

A View from the Valley

Palm Valley Academy: Week of 1/6 – 1/10

Happy 2025 PVA Families,

I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed winter break and were able to create some wonderful, long-lasting memories with your families over the holidays. However that may have looked for you and your household, I hope it was exactly what everyone needed.

After the time off, our staff is refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to jump right back into the swing of things without skipping a beat. We look forward to continuing the positive momentum and making the best of everyday that awaits.

Thank you for your continued support and looking forward to a great second semester in 2025.

Sincerely,

Mr. Strom

**PVA Vision Statement**

***Building purposeful leaders where everyone shines through achievement.***

**We Pursue Excellence.**

**We Value All.**

**We Achieve Success.**

**We are PVA!**

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

**PVA's Holiday Giving and Drive Collections**

I am truly humbled and grateful for the incredible generosity you've shown through your holiday donations. Your kindness has made a significant difference for members of our school community and beyond, spreading joy and support during this special season. Because of you, we had an abundance of toys and bikes for local children and families in need. Your contributions truly reflect the heart of our Palm Valley Academy family—a community that comes together to care for one another. Thank you for your support and for being such an important part of what makes our school so special.

**School Advisory Council Meeting – January 7<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm**

SAC is a school-based group intended to represent the school, the community, and those persons closest to the students. The group shares responsibility for guiding the school toward continuous improvement. PVA's School Advisory Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm in the library. Meetings usually last 30-45 minutes and are open to the community. Join us monthly as we discuss PVA's 2024-2025 School Improvement Plan and the progress we are making towards our goals, along with other important topics and discussions. We hope to see you there!

## **PVA's January Service Project**

For this month's service project, NJHS has organized a clothing drive to benefit those in Steinhatchee, FL as they are still recouping from the devastating hurricanes that passed through that area last Fall. Our drive runs from now through January 24<sup>th</sup>. While they will accept all clothes, they are specifically in need of gentle used children's clothing and jackets. As you clean out those closets and drawers for the new year, please keep this in mind for all your gently used clothing that may not fit your kiddos any longer! See the flyer below for additional details.

## **PVA and NJHS**

Are reaching out to the community for help.

# **Clothing Drive**

To help Hurricanes survivors.

**Start going through those closets and drawers and look for any gently used clothing that does not fit any longer or you are looking to get rid of.**

Donations will go directly to hurricane victims in Steinhatchee, FL who are still recovering from the devastation of the hurricanes this past year.

Specifically targeting children's clothes and jackets.

**The drive will run from January 6 - January 24**

Donation boxes can be found in the front office and where students walk into the building.



## Dismissal Change Forms

As a reminder, all transportation changes must be made through [PVA DISMISSAL CHANGE FORM](#) on our School Website. Emailed transportation changes to your teacher are not accepted. When completing the online form, please ensure it contains all information necessary and is submitted by the NOON deadline. If you have an emergency same-day transportation change, please telephone the front office at (904) 547-4200 before NOON each day. We will be happy to assist.

\*The cutoff time for early pick-up from the front office is 2:15 p.m. (Wed.-1:15 p.m.)\*

\*DISMISSAL CHANGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE 12:00PM NOON DAILY DEADLINE\*

## Safety on the Bridge – A Message from Deputy Wilson

With the new year, I feel it important to re-up on our safety reminders for all bridge-goers. If your child rides a bike or a scooter, please help remind them to keep their helmets on until they arrive on campus, pay attention to their surroundings and to slow down when navigating around other pedestrians and bikers. E-bikes and scooters are being operated in increasingly dangerous ways, so we must ask that you help us reinforce bicycle safety and following the "rules of the road".

- Wear your helmet
- Watch for others
- Watch for traffic

We will continue to do our part at PVA by encouraging good, safe habits. One injury is too many, especially when they are preventable. Thank you in advance for helping keep our Bobcats safe!

# LET'S WALK & ROLL SAFELY!

## Parents, HELP teach kids to RIDE SAFE!

Encouraging our kids to walk or roll (bike, wheelchair, scooter, skateboard, etc.) to school is a good move in the right direction. When they get out of the car and walk, bike or roll, they learn valuable lessons about independence, plus get a healthy dose of exercise and fresh air. Our neighborhoods benefit from fewer cars on the road and less congestion around school.

### (1) Get Ready, Get Set...

Start in the right direction by showing them the way. Go on the route with your child. It's the best way to share the rules – not to mention a fun way to spend time together!

### (2) Look for the Signs

Your child will need to recognize, remember and obey traffic signs, signals and pavement markings.

### (3) Practice Safe Habits

Practice with your child by walking or rolling together. Repeated practice helps kids get better at it and you feel more comfortable with their skills.

### (4) Iron Out the Best Route

Identify a safe route to and from school or the bus stop. The school may already have route maps with recommendations. If not, here are some considerations:

- Look for less busy roads and slower speeds.
- Choose crossing locations that have a clear view of traffic.
- Practice the route with your child until you are both comfortable.
- If no sidewalks, choose roads w/ shoulders where people walking can face oncoming traffic.

