2014 Constitutional Essay Contest
In celebration of Constitution Day, September 17th, the Honorable Paula S. O’Neill, Ph.D., Pasco Clerk & Comptroller, is sponsoring the second annual Clerk & Comptroller’s Constitutional Essay Contest. Dr. O’Neill invites Pasco 5th grade students to participate. Click here for contest rules and deadlines. For more information, contact Holly Hawkes at HHawkes@pascoclerk.com or 727-815-7062.

Bright Ideas STEM from Today’s Youth
The School Board is proud to partner with Brighthouse Networks for their Bright Ideas - STEM competition. It is a multistate competition where high school students dream up the coolest inventions to make their own life, community, or even the world, more awesome. For more information, please click here.

Creative Teaching Grant
Every teacher has creative and innovative ideas to help their students engage in learning. Each year, the Pasco Education Foundation offers teachers across Pasco County the opportunity to apply for a classroom grant to assist with the financial resources they need to inspire learning among their students. Teachers can apply for a $500 grant by visiting the Foundation website and completing a Creative Teaching Grant application beginning Monday, September 8 thru Friday, October 10.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month
If you or someone you know are at risk for suicide, call the national suicide hotline at 800-273-TALK. This month the district Crisis Intervention Team will share information at school sites and via social media. September 10 is world suicide prevention awareness day, and student services and school staff are asked to wear yellow to promote school connectedness (supported by safe, inclusive school environments) and mental health as critical factors in suicide prevention.

Alternate Times, High School Writing Contest
Alternate Times will be holding a writing contest for 9th through 12th grade students in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas counties. The deadline to enter is October 6. Click here for more details, complete rules, and to enter, or download the contest flyer. For questions, contact Sue Bedry at sbedry@tampabay.com. Alternate Times is sponsored by Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education and the University of South Florida Humanities Institute.

Together We Stand 5K Run
Join us on Saturday, September 13, for a fun, high-energy event to support our student leaders who are preventing bullying by making their schools safer and more inclusive. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. at Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, 10500 Wilderness Park Blvd., New Port Richey. To register online, click here or register at Shelter 5 beginning at 7 a.m. the day of the run. The 5K will be professionally timed, and all levels of runners and walkers are welcome. For more information contact Molly Blair at mblair@pasco.k12.fl.us or 813-794-2485.

Kudos
I want to commend Sunlake High School Principal Steve Williams, his faculty, and staff on a job well-done during the lockdown on Friday. A very high level of cooperation from everyone. Administrators and staff knew exactly what to do (that’s why we practice). The communication was timely and continuous.– David Scanga, Ed.D

I wanted to send you an email to express my feelings about how the Administration and Staff responded to a possible threat situation at Sunlake High School last Friday...I have a son in his Junior year at Sunlake and of course like any other parent was hoping for a positive ending to the events that day. I can say that the way the entire staff reacted swiftly, professionally and calmly was impressive...I could not have been prouder of Mr. Williams and the entire Sunlake community. Mr. Williams provided calm and informative updates and Mr. Brady took control of the situation swiftly and worked closely with the Pasco County Sheriff’s office, which I must say was impressive as well in their response and obviously the training worked...You have a great staff there and I feel so much better they are in charge while my son is there. – Kraig Pomrenke

I would like to thank Richard MacLemAle for working extensively with Laura and Ginny on our new and improved HREQ site! We appreciate your time, expertise, and quality work product. – Christine Pejot

Submit Your Story Ideas
Communications staff is always looking for story ideas to pitch to reporters, so they created an online form to make it easy for teachers, staff, and administrators to send in items of interest. Click here to access the form.