

# NEWSLETTER

FEB. 2020

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## FROM THE DISTRICT

Recently Superintendent Dr. Danny Glover and several principals along with Katie Fletcher and Kamryn Sands attended "Take on Tallahassee" on Monday, Jan. 13, the eve of the 2020 legislative session. The district advocated for improved funding for students and schools, fair pay for all education employees, and an end to the misguided policies that have led to the over-testing of students and the loss of local control in our districts. The event also highlighted for student success, retain and recruit the best teachers, and invest in public education. The district administration also had the chance to stop and visit with Senator Montford to discuss priorities for Taylor County.



Left to Right:  
Dr. Danny Glover, HS Principal-Heather McCoy, Middle Principal Kiki Puhl, TCES principal Sabrina Lytle, Teachers Union President- Katie Fletcher, TCPS Principal Kelli Brannen, Teachers Union vice President Kamryn Sands

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## 5 WAYS TO CELEBRATE

1. Visit a Black History or Civil Rights Museum in your local area
2. Spend time with a Black elder in your community
3. Read a book by a Black author
4. Learn about an unsung hero of Black history
5. Read Dr. King's I Have a Dream Speech

## TC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### OZBOT ROBOTS

First and second graders at TCPS are currently coding with Ozobot robots. Ozobots are kid friendly codable robots that allow student to let their imaginations run wild with possibilities! Student in STEAM use special markers to create a path for their robots with multiples twist, turns and tricks!! A special thanks to Georgia Pacific for sponsoring STEM initiatives in Taylor County Schools!

## TC MIDDLE SCHOOL



TCMS 8th grade Honor Society students recently volunteered at Marshall Health and Rehabilitation Center. The boys and girls sang Christmas carols, delivered presents and chatted with the residents. This group of students are also charter members of TCMS' very first Interact Club Chapter. These club members work in partnership with the Rotary Club to teach leadership skills and learn how to positively impact their community.

Students work on various community service projects throughout the year to live up to the organization's motto: "Service Above Self". 8th grade student Tanner Nix was deeply touched by the visit and remarked, "The people were so nice to us, they clapped and sang along and just seemed so appreciative that we were there, it made me feel so good to volunteer with them". Keep an eye out for this group at future community events, they are quickly learning how their small acts of kindness can make a BIG impact.

### READ WITH ME

Taylor County Primary hosted their 2nd Read with Me night for the 2019-2020 school year. Parents and students were invited in to learn about different reading strategies that can be used at home to support reading. Reading strategies were multi-sensory and hands on games that are easy and fun for all family members. Preschool and VPK families learned about letter recognition, letter sounds, and sight words. Kindergarten through 2nd grade families learned about high frequency words, phonics, phonological awareness, reading comprehension information and literature and vocabulary. Students received free books and a chance to win a kindle with a \$25 gift card to buy books for the device. We had a wonderful turn out and appreciate all the support we received from each and every one of our families.

## FUN FACT

Taylor County Buses travel approximately **900 miles** across Taylor County EVERY school day!

# FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CTE MONTH!

## STEINHATCHEE SCHOOL

What is CTE? Career and Technical Education (CTE) is coursework that prepares secondary and postsecondary students with technical, academic and employability skills for success in the workplace and in further education. CTE provides students with real-world training that they need to enter high-wage, high-skill careers.

There are several benefits to CTE. Research shows that students in CTE programs have increased academic achievement, lower dropout rates and increased earning potential. Additionally, students have opportunities to earn industry certifications and licensures (at no cost). Many industry certifications earn high school credit (math and/or science), articulate (earn) college credit (saves money) and make students eligible for the Bright Futures CAPE Scholarship (pays 70% of cost of postsecondary CTE program).

Taylor County Schools offer 17 different career programs including exploratory courses in Agriculture, Business, Digital

Design and Health Science offered at TCMS. TCHS offers courses in Agriculture, Culinary Arts, Digital Design and Television Production Technology – and will offer new programs next year in Nursing and Finance. TCHS students can also dual enroll in many of the programs offered at Big Bend Technical College (BBTC) which include Diesel Maintenance Technician, Diesel Systems Technology 1, Electrical & Instrumentation 1 & 2., Electronic Technology 1, Massage Therapy, Medical Coder/Biller, Millwright 1 & 2, Patient Care Technician, Practical Nursing, Welding Technology and Welding Technology Advanced.

