

The Country Isles Chronicle



★ Over 25 Years of Educating Responsible Citizens

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Volume 16 Number 1

From Mrs. Morgan's Desk

Welcome back! During the 2015-2016 school year, all CIE students and staff will be working towards meeting our goals. Our school theme is "From Crayons to College." This year, we will focus on why it is important to set goals for our future expectations. We are on the path for higher education and how we perform today will make a difference in our future. Students will learn about various colleges and careers and what is needed, if that is the path they choose to follow. Knowledge is powerful and the staff at CIE is prepared to arm your children with the knowledge they need for success.

Our partnership in your children's education is critical in meeting their goals. Together we will collaborate and ensure success. Communication is key. We need to work together and build a positive environment that encourages each child and builds their self esteem. I look forward to the challenge of all students meeting their goals and accomplishing success this school year.

Country Isles Kids Have P.R.I.D.E.

Last year our students exhibited what it means to have P.R.I.D.E.: **P**ositive attitudes, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**rive to do the right thing, and **E**ffort towards learning and will continue to do so this school year. We encourage you to talk to your children about what each of these means at school and in life.

Summer Reading Challenge

Country Isles Elementary is proud of our students and their efforts to maintain reading skills over the summer. Reading daily supports your child's goal of becoming a lifelong reader.

Along with their summer reading journals, our students have been logging their daily reading minutes on the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge. Currently, we are ranked #152 in the country. Scholastic recently launched "*Minute Mania Month*." This is a chance for students to log their reading minutes from the entire summer. The Reading Challenge will continue through Sept. 4, 2015. Students should be reading daily and signing in to log their minutes. Please visit our website for the link to sign in. Happy Reading!

Important Information

Code of Conduct

The 2015-2016 *Code of Student Conduct Handbook* has been posted on Broward Schools' website at <http://www.browardschools.com>. You may also access the *Code of Student Conduct Handbook* through the BEEP Portal or use your smartphones to scan the Quick Response Code (QRC) on any of the Code Book posters displayed throughout the school's campus. You will be asked to sign the *Code of Student Conduct Handbook Acknowledgement Form* at Open House.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Car riders should be dropped off and picked up at the front of the school for students in 2-5 and on the east side of school for students in K-1. **Please be advised that the late bell rings at 8:00 am.** Older siblings of Kindergarten and first grade students will meet on the east side car loop for dismissal. Students will wait on the sidewalk until your car has moved as far forward as possible. Please refrain from using cell phones in the school zones. **Please arrive before 7:55 a.m. and promptly at 2:00 pm.**

Bus riders arrive to school before the first bell at 7:55 AM. If a bus is late, students will still be allowed to have breakfast in the cafeteria and will not be marked tardy. Buses load for dismissal at 1:55 PM.

Walkers and bicycle riders should not arrive to the crossing points more than one half hour before the start of school, as the crossing guards will not be present. Bicycles should be walked on campus and parked and locked in the bike rack on the east side of campus.

Phone Numbers

Front Office-(754) 323-5250 Fax-(754) 323-5290
Attendance-(754) 323-5252



Uniforms

CIE students should be in uniform every day, unless a waiver is submitted to the front office within the first 10 days of school. The uniform policy is as follows:

Tops: red, white, navy, light blue, or gray collared polo shirts OR white, gray, or blue T-shirts (available through the PTA office)

Bottoms: navy, khaki, or black (NO DENIM)

Boys-pants or shorts

Girls-pants, shorts, skorts, capris, or jumpers

School spirit days are on Fridays. Please wear your tie-dyed spirit shirt (available through the PTA office) to show your CIE pride! Denim is allowed on Fridays only.

Breakfast/Lunch

Breakfast and lunch are offered daily.

Breakfast will be free for all students this school year and lunch is \$2.00. A cafeteria menu is posted on our website. Students will have two entrees or a salad to choose from every day for lunch.



If your child is having breakfast at school, please make he/she arrives to school before 7:45 a.m., as there is often times a line. We want students to be able to eat their breakfast in the cafeteria and not in their classroom since it can disrupt the class and the student's morning routine,

Please refrain from sending fast food, junk foods, candy, carbonated drinks, aluminum cans, and glass containers with your child for lunch.

Lunch can be prepaid by the week or month. We suggest you use our online service to prepay for your student's meals. You may pay online at www.myschoolbucks.com, or if you prefer to send in money it MUST be in an envelope labeled with the amount, student's name, teacher's name, and grade. Prepaid envelopes should be taken to the cafeteria in the morning. Please make checks payable to: "Country Isles Elementary School."

Forgotten lunch boxes/lunch money that is dropped off in the office will be placed on the side counter. Please be advised there will be no interruptions to the classroom. On the way to the cafeteria, students can check the office counter for their lunch boxes/lunch money.

Parents may visit their child during lunch once per week. Parents will sit with their child at the designated Visitor Tables, apart from the class. Visiting parents must sign in and out through the front office.

Class Size Reduction

As you may be aware, legislation has passed by the state of Florida to reduce class size. Due to the State Class Size Reduction law, students may need to be moved between teachers **after the start of school** to ensure compliance with the required student limits. The mandated limits are 18 students for Pre-Kindergarten through grade 3 and 22 students for grades 4 through 5.

