



LEILA G. DAVIS ELEMENTARY
Home of the Bear Cubs
Monthly Newsletter



Volume 3

October 29, 2010

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A Message from Mrs. Hill

October has been a very busy month here at Davis Elementary! It is hard to believe that a third of the school year has already passed. Our teachers and students have worked so hard this first marking period. It is exciting to visit classrooms each day and watch our students happily engaged in learning. Each day they are striving to become the best “readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists. We honored many of our students for displaying our Guidelines for Success at our first ROAR Rally this past week. I want to thank all of the parents and visitors who attended our Rally to support our outstanding students.

November will be a very busy month on campus. On November 2nd, students will be bringing home orders from the PTA catalog fundraiser. Be on the lookout for these items coming home. On November 12th, all Davis students will be treated to a BMX Bike Show sponsored by our amazing PTA. Mrs. Scott will be organizing our annual book fair the week of November 15th. More information will be coming home in the next week detailing specific dates. You may want to think about picking up a few holiday gifts for the family during book fair week. Remember books make great gifts!! On November 18th, we will be hosting the Great American Teach In. We encourage parents, grandparents, and friends to share their careers and talents with our students. A flyer about the Teach In is included in this newsletter.

Another important point I need to bring up to parents is about the district’s new attendance policy. I have outlined the policy in this newsletter. Please take time to read it carefully as we will be enforcing and adhering to this policy beginning November 1st. Our biggest challenge here at Davis is students who are tardy in the morning. Please remember that your child is considered tardy if they are not in their classroom at the tardy bell (8:35am). Family vacations, heavy traffic, and oversleeping are considered unexcused tardies/absences. The most crucial learning hours of a school day are the morning hours, because students are most attentive. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes, and they also cause a distraction when they arrive late to the classroom. Research shows that students who are frequently tardy have lower GPAs, lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school. The classroom experience is

of unique value and cannot be duplicated by make-up work, so please take the time to familiarize yourself with the attendance policy.

Thank you again for your continued support!! Enjoy the Halloween weekend!

Important Dates

- Nov. 2 Election Day
- Nov. 6 PTA Beautification Day 9:00 – 12:00
- Nov. 7 Daylight Savings Ends - Set clocks back 1 hour
- Nov. 11 Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 12 Report Cards
- Nov. 15 Book Fair begins
- Nov. 16 Late Night Book Fair Open till 8:00 p.m.
- Nov. 16 PTA Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17 SAC Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 18 Great American Teach-In
- Nov. 19 Turkey Trot (during PE classes)
- Nov. 22-26 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

Follow Davis On Twitter!

Davis Elementary has joined the world of social networking. You can follow our latest news, updates, and information by following us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/lgdbearcubs>. It is a great way to stay up to date on the most current happenings of Davis Elementary. The best part is that it is free!

ATTENDANCE—IT IS THE LAW

Recently, the School Board of Pinellas County adopted new rules about student attendance. The philosophical basis and purpose of the policy is that —the classroom experience is of unique value and cannot be duplicated by make-up work. We all know that the law states that students have to attend school regularly. Where things get a bit confusing and unclear is when we start thinking about absences, tardies and early sign-outs. The new policy now makes some clear distinctions that we would like you to be aware of:

To be counted as present for the school day, a student must be in attendance for at least one half of the day.

Students must be in school unless the absence, tardy or early sign-out is excused.*

Three (3) unexcused tardies within a grading period count as one unexcused absence.

Three (3) unexcused early sign outs within a grading period will count as one unexcused absence.

* To be **excused**, an absence, tardy or early sign out must meet one of the following criteria:

- A. The student is ill or injured.
- B. There is major illness in the immediate family (parents, siblings, grandparents living in the home)
- C. There is a death in the immediate family.
- D. The student attends religious instruction or there is a religious holiday in the student's own faith.
- E. The student is required by summons, subpoena or court order to appear in court. Document must be provided to principal.
- F. Special Events. The student must get permission from the principal at least five days prior to the absence.
- G. The student has a scheduled medical or dental appointment.
- H. Students having, or suspected of having a communicable disease or infestation which can be transmitted are to be excluded from school and are not allowed to return to school until they no longer present a health hazard.

We do have a form available in the office to request permission to miss school for a special event. Absence due to illness needs to be called into our absence line 727-725-7972 X 2300.

A pattern of unexcused absences, etc. will be referred to our school's Child Study Team.

