

Peace River Elementary

A Place Where All Teachers and Paraprofessionals Are Highly Qualified!

$$P+R+E=S^2$$

Pride+Respect+Excellence=Student Success

School Day: 8:55-2:55

Panther Press Special Edition

May / Summer 2010

Administration

Dear Parents,

It has been a pleasure working with you and your children this year at Peace River Elementary School. As I close out my second year as an assistant principal in the Charlotte County School System, I have grown tremendously. I have the fortunate privilege of writing to you as we close out this school year. There have been a number of memorable moments that I will always appreciate. I will never forget getting hit with whip cream pies to help raise money for charity. Attending all the family curriculum nights and seeing all the cool ways children can learn. Participating in the award ceremonies and seeing all the accomplishments our students have earned through their hard work and determination. Watching students bond with one another and building lifelong friendships. I've watched students become problem solvers and active members within the school community. These things are just the tip of the iceberg when trying to describe this school year. Each school year holds a special place in every educator's heart and this year is no different. Peace River Students Rock! See you in August!

Sincerely,
Mark Graves
Assistant Principal

Parent Resources

Be Prepared To Help Your Child Succeed

Our goal is for students to learn and achieve. We invite you to give your input on our instructional program. If you have suggestions that will help our faculty improve instruction or services, please feel free to complete an 'Input Form' which is available in our school's main office.



NOTIFICATION

*PEACE RIVER'S SCHOOL PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (SPAR) IS AVAILABLE TO YOU UPON YOUR REQUEST

*PEACE RIVER'S STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN (SSP) IS AVAILABLE IN THE FRONT OFFICE FOR YOUR VIEWING

*PEACE RIVER'S PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN IS AVAILABLE IN THE FRONT OFFICE UPON REQUEST

*SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS (REGISTRATION PACKETS) ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FRONT OFFICE

*THERE ARE TWO PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTERS (PIRC) IN FLORIDA (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA AND (FND) IN CLEARWATER). INFORMATION ON THESE TWO CENTERS CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE DISTRICT COUNTY WEBSITE UNDER PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Internet Websites

AGES 3 - 6

Links to fun sites for pre-readers ages 3-6.

Berenstain Bears

<http://www.berenstainbears.com/learnfun.html>

Fun activities that including interactive storybooks, coloring pages, mazes and puzzles.

Funschool

<http://funschool.kaboose.com>

Fun and educational games and activities for kids.

Play and Learn

<http://www.literacycenter.net/index.htm>

Play and learn early literacy skills such as letters, numbers, shapes.

Practice writing letters and finding letters on the keyboard. Curriculum available in English, French, German and Spanish.

PBS Kids

<http://pbskids.org/>

Enjoy games, stories, music and coloring based on all your favorite

PBS shows including Arthur, Berenstain Bears, Caillou, Teletubbies and more.

Sesame Street

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/sesamestreet/>

Its always fun to visit Sesame Street – play games, listen to stories, hear your favorite songs and go to Elmo's World

Seussville

<http://www.seussville.com/>

Visit the Playground for games, story maker, and print-and-play activities

Starfall

www.starfall.com

Gr. PreK-2. Great site for beginning readers – learn your ABC's and letter sounds.

Thomas the Tank Engine

<http://www.hitentertainment.com/thomasandfriends/official-thomas-the-tank-engine-website.htm>

Visit Thomas the Tank, play games and meet all of his friends

Tiger Aki

<http://www.asiabigtime.com/games/>

Animated storybooks, songs, puzzles, stickers and learning activities

First Grade

First grade was a busy year. Your child learned many new *skills*. As with any skill if it is not practiced, it will be lost. For this reason we cannot overstate the need for summer practice. Please consider setting aside time each day for practice in each area – math, reading, and writing.

Each year we are asked for summer ideas. Some are very simple. Others take more time.

