



TERRIER TIMES

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1
NOVEMBER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Terrier Families,

Welcome back to another year at PCMS! Although it's unlike any other school opening any of us has ever experienced; I'd like to point out even with these circumstances, it was a fairly smooth opening. I attribute that not only to our celebrated teachers and support staff, but also to our great parents and students! Everyone adjusted well to new protocols put in place to keep both staff and students safe. I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and flexibility. I know I'll be able to count on PCMS staff and students to continue to be safe in order to make this year a valuable learning experience.

I continue to remind our students PCMS has been rated an "A" school and the highest performing school in the district for the last few years. We want to continue that trend this school year. Although no state testing took place at the end of last year; I am confident that PCMS students would have done well with the help of our dedicated teachers and support staff. Our expectations for learning are high for our students and I believe we will prepare them for success. We understand some students might be excluded from school for extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, so our teachers are making a point to include their lesson plans on their teacher websites so absent students don't fall too far behind. Please continue to encourage your children to use their teachers' websites often, even if they are out of school for only a short time.

As we continue this year of uncertainty, please continue to encourage your children to stay focused on their learning and to be flexible as we make adjustments when needed. I also want to thank you in advance for your continued support and patience as we work hard to close the learning gap created by the school closures last year. We will continue to teach our students skills necessary to be successful on the state assessments at the end of the year.

I look forward to a very successful year with our students and I'm especially grateful for the great partnership we have with our Terrier Families!



Respectfully,
John LeClair,
Principal

ADMINISTRATION

Principal

John LeClair

Assistant Principals

Matthew Kunder

Tara Whisenant

Dean

Jon Hock

Guidance Counselors

Eric Grzechowiak

Alexa Manaskie

ESE Liaison

Marjorie Lauture

Social Worker

Brittany Baumhardt

School Resource Officer

Deputy Mings

23000 Midway Blvd.
Port Charlotte FL 33952

Phone: 941-255-7460

Fax: 941-255-7469

Attendance Line: 941-255-7467

Office Hours: 8:00 - 4:30





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Abel Marquez, Jr. was a student at PCMS from 201-2017 and is now a Senior at Port Charlotte High School. While at PCMS, he participated in basketball and wrestling. At 6/5" and 275 pounds, the starting left tackle for the PCH Varsity Football Team has signed with West Point. We are always proud to celebrate the success of our former students and wish Abel the best as he completes his Senior year and prepares to excel at West Point.

<< Abel Marquez, Jr

📣 TERRIER SHOUT OUTS! 📣

A huge thank you to the Winn Dixie stores on Harbor Drive and Kings Highway, Sonshine Baptist Church, and Trinity Anglican Church for donations made to PCMS! We appreciate our community partners!

📣 STUDENT SHOUT OUT! 📣

Congratulations to Caleb Lawson (and Mrs. Orr) for earning an award for completing all 10 ICT Essentials last school year. He was recognized by the company since it's very difficult to accomplish and we are all proud of his efforts.

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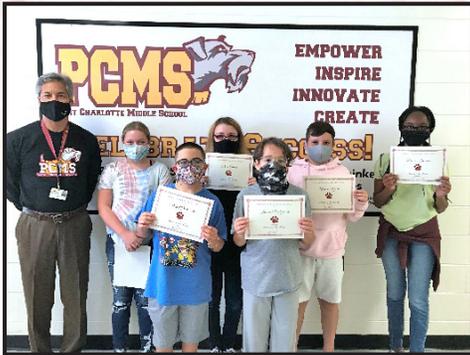


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SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

