Palm Valley Academy

Volume 6, Issue 1 — September 2023

Calendar Highlights

09/04 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

09/05 SAC Meeting @ 4 PM

09/06 BEGINNING BAND
Instrument Rental Night
@6 PM

09/06 Football Game @5 PM vs Patriot Oaks

09/07 Elementary Curriculum
Chat and OPEN HOUSE
@5:00—8:00 PM

09/12 INTERIMS ISSUED

Middle School Tailgate

Volleyball Games vs LPA

Home @ 5:30/6:30 PM

09/13 Football Game @5 PM vs Pine Island Academy

09/14 Volleyball games vs MCA Away @ 5:30/6:30 PM

09/19 Volleyball games vs VRA Home @ 5:30/6:30 PM

09/20 Football Game @5 PM vs Freedom Crossing PTO General Meeting @6 PM

09/21 Volleyball games vs FCA Away @ 5:30/6:30 PM

Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day.

Good Evening PVA Families -

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of September and already at the mid-point of this first quarter! Our teachers have done a tremendous job of establishing new rituals and routines with your kiddos and we are quickly ramping up our curriculum based instruction and into a busy season of fun and memorable activities.

Just a few reminders for those who are new to us, or to those who may need a reminder:

All visitors to our school MUST have approved volunteer clearance. Please visit the following link to apply - https://stjohns.keepntrack.com apply/ If you have not done this process in over 3 years, you must reapply. Please check with the front office if you are unsure of your clearance status.

Report Cards and Interims will continue to be available online through Home Access Center (HAC) this year. If you have not been able to access your HAC account, please visit the following link for directions - https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/ If you have any issues or questions, please contact Mary.Dominguez@stjohns.k12.fl.us for middle school and Kathleen.McClung@stjohns.k12.fl.us for elementary inquiries.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter about upcoming activities and opportunities, both at school and within the community. I will also continue with my weekly Principal's Note in an effort to keep you all in the know of all things here at PVA.

The staff and I both look forward to a great month of learning, fun and celebrations! Looking forward to making this a year none will soon forget!

Thank you for your continued support.

Zach Strom - Palm Valley Academy Principal

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Meet the Counselors

Kristi Frick KG — 2nd

kristi.frick@stjohns.k12.fl.u



Welcome back to school! This is my first year at PVA and I am looking forward to working with your kiddos! I will be the kindergarten-second grade school counselor this year. I recently moved from New Jersey, where I was a kindergarten teacher and a school counselor for a total of 14 years. I will be teaching character education lessons throughout the year to the classes on topics such as how to be a good friend, honesty, fairness, feelings, and more. I am excited to get to know your children better. Its going to be an awesome year! Please reach out to me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

OUR AMAZON WISH LIST

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1431BAWPVFK4A? ref =wl share

Corinne Fennelly 3rd — 5th

corinne.fennellv@stiohns.k12.fl.



Hello! I am so happy to be back at PVA! I was a child and family mental health counselor for fifteen years before becoming a school counselor four years ago. I am originally from Pittsburgh, PA (Go Steelers!) but lived in Atlanta for 20 years (Go Braves!) before moving to Nocatee seven years ago. I have two teenagers and I love spending time with my family, my two dogs and two cats.

I will be working with grades 3-5. I am here to support teachers and your student any way that I can. My goal is to help students thrive academically, socially and emotionally. I believe every student should feel safe and know that they matter. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can assist in any way. The best way to reach me is email. I look forward to a great year! Go Bobcats!!

Monica Ferguson 6th — 8th

mon-



Hello! A little about me:

- Year 4 at PVA, Year 6 as a School Counselor
- Grew up in Maryland and attended UMD (Go Terps!)
- Has a senior beagle (14 years old) named Sunny
- Disney World passholder

Please reach out regarding social/emotional needs for your child, academic concerns, and help with questions about the high school selection process. I am very responsive by e-mail, and I love helping simplify the middle school experience for parents.

