



# TERRIER TIMES

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2  
JANUARY 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Terrier families,

Happy New Year to our Terrier families! It is that time of year. Our teachers are busy planning, collaboratively, around their student growth data, and their department teams are identifying instructional strategies that will help your student continue his or her positive path. I am continually impressed by our faculty's dedication at creating challenging and engaging lessons to help students become critical thinkers.

Even teachers know, however, that great lesson plans alone will not guarantee student success. So, what does make a student successful? According to some experts, the most important quality students need is "grit". No matter how smart a person might be, or how high his or her IQ, without "grit" that person is going nowhere. Well-known teacher and psychologist, Dr. Angela Duckworth, explained that "grit" is hard work, passion, and perseverance. This means that students who may not yet be very knowledgeable but roll up their sleeves and keep working very hard will acquire the information they need to become successful. "Grit" is the quality we want to instill in our Terriers. If they are willing to apply themselves through hard work, and they are persistent, then every single student can achieve success.

As I walk the halls and visit classrooms, I see engaged students led by skilled teachers. They have been exhibiting "grit" for many months. I am confident, therefore, that our students will achieve success not only 2nd semester, but also when they take the Florida Standards Assessments in May. I am also confident that we will continue to be an "A" school and lead the district in student performance.

Make sure you take some time to pat your child on the back and continue to encourage him or her to roll up his/her sleeves and apply "grit" every day. That encouragement may be almost as important as their "grit".

Thank you for your time, and for supporting your Terrier and PCMS.



Respectfully,  
John LeClair,  
Principal



## ADMINISTRATION

Principal

**John LeClair**

Assistant Principals

**Matthew Kunder**

**Tara Whisenant**

Dean

**Jon Hock**

Guidance Counselors

**Eric Grzechowiak**

**Alexa Manaski**

ESE Liaison

**Marjorie Johnson**

Social Worker

**Brittany Baumhardt**

School Resource Officer

**Deputy Mings**

23000 Midway Blvd.  
Port Charlotte FL 33952

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**Fax:** 941-255-7469

**Attendance Line:** 941-255-7467

**Office Hours:** 8:00 - 4:30



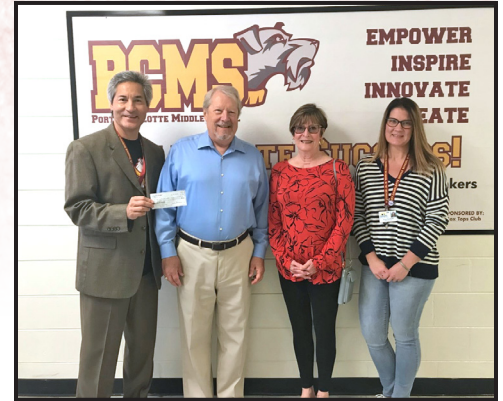


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 Charlotte County Public Schools  
 1445 Education Way  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052

## 📣 TERRIER SHOUT OUTS! 📣



Thank you to Sonshine Baptist Church for donating 10 baskets of supplies for our families in need.



Thank you to Trinity Anglican Church for their donation of \$500 to our school Benevolence Fund.



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given away by the school mascot Tyrone the Terrier. **A special thank you to the title sponsor Dick's Sporting Goods, along with Target and Best Buy.**

A total of 272 students attended the second annual Dick's Sporting Goods 3 v 3 basketball tournament at Port Charlotte Middle School. Students who had not received a referral resulting in a full day of in-school suspension or a day of out of school suspension were eligible to play or attend. 33 teams entered the tournament with the team of Kaden Suber and Kyndall and Khyre' Ellis taking home the championship. In all, over two thousand dollars' worth of prizes were raffled off or



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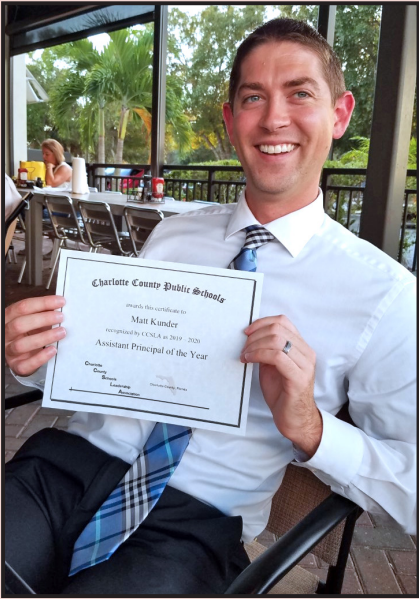
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## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

PCMS Assistant Principal Matthew Kunder was selected as the Charlotte County Schools Leadership Association's Assistant Principal of the Year! He is well deserving of this recognition and is not only a great leader for PCMS but also for the district!

