Welcome to…. Edition No. 3 — March 2019

Inside, you will find…..

….. and much more.
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Welcome to the third edition of Volusia Vibes for the 2018-19 school year! We have lots of exciting things going on in our schools. We also recently established some unique partnerships to help our students and staff both in and out of the classroom. Not only do we have a multi-million dollar partnership with AdventHealth to help our health care academies and programs, we now joined forces with the Daytona Tortugas Baseball team! Please see the links below to learn more about these partnerships. Also, please enjoy this video of Shelldon and me explaining how we are getting students to read this summer!

AdventHealth Partnership:
https://content.volusia.k12.fl.us/Pages/news-article.aspx?sid=765

Daytona Tortugas Partnership:
https://content.volusia.k12.fl.us/Pages/news-article.aspx?sid=836

Home Run Reading Challenge 2019:
https://youtu.be/nQZ7TX622qw

James T. Russell, Superintendent of Schools
District 1

Ms. Jamie M. Haynes

Schools in this District

Blue Lake Elementary  George Marks Elementary  Edith I. Starke Elementary
Citrus Grove Elementary  Manatee Cove Elementary  Taylor Middle-High
DeBary Elementary  Orange City Elementary  University High
DeLand Middle  Pierson Elementary  Volusia Pines Elementary
DeLand High  River Springs Middle  Woodward Ave Elementary
Freedom Elementary  Southwestern Middle
Blue Lake Elementary (K-5)
@BlueLakeDolphin
282 N. Blue Lake Avenue • DeLand, FL 32724 • (386) 822-4070

Blue Lake Elementary Kids Zone Students attended an Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) basketball game sponsored by Food Brings Hope on January 30, 2019. Our students were ecstatic about the pizza dinner that was provided, basketball game, and surprise basketball to take home! Thank you ERAU & Food Brings Hope for orchestrating this wonderful learning experience for our students!

Black History Month Celebrations, “Connecting with Culture” was the theme of the Black History Month celebration at Blue Lake. A wide variety of activities were enjoyed by students and staff that included guest readers in our classrooms for a “Read In”, staff members dressed as historical figures for students to guess “Who am I?”, a door décor competition, and a soul food luncheon for staff members. On March 1 we celebrated with a Black History Month Soul Food and Music Festival.

Citrus Grove Elementary (K-5)
@CitrusGrovecs
729 Hazen Road • DeLand, FL 32720 • (386) 626-0053

Literacy week brought some special events to Citrus Grove including our first annual vocabulary parade! Students, teachers and staff dressed up as vocabulary words and displayed the definitions while parading around campus to their cheering onlookers. A special thank you to Angela Young, Amie Metz-Dalton and Stephanie Lalashius for organizing this fun and exciting way to learn new words!

On February 23, Citrus Grove hosted the 7th annual Groovin’ at the Grove 5K and Family Fun Run Presented by Stetson Baptist Church, IAFF Local #4347 and Walmart. With our largest turn out yet, almost 400 participants, it was a beautiful morning at The Grove! This wonderful event brings the community together and promotes health and fitness while raising money for technology and books for our students. A special thank you to DeLand High School Leadership and Baseball Team, DeLand Police Department and Osteen’s Run Club for coming out and volunteering!
DeBary Elementary (K-5)
@DebaryElem
88 West Highbanks Road • DeBary, FL 32713 • (386) 575-4230

Another exciting month at DeBary Elementary, with an extravagant literacy week and a heart pounding kids’ heart challenge. Literacy week was filled with activities for the students to enjoy in order to increase the amount of time reading. The goal was to have all students read everyday. After a week of celebrations it seemed that we had a few more avid readers in our hallways. The kids heart challenge was filled with activities during PE classes in order to raise our student’s awareness about what it means to have a healthy heart. Our students were able to spend extra time exercising and found other ways to have a healthy heart. Both programs were helpful in raising awareness of activities helpful in and out of school.

DeLand High (9-12)
@delandbulldogs
800 North Hill Avenue • DeLand, FL 32724 • (386) 822-6909

Bulldog Country decided to revamp their incoming Freshman Showcase night. Through a lot of planning with multiple on-campus committees, Bulldogpalooza was born. In years past, DeLand High began the evening with a presentation in the auditorium, followed by everyone migrating into the gym to meet with program leaders, athletic teams, and clubs. This year the entire campus was open for the Class of 2023. This enabled future Bulldogs and their families to learn and hear about programs from students and faculty, as well as see where their classes will be. Athletic programs and clubs were well represented along with our performing art programs putting their talent on display front and center on the Dog Bowl stage. The culinary program and foreign language clubs were represented and they sold food for families to enjoy as they explored the campus.

Our Student Leadership and Air Force JROTC cadets were out in full-force making sure that everyone was able to navigate the campus easily and find their destinations. Bulldogpalooza was a great success! All the committee heads reconvened later that week to compare notes and begin planning next year’s event. DeLand High already has some fantastic ideas of how to make Bulldogpalooza even greater next year to welcome the Class of 2024.
On January 8 DeLand Middle School was presented with the Danny Gainin School of Excellence award for the first quarter of 2019. This award was presented to the school by the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce and Orange City Alliance. In order to be chosen by the DeLand Area Chamber Education Committee for this honor, a school must be an active member of the community, have an improvement in the school grade, receive the five-star school award and have an overall increase in achievement.

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

Freedom Falcons Celebrate! More than 408 student recognitions were presented at Freedom in February for A-B Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, and Overall Academic Improvement. Students were treated to pizza, refreshments, and fun with the principal. Also, Freedom was honored as the 2018-2019 Area Superintendent’s Rookie Challenge Elementary Winner. Freedom has an awesome group of new teachers this year that soars with Falcon pride every day! 36 Freedom fourth and fifth graders were recently inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society. Guidance counselor Stacy Wycuff held a traditional NEHS ceremony followed by refreshments for the student members and their families. Falcons are also celebrating an extremely successful Freedom Walkathon fundraiser. The PTA, volunteers and staff members assisted with organizing the event, and students had a great time participating and raising funds for the school. The school community came together to raise just over $13,000, which will be used to support future school achievement initiatives. Congratulations, Freedom family!
George Marks Elementary (K-5)
@GeorgeMarksVCS
1000 North Garfield Avenue • DeLand, FL 32724 • (386) 822-6986

George Marks Elementary is beginning new adventures. Portables are arriving daily and you can see “Portable City GME” taking shape. A Farewell tour on May 11 will welcome Alumni and community members to tour down memory lane before demolition begins in early June. Jetro Tenerife, a fifth grade student, will represent Volusia County in the Regional Spelling Bee in Orlando. We look forward to his progress.

Manatee Cove Elementary (K-5)
@VCSManateeCove
734 West Ohio Avenue • Orange City, FL 32763 • (386) 968-0004

On February 8 Manatee Cove Elementary PTA hosted a Parent’s Night out. It was a huge success! PTA watched students during the evening so that parents could enjoy a night out. The kids enjoyed games, food, crafts, and fun. On February 12, we had two students who were our Principal for the Morning. They each have earned 500 Reading Counts points or more! They helped our principal, Mrs. Sojka, around the school and in the media center. February 20th, we hosted our MOAS Family Science Night. We had over 100 students attend and they got to experiment with 15 hands-on stations and explore the popular portable planetarium. The night was a hit! On February 21, our 5th graders competed in the school science fair. We had seven winners and two alternates that are moving on to the Volusia County Expo. Also in February, our 4th and 5th grade students had a bit of fun playing volleyball against our administration and teachers. It was a lot of fun!
Students in grades 2 - 5 have been getting creative in their new STEM/Makerspace corner of the media center. Students are invited to come in before school from 7:15 to the first bell, or during recess time, to participate. Students get to experience hands-on activities to develop technology, engineering, and mathematics skills while also learning to work collaboratively, think critically, and overcome failures.

Students are eager to engage in both structured and unstructured projects through various technologies and supplies. Some of the student favorites include Dash coding robots with iPads, Ozobots, LEGO, Q-Ba-Maze, Makedo construction kits, various tapes, cardboard and more.

One of our core beliefs at Orange City Elementary is that students should articulate a future goal for a career path. Within our STEM/Makerspace students get an introduction into the basics of technology, mathematics and engineering careers. As we move forward, we hope to further expand both the variety of projects and materials available for our students.

