Welcome to....

Edition No. 2 — December 2018

Inside, you will find.....

..... and much more.
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Welcome to the second edition of Volusia Vibes for the 2018-19 school year! Our schools have been busy preparing for the holiday season, and our students and staff are working harder than ever. As you will see in this newsletter, our district came together to help those in need – through the Thanksgiving Basket Brigade, food drives and Toys for Tots donations, our district has stepped up in a big way. I was amazed at all the talent on display during the holidays. Our students are truly the best in the state of Florida! You can see all of that and much more in this edition of Volusia Vibes. As we prepare for Winter Break, I wish all of you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

James. T Russell,
Superintendent of Schools
District 1

Ms. Jamie M. Haynes

**Schools in this District**

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VolusiaVibes
Dolphins Dive into Learning

The Daytona Beach News-Journal was recently here at Blue Lake Elementary to spotlight our “Dolphins Dive into Learning” Morning Learning Lab Program. This is a unique innovation happening here at Blue Lake Elementary, Monday to Friday from 7 – 7:50 a.m., with approximately 80-90 students attending every morning. The Morning Learning Lab teacher facilitators have students actively engaged in structured activities such as Reading Counts, IXL, Success Maker, Waterford, and Raz Kids.

Blue Lake Elementary's Morning Learning Lab Program was “Revving-Up” for the Racing to Read Incentive Program with the help of Bart Rogowski and Erica Nocita from TST Industries. Not only did they get our dolphins excited about reading, but they shared their passion for racing, how reading is integral in every aspect of what they do each day, and how hard work and dedication will allow a person to achieve their dreams.

On November 14, Blue Lake presented “Get Fit Blue Lake.” The free family event included a complimentary healthy meal prepared by Deland High School Culinary students, and demonstrations of Zumba, Yoga, Creative Dance and CrossFit. Families also enjoyed door prizes and informational displays from Florida Hospital with many giveaways for students and parents.

Not-So-Scary-Stories

Citrus Grove PTA sponsored Not So Scary Stories literacy event on at the end of October. Students and families were invited to dress up in costumes and attend this fun filled evening of stories, crafts, and games.

This annual event would not be possible without media specialist Angela Young. Families took part in five rotations. During the media rotation, Ms. Young, along with Volusia County public librarian Kate Sprague, read stories and performed a puppet show for our students while also offering a lesson on how to help children choose “just right books” for our parents.

Our faculty and staff were “all in” as they hosted other rotations, which included face painting, bingo for books, paper and food crafts, and a carnival! Marty Barber, our school guardian, also spoke with the children on Halloween safety practices. A special thank you to the Girl Scouts and DeLand High School IB Art students for volunteering their time to this wonderful event.
Focus on Community

DeBary Elementary has been focusing on the community around us, beginning with an excellent school vehicle day on October 31. The students were able to visit with major vehicles across the county such as the firetruck, police cruises, Votran and school bus too. The students in grade k-2 were able to ask the individuals with those vehicles questions and learn a lot of new information.

Now, through our hard-working guidance counselor, we are working to give back to the community — through a school toy drive, the thanksgiving dinners and a food drive we have had a lot of material coming on and off the Debary Campus.

Congratulations to the All-State Bulldogs

Chorus had 7 singers selected to go to all-state chorus and band is sending two to all-state. Singers Max Larson (Reading Choir), Kenny Browning (Mixed Choir), Reece Windjack (Mixed Choir), Kaylie Crocker (Mixed Choir), Jacob Gutierrez (Mixed Choir – not pictured), Sydney Harp (Women’s Choir), & Josh Freeman (Men’s Choir) are going to Tampa in January to perform at Florida Vocal Association event. Most schools send one or two students on to all-state, but DeLand is one of only two schools in our district — consisting of Flagler, Seminole and Volusia County — to send more than five on to all-state.

Max Larson, the Class of 2019 Mr. DHS, was selected for the top choir in the state. Very few are selected for Reading Choir, and he is the only singer from Volusia selected this year, and the first from DeLand in three years. Band members Dylan Addonizio & Joey Becker were selected by the Florida Bandmaster’s Association to perform at the FMEA Conference in Tampa in January. All-state band is the most competitive performance group to get into, and Dylan, who will be playing Clarinet, and Joey, who will be playing Trombone, are both performing at the all-state level for the second year in a row.
**DeLand Middle (6-8)**
@DeLandTerriers
1400 S. Aquarius Avenue • DeLand, FL 32724 • (386) 822-5678

**Honoring Veterans**

On Tuesday, November 13, Deland Middle celebrated Veteran’s Day by inviting veterans from our community to come speak to our students in grade level assemblies. Students prepared for the event by forming questions they wanted to ask veterans and creating artwork that would be displayed during the meet-and-greet. Five veterans, along with three veteran faculty members (including our principal Mr. Boles), sat on the panel and shared about their experiences in the service. We had various branches represented including the Air Force, Army, and the Marine Corps. Some of the highlights were hearing from Don Olds, a retired Colonel who served on Air Force One with President Clinton, and learning about the honor and benefits of serving in the military. The assemblies were led by our amazing group of WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Student Leaders. A luncheon was organized and provided for the veterans as they shared in camaraderie and reflection on their service.

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**Freedom Elementary (K-5)**
@freedomvolusia
1395 S. Blue Lake Avenue • DeLand, FL 32724 • (386) 943-4375

**Family Literacy Night**

Freedom has been busy this season with community connections. Fall Family Literacy night happened on October 25. Over 300 children and family members celebrated literacy with learning stations, guest readers, and the school book fair. First grade teacher Angie Arico-Jones led the way to making this a Falcon fabulous event.

The 19th annual Freedom Kindergarten Thanksgiving Program and Feast was a huge success on November 16. The kindergarten team of teachers and students presented the story of Thanksgiving with costumes and songs to the delight of kindergarten families.

Freedom has also been collecting donations for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Team Freedom was able to donate over $1,000 to this cause. The Freedom Cares food and clothing pantry is up and running on campus. Adult and student volunteers have organized food and uniforms for families in need. These items are delivered to Freedom families every Friday to ensure they have food on the weekends.
**Bulldog Happenings**

George Marks Elementary has had a busy fall. Students raised nearly $500 dollars for the Gadsen Hurricane relief. Students voted to see Mrs. Young, Ms. Beeghly, or the school guardian, Mr. Burns kiss a sheep — Mr. Burns was the winner and kissed the very cute sheep first. However, the students began to chant, and Mrs. Young and Ms. Beeghly gave a smooch to our sheep friend. Our Bulldog Beats, Early Act, and FEAA clubs participated in the Deland Christmas parade and had a wonderful time seeing all the smiling faces of our community members.

**Storybook Parade**

On Wednesday, October 31, Manatee Cove Elementary kindergarten classes held a Storybook Parade. The students were able to bring in their favorite storybook and dress up as their favorite character. They paraded across the courtyard stage for the parents and visited the classrooms. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and fun characters.

On Friday, November 16, Manatee Cove Elementary kindergarten classes celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday by performing a wonderful Thanksgiving play. The students sang and put on a lively performance for their parents, family, and friends. Beforehand, students and family celebrated with feasts in all of their classrooms.
Roadrunners After School Run Club

Roadrunners has been a part of Orange City Elementary for more than 30 years. The club is open to all students, VPK through 5th grade. The club meets every Tuesday after school for 45 minutes, October through April — parents and guardians are invited to participate as well. The purpose of the club is to get kids moving. They must check in at the table and then run, jog, or walk a minimum of 4 laps around the entire field. They are welcome to do more than 4 laps if they choose. Many students choose to stay out and keep doing laps until the time is up. The benefits of the club are to get students outside, in the fresh air and moving. Students can earn a “foot” charm on a beaded chain at the end of each month, and these can be hung on their backpacks.

