

TOGETHER PCS



KEEPING PACE WITH PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

District Celebrates 133 Teachers of the Year with new luncheon event



Watch the video and see the full list here.

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 2024-25 Teachers of the Year as well as the kickoff of the 10th year of the **"Men in the Making"** mentor group. We also introduce you to Mildred Helms Elementary art teacher Jesse Kiebzak, who recently designed a shirt to be given away to **12,000 Rays fans at Tropicana Field**. East Lake High School alum Patrick McGee takes us on a walk down memory lane as he prepares to manage the 42nd annual **St. Anthony's triathlon**, the fourth largest Olympic distance triathlon in the United States.

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

[NOMINATE HERE](#)

WHAT'S INSIDE



In addition to your neighborhood school, Pinellas County Schools offers more than 85 magnet, fundamental and career-focused programs. through the District Application Program (DAP). You can also apply for a Special Assignment Request (SAR), which provides your child the opportunity to attend a non-DAP, non-zoned school.

DAP Application Period:

January 7-17, 2025

[Learn More](#)

January 6, 2025: 5:30 p.m.

How to Apply for a District

Application Program

Facebook/YouTube Live Event

February 11, 2025: 5:30 p.m.

Navigating the DAP Acceptance

Period Facebook/ YouTube Live

Event

DAP Acceptance Period

February 12 - 21, 2025



Men in the Making began in 2015 as a way to pair role models in the community with minority youth males.

Men in the Making kicks off year 10

“Protocol!” “Protocol!” several young men said loudly as Daniel Nicholas stood up to ask a question.

Daniel quickly backtracked and instead introduced himself.

“My name is Daniel Nicholas. I am 10 years old, and I go to Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary,” he said, standing tall, his chest pushed forward.

He then proceeded to ask his question. And Rev. Kenny Irby answered as though the last ten seconds hadn’t happened.

“We want to make sure every youth is comfortable presenting themselves in front of their peers,” said Irby, who, along with several law enforcement officers and faith leaders, began the Men in the Making mentor group in 2015. “Children inherently want discipline, they want direction. And when you have a lack of that, you have your biggest challenge.”

Irby describes Men in the Making as a progressive initiative focusing on role modeling and life skills to increase minority male success from cradle to college. The target audience is from 8 to 18.

Watch the video and read the full article

Get ready for EXPERIENCE PCS

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 and is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 at Clearwater High School, 1951 Gulf to Bay Blvd.

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



ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Patrick McGee, a 2003 graduate of East Lake High School, has been the St. Anthony's Triathlon race director since 2020.

Until he took a job with Ironman in 2009, Patrick McGee had no idea what a triathlon was.

So, he could never have imagined he would one day be producing some of the largest races in the world for a living.

"One of the most amazing things I love about this is we take a blank field or a blank parking lot and set up this amazing production and infrastructure and we host thousands of people throughout the week. Then on Sunday, we take it down and on Monday, it's like it never happened," said McGee, who has been the race director for the **St. Anthony's triathlon** since 2020. "It's a wonderful feeling of accomplishment."

[Read the full article](#)



Are You a PCS Alumni?

What are you up to now? Use the link below to update Pinellas County Schools on family, career and life for a chance to be featured in TogetherPCS!

[Click here to be featured](#)



Mildred Helms art teacher finds success with students, celebrity athletes

Mildred Helms Elementary School Art Teacher Jesse Kiebzak has two *very*



Thanks to **Spectrum**, Pinellas County Schools received hundreds of videos featuring Pinellas County Athletic events dating back to the 1980s and 90s. They are classic High School football, basketball, baseball games and more showcasing some of Pinellas County's greatest alumni and contests. The games range from 1994 for the very first Palms of Pinellas All-Star football

different types of clients.

One is of the kindergarten through fifth grade variety and the other are celebrities running the gamut from Olympians to professional musicians.

"Mr. Kiebzak is cool because he inspires me to work harder," said third grade art student Samuel Hamilton. "He helps me learn because he teaches me how to draw new things."

Watch the video and read the full article

game to 2014 for basketball.

Watch our current game, Tarpon Springs vs. East Lake High School football from 2011 on [Pinellas County Schools YouTube](#) and [PCSTV](#) - Channel 14 every Thursday at 7 p.m. [Learn more at pcsb.org/classic](#)



Students can also visit their school's College and Career Center for one-on-one assistance with test prep, financial aid, college applications and more.

Financial Aid Presentation Dates

The district's 17 traditional high schools are hosting Financial Aid Presentations over the next several weeks. Topics will include financial aid and scholarship information, Bright Futures requirements, and the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA). Students must complete the FAFSA to receive financial aid from the federal government.

Find out more here.

The Superintendent Says...

"Thank you to the Pinellas County Schools community for voting to approve the Referendum. Beginning in July 2025, the Referendum will not only provide a supplement for teacher salaries, but also for support staff. It also helps enhance our reading, music and art programs as well as ensures current technology in the classrooms. We are so grateful for the community's support of our schools and teachers!"



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](#)



