



TERRIER TIMES

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3
MARCH 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy Spring, Terrier Families!

As we approach the final weeks of the 2023-2024 school year, I want to express my genuine gratitude and appreciation for your continued support of our students. Our students' success depends on teamwork, and our parents and community are an integral part of that team.

The following highlights just a few of many PCMS student accomplishments and exciting opportunities ahead:

- We are still seeing great momentum from our students and teachers in the classroom as state testing and end of the year exams are rapidly approaching. Each quarter, we have seen a rise in academic success and achievement. With that said, we continue to celebrate and recognize our students at the end of each quarter in honor roll assemblies, 4.0 luncheons, and reward incentives. Keep up the great work and finish Semester 2 strong!
- Fun-filled activities planned:
 - End of year Chorus and Band concerts featuring our talented vocalists and musicians.
 - 7th and 8th grade field trip to SeaWorld in Orlando!
 - 8th farewell celebration and breakfast
- A friendly reminder that late buses will continue to be available Monday through Thursday to accommodate our students who wish to participate in tutoring, clubs, intramurals, or after school activities for the remainder of the school year.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the school directly if there is anything that we can do to help make the final weeks of second semester a more positive and successful experience for your student.

"As parents and teachers, we share a common goal of helping our children reach their full potential." -unknown.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Terrier Family!

Mr. Matthew Kunder
Principal

ADMINISTRATION

Principal

Matthew Kunder

Assistant Principals

Tara Whisenant

Zachary Wheeler

Dean

Gabrielle Thompson

Chris Stephenson

Guidance Counselors

Eric Grzechowiak

Alesha Jewett

ESE Liaison

Marjorie Stevens

Social Worker

Kearstin Pineda

School Resource Officer

Deputy Anderson

23000 Midway Blvd.

Port Charlotte FL 33952

Phone: 941-255-7460

Fax: 941-255-7469

Attendance Line: 941-255-7467

Office Hours: 8:00 - 4:30





SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK: MARCH 4-8

This week Champs Café had giveaways to share with our students to help celebrate School Breakfast week. Their registers chose random winners to receive the free goodies.

The lucky winners were Hunter Ninia, Mathew Voshchilo, Cesia Zaldivar, Racquia Lloyd, Jazmin Grajalez, and Amelia Osborne.



Champs Café workers, Paula Snyder and Desiree Lorenzo, with 8th grade Michael Voschilo and his prize

END OF YEAR STATE TEST DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 – FAST Writing
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 – FAST Reading PM3
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – FAST Math PM3
Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 8th Grade Science FCAT
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – CIVICS EOC
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – Algebra EOC



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DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

6th grade - Melody Lopez Vizarreta and Adam Baradith

7th grade - Diego Durand Nieves and Emely Garcia

8th grade - Bryleigh Buckhave and Farooq Memon

THANK YOU. INSANE CONEZ!

On February 1, Insane Conez held a PCMS spirit night, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Even Tyrone the Terrier made an appearance!





3

NEW PCMS TITLE 1 ACHIEVEMENT & FAMILY ASSOCIATE: TIFFANY DEL SASSO

Hello Terrier families,

My name is Tiffany Del Sasso, and I am the new Achievement Family Associate at Port Charlotte Middle School. I'm here to help your student and your family stay connected to Port Charlotte Middle School. By working together with our Terrier families, I hope to build student confidence and help guide students towards success.

As part of the attendance team, I can also assist with getting students back on track with their homework and grades. If you have any questions about how I can assist your student or family, please call 941-255-7460 or email me at tiffany.delsasso@yourcharlotteschools.net.

I look forward to hearing from you!



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Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052

NEW PCMS ART TEACHER: ALEXANDER NICOLAS

Hello, Terrier Families!