I look forward to seeing your children grow and have a successful year!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER





When to contact us &

If you believe your child is experiencing difficulty at home or at school regarding academic achievement, family changes, social skills, or adjusting to transitions it may be helpful to contact your School Counselor via phone or email.



Counselors

Ms. Frick K—3

Ms. Fennelly 4—5

Ms. Ferguson 6—8



THE 6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER













PILLAR OF THE MONTH—SEPTEMBER



FAIRNESS

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be openminded; listen to others · Don't take advantage of others · Don't blame others carelessly · Treat all people fairly

At Palm Valley Academy, the St. Johns County Pillars of Character and student leadership are considered to be vitally important to our students' development. Incorporating these practices within our school environment and curriculum helps students become caring contributors to society and equips them for success in the 21st century. Critical skills and characteristics such as: trustworthiness, motivation, problem solving skills, goal setting, personal responsibility and the value of teamwork are embedded throughout the school day.

PALM VALLEY ACADEMY ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPTEMBER	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	3	Holiday	Grade 3 Reading	6	Grade 4 Math	Grade 5 Reading	9
	10	11	12	Middle School Reading	14	Grade 5 Math	16
	17	18	Grade 3 Math	Middle School Math	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	1	2		Calendar is subj soon as possible			

Testing Coordinator Ms. Audra Wilson

audra.wilson@stjohns.k12.fl.us



FRONT OFFICE HOURS AND PROCEDURES

Front Office Hours: 7:45am - 3:45pm

School Hours: 8:40am - 3:00pm

Wednesdays: 8:40am - 2:00pm Early Release

** Pickup Cutoff Times: 2:15pm and 1:15pm on Wednesdays **



<u>Checkout:</u> A student who is ill should be checked out through the main office. Teachers will be informed of students dismissed for illness.

<u>Tardiness:</u> School begins at 8:40 a.m. Any student reporting to school after that time is tardy. Any tardy student must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to the front office door to receive an admittance slip before going to the classroom. Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment and has a negative impact on student achievement.

Early Release/Check-out: Children will be released only to their parents/guardians or authorized persons on student's Emergency Contact List. Remember a PHOTO ID is required. Based on district policy, any student who checks-out prior to 11:40 a.m. is considered absent for the entire day. Palm Valley Academy has six hours and 20 minutes of academic time each day, making the half-day mark fall at 11:40 a.m. Students may not be checked out later than 2:15 p.m. each day and 1:15 p.m. on Wednesdays; this is our time dedicated to dismissal preparation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular school attendance is a necessary part of a student's education. Excessive absences impair a student's educational progress, impacts whether the student passes or fails a grade, and may result in court proceedings and/or the loss of driving privileges. Students will be considered absent when they miss 50% of their school day. Absences shall be classified and treated as follows:

<u>Excused absences include:</u> personal illness, family emergency, death in the family, religious holidays of the student's established religious faith, required court or law agency appearances, public functions, state competitions, scheduled doctor or dentist appointments.

<u>Unexcused absences include:</u> shopping trips, pleasure trips, suspension from school, appointments without prior approval except in case of emergency, truancy.

For a complete list of excused and unexcused absences, students and parents should refer to the Student Code of Conduct https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/conduct/



eSchoolPlus Home Access Center (HAC)

<u>HAC</u> Parents and Guardians will be able to view and/or print their child's educational information and report cards from Palm Valley Academy through HAC. If you need a HAC login or HAC password reset, please go directly to the <u>HAC website</u>. For important information, please make sure to read <u>HAC Directions</u> first. If you are experiencing issues with obtaining your HAC access, please email <u>Mary Dominguez</u>.



<u>PayPAMS</u> can be used to prepay for students' cafeteria meals online. Students may bring cash or check to pay for lunch or make pre-payments to the student's meal account with VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit card through the PayPams online system. For cash or check, please indicate the student's name and meal account number. For more information on PayPams, check your First Day Folder or access their website at: https://www.paypams.com or call 1-888-994-5100.

