



EAGLE'S EYE



SKYCREST ELEMENTARY NEWS

December 2023

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Mission

"Inspiring Greatness through Academics, Culture, and Leadership"

A Message from Administration

Hello Skycrest Families,

Our Skycrest students had a busy month in November. We celebrated our Leader In Me Awards, honored our Veterans at our first school assembly, had over 20 community members come for Great American Teach-In, Kindergarten Pies with Parents, and hosted a successful STEM Night. We thank all our Veterans and community members for being part of this event. Skycrest staff and students appreciate all their support to make this a success. Also, a huge thank you for sending in canned food items for our Food Drive. The Salvation Army was grateful for all of the donations.

Here we are in the month of December! The school year is more than 1/3 of the way through and our students are busy with the task of learning and completing projects and will be taking the Cycle 2 Progress Monitoring Test in ELA and Math! This assessment, is the same test VPK-5th grade students took in August and will show the growth your child has learned so far this year.

Holiday decorations are sprouting up everywhere as families begin their thinking about holiday shopping, vacation plans, and dinner menus. Many of our evenings and weekends will be spent getting ready for holiday celebrations. Please help us encourage our students to stay as focused as possible and include homework and study time in your holiday plans...we do not want them to fall behind in their learning.

We appreciate all your support in being involved in your child's learning at Skycrest. Enjoy your holiday and time off!

See you next school year,
Mrs. Pier

Dates to Remember

- 12/04-12/21 Progress Monitor Testing
- 12/12 Chorus Concert, Trinity Pres., 6:00pm
- 12/21 End of the Grading Period
- 12/22-01/05 Winter Break, No School
- 01/08 Return to School

School Guidelines

Remember Skycrest school-wide expectations are S.O.A.R.

- Be Safe
- Be on Task
- Be Accountable
- Be Respectful

Parent Lunch Days

Parents, our lunch with your child day is scheduled on the last Thursday of each month for K-5th grade. However, in December we will **NOT** host a Parent Lunch Day. Starting in January, VPK and PreK 3 will be hosted on Friday instead of Thursday due to the overlapping of other lunches. Please see our website for your child's lunchtime.

Fun Fact: We had 130 families come in the month of September and in October, we had 117. Thank you for coming to support your child.

Upcoming Lunch Dates: Jan. 25 - K-5th grade, Jan. 26 - VPK/PreK3

Clothing Important Information

Parents, please try to keep a spare change of clothes in your child's backpack regardless of his/her age/grade. The office does NOT always have a spare set in your child's size and we know it is hard to drop what you are doing to provide a pair at a moment's notice. Also remember to write your child's name in his/her lunchboxes, jackets, water bottles, sweaters, and anything that may get left behind. Many clothing items are being discarded due to be left out and with no name.

VPK & PreK3 Registration is going on now until December 13, 2023

- VPK is a free, 540-hour program during the school year that is available at many elementary schools. Students attend free for three hours each day, Monday through Friday.
- VPK + 3 extends the VPK day an additional 3 hours so students attend for the full 6-hour school day. Tuition is \$65 per week with a \$65 non-refundable registration fee that is applied to the last week's tuition.
- Skycrest offers free full-day programs with a Certificate of Eligibility (voucher)
- **NEW:** Families who qualify for free or reduced-price meals according to the annual Florida Income Eligibility Guidelines will qualify for free full-day VPK.

Gifted Program

Skycrest has added four new students to the gifted program this year and we have 17 potentially gifted students currently in process. We hope to have them join us soon. Fingers crossed!

Our theme this year is **Interactions with Ecology and Literature** and students are learning about how animals, plants and humans interact with each other and within different ecosystems, with a major focus on the rainforest. In addition to our themed lessons, we are working on vocabulary expansion, math and logic problems and students are also exploring various technologies and creating an Adobe Express Webpage.

Our Talented groups have been revamped to help students succeed academically and provide enrichment and inspiration to even more students. We now have over 100 students in the Talented program and will be working on critical and creative thinking projects throughout the year as time permits.

The gifted and talented coordinator, Ms. Diaz, applied for a grant through the Pinellas Education Foundation in August and recently received the great news that the project will be fully funded by Publix Supermarkets. Both gifted and talented students will benefit from the over \$800 worth of educational games and STEM kits they will be able to use to learn in a fun way. Now that is truly something we can all be thankful for!



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

International Café

Attention All Skycrest Families,

Please join us for our next International Café on **Wednesday, January 31st at 8:45am in the Media Center and Room #7**. This parent meeting is held in English and Spanish throughout the year. The meeting in January will focus on social/mental health issues and learn about resources available. It's a great way to meet other parents, learn what is going on at Skycrest Elementary and hear about many resources available in our Skycrest/Clearwater neighborhood. The meeting takes place while your student is in class, but younger children are welcome. Join us for some coffee/snacks and helpful information. Hope to see you there!

For planning, below are the dates for the rest of the school year (all meetings begin at 8:45am). January 31st and March 27th.

*In the past, this meeting was open to Spanish speaking families, this year we are opening it up to ALL Skycrest families. Everyone is welcome!

PBIS News:

What is PBIS? - **Positive Behavior Intervention Supports**

The primary objective of the Skycrest Elementary School Behavior Plan is to provide an optimum educational opportunity for each child in school. Skycrest promotes a positive behavior approach to discipline and uses the online PBIS Reward program. We encourage all families to view this program on a regular basis to view student's points and any behavior incidents. Pinellas County has implemented a restorative practices program throughout all schools.

School-Wide Guidelines for Success:

1. **S** - Safe
2. **O** - On task
3. **A** - Accountable
4. **R** - Respectful

PBIS Points Award School-Wide since August. Students use these points to shop for items from our school Eagle Store.

