

# 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 discuss all things jazz with Gibbs High School PCCA alumni Kendric McCallister, who was just nominated for a Grammy award for his arrangement. We also reminisce with Dr. Robert Moore, who was the first principal of Madeira Beach Middle School and former School Board member who is about to celebrate his 100th birthday. And Japanese exchange teacher Megume Manabe walks us through her month-long stay in Clearwater and her experience with the Sister Cities program.

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

[NOMINATE HERE](#)



**Congratulations to this year's Pinellas County Schools Principal of the Year, Assistant Principal of the Year, Top two emerging teachers of the year, Support Employee of the Year and top 10 Teachers of the Year!**

**Principal of the Year:** Linda Burris, Tyrone Middle School

**Assistant Principal of the Year:** Candice Metcalf, Hollins High

**Support Employee of the Year:** David Gonzalez, Safety and Security officer at Garrison-Jones Elementary School

**Emerging Teachers of the Year:**

- Dr. Amanda Daniels, Palm Harbor University High School
- Katrina Carpenter, Mt. Vernon Elementary School

**Top 10 Teachers of the Year:**

- Deanna Barthel of Clearwater Fundamental Middle School
- Lisa Bitting of Palm Harbor University High School
- Sadra Bostick of Ponce de Leon Elementary School
- Kristin Campbell of Sandy Lane Elementary School
- Karin David of East Lake Middle School
- Debbie Georgia-Stein of Gibbs High School
- Kristin Jennings of Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary
- Gerard Madrinan of Seminole High School
- Naomi Middlebrooks of Maximo Elementary School
- Cole Pierce of Tyrone Middle School

# WHAT'S INSIDE

# BECOME A MENTOR

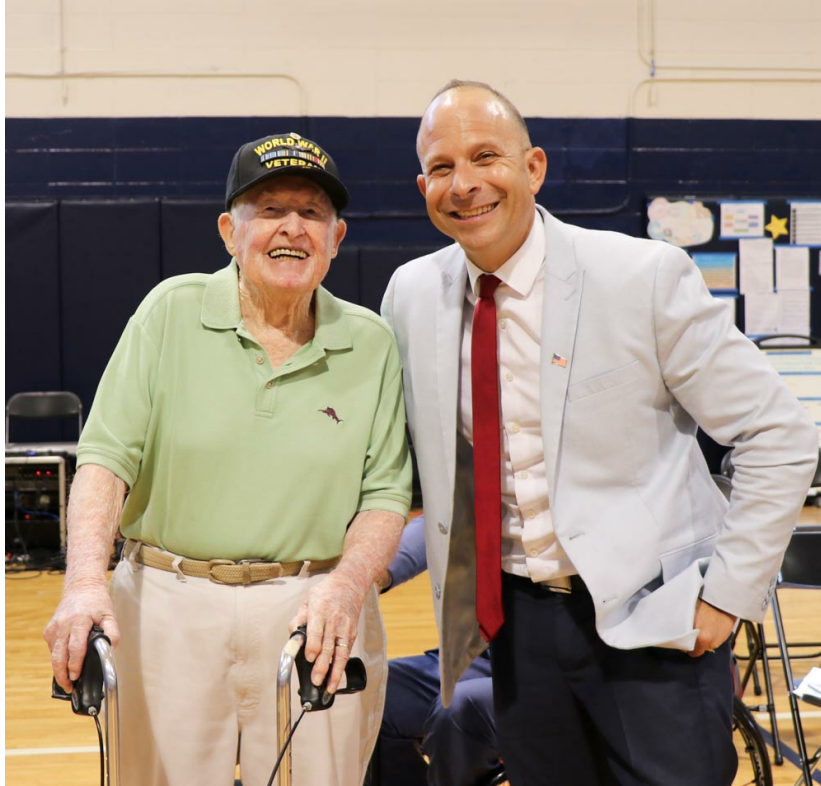
Mentors change the lives of thousands of Pinellas County students each week. Pinellas County Schools offers a variety of ways for caring adults to have a positive impact on students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Pinellas County Schools are proud of the nearly 1,500 mentors providing support to more than 2,000 students.

The District offers new mentors both virtual and in-person training opportunities as well as additional support throughout the year. Individual mentoring opportunities include Lunch Pals and Take Stock in Children. Mentors also have opportunities through the 5000 Role Models, Girlfriends Students Targeted for Educational Performance and the Boys and Girls Clubs.