*Congrats!*

## OUT OF FIELD TEACHERS

The following teachers are currently teaching Out of Field:

- Dan Livermore
- Brianna Cranmer-Sona
- Diane Conrad
- Heather Gillespie

## OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Logan Aquila, Jayden Barlass  
Mia Miles, Matthew Chanza  
Britthany Gonzalez, Sebastian Powers

## NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Desiree Dorsey, Dylan Ball  
Daytona Crandall, Michael Fuller,  
Kaitlin Sloan, Pierce Hesler

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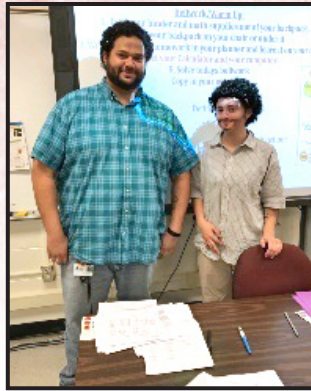
## FREE LANGUAGE ARTS FSA PREP

After-school tutoring is available on Wednesday and Thursday after school until 4:55 pm and Thursday mornings from 8 am – 8:30 am. Students need to sign up in the Media Center (24 hours in advance).



## FREE MATH AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Parents & Students, do you know that after-school MATH tutoring is offered FREE at PCMS? Tutoring is held Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons until 4:45 and Thursday mornings from 8 am - 9 am. To ensure a successful program, we ask that all students sign-up in advance (in the appropriate classroom) and arrive at tutoring prepared. They should bring work to complete and/or questions about concepts with which they are struggling.



Mr. Robinson and Chloe Peters

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Student Government held a Soaps 'n' Snacks collection for our pantry and are currently planning after school dances for February. Additionally, they sponsored spirit week! Twin day was quite popular.



Mr. LeClair and Ms. Howze

## NOTES FROM THE BAND DIRECTOR

What an amazing semester our PCMS musicians have had! All four concert bands held their winter concert on Dec. 5th at CPAC with a standing room only audience. Our friends and family packed the house to support our band members. Our young musicians performed a thematic concert called "Mixed up Holidays" featuring spooky Halloween music and a wide variety of traditional holiday music. Throughout the concert every band member contributed a quote about what they were thankful about because of music. These quotes were compiled in a visual slide show that shared their Thanksgiving gratitude. The concert was a memorable one for all who performed and attended.

One week after our winter concert, our intermediate and advanced bands combined to form our PCMS Marching Band. Our musicians on the move rang in the bells at the 2019 Punta Gorda Christmas Parade and entertained hundreds of parade spectators with an upbeat version of the classic Jingle Bells. Our musicians spread musical cheer and dressed up in holiday regalia that sparkled and shined in the warm Florida sun.

Next semester will bring more music, more performances and more amazing spotlights on our talented instrumental musicians. We hope to see you at our next performance. Happy Holidays and enjoy your winter break, one and all!



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## CHORUS

On November 14 the Choral Department performed its fall concert at CPAC. 115 chorus members comprised the 6th Grade Mixed Chorus, the 7th/8th Girls Chorus, and the 7th/8th Boys Chorus. 35 students were featured as announcers, soloists, and instrumentalists. There were songs from foreign countries, African American Spirituals, Holiday Songs, and inspirational music as well. The auditorium was filled with friends and family members supporting their beautifully talented musicians!

