



What's In This Quarter's Issue:

- Director's Message
- Parent and Family Engagement Survey Results
- Read 2 Me
- Mobile STEM Lab
- Parent Corner
- Upcoming Events
- School Spotlights
- Title I District Recognitions

Director's Message

Greetings,



We are super proud of the strides our schools continue to make. Title I services help provide additional resources so that schools are able to achieve academic goals. Resources may include additional personnel, supplemental academic programs, tutoring, professional development, educational field trips, and parent workshops. We could not be successful without your continuous support and feedback.

Parents, thank you for providing feedback on the Fall 2023 Parent & Family Engagement Survey. A three (3) year participation comparison shows that parent survey participation is increasing. Your feedback is valuable in improving program implementation at the school level and district level. Our **Spring Survey will launch April 10th and end May 17th**. We look forward to your continuous feedback!

Please plan to attend a parent event or two during the Spring semester. This may be attending a parent-teacher conference, parent workshop, or family activity such as curriculum night or school production. This newsletter will continue to highlight success in our Title I schools.

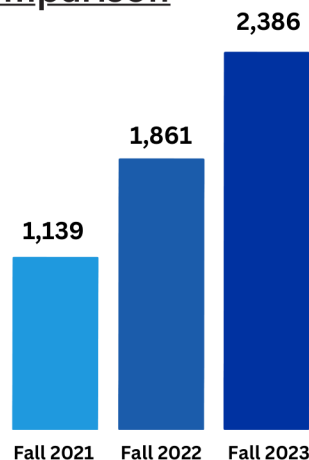
Sincerely,

April Knight, Director
Title I Programs



Thank you for completing the Title I Fall 2023 Parent and Family Engagement Survey. We value the views of our stakeholders. The input provided is important. Your input helps us to plan and implement the parent and family engagement program as well as activities designed to raise student achievement. When compared to Fall 2022, we saw an overall 28% increase in participation.

Survey Comparison



Read 2 Me

The Title I Office has partnered with the Tallahassee Police Department to bring Read 2 Me (Reading Educating and Dedicated to Modeling Excellence) to Title I elementary readers. Weekly, officers read to first grade classes at two Title I elementary schools: Bond Elementary and Riley Elementary! Students are actively listening, learning, and connecting previous knowledge to each story.



Mobile STEM Lab



Kudos to the Bond Eagles and the Ruediger Roadrunners for helping to launch Title I Mobile STEM Lab for the 2023-2024 school year. Parents and students had a STEM-tastic time learning about STEM careers and building a "Space Car" also known as a "Mars Rover"! Families built and tested their Mars Rover using math, science, and critical thinking skills. Each family was able to take home a Mars Rover. Thank you, FAMU College of Agriculture and Food Science and Dr. Sabrina Hayes, for continuing to facilitate this event!



PARENT CORNER

WINTER BREAK FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ✓ **Book vs. Movie Comparison.** While you probably don't want your kids glued to the TV for the whole winter break, a planned afternoon or evening of movie-watching can be fun. Choose a movie that was inspired by a book that you or your child have read. Make some popcorn, grab a few other favorite movie treats and some cozy pillows and blankets, relax and enjoy! "Books and movies are like apples and oranges. They both are fruit, but taste completely different" (Stephen King). After the movie, discuss how the book and the movie were alike, how they were different, and which did you like better, and why?



- ✓ **Do Some Volunteer Work.** Just because the kids are out of school doesn't mean their learning should come to a halt. Teach them about compassion and helping others by volunteering together over the holiday. Volunteering at a food bank is a popular choice for families looking for volunteer work they can do together, but there are likely lots of organizations in your neighborhood that could use a helping hand.



- ✓ **Visit the Library.** During winter break, the public library can be a great destination. Kids can read books, look for movies to borrow or use the computers at the library, and you can find some new reading material as well. Many libraries offer special kids' programs during school breaks, so be sure to check your local library's website for any programs your children may enjoy. These programs are often free of charge but be sure to check with your library to make sure pre-registration is not required.



- ✓ **Cook as a family.** The holidays are a great time to cook as a family. Traditional family recipes that have been passed down through the generations are always a hit with the kids. Cooking together has several learning opportunities as well, like using recipes and measurements to keep those reading and math skills sharp. Holiday cooking can make learning fun!



PARENT CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 11th, 6:00 p.m. @ Apalachee:**
Mobile STEM Lab
- **January 17th, 6:00 p.m. @ Rickards:**
Mobile STEM Lab: Forensics Breakout Room Edition
- **February 7th, 6:00 p.m. @ Fort Braden:**
Mobile STEM Lab
- **March 6th, 6:00 p.m. @ Rickards:**
Math of Cooking: Spring Edition

PARENT PORTAL: REPORT CARDS



We made it through the first semester! **Tuesday, December 19th marks the last day of the first semester. Report cards will be available on the Focus Portal on January 17th.** Families need a Focus Portal account to access student grades and attendance. Contact your child's school for the parent portal letter which includes your child/children's name, student ID, and parent portal pin. Then visit <https://leon.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth/> and follow the directions that are included on the letter.

STAY CONNECTED

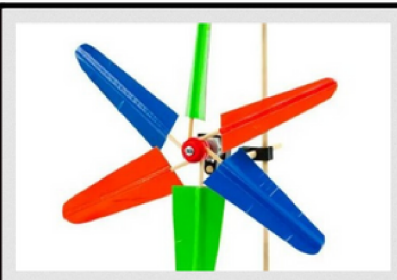
Make sure your contact information is up to date! Join the teacher's Remind, the school's listserv, and commit to attending at least one (1) school event by May 15th. Strong communication between school and home are essential! A child's academic performance improves when there is positive communication between parents and teachers. If you haven't already done so, contact your child's teacher to schedule a parent-teacher conference. Ask for tips to help your child at home.