At Pierson Elementary we all look forward to the 100th day of school. Our kindergarten students once again showed off their creative abilities as they presented posters featuring 100 fun items for the annual 100 Days of School parade. Other students and teachers gathered in the halls to watch and cheer on our fantastic kindergartners. All grade levels also enjoyed participating in the fun-filled Celebrate Literacy Week activities. Each class create door decorations featuring a book with a unique point of view in support of the theme “Celebrate Literacy: One View at A Time”. Students also participated in some fun book trivia contests and enjoyed stories read aloud by students from Bethune-Cookman College and Taylor Middle-High School.

We were also quite excited to host our first Skype author visit. Jonathan Emmett, author of SSYRA Jr. title Prince Ribbit led a wonderful session where he read his popular book aloud to our 2nd graders. He also took time to answer questions the students posed about his life and job as an author. By the end of the session, students were imagining themselves as future authors and illustrators! We are looking forward to our next big event which is our Spring Fling on April 13 from 10AM-2PM.
Family Literacy Night at River Springs Middle School of Technology & Innovation was held on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM. Students and families came and enjoyed viewing exemplary student work and participating in literacy-themed activities, including breakout rooms and a reading marathon. Bookmarks were made, door prizes given and projects were displayed for all to view. every person who attended received a free book of their choice. During the week we had literacy themed dress up days. The students, teachers and staff dressed as idioms, favorite book characters and super heroes.

Southwestern Middle School recently hosted their middle school expo for all incoming 6th graders. This night was attended by over 150 future tigers! The 6th grade school counselors started the night off by reviewing ways to be successful in middle school and how they can support each new tiger as they make the transition to middle school. The future tigers were treated to a taste of middle school life by being able visit all potential elective and core classrooms. This event allowed students to choose their electives classes while being able meet math, language arts, science and history teachers. The evening ended with administrators giving each new tiger their first "pawesome" bracelet, officially welcoming them to their new tiger family!
On January 25, Edith I. Starke 3rd-5th grade students participated in our 2nd Family Science Day. They learned about changes of matter, sound and magnetic force while working in stations and a show put on by the scientist from the Orlando Science Center. Celebrate Literacy Week, FL was a success with students engaging in many different events including: pleasure reading by a fire (video with sounds of the fire), classroom door decorating contest (winning class- Ms. Bowers, all students received a copy of A Wrinkle in Time from Hampton Inn of Deland and a celebration breakfast), Reader’s Theatre, guest readers and our annual Story Character Parade. During Black History Month students researched influential African Americans to build the Living Museum, watched My Friend Martin during movie night, participated in Fable-Facts and African American Games, and attended the Ebony Excellence Awards Program.

This past year, the Panhandle region was devastated by Hurricane Michael. Even months later, communities are still trying to rebuild, as many families have lost their homes, their employment, and their way of life as many stores, schools, and churches have been damaged, some beyond repair. Recently the Bay County School District announced that the hurricane will cost the district over $300,000,000 between repairs to facilities and relocating students and staff to temporary portables.

Taylor Middle High Future Farmers of America adopted two FFA Chapters in the Panhandle. We collected several van loads of clothing, food, linens, cleaning and hygiene products for the Deane Bozeman FFA. The items were delivered by our students to give the students the chance to network with each other and empathize with each other’s situations while learning about the impacts of the hurricane. These donations were possible due to the generosity of Taylor Middle-High School students and staff, fellow Flagler and Volusia County FFA Chapters, and local churches, Lions Clubs, and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office.

Next, we will be returning to help the Arnold High School FFA Chapter in April who have also lost many of their students due to forced relocation. The last line of the FFA Motto is “Living to Serve” and our Taylor Middle-High FFA members have continually shown this year that they wish to serve their community, far and wide.
University High (9-12)  
@UHSTitans411
1000 W. Rhode Island Avenue • Orange City, FL 32763 • (386) 968-0013

What a success! University High School hosted its 12th annual Volusia County EMS-Military Expo on January 25. This event allowed 4000 juniors and seniors from University High School as well as five other Volusia County high schools to explore careers in the armed forces, first-response, and other community services. The biggest highlight this year as well as years past are the various helicopters that fly onto our campus for students to explore. A big thank you to Doc Revlett for all his hard work planning this large, impactful, wonderful event that bridged our schools and community! The students, teachers, and faculty had a blast!

Volusia Pines Elementary (K-5)  
@Volusia_Pines
500 E. Kicklighter Road • Lake Helen, FL 32744 • (386) 575-4125

Reading and writing are critically important skills people throughout the world utilize for daily survival and happiness. With this thought in mind, Volusia Pines Elementary celebrated Literacy Week, with a plethora of amazing activities. The culminating event was the Pirate Literacy Night held on Thursday, January 31. The evening kicked off with a free hotdog dinner. Students then became an honorary pirate. They were given their pirate name and received an eye patch. Students flowed freely through eight reading stations all based on the children’s book, How I Became a Pirate, by Melinda Long. Some of the centers included: digging for buried treasure to rhyme words and match prefixes, completing a treasure map to match root words with endings, creating a Pirate Plunder Snack using adjectives or describing words, and a performance of, “The Greatest Treasure” in the readers theatre center. In attendance, were 170 families, students, teachers, Lake Helen’s Mayor, Daisy Raisler, School Board Member, Jamie Haynes, Author, Dr. Primrose Cameron and member of the ELA Department, Shelby Kelly. A wonderful time was had by all celebrating the importance of reading literacy and developing our young Panthers to become lifelong learners and readers. Another exciting event was BINGO for Books held on February 21. During the event, 149 parents and students enjoyed a free hamburger dinner while playing BINGO. Each student went home with a BOOK! Our students love reading and it was evident with the 13,676 Reading Counts tests passed with 82% accuracy and 43,739,101 words that have been read this year at Volusia Pines Elementary!
Woodward Avenue Elementary (K-5)
@WoodwardStars
1201 S. Woodward Avenue • DeLand, FL 32720 • (386) 740-7910

Woodward’s “Superstar” students and teachers engaged in a variety of activities during the month of February to recognized Black History Month. A committee of teachers and administrators collaborated outlining activities for school-wide participation including a Door Decorating Contest, weekly Black History Trivia Questions, a grades K-2 Scavenger Hunt, Graffiti Poster Contest, and grades 3-5 School-wide Book Read. During the K-2 Scavenger Hunt, students observed clues to identify a key event in Dr. Martin Luther King’s journey and determine what recent movie depicted the life of NASA research mathematician Katherine Johnson and other influential African American NASA women. A committee of 4th graders judged classroom doors to determine a winner for the school. All activities have helped to demonstrate the importance of teamwork, relationships, collaboration, and understanding how other cultures have contributed to our society.

Follow Volusia County Schools on social media for all of the latest information and updates from our schools

@VolusiaSchools
Volusia County Schools
Volusia Schools
youtube.com/volusiaschools
Update from FUTURES Foundation

Congratulations to our 2020 Teacher of the Year Ian Jackson from Taylor Middle-High! We hope our 920+ guests had a great time celebrating all the amazing nominees. Thank you Craig Conway, Diamond Motors & Marine, Daytona Mitsubishi & Daytona Kia for the fabulous car which Ian will drive during his reign!

On February 28, our Tomorrow’s Leaders finished this year’s five seminars with a tour of Halifax Medical Center and Halifax Urban Ministries Hope Place. Throughout our six-month program these 39 high school juniors visited with business, civic, judicial and political leaders throughout our community.

Thank you to those who nominated first-year rock star teachers for the FUTURES First Year Teacher Awards which will be announced on April 23th. Principal of the Year nominations and Superintendent’s Outstanding Achievement Award nominations are due April 5th to FUTURES. Middle and high school principals, we hope you’ll nominate a Turn Around student from each grade level before the March 29th deadline so they may be honored May 10th at Jackie Robinson Ballpark.

Volusia County School employees may purchase discounted Blue Man Group Show tickets. They are available for purchase until July 31, 2019. The following block-out dates apply: April 15-21, 2019. Visit e-portal for more information and to purchase tickets.

Take Stock in Children

On January 30 FUTURES/Take Stock in Children held its annual Mentor Appreciation Dinner at Mainland High School, catered by the Mainland Culinary Academy. At the celebration Socorro Calkins was named Mentor of the Year. Mrs. Calkins is an Office Specialist in the Media Center at Deltona High School and has served as a mentor with FUTURES/TSIC since 2013. Mrs. Calkins works to bring out the best in both her mentees, Taylor Bowman, a senior, and Lioned Carrasquillo, a junior, both at Deltona High. Last summer she encouraged Mr. Carrasquillo to apply for and attend a conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Calkins and Miss Bowman share a passion for music and can often be found performing duets during their mentor sessions. Also recognized at the celebration were mentors who have volunteered for 10 or more years with the local TSIC program: Alice Fogle, Jeff Hoffer, Josh Poertner, Bevin Spence, Tony Tusssing and Alex Wells.

