A View from the Valley

Palm Valley Academy: Week of 2/3 - 2/8

Dear PVA Families,

Happy Sunday! Please read below when time allows so you are aware of all the school happenings that are ahead.

Wishing everyone a fantastic week. Stay safe, stay engaged, and as always, GO BOBCATS!

Mr. Strom

**PVA Vision Statement** Building purposeful leaders where everyone shines through achievement.

> We <u>P</u>ursue Excellence. We <u>V</u>alue All. We <u>A</u>chieve Success.

> > We are PVA!

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

#### PVA's February Service Project – PAWS for a Cause!

For this month's service project, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade students have organized a supply drive to benefit S.A.F.E. Pets in St. Johns County. They are promoting the February Character Counts! Pillar CARING, along with KINDNESS and LOVE for the cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies in need in our county. Their drive runs from now through February 28th. While S.A.F.E. Pets will accept all dry and wet food, they are specifically in need of IAMS Proactive Health, Friskies Pate, and Purina One. They are also in need of Clorox Wipes, Paper Towels, Trash Bags, and Hand Sanitizer. Thank you for your help in spreading the message of CARING, KINDNESS, and LOVE to our furry friends who give nothing BUT unconditional love. Please see the flyer made by our 1<sup>st</sup> graders below for additional details.



#### 2024-2025 SJCSD Stakeholders Surveys

Stakeholder surveys are a critical tool used to gather feedback from stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and students, to assess the effectiveness of federally funded programs like Title I, II, and IV. These surveys help ensure compliance with federal requirements, inform program improvements, and guide funding decisions to better support student success and equity. Your input plays a vital role in shaping programs that meet the needs of our school community. Please use the headings in blue below to access each survey. Please complete the surveys by Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Title II Stakeholder Survey</u> Title II funding supports professional development and support for teachers and school leaders.

<u>Title IV Stakeholder Survey</u> Title IV funding supports well-rounded educational opportunities, safe and healthy students, and the effective use of technology. Please complete the surveys prior to February 12.

#### Kindness Campaign: Week 2 – Keep the Greetings Going!

Our **Kindness Campaign** is off to a fantastic start! Last week, we kicked things off with our first challenge: **greeting one another with kindness**. It has been heartwarming to see students offering smiles, high-fives, and kind words as they enter the classroom, walk through the halls, and interact with their peers. As we head into **Week 2**, we're keeping the momentum going! Encouraging simple gestures like saying "Good morning," smiling, or giving a friendly wave can make a big difference in brightening someone's day. We love seeing our students embrace kindness, and we encourage families to join in at home! Ask your child how they've spread kindness today and challenge them to greet others with a warm and welcoming attitude all week long. Don't forget to engage with the at-home calendar activities. Let's keep spreading positivity, one greeting at a time! 💙 😳 **Kindness Video** 

# Kindness Challenge2025January 27th - March 7th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 26	27	28	29	30	31	February 1
	Give a compliment to someone today.	Write a thank you note to someone in your life for all they do.	Start a kindness jar where you collect notes of gratitude and kindness.	Handwrite a note to someone that means a lot to you.	Compliment five people around you.	Share a positive story with a friend or family member.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Watch a movie and share a bowl of snacks with a friend or family member.	Give genuine compliments to at least three people a day.	Smile at everyone you pass.	Say thank you to someone who goes unnoticed.	Send a thoughtful text or call a loved one.	Take a walk and enjoy the fresh air.	Help clean up a shared space without being asked.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Enjoy the super bowl game with friends and family.	Offer to help without being asked.	Cheer on or help someone who is having a tough day.	Reflect on how you can show empathy to those around you.	Dedicate a day to giving sincere compliments to those around you.	Give someone you love a Valentine's Day card.	Practice self-love by doing something that makes you feel good.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Have a fun game night with loved ones.	Wish the first person you see an amazing day.	Give someone a meaningful compliment.	Write or draw three things you're grateful for.	Hold the door open for someone.	Sit with someone new at lunch or include someone who's alone in your group.	Help a neighbor or sibling with a simple task.
23	24	25	26	27	28	March 1
Smile at yourself in the mirror and say something kind about yourself.	Let someone else go first in line or during an activity.	Play with someone at recess who looks like they need a buddy.	Say something kind about your school during a class discussion.	Compliment someone from a different grade on their work or effort.	Create a colorful "Kindness Poster" to hang in your classroom.	Take five deep breaths and tell yourself something positive.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Write a thank-you note to a classmate who has been a good friend.	Help your teacher by organizing supplies or tidying up.	Say "thank you" to someone who helps you today.	Share a positive story or fun fact during a group activity.	Review the notes you collected in your kindness jar.	Share your favorite kindness moment from the challenge with your class.	

#### HOME KINDNESS ACTIVITIES

Step 1

on the calendar.

Each day, encourage your child to

complete the kindness activity listed

#### Step 2

Once the activity is complete, please sign the calendar for that day.

#### Step 3

At the end of the month, students can return their completed and signed calendars to school to earn **PBIS points** as a reward for their efforts!

#### A Note of Safety from Deputy Wilson

Hello parents and friends of Bobcats everywhere,

I want to talk about something different this week in my safety tips. SOCIAL MEDIA! Aside from the pediatric guidelines about screen time and the usual internet dangers, I want to specifically discuss our roles as parents. I'm seeing younger and younger children with smartphones and smart devices, so it's no longer just a middle/high school issue. We must be aware; we must be present, and we must be proactive. There are so many social apps where our children are engaged, that it is hard to keep up with. In response to the increasing concerns, Florida and many other states have enacted laws designed to help keep our kids safe from inappropriate content.

