



Belcher Bobcat News

Belcher Elementary School
A Tradition of Excellence Since 1959

Lisa K. Roth, Principal
 Fran Harvey, Assistant Principal

October, 2011

4	Spirit Night at Chili's Tri-City Plaza/5p-9p
5	International Walk to School Day Start at Temple B'Nai Israel / 7:45am
11	SAC Meeting Media Center/5:30pm
11	PTA Board Meeting Media Center/6:30pm
12	Student Picture Re-take Day
14	Professional Education Day No School for students
20	Spirit Night at CiCi's Pizza Tri-City Plaza/5p-9p
24 -28	Red Ribbon Week National Drug Prevention Awareness Campaign
27	PTA Annual Spooky Story Night/6:30p
31	Hunter Blood Mobile Here for Blood Drive

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY OCTOBER 5, 2011

Students and parents are encouraged to join our PIA, teachers and staff in celebrating safe routes to school and a healthy lifestyle by participating in the annual **International Walk to School Day**. We will begin by meeting in the back parking lot of the Temple B'Nai Israel at 7:45am on October 5, 2011 for a pep rally and warm up stretches. We will walk to school at 8:00am. It is always a fun morning for everyone!

News from PCS Health Services Department

Pinellas County school nurses identify and assist students with health-care needs during the school day. A clinic card is sent home with each student at the beginning of every school year. Please complete this card promptly and update the information as often as needed.

During this school year, students will be screened for vision, hearing, and BMI as mandated by state statute. If you do not want your student to be screened or to receive health services while in school, please submit this request in writing to your school and School Health Services.

For questions regarding nursing services or screenings, please call 727-588-6320.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN

The Progress Energy Great American Teach-in is part of Pinellas County School's American Education Week celebration. Sponsored by Progress Energy since 1994, it's a special opportunity for you to visit Belcher Elementary School and share what you know with a new generation. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday November 17, 2011. Opportunities are available from 8:45 to 2:30. You may choose to stay for an hour or the whole day! The amount of time you volunteer is determined strictly by what your schedule permits. Whatever the length of your visit, you can make a difference. To register please leave your contact information for our school counselor Christal Reaves at (727) 538-7437.

BELCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS A FIVE STAR SCHOOL AGAIN

Belcher Elementary has again received the State of Florida designation as a Five Star School. In order to attain this designation, schools must meet certain criteria in five areas. The five areas are business partnerships, family involvement, volunteerism, student community projects and the school advisory committee. Thank you everyone for helping to make this possible. Special thanks also must go to Tina Ward who spent countless hours organizing the portfolio for the application.

HELP BELCHER WITH A PAIR OF SCISSORS!

Belcher Elementary collects Campbell's Soup Labels and Box Tops for Education. These items turn into money or supplies for our school. Use those scissors, cut out those labels and send them in!

Belcher also collects used printer ink cartridges.

VIRTUAL ACCELERATION

Virtual School Education is expanding across the state of Florida as a result of the Digital Learning Act. This legislation allows 4th and 5th grade students who demonstrate exceptional academic talent to take online accelerated middle school courses through a virtual instruction program.

If your child scored at level 4 or 5 on the FCAT in reading or math, they have the opportunity to enroll in the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) to take accelerated middle school courses.

If you are interested in finding out more about this program, please contact Lisa Roth, Principal by October 21, 2011.

Please remember that there is **NO** adult supervision of students before **8:05am**. Students should **NOT** be on campus before this time unless they are in the YMCA program. Students **ARE** encouraged to arrive early. Teachers open classrooms at 8:20am and students can use the computers, read books and prepare for the day.

BELCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLWIDE PARTNERS

Publix, Gulf to Bay
Seminole Lanes Bowling

These organizations and businesses have made contributions of time, money or materials to the school.

BOBCAT PARTNERSHIPS

The following families and businesses have partnered with classrooms or departments at Belcher by donating \$100.00 or more:

Bison Storage, Drew Street
Clear Choice Electrical, Inc.
Ben & Maria Ratliff
The Fana Medical Group, P.A.
Jensen Roth
Buffington Property Mgmt
Fran Young
Harry Remus
Douglas & Staci Williams
Mowen Owen Landscaping & Tree Svc, Inc
Krista Kosier
Loann K. Jensen
Georgette Dabroski
LifeCare Pharmacy
Vy Wappel

The following families have become Junior Partners by donating any amount up to \$100.00:

Fatima Music

In these tough economic times, we understand how difficult it is to contribute to anything. These contributions; however, support all the extras that enrich your children's academic experience. Please consider making a donation to your child's classroom or one of our departments here at Belcher.