Want more information about Taylor County School's CTE offerings? Contact the Guidance Office at TCMS or TCHS or the Student Services Department at BBTC.

CTE – Education that WORKS!

The year is flying by at Steinhatchee School! Our students recently completed their mid-year I-Ready progress monitoring assessments. The results showed substantial growth from the beginning of the year for our students and reflects a similar trajectory to last year's successful outcome. 78% of students met their learning gain targets for Math and 75% met the learning gains target for ELA. The results are a testament to the hard work going on in our classrooms. Students who met 5 of 7 goals related to Attitude, Attendance, and Achievement attended a reward event before the break. Our Family Center was transformed into a cinema for the Goals Movie Theater produced by our Parent Involvement Team.

Steinhatchee students have also been active in extra-curricular activities. Many of our students performed for audiences during and after school with the return of the "Wholiday" Grinch play facilitated by the Stingray chapter of the Boy's and Girl's Club. Students received an additional opportunity to perform in the inaugural community-wide celebration of "The Greatest Gift", a collaborative effort between Character Education Now and our Parent Involvement Team, in the lead up to Christmas.

Our school was blessed to receive a \$2,000 grant from Wal-Mart recently. The funds will be used to upgrade our media center in order to provide a greater selection of books for our students. We are thrilled about the possibilities as students are given more opportunities to engage with literature. Stingrays are excited for the future at our growing school!



## TC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### SAVE THE TCES DATE:

**Family Engagement Night: Feb. 6, 4:30-6:00 pm**

This night will consist of student led conferences, where students will have an opportunity to discuss their achievement data with their guardians under the facilitation of their homeroom teacher.

**2nd Annual Father/Daughter Valentine Princess Dance: Feb. 7, 6:00-8:00 pm**

The TCES Event Committee is busily preparing for the 2nd Annual Father/Daughter Valentine Princess Dance to be bigger and better than the inaugural event which took place last year. Female students are invited to attend with their special adult. There will be dancing, games, prizes, and lots of yummy refreshments for all to enjoy.

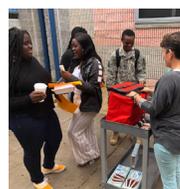
During the month of February, Taylor County Elementary is focused on family engagement. Several events will be taking place in an effort to encourage family and community participation in the school setting. The National Education Association uses research to validate the benefits of family and community involvement in the success of schools. "Parent, family, and community involvement in education correlates with higher academic performance and school improvement. When schools, parents, families, and communities work together to support learning, students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, stay in school longer, and enroll in higher level programs." (Van Roekel, 2008, pp. 1)

At Taylor County Elementary School, we hope to involve parents and other community stakeholders in the learning and decision-making process. Community and family members are invited to join the Parent/Teacher Organization, attend School Advisory Committee Meetings, volunteer at school events and in classrooms, have lunch with their students, chaperone school field trips, and attend and participate in family engagement nights. For more information on how you can volunteer or become more involved in the school decision making process please contact the school at 850-838-2530.

#### Reference

Van Roekel, D. 2008. *An NEA policy brief: Parent, family, community involvement in education.* NEA Education Policy and Practice Department, PB 11. Washington, D.C.

## TC HIGH SCHOOL



Honor roll students and faculty at TCHS were rewarded with ice cream sandwiches on Wednesday. We are proud of our academic efforts and continue to look for ways to reward our academic success.



On Tuesday, January 14, Ms. Jandula and Ms. Johstono took a group of seniors to visit NFCC to explore opportunities for them to take the next step in their educational journey. In addition to exploring educational opportunities, students were able to interact with employers about the type of education they need to be successful employees in various careers. Students were "invited to explore North Florida College's Career and Workforce Education programs and how training at NFC connects with career paths and university-level programs".