Effective January 1, 2025 children under age 14 are not legally allowed to have social media. If your child is 14 or 15, they will be required to have a parent's permission and if that is not obtained the account will be deleted within 90 days. What is exempted: an online service, website, or application where the exclusive function is e-mail or direct messaging consisting of text, photographs, pictures, images, or videos shared only between the sender and the recipients, without displaying or posting publicly or to other users not specifically identified as the recipients by the sender. It won't be long before another app developer attempts to capitalize on Tik Tok's success (and restriction), in a way which skirts the law. So, with that in mind, remember; If we do not guide them, the internet will.

- If your child does not have an online presence (yet), now is a good time to start talking about trust, boundaries and safety.
- > If your child IS online, I challenge you to do a phone check daily.
- Ensure your child has not attempted to circumvent the law by putting an earlier year of birth in their account profile(s).
- Check on your kids' mental wellbeing on a regular basis, know who they are communicating with, and reinforce they should NOT be "friends" with anyone they don't personally know and that you can verify.
- Monitor their group chats. If they are in a group where bullying, harassing language is being used, they should leave the group. This is one area which could lead to consequences at school.

Adjustment to the new laws may be painful for some but having tough conversations with your kid will pay dividends. Together, as parents and the PVA community, we can help keep our Bobcats safe. As always, I am your resource for any questions and concerns you might have.

All my best, Mark

#### ATTENTION Palm Valley Academy Families! THE BOLT IS COMING!

We're excited to introduce this year's main fundraiser, the Bobcat Bolts. Our goal this year is to raise \$85,000 for continuing to build our culture of kindness and student success through new schoolwide technology, staff education, and school improvements to benefit ALL students at Palm Valley Academy. We're excited for this fundraising experience because it offers 3 important things to our

school community: a user-friendly fundraising platform, a character enrichment program and a fitness-focused event that includes ALL of our students. As a family, you will work together asking friends and family to donate on your student's Donation Page at MyBooster.com. The best part is, you can still support our school just by SHARING about the fundraiser! Students will also experience an amazing character enrichment program called "Castle Quest", teaching students about how to be brave and live with character. See the flyer in the list of attachments for further details!



#### PVA's Counselor Corner: DEVELOPING GOOD STUDY SKILLS

A message from Ms. Frick and Ms. Fennelly

Homework time can be challenging at any age but the closer a student gets to high school, the more important it is for them to develop good study skills. Here are several things you can do to help reinforce good study habits at home:

- Find an organizational system that works for your student. Let them experiment with different methods to find the one that clicks. Don't stress if your student avoids the paper planner like it's the plague! There are many digital apps that are designed to help keep students organized and to help them manage their time.
- Establish an after-school or after-sport routine and be as consistent with it as possible. Doing homework at the same time, at the same place, and in the same way every day helps students with self-regulation and planning.
- ✓ Have a plan. Sometimes your student may procrastinate completing homework simply because they don't know where to start or how to get started. The task alone feels overwhelming. Show them how to plan out their tasks by prioritizing what is most important, checking Schoology, making checklists, etc. Have them talk through their plan with you.
- ✓ Break up large assignments into smaller tasks to make them more manageable.
- Start with the most difficult task first while your student's brain is fresh and before mental or physical fatigue sets in.
- Avoid distractions. Unless a device is being used to aid homework, studying should be done away from distractions (tv, computer, phone, gaming devices). If a phone is nearby, silence notifications so the student will not be tempted to respond during study time.
- Be patient! Developing study skills takes practice and repetition. Power struggles and constant arguments can interfere with productivity the most. Try to stay calm when tensions run high and focus on teaching your student the skills they need to be productive.



#### ELEMENTARY INFO (K-5)

#### Parent Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking parent volunteers to assist in the lunchroom. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with our school community and support our students during lunchtime. TIME COMMITMENT:

- SESSION 1- 10:15-11:00
- SESSION 2-11:00-11:45

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign-up using the following link - SIGN-UP HERE!

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL INFO (6-8)

#### **Parent Volunteer Opportunities**

We need your help! The PBIS Store is looking for Parent Volunteers to assist with operations and help students shop for rewards. This is a great opportunity to support our school and encourage positive behaviors among our students.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- SESSION 1-11:40-12:40pm
- SESSION 2-12:40-1:30pm

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign-up using the following link - SIGN-UP HERE!

#### THIS WEEK'S DATES OF NOTE: National School Counselor's Week!

- Tuesday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>
  - SAC Meeting @ 4:00pm in Library
  - PVA Basketball HOME vs. Lakeside Academy. Girls tipoff at 5:30pm with boys to follow
- <u>Wednesday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup></u>
  LAST FULL WEDNESDAY (Early releases start again next week)
- <u>Thursday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup></u>
  - PVA Basketball AWAY @ MCA. Girls tipoff at 5:30pm with boys to follow.

#### UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

- Tuesday, Feb. 11th
  - PVA Basketball HOME vs. Pine Island Academy. Girls tipoff at 5:30pm with boys to follow
- Wednesday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>
  - BACK TO EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS! Dismissal starts @ 1:50pm
- Thursday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>
  - PVA Basketball HOME vs MCA. Girls tipoff at 5:30pm with boys to follow.
- Friday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> VALENTINES DAY!
  - NO SCHOOL! Teacher workday.

That's all for this week!

Sincerely,

Zach Strom

PVA School Principal





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