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"Pioneers for the Future"

FEBRUARY 2016



**PINELLAS
COUNTY
SCHOOLS**

AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
INSTITUTION
FOR EDUCATION &
EMPLOYMENT

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A note from Mrs. Buckles.....

Dear Pioneer Families,

Welcome to the February Garrison-Jones Elementary newsletter. I would love for you to visit our web site and hope it will introduce you to our school community.

We have a warm and welcoming atmosphere, dedicated teachers, and a school community deeply steeped in diverse cultures and traditions.

At Garrison-Jones Elementary we are committed to academic excellence. As educators, we are dedicated to developing the whole child through a broad based curriculum, fostering positive self-concept, creativity, self-discipline, values and life skills. Our core values center around creating and fostering a love of learning for all of our students.

Throughout the year, we welcome and encourage your involvement. Families actively attend our school functions demonstrating that they value school and support education. Back-to-School Night, Open House, Parent Night, parent/teacher conferences, student-led conferences, Curriculum Fair/Science Fair, Art Shows and Music Concerts, are just some of the ways parents experience our school.

In addition to the regularly scheduled school day, there are many opportunities for our students to stay connected to classmates and teachers. Garrison-Jones offers extended learning opportunities, Dual Language Program, Beginning & Advanced Strings, STEM Club, Math Club, Gifted Art, Yearbook, SPLASH, Battle of the Books, Mad Science and more. I strongly encourage our students to participate in extra-curricular opportunities and contribute to the school. This is a special way to develop a great sense of Pioneer PRIDE for your school.

The many opportunities available at Garrison-Jones Elementary are intended to allow every student continued growth both personally and academically.

I look forward to meeting you around campus! Should you ever have any questions, please feel free to call me at (727) 469-5716 ext. 2015, or email me at bucklesk@pcsb.org.

Warmest regards,

Karen Buckles, Principal

Garrison-Jones Elementary

Family and Community



URGENT REQUEST it is extremely important that all of our volunteer hours are logged into the portal system. If you have not been logging in your hours and need help to accomplish this, please call me as soon as possible. The county will be running reports of all school volunteer hours at the end of February, and we would like to have a true accounting of what our wonderful volunteers do.

Thanks for all your help.

Barb Karcher and Carrie Osiel,

Family & Community Liaisons



Building Safe Habits

A safe reminder to those students who ride bicycles, wearing a helmet is required by law: ***s. 316.2065 – Bicycle Regulations-(d) A bicycle rider or passenger who is under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet that is properly fitted and is fastened securely upon the passenger's head by a strap...***

Parents, please check to ensure your child has a properly fitting helmet. Visit <http://www.safekids.org/video/bike-helmet-fit-test> for a one-minute video to learn how to make sure it's the right fit. Also, please let your child's teacher know if you are in need of resources for acquiring a helmet for you child. Students were provided with some additional safety tips to keep in mind during the school year:

- Always cross the street at a crosswalk, preferably at an intersection controlled by a traffic signal or stop sign.
- Look both ways while crossing.
- Walk, don't run while on sidewalks and crossing the street.
- When biking, design your route around streets with sidewalks when possible and look for crossing guards if crossing a major intersection is required.
- Always wear a bike helmet.
- Bike with the flow of traffic; walk against traffic.
- Parents should plan their child's route if they walk or cycle to school (safety spots to seek help, best places to cross roadways, ensure child does not get lost).
- When on campus all bike riders should dismount from the bike and safely walk their bike to the designated areas using the right side of the sidewalk.
- Skateboarders should pick up their boards and walk on the sidewalks to the designated areas.

Garrison-Jones faculty, staff, and administration maintain that teaching about safety and maintaining safe practices are the highest priority for our students and families. Please review these safety expectations with your students to support a safe and happy school year. Thank you.

Renee Nellenbach

Assistant Principal

Garrison-Jones Elementary School

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Counselor's Corner

Vanessa Lofstedt, M.A.

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Character Trait of the Month: Tolerance

Respecting the individual differences, views,
and beliefs of other people.

"Compassion and tolerance are not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength."

What parents can do to help kids learn tolerance:

Notice your own attitudes. Be sensitive to cultural stereotypes you may have learned and make an effort to correct them. Demonstrate an attitude of respect for others.

Remember that kids are always listening. Be aware of the way you talk about people who are different from yourself. Do not make jokes that perpetuate stereotypes.

Select books, toys, music, art, and videos carefully. Keep in mind the powerful effect the media and pop culture have.

Point out and talk about unfair stereotypes that may be portrayed in media.

Answer questions about differences honestly and respectfully. This teaches that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect.

Acknowledge and respect differences within your own family. Demonstrate acceptance of your children's differing abilities, interests, and styles.

Remember that tolerance does not mean tolerating unacceptable behavior. It means that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and should treat others with respect as well.

Help your child to feel accepted, respected, and valued. Kids with strong self-esteem value and respect themselves and are more likely to treat others with respect, too.

Give kids opportunities to work and play with others who are different from them.

Learn together about holiday and religious celebrations that are not part of your own tradition.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

6TH GRADE ORIENTATION:

The following middle schools will have 6th grade orientation on February 23rd from 6:00-7:30 pm:

Dunedin Highland

Palm Harbor

Safety Harbor

Carwise

6th Grade Counselors from Dunedin Highland and Palm Harbor Middle Schools will be visiting our 5th graders on Friday, March 4th to discuss course assignments and electives. You will receive elective forms from your child's assigned middle school during the week of March 7th.

Middle school assignments are made based on the address we have on file - please be sure that we have your correct address to ensure you receive the correct forms. If you need to update your address, please bring proof of residence to our DMT, Donna Hardman, so she can update our records.

AVID: For information about AVID electives in middle school, or to apply for the AVID elective for your child, please visit www.pcsb.org/avidapp



Yearbook News:

Capture the memories with a 2015-2016 Garrison-Jones yearbook. If your child has not yet ordered a yearbook, there is still time. Please contact Ms. Hash if you or your child are interested. The yearbooks are only \$11.00!

It is that time of year again where we we're collecting photos for our collage pages in the yearbook. If you have any pictures of your class, field trips, learning ventures, or whole events can you please send them to Ms. Hash so that the yearbook club can upload them at our next meeting on March 16. The yearbook club thanks you in advance. I will take them via e-mail, CD's, or flash drives, if you use one of the two later forms please make sure you place in a baggy with your name on it so they can be returned to you.

hashp@pcsb.org



News From the Media Center:

Hour of Code at Garrison-Jones Elementary

Code.org is a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools. They have created a variety of fantastic tutorials to teach programming to students of all levels. Over twenty classes from grades K through 5 at Garrison-Jones Elementary participated in these activities in the library media center with lessons taught by Mrs. Williams during Computer Science in Education Week before the winter break. Parents, the students were so excited about the lessons that they learned. Mrs. Williams would like to encourage everyone to visit code.org to continue their student's learning adventures.





PTA is getting ready for the 2016-2017 year already! We need **YOU** in order to make it another successful year for our students at Garrison-Jones Elementary. With all of the exciting changes taking place, we are looking to put a PTA board together that will enhance the activities that our children and teachers can enjoy and remember for years to come. If you've ever thought about joining the board, this is the year to do it. We are looking for the following seats:

- ◆ **President**
- ◆ **Treasurer**
- ◆ **Secretary**
- ◆ **Teacher Liaison**
- ◆ **Hospitality**
- ◆ **Communications**
- ◆ **Membership**

If you are interested in filling any of these positions or would like more information, please email Joni Pilgrim at jpilgrim@nationwide-appraisal.com.

We are looking forward to another exciting year!