On March 6 TSIC attended its annual Leadership Summit in Tallahassee. TSIC Outstanding Senior, Michael-Troy Mitchum of New Smyrna Beach High School, attended with his mother and mentor, Nancy Maddox. Mr. Mitchum toured the Capitol with TSIC staff and met with local senators and representatives.
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
Atlantic High (9-12)
@Sharks_AHS
1250 Reed Canal Road • Port Orange, Florida 32129 • (386) 322-6100

The last week of January was a busy one as Atlantic High School students celebrated Literacy Week all over the campus. There was a trivia contest, bookmark contest, door decorating and a Literacy Party for our most avid readers. Students enjoyed hearing their principal read aloud his favorite childhood book, The Snowy Day, in a pre-recorded video done by the Atlantic High School Digital Video Academy. Atlantic even had a submission for the state video competition- Spreading Literacy One View at a time. Pictures include a group shot of the Literacy Party, the winners of the bookmark and door decorating contest and some of our winning submissions.

Campbell Middle (6-8)
@cmspartans
625 S. Keech Street • Daytona Beach, FL 32114 • (386) 258-4661

It was a packed house in the Vickie J. Presley Media Complex on February 13, 2019. All hands were on deck as we showcased every academic department along with many of the campus clubs and organizations. Dr. Jerry L. Picott, Jr., Principal welcomed the crowd and introduced the administrative staff and faculty. During the event, the families that attended were able to visit the Book Fair and participate in interactive activities conducted at the various academic stations. As the families visited the stations, they had their passports signed and upon completely filling the passport with signatures they turned them in for prizes.

Also, during the Expo, there were many academic recognitions including students who earned a 4.0 or better G.P.A. during the second nine weeks; Spelling Bee winners and participants; and District Instructional Assessment accomplishments. Refreshments were also served.
Horizon Elementary (K-5)  
@HorizonElem89  
4751 Hidden Lake Drive • Port Orange, FL 32129 • (386) 322-6150

Horizon Elementary participated in Celebrate Literacy Week along with the rest of the county January 28 through February 1. A highlight was the annual One School, One Book kickoff on January 30. Guest readers visited each classroom to read the first chapter of the selected books: Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon, and I Love You, Michael Collins. Guests included NASA employees who talked with the students about the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon.

Gary Harms  
@gharms1126  
Principal

Horizon’s love of literacy spilled into the following week with the Dyno-mite Book Fair, and our ELA Family Night on February 6. While students enjoyed pizza and a magic show in the cafeteria, parents visited the classrooms to experience “a day in the life of” their children. Teachers from each grade level hosted two 30-minute sessions during which parents were given example texts and take-away tools for use at home. The book fair was open for family shopping as well. Horizon’s next family engagement night will be held on April 9 as we welcome the Museum of Arts and Sciences for our Science Night!

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

On February 7, we held our parent involvement event, Family Astronomy Night. Over 272 family members were signed in and each session had an amazing number of families participating. The sessions consisted of an inflatable planetarium from Museum of Arts and Sciences, face-timing with an astronomer, and telescopes from ERAU. The media center was also busy between the book fair and the maker space activities. Those attending had their picture taken on Mars thanks to a green screen set-up by our Media Teacher, Mrs. Stewart!

At the close of the activities most everyone reported to the cafeteria for the drawing. We are happy to report that every child attending received some sort of prize whether book, toy, backpack or lunch with a person of his/her choice.

Lastly, we would like to thank our PTA Board who organized the FREE pizza meal, which was a great way to get everyone here on time for the first session. Our PTA is one of the BEST and so supportive of us all at R. J. Longstreet! We could not do what we do for our families without them.
Ortona Elementary (K-5)
@OrtonaES
1265 N. Grandview Avenue • Daytona Beach, FL 32118 • (386) 258-4668

The atmosphere has been buzzing here at Ortona since the New Year began. January brought our Hershey’s Ice Cream night social, a community garage sale and an action-packed Family Science Night sponsored by our own Museum of Modern Art and Planetarium in Daytona. We wrapped up January by celebrating literacy week with community members coming and reading to all our classes and they shared with our students the importance of literacy in their careers and lives today. In February, we hosted our annual Build-a-Burger event where once again many of our business partners came and helped with the food and fun. Some of the activities that the children and families were able to take part in were Putt-Putt golf with Pirate’s Cove Adventure Golf on our own mini course. PTA sponsored a bounce house and obstacle course, and the kids played basketball on our court while families enjoyed burgers and hot dogs, courtesy of the Hard Rock Hotel, cooked by our own Iron Warriors. To celebrate Black History Month, we were honored to have many prominent community members come and read literature written by black authors. Every student was then gifted a book celebrating black history to take home to enjoy and to start building their own personal libraries. The students enthusiastically watched in awe as Bethune Cookman College students came and presented a step demonstration and our festivities culminated with our very own students sharing a self-produced show about Barack and Michelle Obama’s lives.

Mainland High (9-12)
@Mainlandhigh
1255 W. Int’l Speedway Boulevard • Daytona Beach, FL 32114 • (386) 258-4665

Hundreds of 8th to 12th grade football players showed up for the 2019 Ricardo Allen Football Camp at Mainland High. Allen is an Atlanta Falcons safety who signed a 19.5 million dollar contract last year. He offered up the football camp for free, giving students lunch, t-shirts and helped them with football drills. Allen is a Daytona Beach native who had a lot of information and skill to share with the athletes.
On March 1, 2019 Port Orange Elementary kindergarten students celebrated Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss’ birthday which fall on March 2nd. Wearing their own red and white Cat in The Hat hats, the students listened to a dramatic reading of The Cat in the Hat by our very own Judy Myers, second grade teacher, dressed as, you guessed it, The Cat. Not wanting to miss out on the fun, Principal Tennille Wallace and Teacher on Assignment Michele Duguay created a bit of mischief as Thing 1 and Thing 2. The story was followed by a breakfast of green eggs and ham as well as green bread and juice. To end the morning, students posed for pictures with Thing 1 and Thing 2. Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss and Happy Reading!

Silver Sands Middle (6-8)
@SilverSandsMS
1300 Herbert Street  •  Port Orange, FL 32129  •  (386) 322-6175

Members of Show Choir recently had the privilege of being honorary Disney cast members for the day, following a performance with the park’s performing arts program at Disney Springs. Students were then able to spend a fun filled day together at Magic Kingdom! Our Jazz Band broke records at MPA’s this year, with 43 out of 56 members rating Superior in Solo and Ensemble performances. Silver Sands represented Volusia County Schools as the only middle school from our district and received an overall Excellent rating.

On February 16th, 15 members of our Science Olympiad team competed against several other schools from all over Florida and will be attending the state competition at UCF on March 30.

Finally, the Silver Sands Special Olympics basketball team walked away from the state competition in Tavares with the bronze medal. The team, which is made up of special needs and gen ed students, have been practicing together once a week since the beginning of the school year.

We are so proud of our Warriors!
South Daytona Elementary (K-5)

South Daytona Elementary has been a very busy place over the past few months. In January, we held our heavily attended Science Night. The Museum of Arts and Science facilitated the event where students participated in more than fifteen hands-on science experiments. The biggest hit of the evening was the inflatable planetarium. Students and adults were lined up throughout the event waiting to go inside and learn about constellations.

In February, we had NASCAR driver Jamie McMurray on campus to speak with our fourth graders about health and fitness. Our students formulated questions and interviewed him to learn how health and fitness correlate with his profession as a racecar driver. Following the filmed interview, the students and teachers participated in a health walk around the track. Jamie McMurray also had his racecar available for all of the students to see.

In and around the city of South Daytona, there are several Free Little Libraries popping up. Our own Teacher of the Year, Wendell Christensen (aka The Book Doctor) has made it his goal to get as many books in children’s hands as possible. With local sponsors, he is making it happen. We are proud of him and his mission.

