November 2026 | Issue 35

TOGETHERPCS

KEEPING PACE WITH PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

CONGRATULATIONS TOP 10 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR







Read full story and watch the video

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

In this issue, we celebrate our 2026-27 Teachers of the Year as well as the launch of the district's second Employee Childcare Center, the Little Manatees. We also introduce St. Pete High School alum, Nate Najar, a professional jazz guitarist, composer and music producer whose latest project with his partner, "Love & Bossa Nova" has him touring around the world.

If you know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS, please click the "Nominate Here" button below.

NOMINATE HERE

WHAT'S INSIDE



District Application Program (DAP) Application Period:
Jan. 5-15, 2027

Discovery Nights
Oct. 1 - Dec. 15, 2026
School sites

How to Apply for a District Application Program and Special Assignment Request live event
Jan. 4, 2027: 5:30 p.m.

DAP Acceptance Period walk-through live event
Feb. 4, 2027: 5:30 p.m.

District Application Program (DAP) Acceptance Period:
Feb. 10-19, 2027

Learn More



Kaitlin Boyd drops off her son at the new Little Manatees Employee Childcare Center.

DISTRICT OPENS SECOND EMPLOYEE CHILDCARE CENTER

For Kaitlin and Matt Boyd, Little Manatees at McMullen-Booth Elementary is more than an employee benefit. It's a place Matt helped bring to life, and now, a place where their own son is learning and growing.

Matt, a technical project coordinator for Pinellas County Schools, oversaw the construction of the district's newest Employee Childcare Center from its early planning stages through opening day. While he spent the summer working with district crews and contractors to transform two existing buildings into a childcare center, he and Kaitlin were also navigating life as first-time parents.

Read the full article

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

When Nate Najar talks about the teachers who influenced his life, he doesn't just remember what they taught him. He remembers the specifics.

His 10th-grade geometry teacher who gave him a Wes Montgomery record copied onto a cassette tape so he could listen in his car.

His seventh-grade band director who would sit with him at the piano between classes and explain the intricacies of each note.

“He described jazz to me and how that worked,” said Najar of Everard Harris, his Osceola Middle School band director who was also a working musician. “A big reason why he taught middle school was so that he could play gigs at night.”

Read the full article and watch the video



St. Pete High School alum, Nate Najar, a professional jazz guitarist, composer and music producer, is currently on tour with "Love & Bossa Nova."







COD RECIPIENT REFLECTS ON 'SPECIAL' PCS CULTURE

When Faith Buckley first saw the staff lounge at Pinellas Park Elementary, she knew she could create a more welcoming space for employees.

With help from district staff, community partners, Lowe's and teachers, she helped transform the lounge into a place to recharge, complete with flavored water of the day and fresh popcorn on Fridays.

It's one example of how Buckley applies what she learns through Pinellas County Schools' professional development opportunities.

As the school's Family and Community Liaison, Buckley has also helped strengthen community connections and improve student spaces. She recently shared her approach as the keynote speaker at PCS' Certificate of Distinction (COD) program, encouraging fellow employees to take advantage of the district's opportunities to learn and grow.

Read the full article



EXPERIENCE PCS
December 5, 2026

Join Pinellas County Schools for a day of family and community fun for all ages. Explore activities and opportunities that showcase the student experience. Experience PCS is FREE to attend

When: Saturday, Dec. 5
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Clearwater High School, 1951 Gulf to Bay Blvd.

The event will feature music, games, performances, and so much more!
Check it out here!

The Superintendent Says...



“Recognizing our Top 10 Teacher of the Year finalists is one of the highlights of the school year. These outstanding educators go above and beyond every day to make a difference in our students' lives. Surprising each of them is a special opportunity to celebrate their dedication, passion and commitment to student success. I am incredibly proud of these and all 126 teachers of the year, and I am grateful for the difference they make in our schools and community.”

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

PCS PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

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

PCS Compliance Statement

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