



THE TRAILBLAZER



Volume 3, Issue 5

CLEARWATER FUNDAMENTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Our Learning Lasts a Lifetime"

February 2012

Dates to Remember

- Feb. 1st - Department of Health Shot Clinic 6th Grade, Gym
- Feb. 1st, 8th & 15th - Yearbook Design Club, 2:45-3:30PM, Rm. 411
- Feb. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th - Chess Club, 2:55PM - 3:45 PM, Room #203
- Feb. 1st - Middle School Bands Perform, 7PM, at Mahaffey Theatre
- Feb. 2nd - NJHS Officer's Meeting, 7:35AM, Rm. #204
- Feb. 3rd & 9th - Student Council Meeting, 7:45AM, Rm. #408
- Feb. 3rd, 10th, & 17th - Girls Get It Club, 7:30AM - 8:10AM, Room 414
- Feb. 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th - Science Tutoring, 2:50 - 3:50 PM, Rm. # 309
- Feb. 8th & 22nd - Godfidence Meeting, 2:45 - 3:20PM, Rm. #310
- Feb. 9th & 14th - NJHS General Meeting, 7:35AM, Gym
- Feb. 9th - 16th - APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE PERIOD
- Feb. 9th - PMAC Meeting, 2:50PM - 3:40PM, Rm. #207
- Feb. 9th - SAC Meeting, 6PM, Gym
- Feb. 10th - 1st RC Quiz Due
- Feb. 13th - 17th - Book Fair, Media Center
- Feb. 14th & 23rd - Spirit Day
- Feb. 14th - NJHS Sweetheart Dance, 3 - 5 PM, Gym
- Feb. 16th - STEP Club Meeting, 7:45AM, Rm. #402
- Feb. 16th - Orchestra Extravaganza, 6:30PM, Tarpon High Aud.
- Feb. 17th - Vision/Hearing Screening
- Feb. 21st - PTA Meeting, 7PM, Clearwater High School
- Feb. 22nd - 8th Grade Friendship Pictures
- Feb. 23rd - Student Council, 2:45 - 3:30, Rm. #408
- Feb. 24th - No School for Students
- Feb. 28th - Florida Writes Test

Mr. "R's" few words ...

Dear Trailblazing Families,

Facebook, MySpace, and tweets have become some of the most common ways for our students to communicate with each other. Over the last couple of weeks, our school has become involved in several disruptive conflicts between students and their families that started on one of these social media sites. The conflicts then spilled over to school. With only two administrators, we certainly have more than enough work to do. Neither Mr. Kurek nor I are hoping to generate more business having to police this outside school activity. At the same time, Mr. Kurek and I feel we have the responsibility to create a campus where all students feel safe from all types of bullying. This includes cyber bullying, the use of threats or inappropriate comments that end up having an impact on our school operations.

Let's look at the conditions governing these sites. Facebook and MySpace require individuals to be only 13 years of age in order to create an account of their own. Twitter limits account holders to those being old enough to enter into any binding contract. Until they change the policies of Facebook and MySpace we should take a good, hard look at the children using these sites. Is your child younger than 13? I know of 9-12 year olds with accounts created by an older sibling. If 13, 14, or 15 years of age, do these youngsters really have the judgment necessary to use these sites wisely? Once your child presses "enter" the communication is permanently available and irretrievable.

Youngsters feel certain anonymity when using these sites. They believe since the conversations take place outside of the school arena that they are beyond the reaches of school discipline. If an incident spills over onto our campus, it may require interviews, parent notification, and/or locker searches. We reserve the right to apply the fundamental guidelines when issuing discipline.

What I find most interesting and very sad is that, in several cases, the parents had no idea that their children even had Facebook accounts. It has been suggested over and over again to place the child's computer in a common area where the sites they are visiting are easily witnessed. In addition, there are a number of pieces of software that will assist parents in seriously monitoring their children's internet use. This type of software can track websites visited, chat rooms visited, email communications and more. Monitoring your child's online activities is not an invasion of privacy. I believe it is your moral responsibility to do so. We, as a school, truly have no interest in limiting or interfering with free speech or activities taking place off campus. However, when they alter our school day, we believe it is our responsibility to maintain control.

