

VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL



PANTHERS

Dec. 2018 & Jan. 2019

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

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4. PTSO News; Coming Events.
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6. Holiday Candy-grams Donation; Students Pledge to Protect Peer.

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Principal's Message

Happy New Year Panther Families!

As we bring in the New Year, I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a New Year filled with many happy blessings. As you can see from all of the wonderful photos included in this edition of our school newsletter, we sent out the old year with many celebrations and loads of giving.

January brings us back to academic successes and our fun winter sport programs. There are lots of extra-curricular activities for your students to enjoy. An important one that is offered each year is our FSA/SSA Success Program. It is a Saturday program offered to students in grades 3-8, and it provides extra learning time in order to prepare students with the necessary skills and strategies they need to improve their performance on the FSA and SSA State Assessments. Very soon a flyer will be sent home with the information about the program.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Julie Cady



Students and staff got into the holiday spirit during festivities in December.



Holiday Show Highlights the Classics

Mrs. Berlin, below, led all kindergarteners in a festive musical production Dec. 13 and 14.



Student of the Month for December — Integrity

The Student of the Month for December is third-grader Erica Flagg. “All the third-grade teachers got together and made our nominations and Erica was selected unanimously because we all know she is terrific,” said Erica’s teacher, Mrs. Micallef. “She can work with anyone. You can count on her to do what she needs to do. You can trust her completely.” Way to go, Erica!



Kindergarten and First Grade students enjoyed festivities, and made ornaments.



Middle Grades

Making Holidays Bright for All Veterans



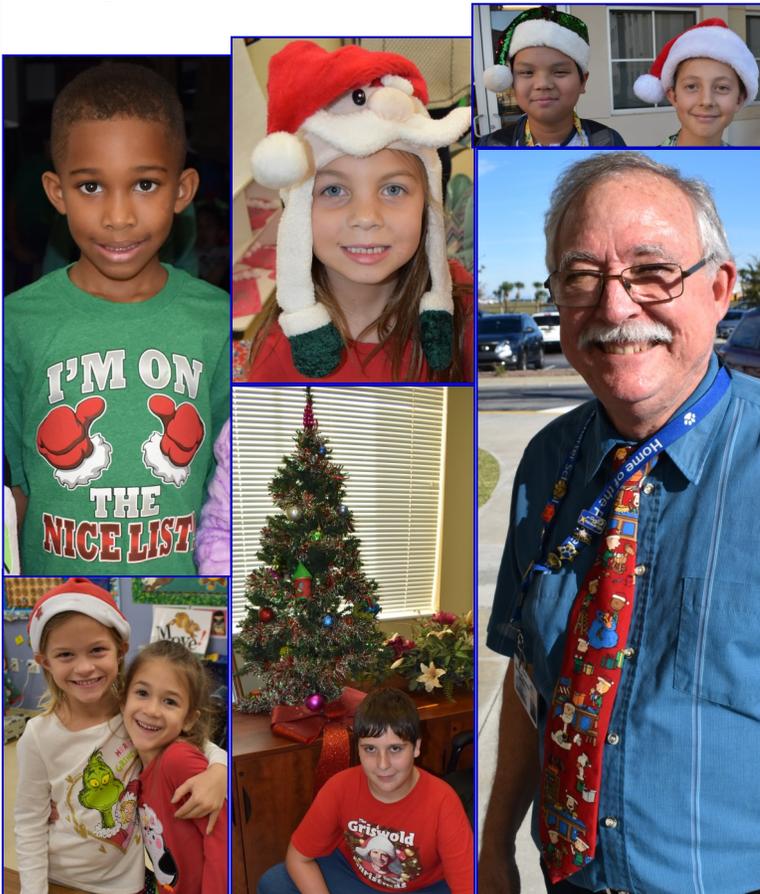
Mrs. Peluso's Language Arts students made Christmas ornaments, making the holidays a bit brighter for veterans. The ornaments were

then taken to the Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic in Viera (see related story below). "They are placed in a basket and then veterans are invited to take an ornament with them when they come in for their doctor's appointment," Mrs. Peluso said.



Favorite Holidays Make Our Dress Down Festive

Students dressed in their Favorite Holiday attire Dec. 17, with Christmas and other winter holidays coming in at No. 1.



NEHS Helps Veterans Dealing With Or Facing Homelessness

National Elementary Honor Society students and faculty organized a drive to collect items to make holidays brighter for veterans dealing with homelessness during cold weather. Items collected included socks, underwear, T-shirts, blankets, and individual serving size, easy open items of nonperishable food and bottled water. Students walked the items north along Breslay Drive to the nearby Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic in Viera.



PTSO: Thank You for the Past Year of Giving; Looking Forward to 2019

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support this first semester. Some of you donated your time, some your resources, and some donated money. All of which contributed to two highly successful fundraisers, four spirit nights and several free family events. All of which have helped strengthen our Panther Pride and sense of community.