Sugar Mill Elementary (K-5)

Sugar Mill Elementary celebrated African American History Month with our first annual Read-In and book swap. Guest readers included Mrs. Ida Wright, VCS School Board member, Mrs. Susan Freeman, Area Superintendent, and Mr. and Mrs. Steven Odu, who joined us in traditional Nigerian attire. We appreciate all the readers who came out and participated in this program. Not only did they read to our classes, but they shared their personal stories as well. One of our guest readers shared reflections of a month of learning spent with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After refreshments in the media center, our Kiwanis K-Kids escorted readers to classrooms. The day was capped off with the students participating in a book swap and the Key Club of Spruce Creek High School reading to our students in extended day. In other news, Sugar Mill Elementary was honored for the 18th consecutive year, as a Five-Star School. Sugar Mill is an asthma-friendly school and one of three Volusia schools certified as a gold level healthier US School Challenge winner. Sugar Mill was recognized by the Florida Department of Agriculture for its outstanding efforts to promote healthy habits, smarter lunchroom and smarter snacks. It’s great to be a Sugar Mill Panther!
Every day is a great day at Turie T. Small Elementary School as bulldogs S.T.R.U.T. every day. Students are Successful Thinkers who are Responsible, Unique and Always Try their best. The months have passed quickly and have been packed with engaging lessons and celebrations. The 2nd quarter awards honored our hard-working students and the Green House raked in the points to celebrate the highest points earned. We honored our Teacher of the Year, Ms. Joseph, with a fun-filled week prior to the district celebration. In addition, we hosted our TENTH annual African American Read-In to celebrate Black History month through literature and community guest participation. Coach Morris hosted yet another successful jump rope event for the “Kids Heart Challenge.” We are looking forward to what the next days bring us!

Volusia Online (K-12)
@VolusiaOnline

@VolusiaOnline has been getting out into the community to spread the word about our virtual courses. Some of our most recent outings included the Community Expo in Deltona, FL, the Rising Freshman nights at the local high schools, the middle school expos for rising 6th graders, and the Ecominions program.

At the local Expos we have been passing out swag and, of course, talking about the many ways we help educate students with our virtual courses. The community’s curiosity is at an all-time high and we are here to share our knowledge and solutions.

One of our science teachers, Mrs. Girard, and her students, have been participating in the district’s Ecominion Programs. This is a great way for virtual students to get out in the community and participate in hands-on learning while making new friends. The latest trip was to the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, FL. Here students learn about our special marine ecosystem.

We look forward to participating in many more community events in the future.
Update from Project Management Office

ERP Project In Testing and Training Mode

While we are already live on our new ERP software, Oracle Fusion, with the supplier portal and the budget planning module, most work on the rest of the modules has shifted from configuration to testing and training.

User Acceptance Testing (UAT) begins right after Spring Break and is expected to last six weeks. During that time, VCS Leads will test Oracle Fusion functionality using test scripts that they have spent the past year developing. Every major function will be tested and tweaked as needed.

Training for our new Oracle Fusion software is a massive effort and while it will reach all employees at some point, first we are focusing on department and school office staff. They will be using Oracle for their main job functions. Various ERP trainings are scheduled from February 25 through June for those employees:

✦ Knowledge transfer courses for department staff
✦ Train-the-trainer sessions
✦ Face-to-face sessions that are independently scheduled for certain roles, positions, or departments
✦ Face-to-face computer lab-based sessions at a Clerical Institute June 5 and 6

Face-to-face computer lab-based sessions at Volusia Learns

There are 35 distinct courses being offered across various positions and job roles, but ALL employees will only need to take one course:

Course 105, My HCM Employee Cloud Training - This course is designed to be a one-stop-shop for all Human Capital Management (HCM) Cloud employees. Learn how to get started using the Cloud, view your personal, benefit, absence, and payroll information. For certain staff this also includes time entry, evaluations, and/or goals.

Employees can choose from many options for course 105:

Face-to-face in small groups in central locations, such as during the Clerical Institute and Volusia Learns

“Guided Starts” in auditorium-size groups with follow-up self-study online, such as during the summer and pre-planning

Face-to-face in small groups at your school and department sites

Webinars with follow-up self-study online

Self-study online

Note that any trainings occurring outside of contracted work hours are optional. Compensation is being discussed.

Your department or school Change Agent is a great source of project information. But you can also stay informed by checking http://myvolusiaschools.org/staff-portal/Pages/ERP.aspx, and follow @VCSPMO on Twitter.
VCS On-Track for a New Student Information System for 2019-2020

Josh Wycuff, Project Manager
@josh_wycuff | @VCSPMO | #VCSSIS

We are happy to report that our Student Information System (SIS) project remains on-track for a full go-live this summer for the 2019-2020 school year. Our new SIS, Focus School Software, will replace CrossPointe, Gradebook, our current IEP system, and many other stand-alone student data systems. Focus is currently the SIS for more than 50% of Florida’s public PK-12 students.

Focus training is already underway and will continue throughout the spring, summer, and well into the 2019-2020 school year. Our data office specialists and registrars have already completed initial training, and job-specific training for teachers, administrators, and other staff will be rolled out in the coming months.

We encourage all clerical staff to “Save the Dates!” for our Clerical Institute on June 5-6. During these two days, office specialists and administrative secretaries will be able to receive all their SIS-related training packaged in one convenient location. Stay tuned for more information on registering for sessions.

For our instructional staff, we will be offering multiple training opportunities at Volusia Learns, June 10-13 and June 17-20. Most teachers will only need one, 4-hour course of Focus training covering general navigation, reporting, attendance, gradebook, and discipline. We anticipate offering this course in multiple formats throughout the summer, including an entirely online option for those who wish to complete the course online. Much more information is coming soon!

For the latest on our progress, follow the VCS Project Management Office (@VCSPMO) and Josh Wycuff (@josh_wycuff) on Twitter for updates and search #VCSSIS.
District 3

Mrs. Linda Cuthbert

Schools in this District

Chisholm Elementary
Coronado Beach Elementary
Creekside Middle
Cypress Creek Elementary
Edgewater Public School
Indian River Elementary

New Smyrna Beach High
New Smyrna Beach Middle
Read-Pattillo Elementary
Spruce Creek Elementary
Spruce Creek High
Sweetwater Elementary
Chisholm Elementary (K-5)
@CESWildcats
557 Ronnoc Lane • New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 • (386) 424-2540

Chisholm Elementary students in partnership with UCF’s CEE Lab are growing red mangroves to help restore our natural shorelines. Students planted roughly 150-175 propagules in September and will continue to grow the plants throughout the end of the school year. Plants will then be transported back to the UCF CEE Lab to continue growing until ready to be transplanted along the Cape Canaveral Shoreline and Estuaries.

Coronado Beach Elementary (K-5)
3550 Michigan Avenue • New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 • (386) 424-2525

On January 24 Coronado Beach Elementary kicked off the annual One Book, One School celebration. Students enjoyed listening to the story of The One and Only Ivan, by K.A. Applegate. This celebration began with district and community members enjoying a breakfast fit for Ivan the gorilla. After breakfast, guests were treated to a presentation by Tammy Hoffman and Judy Chapell, who had visited Ivan the gorilla several times. During their presentation they shared one of the paintings Ivan had created. After breakfast and the presentation, guests visited classrooms to read the first chapter of the book to the classes. It was a fun morning enjoyed by all. A special thanks to our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Andrews, for organizing this worthwhile event.
Mrs. Sepanic’s Agricultural Science classes teamed up with Mrs. Downey’s Culinary classes to host a Farm to Table event for National FFA Week. The Agriculture classes had cultivated carrots in the fall, and it was time to harvest. They also collected fresh eggs from their class chickens. The fresh carrots were shredded, and the fresh eggs were collected and donated to the culinary class who then went to work. Not only did culinary students make carrot cake cupcakes from the fresh ingredients, but they also learned how to make homemade cream cheese frosting to top them off. Some of the cupcakes were enjoyed by the students and others were arranged on trays and delivered to teachers. A tray was taken to the front office for the rest of the school staff as a thank you for all they do. The goal of the experience was to show the students the fruits of their labor. Not all of the students will eat the fresh vegetables we grow in the garden, but most will not pass up a cupcake!

Cypress Creek Elementary has been blessed with an AMAZING PTA and SAC! Five of our teachers, Miss Irons, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Avant, Mrs. Everage, and Mrs. Suydam, were all able to attend the 2019 Get Your Tech On (GYTO) Conference for 2 days. They returned with valuable information and presented it in this year’s best Faculty Meeting!

Coach Scott, Mrs. Postlethwait, and Mrs. Avant sponsor our Otters on the Move Run Club. Students gather two days a week after school to train and have fun; they also participate in meets throughout the school year.

Mrs. Grabowski sponsors our Safety Patrol students this year. The students help keep our Otters safe and polite!