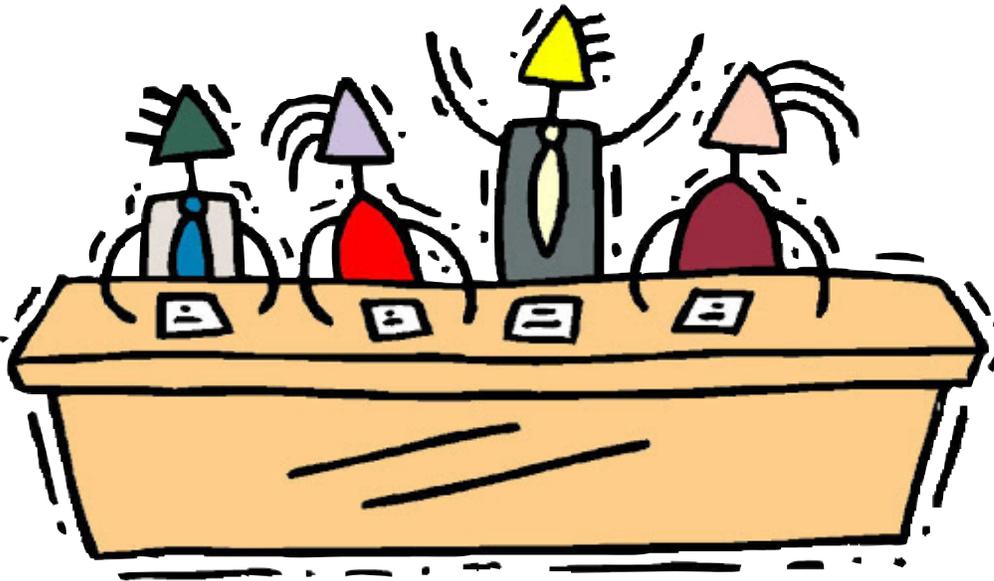
- 6th: Chloe Scimemi, Angel Zuchowski
- 7th: Logan Aquila, Leanna Janvier
- 8th: Javon Rockymore, Alyssa Stevens

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to the SGA officers for the 2020-21 School Year:

- President: Conner Yonley
- Vice-President: Aryanna Reid
- Secretary: Madison Valentz
- Historian: Olivia Lonce

SGA is open to all students who would like to be involved. We meet after school every Thursday with pick-up promptly at 5pm. See Mrs. Pucci for details.



OUT OF FIELD TEACHERS

The following teachers are out of field for 2020-2021:

- Mr. Anderson - Middle Grades Science & ESOL
- Ms. Smyser - ESE
- Mrs. Marsh - ESOL
- Ms. Merrigan - ESOL
- Mrs. Wheatley - ESOL
- Mrs. Carrieria - Reading Endorsement & ESOL
- Ms. Deplet - Reading Endorsement & ESOL



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FREE MATH AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Parents & Students, do you know that after-school MATH tutoring is offered free at PCMS? Tutoring is held Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons until 4:45 and Thursday mornings from 8 am - 9 am. To ensure a successful program, we ask that all students sign-up in advance (in the appropriate classroom) and arrive at tutoring prepared. They should bring work to complete and/or questions about concepts with which they are struggling.



SWAT

"Not A Lab Rat (NALR) Day, observed annually on the third Wednesday in October, is SWAT's initiative to empower young people to stand up and declare that they refuse to be the industry's "lab rats" as we wait and see the long-term health effects of vaping. SWAT youth across the state of Florida use NALR week (October 19-26) to educate their peers on the common misconceptions about vaping and the negative health effects it has on youth. Join us this NALR Day as we take a stand against Big Tobacco and their deadly products. To learn more about the Not A Lab Rat campaign, visit swatflorida.com/not-a-lab-rat.



STUDENT WORKING AGAINST TOBACCO



CREATIVE WRITING/SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Ms. Ford and her creative writing class have been working with Mrs. Renne and the Wellness Committee to spend some time focusing on staff members as a way to bring joy to those involved. A questionnaire was created and the creative writing class will be writing a feature article about a department for each newsletter. The new feature will be **Spotlight on Staff** and is being introduced later in this edition of the Terrier Times.



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DRUG FREE CHARLOTTE COUNTY

by Jen Bernardi, Prevention Program Coordinator

As we head into the final stretch of 2020, I think we can safely say that this has been an extraordinarily stressful year! It has been stressful for parents, and it has been stressful for kids. If you have scrolled through your news feed lately you have probably seen all the memes about the stresses of dealing with working from home, homeschooling kids, nothing is normal, etc. Sad to say most of those memes seem to suggest that drinking large amounts of alcohol is how to get through these stressful situations. Sure, memes are just supposed to be jokes, but did you know that according to Nielsen, alcohol sales have increased dramatically since Covid-19? This would lead me to believe that perhaps many people are using alcohol as a coping method, which can be not only very unhealthy but also not such a great example for our kids.

