

Leila G. Davis Elementary School

February 28, 2015
2630 Landmark Dr.
Clearwater, FL 33761
727-725-7972
www.davis-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/



Principal Kim Hill
Assistant Principal William Durst

Area 2 Associate Superintendent:
Mr. Robert Poth
(727)588-5020

A Message from Mrs. Hill

Yes, we are just about three-quarters of the way through this school year! The third grading period is almost over and progress reports will be going home on March 25th. All students, kindergarten – fifth grade, will be coming home with progress reports, and I encourage parents to review their child's academic progress and work habits. A progress report should be a time for families to celebrate successes as well as set goals for improvement. On Monday, March 2nd, we will celebrate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. We will be participating in a variety of school-wide literacy activities throughout the week. Please see the detailed information in this newsletter outlining the exciting activities we have planned. This is a crucial part of the school year. Our first and second grade teachers and students are preparing for the SAT-10 assessment beginning on March 10th. Our intermediate teachers and students are working hard to prepare for the new FSA assessment. A detailed testing schedule is included in this newsletter. Please make special note of the testing days and times. Students in grade 3 will be taking the FSA ELA and Math tests. Our students in grade 4 will be assessed on the FSA ELA, Writing, and Math tests while our students in grade 5 will take the FSA ELA, Writing, and Math tests. Grade 5 students will also be taking the FCAT Science test in early May. Spring Break is coming in a few short weeks. I hope everyone enjoys a week of rest and relaxation with friends and family. As always, thank you for your continued support for Davis and I look forward to seeing you around campus.

Important Dates



March 4	Volunteer Orientation 9:00 am
March 5	McDonald's Spirit Night 5-7pm
March 8	Daylight Savings (set clocks ahead)
March 9	Spring Pictures
March 16	NO SCHOOL
March 18	All Pro Dad's Meeting 7:30am
March 20	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
March 24	SAC Meeting 7:00pm
March 25	Report Cards go home
March 27	ROAR Rally 8:45 am School Newsletter available
March 30th - April 5 th	* SPRING BREAK *

Join our Email List!

If you have not already done so, please visit our school website at <http://www.davis-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/> and click on Join the LGD Email List to receive valuable and up-to-date information on all the happenings here at Davis.

Volunteer Corner

Volunteers,

Hello! My name is **Gabrielle Troiso** and I am the **new Family & Community Liaison** at Leila G. Davis Elementary. We are more than halfway through the school year, but there are still many opportunities to volunteer and help improve the learning environment of our school. Please remember that all volunteers or visitors are required to **sign in** at the front reception desk and have our front desk clerk give you a badge or verify your level 2 badge **before entering the building**. We also ask that you **log your volunteer hours** in the Volunteer System in Focus. There will be a computer set up at the front desk so that you can log your hours while you sign in!

If you're a returning volunteer you **do not** have to fill out a new volunteer registration form. All you need to do is "**activate**" in the volunteer system in Focus prior to volunteering at your selected school. To activate your volunteer profile go to <https://focus.pcsb.org/focus>. Log in using your v.account (last name first initial - all lowercase) and password: Last name birth year.

Example:

Login: v.smitha

Password: Smith1973

Both new and returning volunteers should join our email list to stay informed. Weekly happenings, monthly newsletters, and important information will be emailed to you throughout the year. Choose one of the following ways to sign up:

Go to our Leila Davis website and click on "Join the LGD Email List" button. www.davis-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us

Text **BEARCUBS** to 22828 to get started

If you have any concerns please feel free to contact the school directly. If you are not currently a mentor and would like more information please contact me. Mentors meet with their assigned mentee twice a month during the student's lunch.

There are many ways to support student achievement through volunteer activities such as, but not limited to the following: mentoring, tutoring, music, art, sporting events, Booster clubs, PTA, transporting students, field trips, chaperones, Clubs, Sponsors for organizations, or programs such as 5000 Role Models, Peer to Peer Mentoring, and more.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 727-725-7972 or email:

TroisoG@pcsb.org

Volunteer of the Month

Amy Christensen

Our volunteer of the month for February is Amy Christensen! Not only is she our PTA president, she puts in countless hours of her time to help out around school. She recently coordinated Davis' successful Walk-a-Thon fundraiser, our Father/Daughter dance, and our Mother/Son bowling night. Thank you Mrs. Christensen for all of your help and hard work this year. We appreciate all that you do for Davis!