Mrs. Bray and Mrs. Weaver provide kindergarten students the opportunity to learn science skills using a hands on approach. The students plant seeds and watch the flowers and vegetables grow. They are learning observation skills and what it means to be responsible.
Edgewater Public (K-5)
@EPS_Bobcats
801 S. Old County Road • Edgewater, FL 32132 • (386) 424-2573

The oohs and ahhs were contagious in the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens in-school field trip at Edgewater Public School on February 13, 2019. The Central Florida Zoo has an education outreach program that helps to educate students about animals. The presentation today was Wonders of the Rainforest and highlighted different animals found in rainforests, their eating habits and where they are found within the rainforest. Students were intrigued when Sara, Heather and CC brought out real animals to share. The Red Footed Tortoise, Roberto, was a big hit! The best part of this in-school field trip was the cost of the visit goes directly to conservation efforts in the rainforest. For more information on the education outreach go to www.centralfloridazoo.org

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

We started the new year with many exciting activities at Indian River Elementary School. Our inaugural Heart of a Manatee 5K was a huge success. With 200 runners and more than 50 local business sponsors, this event raised significant funds to enhance our primary playground. The New Smyrna Beach High School Medical Academy completed screenings, and a Kids Fun Run was organized by our Pre-K teachers for the youngest manatees to enjoy. During Literacy Week, teachers dressed up as their favorite book character and students made trading cards of their favorite book covers. We had a wonderful turnout of community members, including Mr. Russell and Mrs. Cuthbert, come to read to our students on Guest Reader Day. Our Read Under the Stars night event was packed, and it was outstanding to see parents share their joy of reading with their children.
New Smyrna Beach High (9-12)
@NSBHSBarracudas
1015 Tenth Street • New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 • (386) 424-2555

Sam Libby a senior in AP 3D Studio Art won the Dorothy Johnson Best in Show Award at the annual AP Art Exhibition at ArtHaus in Port Orange. Only one student out of all Volusia County’s AP Art classes is recognized with this prestigious award. The AP Art Show was open to the public and on display until March 15.

The Barracuda Marching Band received an overall SUPERIOR rating at the Florida Bandmaster’s Association District 6 Marching festival on October 27, 2019. The show’s theme featured music from the musical group “Green Day”. The Barracuda Band participated in the Florida Bandmaster’s Association District 6 Solo and Ensemble festival on Saturday February 9, 2019. District 6 covers both Volusia and Seminole counties. We are proud to announce that our amazing musicians and color guard members earned a whopping 74 superior and 8 excellent medals, bringing our medal count to a total of 82. We were one of the only bands to have a medal count that was higher that the number of students enrolled in the band program!!

The color guard also competed at the FFCC (Florida Federation of Color guards Circuit) and won first place in their class beating out 13 other color guards from across the state.

This past weekend our National Champion winning Showdolls took a Pom routine for the first time to Nationals, and made 14th in the nation.

We had Five wrestlers advance to Regionals. Five girls weightlifters advanced to State, and our Competitive Cheer team make it to State this year.

New Smyrna Beach Middle (6-8)
@NSBMSSStingrays
1200 S. Myrtle Avenue • New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 • (386) 424-2550

Adventure Club is a new, exciting club at New Smyrna Beach Middle School. Club sponsors, Evan Sanders and Sue Carignan, strive to expose club members to creative outdoor adventure activities. Students in the club have participated in two beach cleanups, which have led to partnerships with 4Ocean, Keep NSB Clean and Fill-a-Bag. To show their appreciation, 4Ocean recently sent every student in the club one of their signature bracelets. Other adventurous activities that the students have participated in this year include paintball, an escape room and a zip line course.
February and March are rocket style busy at Read-Pattillo. We kicked off with Jump Rope for Heart. Our students raised money while having a great time with their parents who joined us at PE. Then our fifth graders had an amazing adventure to the Kennedy Space Center. In addition to viewing and participating in many of the exhibits, they had lunch with an astronaut.

Our school has been implementing many activities this year under a grant through Advent Hospital to focus on the wellness of mind and body. We are also being recognized as one of three schools in Volusia County as a Gold Healthier US School. Our celebration for this award on March 12, ties into our grant. We will involve our students, parents and community partners with multiple learning stations to learn to develop healthier lifestyles. Our second graders will also perform the production they gave for the Title I FACT Fair at New Smyrna Beach Middle School to provide entertainment and to share healthy movement to music.

Spruce Creek Elementary is excited to launch its first annual Daytona Outreach program. The kick-off night was a great success. Students and their families gathered at Campbell Middle School, met their SCES tutors, ate dinner, won prizes, and participated in fun hands-on activities. Devoted teachers travel to the Daytona Beach Boys and Girls club two nights a week to provide free tutoring to our students who live in this Daytona community. In addition, all families were connected to the Daytona Boys and Girls club! We are so grateful for the many dedicated volunteers who diligently planned and implemented this new program.

Shine the spotlight over here! Congratulations to our FFEA club for taking first place overall at the district competition. In addition, our FFEA won 1st place in cheer, 1st place in scrapbooking, and received the spirit award. Lastly, two individual students won awards too. JoJo Miller got 1st place in the essay competition and Emma Corley placed 3rd. We are super proud of their success! Let's give a huge bundle of gratitude to the club sponsors, Debbie Tarmann and Laura Cosimi!
Spruce Creek High (9-12)
@GreatDay2BAHawk
801 Taylor Road • Port Orange, FL 32127 • (386) 322-6272

On February 28, Spruce Creek High hosted its 3rd annual Maker Faire to coincide with Digital Learning Day celebrations throughout the world. Maker Faires celebrate technology, arts, crafts, engineering, science, and innovation. They are events that bring all types of makers together to show what they have made and share what they learned to inspire others to explore their own creativity. The only requirement for Maker Faire participants is that they make something themselves and they show others how they did it.

This year’s Maker Faire featured an officially sanctioned BattleBots arena built by a team of students who applied for the rights to use the name and wrote a grant for supplies to create the arena. Other student projects included an Augmented Reality Topography Sandbox, a model of a working windmill, a hand-crafted chess set, hoverboards and electric skateboards, a variety of costume designs including one with wings that open and fold, a homemade skee ball machine, a variety of different games that students coded, and student produced artwork. Over 800 visitors, including students from other schools and members of the community, visited the event. Each year our Maker Faire grows and we look forward to next year!

Sweetwater Elementary (K-5)
@sweetwaterVCPStamaraHopkins15
5800 Victoria Gardens Boulevard • Port Orange, FL 32127 • (386) 322-6230

Our Sweetwater family helped fill up McInnis Elementary’s food pantry. McInnis Elementary reached out for help due to most of their students not having food at home. Through the support of Sweetwater’s amazing families, students of FFEA and a generous donation from Perrine’s Produce, students of McInnis Elementary took home some well needed items. Over 700 canned and box food items were collected over a two-week period. In addition to fresh produce and can goods, books and school supplies were also donated to continue the love of helping.

A school-wide book drive sponsored by the students of FFEA was also going on. Sweetwater students brought in over 1,000 books. These books built libraries for Family ReNew, Chiles Academy, Halifax Urban Ministries and various shelters throughout the community. Way to go Pelicans!!
Federal Programs & Grant Development (TITLE I)

This month the Title I Technology Team accomplished amazing things! After a stressful wait for the iPads, they finally arrived on Wednesday afternoon, putting the team almost three days behind. Together they rose to the challenge and finished the first four days – 1,784 iPads for 19 schools in just two days plus a few hours. With a lot of hard work, tired and sore muscles, and a bit of help from their friends at Apple, this team became a well-oiled machine and cranked out iPad after iPad. The warehouse guys were a huge help and delivered iPads to schools at an amazing speed. A few schools even received them on the same day they were processed and packed! Title I schools are very pleased to have these 4,870 NEW iPads on their campuses to continue promoting student achievement and engagement in the areas of reading, writing, math and science.

Scan this QR code to watch the Great iPad Deployment.

Insurance & Employee Benefits

Health and Wellness Expo

Saturday, April 13

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13 so you and your family don’t miss the second annual Volusia County Schools Health and Wellness Expo that will be held at the Tommy Lawrence Arena Volusia County Fair Grounds from 10am to 2pm. There will be music, food trucks, vendors, raffles, giveaways, an optional health assessment, demos of products and sports and health related activities for everyone of all ages.

We look forward to seeing you at this fun and healthy event!
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
To kick off Literacy Week, Champion Elementary recently spent a day celebrating writing. Students welcomed local author Rekia Beverly and Sunshine State author Sherri Winston. The authors lead assemblies with the students where they talked about their journey to becoming a writer. Rekia Beverly is a Volusia County teacher. She created Mrs. Ashbury’s World, books about “everyone’s favorite teacher,” as a tool to let students, parents, and the world know that teachers are as excited, unsure, and have lessons they learn throughout the year, just as their students do. Sherri Winston is an author of books for older elementary and middle grade readers, but is hoping to publish books for younger readers in the near future. She has had two books on the Sunshine State Young Readers Awards list, including her book on the current list The Sweetest Sound.