Third Grade News

The third grade teachers are excited that their students are ROARING into third grade. They have settled into the school year and are hard working, self-motivated, responsible, and respectful students. In writing, third graders are working hard on adding their vocabulary words into their stories, using dialogue and staying focused on their topic. In math, students just wrapped up addition and subtraction with regrouping and are in the midst of multiplication. Please remember: it is crucial that all third graders are reading at home for 30 minutes a night! Also, check out the learning website www.fcatexplorer.com. Username and password information are in your child's planner. Additionally, since the first round of testing is completed, teachers are working on setting up parent conferences over the next few weeks. Thank you for your continued support.

Fourth Grade News

Fourth Grade is off to a great start this year! The students have just completed Assessment Cycle 1. Students are busy getting down to work in reading and writing. We are studying Life Science at this time. We are also studying the book, A Land Remembered in Social Studies. There is an exciting field trip planned to go along with A Land Remembered on January 14th. This covers Florida History. Please register as a volunteer so that you can join us on this and any other field trip. Also let your teacher know if you would like to share your career on American Teach In day which is November 18th. Remember to continue academic practice at home, especially reading nightly and math facts.

Fifth Grade News

Fifth Grade is on the right track. Our trip to Enterprise Village on October 14th was a great success! Students shopped till they dropped and learned what it was like to be grown up. Students are starting to learn about the human body and beginning Geometry. Please fill out the 5th grade volunteer letter and return ASAP. Fifth grade is a fun and exciting year, so we need a lot of volunteers, so we can start planning activities. We would like to get the fifth grade t-shirts done as soon as possible. As always thank you for your support.

P.E. "SHORTS"

On Friday November 19th, we will be having our annual Turkey Trot. This is a fun day for our students to interact with each other while either jogging or walking around the bus circle. Parents are welcome to join their children during the Turkey Trot. Students will meet on the bus circle for their scheduled P.E. time.

Multi Cultural Club is off and running! October's meeting focused on Hispanic Heritage Month and we played an interactive game to learn about this. Our next meeting will be on November 3rd to discuss Mix it Up Day. On November 9th, we will be celebrating Mix It Up Day. We are celebrating our differences and our friendships that day. During our regular lunch times, students will have a picnic-style lunch outside (weather permitting). They will be able to sit with their friends from other classes on that day.

Volunteer Corner

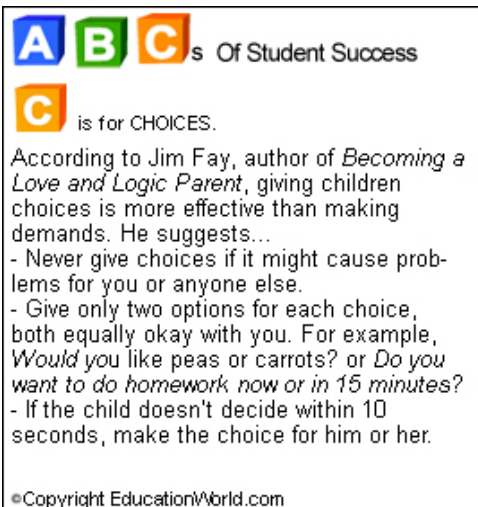
Attention Volunteers! If you would like to volunteer here at Leila G. Davis Elementary, please reactivate your existing account or fill out a New Volunteer Registration form and turn into the front office. The Volunteer Registration Forms can be found on lgdpta.com under the forms section or you can get one from the front office (please attach a copy of your photo ID). To our existing volunteers, THANK YOU for all that you do for the school! Many of the things we have here at Leila G. Davis Elementary would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at:

Melodie Moreno
Family and Community Liaison
morenome@pcsb.org

PTA UPDATE

PTA Catalog Sales will be delivered to the school and going home with your child on Tuesday, November 2nd. Each order will be individually bagged for each child. If you have a large order and need assistance, please contact Melodie Moreno (melodiepta@yahoo.com) to make special arrangements. We will have extra help available that day to assist the kids with their orders. If your child is eligible for a particular prize, you will be notified individually as to when that will take place. The BMX show is scheduled for Friday, November 12. Thank you for all of your support!!!



A B Cs Of Student Success

C is for CHOICES.

According to Jim Fay, author of *Becoming a Love and Logic Parent*, giving children choices is more effective than making demands. He suggests...

