

A View from the Valley

Palm Valley Academy: Week of 12/1 – 12/6

Good evening, PVA Families,

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was filled with joy and quality time with loved ones. As we enter December, the excitement of the season is in the air, and there's much to look forward to at our school.

This month brings opportunities to celebrate our students' hard work, reflect on their growth, and enjoy the spirit of community that makes our school so special. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting their success.

There's a lot of information below, but it's that time of year! Please take a moment to read through when time allows.

Have a great week! Go Bobcats! 🐾

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 thrilled to announce that our school, in partnership with NJHS will be hosting a Toy Drive this holiday season. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a community to spread joy and support families in need. Starting on December 1, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for all ages. These donations will go directly to local St. Johns County families in need in effort to ensure every child experiences the magic of the holidays. We invite all families to join us in making this season brighter for others.

How to Participate:

- **Toy Donations:** Please bring new, unwrapped toys suitable for children of all ages. Collection bins will be located in the front office and throughout the building, or to your homeroom teacher.
- **Amazon Donations:** Choose from desired items on the [AMAZON WISH LIST FOUND HERE](#). All items will be delivered directly to the school. The window to purchase from here ends 12/15.
- **Dates:** The drive will start Monday, December 1st and conclude with our Cookies and Cocoa Art Show and Holiday Event on the evening of Wednesday, December 17th.

This initiative not only allows us to give back but also teaches our students the importance of kindness, generosity, and community. We are so grateful for your support and any contributions you can make. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our counselors, Ms. Kristi Frick or Ms. Corinne Fennelly at (904)547-4200. Thank you for helping us make a difference this holiday season!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Cookies and Cocoa – A Holiday Event and Art Show

The holiday season is upon us, and we're excited to invite you to our special Cookies & Cocoa Holiday Event and Student Art Show! One of our largest, most successful events last year is coming up soon... And YES, there will be artwork from all grades on display!

Event Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, December 17th
- **Time:** 6:00 – 7:30pm
- **Location:** We will start off in the cafeteria

This festive evening will feature:

- 🍪 A stunning display of student artwork showcasing their creativity and hard work.
- 🍪 Delicious cookies and warm cocoa to enjoy with friends and family.
- 🎭 Holiday performances

We can't wait to celebrate the season together and highlight our students' artistic talents. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with the school community and create lasting memories! We look forward to seeing you there! See the flyer below for additional details!

Candy Cane Lane: Volunteers Needed!

This week we kick-off the Holiday Festivities with our Candy Cane Lane Shop! This is our annual holiday shop where the kiddos get to come in with their classes and shop for gifts for family and friends! (Middle Schoolers Come during their lunchtime if they are interested). It is such a joy to see them pick out special gifts for their loved ones! We are in need of volunteers to help our little shop and to wrap their carefully selected goodies!! Please see the sign up below for available opportunities. We do ask that you DO NOT volunteer when your child is coming to shop so as to not spoil the surprise!!

Thank you as always for your willingness to help these events run smoothly and your partnership in making PVA the amazing place that it is! [2025 PVA Volunteers: Candy Cane Lane Volunteers 2025](#)

ELEMENTARY INFO (K-5)

🎪 Big News, K-5! The Circus is Coming to SJCSD!

We're thrilled to share that **The Venardos Circus** is coming to St. Johns County Schools on December 18, and PVA has been selected for one of the two student shows they'll be performing! Because they can only host one performance for approximately 225 students, we're getting creative—and tying this special opportunity to our holiday toy drive! This year, the top **12** elementary classes with the most donated toys will earn seats at the show. While our schoolwide toy drive runs through the 17th, the cutoff for class competition is next Friday, December 12.

What to send in:

- NEW, unwrapped gifts for all ages

Please ensure toys are sent to your child's homeroom teacher so they can be counted accurately. Spread the word to your classroom families - every donation supports a child in need and brings your class one step closer to enjoying an incredible circus experience right before the holidays! Let the friendly competition begin! 🎁🎪❤️

🍎 Volunteer for Elementary Lunch Duty

We're looking for family volunteers to help out during **elementary lunch**! Your support makes a big difference in keeping things running smoothly—whether it's assisting with opening snacks, helping students find their seats, or simply being an encouraging presence in the cafeteria. [If you're interested, please sign up HERE!](#) Even just one lunch period helps our staff and brightens our students' day!