My name is Alexander Nicolas, and I am originally from Langhorne, Pennsylvania. I moved to Florida in September of 2023. I graduated with my Bachelor of Art from Chestnut Hill College a school in Germantown, Philadelphia in May of 2019. I am the new Art teacher at Port Charlotte Middle School. I am also in charge of the flag football program and an assistant soccer coach for Port Charlotte Middle School. I am Dominican and Panamanian. I played football, baseball, wrestling, soccer, track, and volleyball. I coached football for Neshaminy High School on the varsity level as an assistant defensive line coach. I also coach travel baseball as an outfielder coach. I was a three-year starter on varsity for Neshaminy High School and helped them win a District One Championship in 2013. In football, I was the first team on defense in the Suburban One League and third team all-state for defense as well. I was selected to play in the Buck County Lions Football Classic All-Star game in 2014 and was awarded team MVP. I was also selected to represent Team USA overseas in a football tournament for 18U coming out of high school. In college, for football, I received 1st team in the ALL-CSFL for defense. I also received Special Teams Service Player of the Year in football as well. In college for track, I finished 6th in the hammer throw, 6th in the discus throw, and 10th in the shot put at the CACC Outdoor Track and Field Championship. I was also a member of the marching band as a percussionist for Neshaminy School District. I'm excited about what the future holds for our Art program at PCMS!



SEA WORLD FIELD TRIP

The 7th and 8th grade students who are suspension-free from March 25th to May 17th are eligible to attend the Sea World trip on Monday, May 20th. The last money collection dates are from April 1st-5th in Mrs. Tenk's room (E6) and Mrs. Linneweber's room (M120).

OUT OF FIELD

The following teachers are currently teaching Out of Field:

• Melanie Barolak	Math
• Madeline De La Rosa	ESOL
• Cherstin Haga	ESOL
• Brittany Lynch	ESOL



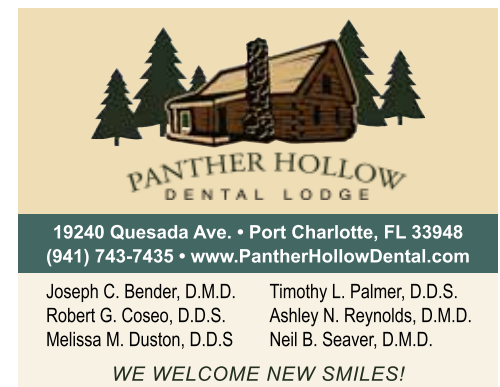
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WE WELCOME NEW SMILES!

PCMS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Mr. Smith celebrating
with his students

KIND KID AWARD

Each month the HOPE Ambassadors advisors ask staff to nominate students who they feel go above and beyond in their daily lives to show kindness in their actions and words. Staff members nominate students, we then select 2 (on occasion 3) students per month to be recognized. The selected winners receive a certificate, a brag tag, a photo and a lunch (of their choice) with the principal Mr. Kunder. ALL students nominated receive a post card home letting their families know they were nominated. Even if a child is not selected as the overall winner, we want to share their success and recognize their greatness as a leader in kindness! We are very proud of ALL nominees and hope their kindness and positivity spread to their peers and others in the building and community. This is the kind of leadership we LOVE to promote!

STUDENT GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Attention 8th grade parents!! SGA will be hosting the 8th grade farewell dance on May 11th. The theme is "A Night In the City," and tickets will go on sale in late April. So, save the date!

SGA- Hosted an Ice Cream Social for students to hang out with friends and enjoy a sweet treat. Our next event will be our service project for Rescue Garage. In April, we will be collecting the requested items to donate to help out with the dogs in their care. Here is their wish list.

- towels (can be clean old towels, no pillows or sheets)
- leashes, collars, harnesses
- dog and cat beds
- dog foods
- crates all sizes
- laundry detergent and paper towels
- dog toys
- Kongs, Nylabone's and Bullysticks
- pet pill pockets
- gift cards to PetSmart, petco, Amazon

Also, Leadership classes explored what it would take to build and run a school during 3rd quarter. In 4th quarter, they will be focused on resumes and job skills.