Just a few words from Mr. "R"

Dave Rosenberger

rosenbergerd@pcsb.org

SCHOOL NURSE NEWS



Our school nurse, Sara O'Toole, has been promoted to the district office in Largo. We wish her well and would like to introduce to you our new school nurse, Denise Tuchman. Nurse Tuchman will be at our school on Thursdays and can be reached at tuchmand@pcsb.org should you need to contact her. Welcome Nurse Tuchman!

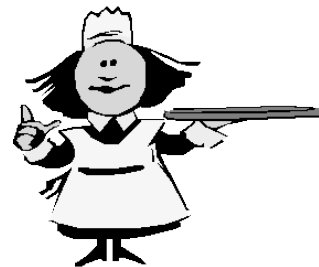


HEALTH SCREENINGS

On Friday, February 17th, all grade 6 students will be screened for scoliosis along with a vision and hearing screening. This is required by Florida statute. Scoliosis affects about 2% of the population. Age 11- 12 is an ideal time to screen for this problem. It is most common in young girls, but boys and adults can have scoliosis, too. We all have curves in our spines, but scoliosis causes the spine to curve in the wrong direction. It causes sideways curves and those are different from the spine's normal curves. It is a simple test, and takes just a minute. All the student needs to do is bend forward so that their back can be observed. If you do not want your child to be screened for scoliosis, vision, and/or hearing, you must provide written notification to the school before the screening day. Again, this must be a written request.

Thank you.

CAFÉ HOTLINE



Dear CFMS,

Happy Valentine's Day to all! We will be having cupcakes at lunchtime to celebrate. Not much else is new for this month, so have a great month, and please don't forget to check out our revised menu in this newsletter.

As always, please contact me with any concerns or questions that may arise.



Catherine Hyman
Food Service Manager

STUDENT COUNCIL FUNDRAISER!

Valentine Message Lollipops will be on sale before school and during lunch February 6-9th and before the SAC meeting on February 9th! The cost is ONLY \$1, so send your favorite valentine a special message!



2012 GRADUATION SCHEDULE

Because many of our families have children in both middle and high school, please find below the 2012 graduation schedule.

| High School | Day | Graduation Date | Where | Time |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Bayside | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Bayside Gym | 8:30 a.m. |
| Boca Ciega | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Tropicana | 7:30 a.m. |
| Clearwater | Thursday | June 7, 2012 | Bright House Field | 7:30 p.m. |
| Countryside | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Bright House Field | 8:00 a.m. |
| Dixie Hollins | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Tropicana | 6:00 p.m. |
| Dunedin | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Ruth Eckerd Hall | 8:00 a.m. |
| East Lake | Wednesday | June 6, 2012 | Tropicana | 3:00 p.m. |
| Gibbs | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Tropicana | 11:00 a.m. |
| Lakewood | Thursday | June 7, 2012 | School Football Field | 7:00 p.m. |
| Largo | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Bright House Field | 7:00 p.m. |
| Northeast | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Tropicana | 2:30 p.m. |
| Osceola | Thursday | June 7, 2012 | Tropicana | 6:30 p.m. |
| Palm Harbor Univ. | Thursday | June 7, 2012 | School Football Field | 7:30 p.m. |
| Pinellas Park | Thursday | June 7, 2012 | Tropicana | 3:00 p.m. |
| Seminole | Wednesday | June 6, 2012 | Tropicana | 6:30 p.m. |
| St. Petersburg | Friday | June 8, 2012 | Stewart Field | 6:45 p.m. |
| Tarpon Springs | Thursday | June 7, 2012 | Sponger Field | 7:00 p.m. |

Non-Fundamental Clothing and Adornments

We are asking parents to revisit the fundamental dress code. It is so much easier to avoid a conflict rather than to alter a dress or top that no longer fits the school standard. How a student leaves their home and how they wear something here at school can be completely different. Students often admit leaving their jacket or sweater (that was supposed to be their cover-up) in their locker during the day, then putting them back on before heading home. Dress code detentions are written based on how the student is wearing the item while here at school.

While most of the rules have clear and understood definitions, clothing and bracelet manufacturers are constantly trying to create something that the students “just have to wear.” Like the “non-fundamental” dictionary, it is not possible to publish a list of words or phrases that are not allowed, as it would be changing continually. Please use the same guidelines published for un-fundamental words on page 10 when selecting clothing with statement imprints or bracelets purporting to support one cause or another.