STEM Night

Pierson Elementary was excited to host our first Family STEM night on November 1. Students came with their families and took the time to explore the science exploration stations and the portable Planetarium that the Museum of Arts and Sciences brought to the school. Families were also amazed by the 3D printer demonstrations provided by our STEM teacher, Mr. Walley. We look forward to having many more Family STEM nights in the future.

The turnout for the Pierson Elementary School official dedication events in December was fantastic. Students, families, and community members enjoyed the dedication program complete with food and fun for all. It was a fantastic way to commemorate the opening of our amazing facility with all stakeholders. We are so proud of our new home.
Heart and Sole Girls on the Run

River Springs Middle School of Technology & Innovation has begun a new season of Heart and Sole/Girls on the Run. The program helps create a positive, structured space for middle school girls to learn about themselves and explore new ideas. The Heart & Sole curriculum is centered on themes girls can relate to, addressing the whole girl—body, brain, heart, spirit and social connection. During Heart and Sole meetings, students learn lessons about goal setting and achievement, perseverance, motivation, overcoming obstacles, empowerment and inspiration. The lessons are combined with physical activity.

The program is led by teachers Sivan Goldberg and Nicole Pasquale. There are 13 girls that participate each week. Heart & Sole/Girls on the Run is accessible to all girls, regardless of athletic ability or fitness level. We would like to thank Orange City for their financial contribution and Kappa Delta at the University of Central Florida for donating yoga mats.

Tigers Reading to Make a Difference

A group of 85 8th grade students at Southwestern Middle School participated in a voluntary book club during their lunch time for the entire month of October. Students read The Hate U Give written by Angie Thomas. Each week a group of students met with an adult that works on campus, including our school resource deputy, teachers, clerical staff and paraprofessionals to discuss the selection from the book for the week. The purpose of the book club was to increase the love of literacy by giving students the opportunity to read a book they can connect with. Students discussed several important topics from the book including how to be a voice that truly makes a difference in their community. The culminating event was when the students were taken to Epic Theatres in Deltona to view the movie, The Hate U Give. The energy of the students when returning to campus was astounding. They were excited about reading and how it connects to their everyday life.
Family Science Night

On December 6, Edith I. Starke Elementary participated in the first of two Family Science Nights, brought to the school by the Orlando Science Center. The event consisted of a 30-minute show featuring chemical and physical changes. Loud bursts of flames engaged our students in science. Students participated in 15 science stations that included engineering, biology, and force and motion. We had several Stetson students as well as Starke teachers volunteering. Our Starke family enjoyed the show and rotating through the stations with their children. In other news, Ms. DeCamp entered 38 pieces of art work in the DeLand Fall Fest on November 17 and 18, and our very own second-grader, Joshua Ramirez, won an honorary award for his piece! This is one of the biggest shows in the county, and quite an achievement! Joshua won a ribbon and $25! Starke is on the rise!

Wildcat FFA

Recently our amazing Taylor Wildcat FFA took a road trip to the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Starting in Des Moines, Iowa, students road tripped to a variety of educational opportunities to enhance their knowledge of different aspects of the agriculture industry. During the trip, our students networked with FFA Chapters from across the country and got to assist with the National FFA Environmental Science Career Development Event, allowing them a unique opportunity to see a national-level competition. Some highlights of the trip included a visit to Iowa State College, the USDA National Centers for Animal Health, the John Deere Museum and even a Garth Brooks concert at Lucas Oil Stadium. As Brandon Walter puts it, “This was a trip I’ll never forget!”
Cambridge AICE

University High School is excited to announce that we will be the next Cambridge school in Volusia County. Cambridge Assessment International Education began over 150 years ago under the close direction of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. The Cambridge philosophy believes that education works best when curriculum, teaching, learning, and assessment are closely aligned. An alignment that stems from knowing what we want students to learn, understanding how we will know that learning has happened, and encouraging teaching and learning strategies that support it. Cambridge Assessment International Education prepares students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning.

University High School completed the initial site visit with Cambridge Assessment International Education in late August and submitted the formal application to become a Cambridge school. The Cambridge team, led by Mr. William Lastowski at University High, is currently reviewing Cambridge programmes (courses) that will complement and augment our program of studies. Faculty members will be trained by Cambridge Assessment International Education’s professional development program next semester for implementation of University High’s Cambridge program during the 2019-2020 school year.

Volusia Pines Elementary (K-5)

Winter Wonderland Down Mainstreet

Volusia Pines Elementary dazzled spectators at the 70th Annual Downtown Deland Christmas Parade. The float represented the theme, “A Winter Wonderland Down Mainstreet.” The students on the float are members of Volusia Pines After School Enrichment Clubs. The seven clubs offered are Yoga, Football, Running, Culinary, Chorus, Cheer and Break Out. These enriching clubs meet weekly and continue for approximately 10 weeks. Each year, students enjoy their clubs, while making new friends and learning new skills.

The Cheer Club worked diligently to prepare a routine for the Annual Trunk-or-Treat in October. The Culinary Club prepared amazing food this semester which included pasta carbonara and various desserts. The Chorus Club is sang at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Lake Helen on December 4 at Blake Park. The Yoga Club has been focusing on mindfulness, breathing and self-regulation. Our students are also preparing for our Annual VPE Talent Show to be held at the end of the school year.
Red Ribbon Week and Unity Day

Woodward’s Superstar students were engaged in a variety of Red Ribbon Week and Unity Day activities to show their commitment to remain a Drug Free and Bully Free school. Our theme was: “Life is a Journey. Travel Drug Free.” Students wore sunglasses to Shade Out Drugs, a cap to Put a Cap on Drugs, and crazy socks to Sock It to Drugs. On Wednesday during Red Ribbon Week, students wore an orange shirt to show their support for Unity Day. Every Superstar student pledged to help stop bullying. After reciting our Bully Free pledge, each student helped to create a unique Wall Mural displaying their handprint. More than six hundred handprints were captured and will forever represent Woodward Avenue Elementary’s dedication to be bully free. Superstars Always RISE to the Top!
On October 29, FUTURES hosted its annual Mini-Grant Reception for all the mini-grant recipients. Deltona High Career & Technical Education Teacher Keith Wallace received the annual Superintendent’s Mini-Grant Creativity Award for his project “Mock Bathroom for Plumbing.” This year, Volusia County teachers submitted 292 grant requests totaling more than $230,000. FUTURES Foundation and its sponsors were able to fund more than $111,000 to more than 170 Volusia County Teachers. We invite everyone to visit www.FindItFundItFlorida.com/Volusia to view these creative, innovative grants and assist local teachers in finalizing funding for their projects.

This year marks the 31st year of Tomorrow’s Leaders, which develops young leaders for our community. There were 40 high school juniors were selected to participate this year, representing all 10 public high schools. During the next five months, these students will participate in five day-long seminars coordinated by community leaders. The seminars are designed to familiarize the students with different aspects and services in Volusia County and to develop leadership skills.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University hosted our 2020 Teacher of the Year Nominees and their families for a celebration with a complimentary dinner and a halftime presentation at their men’s basketball game on Saturday, December 1. A huge thank you Embry-Riddle Athletics for your continued support in celebrating our amazing teachers!

University High School senior Juliana Gouveia was selected as a semifinalist for the Leaders for Life Fellowship. The L4L Fellowship is sponsored by the Asofsky Family Foundation and statewide TSIC program. L4L enables the recipients to excel in a university environment by eliminating the financial burdens normally associated with a university education and allowing the fellow to devote 100% of their attention to school and personal development. The L4L fellowship provides each student with up to $10,000 annually for leadership training and development, housing, food, textbooks, supplies, transportation and other college-related expenses. Juliana was selected as one of 12 semifinalists out of 100 applicants. All semifinalists receive a MacBook pro. From the group of 12, the final six recipients will be announced in January and celebrated at the TSIC Leadership Summit March 5-6, 2019 in Tallahassee, FL.