SchoolPay®

<u>SchoolPay</u> is used to pay online for other school-related expenses such as extended day program fees, PE uniforms and lockers. For more information and to create an account visit https://www.schoolpay.com



<u>SchoolMessenger</u>® is a rapid phone, email, and/or text notification system provided by our school district to communicate important or emergency information efficiently. This system will be used for providing accurate information to parents/guardians about safety and daily attendance, as well as communication from the principal. For more information about the SchoolMessenger® Communication System, please visit the following site: https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/

Access to our School

To visit our school beyond the front desk, a School Access Form application must be completed and approved. Please go to https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply to complete the application. Expect the clearance process to take around 3 weeks. Clearance access is good for 3 years. If your clearance is nearing expiration, you may need to resubmit. You can call the front office to check on the status of your clearance. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to visit and volunteer at PVA. Teachers determine and preapprove volunteer duties within their classroom, meetings and conferences. Parents may not bring siblings when volunteering. Please do not access your cell phone while visiting/volunteering. It is the expectation that all visitors abide by the student dress code when visiting/volunteering at PVA.



RAINY DAY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

2023 - 2024

RAINY DAY HOLD vs. RELEASE

What you need to know...

Rainy day dismissals require an all-hands on deck approach, in which we will all need to work diligently to ensure students get home safe and sound. This is not an ideal dismissal scenario, but by working together, all students <u>will</u> get home as safely and quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience and support as we work to accomplish this feat.

There are TWO different types of Rainy Day Dismissals that we will use at PVA. One for passing weather and another for severe, sustained weather. Depending on local skies, administration will make the call to do one or the other by 2:40 p.m. if at all possible. A school messenger will be sent out announcing the dismissal changes (BE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP AND RECIEVEING TEXT ALERTS VIA SCHOOL MESSENGER). Please read and become familiar with BOTH types of Rainy Day Dismissals and prepare as necessary.

RAINY DAY HOLD:

A **Rainy Day HOLD** will be called when inclement weather is in the area but <u>looks to be</u> <u>auickly passing</u>. If this is called, all bridge goers will be held within the building. Once the weather lightens and it is safe for student travel, the hold will be lifted and students will be able to <u>dismiss as normal</u>. In a HOLD, students will go home as planned, they will just be **delayed**. A school messenger will be communicated to parents both when the Rainy Day HOLD is placed and when it is lifted. **No check-outs will occur at this time**.

RAINY DAY RELEASE:

A Rainy Day RELEASE will be called when inclement weather is in the area and looks to be long lasting. If this is announced, all BIKER/WALKER/GOLF CART students will be held within the building and EVERYONE will become a car rider. The bridge gates will remain locked and closed, as NO walk-up check-outs will be allowed. A school messenger will be communicated to parents when a Rainy Day RELEASE is announced (no later than 2:40 p.m.) so arrangements can be made for student pick-up. AGAIN, THERE WILL BE NO BRIDGE ACCESS WHEN A RAINY DAY RELEASE IS CALLED AND ALL STUDENTS WILL BE CAR RIDERS. Please make sure you have your students name and grade level on your dashboard, along with your ID.

In the event of Rainy Day Hold or Release, please be attentive to all School Messenger alerts and messages

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY MARK WILSON

Hey Bobcats!

I hope everyone is settling in for the 2023-2024 school year. I'm so happy to be back and see your smiling faces. I'm also proud to be a part of the PVA Safety Patrol program this year as a law enforcement partner. Please take a minute when you see them, to congratulate the Bobcats who were chosen to be a part of this year's safety patrol team members to include our middle school mentors.

Bobcat Safety for September

- *Kiddos please remain buckled up and, in your seat while riding in the car.
- *Electric scooter and bicycle riders, please give right of way to pedestrians.
- *Always wear a helmet while biking, skating or on your scooter.
- *Grownups, please be mindful that the speed limit on campus is 10mph.
- *Golf carts are not permitted on Bobcat Ln (beyond the golf cart loop) unless the cart has a tag.

Together we can reduce accidents and keep our Bobcats safe.

