



Kurt S. Browning,
Superintendent of Schools



School

April 10, 2015

Matters

Congratulations!

Woodland Elementary's **Bobbi Starling** has been honored this week as one of 30 "Lead PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators;" only three teachers were selected in Florida. Because Ms. Starling was awarded the distinction, she and the other top applicants are invited to a three day, expense paid trip to Philadelphia for the PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators Summit and ISTE® Conference and Expo June 27 through 29. Congratulations Bobbi!

Professional Development



This week's Insightful Educator's Series features several teachers describing methods they use to differentiate instruction. Some of the strategies highlighted include student choice, mixed-ability grouping, and demonstrations.

Partners in Education (PIE)

Wet 'n Wild has provided "PIE cards" (Partners in Education) for all staff and students which were distributed on Friday. This is a partnership with the Pasco Education Foundation and Wet 'n Wild will donate \$2.50 back to the Foundation for every ticket purchased through the PIE program. For more information, please call Stacey Capogrosso at 813-794-2705.

Health & Wellness Fair 5K

Don't forget to visit the district's [Health & Wellness Fair & 5K](#) tomorrow, April 11, at Sunlake High School.

Legislative Update

Yesterday, the House took up and passed the Senate's version of House Bill 7069 relating to education accountability. It has now goes to the Governor for his signature. This bill addresses many of the concerns that had been raised by school board members, superintendents, educators, and parents in Pasco and across the state. The bill does the following:

- authorizes school districts to set the school starting date as no earlier than August 10*;
- eliminates the 11th grade English Language Arts assessment;
- eliminates requirement for district-wide exams for non-state assessed courses and subjects;
- prohibits districts from giving finals in courses where statewide standardized exams already exist;
- eliminates requirement for progress monitoring;
- limits the amount of time for test administration to no more than 5% of total school hours per student, per year;
- requires that statewide assessment results be returned by the end of the year and district-wide assessment results be returned within 30 days; eliminates requirement for intensive remedial courses for secondary students;
- reduces the weight given to student performance data used in teacher evaluations from 50% to 33%;
- requires an independent verification of the psychometric validity of statewide, standardized assessments before school grades may be published and before student performance data may be used for teacher and administrator evaluations; and
- provides identification and interventions for students at risk of retention.

*As a result of this legislation passing, it is possible that the School Board will move the 2015-2016 school start date to the 3rd Monday in August (August 17), which was part of our legislative priorities. More information will be sent to parents and staff.

NEXT WEEK IS

Assistant Principals Week – Don't forget to thank your APs in person or by using #apweek on social media. Visit <http://bit.ly/1Ct4D9R> for more information.

National Volunteer Week – Please recognize and celebrate the importance of our school volunteers.

National Environmental Education Week – Encourage students to have a positive environmental impact.



IMPORTANT: Employee Volunteers

This information was sent in an email to all employees on September 10, 2014, but there still is confusion...It has been the District School Board of Pasco County's practice to require employees to complete the volunteer application process in order to volunteer at their children's schools. Because all employees go through a more thorough background check as a condition of employment, this requirement is unnecessary and duplicative. So, the superintendent has agreed that **employees no longer will have to go through the volunteer application process in order to volunteer at their children's schools and school events.** However, before you can volunteer to transport students on field trips or to other off-campus activities, employees must complete the Employee Application for Student Transportation Authority process. Click on this [link](#) to begin that process. (Schools should provide a means for employees to record their volunteer hours, though.) Thank you for what you do for the children of this district every day, and if you don't already volunteer at your child's school, please consider this your opportunity to start taking a more active role in their school activities.

Kudos

Recently I had the pleasure of dealing with **Cheryl Ganci**. Cheryl has exceeded my expectations as an employee of Pasco County Schools. I had several questions pertaining to retirement benefits and Cheryl has either had the knowledge to answer those questions or gotten the answers and contacted me...Contemplating retirement is a new chapter in someone's life (unknown territory) and Cheryl has made this new chapter in my life much, much easier. Pasco County Schools are fortunate to have such an employee. -Deb Holbrook



The teachers, students, and staff of Wesley Chapel High support Autism Awareness Month by wearing blue on April 10.

Take Your Sons & Daughters to Work

The national Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work day is scheduled for Thursday, April 23. As you know, that day falls during state end-of-course exams. With this in mind, we will use the same process we've used the past couple of years for parents who wish to take their children to work with them at their place of employment outside the district. A principal may allow a parent to take his or her son or daughter out of school to participate in the national event if the student does not have a scheduled EOC on Thursday, April 23, AND the parent has prearranged the student's absence with his or her principal and teacher(s). District employees who wish to bring their school-age son or daughter to work with them may do so on **Friday, May 29**. Employees also must prearrange their children's absences with their principals and teachers if they plan to participate on May 29.

"Wow! I Didn't Know That!" Results

First Place: Food and Nutrition Services; Prize: \$100 Panera gift card.

Second Place: Construction Services and Code Compliance; Prize: Breakfast with the Superintendent.

Third Place: Office of Technology and Information Services; Prize: Starbucks coffee.

Success Plan Community Meetings

Since July 2014, 12 schools and the district have been working with TransPro consultants to develop Success Plans to guide our work. The schools and the district will follow their plans in the coming years to align schools and constituencies around the work that matters most in the delivery of educational excellence and taxpayer value.

The plans were developed around four overarching strategies:

1. Excellence in student achievement
2. Employee success
3. Taxpayer value
4. Connecting to the community

Join us at any of the community meetings below to learn more about how the district will measure its success in these four areas. They are all geared toward pursuing our mission of providing a world class education for all students so that we can realize our vision that all of our students achieve success in college, career, and life.

Wednesday, May 6 @ 6:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 7 @ 6:30 p.m.
Fivay High School	Wiregrass Ranch High School
Sunray Elementary School	Weightman Middle School