The Country Isles Chronicle



A Over 25 Years of Educating Responsible Citizens

December 19, 2016

The staff at Country Isles Elementary would like to wish our wonderful families a happy holiday season! We are thankful for the opportunity to

teach each and every one of your

Around Country Isles Elementary



Broward Standards Assessment

Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students will be taking the Broward Standards Assessment (BSA) in January. This assessment will be helpful in determining each child's level of proficiency in English Language Arts, Math, and Science (for fifth graders only), as well as assisting our teachers in supporting our students for the upcoming Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in the spring. If you have a third, fourth, or fifth grade student, a letter will be sent home with more information when we return from Winter Break.

School Choice

children.

The application window for parents/guardians to submit their child's application for magnet programs, Nova schools and school reassignment for the 2017/2018 school year is now open until February 8, 2017.

To assist you in exploring the school choice options, information is available on the District's website, browardschools.com. Just click on the "School Choice, Explore Your Options" icon.

A Message from Our School Counselor:

As we prepare for the holidays, we have been focusing on our character trait of the month-kindness. Each student has an opportunity to shine as they share an act of kindness with others. Students' acts of kindness are shared on the morning announcements every Friday. Even the tiniest act of kindness can touch the life of someone else, which they may remember forever. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season filled with love and kindness.

Author-in-Residence

On Tuesday, January 31st, 2017, author, Dr. John Becker, will visit Country Isles. Dr. Becker will talk about the twenty-six books he has written for children, read from his books, share a video from his field research experiences, and sign copies of his books. He will discuss the writing process, and tell stories based on his adventures, such as how he came to write Mugambi's Journey after making his first trip to Africa, while working at the Columbus Zoo. Dr. Becker will also explain the role his book, Frenemies for Life, plays in the cause of cheetah conservation, as well as answer questions about his books.



PTA Corner

Thank you to all of our wonderful CIE parents for your continued support of Country Isles, the PTA and our students.

PTA Membership

It's never too late to join the PTA! If you have not yet done so, please consider becoming a PTA member. Cost is \$8 per person, and forms are available in the front office, or you may contact Holly Stracquadaine at raydaine@hotmail.com.

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In the Spotlight: Winterfest & Support Our Troops Winterfest

It will soon be time to "sing" in the holiday season with the staff and students of Country Isles. Wednesday, December 21, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm, will be a night of family fun: singing, dancing, dining and activities. Highlights of the evening will be vocal performances by each grade; the class performance schedule can be found on the flyer that will go home shortly, and will be available on the CIE website. Tickets will be required for

To transform the Country Isles campus and make sure that everyone has a great time, the Winterfest team needs LOTS OF HELP! We cannot do it without the support of our CIE Family. If you can donate a few hours to help organize, set up the campus, or volunteer an hour on the night of the event, please contact Paula Lara at 754-366-8355 or laragrp@yahoo.com.

Do you have a high school student in need of service hours? Please contact Paula Lara (see contact info above). Winterfest offers a fun opportunity for these students to earn their hours!

*The Winterfest Committee is in need of the following items. Please drop off items in the front PTA office marked "Winterfest." Be sure to put your name on all items that will be borrowed. If items are not marked, we will consider them a donation to the school. Thank you.

To borrow: Coolers, 8-foot Tables, Spotlights To donate: Red ribbon (fuzzy), Water, Coke/Pepsi, Diet Coke/Pepsi, Sprite, Sunkist

Support our Troops Campaign

We are pleased to once again be helping out local veterans this holiday season. A flyer will be going home with your child shortly with more details about how you can participate in this worthy cause.

Thank You for Another Successful Harvest Drive and **Veterans' Week at CIE!**

We want to send a big thank you to our wonderful students and parents for their support of Harvest Drive and Veterans' Week. Thanks to your generous donations of non-perishable items, our volunteers, along with help from our Student Council, gathered, sorted and boxed up all the Harvest Drive donations and delivered them to Western High School on Friday, November 18th.

We were privileged to have Veterans from our CIE Family join us and allow our students to honor and thank them for their service to our country. We enjoyed patriotic music, raised our flag and recited our Pledge of Allegiance. We thank everyone who participated in this very special event for our heroes. All donations will be given to a veteran family or organization in our area. We thank everyone who participated.