FUTURES/TSIC is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. The TSIC eligibility requirements include: the student must currently be in the 8th grade, 2.0 GPA with the aspiration of attending college, and qualify for free/reduced lunch. Applications are available from middle school guidance counselors or by contacting Shimene Shepard at sashepar@volusia.k12.fl.us. Applications are due to the FUTURES/TSIC office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2019.
District 2

Mrs. Ida D. Wright, Vice-Chairman

Schools in this District

Atlantic High
Campbell Middle
Horizon Elementary
Longstreet Elementary
Mainland High
Ortona Elementary
Port Orange Elementary
Silver Sands Middle
South Daytona Elementary
Sugar Mill Elementary
Turie T. Small Elementary
High-Achieving Sharks

Brooke Roberts capped off a tremendous season with Atlantic High’s first ever individual bowling state championship. In her career, she was a three time district champion, anchor of a state runner-up team and a 4th-place team finish at state this season. She also set the all-time Florida state record for season-high average with a 223 regular season average. She dominated the state finals, only losing two games in her entire individual bracket. She has signed a letter of intent to attend Maryland Eastern Shore College to bowl at the Division 1 level.

Congratulations to Atlantic High School’s Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Wallace, for being named one of Volusia County’s Top 5 Finalists for Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Wallace is an extraordinary mathematics teacher at Atlantic High School, where she builds great relationships with her students and colleagues. Her impact goes beyond the classroom, with her ability to lead school- and district-level trainings, as well as her work with Food Bring Hope’s Teen Zone. We are very proud of Mrs. Wallace, as she is a dedicated educator and great role model for students.

Spartan Happenings

It was quite the family night at Campbell Middle School, as we recognized the 4.0 G.P.A. Students for the first nine weeks and the science fair winners – nearly 50 students were recognized for their achievements. The audience was filled with parents and siblings of the honorees, and all attendees were treated to Olive Garden soup and salad.

In recognition of Veterans Day, every student at Campbell Middle School was invited to write a letter to a veteran. The letters were delivered by Ms. Ann Neely to the local Veterans Hospital and nursing homes. In return, several of the veterans wrote notes to the students to thank them for their kind gesture.

Several of the members of the NJHS attended a Leadership Conference at Turie T. Small Elementary School, which was sponsored by Rotary West. Also, members of NJHS attended the Winner’s Circle event at the Daytona Beach International Speedway.

The Campbell Middle School #1 Marching Spartans participated in the Holly Hill, Daytona Beach Shores, and Ormond Beach Christmas Parades. There were approximately 100 students participating in the parades with many parents and Dr. Picott marching with them.
Horizon Elementary (K-5)
@HorizonElem89
4751 Hidden Lake Drive • Port Orange, FL 32129 • (386) 322-6150

Horizon’s Family Center

Tracy Grimes shared her dream with Horizon’s SAC team. “My background in psychology and social work has trained me to see the details in our children’s faces. The ‘I’m hungry,’ and ‘I’m in need’ in their faces. I thought we could help them with clothing, food and school supplies.” Principal Gary Harms smiled. He had been looking for a parent liaison, and she was the perfect candidate. Three months later, Mrs. Grimes has created a bright and colorful family center, filled with food, clothing, school supplies, hygiene supplies and educational resources and books.

“I know a lot of people,” Mrs. Grimes explains. “I’m affiliated with a lot of different organizations. I’ve reached out to friends and businesses and have been able to form partnerships and sponsorships.” Referrals come in from teachers, other parents and guidance counselor, Doug Miller. “We are so lucky to have Tracy with us here at Horizon as our family liaison,” said Mr. Miller. “She has a real passion for helping others.”

The family center is warm and inviting, but Mrs. Grimes rarely spends time there. On a recent cold morning she rushed to find jackets, socks and long pants for three students who were not dressed appropriately. “I want to take something off their plates,” she explains. “It’s impossible to focus on schoolwork when you’re cold or hungry.

R.J. Longstreet Elementary (K-5)
@rjlcardinals
2745 South Peninsula Drive • Daytona Beach, FL 32118 • (386) 322-6172

Morning Mile Kickoff

Florida Hospital hosted the Morning Mile Kickoff at R.J. Longstreet Elementary on October 17. This is the second year that they have sponsored the American Diabetes Association’s Morning Mile program at our school. We are so fortunate to be able to continue this program and encourage students to get active. We had about 100 students from K-5 participate with great enthusiasm. Principal Watson and Coach Kazma were extremely supportive and great motivators for the kids.

Mallory Tluchowski, the Wellness Development Supervisor, initiated the kickoff with a warm welcome and even educated the students on the importance of healthy diet and exercise. After the walk students were treated with healthy snacks, such as apples, bananas, granola bars and water.

Thank you so much to Ida Babazadeh, Stephanie Mellenberndt, T.J. Goco, Meagan Copeland, Mallory Tluchowski, and Jocelyn Krise for making the kickoff such a success!
Share Your Christmas Food Drive

This holiday season, the Mainland High School Student Government Association challenged teachers, students and the community to participate in the Buccaneers’ Share Your Christmas Food Drive. We challenged students and teachers to donate canned goods and non-perishable food items for the annual WESH 2 Share Your Christmas food drive, which helps families in our community. We are so thankful for all the donations we have received from our generous students, faculty, staff and community.

Nature Night

Ortona Elementary School hosted its annual Nature Night on November 9. East Coast Wild Life came out to Ortona to educate students and their families on what to do when they find an animal in distress. They spoke about animal conservation and different ways we can have a positive impact on our environment. They also brought along some of the animals they have rescued. Students and family members were able to interact with a chameleon, a duck, a baby chick, lizards, turtles, and some snakes — including a rare indigo snake. At the end of the evening, Ortona PTA gave every family a bird seed bag to bring home.
Port Orange Christmas Parade

Port Orange Elementary students participated in the Port Orange Christmas Parade on December 2. Ms. Wallace and several students dressed as characters from Whoville and saved Christmas from The Grinch. The Port Orange Elementary float placed second in the School and Youth Group Float category.

Preparing the float was truly a schoolwide effort. Mrs. Williams, art teacher, and Mrs. Kirton, P.E. teacher, designed and decorated the float. Gifts were wrapped by the environmental club, which is sponsored by Mrs. Sparks and Mrs. Tyner. Student volunteers, who are fifth grade safety patrols, marched and rode on the float. Teacher of the Year, Julie Kirton, rode in a car driven and sponsored by Spanos Motors.

In an effort to give Christmas back to students at Port Orange Elementary, the school is conducting a toy drive. New, unwrapped toys can be donated at the school. Parents, teachers, and staff have donated wrapping paper and gifts which will be distributed to families prior to the winter holiday. Our families are also grateful for the support of Charitable Children Events, which will hold a Children’s Fashion Show & Toy Drive at the Streamline Hotel of Daytona Beach on Wednesday, December 12. The event provided gifts and baskets full of food from Provision Packs Pantry.

Silver Sands Middle (6-8)

Field Trip to Bethune-Cookman

Students in the Sports and Exercise Science Academy recently attended a field trip to Bethune-Cookman University to learn about what it takes to become a student athlete and explore possible career opportunities within the sports world. Over 70 students participated and were able to sit in on an interactive discussion with student athletes to hear about what their typical day consists of, as well as the hard work they had to put in to get where they are. The college students and faculty also spoke with Silver Sands students about being confident and the importance of portraying a respectful and gracious persona.
Math and Book Fair Night

South Daytona Elementary recently hosted a Math and Book Fair Night. Families from all grade levels, kindergarten through fifth participated in the event. Vada Lay, one of our fourth grade teachers facilitated the event and worked with numerous teachers to provide support at each of the grade level stations. Students participated in grade level math tasks by signing in to NearPod and completing the activities. Family members stood alongside their student and assisted if needed. At the end of each session, families were given a take home bag with materials to support learning at home. As the evening came to end all families met back in the cafeteria to hear if they had won one of the many items we had to give away. The feedback from families was positive and many stated they would participate in our next academic focused family night.