So, what can we do to relieve stress? Well, there are many things: listen to music, draw, exercise, sports, write, paint, build, garden, walk, swim, breathe, imagery, start a gratitude journal, help others, seek counseling or other professional help, talk about it with someone you trust, the list really goes on and on, everyone has a different technique that will work for them. One method of stress relief that has garnered a lot of attention in recent years due to its proven positive effects is Mindfulness. Mindfulness is a technique that parents can use, and so can our teens.

Maybe you're wondering, "What is Mindfulness?". Mindfulness is really a method of focusing in on your surroundings, and on yourself. It is a way of training your brain to focus, and in doing so, you gain more control over feelings of anxiety, anxiousness, worry, and stress, and your able to replace those automatic negative thoughts with positive thoughts until the positive thoughts become the norm rather than the negative ones.

If you think this sounds good to you, and you would like to give it a try, you can start simply with breathing. Close your eyes and really pay attention to the air as it enters your nostrils. Feel the way that it fills your lungs. When you exhale take note of the way your body releases the air. Feel your body in your seat. Feel your feet on the ground. Continue breathing in and out and focusing on the breathing. When you notice your mind wandering to other thoughts, force yourself to focus back in. You can try to do this by repeating a word in your head, like "breathe". If you practice this technique regularly, and not just when you feel stressed, but also when you are calm, you will begin to see the positive outcomes it brings. This is something you can teach to your teens and even model the behavior for them.

If you enjoy the mindfulness breathing exercise, there are many other types of mindfulness exercises that you can try. This may be the most challenging time that our teens have ever faced, let's be the example to them on healthy ways to manage stress so that they will know exactly what to do throughout their life when it comes to difficult situations.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

- Meetings are every Monday from 4:15-5:00
- Officers were just elected:
 - President: Kira Tuthill
 - Vice-President: Nicheal Fuller
 - Secretary: Kylie Caparo
 - Treasurer: Drew Stanley
 - Historian: Nina Castelo
- NJHS members will be tutoring in the math dept on Tuesdays and Wednesdays



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TITLE 1 INFORMATION

All reports for our Title 1 program are available, upon request, in our Family Center, in the lobby of our front office, and on our website, under About Us - Title I. There you will find the link below.

TITLE 1 PUBLISHED REPORTS & OTHER RESOURCES

SPAR: School Accountability Report link available on our PCMS school website on Title I page http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/year1617/nclb1617.cfm?dist_schl=8_131.



SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF: EXPLORATORIES

by 8th Grade Creative Writing Class

16.6 years. That's the average teaching experience of the Exploratory Department of Port Charlotte Middle School. What's surprising about this is that many of these teachers who have to teach such different curriculum end up having such similar interests.



Gardening is one such interest. Both Mrs. Pucci, the Art teacher, and Mrs. McGee, the Computer Applications in Business Apps 2 & 3 teacher, would love to add gardening to their classes.

When most people in Port Charlotte, FL were quarantined earlier this year, Mrs. Marshall, the Chorus, Piano Keyboards, and Exploring Music teacher, started a vegetable garden and planted some flowers during the quarantine. It helped her mental wellbeing during such a hard time.

"My brain and body fully relaxed over the long summer," said Mrs. Marshall. "I also viewed more videos and podcasts...I reconnected with old friends/relatives."

Both mental and physical wellbeing are important for the Exploratory teachers. Many were crafting, DIYing, gardening, working out, and cooking since PCMS closed its doors in March. That hasn't changed much since the doors reopened in August.

"I've been sewing like crazy!" Mrs. Pucci exclaimed.

While many people focus on the negative aspects of the COVID experience, these teachers try to look at the positive.

"The worst part is knowing that a lot of people are suffering and dying," said Senora Arias, the Spanish teacher. She's trying to find the positive, though. "My older daughter...came home for a month...I had more time to use the pressure cooker and learned a few more dishes."



Ms. Gibson, who teaches Computer Applications in Business 1&2, expressed her disappointment in not being able to travel during quarantine, but "I really enjoyed many aspects of spending time with family this summer, as well as trying new recipes!"

The best part for Coach Renne, a PE teacher, was "seeing people come together in a time of crisis" even though there was the "uncertainty and immense change of life."

"Growing up, the only place I felt respected and safe was in band. I said I would dedicate my career to doing the same for others." That's what made being out of brick and mortar school so difficult for Mrs. Miller, the Band Director. She had to split her classes in half and could not see her students every day. But she, like many in her department, chooses to look at the bright side. "[I love] seeing how mature my students are being about our specific band precautions."

