

# The Panther Playbook

Pines Lakes Elementary  
A School Wide Title I School



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

March 2020

pinelakes.browardschools.com

## A Message From Our Principal

With so much happening in March, we appreciate our families taking the time to read our monthly newsletter and stay informed. We are officially in "Crunch Time" for our Upper School students, meaning we are taking advantage of every opportunity to help them master the Florida Standards prior to the upcoming state assessments. To help prepare our families for testing, we provided a Parent Training in January. If you weren't able to join us, those documents are posted on our website for your review and you can also visit [fsassessments.org](http://fsassessments.org). We have reviewed our school mid-year data to make adjustments to our instructional plan and the leadership team has developed an action plan to provide targeted support as needed for students and teachers. The specific testing days are posted in this newsletter, but we also want to make you aware that we have a special day planned for our third, fourth & fifth graders to show them that we know they are "RED-y" (ready) for these tests. On March 30th, we invite all our students to wear RED to show our support for our Upper School students. Our staff, students, and families are to be commended for how hard they are working and the progress we are making toward our goal of earning an "A" this year!

I am wishing everyone a safe and fun Spring Break and a Marvelous March! I am so LUCKY to serve as your principal!



@Sasseprincipal

*Mrs. Susan Sasse*

## Important Dates

- 3/6.....Kid of Character Celebration  
7:50AM
- 3/11.....4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip.
- 3/12.....K Field Trip
- 3/13.....SAC Meeting 2:15PM  
PTA Cupcake & Canvas Event
- 3/17.....Employee Planning Day
- 3/19.....Early Release - 11:50AM
- 3/20.....Employee Planning Day
- 3/23 - 27.....Spring Break
- 3/30.....School Resumes
- 4/3.....Kid of Character Celebration  
7:50AM
- Upcoming Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)  
Upper School
- 4/1-2...Third Grade -English Language Arts
- 4/2.....Fourth & Fifth Grade - Writing
- 4/8.....Fifth Grade - Science
- 5/5-6...Fourth & Fifth Grade-English Language Arts
- 5/12-13... Third, Fourth & Fifth Grade - Math

## Safety First

From Officer Soubasis

## A Message From Our Assistant Principal

It's a busy time of year at PLE! Our Panthers are using their time in school to review their goals based on our mid-year assessments and focus on what they still need to accomplish. At Pines Lakes Elementary, we monitor our academic progress through our School Improvement Plan. Each year all stakeholders are invited to work as a team to develop and refine this plan in order for us to identify areas of growth school-wide. Upon completing our mid-year reflection curriculum coaches and teachers are adjusting our instructional plans to ensure that our students' needs are met. We encourage you to play an active role in the development and monitoring of this plan by becoming a member of our School Advisory Council (SAC). Our next SAC meeting will be held on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 2:15 p.m. Our Title One Parent Involvement Plan (PIP) is also available on our website with various parent resources for your knowledge. The District / LEA / Parent Involvement Plan is located at [https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13545/LEA%20PFEP%202019-2020\\_9-6-19%20ADA.pdf](https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13545/LEA%20PFEP%202019-2020_9-6-19%20ADA.pdf).

If you need assistance with locating these plans please contact Dr. Taber or Mrs. Dejean at 754-323-7100.



@AP\_Balroop

*Ms. Amrita Balroop*

Each one of our student panthers deserve to have a fun, stress-free, non-threatening educational environment. With all of the social media, violent video games, and television shows teaching violence, our little ones are exposed to absorbing words, phrases, thoughts and ideas into their minds. Sometimes those thoughts and ideas carry over to their school environment and are verbally passed on to other students through conversation, play, or aggression. Florida Laws are extremely strict with a zero tolerance for communicating any threat of violence (to one's self or others) or disruption of any school environment/function. Please know that even playing around with friends and saying these things are not acceptable in any way and are taken very seriously. A reason such as "I was just joking around" as well as any other excuses when communicating threats or violence are non-acceptable. School administrators and police have a mandatory obligation to immediately investigate, report, and act on these types of incidents. We encourage you to talk to your children to make them aware of the seriousness of such comments as well as the serious consequences following. We also encourage you to tell your children it is ok to report or tell an adult of any thoughts, words, comments, etc. that they may have heard throughout their day. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me through the frc



**See something.  
Say something.**



# STEM-azing Stuff

Mrs. Funk, STEM Coach



Greetings PLE Families!