Sugar Mill Appreciates School Way Café

Sugar Mill’s School Way Café continues to not only provide nutritional meals for our school community, but also are leaders in innovative programs that support our students. Debra Feeney, our SWC Manager, received the Florida School Nutrition Association’s Innovative Ideas Award for her composting and Farm-To-Table initiatives. Students learn about composting (recycling organic waste to create soil), and growing herbs and vegetables. In addition, Carol Puglisese, SWC assistant, won the School Wellness Advisory Council of the Year award for her “Dinner at 4” program. Over the course of nine weeks, students learn about nutrition and cooking skills while incorporating math and science. The culminating event was dinner for 35 which included the FUTURES board, the director of SWC, the superintendent and many other school officials. Students are engaged and meeting math and science standards and social emotional skills all while having fun. SME grows leaders. What does your garden grow?
House System

The past months have been filled with engaging activities for the bulldog students at Turie T. Small Elementary. October included Red Ribbon Week activities, schoolwide costume day and every student receiving special treats, and first graders being an audience for Mrs. Fernandez students performing “Vowel Bats!” Mrs. Fernandez also hosted a SIPPS café with SIPPS phonics activities. The Daytona Beach Rotary West collaborated with our music teacher, Vernell Williams-Spar and provided a day long student leadership conference for our 4th and 5th grade students. Community members provided sessions about being on the “Road to Success” for our future leaders.

Students also participated in a mock election in November and learned about the voting process. Students in Mrs. David’s 4th grade class wrote speeches that other students got to hear prior to voting. We also hosted our first vocabulary day. Many classes paraded around the school dressed as a vocabulary word, idiom or other form of figurative speech. It was a great way to encourage creativity and learn new words.

Volusia Online (K-12)

Congratulations, Mrs. Pons!

Volusia Online Learning is so proud of our Teacher of the Year, Michelle Pons! She was been selected as a top-five finalist for the Volusia County Teacher of the Year, and we are all excited to be able to share the incredible things Mrs. Pons has been and continues to do for the students throughout Volusia County Schools. When the announcement was made by Mrs. Teresa Marcks, Mrs. Pons was completely shocked. She said, “I am blessed beyond measure. I love what I do, and I love that I have an opportunity to touch so many lives across the entire district because of the incredible experience Volusia Online Learning offers to students from kindergarten to seniors in high school. My passion is bringing new and innovative experiences to all of our students and connecting my students to people, places and ideas they may never have had the chance to get otherwise.”
Update from Project Management Office

Coming Soon to VCS: Focus School Software

Josh Wycuff
Project Manager
Student Information System

We are pleased to report that our Student Information System (SIS) Project to replace CrossPointe, Gradebook, and many other student data systems is proceeding on schedule. The new SIS of Volusia County Schools will be Focus School Software, which currently serves more than 50% of Florida’s K-12 public school students. Master scheduling for middle and high schools will begin in Focus in January 2019, and our full go-live is planned for July 2019.

Moving to Focus will modernize our aging data systems and bring many standalone processes into a single, seamless system. Additional benefits include the following:

A single portal to access student demographics, academic history, grades, health information, class schedule, test history, discipline, attendance, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and more. Greatly enhanced reporting capabilities, including a dynamic and interactive report to track students’ progress toward graduation requirements.

Single sign-on capability for staff and students when logged on to the VCS network. No more separate user names and passwords to remember! Online discipline referrals for school and bus referrals; the moment a referral is processed, the originator can see the result. A single portal for parents/guardians where they can access grades, attendance, discipline, and other data for all of their children enrolled in VCS. No more separate logins for each of their children.

The SIS Project Team is working diligently to prepare for July, and an important component of our preparation is planning for the extensive training that will be necessary. Training for middle and high school master scheduling teams has already begun, and training opportunities for all other staff will be available beginning in Spring and throughout the Summer and Fall. We are planning to offer training in multiple formats and opportunities whenever possible to allow participants to schedule and attend the training when and how they prefer.

To stay connected to our progress, please follow @VCSPMO and @josh_wycuff on Twitter, or search #VCSSIS. To be added to the bi-weekly SIS status update email distribution list, email Vivian Ayala at vayala@volusia.k12.fl.us.
**ERP Momentum is Building**

As we move into 2019, we have great momentum building up for the impending go-live of our Oracle Fusion ERP system! Oracle will be our primary system for all business data, financial and HR processes, and reports. This will allow us to standardize, and simplify, many of our functions. On a District level this brings us the efficiencies we hoped for when we decided to move to Oracle. On an individual level, it will bring more control and ease of use; once you get used to it. We know doing something a new way may take a little more time at first but are confident you will soon be using the system with no problem. Here are a couple of examples of the tasks we think will be easier.

- If you are someone who orders supplies, like a classroom teacher, it will be just like shopping online. Office Depot, Grainger, and Amazon are already built into our Oracle for an easy and smooth shopping experience. Oracle will even automatically check if you have enough money to make the purchase before putting in the order!
- When you request time off in Oracle, it will go directly to your supervisor without the need to send emails. The approval workflow is built into the system.

It’s an exciting time for Volusia! But, with that excitement also comes some jitters about how we will make the change from “how we do things now” to “how we will do things after go-live”. So, we want to assure you there will be numerous training opportunities and quality ongoing support coming along with the new system! More detail will be coming in the next few months.

To kick off the System implementation, we will be going live with Budgets as of February 1, 2019. The reason this makes sense for us, is so we can begin our budgeting process, which begins ahead of the new fiscal year, in the new system. All other Financial and HR functions will be ready for July 1, 2019 go-live!

We have heard encouraging feedback that the information your Change Agents are sharing is proving to be helpful for you to understand what is coming your way. Please continue to reach out to them with any questions you have. We want you to be engaged and informed every step of the way!
District 3

Mrs. Linda Cuthbert

Schools in this District

Chisholm Elementary  New Smyrna Beach High
Coronado Beach Elementary  New Smyrna Beach Middle
Creekside Middle  Read-Pattillo Elementary
Cypress Creek Elementary  Spruce Creek Elementary
Edgewater Public School  Spruce Creek High
Indian River Elementary  Sweetwater Elementary
### Chisholm Elementary (K-5)

@CESWildcats

557 Ronnoc Lane • New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 • (386) 424-2540

### Wildcat Happenings

Big things are happening on Chisholm’s campus. As our Wildcats returned to school from Thanksgiving Break, they were greeted by towering walls of waves and a giant paw print. As our school transformation continues, our teachers, administration and district personnel are working hard to select modern and vibrant furniture along with state of the art technology for our new school. Next on the agenda is voting on our new Wildcat Logo. This is an amazing experience this is for our Wildcats.

![Image of Chisholm transformation](image1)

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### Coronado Beach Elementary (K-5)

3550 Michigan Avenue • New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 • (386) 424-2525

### Career Days

This year, all Coronado Beach Elementary students were surveyed about what career they wanted to have when they grow up. The answers ranged from doctor and lawyer to professional surfer and diamond hunter. In order make a connection with student career aspirations, guest speakers were invited in to speak about their job role and their educational background. Members of the United States Coast Guard were among the first to speak to Pirates. The Coast Guard members talked to the students about boat safety and the different responsibilities of a boat owner. They also talked about the different educational paths that a person can take to join the United States Coast Guard. They entertained the students with funny situations that they encountered throughout their workday. Students were also given the opportunity to ask questions.