***New mentors fill out the volunteer registration form [here](#).***

***Register for a mentor training workshop [here](#).***

***Check out all PCS mentoring opportunities by visiting [pcs.org/mentor](https://pcs.org/mentor)***



*Dr. Robert Moore, Madeira Beach Elementary's first principal, with Principal Chris Ateek, Madeira Beach Fundamental's current principal. Ateek invited Moore to the school's Veterans Day ceremony, 66 years after Moore was hired to lead the school.*

## Celebrating a century of wisdom: Longtime educator reflects on a life well lived

Longtime educator Dr. Robert Moore doesn't have any tips for living a long life. But he does have a recipe for living a fulfilling one: Be kind, have fun and connect every day with family and friends.

Moore will celebrate his 100 birthday in February. When asked about his advice for longevity, he laughed long and hard.

"My favorite things are donuts and Manhattans," he said. "That's not something that I would recommend for a long life, but it's what I enjoy."

Moore is a highly decorated World War II hero who has left a monumental legacy in Pinellas County Schools. He dedicated nearly 35 years to the district as a teacher, a principal and a School Board member.

***Watch the video and read the full article***

# ACHIEVE TOGETHER

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



*Kendric McCallister, Gibbs High School PCCA class of 2017, was recently nominated for a Grammy for Best Arrangement - Instrument and Vocals for the song "Lush Life."*

Kendric McCallister is a Grammy-nominated jazz musician, but he knows things could have gone much differently without the right teachers and environment to cultivate his love of music.

"The teachers and mentors in Pinellas County are the ones who shaped how I thought about music," McCallister said from his living room couch, just a couple miles from his former Gibbs High School, where he still considers home. "Frank Williams was one of the first people to really open my eyes to music and what I was capable of."

Williams remembers it a little bit differently. He was the marching band, jazz band, concert band, and guitar instructor at Boca Ciega High School from 1981 until 2011 and is currently the lead jazz instructor for the Ruth Eckerd Hall jazz combo, which is where he first met Kendric in 2013.

"I remember Kendric looking at me before a concert one time and saying, 'you are the jazz drill sergeant,'" Williams recalled. "He was accurate. I pressed him hard. Most students would have been crushed by the pressure I put on him, but he focused, studied and overcame his musical handicaps."

*[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! *Tell us more by [clicking here](#)*



## Japanese exchange teacher reflects on one month with Pinellas County Schools

Megumi Manabe enjoyed presenting about Japanese music, food, and culture to PCS students of all ages while visiting from Nagano City, Japan this month. But her favorite memory of the trip was perusing the aisles of an American grocery store.

"I spent two hours in Publix," Manabe said of the highlight of her trip.

Manabe also spent a day at Busch Gardens, took in a sunset at Indian Rocks beach and was welcomed by the Pinellas County School Board at its meeting Oct. 24, as well as the Clearwater City Council, Oct. 26. She lived with three different host families and presented at six different schools during her stay.

"I think I was really lucky because while working as a teacher in Japan, you don't have this kind of opportunity to leave school for one month," said Manabe, who has always enjoyed traveling and spent two years teaching in Honduras from 2015 to 2017. "It means many students here had the opportunity to learn about Japan."

*Watch the video and read the full article*

## Dunedin High performs Junie B. Jones for 1,000 PCS students

Ozona Elementary School fifth grader Margaret Reed recently landed the role of Dorothy in her school's version of The Magical Land of Oz. So, when she stepped foot on the Dunedin High campus last month to see Junie B. Jones, she was watching the actors closely.

"I'm really happy that I get to see more plays to learn from," said Margaret, who attended the second annual dress rehearsal show, where the Dunedin theater program performs for several nearby elementary and middle schools. "I really want to learn to improve my acting and choreography skills."

Also in attendance were students from Garrison-Jones Elementary, Curtis Fundamental Elementary, Leila Davis Elementary, Ozona Elementary, Our Lady of Lourdes, Academie Da Vinci, and Dunedin Highland Middle School.

*Watch the video and read the full article*

### The Pre-K/VPK application period is underway! Apply through 5 p.m. on Dec. 13

Pinellas County Schools offers several early childhood education opportunities to prepare students for kindergarten and beyond. All programs offer developmentally appropriate activities that build on children's emerging talents and strengths. To register, visit [focus.pcsb.org](https://focus.pcsb.org). To learn more, visit [pcsb.org/early](https://pcsb.org/early).

**SUCCESS STARTS HERE**  
FREE & AFFORDABLE  
PREKINDERGARTEN  
PROGRAMS

APPLY NOW



## The Superintendent Says...

"As we approach the last couple of weeks of 2023, I want to express my gratitude for an



amazing first half of the school year. I wish you and your families a restful and restorative holiday break and I look forward to all we can accomplish together in 2024."

*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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