HOPE AMBASSADORS

Students were introduced to a week-long Great Kindness Challenge which is a worldwide kindness initiative in January. Activities were planned throughout the building to remind students of the importance of kindness.

The HOPE ambassadors are now working on a BIG project to help support patients at Galisano's Children's Hospital. Stay tuned for more information to come.



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REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

On February 17th - 4 PCMS students participated in the Regional Science fair held at Florida Gulf Coast University. 7th grade students Maya Robling and Sean Thame and 8th grade students Austin Phillips and James Sterbutzel. PCMS students were awarded 5 awards for their scientific investigations. Austin was awarded an honorable mention for Chemistry and an award for the best use of the metric system. James was awarded 2nd place in Chemistry for his project. Sean was awarded 1st place in Physics for his project and in addition Sean will be continuing on to the state science fair in April!! Go Terriers!

SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY

- **Save the Date:** May the Force be with you
- **Super Science Saturday:** May 4th
- **Who:** 8th grade science students
- **What:** Launch a water rocket and other fun experiments while reviewing for your state exam.
- **When:** 9 am - 1 pm
- **Where:** PCMS

More information to come through 8th grade science classes including sign up forms.

PLANETARIUM

In February, the StarDome planetarium visited PCMS, and 6th grade students, as well as some 7th and 8th grade students, were invited to view a presentation on our night sky. Mr. Gary Muzio regaled students with a 30 minute presentation on our constellations, how to find true north, how our night sky changes based on location and season and more. Overall, the students greatly enjoyed the experience and many asked to visit the planetarium show a second time.



LATE BUS

As a reminder, Port Charlotte Middle School is utilizing the services of a late bus for PCMS-zoned students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school. We hope this will allow more students the opportunity to be part of our extracurricular activities and tutoring services. A parent or guardian must sign the Late Bus Permission Slip before a student can ride the late bus. Permission slips were sent home at the beginning of September, and more can be found in the school's Front Office.

A few things to remember:

- The stops made by the late bus are not the same as the normal bus stops. Please review with your child the route that he/she will need to take home. It is the student's responsibility to know which stop to exit the bus from. Please review the stop, as well as the safest route home. This should be done before riding the late bus.
- Students will use their student ID badge to scan themselves on and off the bus.
- Please remember that normal bus rules apply. Students will be held accountable if they violate bus rules and/or the Code of Student Conduct.

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PE NEWS

Students in our PE classes have been training for and just recently completed their Spring Mile Run. Best times were as follows:

- 6th grade girls: Zoey Clarke & Isabella Evans 8:29
- 6th grade boy: Gavin Gonzalez 6:49
- 7th grade girl: Charlotte McNamara 7:42
- 7th grade boy: Jayden White Cakpo 6:04
- 8th grade girl: Taegan Biskupiak 8:37
- 8th grade boy: Calvin Pratt 6:57

They have also participated in modified versions of team sports. Some classes learned pickleball basics, and we will be preparing to get back into cooperative games and another Olympic unit in the near future.

FLAG FOOTBALL PROGRAM

PCMS hosted its first ever flag football club before school in February and March. In order to participate in flag football, students cannot earn referrals. Other requirements are that students must also go to breakfast in the cafeteria afterwards and make it to their first period class on time. We have rules everyone must follow, score keepers who keep the official record, and a referee who ensures the safety of our players. This is a way for our students to have fun and channel any extra energy into something positive. It also builds teamwork. We hope to grow this program in the future, so stay tuned for more updates!



TRACK AND FIELD

It was a short but triumphant track season this year; our student athletes literally hit the ground running. Runners and long jumpers of all speeds and distances showed up and worked hard each and every day, encouraging each other and building that Terrier team spirit right from the start. The girls had large numbers of athletes from all grade levels, many returning for another season of track, with an impressive showing from 6th grade Terriers who were excited to run.