Be well,

Deputy Mark





FortifyFL is a website and app developed at the direction of the Florida Legislature. Any student, educator, parent or member of the public can report school safety concerns directly to law enforcement and school administrators anonymously and easily through the **FortifyFL** app or <u>getfortifyfl.com</u>.

HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

Health Clinic - Welcome Back to School! School Nurses - Alice Fasula and Kara Whitchurch

https://www-pva.stjohns.k12.fl.us/clinic/

Checklist for students with medical needs:

<u>New medical diagnosis</u>, needs or alerts? It is important that the school has up to date medical information. If you need to add anything to your student's health record, please send in a written note ("Attention: School Nurse") to be placed with your student's file.

Need to leave medication at school?

- 1. Download forms from the PVA "Health Clinic" department webpage. (See link above)
- Bring the forms in to your pediatrician. A parent and doctor must sign the forms for them to be
- Medications must be in their original container with a readable pharmacy/consumer label, unopened and unexpired. Please see our Medication Policy on the website for any further questions.

<u>Dropping off supplies and medication?</u> Bring your orders and supplies to the school during office hours to briefly meet with a nurse.

All medication must be documented with the clinic

It is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct for children to be carrying any medication (prescription or over the counter) with them at school without proper documentation. All medication must have a doctor's order on file in the clinic. Middle schoolers may carry over the counter medication only with a signed form by the parent on file in the clinic. Any violations will be brought up to Administration. Medication forms and more information can be found on the PVA Clinic Website.

Change of Clothing for Elementary Students:

Accidents happen! Food spills, mud puddles, and more.

Elementary Parents: <u>PLEASE keep a spare set of clothing in a Ziploc in your child's backpack</u>. This will save them the trip to the clinic or a phone call home to find new clothes and change.

Healthy Back-to-School Habits: Preparing for a Successful School Year

- Eat well and stay active. Healthy students are better learners.
- Bring a water bottle every day, stay hydrated.
- Make sleep a priority. Start a routine of a regular bed and wake-up times
- Regularly wash your hands and prevent the spread of germs. ...

Thank you - Nurse Alice and Nurse Kara



AROUND PVA

In the **media center** we have 2 students who have finished reading all **15 SSYRA** books for grades 3-5. Way to go Bobcats! In **4**th **Grade...**

Anika G





How many will you read?

Vivian S





School Advisory Council



Are you looking to get involved? We would love for you to consider joining our School Advisory Council!

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.

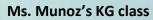
What is the role of the SAC?

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 5th at 4pm in the Palm Valley Academy Media Center. If you have additional questions, please contact Shauna Smalling (shauna.smalling@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or Chris Arcuri (christopher.arcuri@stjohns.k12.fl.us). We hope to see you there!

AROUND PVA















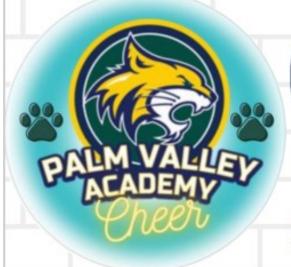


Ms. Crawford's 4th grade class



AROUND PVA

Registration is Now OPEN!



Cheer Camp

Friday, October 13 5:00 - 8:00 pm @ PVA Gym

PARENT PERFORMANCE: 8pm

\$75 per camper

INCLUDES T-SHIRT, BOW, POMS, AND PIZZA DINNER

OPEN TO ALL K-5TH KIDS!

- · Parents' Night Out!!
- PVA Cheerleaders will teach cheers & dances for campers to perform
- Register by September 29 to ensure your camper receives a t-shirt

GAME DAY PERFORMANCE:

October 18 @ Nease High School during PVA Football halftime

SCAN TO REGISTER



Middle School Happenings

Beginning Band Instrument Rental Night



September 6th 6:00-7:00 PM



Palm Valley Academy Band Room

Students will be fitted for instruments during class time within the first weeks of school.

Instruments will be available for rental, purchase, or rent-to-own through Rhapsody Music on September 6th.

Email jordan.mattheus@stjohns.kl2.fl.us with any questions





Spike Ball, 4 Square and More!!

