

October 1, 2018



# PIERCE TERRACE ELEMENTARY DRAGON DIGEST

We are building a global community of....

**Positive  
Tech Savvy  
Empowered  
Successful  
Lifelong Learners**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The beginning of the 2018-2019 school year went extremely well. Our students and faculty used the first few weeks to set the foundation for the school year. Furthermore, we accomplished so much within a short period of time.

The students are acclimating to their new classrooms and/or school and following the routines and procedures taught to them by their teachers. Pierce Terrace students practiced specific routines and procedures within each content and specialty subject area. This foundation and understanding of expectations will promote each students success as a learner. As we enter the month of October, we know that the first grading period concludes at the end of the month. Students will be furthering their practice in English/Language Arts, math, science, and social studies. Also, Dr. Quintana, School Counselor, started her classroom lessons to support our students' social/emotional growth. Your child(ren) will arrive home with an understanding of different ways Dr.. Quintana can assist them at Pierce Terrace.

Pierce Terrace is committed to connecting with the school community. We are currently seeking parents/sponsors to serve on our Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Team. Our CSI team sets academic goals for the school year to insure continuous student learning opportunities. In addition, we conducted our first monthly Parent Forum on September 21. The Parent Forum serves as a mechanism to promote a partnership between the school and home. During our meeting on September, several questions were posed by our parents. As a result, the school addressed those questions with faculty members. Answers/responses to those questions are included in a FAQ section located in this newsletter.

We want to thank our entire learning community for supporting an exciting and wonderful opening of the school year. 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.

## **SCHOOL BOARD CONTACT**

You can now contact the School Board directly at [FJSchoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:FJSchoolboard@gmail.com)



**-----Next School Board Meeting---  
October 25, 2018**

**12:30 PM- CC Pinckney Conference Room**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**3 Oct 18**  
Open House  
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

**8 Oct 18**  
No School Staff/ Student  
Columbus Day Holiday

**18 Oct 18**  
No School Students  
Teacher PD Day

**19 Oct 18**  
No School Students  
Q1 CCRS Training

**23 Oct 18**  
Picture Day

**24 Oct 18**  
Principals Forum  
9:00 AM

**25 Oct 18**  
End of Q 1

**25 Oct 18**  
School Board Visit PT  
11:40 AM

**25 Oct 18**  
School Board Meeting  
12:30 PM  
CC Pinckney

**26 Oct 18**  
No School Students  
Report Card Prep Teachers

## Attendance:

<b>PK3</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>PK</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Kinder</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>95%</b>



## PK/PSCD News

During our first few weeks of school, PK students are busy with classroom routines and procedures. We are practicing saying our 3 Pierce Terrace School Expectations, Pledge of Allegiance and Pierce Terrace Pledge. We are currently also working on name identification, writing & naming letters in first name, counting & identifying numbers through 10, and distinguishing between basic colors and shapes.

Parents, please help us prevent playground injuries by ensuring that your child wears closed-toe or athletic shoes each day.

Our next unit of study is on Trees. We'll be observing and comparing trees to learn about what lives in them, what they're made from, and who cares for them.

### **KINDERGARTEN NEWS**

Greetings from your Kinder Fab 5 Team! This month we will begin Unit 1 Rules at Home and School in our reading workshop. The essential question is: Why do we have rules? We will learn about main topics, characters, parts of a book, text features, making connections, nouns, verbs, concepts of print, fluency, asking and answering questions, retelling, rhyming, syllables, letter sounds, finding key details in a text, making inferences, visualization, blending, fables, comparing and contrasting and begin learning high frequency words. In math we will continue with Unit 1 Counting, Understanding, Representing and Writing Numbers. We will be practicing counting by ones, writing numbers 0-10, representing a number of objects with a written numeral 0-10, one-to-one correspondence when counting objects in multiple arrangements, answering the question how many, decomposing numbers less than or equal to ten into pairs more than one way, as well as new math vocabulary. Science continues with our study on plants and animals- we have already received our goldfish and guppies! Social Studies will be integrated throughout reading workshop as we explore rules and community. We look forward to seeing everyone at Open House on October 3 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Happy October! :)

### **Music News**

Kindergarten and first grade students at PT have hit the musical ground running! Students are reviewing important foundational skills including the "four voices", singing on pitch, steady beat, and rhythm. Through Quaver Music and Pearson Interactive Music, students have enjoyed learning new songs, playing instruments (drums and keyboards), and playing fun music games around the entire classroom! Students also reviewed classroom expectations, routines, and procedures, and learned to sing a song about our three school-wide expectations at PT. Students learned about and demonstrated how they can Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible in Music! This week, students have completed written and performance pre-assessments which will be used to determine student groups and differentiated activities for ALL music students beginning in October. Stay tuned for more information about our exciting progress in Music!

## Health Tips

Sitting too much has been linked to a shortened life span, poor heart health, increased risk of dementia and diabetes and many more adverse effects! You can help yourself and your children by standing up and getting outside. Turn off the TV and phones and go for a walk, explore the Fort or maybe go swimming. The more you're moving, the less you're standing.

## STEM

In STEM class (the acronym STEM stands for: S=Science, T=Technology, E=Engineering, M=Math), Kindergarten and First-grade students learned the routines for the class and then moved on to learning the Engineering Design Process (Ask Imagine Plan Create Improve – we're learning it as a song and a chant ☺). We also learned that teamwork is important in building (one time with KEVA planks and the next with spaghetti and marshmallows). Our next lesson was about samaras (maple tree seeds aka helicopter seeds). The student "engineers" made whirlybirds to imitate the flying and then improved it with folds and a paper clip to make it spin better. Our latest lesson is about using PebbleGo as a research tool (taught by Mr. Horah) and learning about different kinds of engineers and what they do. I am enjoying working with the students as we explore and create together using the Engineering Design Process. Nancy Reichert [nancy.reichert@am.dodea.edu](mailto:nancy.reichert@am.dodea.edu)

## Art News

Students have been working on creating Fire Safety Posters for the upcoming contest sponsored by the Ft. Jackson Fire Safety Office. This year's theme is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware. Fire Can Happen Anywhere."