Class/Program Sponsorship

Davis Dreamers (\$300 and above)

Kids Time Preschool

Davis Partner (\$200-\$299)

Davis Friend (\$100-\$199)

Davis Associate (\$35-\$99)

Zimmer Family
Isaacs Family

*If you are interested in adopting a class, please see the front office or your child's teacher for more details.



The Paint Palette

Greetings Davis families! What a busy year we are having in the art room; lots of creative juices flowing with smiling faces all around! I was just going through our artsonia page and I love reading all the comments the families leave for our students. Not only do you encourage our students to keep up the great work, but you encourage me to keep sharing their work with you and it lets me know how much you appreciate all that we do! Thank you :-)

This year we are installing six clay totems on campus that are made out of clay by our bear cubs. I have purchased six enormous clay pots that will anchor our totems but am looking for someone who may have connections to free sand or shredded tires (what they use on playgrounds), something we can fill the pots with that won't require constant maintenance after being placed outside. If you are able to help, please email me at sullivang@pcsb.org. Thank you for supporting the arts at Davis!

Creatively yours,
Miss Sullivan

Spring Picture Day -Date Change

Spring picture day is coming soon. We had to change our original picture day on the school calendar due to SAT 10 testing. Our school photographer, Leonards, will be taking individual and class pictures on **Monday, March 9th**. Pricing information for individual pictures is included in the blue communication folder this week. Information about purchasing a class picture will be coming home with students after picture day. If you are interested in purchasing individual pictures, please send in payment (in the payment envelope) on picture day.

ESE Parent Survey

The annual Exceptional Student Education parent survey conducted by the Florida Department of Education will be available through May 31st. The survey is an opportunity for ESE parents to provide feedback on their school involvement as well as to provide comments on the school their child attends. This type of parent input is critical in determining if the district will meet the requirements for the state's Annual Performance Report. Flyers were sent home to parents eligible to participate in the survey. An electronic version of the survey is posted online at www.esesurvey.com. Please let the front office know if you would like to request a paper copy. Click the link below for the flyer.

<http://pcsb.org/cms/lib8/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/41/ESESurvey.pdf>

6th Grade Orientation Nights

Carwise Middle: March 10, 2015 6:00 pm
Clearwater Fund: March 10, 2015 4:00 - 7:00 pm
East Lake Middle: March 18, 2015 6:00 pm
Dunedin Middle: March 19, 2015 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Palm Harbor Middle: March 19, 2015 6:00 pm
Safety Harbor Middle: March 10, 2015 6:00 pm

Kindergarten Registration

Start your child's education off with a strong foundation from Pinellas County Schools. Join us for kindergarten registration beginning Jan. 12, 2015 for the upcoming school year. If you have a child who will be five years old prior to Sept. 1, 2015.

Parents & Volunteers

We will have a Closed Campus from 9:00am-12:00pm (due to testing) on the following days. Parents will not be permitted onto campus for lunch with students and volunteers are asked not to come until AFTER 12:00 on these dates:

March 3rd
March 10th-12th
March 17th-19th
March 24th-25th
April 7th-8th

Helping Your Child Deal with Test Anxiety

Test anxiety is almost universal. In fact, it is unusual to find a student who doesn't approach a big test without a high level of anxiety. Test anxiety can cause a host of problems in students, such as upset stomach, headache, loss of focus, fear, irritability, anger and even depression. New research is helping to better define how emotional stress and anxiety affect learning and academic performance. Stressful emotions can inhibit a student's ability to absorb, retain and recall information. Anxiety creates a kind of "noise" or "mental static" in the brain that blocks our ability to retrieve what's stored in memory and also greatly impairs our ability to comprehend and reason. The key to understanding how anxiety inhibits cognitive and physical performance lies in understanding how emotions affect the rhythmic activity in the nervous system. Stressful emotions can inhibit a student's ability to absorb, retain and recall information.