During her assembly, Winston introduced students to her writing process and within 40 minutes they had created an elaborate story together. Many students left the assembly excited to write their own stories. Also, on the day’s agenda was the Champion Young Authors Celebration. For weeks beforehand, students worked hard writing and illustrating their own original stories. Students with exceptional stories were selected from each class to come to the celebration in the Media Center. Students enjoyed refreshments, an awards ceremony, and the opportunity to share their stories with fellow writers, teachers, and parents. Those students and stories were also showcased on the morning news show at Champion Elementary.

February at Hinson Middle School was focused on raising awareness and donations for two local pet shelters, The Halifax Humane Society and Sophie’s Circle. Three service clubs on campus joined forces to make this event successful – Future Educators of America, National Junior Honor Society, and Student Government. Members worked non-stop to get the whole school involved with competitions and no collar for a $1 on Valentine’s Day. Students, staff and families generously donated over $300 and hundreds of pounds of pet supplies.

As a culmination of the month’s activities, the clubs enjoyed a presentation by the Humane Society’s community outreach director, Mr. Barry Kukes, and his diabetic service dog, Max. Max is a Golden Lab who was adopted from the Humane Society and specially trained to recognize when a person’s blood sugar gets too low. Students asked a lot of great questions and got important information about the services provided by The Humane Society and volunteer opportunities.

*Article co-written by NJHS member Charlie Gatz*
Holly Hill School (K-8)
@HHSH8Knights
1500 Center Avenue • Holly Hill, FL 32117 • (386) 258-4662

Holly Hill School knows how to celebrate Literacy Week together! We kicked it off with a Book in a Jar Contest and Let’s Read Reading Raffle. Tuesday, we “teamed up” wearing our favorite sports teams jerseys. Middle school and elementary classes read together. On Wednesday students, teachers, and all staff completed a Book Face Challenge. Thursday night we celebrated with Family Literacy Book Bingo Night. We closed out Literacy Week on Friday by inviting our school dignitaries to read to our students.

We started our three-night series of Big Words and Little People with a great turn out. Parents of Kindergarten students were invited to encourage an awareness of literacy instruction at home. We continue to promote the importance of early literacy at Holly Hill School.

McInnis Elementary (K-5)
@McInnisElem
5175 US Highway 17 • DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 • (386) 943-6384

“Oh the places you’ll go! There is fun to be done!” On Monday, March 4th, McInnis Elementary hosted a “Read Across America Literacy Event” with Dr. Seuss as the theme. This was in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday which was Saturday, March 2nd. Students were able to travel through the whimsical world of a variety of Dr. Seuss books which included: The Lorax, Oh the Places You’ll Go, Horton Hears a Who, If I Ran the Circus, Horray for Diffendoofer Day and Bartholomew and the Oobleck. The literacy-themed rooms represented the fanciful pages of each book. This event immersed students in the imagination of the beloved author. Treats that reflected key components of the books were provided for students to enjoy, such as pink lollipops that resembled the pink clover flowers in Horton Hears a Who. Students had a chance to create their very own Oobleck after the reading of Bartholomew and the Oobleck. Each room was transformed in a way that made the students feel like they were in the setting of each story. “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
In everything from flower beds to reading, Ormond Beach Elementary is able to count on their long-standing partnership with The Rotary Club of Downtown Ormond Beach!

The Rotary’s members did not wait for the school year to start before continuing their years of support for OBE. The week before school doors opened for students, members of The Rotary were hard at work helping members of the PTA, along with faculty, staff and students, ensure that the campus was “First Day of School” ready. Rotary members helped to beautify the campus by hauling and spreading mulch, power washing sidewalks, preparing garden beds, planting fresh vegetation, and beautifying the courtyard where parents and students enjoy their lunches daily. The Rotary Club of Downtown Ormond Beach regularly donates gardening supplies and helps OBE’s Garden Club prepare and maintain their gardens around campus. The Rotary club also planted a tree to memorialize both a beloved volunteer known to students as “Grandpa Hal” and an Ormond Beach Elementary student who recently passed away.

In addition to helping with the grounds and gardens, The Rotary’s members visit the school every two weeks to read with selected third graders. This partnership not only helps build reading skills with our lowest quartile students, but it also helps Ormond Beach Elementary students grow their love of reading through the relationships they form with Rotary volunteers. Rotary members gifted each participating student with a book for the winter holiday, and donated money to help students purchase books at the school’s spring book fair.

With all that they have done for Ormond Beach Elementary, The Rotary Club of Downtown Ormond Beach is not done! They plan to create an outdoor classroom where student and teachers can enjoy fresh air while continuing the learning process. Ormond Beach Elementary is fortunate and grateful to have community partners like The Rotary Club of Downtown Ormond Beach!

Ormond Beach Middle School began 2019 with students creating personal messages for our Be the Reason Someone Smiles Today display in the media center. The school counselors and social emotional learning leader partnered with the media specialist to create an interactive space of kindness in the hub of the school.

The Middle School Expo on February 26 was well attended with over 500 people in attendance, and participants had the opportunity to experience our band, chorus, dance, drama, and orchestra as well as take tours conducted by our students.

The school celebrated their writers with a huge literacy event! Students who performed in the top 10% for the latest district writing assessment were celebrated by both the administration and teachers in the media center. Over 4,500 books have been read by our students so far this year! In addition to celebrating our strong writers, our Social Studies Fair drew a huge number of participants with over 100 entries. Three of our students will be representing OBMS at the state fair. Our Math Counts team placed first in the district with an outstanding performance by our Panther Mathletes!

Our National Junior Honor Society’s members and parents were treated to a motivational speech from Christy Mahaney, VCS Professional Learning and School Improvement Specialist, about finding the “Why” in life. Students donated school supplies to assist those in need on our campus and had the opportunity to participate in a dynamic learning event to bolster their love for learning and empathy for others.
On February 7 we hosted our annual friends and family dance, Friendship Dance. The night was full of dancing, eating, laughs, and family time. Southern State of Minds food truck provided a quick dinner for families in between songs while Leonard’s Photography had a photo booth set up for our families to take free pictures to capture the night. PTA sold Smencils and our SAC chairs, Ms. Gilbert and Ms. Cleckler offered technology for our parents to take the 5 Essential Survey. We had DJ Dance with Me donate his services for the night which included not only great music for dancing, but special lighting as well. Our families had a great time spending time together and we thank our faculty and staff for volunteering their time for this event.

Palm Terrace Elementary celebrated the joy and importance of Read Across America by inviting special guests into the classrooms. Mayor Derrick Henry, City Commissioner Danette Henry, Area Superintendent Rose Roland, and Karael Turner of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. all encouraged early reading to promote a lifelong love of learning. “STEM is all that’s flying” students from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University visited the 4th and 5th graders at Palm Terrace Elementary to encourage fun and hands on projects that support learning in and out of school.
On Wednesday, February 27, Pathways Elementary inducted 44 students into the National Elementary Honor Society. These students joined the 16 current Honor Society members in a special induction ceremony. The ceremony was a beautiful celebration filled with smiling students, proud parents and impressed faculty and staff. A beautifully decorated stage set the mood for the celebration. Honored guests from around our community represented the pillars of the honor society by delivering powerful messages. Sheriff Chitwood spoke on CHARACTER, Jessica Savage, an athlete from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University spoke on SCHOLARSHIP, Susan Persis spoke on SERVICE and Carl Persis spoke on LEADERSHIP. Each student was treated to a special gift bag with individualized cookies, a personalized photo showing what they wanted to be when they grew up, and a unique t-shirt that listed all of the Honor Society students. A wonderful way to celebrate these hard working, high achieving, enthusiastic leaders of our school. All made possible by our NEHS sponsors Mrs. Fabulich & Mrs. Grunder and some of our wonderful, dedicated parents.

Our annual Spelling Bee was held on January 23 and was exciting for all involved. Judges for the event were Principal Tami Fisher, Athletic Coach Katherine Grindle and retired teacher Yvonne Walker. Third place winner was 5th Grade student Minh-Thu Nguyen, our runner up was 4th Grade student, Carly Higgs and our winner was 5th Grade student Melanie Restauro! Congratulations to all!!
Seabreeze High (9-12)
@SeabreezeHS
2700 N. Oleander Avenue • Daytona Beach, FL 32118 • (386) 258-4674

The Seabreeze Unified Flag Football Team won Gold at Disney’s Fall Classic State Games! Thank you to all for their continued support of our Unified programs!