Happy almost spring! This time of year here in South Florida may not feel much different from other months, but our plants definitely know the difference. Our flowers and other greenery seem to come alive during these months, thanks to the increase in rainfall and our pollinators such as bees, birds, and butterflies. Pollination is necessary for plants to reproduce and make more seeds. The seeds contain the genetic information to make new plants. I'm sure you have noticed the little colorful flowers that grow in the grass and the bees flying all around them. These bees are doing a very important job of transferring pollen from one flower to another without even knowing it. Just be make sure to watch where you step as there will be more and more in our yards these next few weeks.

## Loving Literacy

Mrs. Benitez, Literacy Coach

### How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Assessments

Assessments are some of the ways schools and teachers monitor student learning. It's important that your child do their best. These tests can provide you and your child's teacher with insight into their progress, helping you identify areas for improvement.

Successful test-takers tend to be students with good attendance, homework, good reading habits, and study skills. This is why your daily assistance with homework and attitude toward school have the biggest impact on your child's performance. However, there are key ways you can develop these abilities.

- **Brain power.**  
Students who struggle the most tend to be those who do not get enough sleep or a good breakfast. When they are physically or mentally unprepared they often struggle.
- **Encourage good study habits and challenge critical-thinking skills.**  
Monitoring overall academic progress and staying in good communication with the teacher will keep you informed on how you can better assist your child. Good reading skills factor heavily in a timed assessment, so encourage reading (magazines, newspapers, or even comic books if they shy away from books) as much as possible. Testing also measures critical thinking ability, so ask your child to discuss ideas or voice their opinion with evidence and reasoning to encourage higher order thinking.
- **Look at your child's past performance and provide opportunities for practice.**  
If your child struggles in a particular area, you may want to provide them with exercises that reinforce that skill or area. Study sessions while setting small goals, such as learning five new words or math facts each session, will help measure progress and boost confidence.
- **Be positive.**  
The most important thing you can do is to let your child know you believe in them. Celebrate successes and encourage them to meet their academic goals.

## Exceptional Student Education

Dr. Taber, ESE Specialist



The Florida Department of Education is working in conjunction with school districts to gather information on how well your child's school is supporting parental involvement in your child's education. This information will help guide school and district improvement efforts. This survey is for parents of students with individualized Educational Plans (IEP) who are receiving special education services during the 2019-2020 school year. All information provided will remain confidential and no personally identifiable information will be included in data. Included with the survey there is a self-addressed, postage paid envelope for the return of the survey. If you receive a survey, please follow the instruction on the document and return it to our school or place the self-addressed envelope in a mailbox by no later than May 30, 2020. If you prefer to complete the survey online, please visit [www.esesurvey.com](http://www.esesurvey.com) and use the survey ID included in your survey. The state, district and school level results of this survey will be posted on the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) website at [www.fldoe.org/ease/parent/](http://www.fldoe.org/ease/parent/)

## Healthy Hearts and Minds

Mrs. Yoloye, Guidance

Aryan was chosen as our SOM for the month of February. He is an excellent example of a student with self-control. Aryan consistently does the right thing and makes sure he is behaving his best to be a role model for peers. We are so proud of Aryan and all his hard work!



### **Power Up with Nutrition**

From Mrs. Hepler, Food & Nutrition Manager

The cafeteria is excited to remind everyone that all students eat free for breakfast, so come join us each morning at 7:10 am. Please remember to give your child their lunch money. You can make a payment online and also monitor your child's account at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com). or send cash, or check to the cafeteria with your child. This month our food tasting was Portabella mushrooms & next month will be Red seedless grapes. I hope everyone enjoyed tasting them. Remember to eat healthy at school and home, by filling half of your plate with fruits and vegetables.

### **"PAWSITIVE" PTA NEWS**

Thank you to everyone that came out supported our Family Night at Burger Fi. PTA raised \$34.40. We hope you had a great time at our Bike Rodeo. We sure did! Yearbooks are still on sale. Please visit [pictavo.com](http://pictavo.com) to purchase your yearbook for the low price of \$17. 5th-grade parents, there is still time to recognize your graduate in the yearbook. Full-page ad is \$20 and the half-page ad is \$10. Our cupcake and canvas event is March 13th, 2020. Please see flyer for details. There are many opportunities available to volunteer, join our PTA and even consider being on the PTA Executive Board.

All positions are open for next year. Please email us at [pantherprideple@yahoo.com](mailto:pantherprideple@yahoo.com).

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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.