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFO (6-8)

ATTN. 8th Grade Parents- Middle School Blitz Coming

It is time to start to think about high school! PVA is hosting Nease High School on Wednesday, 12/3, for the annual Middle School Blitz during 1st period. This is when representatives from the Career Academies at NHS speak to our 8th graders. This gives PVA students the opportunity to hear from high school students and staff and ask questions about academies they want to learn more about. We will follow up by sending you additional information about events that other high schools will be hosting around the county so you can learn more about the Career Academies at your school of choice. The Middle School Blitz event is for students only.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact Corinne Fennelly, School Counselor, at corinne.fennelly@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Basketball: TRYOUTS COMING UP – MUST SIGN-UP

Basketball tryouts are scheduled for this week. Sign-up using the link below (if you've already signed-up, you're good to go!). *ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE SIGNED UP*

BOYS' TRYOUTS ([SIGN UP HERE!](#))

- Monday, Dec. 1st 5:30-7:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, Dec. 2nd 5:30-7:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3rd 5:30-7:00 P.M. (CALL BACK ONLY)

GIRLS' TRYOUTS ([SIGN UP HERE!](#))

- Tuesday, Dec. 2nd 3:30-5:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3rd 3:30-5:00 P.M. (CALL BACK ONLY)

RETESTING/MAKE-UP WORK OPPORTUNITIES

As part of our continued effort to support student success, we're introducing a few new school-wide options for retesting and make-up work. While teachers will continue to provide opportunities within their own classrooms using a variety of strategies, we've also added designated "Study Hall" sessions for students who need extra time to complete or retake assignments.

Study Hall Options:

- After-School Option:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from **2:30–3:20 PM** in the 1002 computer lab (arranged through the teacher)
- Morning Option:** 2nd Wednesday of each month during **1st period** (arranged through the teacher)

The decision on which session to attend must be worked out between the student and teacher based on need and scheduling. If your student attends the after-school session, pickup will be at 3:20 PM in the bus loop. If they finish early, they will be expected to use the remaining time productively while waiting. We hope these additional options provide flexibility and continued support for students to demonstrate their best work.

8th Grade Fence Banners – ORDER TODAY!

Celebrate your 8th grader with a personalized 2'x3' mesh banner that will line the fence at the school entrance! Banners will remain on display throughout the spring, creating a lasting memory for your student's milestone year. This first round of ordering at the discounted price has passed, but DEADLINE TO ORDER AT THE NEW PRICE IS DECEMBER 15th. (All orders placed during this window will be sent off to print following the December 15 deadline)



PTO HAPPENINGS (ALL GRADES)

- **Papa John's Partnership – Support PVA While You Eat!** We're excited to share an easy way for families to support PVA all year long—just by ordering pizza!
 - **All Year Long:** Use code **PVA10** when placing your Papa John's order, and 10% of your purchase will go back to our PTO.

It's a simple (and tasty!) way to support our school while enjoying a family meal. Thank you for helping us bring in extra support for our Bobcats!

- Get your **8th Grade Fence Banners** TODAY! Scan the QR code below!
- The December PTO Calendar is out! See below!

8TH GRADE

2026



FIRSTNAME
LASTNAME



SCAN ME

PALM VALLEY ACADEMY



DATES OF NOTE:

This Week:

- Monday, December 1st
 - PVA Holiday Toy Drives Begin!
- Tuesday, December 2nd
 - Girls Basketball Tryouts (MS) 3:20-5:00pm
 - Boys Basketball Tryouts (MS) 5:30-7:00pm
- Wednesday, December 3rd
 - Early Release
 - PVA Middle School Blitz 8:40am-9:25am
 - Candy Cane Lane Starts!
 - Middle School Make-Ups/Retest Opportunity after school
 - Girls Basketball Tryouts (MS) 3:20-5:00pm (Call Backs Only)
 - Boys Basketball Tryouts (MS) 5:30-7:00pm (Call Backs Only)
- Thursday, December 4th
 - Build-A-Buddy stuffing for qualified students.
 - Winter Band Concert @ PVHS. 6:00pm

On The Radar:

- Wednesday, December 10th
 - General PTO Meeting @ 9:00am in Café (Online Link to be sent out)
- Thursday, December 11th
 - PVA SAC Meeting @ 3:45pm in Library
- Friday, December 12th
 - Last Day for Candy Cane Lane!

That's all for this week!



Sincerely,

Zach Strom

PVA School Principal

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PVA

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