- **READ!!!!** Be sure to have your child read every day for at least 15 minutes. (Remember Mrs. Casey will be having the Book Checkout during the summer reading academy in June and is open to all students. The children still receive a free book and pencil!)
- Practice the math facts (addition and subtraction to 18) for at least 5 minutes a day. (Flashcards are sold at the Dollar Store. A deck can be made on index cards.
- The LTM Party Store now has a teacher store in it. They carry a summer activity book for “bridging” the grade levels and keeping skills sharp (about \$20). (It also offers a variety of learning games and books for all skill levels.)
- The local library usually has a free summer reading program for students.
- The local library has a children's area with many age appropriate books and activities (most are free). Including internet access with content filtering for *children*.
- The teachers' pages of the school website has many learning sites and suggestions in one place.
- Keep a summer journal. Buy an inexpensive notebook and write together daily after dinner. It will be a great keepsake once finished!
- **READ!!!!** Be sure to have your child read every day for at least 15 minutes.
- Books A Million often has a summer reading program for students.
- “Kids on Stage” is a summer performing arts program through Charlotte Players. This does have a fee. The contact information is 941-255-1022 or charlotteplayers@comcast.net. (Or, let me know and I can send a form home.)
- Michael's Craft Store does a Saturday morning craft for a very reasonable fee (usually \$1-\$3). Check the store for details.

Home Depot hosts a free (or low cost) child workshop the first weekend of every month.

Internet Websites

AGES 7 & UP

Links to fun sites for kids ages 7 and up.

Discovery Kids

<http://kids.discovery.com/>

Funbrain

<http://www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html>

Play math baseball and many other educational games, elect by grade level (K-12)

Funology

<http://www.funology.com/>

Giggle Poetry

www.gigglepoetry.com

Gr. 1-5. Humorous poetry, poetry theater, haiku, limericks, and more will help instill a love of poetry.

A Girls World

<http://www.agirlsworld.com/>

Guinness World Records

<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/>

Find world records and search for ones you might want to break

Kids News Room

www.kidsnewsroom.com/index.html.Kidsnewsroom.org

Gr. 1-4. News for kids. World and national topics are explained and include sports, music, and entertainment. Includes a comic strip.

Lemony Snicket

<http://www.lemonysnicket.com/index.cfm>

NASA Kids' Page

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/home/index.html>

Gr. 2-6. Games, activities and fun for kids created by NASA.

National Geographic for Kids

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngkids/>

An online magazine that makes it fun to learn about the world

Sports Science

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/sports/index.html>

Strange Matter

<http://www.strangematterexhibit.com/>

Time Magazine for Kids

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/>

The United States Mint

<http://www.usmint.gov/kids>

Gr. K-6. Learn about U.S. coins and how they are made. Fun games, cartoons, history and a coin collecting workshop

Word Central

<http://www.wordcentral.com>

Gr. 2-6. Search the dictionary and have fun playing with words.

Yuckiest Site on the Internet

<http://yucky.kids.discovery.com/>

Third Grade

Can you believe the school year is about to come to an end? Just because summer is arriving, it doesn't mean the learning has to end! Make your travels and summer activities a learning experience by asking your child what he/she has learned! Please continue reading with your child each night. Also, continue practicing math skills such as multiplication, division, and telling time. Keeping these skills fresh in their minds will better prepare them for next year. We would like to thank you for all that you do at home to help your child succeed in school! Thank you and have a great summer!

The Third Grade Teachers,

Looking for something to do with your child this summer?

Great News! The Family Center Book Checkout will be open during the month of June. The hours will be from 7 to 9:30am on Tuesdays and from 11:30 to 2 on Thursdays. Mrs. Casey will be there to help you pick out books for the family to read together or for children to read alone. Studies have shown that children who continue to read regularly over the summer come back to school better prepared to advance than those who do not. The Family Center has books grouped by level, grade and interest for children as well as materials for parents. And this year, for the first time, Mrs. Casey will hold a class for primary grade students' parents who want to learn how to help their children learn the strategies which will help them become successful readers. The group will have fun learning reading strategies that they can then use with their student readers which will give the children a head start when they come back to school. The group will meet on Tuesdays from 9 to 9:30. If you can't make it then, come in any time the Family Center is open and Mrs. Casey will be happy to share the strategies with you. So come on out to the Family Center and enjoy some great summer reading. Mrs. Casey will be looking forward to seeing you!

Fourth Grade

Wow, what an unbelievable year! Your children have made it through another school year filled with writing, reading, science, social studies, and math. It's still hard to believe that it's actually summer vacation. Although your children have worked hard all year, and deserve a restful and fun summer vacation, we would like to suggest a few small things that you can be doing with your student in order to best prepare them for fifth grade.