![Image of Coronado Beach Career Days](image2)
Creekside Hosts Tablecraft

Creekside Middle School hosted Tablecraft a scientific virtual reality lesson, allowing our 8th grade students an opportunity to interact with the periodic table in a new and exciting way. The Tony Jennings Institute at UCF partnered with Tablecraft and was able to connect with Creekside Middle to run trials for feedback in the creation of the program. The students enjoyed a day of interactive fun while learning science! Students were engaged and left with a concrete understanding of Science concepts.

Tablecraft as it is today, is a playful VR learning game designed to enhance middle-schoolers' relationships to, and knowledge of science. Set in a lively, fully interactable 3D treehouse-lab, players explore the Periodic Table by crafting objects and furniture out of the elements left behind by their friendly virtual companions. If you would like to learn more about the experience please visit www.playtablecraft.com.

Otter Happenings

Coach Lenny Glover was selected by our faculty to be honored as the Teacher of the Year. We hosted our Fall Festival, sponsored by our PTA. We also held an “Otterly Amazing Event,” which is a monthly tradition: our Parent Night Out. Students come ready to relax, have fun, eat pizza, and watch a movie with their friends. Funds raised are utilized to implement technology in the classroom.

This year, our generous Otters participated in collecting over 46 baskets of food for the 2018 Thanksgiving Basket Brigade. On November 2, our students participated in the Walk-a-Thon to benefit the special area departments. On October 31, our fifth-grade students participated in Mad Scientist Day. Students completed STEAM activities and enjoyed learning from each other.
**Edgewater Public (K-5)**
@EPS_Bobcats
801 S. Old County Road • Edgewater, FL 32132 • (386) 424-2573

**It's 'Z-Place' to Be**

Z Space is one more way that we are putting Bobcats first here at Edgewater Public School! Z Space is the latest addition to our STEM school and is enhancing and taking learning to the next level. This technology is a combination of AR (augmented reality) and VR (virtual reality) that provides students with immersive experiences that are interactive. What does that look like, you might ask? It looks like 4th graders using 3D glasses to see a model of the solar system on the Z Space computer and then manipulating the Earth to create different seasons. Students moved the Earth to correct the misconception of the season, thus showing that they understand the foundational information for how seasons occur. It also looks like 5th graders manipulating circuits to prepare for their hands on circuit building project. Z Space is an example of how the latest technology is enhancing education and helping students to make connections with information that will ensure a deeper understanding of the standards, not just surface. Our school has embraced using technology as tool to create learning experiences that are rich and robust and remembered.

**Indian River Elementary (K-5)**
@IRESManatees
650 Roberts Road • Edgewater, FL 32141 • (386) 424-2650

**Fun at Indian River Elementary**

This has been a fun-filled month at Indian River Elementary School. Our PTA hosted a Fall Festival which brought our school family together to enjoy a Saturday of games and entertainment. Science night was engaging to students at our school as well as all of the New Smyrna Beach High School volunteer students that came out to help our students learn through the centers set up by the Daytona Museum of Arts and Science. Lastly, we kicked off December with "Donuts with Santa" sponsored by our PTA. Students were able to rotate through centers as well as take a picture with Santa Clause!
**Busy Times at New Smyrna Beach High**

This year, the New Smyrna Beach High School had an amazing show at the Volusia County Youth Livestock Fair. We had a total of 22 competitors in 12 different livestock divisions. Wyatt Eskew had best in breed, with several students receiving 1st in class awards.

Thespian Troupe 1903 attended the District 3 Thespian Festival before the break receiving a Superior for One-Act Tech. Overall, they received several Superior's in individual events and several Excellent ratings in individual events. Ms. Colby's Ceramics class and Ms. Geyer's AP 2D had 3 students — Devynne Duke, Tori Weiner, and Hunter Hill — win awards at the Halifax Art Festival and they're honored at the News-Journal Center. The girls volleyball team had their 3rd straight trip to the Final Four and Aidan O’Gorman placed 4th at the Boys State XC meet.

We had 8 early College Scholarship Signees, including Jackson State University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Embry Riddle University, Daytona State University, Coastal Carolina University, Virginia Military Institute, College of Charleston, and Flagler College.

**Drama Troupe 89475 Performs at District Competition**

Mr. Michael Philips, theatre teacher at New Smyrna Beach Middle School, and Drama Troupe 89475 recently competed in their first District Thespian Competition at Winter Springs High School. They presented nine individual events and received four Superior ratings and three Excellent ratings. They also presented a one-act play and received an overall rating of Superior. They will be presenting all of their individual events at the Florida State Junior Thespian Competition in January. "Break a leg NSBMS Drama!"
DARE Graduation
Read-Pattillo Rockets successfully completed their DARE program. Graduation was a wonderful event. Many of our parents joined us to celebrate our 5th grade group.

Honoring our Community
Honoring our community is nothing new to our Bobcats. During Red Ribbon Week our students donated to local organizations. Pawsability Animal Rescue, Ball Parks 4 Him, the Jewish Federation, and Books for Hope received a variety of supplies to assist others locally.

Additionally, we hosted our first ever Veterans’ Day ceremony. Fourth and fifth grade students honored our local veterans by singing songs and presenting each one with a carnation. Special guest speaker, Greg Akin, shared his personal military story as well as the heroes within his family. Next, our adorable Pre-K students joined Port Orange Mayor Burnette at the Port Orange City Center for an outstanding Veterans’ Day celebration.

Grandparents’ love is strong and deep! Students at Spruce Creek Elementary placed the spotlight on their grandparents during a beautiful ceremony. Hundreds of grandmas and granddads enjoyed listening to the students sing from the heart and heard personal letters written to them. After the ceremony, grandparents had an opportunity to visit their grandchild’s classroom. And lastly, we partnered with the Port Orange United Church of Christ and helped 24 families for Thanksgiving. Each family received a basket full of food and a $20.00 gift card for a turkey.
Teen Zone

This semester Spruce Creek High School has been working to expand resources available to our students. One of those resources is our Teen Zone program, sponsored by Food Brings Hope, Inc. Teen Zone is an after-school program that provides opportunities for at-risk students to improve their academic performance, discipline choices, and attendance.

We now have 75 students who are participating in our weekly Teen Zone program and are receiving tutoring, a meal, and access to field trips and visits to colleges. They have enjoyed talking about motivation and steps to success and working with peer tutors. Their trip to the Daytona State holiday concert was a highlight of the quarter as many students have never been to a performance in a theatre other than the school auditorium. Teen Zone students have already shown an increase in their grades and academic performance and their attitudes about school.

This local organization is particularly important to us at Spruce Creek because it was founded in 2007 by Forough Hosseini, whose children are Spruce Creek graduates. Her philanthropy has brought millions of dollars into Volusia County Schools to assist the students who need it.

Sweetwater Elementary (K-5)

Magic of Reading

Third grade students in Mr. Sita’s class at Sweetwater Elementary have been discovering the “magic” of reading! They are completing a Harry Potter book study, where they read, boost vocabulary, learn new “spell”ing words, and complete wizarding comprehension activities. Throughout the unit, they behold their classroom slowly transforming into the magical world. The students are even sorted into each house and compete for the house cup through academic challenges. Each day, a special guest reader from the school or community surprises the students to share their love of reading with the class. The goal of the book study is to engage students and inspire a love of reading within the classroom.
Federal Programs & Grant Development (TITLE I)

Academic Intervention Teacher Professional Learning

The Intervention teacher seminar was held at Daytona State in the UCF Auditorium. Federal Programs has a total of 74 intervention teachers in 57 Title I schools for the current school year. This group of educators provide supplemental instruction to students with the greatest need. They identify students through analysis of data, PLC’s and assessments. The professional learning seminar that took place enabled the teachers to engage in the following: explicit instruction, excel reports, Eduphoria/i-Ready data reporting and a session to speak with other veteran intervention teachers on best practices. Academic intervention teachers meet on a regular basis throughout the year for professional learning. The intervention teachers develop instructional cycles which include lesson plans, data analysis, identified targeted skills and assessment data. Site visits are conducted by district staff and school-based staff. We are blessed to have such an amazing program. It has increased our ability to support our schools, teachers and students throughout the district.