Book Exchange

The Book Exchange is open every Wednesday morning from 7:30-8:00 am in the Green Team Portable behind the 5th grade pod. This exchange is a great way for children to get new-to-them books. All students need to have a signed form in order to participate.



Volunteer Reminders

We love to have volunteers and could not function without them. Your involvement in your child's education is the foundation to his/her success. **Please Note:** <u>ALL</u> volunteers must register through Broward County at <u>www.browardschools.com</u>. The screening process takes about 5 days; then show your driver's license to one of the front office staff to receive your volunteer badge.

All volunteers need to check in and out at the computer in the front office. In addition, ALL volunteer hours should be accounted for in the Volunteer Logbooks located on the counter to the right of the computer. Please remember that your badge should <u>not</u> be used as a "hall pass" to interrupt any classroom instruction.

Interested in finding out more about volunteering? Contact Julie Petlicka at juliepetlicka@comcast.net.

Seeking Chairperson for Partners in Education and Co-Chair for Meet the Masters

PTA is looking for volunteers to co-chair Meet the Masters – a fantastic art program that is 100% volunteer driven that delivers art history and hands-on lessons to our students. In addition, Partners in Education needs a chairperson. This position builds relationships with local businesses and includes facilitating banner sales and CIE Family Nights.

Interested? For more information, please contact Julie Petlicka at <u>juliepetlicka@comcast.net</u>.

CIE Olympics

Mark Your Calendars – CIE's annual Olympics are coming! (Dates subject to change):

Wednesday, 1/25 – Kindergarten Thursday, 1/26 – 1st Grade Friday, 1/27 – 2nd Grade Wednesday, 2/1 – 3rd Grade Friday, 2/3 – 5th Grade Tuesday, 2/7 - 4th Grade



Shoparoo

Country Isles is participating in Shoparoo! It is an easy way to raise funds for our school and does not cost parents anything. The free app turns pictures of your everyday shopping receipts into cash donations and sweepstakes entries for our school! Yep, it's that simple. And it's FREE money!

Get started today:

- Step 1: Download this FREE app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store on your smartphone or smart device.
- Step 2: Once the app is downloaded, click sign-up and select Country Isles Elementary.
- Step 3: Take a picture of your receipts from any store within 14 days of purchase.
- Step 4: Thank you! You have made a donation to Country Isles Elementary by submitting a picture of your receipt!

We are happy to report that Shoparoo has confirmed that a check for \$524.91 is in the mail. This is what we have earned so far! There's no limit to how much money CIE parents can raise with Shoparoo, so please consider joining and helping our school. For more information, visit shoparoo.com. Thank you for your support!

Box Tops for Education

Please continue to clip Box Tops 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 \$1,235 for CIE!

Broward County Public Schools App

The latest mobile app provides secure, personalized access to student-specific information – anytime, anywhere. Through your smart device, you can check your child's latest details on nutrition and wellness, transportation and academics, and receive information the way you want it – text, email or by phone.

The new mobile app features were designed especially for you:

- The Nutrition and Wellness feature displays meal menus and account balances so you can make sure your child receives a healthy diet every school day.
- The Transportation feature displays bus route assignments, pick-up/drop-off times and bus stops so you can keep track of your child's location before and after school.
- The Academic feature displays daily attendance, course schedules, and library obligations so you can support your child and follow their daily educational experience.

Visit browardschools.com/mobileapp for more information.

Upcoming Dates

Winterfest
Winter Break
Early Release Day
Teacher Planning Day
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
5th Grade Jamboree
SAC Meeting
Class Pictures
Kindergarten Olympics
1st grade Olympics
2nd grade Olympics

Wednesday, December 21 (5:30-9:00 pm)
Monday, December 26 – Friday, January 6
Thursday, January 12 (NOON Dismissal)
Friday, January 13 (No school for students.)
Monday, January 16 (Broward Schools CLOSED)
Thursday, January 19 (6:00-)
Monday, January 23 (2:15 pm)
Wednesday, January 25-Thursday, January 26
Wednesday, January 25
Thursday, January 26
Friday, January 27