FREE ADMISSION: To Middle Schoolers who Wear White!!

FREE FOOD: Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips, and Soda!!

Middle School Athletics



2023 BOBCAT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AWAY / BYE

AUG 24 BYE

AUG 30 BYE

SEP 6

PATRIOT OAKS

5PM PLANTATION PARK TURF

SEP 13

PINE ISLAND

5PM NEASE HIGH SCHOOL

AUG 30 BYE

OCT 12 LIBERTY PINES
5PM BEACHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

HOME

SEP 20

FREEDOM CROSSING

Wear GOLD in loving memory of Ava Jones

OCT 4

SEBASTIAN
7PM CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOO

Wear PINK for Breast Cancer Awareness

OCT 18

MILL CREEK

5PM NEASE HIGH SCHOOL

Homecoming

BLACK OUT

Bobcat Cheer Kiddie Clinic Halftime Performance, in loving memory of Sofia Cardona

OCT 25

VALLEY RIDGE

7PM NEASE HIGH SCHOOL



8th Grade Night

Middle School Athletics

2023 Volleyball Schedule

номе

Sept. 12th vs Liberty Pines

Sept. 19th vs Valley Ridge

Sept. 26th BYE week

Sept. 28th vs Pine Island

Oct. 3rd vs Patriot Oaks

Oct. 10th vs Mill Creek

Oct. 17th vs Freedom Crossing

Oct. 19th BYE week

November PLAYOFFS

Sept. 14th vs Mill Creek

Sept. 21st vs Freedom Crossing

Oct. 5th vs Liberty Pines

AWAV

Oct. 12th vs Valley Ridge

Oct. 24th vs Pine Island

Oct. 26th vs Patriot Oaks

Girls play at 5:30 pm / Boys play at 6:30 pm

For questions regarding PVA Volleyball or Basketball, please contact Chris Parker at christopher.parker@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Middle School Athletics

Join the PVA Cross Country Club



Grades 6 – 8 ONLY

What is Cross Country?

Cross country is competitive distance running over varying terrain. At the middle school level, students race 3km, (1.86 miles). High School runners race 5km, (3.1 miles).

<u>The PVA Cross Country Club</u> is designed to introduce students to distance running, goal setting, running competition and promote physical fitness and training skills. We will begin practice sessions on **Tuesday**, **September 5**th.

The club will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00pm to 4:15pm, at the outdoor PE Court.

Our competition schedule is being developed, but plan on five meets taking place on Saturday mornings, (one possible Wednesday after school), through September and October.

THE CLUB WILL BE LIMITED TO 40 MEMBERS

Participation Fee: \$65 - to cover the costs of competition shirts and team entry fees.

Forms to Complete:

- A. Start Here to Sign Up Permission form and Student Information
- B. Physical Evaluation Form
- C. Palm Valley Sports Physical Liability Waiver

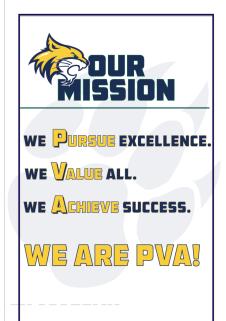
What do I need? A good pair of running shoes and clothing that wicks away moisture.
Please bring water, (stay hydrated during the day). Also, a post workout snack.

Getting Home: You must arrange transportation home. There is not an after school activities bus. Car riders can meet parent/guardian at the pick-up car line by 4:15 pm.

> If you have anv auestions, please feel free to contact Mr. Sassa: Lawrence.Sassa@stjohns.k12.fl.us



PVA BOBCAT PRIDE







The <u>STUDENT HANDBOOK</u> provides information directly related to Palm Valley Academy programs, building practices, polices, general information and beyond. You are encouraged to review the entire handbook and use it as a reference guide throughout the school year.

https://www-pva.stjohns.k12.fl.us/wpcontent/uploads/2022/07/PVA-Student-Handbook-2022-2023.pdf

Thank you to <u>Reba Barkley at Davidson Realty</u> for the generous donation of backpacks and school supplies for some of our students.

