

The Country Isles Chronicle



★ Over 25 Years of Educating Responsible Citizens

February 8, 2017

Volume 17 Number 5

Around Country Isles Elementary School

There is a new resource area in the front office for you to use! You can use the computer to access our Country Isles' website and check out our monthly events, lunch menu, and pay for field trips and lunches.

There is also a "caught being good area," where you can shout out a teacher or staff member. These shout outs will be placed in the display case for all the school to see.

We hope you enjoy these new additions to our school!

A big THANK YOU goes to Emerald Events Catering for donating all the food for the 5th grade Jamboree! Yee Haw!

Announcing the Redesigned Exceptional Student Education and Support Services (ESE and SS) Website for Broward County Public Schools:

<http://www.bcps-eseandsupportservices.com>



The ESE and SS Division's new parent-friendly website has been designed to bring students, parents and community members informative content pertaining to students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP), 504 Plans (504), and those children suspected of having a disability in a more concise and consistent fashion.

One of the first things you will notice is a uniform look and feel as you visit the individual departments in the ESE and SS Division. The navigation is consistent throughout the new webpages. You will be able to find information more quickly and in many cases fewer clicks. The district conducted research and focus groups with parents, families, staff, and community members to ensure the most popular items are prominent, including:

- How to request an evaluation
- News and announcements
- Calendar of ESE and SS related activities and events
- Direct contact information for various departments and staff
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Resources

As with any new website initiative, tweaks and updates will continue to be made. You will also notice a "Talk To Us" option on each page. This option may be used to make recommendations for improvements to the website and/or the ESE and SS Division. The responses will be addressed directly or systemically, based on the recommendation.

ACCEL

In accordance with the Florida Statutes, all Broward County Schools must provide educational options that provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to all **eligible** K-12 students and inform parents and students of these options. As defined by this legislation, Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options must include:

- whole grade and mid-year promotion
- subject matter acceleration
- virtual instruction in higher level grade subjects

These options are available at each school to students who meet specific eligibility criteria.

Parents interested in having their students participate in the ACCEL option should contact the principal for further information regarding student eligibility and procedural requirements of participation.

A Message from your School Counselor:

We recently completed the BSA, which is a practice test for the FSA. The results were helpful to teachers to see which areas they need to focus on prior to taking the FSA.

Our ESOL students will be testing on February 13th - 14th to see how much progress they have made with English as their second language.

Our character trait of the month for February is honesty. It is so important students learn the importance of telling the truth and admitting if they made a mistake.

I wish everyone a happy February filled with lots of love!



PTA Corner

Thank you to all of our wonderful CIE parents for your continued support of Country Isles, the PTA and our students. Let's see what your PTA is doing.

PTA Meeting & Guest Speaker

Please join us at our next **PTA meeting** on **Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 8:15 am**, in the cafeteria.

We have invited a **GUEST SPEAKER** from the Broward County Sheriff's office who will be discussing the dangers of synthetic drugs and risks to our students and community. You will not regret attending this informative session! Refreshments will be served.

PTA Elections

Want to get involved and make a difference? Become a PTA Officer or Committee Chairperson! There are numerous opportunities that cover a wide range of interests to fit everyone, no matter your schedule. A flyer will go home with information and volunteer positions after the February 8 PTA meeting. Key dates to remember:

February 8, PTA meeting – Nominating Committee is established. Flyer to parents is sent.

March 1, PTA meeting – Tentative slate is presented and nominations taken from the floor.

April 5, PTA meeting – Elections take place for the 2017-2018 school year Board Members.

Book Exchange

The Book Exchange will be temporarily closed beginning February 1 as we transition and move books to the Media Center. The goal of the new program is to ensure all students at CIE have access to more books to read. There will be a designated area in the Media Center where students can visit and borrow books. The program will run on the P.R.I.D.E. program and tracking of borrowed books will not be required.

SAF (School Advisory Forum) Representative

Are you a great communicator? Every school in Broward County must have a School Advisory Forum (SAF) that fosters and promotes communication between its stakeholders, the school, and the Area Advisory Council. This position requires you to attend monthly School Advisory meetings as well as Central Advisory meetings.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Maritza Masseria at maritza@masseria.org. There is a training taking place at the end of month and we would love to invite you to attend.



Volunteer Reminders

All volunteers need to badge 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 not be used as a “hall pass” to interrupt any classroom instruction.

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 juliepetlicka@comcast.net.

FREE FUNDRAISING!

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 App store or Google Play store on your smartphone or smart device.

Step 2: Once 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 so far Country Isles has earned \$524.91. And, 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 help your school. For more information, visit shoparoo.com.

Amazon Smile

For those of you who shop on Amazon, this is an easy, FREE way to support our school. Just go to smile.amazon.com, register and select Country Isles Elementary School PTA. A percentage of your purchases will be returned to the school. It's the same products, same Amazon! It's that easy!

Thank you for your support!

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

4th Grade Olympics	Tuesday, February 7
PTA Meeting w/Guest Speaker	Wednesday, February 8 (8:15 am)
McTeacher's Night	Thursday, February 9 (5:00-8:00pm)
5 th Grade Olympics	Friday, February 10
SAC Meeting	Monday, February 13 (2:15pm)
Interim Reports Issued	Thursday, February 16
NO SCHOOL	Monday, February 20
4/5 FSA Writing Test	Tuesday, February 28
PTA Meeting	Wednesday, March 1
Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast	Friday, March 3
Spring Pictures	Thursday, March 9
Movie Night	Friday, March 10