Fifth grade is a year filled with math and science. Please make sure that your child knows his or her simple multiplication and division facts well, and can recite them from memory. Anything you do over the break in regards to math and science will be most beneficial for your entering fifth grader! As always, don't forget to read with your child each night at least 20 minutes. Reading is a lifelong passion and hobby that we have tried to instill in all of your children. Please keep reading in order to foster the strong connections between school and home this summer.

Thank you again for everything this year. Your support as parents has made it that much easier to complete our jobs each day as teachers, to your most precious children. Have a relaxing and safe summer vacation, and we'll see you in August! 😊

4th Grade Team

Fifth Grade

Welcome to the end of your child's elementary school career! We will have many events in the last month of school and will be making the final preparations for sending our 5th graders off to middle school. This is an extremely exciting time of the year, but we must also remember that learning is essential, even over the summer.

Just because summer break has arrived it doesn't mean learning ends. Summertime is a great time to support knowledge and to build new skills. Here are some easy ways to keep your education going throughout the summer:

- Visit a museum- all museums don't have to be stuffy & boring. Visit a fun hands-on museum like MOSI, in Tampa, or the Imaginarium, in Ft. Myers, and explore what the world has to offer!
- Cook something- Following the directions of a recipe offers many opportunities for your child to measure, follow a sequence of directions, and practice basic reading skills...& it can be very tasty too!
- Use the News- Read the newspaper with your child. Another great idea is to cut out a picture from the paper and have your child write a story about the picture...then compare what story the picture "told" to the actual news story.
- Travel & Learn- If you are on a road trip this summer, use the signs around you to encourage learning. Have your child write the alphabet down a piece of paper, one letter per line. Then, look for words (in order) that begin with each letter of the alphabet on signs, billboards buildings etc... and write them on the paper. You will be amazed at some of the words you will find and how hard it can be to find a Q or Z!
- Visit the library- Many of us forget that we have the ultimate resource...the public library! Go to the library & "checkout" some of the great books. One great way to read a book is through audio books. As you & your child listen to the book you can close your eyes & imagine what the scenes of the book would look like or you can checkout a hard copy of the book and follow along with the story. Either way it will be an amazing experience! It's also perfect for a long road trip!
- Shop & Learn- To support more Math & Reading skills have your child help to write a grocery list. Then you can estimate the cost of each item and have an approximation of the cost of the groceries. Once you have checked out, compare your estimation to the actual cost...How close were you???
- Postcard Journals- If you travel anywhere pick up a postcard and have your child write about what you experienced. It's a great way to have a picture (on the front of the postcard) to go along with the quick journal entry to help you remember all of the fun things you've done! If you use a hole-punch and some string you can turn your simple postcards into a wonderful scrapbook. This can be an on-going practice and you can have an entire collection of travel memories for years to come!

No matter how busy you are there are always fun, quick & simple ideas that cost little to no money to help your child continue learning throughout the summer break. If you do this your child will be better prepared for learning at the beginning of the next school year. Have a safe, fun & educational summer...Enjoy Middle School!

Media Center

As the year comes to a close, we would like to thank all students who so diligently took care of and returned their library books and/or paid for lost or damaged items. With budgets so tight, it is critical that we take excellent care of our collection and reimburse the Media Center for replacement books when loss or damage occurs. If any missing books are found this summer, please drop them off at the school during summer hours or bring them back when you return in August. Fines can be paid to the office over the summer or to the Media Center once school is back in session.

If you are wanting to get a jumpstart on reading books from the Sunshine State Young Reader's List (Grades 3 – 5) or the Children's Book List (Grades K -2), you can find links to those lists on the PRES Media Center website or type those key words into your search engine and find them that way.

If you want to take a break from school-based lists, simply read what you enjoy. Or, why not be adventurous and read a book from a genre other than your favorite? You never know, you might just like it!

Regardless of what you read, be sure that you do READ.

Reading—original, unplugged, relaxing entertainment!

Music

It has been an incredible school year! From the Veterans Day Parade – to our Spring Concert happening on May 14th, our Chorus kids have done a fantastic job both with singing, memorizing music, and representing themselves and our school with class and pride.

The Band and the Chorus have a special surprise for you during our concert on May 14th. There will be two concerts given for the student body that day – one at 9:15 am and another at 10:15 am. The evening concert will begin that same day at 6:30 pm in the school cafeteria. It is a FREE concert and all are invited to attend.