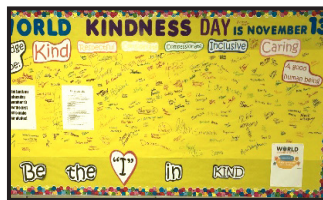
In addition to the choral groups, six members of Mrs. Marshall's Piano Keyboard class played their own advanced pieces. This was quite an accomplishment, as five of these students had only been playing piano for three months! Piano Soloists were: Noah Adams, Tyra Andres, Nina Castelo, Sophie Davis, Ava Miller, Alyssa Stevens.



Membership in the PCM Choral Department has increased by 20% since last year. This growth in numbers has made our program stronger, but we would still like to enlarge our groups even more by next year! If you know of any current 5th, 6th, or 7th grade student who might be interested in Chorus next year, please contact Mrs. Marshall.

## WORLD KINDNESS DAY

In collaboration with **School Board Member Kim Amontree**, the school Kindness Project installed messages of inspiration into the bathrooms as a daily reminder of self acceptance, guidance, and other positive affirmations.



## BOX TOPS LABELS

Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Top label. If you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. **Box Tops are still worth 10¢ each for your school.** The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.



## TITLE 1 INFORMATION

All reports for our Title 1 program are available, upon request, in our Family Center, in the lobby of our front office, and on our website, under About Us - Title I. There you will find the link below.

TITLE 1 PUBLISHED REPORTS & OTHER RESOURCES

SPAR: School Accountability Report link available on our PCMS school website on Title I page [http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbpar/year1617/nclb1617.cfm?dist\\_schl=8\\_131](http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbpar/year1617/nclb1617.cfm?dist_schl=8_131).



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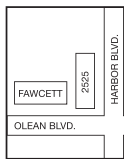
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## SHUMAN'S MOTHER DAUGHTER SAFETY NIGHT

On Wednesday, November 20th, ATA Martial Arts came to PCMS to run a Family Fun Night Self Defense class. We had about 20 families participate and Obee's Catered it for us. It was informative and fun!



## THE CHARLOTTE SUN

Two PCMS teachers, Amanda Miller, band, and Heather Mashburn, ELA, were nominated for the "Best Of" for Charlotte County Schools! After the printing of our last newsletter, we learned that AMANDA MILLER was selected! Congratulations to Mrs. Miller!

## MATH NOTES

**Sixth graders** were hard at work in the first semester. Topics covered in the first semester include operations with fractions and decimals, greatest common factor (GCF), least common multiple (LCM), order of operations, solving exponents, ratios and rates, and percent. In semester two, sixth grade students will start off the new year studying algebra. They will learn how to identify and use a variable. This will provide the basis for students as they begin to simplify and evaluate expressions. Students will also begin to solve simple equations in quarter three.

**Seventh graders** were busy in semester one studying angle and triangle relationships, proportional relationships, and percent of a number. Currently they are busy working on their 'Shopping Spree' project. This project incorporates skills learned in proportional relationships, as well as developing an understanding of percent and money. Students use a store catalog to purchase items with a pre-determined budget. The students calculate discounts, sale price, tax, totals, and keep track of their balance. We are halfway through the 2019-2020 school year, so reviewing and studying topics we have already learned are extremely important as we approach the FSA.

**Pre-algebra students** will continue their study of exponents and scientific notation and then begin geometry. The unit will start with the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will find missing measurements in right triangles and apply the theorem to real-world situations. Geometry standards will continue with determining the volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres. 8th grade students will not be provided with a formula reference sheet on this year's Florida State Assessment. Students will need to know and be able to apply the geometry formulas on the FSA. The last skill in this unit will require students to differentiate between transformations that provide congruence and those that do not. Eighth grade math FSA starts in May.

**Algebra 1 students** will be starting semester 2 studying exponents and polynomials. These skills are necessary for success as we begin studying quadratic equations. This unit requires students to factor polynomials and solve quadratic functions by graphing, factoring, or using the quadratic formula. We are almost through the standards of our curriculum and will soon delve deeper into the concepts using Algebra Nation text. This text provides our students with the best opportunity for success on the End of Course Exam (EOC). Algebra Nation offers our students great insight on EOC question format, and it is crucial, that students use this resource. The Algebra EOC is planned for May, and the goal is for students to have Algebra Nation fully completed by then.

