



Kurt S. Browning,
Superintendent of Schools



February 27, 2015

School Matters

Deadline for New District Initiatives

I have told district staff that they have until April 1 to submit any new programs, pilots, and initiatives for the 2015-2016 school year. I want principals and staff to know before May what our expectations for next year are so they have plenty of time for planning, preparing, and scheduling professional development. The only way we will introduce a new program or initiative after April 1 is if the Legislature mandates it.

Congratulations!

For the third consecutive year the **Sunlake High School Academy of Finance students** won first place in the Annual Financial Football Challenge sponsored by the Suncoast Credit Union. Financial Football Challenge is an intense competition in which teams of students throughout the Tampa Bay region compete in answering from a pool of 1,000 personal finance questions. Each Sunlake team member received a cash prize of \$500.

STEM Fair Participants Advance

International Science & Engineering Fair: May 10-15 in Pittsburg, PA

- Mitchell High: Viraj Patel
- Wiregrass Ranch High: Nura Adujbara

State Science & Engineering Fair: March 31-April 2 in Lakeland, FL

- Anclote High: Samantha Williams
- Rushe Middle: Sabrina Montoya, Sarah Menard, and Kyla Huelle
- Gulf Middle: Derek Kaplan
- John Long Middle: Nahlin Mehra and Achyudhan Kutuva
- Mitchell High: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Viraj Patel, and Samantha Renfroe
- Pasco Middle: Patrick Stearns
- River Ridge Middle: Courtney Megargel, Emmy Brazier, and William Olewnicki
- Wiregrass Ranch High: Kevin Cheng, Neto Coulbaly, and Nura Adujbara
- Dayspring Academy Middle: Reign Gemza-Puentes, Jessica Boudreau, and Lindsay Matheus

Government Relations

Our Government Relations Website is now live! For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1EupaLZ>.



Executive Order

Governor Rick Scott issued an executive order on Tuesday, February 24, authorizing the Florida commissioner of education to suspend the grade 11 FSA for English language arts until the Florida Legislature has an opportunity to consider legislation to eliminate the mandate. Click here to view the executive order: <http://bit.ly/1ApkUeU>.

Professional Development



In Part 6 of our Insightful Educator Series, Evette Striblen (from the Offices of Teaching and Learning) walks through the creation of a secondary education learning scale. To view, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1JQdKqy>.

SSPS Employees Published

Recently, some of the members of our Office for Student Support Programs and Services have published education articles. Dr. Jenna Sage, a Resolution Specialist, authored "Longer, Faster, Harder: Tips for Addressing Challenging Behavior in the Classroom" for *Think Inclusive*: <http://bit.ly/1MVJRE7>. Additionally, Michael R.P. Bailey, Resolution Specialist, co-authored "Florida Senate Bill 1108: A Case Study and Analysis of Implications and Impact" for the University Council for Educational Administration's *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*: <http://bit.ly/1DXlpOE>.

Community Fun Day Business Expo

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Community Fun Day Business Expo 2015 on Friday, March 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will be held at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex. For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1zhuzQ2>.



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.

Chasco Fiesta Hunger Walk

The Chasco Fiesta Hunger Walk, occurring on Saturday, March 14, promotes hunger awareness and raises funds for hunger relief in Pasco County. Sign up to participate at <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.

Measles Information

The Department of Health is taking a proactive position with regard to measles. Although there are no confirmed cases in the state, the DOH in Pasco has been in touch with the district to help us prepare in the event a case is confirmed in one of our schools. Principals received a letter Tuesday detailing procedures they should follow. Next week, we will be sending a joint letter from the DOH in Pasco administrator and the superintendent to schools to send home with students. Since we have unvaccinated children in schools, it's important that we let parents know that we will remove unvaccinated students from any school at which a case is suspected – for 21 days or more. Staff should consult with their health care provider to make sure they have protection against measles.



John Long Middle students watch a documentary they created about Jackie Robinson during the district's history fair.

Kudos

Sgt. Frick/Lt. Law: During Business Development Week we had many activities going on throughout the campus. Maintenance was here to help clean up debris with a tractor on the bank of our property. A misfortune occurred and the tractor rolled to its side. **Cpl. Smith** was the first to respond and did an excellent job instantly calling all the right people and attending to the injured worker. I was very proud of his immediacy to take action and the demeanor in which he handled himself. Cpl. Smith is an important member of my team and I wanted to let you know that I greatly appreciate his support. –Rob Aguis, Principal, Fred K. Marchman Technical College

Deanna DeCubellis: Just wanted to let you know that we had what we thought was a very successful turnout last night for Watch D.O.G.S. at our school. We had over 80 dads come to the meeting with their kids!! We had over 40 complete applications and several who are already approved volunteers have already chosen dates to be Watch D.O.G.S.!! We had both administrators, our guidance counselor, leadership coach, and several staff members attend to help with the event as well as a great Top Dog Dad who is already gotten his communication efforts put together for this program. –Carmen Garrison

Today we had one of our students run out of the pod and out to the big playground. He was not responding to coming down safely, when **Watch Dog Jerry** comes passing through. What perfect timing! He looked very official, and was willing to try to intervene with our student. He climbed up to the top of the playground and talked with him. Our student responded to him positively, and Jerry's style was not overly reinforcing, yet he made a connection with our student. I do think he was responding to a male presence. Our friend came down the slide and walked back to the pod safely with me. –Jill Wright, Behavior Specialist

I recently retired from the Pasco County School System. I have had concerns that needed attention that required calling Benefits and Payroll. I would like to thank **Melissa from Payroll** for being patient with me as I called many times to clarify my status. She was so pleasant and accommodating. Then recently I called Benefits and talked to **Brooke** who has also been very helpful to me answering questions that I had. Kudos to these two wonderful people. –Doris Younglove, retired employee

This month is **Career and Technical Education Month**. To learn more, visit: <http://bit.ly/1AnstmS>.