Anxiety creates a kind of "noise" or "mental static" in the brain that blocks our ability to retrieve what's stored in memory and also greatly impairs our ability to comprehend and reason. The key to understanding how anxiety inhibits cognitive and physical performance lies in understanding how emotions affect the rhythmic activity in the nervous system. Feelings such as frustration, fear, anger, and anxiety cause the neural activity in the two branches of the autonomic nervous system to get out of sync. This, in turn, affects the synchronized activity in the brain, disrupting our ability to think clearly. On the other hand, uplifting feelings, such as appreciation, lead to increased harmony and synchronization in the brain and nervous system, which facilitates our ability to think more clearly. Research has shown that providing students with tools and strategies that build both emotional skills and healthy physical habits when preparing for a test can help them overcome test anxiety and the associated symptoms, while improving their ability to prepare for and perform on critical testing. It's important to help students identify what they are feeling and give them tools that will help them learn to manage emotions such as anxiety, self-doubt, anger, or frustration. The proper physical habits enable students to have enough energy and stamina for their brain to do its job of thinking and analyzing for a sustained period of time.

Here are a few tips from the Institute of HeartMath based on its TestEdge™ programs. Share these with your children ahead of time to better prepare them emotionally and physically for test taking.

Tips for Students

Practice the neutral tool: When you have uncomfortable feelings about whether you will do well on the test, practice the neutral tool. It's important to catch negative mind loops that reinforce self-doubt or uncomfortable feelings. Every time you catch a negative thought repeating itself, stop the loop and practice going to neutral. Start by focusing on the area around your heart. This helps to take the focus off the mind loop. Then breathe deeply. Breathe as if your breath is flowing in and out through the center of your chest. Breathe quietly and naturally, four-five seconds on the in-breath, and four-five seconds on the out-breath. While you're breathing, try and find an attitude of calmness about the situation. Do this in the days leading up to the test, right before and during the test.

Address the what-if questions: A lot of times before we have to do something like take a test, much of the anxiety we feel is a build-up from negative “what-if” thoughts. What if I fail, what if I can’t remember anything, or what if I run out of time. Try writing a what-if question that is positive and can help you take the big deal out of the situation and begin to see things in a different way. Examples of these kinds of questions are, “What if I can remember more than I think I can?” “What if I can feel calmer than I think I can?”

Think good thoughts: Science is showing that good feelings like appreciation can actually help your brain work better. When you feel nervous or anxious, try this. You can do it as many times as you need to or want to. Remember something that makes you feel good. Maybe it is your pet or how you felt when you got a big hug from your mom, or how you felt after a super fun day at the amusement park with your friends. After you remember how you felt, hold that feeling. Pretend you are holding it in your heart. Let yourself feel that feeling for 10-20 seconds or more. It’s important to let yourself really feel that good feeling all over again. Practice this tool right before the big test.

Get enough sleep: Big tests require a lot of energy and stamina to be able to focus for several hours. Make sure you get at least eight-10 hours of sleep the night before the test.

Have fun: Do something fun the night before to take your mind off the test, like see a movie, play a board game with your family or participate in a sports activity. That way your mind and emotions are more relaxed in the time leading up to the test.

Eat a hearty breakfast: The brain needs a lot of energy to maintain focus on a big test for several hours. Eat a hearty and healthy breakfast, including complex carbohydrates and protein to make your energy last as long as possible. Foods such as eggs, cereal and whole-wheat toast help energize your brain to think more clearly and much longer compared with the fast-disappearing bolt of energy from drinking a soda pop or eating a cookie for breakfast. For a snack food, bring simple foods such as peanut butter and crackers, cheese and crackers or a burrito to sustain energy until lunch. Practicing these tools in advance of and during a test can help students limit test anxiety and perform even better on their school work.

This material has been provided by the Institute of HeartMath, a nonprofit research and education organization specializing in research on how stress and emotions impact learning and performance. To learn more about the TestEdge™ programs and tools for enhancing academic performance visit www.heartmath.org.

Upcoming Assessment Schedule

1st and 2nd Grade - All assessments are paper-based tests.

- March 10-12 SAT 10 Reading
- March 13 Reading make-ups
- March 17-19 SAT 10 Math/Reading
- March 20 Math make-ups

3rd Grade -All assessments are paper-based tests.

- March 24-25 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Reading
- March 26-27 FSA Reading make-ups
- April 7-8 FSA Math
- April 9-10 FSA Math make-ups

4th Grade -All assessments are paper-based tests.

- March 3 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Writing
- March 24-25 FSA Reading
- March 26-27 FSA Reading make-ups
- April 7-8 FSA Math
- April 9-10 FSA Math make-ups

5th Grade

- March 3 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Writing - *Paper-based*
- April 14-15 FSA Reading (Schew, Peterson, Harper HR) - *Computer-based*
- April 16-17 FSA Reading (Bailey, Knieja HR) - *Computer-based*
- April 20-21 FSA Reading make-ups
- April 22-23 FSA Math (Schew, Bailey, Harper HR) - *Computer-based*
- April 27-28 FSA Math (Knieja HR, Peterson) - *Computer-based*
- April 29-30 FSA Math make-ups
- May 4-5 FCAT 2.0 Science - *Paper-based*



March 2nd - 6th is Read Across America Week.

Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading.

Monday, March 2nd - Grab Your Hat and Read with *The Cat in the Hat!*

Wear black & white clothes and any kind of hat today!

Wednesday, March 4th - “Wear Your Words” Day. Students and staff should wear a shirt with words on it. (School appropriate of course.)

Friday, March 6th - “Show Your Reading Character” Day. Students and staff can dress up as their favorite character from a book. Please make sure that your outfit is school appropriate. If you have a copy of the book that your character is from be sure to bring it to school with you! (Dress code rules apply)

Media Center News

The Leila Davis Library has circulated over 19,700 books this school year. That is a lot of books checked out by our Davis Scholars this year! Keep up the good work and keep reading.

The Davis Battle of the Books will be on Friday, March 13th in the Media Center at 9:00am. The four Battle teams have been practicing and are gearing up for the school battle. The winning team from our school battle will go on to compete against other elementary schools in the county.

Have you used Brainpop or Brainpop Jr. with your child at home? BrainPOP® creates animated, curricular content that engages students, supports educators, and bolsters achievement. If you need help logging in, click on the *How it works* link. www.brainpop.com or <http://www.brainpopjr.com>



Username: davis_es
Password: bpinellas

Media Center Collections

Don't forget to collect those Box Tops. This year each teacher is collecting Box Tops to earn an iPad or tablet for the classroom. Each Box Top helps to reach the goal of earning technology for their classrooms. The next collection date is March 27th.

P.E. Shorts

The students are working on the following units: hockey, basketball, volleyball, soccer and field games. Each class spends two weeks on a unit before rotating to the next one.

At the end of the March we will begin our spring fitness testing. This is the same testing we did in the fall. Known in the past as Fitnessgram, the county has renamed it "Being Fit Matters". Please see the Parent letter included in this newsletter. This year grades K-2 only had their height and weight measured (BMI) while third grade classes had their muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility assessed. Grades 4 and 5 had their cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility assessed. At the end of the year you will get a printout of your child's assessment.

With the weather changing, please make sure names are on the clothes tags. This will help us identify who the owners are. If there are jackets left on the court, you can find the unclaimed jackets in the Lost & Found.

The P.E. Department
Coach Daily, Coach Stoll, Coach Harvey and Mrs. Dayes

Headphones Needed in Second Grade

At the beginning of the year, many of you sent in personal headphones or ear buds for your child to use in the classroom. Please ask your child if their headphones/ear buds are still working, and if not, please replace them. If you would like to make a donation to our class in the form of headphones, it would be GREATLY appreciated. There are several programs we use regularly that require the volume to be on loud enough for students to hear the content and this is quite distracting to others when headphones are not available. Thanks in advance for any assistance you can provide!



Homework Helpline

The Pinellas County Homework Helpline, (727)547-7223, offers free homework help for students in grades 1-12. The Homework Helpline is staffed by teachers certified in math, science, language arts, and social studies. Help is available from 5:00pm-8:00pm, Monday through Thursday, on all school days. The only exception is when there is no school the following day. Please take advantage of the great resource. Best of all...it is free.

The PTA Page

March 2015



Message from our President

WOW, what a busy, fun-filled month we have had! We started off the month with our annual Father Daughter dance. This was a huge success – over 200 Davis girls and their fathers danced the night away and made some special memories together.

Then last week we had our first ever Mother Son bowling night. That was a ton of fun – over 90 Davis boys and their moms met at the alley to bowl for 2 hours. Every grade was represented and I'm not sure which boy was the best bowler, but there were some mom's that were pretty awesome. We hope to host this event again next year.

Also last week we had our spring Walk a Thon. The weather was a bit cold, but the sun shown bright and students had a great time walking with their peers and the parents who attended. I played music and the PTA passed out lemonade when they finished walking. It was a great day of exercise and working towards our cause.