## **OCTOBER'S SPEECH CORNER**

Welcome back to Pierce Terrace Elementary School! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. The start of a school year is always an exciting time for new beginnings and fresh starts. Children of all ages benefit from building early language skills.

It has been found that story telling is a great way to enhance the language skills which emerge in the early school years. These skills are linked closely to literacy.

Here are some ways that you can encourage language and literacy growth at home:

### **Example 1:**

#### **Read a Simple Story Aloud** (Little Red Riding Hood)

A great way to enhance the child's understanding is for the parent to talk with the child about the setting, main characters, and other main events before actually beginning reading.

- Do you remember what happened to this little girl?
- There is an animal that is really mean in this story, listen and see if you can tell me who he is.
- This little girl is going to grandma's house. Can you tell me what happens once she is there? You will find out in the story.

## **Have the Child Retell the Story**

Children can enhance their experience by re-enacting the story. This can be done in many ways.

- Wearing Costumes (the child can pretend to be a character or the narrator)
- Using Puppets (puppets can be made out of socks or paper)
- Writing it down on paper (words or pictures)

### **Example 2:**

## **Have the Child Create Their Personal Story**

A parent can give the child a picture or take a fun “selfie” and let the child make up their own story about their picture. The picture should include a few characters and an interesting background.

Parents can enhance this story telling experience by guiding a few different ways:

- Help the child begin the story (Once upon a time...)
- Repeat words with interest in your voice (Oh.., the little girl went home?)
- Help the child extend the story (Tell me more.., what happened next?)

Remember to keep the activities fun and to follow your child’s lead so that they will want to “play” with language again and again.

## **News from the School Counselor**

Happy October!

Last month, students were introduced to our Kimochis program. Kimochis is the Japanese word for "feelings". For the next several months, students will become familiar with the stories of individual Kimochi characters, learn about various feelings and be introduced to several communication tools and strategies. The Kimochis program will also be utilized throughout group and individual counseling sessions. During October, students will focus on Cloud, a character who shifts moods and has a hard time getting along with friends. The feelings of happy, angry and sad will be explored. To encourage our students to explore/manage these feelings at home, here are a few suggestions from Kimochis Home Links:

-Calm-Down Breath-With your child, model "Calm Down Breath" to calm down feelings before speaking or acting during times of anger. You can do this putting your finger to your nose and saying, "Smell a flower [breathe through your nose] and blow out the candle [blow out through your mouth]." This can help upset feelings get smaller and raise the odds that your child will speak and act in ways that communicate anger without being hurtful. Remind your child to use this strategy when needed and acknowledge them when you see them utilize calm-down breath.

-Marching Madness-With your family, describe things that can make you feel mad. Show your child how you use your body in positive ways to shift the anger to a smaller place. March in

place and say, "I feel so mad because...." (name something that makes you mad). Let your child march out madness by imitating your marching model.

-Basket of Comfort-Talk to your child about sad feelings. Explain that everyone feels sad sometimes, so we need to learn ways to soothe or comfort those sad feelings. Share what you say and do to feel comforted when you feel sad. Ask your child to describe what he/she does. Use a basket to collect things from around your home that might comfort feelings of sadness (happy pictures, a stuffed animal, music, book, etc.) Now your child will have a go-to basket when they need soothing for sad feelings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by and visit!

Dr. Quintana  
Professional School Counselor

## Parent Forum FAQ – September 21, 2018

*What will cause a student to not participate in physical education class?*

Page 22 of the Ft Jackson Student-Parent Handbook outlines specific guidelines regarding dress for physical education classes. The handbook recommends that students, “wear proper physical education attire, shoes included.” After consulting with the physical education teacher, “shoes that could easily slip off” was a primary reason for students not permitted to participate in physical education class. With that said, Open House, scheduled for October 3, will provide sponsors/parents with information pertaining to the special area rotation for their son/daughter’s physical education class. As a result, sponsors/parents will be able to plan for their child’s dress the day of physical education class.

*Do students use hand sanitizer or wash hands before lunch?*

Hand sanitizer is available for student use every day in the cafeteria. The “pump” bottle is available at the entrance of the serving line. Lunch monitors ensure that all students have cleaned their hands prior to entering the serving line or sitting at the table. Other students have access to sinks to wash their hands prior to lunch.

*Do students who pack their lunch have to wait until all students buying lunch sit at the table prior to eating their lunch?*

One classroom was following this practice, but, as of Friday, September 21, all lunch monitors were informed that as soon as students sit at the cafeteria table, no matter if they pack or buy lunch, they will begin eating.

## **Safety and Supervision**

For the safety of your child, do not allow them to come to school (car rider or walker) before 7:30 a.m. daily. Staff members are not available to provide supervision until this time. Breakfast service begins at 7:30 a.m. Students who are not eating breakfast go to the cafeteria at 7:30 a.m., 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 a.m. All students will need to arrive to school by 8:00 a.m. Those arriving after 7:55 a.m. 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 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, **so early dismissals are granted until 2:15 p.m. The school day ends at 1:40 p.m. each Thursday and early dismissals are granted until 1:05 p.m.**

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 school cannot take changes in transportation by phone. However, parents may send a note with students.