Insurance & Employee Benefits

VCS Vitality

Florida Health Care Plans and Volusia County School Board are proud to announce very exciting news… Beginning January 1, 2019 a new wellness program will be on the rise: VCS Vitality! This program is customized specifically for Volusia County Schools Employees with Wellness Wednesdays semester themes, campaigns, and best of all, Fitbits available at heavily discounted rates. For more information, please visit www.wellnessatfhcp.com/vcsb or email your VCS Wellness Coordinator Megan Milks at mmilks@fhcp.com
District 4

Mr. Carl Persis,
Chairman

Schools in this District

Champion Elementary
David C. Hinson Middle
Holly Hill School
McInnis Elementary
Ormond Beach Elementary
Ormond Beach Middle
Osceola Elementary
Palm Terrace Elementary
Pathways Elementary
Pine Trail Elementary
Seabreeze High
Tomoka Elementary
Westside Elementary
Hinson Middle School administration, faculty and staff joined together recently to honor Mrs. Charmaine Huth, the principal’s secretary, and Ms. Sue Lurcock, the bookkeeper. These lovely ladies have been at Hinson since the school opened 14 years ago. They are now both retired, effective November 30th. Along with Mr. Dunnigan and the current faculty and staff, all four of the past principals (Mr. Petrucciani, Mrs. Sileo, Dr. Jones, and Mr. Ouellette) and many past staff members joined in and regaled us with fond memories, kind words and thank yous to both of them. While this celebration will be a fond memory for all who attended, the legacy that each of these ladies leaves behind will forever be etched in Hinson’s history and in everyone’s hearts.
Student House Council

The Student House Council at Holly Hill School has been decided! We held elections for house leaders and house representatives. Each of our four houses — Consensio, Meraki, Versantur and Quantum — now have one house leader and one house representative to lead the student body. These students were elected by their teachers and peers. They are responsible, hard-working and looking forward to serving on the student council and making a difference at Holly Hill School.

Faculty and staff worked together to create holiday themed house bulletin boards in the teacher's lounge. This was the first faculty house challenge for the second quarter. Our newly elected Holly Hill Mayor, Chris Via, was the celebrity judge and chose the House of Meraki to win the challenge—Go Meraki! We continue to build a positive school morale while involving our community leaders at Holly Hill School.

McInnis Elementary (K-5)

Music, games, Trunk or Treat, delicious food and literacy. McInnis Elementary hosted its very first “Falling All In to a Good Book” literacy event in October. This occasion included over thirty local businesses who took the time to provide treats and a trunk for our Trunk or Treat. Students came in costumes and paraded around playing many different carnival games. A literacy room provided the students with quite the pumpkin experience. Students listened as the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin was read to them. After the story, students were able to create their own life cycle of a pumpkin foldable, which even included some yummy pumpkin seeds for tasting. With over 500 people in attendance, the community all came together to support the students and the school.
**Ormond Beach Elementary (K-5)**
@OrmondBeachElem
100 Corbin Avenue • Ormond Beach, FL 32174 • (386) 258-4666

**Wrestling Club**

This year OBE partnered with Legend Athletics, which serves grades K-12, to provide 43 OBE boys and girls an opportunity to learn about, and compete in, the sport of wrestling. The newly-formed wrestling club, co-founded by Volusia County teachers Mike and Jessica Fries, met once a week. In addition to teaching participants nine basic, yet critical, wrestling moves, the Legend Athletics staff and volunteers focused on helping develop characteristics such as team building, leadership, and good citizenship. The Legend Athletics wrestling season culminated with a tournament at Seabreeze High School with many Seabreeze Wrestling team members coaching and officiating the event.

Working toward their vision of expanding their scope to reach more student athletes in the Ormond Beach area, Legend Athletics is hoping to bring flag football to OBE in the near future. Co-Founder and OBE teacher, Jessica Fries, feel that there is a special sense of pride and comradery that comes with competing as a team for your school. She and the rest of the Legend Athletics staff are hoping to bring more of that experience to OBE students.

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**Ormond Beach Middle (6-8)**
@OBMSMedia
151 Domicilio Avenue • Ormond Beach, FL 32174 • (386) 258-4666

**OBMS 5-0 Club**

Ormond Beach Middle School is partnering with the Ormond Beach Police Department to develop strong leadership skills with our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Panthers in the 5-0 Club. The 5-0 Club is currently led by Officer Durkin to work with 50 students each Wednesday. Officer Gregory Stokes, who is our SRO, is involved with OBPD Community Outreach.

The top 100 Reading Counts points students were treated to a morning in the media center with refreshments, bookmarks, pencils, and prizes to celebrate their achievement. Administration, teachers, school counselors, and parents were there to support and encourage strong literacy on our campus — over 3,000 books have been read so far this year. Enthusiasm is building for our next Reading Counts 100 Club event on December 19.

The annual Science Fair produced outstanding entries that were judged by Spruce Creek High students. Our Panthers showcased their science knowledge and understanding of scientific principles with their experiments and project boards. We wish our students success at the district level.
**Osceola Elementary (K-5)**
@OsceolaElem
100 Osceola Avenue • Ormond Beach, FL 32176 • (386) 258-4669

Math and Movement Family Night

Osceola Elementary hosted a Math and Movement Family Night on November 29, providing free pizza to everyone in attendance. During this event our cafeteria and media center were transformed to allow volunteers and families the opportunity to rotate through different stations using their activity booklets. Our volunteers were made up of teachers, alumni students, and team members from Lowe’s Home Improvement store. Osceola’s intervention teacher, Heather Smyth, wrote a grant through Lowe’s to purchase the Math and Movement activities. Mrs. Smyth was awarded the $5,000 grant to purchase the mats that enhance instruction for grades K-5. On the night of our event, the Founder of Math and Movement, Suzy Koontz, came from New York to provide lessons during the day then assist with the night event. The Ormond Beach Observer was also on campus to capture smiles, laughter, learning, and family engagement.

![Math and Movement Family Night](image1.jpg)

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**Palm Terrace Elementary (K-5)**
@PTEDolphins
1825 Dunn Avenue • Daytona Beach, FL 32114 • (386) 258-4670

Dolphin Happenings

Girls on the Run is a girls’ empowerment program here at Palm Terrace Elementary. The program is geared toward girls grades 3-5, where they learn to be confident and positive about themselves. They also learn about health and physical activity through running. They meet twice-a-week, and girls participated in their first 5k on Saturday, November 17. The event was a success, each of the girls did their very best by finishing with excitement and achievement. This program is headed by Ms. Carter and Ms. Postell.

Palm Terrace Elementary hosted its first Science Night for the year on October 25, where students discovered the fun of science through hands-on activities for the whole family, led by PTE teachers. Lastly, the cloudy skies nor the rain did not stop the Palm Terrace Elementary’s Dynamic Dolphins drumline and dancers as they marched to the tunes of their greatest hits in Holly Hill’s Christmas Parade on December 1.
**Pathways Elementary (K-5)**

@Pathways_Elem

2100 Airport Road • Ormond Beach, FL 32174 • (386) 258-4671

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**Holiday Parade**

On Saturday, December 8, Pathways Elementary participated in the 28th Annual Home for the Holidays Parade in Ormond Beach. Led by music teacher Jessica Palmer, 4th and 5th grade students marched and played “Rhythm Parade” on their recorders. Student Council members proudly represented the school by carrying the Pathways Elementary banner. Spectators were excited as students passed out candy to the crowd with huge smiles on their faces. It was a fantastic night with huge support from many teachers, students and families. Pathways is proud to announce that we took home the 2nd place award in the walker’s category. Hard work and practice always pay off.