Please know that students' needs will continue to be met through proper instruction and services. Additional information on Class Size Reduction is available on the School Board website at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/classsize/>.

We will make every effort to maintain stability as best as possible. You will be notified before any changes are made.

Birthday Celebrations

We recognize the students' birthdays on our morning T.V. announcements, in the lunch line, and in class. Please do not send cakes or treats for your child's birthday. If you would like special recognition for your child, please see Mrs. Loy, our Media Specialist, and purchase a book for our Media Center in your child's name.

Please see reverse side for more information

Attendance

Every absence must be followed by a note from home or a call from a parent within two days. Our attendance phone number is 754-323-5252. No absence is an excused absence without communication. You will receive an automated call regarding unexcused absences.

Any child arriving after 8:00 a.m. must be accompanied into the office by a parent. For attendance purposes, you must sign your child in.

There will be no early dismissals after 1:30 p.m., per District policy. When possible, please send a note with your child the day of the early dismissal.

Students will be released to the parents on the registration form and to any emergency contacts listed on the registration/ Emergency Contact Card with written permission. All students must be signed out through the school office with proper identification. Please limit dismissal changes to a minimum for safety reasons.



PTA Corner

The CIE PTA would like to welcome everyone back to school! And, if you are new to CIE, we are excited that you have become part of the CIE family. We look forward to working together to give our children an amazing year!

Please join us for our first PTA meeting on Wednesday, September 2, at 8:30 a.m., in the cafeteria. Refreshments will be served.

Note: PTA meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the cafeteria.

Volunteer Breakfast

Calling all volunteers! Please attend the Volunteer Breakfast on Friday, September 11, at 8:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. Come hear about the many volunteer opportunities available at CIE – there is something for everyone! Review the “Get Involved at Country Isles” handout included in your child’s first day packet for a quick overview.

Please Note: All NEW volunteers must register through Broward County at getinvolvedineducation.com. Click on “Online Volunteer Application” in the right-hand corner to begin. The screening process takes about 5 days; then show your driver’s license at the school’s front desk to receive your volunteer badge.



IF you were an active volunteer during 2014-2015, your volunteer application has been rolled over. Bring your ID and check at the front desk to receive your new volunteer badge.

PTA Membership Drive

Please send in the PTA membership envelope included in the first day packet. Cost per person is only \$8; we’d love to see 100% participation from our families and teachers this year! A portion of each membership covers national dues with the remainder benefitting our students at CIE.

T-Shirts and Agendas

School t-shirts and agendas will be available for sale in the front PTA office. For your convenience an online order form is also available under the PTA tab on the CIE website at countryisles.net. T-shirts (royal blue, gray or white) are \$10 each or 2 for \$18. The blue tie-dyed Friday spirit shirt is \$12. Agendas for grades 1-5 are \$5. CIE logo polo shirts are available at Planet T Uniforms, located at 2214 N. Flamingo Road (SW corner of Flamingo Road and Sheridan Street) in Pembroke Pines.

Fun-Filled Fall Fundraiser

We’re getting ready to kick off this year’s Miles & Smiles for Country Isles fundraiser, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 8. Be sure to check your child’s folder in the coming weeks for information about this fun and interactive event that has in the past raised funds for technology improvements and program enhancements at CIE.

Book Exchange

Want to refresh your library for FREE? Country Isles offers an easy way for your child to get new-to-them books. Bring in one or more of your already read K-5 books, and for every book brought in your child will receive one credit. Use a credit to get a new-to-them book. Students must have a signed permission slip from parents, which is in the first day packet. **Don’t miss the Book Exchange Open House on Wednesday, September 16, from 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.** For hours of operation and more information look under the PTA tab on the school’s website.

Green Team - Terracycle

Please continue to collect and send in your juice pouches (any brand), chip bags (all sizes) and granola/energy bar wrappers. Collection bins are located in the cafeteria. These non-recyclable items are sent to Terracycle to be upcycled into eco-friendly products and CIE earns cash for every piece shipped! Last year, we earned approximately \$1,000 for our school!



Box Tops & Labels for Education

We collect both Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education. Please continue to clip from participating products and send them in. Go to countryisles.net and click on the PTA tab for more information. Last year we earned over \$1,600 for CIE!

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, 8/26	Open House 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (K-2)
Monday, 8/31	Independence Day – Students walk to class unescorted
Wednesday, 9/2	First PTA Meeting (8:30 a.m.)
	Open House 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (3-5)
Monday, 9/7	NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)
Friday, 9/11	Volunteer Breakfast (8:15 a.m.)
Monday, 9/14	NO SCHOOL (Rosh Hashanah)
Wednesday, 9/16	Book Exchange Breakfast (7:30-8:00 a.m.)
Thursday, 9/17	EARLY RELEASE – NOON
Wednesday, 9/23	NO SCHOOL (Yom Kippur)
Friday, 9/25	Fall Pictures
	Movie Night (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)
Monday, 9/28	September SAC Meeting (2:15 p.m.)



Happy 2015-2016 New School Year!