



Kurt S. Browning,
Superintendent of Schools



School

March 12, 2015

Matters

Opening Message

Testing problems subsided this week, but we still have started every day with network difficulties. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has launched an investigation into possible cyber attacks on AIR's servers to determine if that could explain issues we experienced last week. The district has been the victim of malicious attacks, both before and during testing, and we continue to work on solutions to combat those attacks. Thank you for your perseverance and grit as we work through these issues.

Hunger Walk is Saturday

Sign up to take part in the Chasco Fiesta Hunger Walk, on Saturday, March 14, and help raise funds for hunger relief in Pasco County. Sign up to participate at <http://bit.ly/1I95XmR> as an individual walker or create or join a team (you can join the Superintendent's team).

Professional Development



This week's edition of Insightful Educator has a video explanation of how to create formative assessments using learning scales. In addition, information for accessing additional resources and PLC connections are provided. To view, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1EQa1ox>.

Additionally, the National Educator Program – K-12 Assistant Principal Pool application process is now open. This professional development program is the process for employees to enter the K-12 assistant principal pool. Twenty assistant principal candidates will be accepted into this program for the 2015-2016 year. The application window opened on Monday, March 2. The deadline for completing and submitting all portions of the application to the Office for Professional Development and School Supports is Monday, March 30. More information, including a video podcast, can be found at the website: <http://bit.ly/1EpFNYT>.

Special Presentation on Florida ELA Standards

David Liben, a senior content specialist for English language arts and literacy with the non-profit [Student Achievement Partners](#), will share information about the critical importance of content knowledge and academic vocabulary in growing strong readers. This is an opportunity for further learning around the standards and the [Instructional Shifts](#), with time included to discuss implications for teaching and learning within Pasco County schools.

When: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 (Spring Break)

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Training Room C, Building 3, District Office Complex

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Legislative Update

House Education Committee - Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) [EDC4](#) – PASSED - Revises law to set school start date at August 10; eliminates requirement to regularly assess K-3 students; repeals required remediation for certain students; eliminates administration of the 11th grade ELA assessment; eliminates requirements for certain specific assessments, progress monitoring, and the additional hour of instruction in lowest performing elementary schools; changes teacher evaluation requirements to be based on at least 1/3 student performance, at least 1/3 instructional practice or instructional leadership, and remainder on other criteria; and requires evaluation of teachers and administrators to be based on the students assigned to them; etc.



Pasco County Schools



Employee and Family

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

CareHere!




Crowne Consulting Group

Ribbon Cutting for 5th Health and Wellness Center

Pasco County Schools and Crowne Consulting/ Care Here are holding a ribbon cutting for the newest health and wellness center at Thomas E. Weightman Middle School in Wesley Chapel at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24. Employees are invited to attend the ribbon cutting and tour the facility.



Congratulations!

Lake Myrtle Elementary School's teams won 1st Place at last weekend's Gulf Coast Regional Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Kudos

After reading the School Matters newsletter week after week, it appears as though others are getting acknowledged for a job well done, but there is one man who deserves acknowledgement and has never received it and that man is **Bill Amon**. Bill is responsible for Distribution Services as well as other departments, such as: Warehouse, Mail Services and Plant Operations. He runs each department with integrity and everything he does, he does with such tenacity and pride. You'll never hear Bill complain, instead, he likes to make you smile and laugh. He's a great man to work for and with and he definitely deserves accolades for all his hard work. When he receives a call from a school with a special request, Bill makes sure they get what they need by the time requested. We're ... very fortunate to have him as our supervisor!

With Respect and Admiration,
MaryLynn Cultreri and Michelle Bolin

I just wanted to stop life for a moment and let you know that the staff you have in place at the **Crews Lake K-8 School** is nothing short of amazing. My 11-year-old son, fresh into 6th grade, is having a hard time. His grades are not a problem, at all As & Bs, (but) he is struggling with making the wrong choice(s) with the wrong peers. And although this has been a constant uphill this year, the staff at this school have not only been working with him, but with me, his parent as well. The communication is consistent, timely, and welcomed. The plans enacted work and when they don't or stop, new ones are put in place. **Ms. White, Ms. Noack, Ms. Dorfield, Ms. Lorentson, Mr. King, and numerous other teachers...** have been beyond extraordinary. ...Your staff not only give him the respect that a child deserves, but they truly care... for him and I. Their dedication makes these problems we are facing less stressful.

Gina Perret

Next Week is Spring Break

Before you leave for your well-deserved break, make sure to secure your offices/classrooms and equipment. Also, turn off/shut down, then unplug all unnecessary equipment and appliances and clean out refrigerators. Don't forget that Monday, March 23, is a non-student day. Enjoy the time off!