

## Principal's Note

### **Palm Valley Academy: Week of 9/4 – 9/10**

Dear PVA Families,

I hope you all have had a tremendous holiday weekend! Please see the below for immediate weekly updates and the newsletter attachment for an overview of all PVA happenings and supports for September.

Until next weekend, take care and Go BOBCATS!

### **INFO FOR ALL (K-8)**

#### **Arrival Reminders/Updates**

- THANK YOU for your diligence in getting your kiddos to school on time. This has been a concern over the years, but you all are doing great with the timing and policies/procedures in place during arrival. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

#### **School Advisory Committee (SAC)**

##### What is a School Advisory Council?

*The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a school-based group intended to represent the school, the community, and those persons closest to the students that shares responsibility for supporting the school's continuous improvement.*

##### What is the role of the SAC?

*The SAC is responsible for final decision-making at the school relating to the annual implementation of a schoolwide improvement plan (SIP). The SAC assists in the annual preparation of both the SIP and the school's annual budget, as well as the evaluation of the SIP.*

*If you're interested, we would love for you to join us for the first SAC meeting of the 2023-2024 school year on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the Palm Valley Academy Media Center. If you have additional questions, please contact Shauna Smalling ([shauna.smalling@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:shauna.smalling@stjohns.k12.fl.us)) or Chris Arcuri ([christopher.arcuri@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:christopher.arcuri@stjohns.k12.fl.us)).*

*We hope to see you there!*

#### **Blessings In a Backpack**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Blessings in a Backpack is a program made available through generous donors which is designed to supplement student nutrient needs over the weekends. Children participating in this program will receive a bag consisting of non-perishable food every Friday. The bag will be given to the child in a discreet and caring manner through the school counselor's office. This program is offered to your child, if needed, throughout the school year at no cost to you.

Participation in the program will begin on **Friday, September 15th**. If you would like your child to receive assistance, please click on the following link and complete the form by **THIS Friday, September 4** ([CLICK HERE!](#)) Please only complete this form if you want your child to receive Blessings in a Backpack.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact me at [corinne.fennelly@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:corinne.fennelly@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or call at 904-547-4200.

Sincerely,  
*Corinne Fennelly*

Corinne Fennelly  
School Counselor

### **Cell Phones/Smart Watches**

- This continues to be an issue for some. Parents- if you need to reach your children please call the front office. If a student is on their phone taking a call at any point during the school day, the phone will be confiscated. We really have ZERO wiggle room with this. Please see the below for State Mandates and SJCS D Policy:

*It is a state mandate and SJCS D Policy that all cellphones and smartwatches are off and away during instructional blocks during the school day. Students may have phones/watches out upon arrival and dismissal, but they must be turned off and put away at all other times. The only exception to this is the middle school policy, which allows phones/watches to be on during transitions.*

- *Elementary (K-5): ALL Phones and Smart Watches are off and in their backpacks at all time.*
- *Middle School (6-8): Students will turn-off phones/watches and place in the teachers provided pocket chart, where they will stay until students are dismissed. Additionally, ONE EAR BUD may be used during arrival and dismissal, but off and away at any other point of the day.*

*We kindly ask that parents continue to assist us in discussing appropriate cell phones use regarding restrooms, pictures/videos, and social media. We appreciate your support and understanding.*

### **PVA Curriculum Chats**

Elementary Open House- September 7, 2023 @ 5:00-8:00pm (SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR DETAILS)

## **GRADE SPECIFIC INFO (K-8)**

### **Middle School Transitions/Book-Bags (6-8)**

As your students begin to dig into the curriculum, their backpacks and belongings are going to become more and more cumbersome. Please

remind students to clean out backpacks as often as necessary. I will be speaking to teachers about potentially consolidating binders and materials as well. Just a reminder, locker information (including combinations) have been assigned and are uploaded on HAC for student access.

### **PTO HAPPENINGS (ALL GRADES)**

- Apparel spirit wear store is OPEN NOW until September 10th. Follow the link: <https://pvabacktoschoolpart2.itemorder.com/shop/home/>
- Charleston Wrap Fundraiser is upcoming: September 11-27. Info to come!
- Middle School Tailgate September 12th 4:30-5:30 (See Attachment!)
  - Fun activities Basketball, cornhole, spike ball, and more. It's a white out!!
  - FREE Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips, and soda!
  - FREE Admission for MS students in white

### **UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:**

- Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 1<sup>st</sup> SAC Meeting of the Year (ALL ARE INVITED)
  - When: 4:00pm Where: Library
- Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Elementary Curriculum Chat @ 5:00-8:00pm. Details attached!
- Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>
  - PVA VOLLEYBALL VS. LPA
  - LETS FILL THE GYM AND CHEER ON OUR BOBCAT ATHLETES!
    - Girls 5:30-6:30
    - Boys 6:30-7:30 (may adjusted based on girls ending time)

That's all for now Bobcats. Have a great week!

Respectfully,

Zach