

DR. RAYMOND BURK,
PRINCIPAL
OFFICE PHONE: (803)782-1772
Email:
Raymond.burk@am.dodea.edu



Pierce Terrace Dragon Digest April 2019

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT

Office Number: (912) 369-6691
 Email Address:
 Kathleen.Reiss@am.dodea.edu

Mark Your Calendars

April 5	Report Cards Issued
April 8-11	Re-registration SY 19-20
April 15-19	Spring Break
April 24	Principal's Forum 0900
April 25	School Board Meeting 12:30
April 26	No school for students PD for Teachers

We have entered our fourth grading period. The fourth grading period allows our students and their families an opportunity to reflect upon the tremendous progress made academically, socially, and physically. In addition, our final grading period reminds us that our students are with us for nine weeks, yet we still have much to be accomplished. During the month of April, several activities and celebrations have been scheduled to support our school programming and recognize the students we serve.

April is the Month of the Military Child, (MOMC). Pierce Terrace has been finalizing the details of activities provided to students during the school day to recognize the children we serve. Our MOMC committee has worked alongside our school PTO to provide activities to recognize our military-connected students. We kick off our MOMC activities with a "Pie in the Face" fundraiser. Our students had the opportunity to vote, using coins, for three (3) faculty members to have a pie in the face, delivered by a student. Our "Pie in the Face" served as a fundraiser for MOMC activities throughout the month of April.

Pierce Terrace will host our annual STEMposium on April 25th. Ms. Reichert and the team organized a highly engaging and educational event for our students and their families. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Night will include activities that support our ongoing commitment to providing Pierce Terrace students with learning experiences focused on STEM concepts. We hope to see our students and sponsors/parents come out to enjoy a few hours of joyful learning and dialogue.

As always, continue to review the monthly newsletter and our school website for updated, school-related information. Pierce Terrace looks forward to working alongside our learning community as we continue to "Raise the Bar" this school year.

Vision Statement:
*"Pierce Terrace Elementary School
 Positive, Tech Savvy, Empowered,
 Successful
 Lifelong Learners*



PK/PSCD NEWS

Pre-K students have completed an exciting unit of study titled, Pets! Thank you parents for allowing your children to bring in items related to pets. We've learned so much! Our next unit of study is called, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."



This new unit of study will begin April 1. Did you know that there is a Recycling Center located at Fort Jackson? As we study trash and garbage and how to reduce, reuse, and recycle, we will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts and technology. We will also develop thinking skills to observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

Talk with your child about trash and garbage. Help raise your child's awareness of the kinds of trash and garbage your family creates each day. If you dispose of your trash at a dump or landfill, take your child along to

MUSIC NEWS

March has been a very exciting month in Music! Students successfully completed our unit on Music Genres. More specifically, students learned about different musical instruments, musicians, and music genres including classical, jazz, ballet, hip-hop, country, rock and roll, heavy metal, folk, reggae, and world music. During the month of April, students will begin to prepare for our musical performance ("Music at the Beach") which will take place in late May or early June before summer vacation. Please stay tuned for more information!

Name	Note	Rest
Whole Note		
Half Note		
Quarter Note		
Eighth Note		
Sixteenth Note		

PIERCE TERRACE DRAGON DIGEST

First Grade

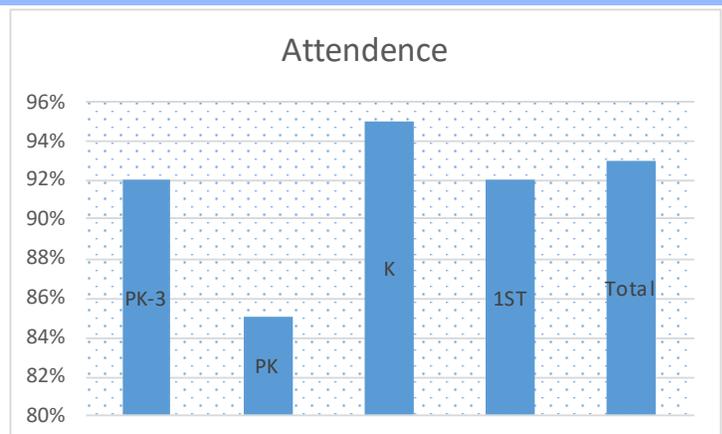
In Literacy, first grade students will be working on our Benchmark Advance Unit 7: Past, Present, and Future. In this unit, students read and compare selections about historical events and people to understand how the past affects the present and future. Students are working on using "Fix-Up" monitoring strategies to self-monitor their reading. In writing, students are working on writing an information text.

