

# TOGETHER PCS



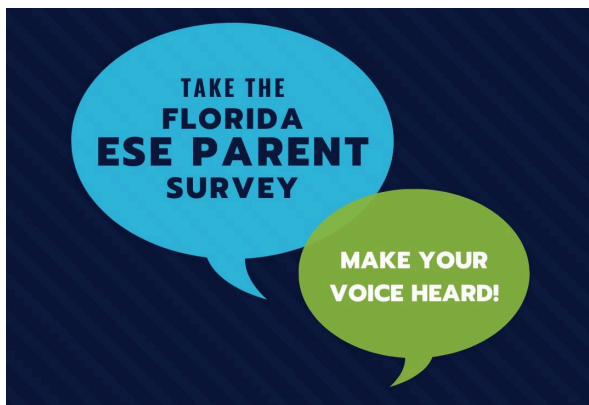
## SOARING TO ANOTHER YEAR AS AN A DISTRICT

Welcome to TogetherPCS, the district's monthly newsletter featuring students, staff, alumni, coaches, curriculum, community partners and so much more!

In this issue, we meet **Northeast High School** alumna **Melissa Seixas**, the **President of Duke Energy Florida** who started her career in her high school drafting class and began working for the company at age 19. We also learned about the Food Pantry passion project at Tyrone Middle School, which is not only student-led and open to the community but is also helping its own students and staff fill food insecurity gaps. Additionally, we celebrate our Black and Hispanic student scholars who were honored at the annual Carwise, Vyrle Davis and Maria Edmonds awards.

Do you know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS? Please click the "Nominate Here" button below. Let's do this TOGETHER!

[NOMINATE HERE](#)



## PARK WINS!

A year after finishing fourth in the regional spelling bee, **East Lake Middle School** student Park Allen returned with even greater success. Now an eighth grader, Park captured first place at the **2026 Regional Spelling Bee**, sponsored by the **University of South Florida College of Education**, earning the top spot after advancing through multiple competitive rounds. An avid reader and Academy of Engineering student who enjoys math and computer programming, Park once again relied on steady preparation and focus to guide him through the competition. Park moves on to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee May 26-28 in Washington, D.C.

# WHAT'S INSIDE



## STATE CHAMP

Congratulations to Arianna Antoniou, who made history by being the first female wrestler to win a state championship from **East Lake High School**. Antoniou, who wrestles in the 155-pound weight class and is 40-3 on the season, pinned three out of her four opponents in her run to the state final on March 7 in Kissimmee. Coming into the tournament as the number four seed, she took down the number one seed in the semi-final match by major decision.

"As a state champion caliber wrestler, you need to be strong mentally, have an unbelievable work ethic, and have a natural gift, and Arianna exudes all three of those things with a smile on her face the entire time," said coach Jason Leggett. She will forever be a part of this team's history and everything to come in the future."

*[Read more about Arianna](#)*

In the boys' division, Zachary Berry (138 lb) of Palm Harbor University High School won second place, and Gary Woessner (165 lb) from Dunedin High School won third place.



## Tyrone Middle supports students, staff and community with new food pantry

There's no doubt the first thing that will catch student shoppers' eyes when they walk into the Eagles Fresh Market at **Tyrone Middle School** is the colorful lineup of Takis® varieties spanning an entire shelf.

But beyond the popular snack options, the school's new on-campus market offers something even more important—reliable access to groceries for students, families and staff who need them.

The idea for the Eagles Fresh Market began taking shape in September, when school leaders and community partners started discussing how Tyrone Middle could better address food insecurity among its families. The project quickly gained momentum through partnerships with Feeding Tampa Bay, BayCare and other community supporters. The first food delivery arrived in November, and by December, the Eagles Fresh Market officially opened its doors—right in the middle of a federal government shutdown.

"Many of our families are SNAP dependent, so this was good timing," said Jade Jessurun, the school's social worker. "One person came in in tears."