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**Pine Trail Elementary (K-5)**

300 Airport Road • Ormond Beach, FL 32174 • (386) 258-4672

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**Pine Trail’s Annual Fall Festival**

We have had a busy fall at Pine Trail Elementary with the largest activity being our Annual Fall Festival. This PTA sponsored annual event was a huge success on November 10. And, the smiles on everyone’s faces was proof of that. We are proud to announce that 5th grade student Evan Menard’s art work was chosen at the Halifax Art Festival to be displayed at Arthaus! The is a tremendous honor and congratulations Evan!
Great Things Happening at Seabreeze

Congratulations to Center Stage and AMT thespians of Seabreeze Troupe 1269, on their outstanding showing at the District 3 Thespian Assessments. Seabreeze performers won eight superior ratings in monolog acting, ensemble acting, improvisation, solo musical, and large group musical events. Way to go Seabreeze Thespians!

Seabreeze’s awesome Unified Sports teams will be expanding their Special Olympic presence with Bocce Ball. Brand new courts are being built on the Seabreeze campus and will serve as a new sport venue for Unified Teams.

Seabreeze’s outstanding Avid Coordinator, Lynne Seeber, recently hosted an informational night for current freshmen and seniors in the program. The information shared assists with maintaining fluid communication between the school and parents as well as supports the success of students in the program. During Hispanic Heritage Month, students participated in several activities including a presentation of Cultural Projects from Spanish 1-3 and AP. Projects highlighted Spanish Speaking Countries, Influential Hispanics, Holidays, Traditions, Historical Events and Landmarks. Kudos to Mirthia Feliciano and her students for a job well done.

Busy Times at Tomoka

Tomoka Elementary students have been busy with their lessons and beyond. Our Winter Concert was magnificent, featuring student musical performances by the Chorus, Orff Ensemble, Kindergarteners, and the debut performance of our Stomp Percussion Ensemble. Many of those same students joined us in the Ormond Beach parade, singing behind our PTA float which featured our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Tracy Lambert. Tomoka PTA won first place for the float division in the Ormond Beach HOme for the HOlidays Parade. Fifth graders celebrated the completion of the DARE program with Corporal Dovine and other members of the Ormond Beach Police Department. Eight students were chosen as essay winners from their class and read their essays to the audience of classmates, parents, and city officials. Congratulations to Lena Harmon (1st place) and Ellie Harris (3rd place) on their overall district win in the Elementary Poetry category in the Everybody Every Day attendance contest.
Westside Loves Literacy

The culture of literacy can be seen all over the campus at Westside Elementary. We recently completed another successful book fair. Our students took home over 400 new books from the event. Teachers, students, and families all worked together to make this a successful event. The bookfair was open for extended hours before and after school to give students and families more time to select the perfect book. We are thrilled to see students reading and sharing their favorite books.
## District 5

![Mr. Ruben Colón](image)

### Mr. Ruben Colón

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Deltona High (9-12)
@DeltonaHigh
100 Wolf Pack Run  •  Deltona, FL 32725  •  (386) 575-4153

Troops on Line
Deltona High was honored to receive The Danny Gainin School of Excellence Award for the 2018 school year. This award was presented by the Deland Area Chamber of Commerce to an active member of the community, a school who has improved their school grade, a 5 Star school, and a school with an overall increase in achievements. Way to go Deltona High!

Deltona High JROTC recognized veterans for Veterans Day on November 9 by hosting their yearly “Troops On Line” which reached around the entire front of the campus. The JROTC cadets were dressed in their uniforms, waving the American flag as parents and students drove by the school and into the parent pick up loop. Horns were honking, people were waving, all in support of the men and women who severed our country. The students also designed a beautiful display in the front office for the teachers and staff that are veterans. Thank you all that have served or are serving our country to protect us.

Deltona Lakes Elementary (K-5)
@DeltonaLksElem
2022 Adelia Boulevard  •  Deltona, FL 32725  •  (386) 575-4115

Eagle Happenings
November has been very busy for the Eagles at Deltona Lakes Elementary. On November 9, we kicked off our first annual Color Run with an outstanding success. Our students raised nearly $5,000 to provide shade structures for our playgrounds and P.E. areas. The top three D.L.E. Eagles were awarded with a gift card for their hard work. Our color run committee could not have done this event without the help of our dedicated parents who volunteered their time to this event. The Deltona Fire Department also joined in the fun to cheer on our students and provide them with fire hats, stickers, pencils, and more.

Our kindergarten students worked hard to prepare for their Thanksgiving program on November 15. The students proudly wore their hand made costumes, sang songs and put on a play for our families and community. It was a great night showcasing their talents and celebrating their hard work.

November 29th was another special night, as the Daytona Museum of Arts and Science brought their planetarium and 15 other science activities to Deltona Lakes for our annual science night. So many families showed up to have some science fun.
Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Each year, Deltona Middle School celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with our students and families. This year on November 8, our students participated in a celebration that included cultural dances, food, guest speakers, fun and fellowship. The night began with a parade of flags representing Hispanic countries. This was followed by student performances from our band, choir, Charger squad, Spanish Club, Guitar classes, and Dance Club. Our students worked for weeks perfecting performances that were simply amazing to watch. This night was filled with student performances that will be remembered for years to come. A special thank you to our Culinary Academy, Agricultural Academy and art classes who participated by creating a display of different flags and informational posters about Hispanic countries. Also, thank you to Mrs. Lopez and all of our teachers who worked to make this night special for our students and their families.

Multicultural Festival

Discovery Elementary’s Multicultural Festival held in the evening on November 2 was a huge success. The International Dance Club from University High School came and shared different styles of dance with everyone in attendance — they also taught some volunteers how to do some of the dances. We had cultural displays made by students, teachers, and families. The displays included Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Portugal, Scotland, Jamaica, Egypt, Laos, Romania, New Zealand, and Spain. Attendees also had an opportunity to try foods from different cultures. Students came dressed in traditional attire from their cultures. Thank you to our ESOL department and all the volunteers who participated.
**Forest Lake Elementary (K-5)**  
@ForestLakeVCS  
1600 Doyle Road • Deltona, FL 32725 • (386) 575-4166

**Improving Parent Involvement**

Forest Lake has implemented a new strategy this year to get more families involved at the school. This year, FLE is throwing “Parent Parties.” The parties are planned on a rotating basis, with each grade level hosting a party approximately every six weeks. Each grade level works with our intervention teachers, academic coaches, and parent liaison to plan an activity that highlights the learning going on for that particular grade level. Parents are greeted with refreshments and a festive atmosphere. Students and parents learn together at the parties. Parents have experienced a SIPPS lesson, finding equivalent fractions using fraction bars, creating a human number line, writing short response answers for different types of texts, learning a variety of division strategies, and activities on I-Pads. The parties have been thrown before school or directly after school. Parents enjoy the hands-on learning that is designed specifically for their grade level. They walk out the door with materials, knowledge on how to help their child at home, and a smile on their face.

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**Enterprise Elementary (K-5)**  
@Enterprise_Elem  
211 Main Street • Enterprise, FL 32725 • (386) 575-4135

**Waterford Success at Enterprise**

We are so proud of Mrs. Rupp’s second grade class for beating out 570 other classrooms in Volusia County in the months of September and October. Her second grade class logged the most hours on Waterford for Math and Science in the whole county. This amazing accomplishment will set her students up for great success and prepare them for the rigors of testing in the upcoming years. Because of their hard work, Rosie the Raccoon came to hang out with her class and she brought cookies and drinks to share. The students recognized Rosie right away and were thrilled to spend time together. We even invited their parents to join in on the excitement. Throw in some cupcakes from the principal, and we call that a fun afternoon. Great job Mrs. Rupp for encouraging your students to fully maximize our Title I technology and resources.
**Orlando Science Center Visits Friendship**

On November 13, the Orlando Science Center came to Friendship with many hands-on activities — among them were the “Angry Bird” catapult challenge, stomp rockets, mobile planetarium and the Kaboom shows. Each grade level had an opportunity to rotate through several activities during the day. Later that evening families were treated to pizza and 15 fun hands-on stations including gross-out science, math and circuits. Watching students eat bugs was part of the fun. At the end of the evening, there was a raffle of science kits and a family 4-pack for the Orlando Science Center. Over 100 Friendship families participated in the fun and learning.