What the boys' team lacked in numbers, they made up for in drive and heart. We saw many returning athletes this year as well, but our boys didn't let their lower numbers dictate their outcome. Our own Terrier boys worked together to fill every available slot at the District meet, each athlete participating in an astounding number of events.

On race day, the weather was perfect, and the bleachers were full of family, friends, and staff who came out to support our athletes. At the end of the day, the girls' track team took home the gold trophy, coming in first place across the district. Our boys' track team missed first place by the narrowest of margins, but considering they came in second with just six athletes participating, they won the day with their grit and determination.

All in all, it was an amazing season and we're looking forward to returning athletes in 2024-2025, as well as future successes for our track stars who are moving on to high school. Go, Terriers!



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PCMS BOYS SOCCER

The Soccer season ran from February 12th to March 2nd. We were fortunate enough to be able to use Port Charlotte High School's soccer fields this past season from 4:45 pm to about 6:45 pm. We scrimmaged PGMS on February 23rd. While we lost that game, the score was not a reflection of how well the boys competed against the best program in the area. That scrimmage was the first time everyone played together as a whole team, and the coaching staff was very proud of how each of the kids competed and powered through the adversity and challenges they faced. On March 2nd, the boys competed in a tournament and battled through three close games to Charlotte County middle schools. Overall, the whole coaching staff was amazed on how close we were to winning those games, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for the soccer program next year.



2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The second annual PCMS Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, October 12th at Rotunda Hills Golf & Country Club. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please call 941-255-7460 or email zack.wheeler@yourcharlotteschools.net.

Port Charlotte Middle School



5TH GRADE RISER NIGHT

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024
FROM 5:30 - 7:00 PM
IN THE PCMS GYMNASIUM

We cannot wait to welcome your upcoming 6th grader to the Terrier Family! After a brief presentation, you will have the opportunity to tour our campus. Come hear all of the wonderful opportunities we have to offer at Port Charlotte Middle and meet our amazing teachers. We hope to see you there!





Tutoring

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LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade: Tuesdays (D8), Thursdays (E4)

7th Grade: Wednesdays (D3), Thursdays (D1)

8th Grade: Tuesdays (C4), Thursdays (C4 and D1)

SCIENCE

All Grades: Mondays (A4), Tuesdays (N142), and Wednesdays (N142)

SOCIAL STUDIES

US History: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (N144B)

US History/Civics: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (B1/B2)

MATH

6th Grade: Tuesdays (D5), Wednesdays (D7)

7th Grade: Tuesdays (E6), Wednesdays (E1)

8th Grade: Tuesdays (D6)

Algebra: Tuesdays (E2), Wednesdays (E3)


OTHER/ELL SERVICES

Monday
Credit Recovery (N157)
ELL Tutoring (N158A)

Tuesday
ELL Tutoring (N158A)

Wednesday
ELL Tutoring (N158A)


Thursday
ELL Tutoring (N158A)



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ART SHOW: APRIL 20, 2024



I just want to start off by saying I am very proud of how hard, dedicated, and motivated the kids have been with each of the assignments they have completed so far this year. It is truly amazing to see the level of growth between all of my students when it comes to their development in Art. The students have worked on watercolor abstracts, drawing and painting in acrylic paints, mixed media, graffiti art, one-point perspective, and pottery so far. Come out to their end of the year middle school art show at the Visual Arts Center on April 20th, 2024 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Trust me you won't want to miss the show that is about to be put on display.



*Stella
Promseemai*



*Sophia
Bishop*



*Helena
Hutchinson*

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES OR THREATS

Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to schools. Any suspicious activity or threat shall be promptly reported to one of the following individuals, agencies or reporting tools:

- School Resource Officer or local law enforcement agencies.
- School Administrator or any available staff member.
- The FortifyFL Reporting APP or to the Crimestoppers Tip line (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1.

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