Our Honor Chorus for the 2009-10 school year did a fantastic job at the Center on April 30. The clinician was Jeff Jordan.

Look for Chorus to be only one day after school. All 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be singing together for the first half of the school year.

Look for Honor Chorus members to be chosen by audition for the 2010-11 school year. These auditions will happen in January of 2011. I am allowed a maximum of 20 students in the 5th grade to be in Honor Chorus. I may have as many as there are students in the Panther Chorus.

The Chorus will have need of some parent volunteers in the next school year. If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact me when we resume school in August 2010.

Many thanks to the parents and helpers that have made this chorus year so very successful

All permission slips and information sheets will be forthcoming at the beginning of the school year (August 9th, 2010).

May you all have a restful and fun none week break from studying and testing.

See you in August

Angela Navarro
Music Teacher

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOOK CHECKOUT

PLACE: BOOK CHECKOUT ROOM
TIME: TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS (8:00 AM – 3:30 PM)

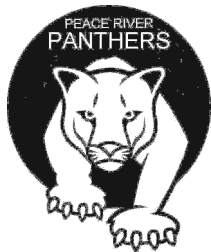
MAY 10 CHICK –FIL-A NIGHT
MAY 11 ALL STUDENT LIBRARY BOOKS DUE BACK
MAY 13 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP
MAY 14 BAND / CHORUS SPRING MUSIC PERFORMANCE (6:30 PM)
MAY 18 SAC (STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL) MEETING (7:30 AM)
MAY 18 K-2 AWARDS
MAY 18 PTO (PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION) MEETING (6:00 PM)
MAY 19 3-5 AWARDS
MAY 20 KINDERGARTEN WATER FUN DAY
MAY 20 GET MOVING FAMILY NIGHT (6:00 PM – 7:00 PM)
MAY 24 5TH GRADE PROMOTION (6:00 PM)
MAY 25 5TH GRADE FIELD DAY
MAY 25 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
MAY 26 LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS

****DON'T FORGET TO STOP BY SCHOOL AND PICK UP REPORT CARDS****

JUNE 1 START SUMMER SCHOOL (2ND AND 3RD GRADE STUDENTS)
JULY 2 SUMMER SCHOOL ENDS
AUGUST 9 START OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR



Peace River Elementary Summer Reading List



Stay cool and read plenty of good books this summer. Check out these great stories at your local Public Library.

Original URL: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/summer/reading/6084.html>

Summer Reading List -- Pre-K through Primary

Agapanthus Hum and Major Bark

by Jennifer Plecas
ISBN: 0399233229

Book Description: When she loses a tooth, Agapanthus discovers that she can make an angel hoot by blowing through the hole in her smile.

Aloha, Dolores

by Barbara Samuels
ISBN: 0789425084

Book Description: When Dolores enters her cat, Duncan, in a Meow Munchies Cat Food contest, she's certain Duncan is so good-looking, smart, and talented that he'll win first prize. When a cat named Fifi wins instead, Dolores must rise to the occasion...and with a little help from Faye, she discovers that winning isn't everything.

Bonaparte

by Marsha Wilson Chall
ISBN: 078942617X

Book Description: When a young French boy goes away to school, he and his dog are sad to be separated until they find a way to change the school's rules about dogs.

Cam Jansen and the Birthday Mystery

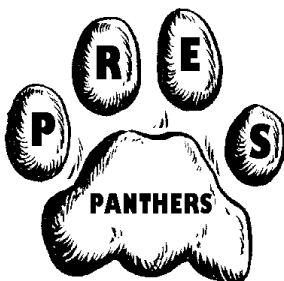
by David A. Adler
ISBN: 067088877X

Book Description: When Cam's grandparents are robbed on their way to her parents' surprise birthday party, Cam uses her photographic memory to solve the mystery.

Cold Feet

by Cynthia C. DeFelice
ISBN: 0789426366

Book Description: Willie McPhee has fallen on hard times and discovers spooky happenings when he takes much-needed boots off a dead man. Soon Willie's feet are warm...but who is that tapping on the door?



Corduroy at the Zoo

by Don Freeman
ISBN: 0670892882

Book Description: Corduroy and his friends are taking a trip to the zoo. Find the mischievous monkeys playing hide-and-seek in the Jungle Walk, or spot the wombats in the Australia exhibit.