Seabreeze Center Stage Conforms!
On February 21-23, Seabreeze Center Stage performed their Mainstage show for 2019: Conform! by Reid Conrad. Conform! is a beloved, theater-of-the-absurd, comedic commentary on the conventions of relationships, commercialism, and capitalism. Written by Reid Conrad, former long-time Seabreeze theater director and much-published playwright, Conform! has been produced all over the United States in its one-act form. Its full-length form premiered at the Daytona Playhouse in 2009, and it is this fully-realized version that Center Stage performed in our own auditorium.

Annual Black History Month Program
On February 28, Seabreeze High School held its annual Black History Month Program. Guests were treated to an evening of poetic expression performed by Seabreeze students and for their musical pleasure, Jazz, performed by our Seabreeze High Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble. Guests also participated in a “Little Known Black History Facts” Kahoot during intermission where prizes will be awarded. Kudos to Mrs. Ingram and all the student participants and assistants.

Tomoka Elementary (K-5)
@TESBraves
999 Old Tomoka Road • Ormond Beach, FL 32174 • (386) 258-4676

On February 1, Tomoka had 13 students represented at the Volusia Elementary All-County Music Festival at Deland High School. The selected students participated in the Chorus, Orff Xylophone Ensemble, Recorder Ensemble, and the Stomp Percussion Ensemble. These amazing 5th graders represented our school with dignity, respect, great ability, and the highest level of musical skills. Mrs. Kochie and Mrs. Light were also recognized as rehearsal and guest conductors for some of the groups. The students rehearsed during the month of January at various sites across Volusia County and had the opportunity to make new friends and learn more about their peers from across the district while making music at the highest level. They rehearsed 4 or 5 times with their selected groups and then put on a concert for the parents and community. We would like to recognize those students now and share with you some of their thoughts about this Musical Opportunity.
Westside Elementary recently celebrated our Black History Program at Mainland High School. The roots of Black History Month go back to 1926 when noted historian, Carter G. Woodson launched the first observance of Negro History Week in February of that year. Dr. Woodson dedicated his life to documenting and preserving Black history and culture and is often called the “father of black history.”

The theme of the program was Through the Decades: A Celebration of Black History. Our students and staff performed songs, poetry, and cheers. Students played instruments or created presentations. The talented Tenala Rayam performed My Black is Beautiful. The Westside Night Alive cheerleaders spread school spirit. Devin McMillon performed a rudimentary drum piece by American Jazz Drummer Tony Williams. Kindergarten had a presentation about civil rights through the decades. Kasey Cooper recited a poem. We are already looking forward to next year's program!

Volusia Council for Exceptional Children (VCEC)

The Volusia Council for Exceptional Children (VCEC), Chapter #563, works towards providing scholarships for students in exceptional student education in Volusia County Schools, raising funds for teacher grants, and furthering the professional developmental of all personnel involved with our exceptional students. In addition, VCEC hosts the annual VCEC Teacher Award’s Banquet where nominees from seven different categories are recognized. These categories are: Inclusion Teacher of the year, ESE Rookie Teacher of the year, ESE Teacher of the year, ESE Paraprofessional of the year, ESE Support Staff of the year, ESE Administrator of the year, and ESE Parent of the year. If that isn’t enough, VCEC has added another way to honor students with exceptionalities through the “Yes I Can” Awards Banquet. These awards celebrate the achievements and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities. Want to learn more? Join us at their next social on Tuesday April 2nd at the Airport and Restaurant Gin Mill in Deland. For more information please contact Mary Ann Autrey: Maautrey@volusia.k12.fl.us. We hope to see you at our next meeting and look forward to collaborating with you!
District 5

Mr. Ruben Colón

Schools in this District

Deltona High          Forest Lake Elementary          Pine Ridge High
Deltona Lakes Elementary  Friendship Elementary          Pride Elementary
Deltona Middle          Galaxy Middle          Spirit Elementary
Discovery Elementary          Heritage Middle          Sunrise Elementary
Enterprise Elementary          Osteen Elementary          Timbercrest Elementary
Deltona High (9-12)
@DeltonaHigh
100 Wolf Pack Run • Deltona, FL 32725 • (386) 575-4153

Deltona High School was proud to be recognized as having the Districts’ highest attendance rate among Volusia County High Schools for the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year. Our school is continually stressing the importance of attending school every day. Attendance does matter!

On February 20, the Health Services Academy hosted the 4th Annual Dancing with the Wolves performance. This event has Deltona High students, teachers and staff members dancing together to try and win the beautiful first place trophy. The audience is also involved by voting on their favorite dance act. At the end of the evening, there are three winners who are recognized. The audience favorite was Mrs. Dickinson and the preschool children. The runner up team included Ms. McElhaney and two of her students. The 1st Place winner was the American Sign Language Group with Mrs. Koschuk, Mr. Colon, Mrs. Ten Eyck and several students. The evening was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended.

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

Deltona Lakes Elementary Eagles enjoyed a week of literacy fun during January’s Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! Every class was gifted with a copy of our One School One Book choice, The World According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney. Students were given the opportunity to take a pocket size Humphrey home to take pictures of their adventures with him. The photos were hung up on the ‘Where in the World is Humphrey’ wall in the media center for all to enjoy. Some of the other literacy-based activities included a daily Mystery Reader challenge, vocabulary dress up day and book mark contest. We held our third annual potato book character contest with over 90 students participating. Students designed and decorated a potato to look like their favorite book character. The week culminated with author visits and book signing from Dr. Primrose Cameron and Anne Marie C. Garden. The students were in awe of our wonderful authors’ stories. It was a fun-filled week of literacy!

Students recently participated in Jump Rope for Heart to raise money for the American Heart Association and show that they are a Heart Hero! The special area team came together to host the event during students’ special area time. There was a variety of running, dancing, bouncing, digging, and tumbling activities for all. Our friends from the Deltona High Health Services Academy spent the day with us as well, teaching our eagles about CPR and positive habits for a healthy heart. A special thank you goes out to our Coaches for their hard work organizing the fundraiser and the culminating Jump Rope events for our students.
On February 21, the students at Deltona Middle School celebrated the history of Black Americans and their contributions to our society. The night was celebrated by cultural dancing, a fashion show, poetry and literature readings from black authors, and a special tribute by our Women’s Performance Choir. Coach Tussing’s dance team and step team flooded the stage with excitement as they performed for our parents and teachers. Mrs. Baker brought the African American Voices Book Fair to celebrate African Americans in literature. The night was made even more memorable by our special guest speaker President Barack Obama (aka Mr. NgYing, an Obama impersonator) The night ended in fellowship as food was served to our parents and guests by our students and teachers. This was a night to remember as we celebrated the African American culture.

The Discovery Elementary Chorus has been sharing their lovely voices throughout the community. The chorus is comprised of 80 4th and 5th grade students who meet once a week after school. In February they had the great honor of singing the National Anthem at the Orlando Solar Bears game. In March they performed at Gemini Springs for the Youth Celebration of the Arts along with other schools from Volusia and Seminole counties. In April they will end the year with a Chorus and Art Showcase.
One school, one book and Enterprise Elementary chose “Kenny and the Dragon,” written by Tony Diterlizzi. We really wanted to make an impact on reading at our school and our students just dove right in. Our 3rd-5th grade students were all given the book to read during the month of February. They were all tasked with completing the book and passing the Reading Counts assessment. All 3rd-5th students were then invited to attend the performance of the book hosted by Atlantic Coast Theatre at Deltona High School. And, to celebrate the time period, all Pre-K – 2nd graders were able to participate in a Renaissance Fair at the school. They bobbed for apples, danced around the maypole, threw javelins and shot a bow and arrow. It was a great month and a wonderful celebration of their literacy accomplishments.

Forest Lake Panthers have had a lot to celebrate lately. On Sunday, February 17, our PTO sponsored a school spirit night at an Orlando Solar Bears hockey game. Our Panther Ensemble took to the ice to open the game with the National Anthem. The Forest Lake community came out in full force to support our ensemble student singers. The kids did a great job, the Solar Bears won the game, and a fun time was had by all who attended.