In Math Unit 7, students will study shapes, fractions, and time. Students will identify, compare, and contrast basic two and three-dimensional shapes using defining attributes. We will be working on dividing shapes into equal parts using the vocabulary half of, fourths, and quarter of to describe one part of the whole. Students will work with time to the whole hour and half hour using analog and digital clocks. Please help your first grader start reading clocks at home.

Air and Weather is our final Science unit for the year. Students will be studying the Earth's atmosphere and the observable patterns of objects in the sky such as the sun, clouds, and moon. Students will explore the natural world by using simple instruments and calendars to observe and monitor change. Our first investigations focus on exploring air and students will be making parachutes and balloon rockets!

During the fourth quarter will we be studying econom-

PIERCE TERRACE ATTENDANCE DATA



FLES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is a true joy to join the Pierce Terrace Elementary School community, and I look forward to working with your son and/or daughter this school year, and meeting you all.

Thank you for your service to our country. Below is an update of some of our current FLES activities, and upcoming activities.

- Through songs, music, and games FLES students continue to review and learn the alphabet in Spanish, numbers, colors, weather conditions, the date, time, fruits and vegetables, traditional foods from Spanish speaking countries, describe foods they like and don't like, how to prepare a table, learn greetings, how to say their name and ask others their name in Spanish, classroom rules, and other practical terminology. Students are also currently working on vocabulary fruit baskets.,
- Students are currently enjoying songs and other resources proposed by DODEA to reinforce vocabulary. El baile de la fruta is one resource: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPZhCp5pOFE>. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to receive additional resources to supplement their learning at home since FLES classes meet only once per week.
- Please contact me by COB, Monday, April 8th if you are interested in volunteering or leading a workshop for a proposed upcoming Fiesta FLES at Fort Jackson. The proposed event will include various 20-30 minute workshops running simultaneously to showcase and learn traditional dances from the Americas region and Spain, hear student song presentations or participate in Karaoke in Spanish, participate in food workshops such as how to make Guacamole, arts and crafts activities, a FLES Spanish spelling bee, student talent showcase, games and other proposed workshop ideas. If you would like to help organize the event, and/or if you would like to submit a proposed workshop idea to lead, please feel free to contact Señora Feliz at Chante-nia.Gay@dodea.edu or call 804-709-6440. The proposed event will take place in May. Planning committee meetings will take place.

Other upcoming events of possible interest:

April 6-7, 2019: International Festival in Columbia, South Carolina, Website: <https://www.cifonline.org/>

May or June 2019: Fiesta FLES at Fort Jackson (TBC-mentioned above)

May 4, 2019: Around the World Embassy Tour, Washington, DC, Website: <https://www.culturaltourismdc.org/portal/signature-events>

PIERCE TERRACE DRAGON DIGEST

ART NEWS



"April is a month to celebrate our Military Kids and their families! To help us to honor all of you, our Pierce Terrace students have been busy, busy, busy in the ART room! So that all students have a purple item to wear on our DoDEA Purple

Up Day, April 10, PK-1st grades have prepped and tie-dyed their very own scarves.

In addition, to memorialize their 2018-19 classes, these industrious young artists engaged in creatively collaborating on ART items, such as wooden stools, baskets, crates, and flags, as well as fabric painted bags and glass painted cookie jars!

These lovely Art items will be on view during the Friday, April 5th, Mom & Dad - Muffins & Donuts Art Auction from 8:30 - 10:00am in the Pierce Terrace Cafeteria!

Please come and join us for nibbles, vendors selling their wares, and a chance to bid on a beautiful piece of ART with your child's art, during a silent auction.

All proceeds go to supporting the Pierce Terrace PTO, which supports our students as they engage in learning experiences at school!

Pierce Terrace says "thank you" to our supportive Ft. Jackson community and wishes you a wonderful Month of the Military Child!