- Never give choices if it might cause problems for you or anyone else.
- Give only two options for each choice, both equally okay with you. For example, *Would you like peas or carrots? or Do you want to do homework now or in 15 minutes?*
- If the child doesn't decide within 10 seconds, make the choice for him or her.

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Adopt-A-Class

Thank you to all of the following members of our Leila G. Davis community who have participated in our Adopt a Class/Business Partnership Program! Your contributions are greatly appreciated. For more information in participating in our Adopt a Class program please visit the Leila G. Davis Website or visit the front office.

Bradley Family
Brady's Backyard BBQ
Richard Clemens
Coor
DMC Enterprises, Inc.
Dunn and Palm Families
Bob & Linda Green
Betsey Hagenow
The Hazelton's
Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort
Lou & Sherill Hewlett
Hurley
Jack Rice Insurance
Connie Lapigade
Mesada
Edyta & Andrzej Mysliwicz
North Bay Hills Homeowners Assoc.
Lori Pettit
Piazza
Posey Family
Stephany Sanchez
Shin Family
Greg & Carolina Sohn
Swope & Bright P.L. Attorneys at Law
Deanna & Jerry Texel
The Sugar Free Shoppe
Barbara Thorton
Heidi Tosti
Martin & Rosemary VanName
Evan & Penny Taub
Adriana & Arian Kushta
Thorpe Family
J Park After School Karate
Nathan Kipervaser
Nancy Eiseman
Lisa Previch
(Capital Development Enterprises)
Auto Whole Sales Brokers

The Curriculum Corner

Greetings Parents

Did you know that today, October 29th is the end of the first grading period? The first grading period consisted of 47 exciting and enriched instructional days. The first Report Card will come home on Friday, November 12th. Remember to praise your child(ren) for their hard work and effort. Spend time with your child reviewing the report card and set goals to maintain or improve grades, conduct, work habits, and attendance. The next grading period will be from November 1st – February 11th. I am sure you are as proud of your children as we are!

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education. 😊

A Note from the Clinic

We request that medications be given at home whenever possible; however, if a medication is required during school hours, the following procedure must be observed:

1. Parents must obtain "ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION" forms from the school.

Blue form: This form is used for prescription drugs and must be signed by the parent.

Orange form: This form is used for non-prescription drugs (over-the-counter and alternative/herbal/dietary supplements) and must be signed by the parent and the physician/dentist. If there are any changes in the medication and/or new medication is prescribed a new form must be signed and returned to the school.

2. Prescription medication must be delivered in a pharmacy prescription container with current date, dosage, name of drug, specific time of medication to be given at school and student's and physician's names clearly marked. Medication must remain in the container in which it was originally dispensed.

3. Over the Counter medications and alternative/herbal/dietary supplements must be in the original sealed container.

4. Medication must be sent to school via parent/guardian. Parents should arrange for a separate supply of medication for school. Medication will **not** be transported between home and school on a daily or weekly basis.

5. When accepting medication, school staff must count medication with parent.

6. Medications will be stored in a locked cabinet at school and a record kept of administration.

7. Liquid medications will be given in a calibrated measurer provided by the parent.

8. Parents of a student with a history of severe allergies should contact the school regarding an emergency treatment procedure.

9. It is the parent's responsibility to pick up unneeded/unused medication as soon as possible. Any medication remaining at the end of the school year will be destroyed.

10. New authorization forms are required each school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the clinic at 725-7972.

Student Involvement Day Menu for November 4th

Corndogs
Hamburger/Cheeseburger
Baked Potato with Cheese
Corn
Oven Fries
Biscuit
Assorted Sandwiches
Fresh Fruit
Canned Fruit
Milk
Juice





Great American *Teach-In*

You have the power to enrich a child's life – in as little as an hour.

The Progress Energy Great American Teach-In is part of Pinellas County Schools' annual American Education Week celebration. Sponsored by Progress Energy since 1994, it's a special opportunity for you to visit the public school of your choice and share what you know with a new generation.

This year's event is scheduled for Thurs., Nov. 18, 2010. Opportunities are available from 7:05 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. You may choose to stay for an hour or for the whole day! The amount of time you volunteer is determined strictly by what your schedule permits and what the teacher wants to accomplish.

Whatever the length of your visit, you can make a difference. Thousands of previous Teach-In participants have discovered the experience is truly rewarding.