*[Read the full article](#)*

# ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



*From Northeast High drafting class to Duke Energy President, Melissa Seixas (R) reflects on where it all began.*

When Melissa Seixas recently walked the campus of Northeast High School, much of it looked unfamiliar. Buildings had changed. Hallways had shifted. Decades of renovations had transformed the school she graduated from in 1984.

But regardless, the memories came rushing back.

Standing where her career first began to take shape, Seixas reflected on the drafting classroom where she discovered a skill that would lead to her first job — and eventually to her current role as **president of Duke Energy Florida**.

[Read the full article](#)



The spotlight is calling, and the stars are ready! Pinellas County Schools juniors and seniors will take center stage in the Rising Stars Scholarship Competition, celebrating the artistic talent of students across our community.

Students will compete in six categories: Theater, Vocal Performance, Instrumental Music, Dance, Visual Arts, and Culinary Arts.

Join us on April 21, 2026, for an unforgettable evening of student arts and entertainment. This free, ticketless event is open to the community and offers a chance to experience the remarkable talent across our district.

A special thank you to the Pinellas Education Foundation for coordinating this event each year. Learn more about Rising Stars and [event details here](#).



## Celebrating Volunteers

Last month, our volunteers gathered to celebrate an incredible year of service. 22,600+ volunteers including 2,300 mentors have logged more than 137,000 hours of service to support student success across the county so far this school year. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for your time and dedication to our district. Special congratulations to our top 3 Outstanding School Volunteers!

★ Emma Reveron, Youth Volunteer at Tarpon Springs Elementary

★ Nicole Halstead, Adult Volunteer at Mangrove Bay Middle

★ Cindy Peacock, Senior Volunteer at Palm Harbor Middle



## Fourth annual summits engage student leaders

Superintendent Hendrick hosted the fourth annual Student Leadership Summits in February and March on the **University of South Florida St. Petersburg** campus. Students at all levels learned about strong and effective leadership and had opportunities to share their ideas and develop leadership and advocacy skills through breakout sessions and activities.



This year, student leaders were tasked with making a hype video back on their school campuses. Mr. Hendrick will follow up with them via Teams next month to hear more about their process and how they led their school in the task.

For the second year in a row, student journalists in the Journeys in Journalism programs at Melrose Elementary, John Hopkins Middle and Lakewood High schools covered the events and produced both print and multimedia stories.

***Watch the PCS multimedia story***



*Watch the Melrose video* produced by Ah'Ternity Rowe and Kamela Gordon - 5th grade; Ah'mina Rowe, Hiroko Dooley, Jariyah Holmes and Kensi Jackson - 4th grade

*Watch the John Hopkins video* produced by Addison Samar, Remington Colas and Lilley Watson - 6th grade

*Watch the Lakewood story* produced by multimedia journalist Myles Sayles.



The district honored more than 600 outstanding scholars during the annual Carwise, Vyrle Davis and Maria Edmonds awards. This year, PCS partnered with three community organizations that hosted the ceremonies and shared in our enthusiasm for recognizing these high-achieving Black and Hispanic students for all As and Bs in elementary and middle and at least a 4.0 GPA in high school. A special thank you to the **Pinellas Urban League**, **The Woodson African American Museum** and the Hispanic Outreach Center for their sponsorship and support.





## The Superintendent Says...

"We have had an amazing month of achievements throughout our district! From celebrating our Carwise, Vyrle Davis and Maria Edmonds fellows to our Regional Spelling Bee winner and our state championship wrestler, PCS has a lot to celebrate going into Spring Break. I couldn't be prouder of our students and staff and the community that supports them."

***To help spread the word, please forward this newsletter to community members who are interested in public education. Sign up by clicking the button below.***

**SIGN UP HERE**



**VISION: 100% STUDENT SUCCESS**  
**MISSION: EDUCATE AND PREPARE EACH STUDENT FOR COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE**

**PCS Compliance Statement**

Pinellas County Schools | 301 Fourth St. SW | Largo, FL 33779 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!