Ms. Ayachi
Ft. Jackson ART

STEM

STEM (S=Science, T=Technology, E=Engineering, M=Math) students continued learning about the Moon by making connections through a variety of activities. After learning what the moon is made of, how we can get there and what it is like to be on the moon, we explored the orbits of the Moon and the Earth, the spinning of the Earth and compared the sizes of the Sun, Moon and Earth. The students created a model to better understand these concepts. They recorded their findings in their Moon Journal. We will continue to learn, discover and create in STEM class! Nancy Reichert nancy.reichert@am.dodea.edu

The PTES annual STEAMposium is scheduled for Thursday, April 25th from 5pm to 7pm. Families are invited to become engineers with their students! Flyers will be sent home prior to Spring Break. Come and join the fun of being a PTES Engineer! Nancy Reichert nancy.reichert@am.dodea.edu

A Word from the

Be sure that your contact information is current and up to date at the office in case of an emergency.

*APRIL is National Child Abuse Prevention
Month*

Please have an extra change of clothes in your child's book bag that is appropriate for the weather. Accidents happen all the time and your child will appreciate it.

Several students have food allergies, please be considerate when sending food to school with your child. Allergic reactions to food allergens are life-threatening. Food allergens that are effected by our students at this time are: Cashews, Strawberries, Shellfish, Tree nuts, Soy, Eggs, Red dye, Pears, Seafood, Tomato Sauce & Citrus.

For Safety

Here are a few safety rules to have your young ones become familiar with.

- Know full name, home phone number, and address.
- Keep personal information personal.
- Don't ingest anything from a stranger.
- No one should touch your child's body.
- Stay away from fire.
- Lost? Stay put.
- Fence climbing is not allowed.
- Never wander off.
- Don't do anything that doesn't feel right.
- Know parents' names.



How Much Activity Do You Need?

Are you and your family getting enough exercise? Being active can help you improve your health and feel better. It can lower your blood pressure and reduce your risk of chronic diseases, like type 2 diabetes and certain cancers.

Physical activity can boost your mood right away and help sharpen your focus. It can also reduce stress and help you sleep.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently updated advice about how much physical activity you and your family should try to get. The new Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans is based on the latest research on how activity affects health.

Adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week. You can start with just 5 minutes at a time. Swim, garden, walk the dog, dance, or bike your way to feeling better. Whatever gets you moving counts!

Strengthening your muscles is important too. At least two days each week, get those muscles working with things like push-ups or lifting weights.

Children ages 3 to 5 should be physically active for at least 3 hours throughout the day. Kids 6 through 17 need at least 1 hour per day.

All of your physical activity adds up. Moving more often throughout the day can help you get enough activity.

Should you have questions, feel free to call the school nurse at 803-782-1772 or email at lorraine.emory@dodea.edu

SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

Parents,

Please help us to keep you, students and staff members safe by not parking illegally in the lower parking lot of Pierce Terrace Elementary School. The buses cannot safely enter and exit when cars are parked along the curbs and in other illegal locations in the parking lot. Please remember that students, staff members and parents are also attempting to safely walk to the crossing guard location.

1. Please only use the designated parking spaces. Do not park along the curbs.
2. Please do not "block" any of the buses by parking behind or too close to them (designated parking spaces only).
3. Do not move any of the safety cones.

Arrival and dismissal times can be hectic. Your patience is appreciated in advance. Thank you for helping with our safety concern.

Additionally please do not allow your student(s) to come to school (car rider or walker) before 7:30 AM daily. Staff members are not available to provide supervision until this time. Breakfast service begins at 7:30 AM. Students who are not eating breakfast go to the cafeteria at 7:30 AM., where they will be supervised by staff and their teacher will go down and pick them up to take them to the classroom at 7:55 AM. All students will need to arrive to school by 8:00 AM. Those arriving after 7:55 AM will not have access to breakfast.

Early dismissals are granted until the last thirty (30) minutes of the school day. School ends at 2:45 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, so early dismissals are granted until 2:15 PM. **The school day ends at 1:40 PM each Thursday and early dismissals are granted until 1:05 PM.**

Please ensure that you have listed several persons who can pick up your child in the event of an emergency. The school cannot release students to persons who are not listed as emergency contact/pick-up for your child. For the safety of your child, the

PARENT FORUM—FAQ

I am not receiving the monthly newsletter?

The monthly newsletter is forwarded to all families as an attachment to an ASPEN (student management system) email. If a family is not receiving the monthly newsletter, sponsors should contact the school office to ensure their contact information, such as updated email address, is current. More importantly, we ask that contact information in our student management system is consistently updated so that families receive important information and sponsors/parents can be contacted by the school in the event of an emergency. In order to update contact information, sponsors/parents will contact Ms. Young at 782-1772.

What methods does the school use to communicate with families?