Regarding the promotional bracelet for a certain body part, the general rule is if the area being advertised is typically covered by clothing, the phrase is not appropriate to be worn here at school. If the phrase describes an activity that is not appropriate for school hours, it is not appropriate to be worn. For example, the American Breast Cancer Society originally sold the bracelets supporting their cause in hopes of raising both funds and awareness to their concern. However, it has now become a novelty item produced by many with no educational benefits or funds donated towards the cause of cancer prevention.

The student planner covers the dress code in great detail (see page 8). Students should dress for “work”, much like someone who works for a fast food chain, grocery store, bank or hospital. If in doubt, just ask!

NJHS News



The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is sponsoring a Sweetheart Dance on Valentine's Day, February 14th, from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. at the school gym. Music is provided by DJ Phil. A donation of \$5.00 will get a ticket to the dance.

We need your help. We are asking our CFMS community (family and friends) for donations of individually packaged chips and cookies. Food donations may be dropped off with Mrs. Stucki at the front office.

Volunteers are also needed to act as chaperones during the dance. Please sign-up with Mrs. Teresa Daiker, our school Volunteer Coordinator.



THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING! THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

The Book Fair will be held in the Media Center from February 13th - 17th. All proceeds benefit the Media Center.



Everyone enjoys a good book!

National Geography Bee



Thanks to all of the students that participated in the final rounds of the Geography Bee. The ten school finalists were: **Brian B, John W, Michael C, Max A, Anthony C, Bernadette B, Jacob B, Josie S, Jason Z, and Patrick R.**

Jason Z finished third and Max A placed second. Anthony C is our school champion and will represent us at the state level.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Dalton

8th Grade Social Studies

IT'S ABOUT SCHOOL SPIRIT AND BASEBALL!

Threshers Family

Fun Night is fast approaching. The Clearwater Threshers will be playing the Dunedin Blue Jays. This night

provides a fun atmosphere for Curtis Fundamental Elementary and Clearwater Fundamental Middle School families and teachers to have fun together and enjoy a little baseball. The date for the game is Saturday, May 5th. The gates open at 5:00 PM with the game starting at 6:30 PM. Prior to the game, students will be able to get player autographs and immediately following the game you will enjoy one of the best Fireworks shows in the county.

Look for additional information in upcoming newsletters.



Bright House Networks Field

ADOPT - A - SOLDIER PROJECT



The Literacy Classes at CFMS are continuing to “adopt” soldiers on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our adoption includes writing letters of support and cheer as well as sending monthly care packages of candy, cookies, gum, and snacks of all kinds. We are always appreciative of donated items to include in the packages. What to donate? You can find a long list of needed items in the front office. Also, pictures of our “adopted” soldiers are in the display case in the main hallway.

Margo Roche
Adopt-a-Soldier Sponsor
rochem@pcsb.org



TEACHER WISH LIST

- Ms. D’Andrea would like tissues, select-a-size paper towels, Expo white board markers
- Ms. Rudolph needs tissues

THANK YOU for YOUR SUPPORT!!

CFMS ANNUAL

SPELLING BEE



I am happy to report that the bee went off successfully. We had 46 participants. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

Special thanks to the following: Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Beckett, Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Watson, and all the language arts teachers.

Our winners are:

1st place: Chase S (6th grade)
2nd place: Amelia G (8th grade)
3rd place: Jade P (7th grade)

The winning words were, “contingency” and “associate”. Chase will go on to Admiral Farragut Academy on Saturday, March 3rd to take part in the Regional Contest.

We wish him well!

Evelyn Grosch
Spelling Bee Coordinator



February is Volunteer Appreciation Month. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for the time and effort dedicated to our school. The faculty, staff and students appreciate each and every one of you who share your time, talents and energy as volunteers. Your efforts make things run more smoothly, and lightens the load here at CFMS. Without our generous volunteers, many of the things we do would simply not be possible. Please stop by the office during the month of February, so that we can give you a “KISS” to show our appreciation. You are all AWESOME!!



Teresa Daiker
Family & Community Liaison

ORGANIZATIONAL CLASS

Every Tuesday MORNING for students new to the class from 8:05 - 8:15 AM

and

Every Tuesday AFTERNOON for students who have been to the class at least once from 2:50 - 3:30 PM

All students needing extra help learning to get organized are invited to attend.

