

TOGETHER PCS

KEEPING PACE WITH PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

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 March Madness by featuring a Boca Ciega High School alum who is now the head men's basketball coach at Southeastern Louisiana University. We also learn more about how Dunedin High School is using the SeaPerch program to construct underwater robots. And we celebrate the 976 seventh graders who took the TIP SAT at their respective schools.

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

[NOMINATE HERE](#)

WHAT'S INSIDE



Gibbs High School boys' basketball team wins the class 4A state championship, it's first since 1969.

GIBBS WINS!!

After a second come-from-behind win in their run to the state title, the Gibbs High School boys basketball team brought home the state



March 11-15, 2024

Spring Break for students

March 26, 2024

Carwise Awards

Clearwater High School

April 2, 2024

Vyrle Davis Awards

Gibbs High School

April 8, 2024

Maria Edmonds Awards

Ruth Eckerd Hall

championship for the first time since 1969.

Gibbs defeated Andrew Jackson 49-43 in the class 4A state championship on Saturday afternoon at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland.

"It's a great feeling considering we've been here two years in a row," said head coach Larry Murphy. "We had to finally get over that hump. We put in a lot of work in the off-season to get this."

Despite trailing until well into the third quarter, the Gladiators saw a shift in momentum after Jacob Daniels sent Bobby Crawford a no-look pass for a slam dunk.

"Those type of momentum plays, we feed off that," Daniels said. "That's just big energy. After that, our mentality goes up."

Murphy said the team talked about playing tougher in the locker room at halftime.

"We talked about how bad we really wanted it," Murphy said. "We got tougher in the second half and did what we needed to do."

[Read the article](#)
[Watch the video](#)

April 13, 2024

Tampa Bay Rays

Pinellas County Schools Night

April 15, 2024

PRIDE Awards

Ruth Eckerd Hall

May 2, 2024

Turnaround Awards

Banquet Masters

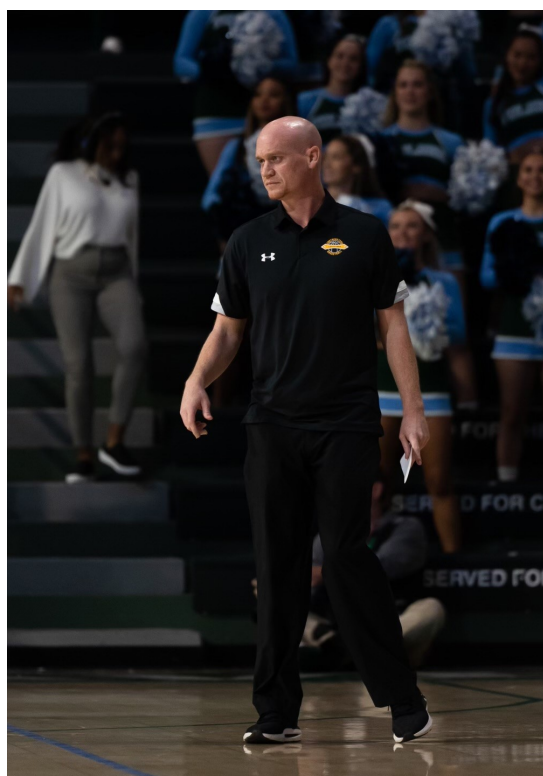
May 16-29, 2024

High School graduation
ceremonies



ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



David Kiefer can close his eyes and easily go back to a time when he was a five-year-old boy tagging along with his dad to high school practices in the Boca Ciega High School gymnasium.

Everything from the squeaking shoes on the court floor to escaping the summer heat in the air-conditioned gym, Boca Ciega was where Kiefer first fell in love with basketball.

"There was just a certain feeling when you walked into the gym," recalled Kiefer, whose dad Neil Kiefer served as a volunteer assistant coach at Bogie from 1990 to 2013. "I'd go to every single game and just sit right there on the bench with the team."

Kiefer stayed true to his desire to one day play for the Pirates, and after attending a small private school from pre-K through middle school, he entered Boca Ciega his freshman year very excited and slightly naïve.

"I knew that I was going to Boca Ciega at a very young age," Kiefer said. "But I wasn't necessarily ready physically or mentally. I didn't

David Kiefer is a Boca Ciega High School graduate and current head men's basketball coach at Southeastern Louisiana University.

know what I was walking into. But, it was a great experience for me. I really grew as a person, not just basketball-wise."

[Read the full article](#)



Dunedin High engineering students dive into building aquatic robots

Piece by piece, junior Eathan Gavitt shaved down a section of pool noodle connected to his SeaPerch remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to allow it to better submerge itself into the Highlander Park pool.

Since the last time he and his robotics classmates tested their underwater rovers,



TIP seventh graders take SAT

Nearly 1,000 seventh graders selected through the Pinellas County Schools Talent Identification Program (PCS-TIP) took the SAT at their respective schools on Wednesday, March 6.

Eathan made a few tweaks to his design to redistribute the weight. But after the first attempt at putting it in the water, he quickly realized it was too buoyant.

“There we go,” he said after the fifth attempt. “Look, Ms. Deeley, it’s going through the hoop!”

The STEM, Engineering and Robotics students at Dunedin High School have been working on their “aquatic robots” since receiving their kits from SeaPerch in October. Under the direction of Judith Deeley, they have conceptualized, designed, built and tested their rovers based on the 2024 competition guidelines.

The college entrance exam, usually taken by high school 11th and 12th graders, is offered each year to high-achieving middle school students. This year, 976 seventh graders took the exam, the highest number in PCS history.

“I think exposing students to the SAT in seventh grade provides students an opportunity to start preparing now based on their test results,” said Cassandra Bogatz, Director of Advanced Studies and Academic Excellence for Pinellas County Schools. “It also sets a college-going mindset.”

[Read the full article](#)

[Read the full article](#)



Join us at
EXPERIENCE PCS
EXPLORE STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES
MARCH 2, 2024 • 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
CLEARWATER HIGH SCHOOL • 1951 GULF TO BAY BLVD.

Thank you to all who came out to Experience PCS at Clearwater High on Saturday, March 2. We appreciate all of our students and teachers who showcased their programs in such a creative way. We can't wait until next year! [View more photos.](#)



The Superintendent Says...

"We have had an amazing month of achievements throughout our district! From our regional Science Olympiad champions from Largo High to our Gibbs High basketball state champions to our regional spelling bee and our all-county arts performances,

PCS has a lot to celebrate going into Spring Break. I couldn't be more proud of our students and staff."



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

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