## PALM VALLEY ACADEMY BOBCATS

### HOW TO FIT AND ADJUST YOUR CHILD'S BIKE HELMET

**1 MEASURE YOUR CHILD'S HEAD**

Use a soft tape measure to measure the circumference of the child's head about 1/2 inch above the eyebrows and the thickest part of their head.

**FIND A HELMET** • Find a helmet that fits your child's measurement in its size range.



**2 POSITION THE HELMET ON YOUR CHILD'S HEAD**

Place the helmet squarely on top of your child's head.

**TWO FINGERS TEST** • The helmet should sit low on the head – about two finger widths above the child's eyebrows.



**3 TIGHTEN FOR A SNUG FIT**

Tighten the internal width of the helmet so it's snug, but not uncomfortable.

- One-side knob: Turn right to tighten.
- Pad: Squeeze the knob or this pad to adjust the width of the shell.

**SHAKE TEST** • When you shake their head back and forth, the helmet should stay firmly in place.



**4 MAKE A 'V' WITH THE SIDE STRAPS**

Adjust the sliders so that the straps come together to form a V at the base of the child's ear.

This keeps the helmet centered on the head.




**5 ADJUST THE CHIN STRAP FOR LENGTH**

Adjust the length of the strap so that it's loose enough to buckle it.

**1 FINGER TEST** • The chin strap should be just one finger between the chin and strap.

Just Right ✓  
Too Loose ✗



## ELEMENTARY INFO (K-5)

Parent Volunteer Opportunities  
[January Volunteer Opportunities](#)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL INFO (6-8)

Parent Volunteer Opportunities  
[January Volunteer Opportunities](#)

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Ads

Are on sale NOW! They are due Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. Parents/Guardians can buy the 1/8 of a page yearbook ad for \$25 at [www.buytheyearbook.com](http://www.buytheyearbook.com) use CODE: 385266

### Middle School Field Trips

Our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trips are scheduled and are open now for payment. Please check the grade level links below or visit the PVA Middle School website for additional information.

**FORTIFYFL**  
Suspicious Activity Reporting App

See suspicious activity at your school? Report it.

Visit [www.getfortifyfl.com](http://www.getfortifyfl.com) to submit a tip or download the app

#FORTIFYFLORIDA

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a white megaphone icon. It shows two smartphones displaying the app's interface. At the bottom, there are three circular logos representing different school districts.

Who: 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

What/Where: Wild Adventures

When: Thursday April 3, 2025, from 10am to 6pm  
Cost: \$115 (Includes bus, admission, and lunch)  
Payment Deadline: February 21, 2025

\*\*All field trips can be found and paid for on [School Pay](#) on our website\*\*



\*\*If you are interested in being a chaperone, please email [Jayme.Stofko@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jayme.Stofko@stjohns.k12.fl.us) and she will put you on a list. Chaperones will be chosen on a first come basis based on the number needed (to be determined closer to the trip date)



Don't forget to purchase your T-Shirt that can be used all year!





Who: 7<sup>th</sup> Graders

What/Where: Busch Gardens

When: Thursday April 17, 2025, from 10am to 7pm

Cost: \$170 (Includes bus, admission, and food voucher including lunch and snack)

Payment Deadline: February 21, 2025

**\*\*All field trips can be found and paid for on [School Pay](#) on our website\*\***



**\*\*If you are interested in being a chaperone, please email [Jayme.Stofko@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jayme.Stofko@stjohns.k12.fl.us) and she will put you on a list. Chaperones will be chosen on a first come basis based on the number needed (to be determined closer to the trip date)**

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**GRADVENTURE**  
UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

Who: 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

What/Where: Gradventure @ Universal Studios

When: Friday May 9, 2025, from 12pm to 12am

Cost: \$205 (Includes bus, admission, and food voucher)

Payment Deadline: March 21, 2025

**\*\*All field trips can be found and paid for on [School Pay](#) on our website\*\***



**\*\*If you are interested in being a chaperone, please email [Jayme.Stofko@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jayme.Stofko@stjohns.k12.fl.us) and she will put you on a list. Chaperones will be chosen on a first come basis based on the number needed (to be determined closer to the trip date)**

**Don't forget to purchase your T-Shirt that can be used all year!**



## PTO HAPPENINGS (ALL GRADES)

- Yearbooks are NOW available! Reserve your copy TODAY! [Buy the Yearbook-Buy the Yearbook](#)
- This month's General PTO meeting will be this Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am in the PVA Cafeteria.

## THIS WEEK'S DATES OF NOTE:

Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

- Welcome back!

Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

- SAC Meeting @ 4:00pm in the Media Center

Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

- PVA Basketball AWAY @ TCA. Girls tipoff at 5:30pm with boys to follow.

## **UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:**

Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

- PVA Basketball HOME vs. LPA. Girls tipoff at 5:30pm with boys to follow

Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

- General PTO Meeting @ 9:00am in the Café

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

- PVA Basketball AWAY @ PIA. Girls tipoff at 5:30pm with boys to follow.
- Report Cards Issued

**CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK – January 27<sup>th</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup>**

Have a fantastic first week of 2025, Bobcats!

Sincerely,

Zach Strom

PVA School Principal



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