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**Galaxy Middle (6-8)**

@GalaxyRockets

2400 Eustace Avenue • Deltona, FL 32725 • (386) 575-4144

**Galaxy Presents at Orlando Maker Faire**

On November 17th, Galaxy STEM Academy hosted the second annual Volusia First Lego League Pre-qualifier. Twenty six teams from the region (Volusia and the surrounding counties) participated in the prequalifier. The event was a huge success due to the amazing leadership provided by Amy Monahan (STEM Specialist), Spruce Creek High School’s FIRST Robotic Team SMASH, high school volunteers from Deltona High School, and volunteers from the Galaxy STEM Academy.

The Galaxy Middle science department (with support from Volusia County STEM) exhibited this month at the Orlando Maker Faire! They presented giant games including life-sized Guess Who (currently teaching classification), Giant Battle Ship (teaching the Periodic Table of Elements), and the dragon smoke ringer which is used during their 8th grade science GMS Lock-in. During this event, the science department showcased our GMS Lock-in and our Galaxy STEM Academy. The science team presented how our students are being exposed to STEM activities two days a week, by having our 300+ students engaged in 46 different "labs" where they get a glimpse of what possible career paths are open for them to take. https://www.makerfaireorlando.com/exhibit/2018/making-science-larger-than-life/
Performances Abound at Heritage

Heritage Middle School’s performing arts have been extremely active preparing for this holiday season. Mrs. Demps’ theater and chorus groups each performed their own presentations. From Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* with a Dr. Seuss twist that was hard to resist, to angelic symphonies of the season that gave us all good reason to celebrate and cheer for the new year. Mr. Thompson conducted four different bands that highlighted our students in either beginning band, concert band, jazz band or symphonic band. The beginning band’s most treasured moment is when teachers and parents play along side in perfect harmony. The other three bands not only use this time of year for holiday cheer, but also in preparation for district competition and a special performance as returning guests to the stage at Universal Studios in Orlando. We’re proud of the dedication and passion that our Eagles have for the performing arts…They wish you and yours the best holiday season!

Storybook Character Day

Osteen Elementary celebrated their annual Storybook character day on October 26. We are so proud of this tradition that celebrates reading and literacy. Our students and faculty dress up like character from a book and put on a parade for our community at our school.
**Pine Ridge High (9-12)**
@PineRidgeHS
926 Howland Boulevard • Deltona, FL 32738 • (386) 575-4195

**Pine Ridge Celebrates HOSA Week**

Pine Ridge High School Healthcare Academy celebrated HOSA Week 11/5-11/9. They volunteered at the City of Deltona Open House at Fire Station #65. They visited Friendship Elementary to teach VPK students proper handwashing skills as well as teaching them about germs. The American Red Cross Club made holiday cards to send to veterans. The American Red Cross Club also did a pillowcase project about disaster safety with 4th & 5th grade students at Friendship Elementary. The Healthcare Academy toured Halifax Hospital; they the Helipad, Trauma ER, Clinical Laboratory, Pediatrics. They also honored our school nurse with flowers. They wrapped up HOSA week with a Balloon Pop in the courtyard during lunch.

**Pride Elementary (K-5)**
@Proud2BAtPride
1100 Learning Lane • Deltona, FL 32738 • (386) 968-0010

**Pride Prowl**

Pride Elementary hosted the 10th annual Pride Prowl on Saturday, December 1. Community members, families, faculty and staff participated in the two-mile run/walk fundraiser for the athletics department. In collaboration with the art department, students were encouraged to design a logo for the event. The winning design was created by fourth-grader Wyatt Turner and was featured on the shirts worn by the 75 runners. Refreshments were provided by local businesses. A big thanks goes to Coach Taylor and Coach Rice for organizing the event.
Multi-Cultural Day at Spirit Elementary

Spirit Elementary recently hosted “Multi-Cultural Day” on December 8. We were excited to welcome over 250 Spirit parents, children and community members including Volusia county school board member, Ruben Colon and student helpers from Deltona High School! The day consisted of amazing performances by our Spirit Dance Team, and music students from Spirit, informational displays made by students and parents and a shared meal. Students were given a passport to be stamped as they visited the many information stations set up to educate them about traditions and customs from around the world. Some of the children were dressed up in outfits representing their culture.

This event allows students and parents to share their traditions and customs and enjoy a day filled with fun and learning. This was a great event for our Spirit community as we partner together to increase student achievement and connect with our families!

Project HEAT is in Full Swing

At Sunrise Elementary, we are off to a great start with our mentoring programs that challenge, educate, and enhance our student’s capabilities. Project HEAT is off and running. We recently went on our first field study to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. We are excited about our upcoming trip to the Volusia Civic Ballet to see the Nutcracker, as well as meeting with our lunch bunch groups and mentors.

She2She enjoyed an empowering chat with Ms. Laura Albert, Terrestrial Biologist from the Lyonia Environmental Center. Ms. Albert shared her knowledge about the environment and passion for conservation with our future female leaders. Amongst the shared wisdom, we discussed how to be stewards of our local natural resources.

Lastly, our Food Brings Hope Honors is all in with our first book Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. The students have been engaged in higher level questions and discussions to stretch their thinking skills. They are getting ready to start their 2nd STEM challenge as they create a shelter for the main character who is stranded in the Northern Canadian Woods. These three mentoring programs are chiseling each student to be the great leader for others to follow. We are off to change the world.
Fire Safety Program

In October, students in grades VPK-3 participated in the annual fire safety program. Students met in the multipurpose room to learn about fire safety. They then moved outdoors to see the fire trucks and watch a demonstration on how to work the fire hoses. Students even had an opportunity to handle the fire hoses with the assistance of the firemen.

Red Ribbon Week and Bullying Prevention Month was once again a huge success at Timbercrest Elementary. Students loved participating in the dress up days: Turn Your Back on Drugs, Put a Cap on Drugs, Sock It to Drugs, Team Up Against Drugs, and I’m Too Smart for Drugs. Students received pencils or bracelets and banners were displayed on campus, all to promote a healthy lifestyle.
Thank you to our Key Communicators who share stories and information about all the great things happening in their schools and across the school district.

Deborah Gudzin
Office Specialist
Atlantic High

Susan Wilson
Office Specialist
Blue Lake Elementary

Linda Huger, Ed. S.
Teacher on Assignment
Campbell Middle

Jacqueline Ouellette
Media Specialist
Champion Elementary

Kristie Merklin
Office Specialist
Chisholm Elementary

Denise Ribeiro
Office Specialist
Citrus Grove Elementary

Melissa Cleveland
Teacher on Assignment
Coronado Beach Elementary

Steffan Mallory
Assistant Principal
Creekside Middle

Joni Ringvelski
Teacher
Cypress Creek Elementary

Chad Miller
Assistant Principal
DeBary Elementary

Michelle Lindsey
Media Specialist
Edgewater Public

Michele McCain
Principal
Atlantic High

Kathryn Kaye
Parent Liaison
Enterprise Elementary

Susan Huguenin
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Jody Adkins
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Teacher
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Robin Ferrara
Media Teacher
Deltona Lakes Elementary

Carri Baker
Media Specialist
Deltona Middle

Teresa Tegge
Office Specialist
Galaxy Middle

Mitzi Sheppard
Office Specialist
Discovery Elementary

Elaine Beeghly
Assistant Principal
George Marks Elementary