The Math Department is excited for our 6th annual Math Carnival. The Math Carnival will be held on Thursday, March 13th. The math carnival is an annual event that allows to students to experience math in a fun, exciting environment. There will be a variety of math-themed carnival style games. All students will attend the math carnival with their math class. Parents: If you are interested in volunteering to work at the prize table, please contact Mrs. Robinson.

**A few spots are left!**



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## PE NOTES

During the first semester Physical Education students were busy with fitness activities and learning cooperative games. Each Wednesday focuses on fitness with endurance runs (Pacers and Team Pacers) and Circuit Training (focusing on upper and lower body strength, as well as endurance). During cooperative games, students learn to use good sportsmanship as well as teamwork. While we were training for the mile run, some students had the opportunity to try yoga. It went very well with many students enjoying the experience. Students also completed a cross-country run, 40 yard dash, and mile run. The mile run records for fall are as follows:

### Boys

6th grade - Marcus Laplante 5:57  
7th grade (5:40\*) - Angoriel Rodriguez 6:52  
8th grade (5:44\*) - Jaren Laplante 5:58

### Girls

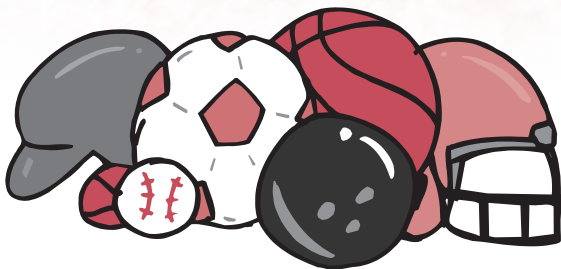
6th grade (7:18\*) - Kamie Ellis 8:00  
7th grade (6:59\*) - Brooke Chamoun 7:36  
8th grade (7:00\*) - Atianna Watson 7:22

*\*The numbers in parentheses represent school records to beat.*

We are looking forward to the spring semester when we will begin our sports unit. Students will learn basketball, flag football, soccer, tennis, and maybe even volleyball skills! J

Our volleyball team is in mid-season and is doing well. They have shown a lot of growth and are playing well against their competitors. **Track season is earlier this year with our county track meet on February 15, 2020.** If your child is interested in any sports team, they must maintain a 2.0 grade point average the quarter before the sport occurs and they must have a physical completed by their doctor stating they are physically clear for activity before they can begin that sport.

We also have intramurals available after school Monday-Thursday 4:10-5:00 p.m. where students can come out with their friends and play some of the sports we have to offer. This is for all students, all grade levels, and free! Students just need a consent form turned in to be eligible.



## RUNNING CLUB



PCMS Run Club received support from Medina Dental this season with awesome new water bottles and participated in the Turkey Trot!



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## PTO LUNCHEON

A HUGE thank you to the PTO for providing an excellent holiday luncheon for the staff. PCMS values our relationship with our PTO and cannot thank members enough for their generosity and time! Local businesses donated gifts that were raffled off and delivered to the winners, along with plates having goodies such as free appetizers taped to the bottom. All is greatly appreciated.



## NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

National Junior Honor Society held an induction ceremony on December 9, 2019. Sponsor Mr. Livermore and the staff of PCMS would like to recognize the inductees!



### 7th Grade Inductees

Tyra Ariadna Andres, Julian Ball, Kylie Caparo, Nina-Simone Castelo, Julia Duong, Nicheal Fuller, Patience Grathoff, Samantha Kulman, Karen Martinez Vega, Serenity Mijares, Mia Miles, Kaylee Morazes, Diana Oliver, Yan Rosabal Ponce, Susana Rodriguez Ramos, Brooklyn Sartin, Matthew Schuler, Drew Stanley, Alyssa Stevens, Cole Turney, Kira Tuthill

### 8th Grade Inductees

Morgan Black, Payton Carroll, Javier Coca-Rodriguez, Mackenzie Hall, Pierce Heseler, Jacob McCurry, Ava Miller, Thanh Nguyen, Pamela Romero, Glen Strackbein, Courtney Velt

### Members in Good Standing

Catharine Emery (President), Jasmine Rodriguez Ramos (Secretary), Madison Underwood (Treasurer), Martina Chase, Jayden Finn, Alea Jones, Thomas Luc, Jada Poteat, Rohan Sojan



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