Our initial contact with many families is through the Pierce Terrace website. Our website includes information pertaining to the school calendar, digital Student/Parent Handbook, and PTO information, to name a few. In addition, the school forwards a monthly newsletter at the beginning of each month. Also, all classrooms utilize a "take-home" folder. Each team establishes how this "take home" folder is used for the grade-level. Also, Pierce Terrace's marquee, located in the island at the front of the

FITNESS CHALLENGE

March is National Nutritional Month. This is a great time to be checking your children's lunch boxes and making sure that what they are eating containing healthful ingredients. Most of it processed foods? Swap out some celery and peanut butter or carrots and hummus for that bag of chips. Won't go without? Make them yourself. Baking is a far healthier way and you can control the ingredients you put in. After all, you are what you eat.



Speech News

Executive Function: What is it? How does it impact language?

Executive function skills are a set of high level cognitive functions required to manage oneself and resources in order to achieve a goal. (Cooper-Kahn & Dietzel 2015). Executive functioning is not a disorder in and of itself; however, if these cognitive skills are impaired it can cause serious challenges for a student in the classroom. Impairments in executive function may be present along with other childhood disorders such as Specific Language Impairment, Autism Spectrum and ADD/ADHD.

What are Executive Function Skills?

- * Many of these skills relate to effective language comprehension and use
- * Impulse Control- may blurt out inappropriate things or engage in risky behavior
- * Emotional Control-often will overreact and have difficulty regrouping
- * Flexible Thinking- ability to adjust to the unexpected
- * Working Memory- keep key information in mind
- * Self-Monitoring- ability to evaluate oneself and behavior
- * Planning and Prioritizing- decide on a goal and plan to meet it
- * Task Initiation- take action and get started
- * Organizing- keeping track of things physically and mentally



Executive Functioning Deficit and Language

Executive function development is dependent on language mediation. Many studies have found links between deficits in EF skills and poor performance on language assessments (Richard & Fahly 2005). Verbal abilities are required to carry out a number of EF skills including:

- * Regulating behavior
- * Verbal reasoning & abstract thinking
- * Organize expression and narrative composition
- * Self-talk skills to remind, regulate and evaluate impulses
- * Developing social relationships and organizing conversations

Strategies for Executive Functioning

Organizers

Help the child develop an organizational system. Graphic organizers, color coding, folders, bins and binders. Allow extra time for putting materials away and check in often to evaluate the system.

Cue Cards

This can take the form of words, sentences or pictures, but the purpose is to serve as a reminder of expectations or tasks to be completed. Keep the cards in a visible spot, such as taped to the desk or on a key ring.

Model Self-Talk

Especially for the impulsive child or one with difficulty planning, self-talk skills are often lacking. Model language such as, "I think I will..." or "Let me think about this plan..."

Checklists

Create simple checklists for the child to complete before finishing tasks, such as, packing up to leave or finishing a writing assignment. The physical act of checking off will offer accomplishment and motivation.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



- Provide doctor/parent notes to clear any unexcused absences.
- Student contact information changes can be made directly with the Registrar during school hours.
- Sponsor duty phone number and unit changes can be made directly with the Registrar during school hours.

School Improvement Goals:

Math

- * By June, 2020, Pre-kindergarten students will increase their identification of numerals to 10 and show one-to-one correspondence from 29% to 40% scoring proficiency as measured by a teacher made assessment.
- * All students in kindergarten will increase their Operations and Algebraic Thinking on the PARCC Benchmark Assessment from 5% to 10% scoring proficient (80% or higher) as measured by end-of-the-year PARCC Benchmark Assessment.
- All students in first grade will increase their Operations and Algebraic Thinking on the PARCC Benchmark Assessment from 4% to 9% scoring proficient (80% or higher) as measured by end-of-the-year PARCC Benchmark Assessment.

Reading

- * All students in pre-kindergarten will increase their retelling achievement on the pre-Kindergarten Teacher-created Assessment Tool from 80% to 85% scoring proficient as measured by pre-kindergarten grade level expectations for SY 2017-2018 to SY 2019-2020.
- * All students in kindergarten will increase their reading achievement on the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) from 77% to 80% scoring "At or Above" as measured by kindergarten grade level expectations for the "Independent Level" from SY 2017-2018 to SY 2019-2020.
- * All students in first grade will increase their reading achievement on the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) from 72% to 77% scoring "At or Above" as measured by first grade level expectations for the "Independent Level" from SY 2018-2019 to SY 2019-2020.