



Kurt S. Browning,  
Superintendent of Schools



April 3, 2015

# School Matters

## Elementary Exams Eliminated

In an effort to reduce some of the testing demands at the elementary level this year (2014-2015), we eliminated the comprehensive performance-based test in grades K through 5. In addition, we are eliminating the special area tests in art, music, and PE for grades K, 1, 3, and 4. Grades 2 and 5 were identified for continued specials testing, because some personnel may teach only students in primary grades or only students in intermediate grades. In the content areas where tests are being eliminated, principal approved tests will be administered. A principal approved test is one that measures the student's mastery of standards and can be a test, performance-based activity, observational checklist, or a combination of the three. Some examples of what may be used for the principal approved test are: a district document such as the progress monitoring plan checklist for science, Discovery Education, or a test designed by a team of teachers or an individual teacher that measures the students' attainment of the standards. Results also are used to determine students' report card grades. No other grade levels or assessments will be impacted this school year.

## Pasco Puts the "We" in Wellness

The District School Board of Pasco County was the winner of the Wellness Council of Tampa Bay's "We" in Wellness Award on Thursday, March 12. We were awarded \$500 to apply towards two to three wellness programs.

## Schools to Hold 5K Color Runs

On Saturday, April 11, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., **Sunray Elementary** will host their 2nd Annual Sprint for Sunray's 5K Color Run at Anclote High. Visit [www.sres.pasco.k12.fl.us](http://www.sres.pasco.k12.fl.us) and click on Sprint for Sunray's 5K Color Run to register. For more information, contact [tsutula@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:tsutula@pasco.k12.fl.us). **Lacoochee Elementary** holds their Color Run at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 25. Visit <http://bit.ly/1G9GU1e> and <http://bit.ly/1NGTUuu> for registration information.

## Special Olympics Golf Tournament

Special Olympics Florida is hosting their 17th annual golf tournament and 4 person scramble on Saturday, May 2, at Lexington Oaks Golf Club. Check-in will start at noon and the shotgun start begins at 1 p.m. Each ticket is \$65 (tax deductible donation) per person and includes greens fees, cart, range balls, goody bag, raffle ticket, and a buffet dinner. Registration will close on April 24. For more information, please call Judy Brunner at 813-794-6476.

## Legislative Update

The House and Senate both passed their respective budgets this week and conference committees will assemble soon for both chambers to agree on one budget. Additionally, the Senate passed an amended version of the assessments and accountability bill, and sent it over to the House for their review and vote. Please see the attached .pdf file for a synopsis produced by Joy Frank of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

## Earth Day 2015

Pasco Parks and Recreation, Covanta Pasco, Pasco Cooperative Extension, and Pasco County Recycling have teamed up to present Earth Day 2015 at Crews Lake Park on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include a remote broadcast by HITS106, Croc Encounters reptile exhibit, the Water Ventures Lab with interactive water lessons, free document shredding, pill take back, electronics collection, rain barrel workshop, composting workshops, and more. Food concession proceeds benefit **Mary Giella Elementary School**. For more information, please call Lottie at 727-856-2917, ext. 201.

## Kudos

Chefs: I wanted to send along a note of thanks to you and your students for all of the time and effort you put into the dessert competition and the culmination of your hard work at the Cinderella Ball on Saturday evening...The dessert presentation was the highlight of the evening and everyone in the room was amazed with the students' professionalism and passion...The students should be proud of their work; their commitment and efforts were truly evident. The staff at Heritage Springs made a point to tell me how impressed they were and could not have asked for a better team to help with the evening. -Stacey Capogrosso, Executive Director, Pasco Education Foundation

April is **Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Please visit <http://1.usa.gov/1AhH67p> for more information and resources.