A few spots are left!



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PE NOTES

PE students have been participating in a 9 week Wellness unit which ties in with our PE standards. Students have been doing activities that include muscle strength training on Monday and Tuesdays, walking for cardiorespiratory endurance on Wednesday, Yoga for strength and flexibility on Thursday and a "survivor challenge" on Friday which varies each week and focuses on different fitness skills. (Dips, wall sits, leg lifts, planks)

Each day we try to end with mindfulness activity with meditation (HeadSpace).

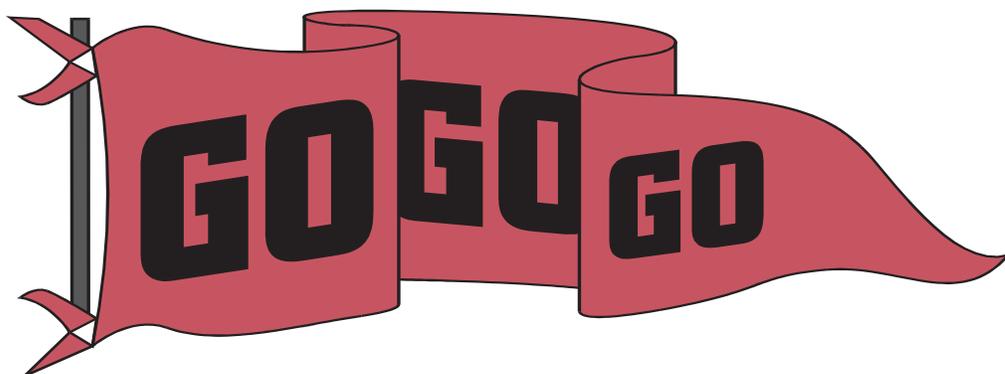
BAND

PCMS Band students have been hard at work since the beginning of the school year. New information and procedures had to be learned and perfected regarding mitigations to keep our players safe during COVID-19. Our musicians have been outstanding about these mitigations and our band room is as safe as we can make it. Our top bands, Garnet and Gold, have begun musical rehearsal of their first concert performance music. We found out how tough that long quarantine break was from our instruments, but as the days go by we get stronger and stronger. Our new beginner musicians have learned about the concert band instruments, tested and made selections on what they will play this year. We are currently learning how to assemble, clean and play our first notes. The future looks bright!

PCMS Band is remaining strong during these trying times and it's all a credit to the positive and undeterred spirit of its musicians. Mrs. Miller is so proud of all the band kids and can't wait until we are ready, and safe, to perform for everyone. Info on performance dates and times are not determined yet, information will be published once it is developed.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS SCHEDULE 2020-2021

***Please note that due to Covid-19 restrictions, only family members of players are permitted to attend athletic events.**



Volleyball

Games @ 5:30pm

11/5	MMS @ LAA/PGM @PCM
11/12	MMS @ PCM/LAA @PGM
11/19	PCM @ LAA/MMS @PGM
12/3	PCM @ MMS/PGM @LAA
12/10	LAA @ MMS/PCM @PGM
12/17	LAA @ PCM/PGM @MMS
12/19	Playoffs at LBHS @ 9am (Saturday)

Wrestling

Dual Matches - Match Time 5:30pm

4/15	PGM @ PCM/LAA @MMS
4/22	MMS @ PGM/PCM @LAA
4/29	PGM @ LAA/MMS @PCM
5/1	County Tournament 10:00am Start Time @ Charlotte High School (Saturday)

Basketball (Boys/Girls)

Games @ 5:30pm/6:30pm

2/4	LAA @ PCM/MMS @PGM (Girls/Boys)
2/11	MPCM @ PCM/LAA @MMS (Boys/Girls)
2/18	PCM @ MMS/PGM @LAA (Girls/Boys)
2/25	PCM @ LAA/PGM @MMS (Boys/Girls)
3/4	MMS @ PCM/PLAA @PGM (Girls/Boys)
3/9	PCM @ PGM/MMS@LAA (Boys/Girls) (Tuesday Game)
3/11	Payoffs @ #1 Seed Home Gym (Thursday)

Track & Field

Meet Time - 9am Start

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