On Friday, February 22, all Panthers from Kindergarten through 5th grade showed they can work together to make a difference by helping others. Our students participated in Forest Lake’s annual Kids Heart Challenge (formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart). Students showed off their jump-roping skills and raised money for the American Heart Association. Students participated in jump rope challenges ranging from the most continuous jumps to fancy stunt jumps. There were four categories with winners at each grade level. Congratulations to Layla Thomas, the endurance station winner with a time of 4 minutes, 2 seconds; Gladys Malagon, the long rope station winner with 205 jumps; Spencer Monroe, the Speed Station winner with 126 jumps in one minute, and Lilly Sonne and Garrick Spencer, the Trick Station winners. It is hard to say who had more fun during the event; the students or the adults, but one thing is certain, we are proud of our Panthers for the hard work they put towards supporting this great cause!
On January 30, the entire Friendship Community participated in a storybook parade. Each student had the opportunity to dress up as their favorite storybook character. The teachers also got into the spirit by dressing up as well. Characters such as Paul Bunyan and his blue ox Babe, Junie B. Jones, and the girl from A Bad Case of the Stripes (which infected our 5th grade team) were present. Four judges helped decide the winner in three different categories, Most Authentic, Most Creative and Cutest. Each winner received a certificate, lunch with Mrs. Raimundo, our principal, and a free book from the book fair. Everyone had a wonderful time as we celebrated books and reading.

Precious P.E.A.R.Ls© is a teen mentoring group for girls founded in 2014 by Dr. Sherry D. Pough, Assistant Principal, Galaxy Middle School. The purpose of this group is to improve the self-esteem, academic achievement, and participation in school of its members. Arin Patterson (a local author, public speaker, community member and founder of Ascend 386) has partnered with Precious PEARLs and serves as a mentor and role model to the girls along with Donesha Collado and Dr. Pough. Every Thursday, they meet with the girls to cover a topic that’s relevant to their age group. Some of the topics covered include:

* What’s in a Name? (The importance of having a good reputation)
* Building Relationships (Identify characteristics of healthy relationships and how to develop good friendships)

The activities planned are designed to help enrich the girls and their middle school experience. In December they had a sock exchange and presented holiday cards to a local nursing home. In February they created their “Inspiration Tree” under the guidance of Ms. Tatum, art teacher. Research shows that girls greatly benefit from having positive adult role models in their life and Galaxy is pleased to have Precious PEARLs as an enrichment opportunity for our female students.
Heritage Middle School has been busy gearing up for our incoming 6th graders…we had over 300 students attend our recent Expo.

Earlier in March our Parent Involvement Team hosted a free breakfast to students and their families. Former MLB player Michael Main was our very special guest speaker. Mr. Main encouraged our students to set goals, stay focused and never give up on their dreams.

Wrapping up our commitment to the community we teamed up with One Blood for our spring blood drive and were able to double our goal! Eagles soar to the top and never stop!!

Osteen Elementary School has a blast celebrating Literacy Week! Students participated in many fun activities such as decorating a potato to look like a character in a book, wearing a superhero shirt (because readers are heroes!), reading with a younger or older “reading buddy” and attending classes at Hogwart's school of Wizardry at Harry Potter Literacy night.

We were very pleased to host the UCF Quidditch team, the Deltona library and the Central Florida zoo. Families also enjoyed classes in potions, spells, wand-making and Bertie Bott's Beanboozled challenge!
Pine Ridge High (9-12)
@PineRidgeHS
926 Howland Boulevard • Deltona, FL 32738 • (386) 575-4195

Pine Ridge High School Healthcare Academy hosted their 4th annual Health Fair Expo during the week of January 14. The event kicked off with the Medical Terminology Challenge; 1st place was Kharisma Littles, 2nd place was Samantha Hoover and third place went to Imani Thomas. Our judges were Andrea McIntosh, PA, Melanie Giordano, RN, Loretta Mundell, RN and Mary Alford, RN. One Blood came out to the school and trained HCA and SGA students to ready them for the blood drive.

CPR classes were offered to non-academy students.

The Department of Health held assemblies for our 9th and 10th grade students to learn about the dangers of smoking and vaping.

Approximately 30 vendors from the community were on hand to educate our students at the annual Health Expo on January 17. This was our best expo yet!

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

Pride Elementary hosted its first Annual Friendship Dance. Students were dressed to impress. There was a DJ and the students enjoyed dancing the night away. The Yearbook Club hosted a photo booth. A great time was had by all. Students, staff and parents are looking forward to another one next year!

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VolusiaVibes
In January, we celebrated Literacy Week with the kick off of our One Book, One School. This year’s book was The Chocolate Touch! Special guest readers joined us from the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office, City of Deltona Fire Rescue, Volusia County School Board and from various VCS departments. It was an amazing day and way to celebrate literacy!

The Spirit Elementary PTA knows how to throw a grand ball! On February 8, our annual Valentine’s Dance took place. Instead of hosting separate Daddy/Daughter and Mother/Son dances, our PTA chose to bring the entire family together for an evening of fun, food, and dancing. With over 300 people in attendance, it was nice sure to create memories to last a life time.

February also brought the exciting announcement of our 1st Year Teacher of The Year and Crystal Apple Award Nominees to represent Spirit Elementary! Congrats to Ms. Danielle Bertossa, 1st Year TOTY and Ms. Aimee Shank, Crystal Apple Award! #SpiritBelieves these two amazing educators make the difference! We love our teachers!

Things are picking up at Sunrise Elementary this year! We have various projects in the works and many still to accomplish. One of the many responsibilities we uphold at Sunrise are the needs in our school and community. We strive in connecting with families and students in achieving intentional relationships with them. A family of three children was in need of helmets as their only transportation to school is their own bicycle. Our Parent Liaison, Mrs. Emalix Infante, communicated with the Sheriff’s Department of Volusia County the need we had at our school. The Sheriff’s Department came through and personally delivered 25 brand new helmets donated by Amscot! Mrs. Infante was able to help one of our school’s families. The Sheriff’s Department even included Mrs. Infante’s picture on their Facebook page when they became aware of her role as a Parent Liaison helping our school reach students and families in need. If there’s a need, we work together to fill it.
Celebrate Literacy Week was a huge success at Timbercrest Elementary. Students participated in several activities throughout the week. Students were able to “read under the stars”, wear Super Hero T-Shirts to show that reading is their Super Power, and dress up for Vocabulary Day and Character Day. Guest readers read to classes on Friday, including the Chick-Fil-A Cow, our Area Superintendent, Patty Corr, School Board Member, Ruben Colon, retired Timbercrest teachers, and administrators. On the 100th day of school, which was in the middle of the Literacy Week, Kindergarten teachers and students dressed up as 100-year old ladies and gentlemen. A fun week was had by all!
2018-19 Key Communicators

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

Kathryn Kaye
Parent Liaison
Enterprise Elementary

Aaron Goldy
Activity Director
DeLand High

Susan Wilson
Office Specialist
Blue Lake Elementary

Nicole Perrino
Academic Coach
DeLand Middle

Vicki Wagenhauser
Media Specialist
Forest Lake Elementary

Jackie Hirsch
Activities Director
Deltona High

Leigh Hoover
Academic Coach
Freedom Elementary

Robin Ferrara
Media Teacher
Deltona Lakes Elementary

Jody Adkins
Media Specialist
Friendship 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
Stephanie Owens  
Assistant Principal  
Heritage Middle  

Dena Nottingham  
Teacher  
Hinson Middle  

Mallory Cone  
TOA  
Holly Hill School  

Katy Fay  
Media Specialist  
Horizon Elementary  

Martha Halcomb  
Media Specialist  
Indian River Elementary  

Anne Tredent  
Office Specialist  
R. J. Longstreet Elementary  

Dan Lundy  
CTE Facilitator  
Mainland High  

Tiffany Cook Grant  
Assistant Principal  
Manatee Cove Elementary  

Katie Hazel  
Teacher  
McInnis Elementary  

Heather Roberts  
Office Specialist  
New Smyrna Beach High  

Amy Carey  
Assistant Principal  
New Smyrna Beach Middle  

Kristina Kania  
Assistant Principal  
Orange City Elementary  

Jolie Kelly  
Media Specialist  
Pierson Elementary  

Lynette Parker  
Paraprofessional  
Pine Ridge High  

Kathy Carman  
Principal’s Secretary  
Pine Trail Elementary  

Karen Mitchell  
Assistant Principal  
Ormond Beach Middle  

Michele Duguay  
Teacher on Assignment  
Port Orange Elementary  

Diane Bare  
Office Specialist  
Pride Elementary  

Amy Richardson  
Admin TOA  
Osceola Elementary  

Tracy Hines  
Assistant Principal  
Read-Pattillo Elementary  

Candace Ezell  
TOA  
River Springs Middle  

Tikija Picott  
Reading Coach  
Seabreeze High  

Jessica Jones  
Teacher  
Silver Sands Middle  

LaSherica Jefferies  
Teacher  
Palm Terrace Elementary  

Heidi Gabriel  
Academic Coach  
Pathways Coach  

Melissa Marple  
Principal Intern  
South Daytona Elementary