Teach-In tips:

- Plan for 20-35 students per classroom.
- Consider wearing attire appropriate to the occupation, hobby or topic you plan to discuss.

- Keep the students' average attention span in mind: 10-15 minutes for elementary grades and 20-30 minutes for secondary grades.
- When you arrive at the school, please check in at the office to pick up your name tag. Someone will greet you and accompany or direct you to your classroom.
- If you plan to bring printed or audiovisual materials, please check with the teacher or school Teach-In coordinator in advance.
- Do not ask students for personal information, including telephone numbers or addresses.

Sign up today!

To register for the 2010 Progress Energy Great American Teach-In, please contact your local school by Nov. 11, 2010. Please plan to join us. The kids will love you for it!



Progress Energy Great American *Teach-In* Registration Form

NAME: _____

PHONE: (DAY) _____

PHONE: (NIGHT) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CHOICE OF SCHOOL: (OPTIONAL) _____

SUBJECT MATTER: _____

GRADE PREFERENCE: _____

LENGTH OF STAY: 1-2 HRS 3-4 HRS ALL DAY

TIME OF DAY TO ATTEND: _____

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Detach this panel and return by Nov. 11, 2010 to any Pinellas County school or mail to:

Dr. Valerie Brimm
Pinellas County Schools
301 4th St. SW
P.O. Box 2942
Largo, FL 33779-2942

If you'd like more information, please contact the Teach-In coordinator at a school.





New Student Achievement Plan Designed To Help Students Succeed

The mission of the Pinellas County School district is 100% Student Success. All students should have an opportunity to attend a great school and perform well academically. The proposed Student Achievement Plan focuses on creating and supporting learning opportunities and options at all schools that will challenge students and promote academic excellence. It encompasses changes in curriculum, instruction, culture, structure and support. The focus of the Student Achievement Plan is more about creating exciting learning opportunities rather than simply assigning students to schools. Among the changes proposed are:

- Creating a “fundamental like” PreK-8 district – a focus on involvement and support for student learning, including student uniforms.
- Creating three “research and development” schools in partnership with local colleges.
- Dividing the county into northern, middle and southern zones to provide equal options for families.
- Establishing an Advanced International Certificated Education (similar to the International Baccalaureate) program at three high schools.
- Adding a third high school IB program in the middle of the county (IB programs are already at Palm Harbor University High and St. Petersburg High).
- Expanding virtual school at all school levels.
- Expanding (Advancement Via Individual Determination) AVID programs at all high and middle schools.

For more information about the Student Achievement Plan, visit http://www.pcsb.org/files/proposed_achiev_plan.pdf

Two Community Forums Scheduled

The district would like your input on the new Student Achievement Plan. You are invited to attend two Community Forums to hear from district officials and to give your suggestions on the plan. Both forums are from 7-8:30 p.m.

- **Oct. 12 – Countryside High, 3000 State Rd. 580, Clearwater**
- **Oct. 13 – Gibbs High, 850 34th St. S., St. Petersburg**

Stay Connected with PCS

WEB – For the latest district news, visit the PCS website, www.pcsb.org.

TV – School board meetings are held twice monthly during most months and are streamed live at www.wpds.tv. Rebroadcasts are available on Bright House Networks Ch. 614, Knology Ch. 2 and Verizon Ch. 46.

TWITTER – Sign up to follow district news on Twitter at www.twitter.com/pcschools.

PCS PORTAL – Review your child’s grades, participate in educational video lessons, and communicate interactively with your child’s teacher through this online system. The portal is located on the district website, www.pcsb.org. Just look for the PCS Portal icon.

Parent Involvement

Parental involvement in a child’s education equals student success. When parents are involved in their child’s education, courses are passed, credits are earned and students are promoted to the next grade. Below are some helpful tips to help your child succeed.

- Encourage your child to read daily.
- Stay aware of what your child is learning in school.
- Review homework assignments and graded quizzes/tests with your child for improvement.
- Ensure that your child arrives to school on time and prepared each day.
- Stay in contact with your child’s teacher(s) and ask questions.



Nov. 19 Is Deadline for Young Heroes Nominations

Here’s your chance to nominate students who have given of themselves through community service or who inspire others through their deeds and strength of character. Nominate a student for the 2010-11 Young Heroes Award.

Winning students will be profiled on WPDS-TV14 and on the district website. Winners also will receive a \$500 Savings Bond sponsored by DITEK.