We look forward to the second half of the year, which will bring us events like Girls Night Out, Boys Night Out, Teacher Appreciation Week and PantherPalooza. We also can't wait to start putting our Boosterthon earnings to use improving the outdoor areas for our students.

For more information visit our PTSO web site at www.vcsptso.com.

Sixth-graders get ready for their first Middle School Dance, the Winter Wonderlands event held in the VCS cafeteria and courts Dec. 14. Photo courtesy of NatalieMcCainPhotography.com

Coming Events

- Dec. 24-Jan. 9 No School/Winter Break.
- Tuesday, Jan. 22, 6 p.m. PTSO Meeting in the Cafeteria.
- Wednesday, Jan. 23, 5 p.m. VCS Governing Board Meeting, Cafeteria.
- Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019, School Resumes.
- Monday, Jan. 28, Dress Down Day, Pirates of the Caribbean.
- Monday-Friday, Jan. 28-Feb. 1, Book Fair.
- Tuesday, Jan. 15, Class Group and Yearbook Makeup Picture Day.
- Wednesday, Feb. 6, Club/Team Photos.
- Wednesday, Jan. 16, 100th Day of School Celebrations.
- Thursday, Jan. 17, Dress Down Day: 101 Dalmatians, to Mark 101st Day of School.
- Saturday, Feb. 9, Girls Night Out.
- Monday, Jan. 21, No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Friday, Feb. 15, Student Holiday/Teacher Work Day.

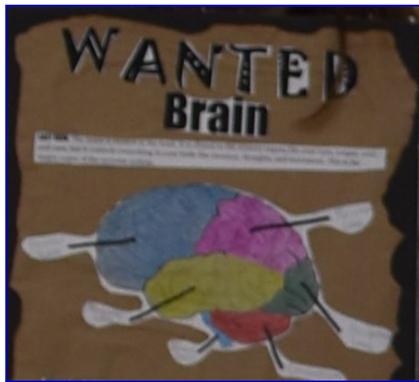
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS



Wanted: Info on How Organs Work

To conclude their studies of the human body organs and systems, the fifth-grade students created Organ Wanted Posters, Science teacher Mrs. Dedrick said. The students researched the organ's functions, what system it belongs to, and what diseases or disorders may affect the organ. They also found many interesting facts about the organs. For example, did you know that the brain uses up 20 percent of the oxygen your body brings in?



AVID Students Help Hurricane Michael Victims

Students in the college preparatory program AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination – collected supplies to send to Hurricane Michael victims in north Florida. Residents there continue to heal from the devastation. The supplies were combined with Eau Gallie High School's efforts and trucked north. "This is just one of many service projects

that teach students good character qualities like caring for others less fortunate," AVID coordinator Mrs. Hoffman said. AVID students academic strategies like note-taking, test-taking, and other skills that will put them on a solid path to higher education.



Holiday Candy-grams Make Season Sweet for Pets in Need



Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Potter along with their fourth and fifth grade students organized a Holiday Candy-gram fundraiser and donated the \$573 in proceeds to the Central Brevard Humane Society Adoption Center and Spay/Neuter & Wellness Center in Cocoa. CBHS Executive Director Theresa Clifton came to receive the check from Dr. Cady Dec. 20 and brought a friend. Sugar is a 4-year-old boxer mix with a tiny crooked tail who lost her home when Hurricane Michael devastated areas in North Carolina. CBHS traveled to the area to assist with relief efforts and brought



back 15 animals to rehouse, and Sugar – so named because she is a big kisser – is the last one waiting for a forever home. Also, on hand was Panther mom Dr. Erin Coris of Island Animal Hospital, which provides free care to animals at CBHS. Anyone interested in adopting Sugar is asked to call 321-636-3343 or go to www.BrevardHumaneSociety.org to help in any way possible.

Students Take Proactive Approach to Bullying, Pledge to Protect Classmate

Many students don't know what to say when a bully strikes, however, students in the team classes of Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Doherty are now prepared in advance. Their classmate, Jenna Gathercole, made a presentation to them Nov. 13 on a genetic medical condition that is causing her to lose her hair – alopecia – that has already subjected her to taunts.

"No, it doesn't hurt, and no, it isn't contagious," Jenna told her classmates during a question and answer period after a PowerPoint presentation that she made herself, with the help of her parents.

"We cannot thank the school enough, particularly Jenna's teachers, for allowing us to come in and for helping her to make her presentation," mom Karen Gathercole said. She and husband Jason were present, along with Guidance Counselor Kim Anders.

"What a great idea to educate a students' peers and nip any potential bullying in the bud, and get their partnership going forward," Mrs. Anders said. Students made a pledge together to come to Jenna's aid if anyone made hurtful comments in any other classes, now and going forward.