MRS. WOODS' ROOM # 406

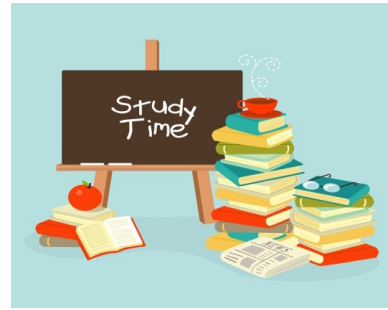
Upstairs next to Guidance



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Pinellas County Schools Administration - 588-6000
 Pinellas County Schools Help Desk - 588-6060
 School Board Office - 588-6300
 PSTA Customer Service - 540-1900
 YMCA - 442-8296

Clearwater Fundamental Middle School
 1660 Palmetto Street
 Clearwater, Florida 33755
 727-298-1609 FAX: 727-298-1614
 Dave Rosenberger, Principal



Study groups are scheduled in the morning with Mrs. Woods starting at 7:40AM. Groups meet in room #406 (upstairs next to Guidance) Please see the school calendar or the postings on the bulletin board near the back doors for weekly study groups. Schedules are also provided on morning announcements and "The Loop".



HOMEWORK HELPLINE

Homework Helpline is a free service for students to receive homework help. Certified teachers are on the phone ready to help. Monday-Thursdays 5-8p.m. call: 547-7223 or 442-3226

Please be patient and call back if the line is busy.

Useful Websites

Clearwater Fundamental: cfms.pcsb.org

The new CFMS website is best viewed in Firefox. The site may not appear formatted correctly in Internet Explorer, however we are working on the problem.

Clearwater PTA: www.cfmspta.org

Pinellas County Schools: www.pcsb.org

Faculty / Staff: last name first initial @ pcsb.org
 (example: rosenbergerd@pcsb.org)

To Add Money to Lunch Accounts:

www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com

*You are cordially invited to judge at the 14th annual
Pinellas County History Fair*



Saturday, March 10, 2012

Who: Volunteers (like you!)

What: Help judge student projects at Pinellas History Day

When: Saturday, March 10, 2012

Time: Either just morning or all-day, beginning at 7:30 am

Where: USF St. Pete,

140 Seventh Ave South St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Why: to help make history come alive for Pinellas county students

How: No experience necessary! Judges will be trained on site

Pinellas History day is an amazing experience for Pinellas County history students and you can be a part of it!

We would love your help! Qualifications for judges are simple; a judge merely needs to be a college graduate in order to participate. All judges are asked to arrive at 7:30am and most will be done at lunch time. Those who want to volunteer further are welcomed to help judge the afternoon finals. All judges are also welcome to attend the 4pm awards ceremony

Pinellas History Day is a local part of a nationwide organization called National History Day. This competition is similar to the Science Fair, except in History Day students write papers, construct exhibits, perform plays, create documentaries, or design websites based on their rigorous research. The competition begins at the school level. The winners from each school send their students to Pinellas History Day. Winners from this day go on to compete on the state and national level.

Pinellas History Day makes history come alive for Pinellas youth by engaging them in the discovery of the historic, cultural, and social experiences of the past. Pinellas History Day inspires children through exciting competitions and transforms teaching through project-based curriculum and instruction.

Please RSVP to Alan Kay by email kaya@pcsb.org or to Linda Whitley whitleyl@pcsb.org with your name, your email address, and your organization. Please email, also, if you have any questions or go to <http://www.pinellashistoryday.org/>

