**February 12, 2015**

**Chasco Fiesta Hunger Walk**
The Chasco Fiesta Hunger Walk, occurring on Saturday, March 14, promotes hunger awareness and raise funds for hunger relief in Pasco County. Sign up to participate at [http://bit.ly/1I95XmR](http://bit.ly/1I95XmR) as an individual walker, create or join a team (you can join the Superintendent’s team), or become a business sponsor.

**Bus Driver Recruitment**
The district is hiring bus drivers. Starting pay is $12 per hour. Please share this information with friends or family members you think may be interested. Anyone who is interested can call 813-794-1862 for more information.

**Kudos**
I had the opportunity to observe Helen Rodriguez’s skill as a recruiter for the school district. Helen spent over 3 hours of her own time last evening working with my daughter. She took the time to talk to Bronte Conlin to learn about her as a person. They reviewed what positions may fit Bronte’s skill set and interests. Based on what they discussed Helen guided her through the application process. I was very impressed with Helen’s professional, courteous and warm manner, a style that would put any possible candidate at ease. She already followed up with Bronte at 8am this morning. -Roy T. Cavicchi

**Government Relations Update**
Senators Bean, Montford and Legg have filed assessments and evaluation bills:

- **Senate Bill 100 (Senator Bean):** [http://bit.ly/1zwjvhK](http://bit.ly/1zwjvhK)
  - Districts cannot schedule more than 10 school days in a school year to administer all local assessments and statewide, standardized assessments.

- **Senate Bill 616 (Senator Legg):** [http://bit.ly/1DG7hcR](http://bit.ly/1DG7hcR)
  - Limits state- and district-mandated testing to 5% of a student's time in school. (Not including teacher-driven tests.)
  - Reduces student assessment portion of teacher evaluations from 50% to 40%.
  - Allows districts to receive a waiver from state accountability rules if they have specific problems giving the new Florida Standards Assessments.

- **Senate Bill 774 (Senator Montford):** [http://bit.ly/1KMYKF1](http://bit.ly/1KMYKF1)
  - Reduces student assessment portion of teacher evaluations from “at least 50%” to “30%”.
  - Eliminates the grade 11 statewide, standardized English Language Arts and writing assessments.
  - School grades and school improvement ratings shall be held in abeyance for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. Performance on the new statewide, standardized assessments shall serve as an informational baseline for future years.
  - Has the commissioner of education recommend minimum technology requirements to school districts and provide a “nonelectronic” testing option until the 2016-17 school year.

The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee will be hosting a workshop on February 18 on all 3 bills. District administrators have been working with our legislative leaders to address our concerns and establish solutions.

**Paychecks**
You will see your raises in this week’s checks. On February 27, employees will receive a regular paycheck that reflects your new 2014-2015 pay rate, and an additional check that reflects your new rate of pay retroactive to the beginning of the 2014-2015 contract year. All employees received an email from Kevin Shibley on Tuesday with details specific to their bargaining unit or employee category.

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This month is Career and Technical Education Month. To learn more, visit: [http://bit.ly/1AnstmS](http://bit.ly/1AnstmS).
Congratulations!
Pasco’s 2015-2016 Employees of the Year were named at the recent annual Education Celebration. Our winners are:
**Teacher of the Year** – Beth Hess, HHS  
**Administrator of the Year** – Kim Davis, GHS  
**NNB of the Year** – Lori Karpinski, Childcare Program Coordinator  
**SRP of the Year** – Julie Beardsley, WRHS  
**Secretary**

The following high school athletic teams and athletes have competed in regional and state competitions:
- **RRHS - Kiara Wood** is the FHSAA state champion in the 129 lb. class girls weightlifting finals. The squad placed 9th.  
- **LOLHS** – The **girls soccer team** won a place in the FHSAA 3A state soccer semi-finals. Great job!  
- **SLHS** – The **boys soccer team** made it all the way to the FHSAA 3A state soccer semi-finals. Great job!  
- **WRHS** – The **boys soccer team** has won a place in the FHSAA 4A state semi-finals. Good luck Friday!

**Ann Altman** has been selected as a 2015 Tyler Public Sector Excellence Award winner. This is a great honor for Ann and a tribute to her dedication to the ERP project and the district.

United Way’s Free Tax Prep Service
United Way of Pasco, in conjunction with AARP, local financial institutions, and business partners, offers free tax preparation services using IRS certified prosperity campaign volunteers. Dial 211 to schedule an appointment at one of 10 locations across Pasco County.

**Monday is Presidents Day. It is a non-school day, non-workday for employees who work less than 12 months.**