The PVA community is grateful for you!



PVA PTO NEWS

PTO Membership...

- Thank you to everyone who has joined the PTO so far this school year!
- Mr. Strom generously paid the fees for all teachers and staff to be members this school year!
- · We have started the school year strong and could not do it without the support of each Bobcat family!
- · If you have not had a chance to join yet, click here: https://pvapto.org/Join-us



Your donations at work!

2023-2024 Membership Levels

s coday button below to learn more. ALL members will receive a PVA car magnet to show your support of the Bobcats!



Teacher Membership-\$10 PVA Magnet & Entered to win swag at monthly staff breakfast.



Bronze Level -\$25 Contribution **PVA** Magnet



Silver Level -\$50 Contribution PVA Magnet & \$10 Spirit Wear Voucher





Gold Level -\$130 Contribution PVA Magnet, \$10 Spirit Wear Voucher, 1 Yearbook*



Platinum Level -\$250 Contribution PVA Magnet, \$10 Spirit Wear Voucher, 1 Yearbook*, VIP Access **



Bobcat Level - \$500 Contribution PVA Magnet, \$10 Spirit Wear Voucher, 1 Yearbook*, VIP Access**, Overflow lot parking tag

Must join Gold, Platinum or Bobcat level by September 30th to receive 1 free yearbook. Need student name and homeroom teacher for

**VIP access- Early admission to announced PTO events (possibly Book Fair, Holiday Shop, BINGO and Fall Festival). Priority early voluntee signup to events.

***Overflow lot parking tag-Bypass car line/golf cart line and drop off/pick up in the overflow lot (cannot be used during rainy day

We had a lofty goal of stocking the STEAM classrooms from the Bobcat Bolt donations last school year. This summer we were able to order lots of equipment for both elementary and middle school. We cannot wait to see the learning the students will be able to do now!







Our goal at Palm Valley Academy is to raise funds to provide school-wide academic activities, school programs, and educational materials and equipment for all students and teachers. PTO also provides appreciation events for our staff and miscellaneous expenses that arise throughout the school year.

While volunteers are always welcome, joining the PTO is not a commitment to volunteer. You membership shows support for our school and is greatly appreciated by the children and staff. Every membership dollar will be reflected in your child's growth and development.

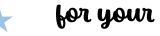
ALL members will receive a monthly newsletter and access to an online membership directory.

Thank you for your consideration in purchasing a PVA PTO membership! We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

PVA PTO NEWS



Fall Fundraiser Be on the lookout



Charleston Wrap Package









2023—2024 PTO BOARD

President: Beth Gassner

President Elect: Honesty Harless

VP Middle School: Jessica Dareneau

VP Elementary: Anne Powers

Treasurer: **Brittany Hulsey**

Recording Secretary: Nicole Callis

Correspondence Secretary: Brooke Conners



Our apparel store is currently open! If you missed the opportunity to order this summer, now is your chance! The store closes on Sept. 10th.

We have short sleeve, long sleeve, sweatshirts totes water bottles.

sweatshirts, totes, water bottles and garden flag options.

Order here: https://

pvabacktoschoolpart2.itemorder.com/shop/home/

Palm Valley Academy PTO would like to thank our 2023-2024 Partners in Education for their wonderful support at the start of this academic year. Partners have been able to attend several of our early events and host a table at "Meet the Teacher", "Elementary Curriculum Chats" and "Middle School Walk Your Schedule".

Thank you to **Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics** for sponsoring our Kindergarten "Tears and Cheers" breakfast!

Thank you to *Rice Orthodontics* for sponsoring the staff back to school lunch! They felt the Pub Sub Love!

We are also grateful to **Burn Bootcamp Ponte Vedra** and **Inner Strength Physical Therapy** for providing goodies at the staff back to school breakfast!

If anyone would like anymore information about the Partners in Education program at PVA and would like to get involved, please contact Bev Ardabili at partnerspvapto@gmail.com

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



2023-2024 Partners in Education



Heroes















Champions













Supporters























Crangetheory



In Kind