Thanks so much for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

Alan Kay

Pinellas County History Day Coordinator

kaya@pcsb.org



Linda Whitley

Supervisor, K-12 Social Studies, Pinellas County Schools

whitleyl@pcsb.org

February 2012 - Pinellas County Middle School Menu

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Daily Breakfast Choice: Choose 2: Cereal, Toast, Meat/Meat Alternative Choose at least 1: Fresh/Canned Fruit or Fruit Juice Choose 1: Milk Daily Lunch Choice: Choose 1: Entrée Choose at least 1: Fruit or Vegetable Choose 1: Bread Choose 1: Milk Available Daily: Meatless Entrée, Entrée Salads, Cold Sandwiches, Low Fat White, Fat Free Flavored or Skim Milk | | 1 Egg & Cheese Biscuit Pizza pockets Chx nuggets/chili, cheese & chips/pasta marinara Chicken Caesar salad Leafy green salad/Capri blend Fruit & juice/garlic breadsticks Ala carte - tater tots/egg roll | 2 Waffle Sticks with Sausage Links Teriyaki chx w rice/hot dogs/rib-que Farmer's salad Lett & tom salad/oriental veggies Fruit & juice/white wheat roll Ala carte - cheeseburgers | 3 Yogurt or Honey Bun Pizza/fish sticks Entrée salad Tossed salad/carrots Fruit & juice/hush puppies Ala carte - popcorn chx |
| 6 fritatta Pizza pockets Mini-burgers/pizza/roasted chicken Farmer's salad Coleslaw/oven fries Fruit & juice/wheat bread Ala carte - popcorn chx | 7 Pancake Sausage Sandwich <u>Max sticks/tacos/cheese quesadilla</u> <u>Chx Caesar salad</u> <u>Lett & tom salad/refried beans</u> <u>Fruit & juice/dessert</u> <u>Ala carte - spicy chx patty</u> | 8 Chicken on a Biscuit Hot dogs/turkey, gravy & mashed potatoes/pork chop sandwich/veggie burger Farmer's salad Leafy green salad/baked beans Fruit & juice Ala carte - tater tots/egg roll | 9 Max Stick & Tots Breakfast pizza Popcorn chx/mac & cheese/meatloaf & mashed potatoes Chicken Caesar salad Romaine salad/sweet potatoes/collards Fruit & juice/white wheat rolls Ala carte - chicken parm | 10 Yogurt or Cinnamon Roll Pizza/fish sandwich Entrée salad Tossed salad/mxd veggies Fruit & juice Ala carte - popcorn chx |
| 13 Pizza Pocket Chx patties/baked potato w cheese/pizza Farmer's salad Veggies w dip/broccoli Fruit & juice Ala carte - popcorn chx | 14 Canadian Bacon & Egg bagel Popcorn chx/tacos/cheese quesadilla Chicken Caesar salad Romaine salad/oven fries Tomato soup/pops Cinnamon apple Fruit & juice/garlic wheat bread Ala carte - spicy chx patty | 15 cheese grits & sausage Breakfast pizza Max sticks/beef dippers & rice/Cubans Chicken Caesar salad Leafy green salad/black beans/rice Fruit & juice Ala carte - tater tots/egg rolls | 16 Pancake Pup Pizza pockets Chili, cheese & chips/breaded chx/spaghetti w meat sauce Farmer's salad Romaine salad/carrots Fruit & juice/garlic breadsticks Ala carte - cheeseburgers | 17 Yogurt or Blueberry Muffin Pizza/fish sticks Entrée salad Tossed salad/corn Fruit & juice/pretzel rod Ala carte - popcorn chx |
| 20 Two Egg Omelet Breakfast pizza Cheeseburger/hamburger Pizza/bean burrito Chicken Caesar salad Lett & tom salad/baked beans Fruit & juice Ala carte - popcorn chx | 21 Cheese Quesadilla w/ sausage link Max sticks/philly cheesesteaks/chx parm w pasta Farmer's salad Romaine salad/broccoli Fruit & juice/presidents' cookies Ala carte - spicy chx patty | 22 Breakfast Sausage Bagel Tacos/chx patty sandwich/grilled cheese Farmer's salad Leafy green salad/tomato soup/sweet potato bites Fruit & juice Ala carte - tater tots/egg rolls | 23 Chicken & Biscuit Lasagna/breakfast for lunch/meatloaf & mashed potatoes Chicken Caesar salad Veggies w dip/mxd veggies Fruit & juice/white wheat roll Ala carte - chx parm | NO SCHOOL  |
| 27 Breakfast Pizza Max sticks/pizza/sloppy joes Chicken Caesar salad Veggies w dip/mashed potatoes Fruit & juice Ala carte - popcorn chx | 28 Egg & Sausage bagel Popcorn chx/corndogs/meatball subs/veggie chili Farmer's salad Romaine salad/deli roasted potatoes fruit & juice/dessert Ala carte - spicy chx patty | 29 Egg & Cheese Biscuit Pizza pockets <u>Chx nuggets/chili, cheese & chips/pasta marinara</u> <u>Chicken Caesar salad</u> <u>Leafy green salad/Capri blend</u> <u>Fruit & juice/garlic breadsticks</u> <u>Ala carte - tater tots/egg rolls</u> | Choose as many different fruits and vegetables as you would like  <u>Avocado is the fruit of the month... why not give it a try!</u> | |