesting! Here is a list of some quirky reasons to celebrate and some ways to do so:

January 4th is National Spaghetti Day, January 5th is National Bird Day, January 23rd is National Pie Day, and January 29th is National Puzzle Day. Spaghetti is used in many STEM challenges and one of the simplest is to build the tallest freestanding tower with only 15 pieces of spaghetti and a few pieces of tape! How about celebrating our feathery flying friends by building a bird house or bird bath? National Pie Day is a great way to mix in some math and measurement as well as create a new family recipe! Finally, puzzles are a terrific way to put those problem solving skills to the test! They require critical thinking, teamwork, and patience. 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. Working with your child on STEM activities will continue to strengthen their problem-solving skills and is a wonderful way to connect with your child. 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



### Ready, Set, Go! Tips for Returning to School After a Holiday Break

#### **It can be hard for students to get back in gear after a school holiday.**

Coming back from holiday break can be a challenge for all students. Travel, late nights, sleeping in, and visits with family and friends can throw off a student's normal routine.

As a parent, there are a few things you can do to help your children get back in the groove after an extended break. It may seem impossible to get grumpy kids out of bed early and off to school. After school, you may feel overwhelmed trying to get your child to focus on his or her homework.

#### **Getting adequate sleep**

School breaks create a big shift in sleeping patterns. Parents may loosen the rules about bedtimes, TV, video games and screen time.

It is easy for students to get out of a good sleeping routine. Staying up late and sleeping in becomes the norm, and the first early week of school is a rude awakening.

This can really make the school day challenging because sleep deprivation makes it very difficult for students to focus during class.

You can help solve this problem by easing back to a normal bedtime routine a day or two before school starts. Limit screen time and enforce a decent bedtime – your child may not understand, but you will be glad he or she got the extra sleep on the first day back to school.

#### **Stick to a routine**

Students of all ages tend to better on a consistent schedule. This is because there is an established pattern, and the student will know what to expect out of each day.

Just because school is out for a break does not mean you should completely give up on maintaining a routine.

A regular schedule, combined with a good night's sleep, will help your child to physically and mentally keep up with the demands of going back to school.

#### **Check-in**

The last tip is to check-in with your child's teachers. Take a moment during your day to send a quick text or email. This way, if there are any concerns about your child's academic performance or attentiveness, you can establish an action plan with the teacher. Do not wait until the next parent-teacher conference to address these issues. After the holiday break marks half of the school year. This is an important time as teachers and students are preparing for end-of-year performance tasks and assessments.

#### **Communication at Pines Lakes**

It is important to check your child's agenda and folder on a regular basis to be aware of important communication going home. In addition, please update your contact information with the school to make sure you are receiving weekly updates via telephone and email.

Happy New Year!

## “PAWSITIVE” PTA NEWS

***Happy New Year! We are still collecting PTA memberships. Please remember, there is no time commitment required as your membership benefits all students at Pines Lakes. Look out for more details on our Family Night at BurgerFi. Yearbooks will be going on sale soon. Interested in joining the PTA as a board member for the 2020-2021 School Year? Reach out to us at [pantherprideple@yahoo.com](mailto: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 quality time with your loved ones. As we begin the second half of the school year, 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 2020.

## Healthy Hearts and Minds

Mrs. Yoloye, Guidance

Congratulations to Doohavel. Since arriving at PLE, she has always been displaying kindness to others. She teaches the rest of the students to always have a positive attitude and outlook on life and learning. She always has a smile on her face while encouraging students to be respectful and follow the rules and expectations of our classroom and school. She is a role model to the classroom while she herself, is adapting to a new school, country and community.



### POWER UP WITH NUTRITION

Mrs. Kelly Hepler, Cafeteria Manager

Happy 2020 from the cafeteria. Please remember when you come back from Winter break to put money in your child's lunch account or to send money with your child. We will be having our next "taste testing" around the middle of the month.