Everything to Spend the Night: From A to Z

by Ann Whitford Paul
ISBN: 0789425114

Book Description: Rollicking rhymes and illustrations packed with funny details reflect this exuberant narrator's delight as she pulls one thing after another out of her overnight bag and invites her grandpa to join in the fun.

Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep: A Yarn About Wool

by Teri Sloat
ISBN: 0789426374

Book Description: Farmer Brown was shearing sheep, piling up snowy heaps of wool that filled his shed knee-deep. But when the temperature drops, his shivering sheep see all their wool in sacks – and "BAAA!" they cry. "WE WANT IT BACK!"

Hamster Chase

by Anastasia Suen
ISBN: 0670889423

Book Description: The class hamster gets loose and it's up to Peter, Amy, and Archie to find him and lure him back into his cage.

***How many? How much?* (Get Set for Kindergarten series)**

by Rosemary Wells
ISBN: 0140568069

Book Description: Timothy and his kindergarten classmates learn about counting, measuring, money, and other math concepts. Includes activities on directionality, spatial relations, and the days of the week.

How to Catch an Elephant

by Amy Schwartz
ISBN: 0789425793

Book Description: Enjoy this zany tale about a journey into the wilds where elephants live and about the fun of catching one – a process that is utterly logical and utterly nuts.

It's Justin Time, Amber Brown

by Paula Danziger
ISBN: 0399234705

Book Description: Amber wants a watch for her seventh birthday more than anything so she can feel more grown-up and she will always know exactly how late Justin Daniels, her best friend, is.

***Letters and Sounds* (Get Set for Kindergarten series)**

by Rosemary Wells
ISBN: 0140568050

Book Description: Timothy and his kindergarten classmates learn about the alphabet, sounds, and rhyming. Includes activities on letter recognition, single and multiple syllable words, and words that start with consonants and vowels.

The Lion and the Mouse and Other Aesop Fables

by Doris Orgel
ISBN: 078942665X

Book Description: Aesop's fables are as wise and true today as they were more than 2,600 years ago. Children today are sure to enjoy these 12 timeless stories, each of which is accompanied by an interesting fact about Aesop and his time.

Minnie And Moo and the Musk of Zorro

by Denys Cazet
ISBN: 0789426528



Book Description: Moo longs for the days of heroes, the days of the derring-do of good-deed doers. As Juanita del Zorro del Moo and Dolores del Zorro del Minnie, our heroes roam the farm armed with an aerosol can of Zorro musk and a barbecue skewer, attempting to rescue the downtrodden.

Minnie and Moo Go to Paris

by Denys Cazet
ISBN: 0789425955

Book Description: Getting there is half the fun with this pair, and along the way (past an oil derrick they think is the Eiffel Tower), Minnie and Moo pick up a busload of equally adventurous animal friends from nearby Africa World, careen through a car wash they believe is China, and find themselves trading stories under a night sky in what they hope is America.

Old Thunder and Miss Raney

by Sharon Darrow
ISBN: 0789426196

Book Description: Miss Raney is determined to win a ribbon for her biscuits at the county fair until a tornado changes her plans.

The Other Side

by Jacqueline Woodson
ISBN: 0399231161

Book Description: Woodson's pre-civil rights picture book tells a story of a friendship across race.

Ring! Yo?

by Chris Raschka
ISBN: 0789426145

Book Description: *Ring! Yo?* gives young readers only one side of the conversation - and asks them to use their imaginations to fill in the other half.

Three Cheers for Catherine the Great!

by Cari Best
ISBN: 0789426226

Book Description: A little English, a little Russian, and a lot of heart make a birthday celebration you won't want to miss. This lively borscht-and-blintzes birthday celebration shows that sometimes no presents can be the best presents of all.

Willie's Birthday

by Anastasia Suen
ISBN: 0670889431

Book Description: A "Bring Your Pet" birthday party gets out of hand when the pets show more interest in chasing each other than in celebrating.

Yoshi's Feast

by Kimiko Kajikawa
ISBN: 0789426072

Book Description: Long ago there lived a fan maker named Yoshi who loved to eat broiled eels - but the cook wants to charge him for the ones he smells as well as for the ones he eats! How Yoshi repays the cook makes for a witty, satisfying tale about the pleasures of give and take.

Young Classics: Alice in Wonderland

by Julie Fior
ISBN: 0789459027.