Do you want to know about upcoming Title I events? Scan the QR Code below and subscribe to the Title I Listserv.



LCS TITLE I presents Mobile STEM Lab

SCIENCETECHNOLOGYENGINEERINGMATHEMATICS



**Apalachee Elementary School
January 11th @ 6:00 p.m.**

Door prizes
Light refreshments

RSVP Today

***Students must be
accompanied by a parent
and/or a guardian.**



Scan Me



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS

Apalachee Elementary School



During Hispanic Heritage Month, Apalachee Elementary expanded the study of Hispanic history to music, academics, food, and culture. On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, the shining stars of Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts were captivated by the Grammy-nominated Latina guitarist, singer, and songwriter Sonia De Los Santos. Sonia performed her highly engaging, interactive, bilingual songs in Spanish and English. Sonia, who plays guitar and jarana, was accompanied by a saxophonist and a guitarist. Sonia's uplifting songs included music from her recent album - Esperanza. These songs explored resiliency themes such as hope, gratitude, and dreaming of a better future. Primary grades explored the intriguing Mexican Fall holiday called Día de los Muertos. They read about the origins of the holiday and decorated beautiful papeles picados. Apalachee's Alvaro Barsallo, who is the Computer Tech, 23-24 School-Related Employee of the Year, and a native Spanish speaker, read bilingual stories to classes. Also, native speaking students shared counting and nouns in Spanish. Several classrooms finished the celebration with an exploration of math and Hispanic recipes - and of course tasting the yummy food! This celebration was a reinforcement of community experience. Everyone is welcomed at Apalachee. Their visual and performing arts reflect the many cultures present at Apalachee - where everyone is a shining star! Kudos to Apalachee!

Hartsfield Elementary School



We are proud to announce that Hartsfield Magnet School for International Studies is officially an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. Hartsfield will offer the Primary Years International Baccalaureate Program! This is a momentous achievement for their school community. It is a testament to the dedication and vision of providing a globally-focused education for all learners.

The IB Primary Years Program has enhanced the school's curriculum, fostering the development of inquisitive, knowledgeable, and caring young learners who are equipped to make a positive impact on the world. Hartsfield is thrilled to embark on this new chapter and look forward to the opportunities and growth it will bring to their learning community. Congratulations Hartsfield!

Sabal Palm Elementary School



Sabal Palm is the only University of Central Florida (UCF) – Certified Community Partnership School in Leon County. This designation helps to remove barriers, that could hinder students' education, by increasing access to and providing resources that support student health and wellness. Sabal Palm continues to provide a supportive environment that builds resilience, promotes physical health, and increases academic achievement of students. Sabal Palm has a variety of activities for students to choose from for after school. The Young Engineers Program partners with the Robotics Club to provide high-quality learning in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) sports, which includes soccer and flag football, provide a way to keep students active while promoting teamwork. First Tee Golf offers experience with a sport that builds life skills with confidence and persistence. The Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra's program, Murdock's Li'l Mozarts, not only fosters musical awareness but also helps students develop concentration, patience, and self-discipline. The Student Council is active and has experienced working with state senators and speaking before the House. This allowed students to practice demonstrating leadership skills and critical thinking. Pair one or more of these with Sabal Palm's afterschool tutoring programs or Title I 21st Century program, and you have the recipe for lifelong success! Go Patriots!

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS

Sealey Elementary School



On November 17th, the students at Sealey Elementary spent the day learning about different careers within the community. Parents in various careers (ex. attorney, photographer, interior designer, educator, motivational speaker), Drip Drop Fitness, Tallahassee Fire Department, Tallahassee Police Department, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Animal Control, and Leon County Dispatch shared their knowledge and experiences with the children.

The Sealey Career Educational Expo Day was a hit! Teachers, students, and speakers commented on how they enjoyed the day. Students not only learned about the different careers available, they were also able to see that people in the community could help them if they needed it. The Career Educational Expo Day is one of several activities that supports college and career readiness. It's never too early to provide students with learning experiences that will help them determine what opportunities are available. Keep shining Sealey Superstars!

Springwood Elementary School



This school year, Springwood implemented Ron Clark's House System. The house system is a dynamic and exciting way to create a powerful and positive school climate.

Students are celebrated for their efforts through a process that builds character, empowers academic excellence, fosters school spirit, enhances relationships, and promotes a culture of belonging for all. Teachers engage in professional development to support this initiative.

Springwood's House System features four (4) houses. Each house has unique properties such as its own color, symbol, nation of heritage, history, and more. The houses are:

- Altruism - The House of Givers
- Amistad - The House of Friendship
- Isibindi - The House of Courage
- Reveur - The House of Dreamers

This is a great way to build learning communities! Kudos to Springwood!

Title I is Shining: Congratulations to our District Winners and Finalists



School-Related
Employee of the Year

District Winner



Emanuel Francis
Sabal Palm



Valerie Davis
Sealey

Glenn-Howell Distinguished
Educator of the Year

District Winner



Kenneth Edwards
Woodville K-8 School



Yolanda Dixon
Astoria Park



Shenita Grayson
Pineview



Rafael Ricardo
Amos P. Godby

Teacher of the Year

District Winner



Daisy Bush
Woodville K-8 School