Nomination forms are available on the district website, www.pcsb.org.

November 2010

Pinellas County Elementary School Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Honey Bun Choose 1: Mini Burgers Hot Dog On bun, Farmers Salad Choose 2: Coleslaw, Baked Beans Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1 Whole Wheat Roll	2 Canadian Bacon & Egg English Muffin Choose 1: Roasted Chicken, Mac & Cheese Choose 2: Sweet Potatoes, Romaine Salad Mixed Veggies, Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1 Whole Wheat Bread Dessert	3 Cheese Grits & Sausage Patty or Sausage Biscuit Choose 1: Popcorn Chicken Breaded Pork Chopette on Bun Manager Choice Meatless Entrée Choose 2: Leafy Green Salad Oven Fries Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: WW Pretzel Rod	4 Pancakes W/ Maple Bits Student Involvement Day Menu to be chosen by a group of students at each individual school	5 Breakfast Yogurt Parfait Choose 1: Pizza Variety Fish Sticks Choose 2: Tossed Salad Broccoli Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Bread Basket
8 Two Egg Omelet Choose 1: Hamburger/Cheeseburger Bean Burrito Choose 2: Lettuce & Tomato Salad, Tator Tots, Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Whole Wheat Roll	9 Max Stick W/ Tator Tots Choose 1: Chicken & Gravy, Pork Chopette or Yogurt & Fruit Plate Choose 2: Romaine Salad, Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Greens, Asst Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Whole Wheat Roll Dessert Choice	10 Breakfast Pizza or Egg & Cheese Biscuit Choose 1: Beef Dippers Lasagna Roll-up Choose 2: Leafy Green Salad Steamed Carrots Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Roll/, Rice	11 Chicken on a Biscuit Choose 1: Breakfast for Lunch, Chicken Tenders, Farmer's Salad Choose 2: Veggies w/Dip, Mixed Vegetables, Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Whole Wheat Roll Dessert Choice	12 Oatmeal or Cheese Toast Sandwich Choose 1: Pizza Variety Fish Sandwich Choose 2: Tossed Salad Green Beans Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Bread Basket
15 Breakfast Turnover Choose 1: Chicken Nuggets, Pasta w/ Marinara Choose 2: Leafy Green Salad, Capri Blend, Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Garlic WW Roll	16 Egg Patty/ Sausage Link/ Toast Choose 1: Meatball Sub, Corndog, Vegetarian Chili Choose 2: Romaine Salad, Deli Roasted Potatoes Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Crackers Dessert Choice	17 Breakfast Burrito Choose 1: Sloppy Joe, Max Sticks W/ Marinara Choose 2: Fresh Veggies w/Dip, Green Peas, Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Whole Wheat Roll	18 Belgian Waffle Sticks Choose 1: Teriyaki Chicken Rice Bowl, Ribeye /Bun, Farmer's Salad Choose 2: Oriental Veggies, Lett & Tomato Salad Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Whole Wheat Roll Dessert Choice	19 Yogurt or Sausage Biscuit Choose 1: Pizza Variety Fish Sticks Choose 2: Tossed Salad Steamed Carrots Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Bread Basket
 	<p>Thanksgiving Menu Served during week prior to holiday break. Day determined by individual school schedules.</p>		<p>Thanksgiving Menu</p> <p>Roast Turkey W/ Dressing, Gravy & Cranberry Sauce Mashed or Sweet Potatoes Green Beans or Tossed Salad Fruit or Juice, Whole Wheat Roll Dessert, Milk</p>	
29 Frittata Sausage & Cheese Choose 1: Chicken Patty on Bun Baked Potato W/ Cheese Choose 2: Leafy Green Salad Broccoli Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Biscuit	30 Pancake Sausage Sandwich Choose 1: Taco/Taco Salad, Fiesta Chicken, Yogurt Parfait Choose 2: Lettuce & Tomato Salad Corn, Refried Beans Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose 1: Whole Wheat Roll Dessert Choice		<p>Breakfast (1) Cereal & (1) Toast or (1) Menu Breakfast Entrée + (1) Fruit (Fresh, Canned or Juice) + (1) Milk Daily Lunch Choices Entrée, (2) Fruits or (2) Vegetables or (1) Fruit & (1) Vegetable + (1) Bread or Crackers + (1) Milk Available At Lunch Daily Meatless Entrée, Entrée Salads, Cold Sandwiches, Low-fat white, Flavored or, Skim Milk</p>	