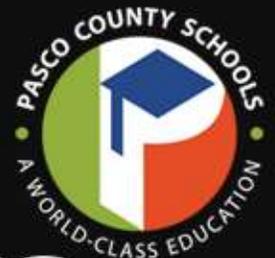




Kurt S. Browning,
Superintendent of Schools



April 23, 2015

School Matters

Success Plan Update

The community meetings to share information about the district's proposed Success Plan scheduled for May 6 and 7 have been postponed so that the steering committee can evaluate its work and align goals with the results of the recent TNTP review. New dates have not been set at this time, but watch for an announcement in an upcoming *School Matters*.

School Calendar Update

In last week's *School Matters*, we noted that HB 7069, which was signed into law by the governor on April 14, included a provision to allow school districts to set the school start date as early as August 10. At that time, we had not made a decision whether or not to recommend to the school board that we revise the 2015-2016 school calendar to reflect an earlier start date. After a brief discussion at Tuesday's school board workshop, we have decided not to make any changes and to keep the first day of school for 2015-2016 as August 24, 2015.

Professional Development



In this week's Insightful Educator Series, we highlight a teacher demonstrating reflection strategies. The teacher strategically develops questions that will engage students in metacognitive reflection. To view:

<https://youtu.be/79717BVqop0>.

Legislative Update

With almost a week of the 2015 Legislative Session left, both the House and the Senate remain at impasse with the budget. The chambers have opposing views on Medicaid expansion and low-income pool (LIP) funding. If they do not solve their differences by May 1, they will be forced to extend session or call a special session to fund the budget.

Be a Champion, Be a Foster Parent

Imagine being taken away from your home, not knowing where you will go, leaving behind your favorite things. Now, imagine this through the eyes of a child. There are more than 3,500 dependent children in Pinellas and Pasco counties due to child abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many of them need loving foster parents. They need you. When you open your heart and your home to foster children, you open the possibilities for them – you foster hope. For more information on becoming a foster parent, please call the Eckerd Recruitment Line toll-free at 1-866-233-0790. Click here for more info: <http://bit.ly/1biQjq9>.

Kudos

I wanted to take a minute to tell you of an experience I had with **Care Here**. I was sent to an Ear, Nose, and Throat specialist for my condition...He set me up with appointments at Trinity Medical Hospital. When they called I found out I needed to pay a \$500.00 deductible for each test. I called Care Here and found out that if the specialist sent my orders to Care Here that they will schedule to have them done and at no cost to me. That is a savings of \$1,000.00 to me...While I am very proud to be a part of this district, I just personally wanted to tell you how much I appreciate all the District does for our employees. I work for one of the best organizations in the State and am proud of it. - Jeana Bosworth, FNS Manager, Lake Myrtle Elementary



Congratulations to all the Mittye P. Locke Elementary and Dayspring Academy Elementary team members advancing to the World Odyssey of the Mind finals in Michigan!