HOMEWORK HELPLINE

A free service for students to receive homework help. Certified teachers are on the phone ready to help. The line is available Monday through Thursday from 5:00 to 8:00pm.

Call: (727)547-7223 Or (727)442-3226

5517.01 Policy against Bullying/Harassment (Grades K-12 and Adults)

In response to the state law, *the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for all Students Act*, the School Board adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment. The policy ensures that all students, employees, and volunteers learn and work in an environment that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Florida is now one of 47 states with a law regarding bullying in schools.

The Policy defines Bullying as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees and may involve but is not limited to: teasing, social exclusion, threat, intimidation, stalking, including cyberstalking, physical violence, theft, sexual, religious, or racial harassment, public humiliation, and destruction of property.

The policy defines harassment as any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or employee that: Places a student or employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

We are committed to providing a safe learning environment and will not tolerate Bullying/Harassment or Teen Dating Violence and Abuse of any kind. Incidents can be reported to the principal or any staff member or reported online at one of the below links:

<http://bullying.pcsb.org>

<http://harassment.pcsb.org>

<http://teendatingviolence.pcsb.org>

Anonymous reports can also be made using the District Electronic Reporting Form, or by calling the Campus Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-873-8477, or by texting keyword TIP144 plus your message to CRIMES (274637).

For more information about either the Policy against Bullying and Harassment or the Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Policy, please visit the Prevention Office by going to www.pcsb.org, then go to Parents and Students, then to Programs and Resources.

To learn more about Bullying/Harassment and find out what adults can do to help prevent it, visit the Stop Bullying website at www.stopbullying.gov.

BELCHER PRACTICES POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT AND YOU CAN HELP!

We are a Positive Behavior Support School which means that we try to teach the expected behaviors we want to see in our students; we don't assume that all children come to school with the same knowledge and understanding of rules. We also hold our students to the same expectations regardless of their age, grade or who they are with. We have rules for every area, like the hallways, bathrooms and playground. The rules range from "Walk at all times" in the hallways to "Conserve supplies" in the rest room (Don't waste water or paper towels!) We talk about our mission "Believe-Act-Achieve" and our school wide expectations which are A—Always Respectful, Always Honest, B- Be Responsible and C- Come Motivated to Learn daily. We also try to teach the children to "Do the right thing because it is the right thing to do." We believe that our expectations for students will help prepare them for a successful life beyond elementary school.

You can support these expectations at home by talking with your children. Talk about what it means to be responsible at home for instance. Point out when they are doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do and praise them for it at every opportunity. You can also support us by talking about the character word of the month. The word for the month of October is **Cooperation**. Cooperation is defined as getting along with others and working together to accomplish a goal.

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Pinellas County Schools
www.pinellas.k12.fl.us

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability in any of its programs, services or activities.



Our Mission:
Believe - Act - Achieve!

We're on the Web!
www.belcher-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us

TIPS TO HELP THE CAR CIRCLE RUN QUICKLY:

- Use your turn signal when turning into the parking lot—then other cars can keep moving out of the lot without having to wait to see what you plan to do.
- Please stay in the car line until you can legally turn into the field to park. Do not try to go around cars by traveling in the wrong lane against oncoming traffic.
- Turn your steering wheel as far to the left as you can as you pull out of the pick up line so that your car does not partially block the lane for new cars. You may also pull completely forward towards the cones and a staff member will assist you with merging into traffic.
- Allow other cars to merge into the passing lane from the pick-up lane.
- When lining up at the traffic light on Lancaster, please pull as close to the car in front of you as you safely feel comfortable doing so more cars can pull out of the parking lot at a time.

Working together, we can get everyone into and out of the school in a safe and timely fashion.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

Name (optional) _____

Please check all that apply.

- I enjoyed reading the newsletter and would like to see one monthly.
- I enjoyed reading the newsletter, but one every other month or so is enough.
- I enjoyed reading the newsletter, but an online version would have been preferred/enough.
- I do not need a school newsletter; the connect ed phone calls, school flyers and teacher communication are enough.

Each child that returns a completed survey to the office will receive a special prize.