Families have supported us tremendously this year with their donations toward our spring fundraiser. Thank you to all who helped us reach our goal of \$20,000. We are able to fund many projects and help several teachers with classroom needs thanks to everyone's help. Please be sure to thank your friends and family who supported our students with their donations. We will be having our dance party after all the testing is complete. Students will receive their prizes at that time. Students who have not yet received their Walk for Davis T-shirt will be getting them in early March.

Amy Christensen, Davis PTA President

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

Attention Volunteers: We would like to honor you and all you do for Davis with a delicious, free lunch. Please join us in the media center on Friday, March 20th between 10:45 and 2:00



Spring Fling is Coming

Parents, don't miss our annual Spring Fling! This is always a fabulous event. We have delicious food, music, games for the kids, bounce houses, dunk tanks, vendors, etc. This is a great time to have fun with your kids, see many friends, and help support the school. Our spring fling will take place on Friday, May 1st from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Be sure to mark your calendars now so you don't miss it. Tickets will go on sale after spring break. We need VOLUNTEERS! Please contact the PTA right away if you are able to help. You can sign up for an hour shift at any of our various booths. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Coming up Soon

We have a few exciting events coming up:

General PTA meeting and Ice Cream Social – all PTA members welcome to attend. This will take place April 23rd at 6:30 pm. There will be a guest speaker and everyone will enjoy ice cream sundaes in the cafeteria.

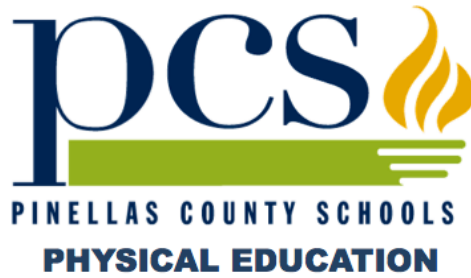
All Pro Dad's will be hosting a Dodge Ball Game for all students and their parents on April 15th at 6:30 pm on the PE field.

Muffins for Mom – May 12th 7:30 am in Media Ctr.
Donuts for Dad – May 20th 7:30 am in Media Ctr.

Calendar of Events

Dates to Remember

March	9	School Pictures - date was changed
March	16	NO SCHOOL
March	20	Volunteer Lunch in media center
March	24	Second Grade Chorus Concert
March	30	Spring Break until April 5 th
March	27	ROAR Rally 8:45 am
April	23	General PTA Meeting



Parents of Physical Education Students:

As part of our Pinellas County Schools Physical Education program we will be testing your child on the health components of fitness. We strive to help students understand the health components of fitness, how they are being assessed, and then how to use their personal information to develop a lifelong fitness program that they enjoy.

Pinellas County Schools uses Being Fit Matters/Fitnessgram protocols to test the five health components of fitness: aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility.

- Aerobic capacity/cardiovascular endurance test includes the Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run (PACER) test.
- Body composition is determined by Body Mass Index (BMI). The BMI is a calculation of the ratio of weight to height. Pinellas County Schools will use this method. Weighing and measuring will be done discreetly during class.
- Muscular endurance is measured by using the curl up which measures abdominal strength and endurance, and the trunk lift which measures strength and flexibility. Muscular strength is tested by push-ups.
- Flexibility is measured by the sit and reach test.

Each test measures minimal fitness and compares the student's score to the healthy fitness zone for their age and gender. The test also gives the student pointers on how to either improve or maintain their fitness level. It is our goal to help students make good choices in their fitness activities so that they can live a long, healthy life.

Students' fitness results will be made available for all parents. Resources to assist parents with additional information may be found on the PCS website under: Families / Safety and Wellness / Wellness / Being Fit Matters.

If, for any reason you prefer that your child not have a BMI assessment, or have any questions/concerns on any assessments, please contact your child's physical education teacher.

Sincerely,

Physical Education Department
Pinellas County Schools



Florida's 2014-2015 ESE Parent Survey

February 1 – May 31

Parents!

**We need your help to make Florida's 2014-2015
ESE Parent Survey a record success**

Each year, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) surveys parents of children with an individual educational plan (IEP) to determine how well your child's school is partnering with you and promoting your involvement in your child's education. All states must collect this data as part of their State Performance Plan, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Make your voice heard!

- ✓ The web-based survey will open **February 1, 2015**.
- ✓ You can complete the survey online at <http://www.esesurvey.com> or request a paper survey from your child's school.

Your feedback is important in helping the state and local school systems continue improving educational programs for children with special needs. **Thank you!**



For questions about the survey, please contact:



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

Bureau of Exceptional Education
and Student Services