

Panther Pride News



PKS Breaks Ground on New School

Plantation Key School
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By: Lilly Trumbull

To resume the construction of the new Plantation Key School, the school had a ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday, January 10th. The entire PKS student body assembled for the ceremony. The ceremonial groundbreaking took place by the old playground where the multipurpose room used to stand. During this event, every student attended wearing a special PKS groundbreaking shirt. The PKS middle school band members played the Star Spangled Banner beautifully.

Some important people who attended were: all of the Monroe County school board members, Superintendent Mark Porter, the mayor of Islamorada, Jim Mooney, the vice mayor of Islamorada, Mike Forster, and Senator Aniterre Florez.

All of these people took golden shovels and dug into the ground in order to officially celebrate the building of the school.



Many important school and county officials broke ground on the new school using golden shovels. It was a fun celebration for the students.

Picture by Lexi Kumar

Crispino Selected as Teacher of the Year

By: Kinsely Catarineau

PKS fourth grade teacher Christine Crispino has been selected as teacher of the year. There were many great candidates, but this one teacher excelled, and stood out overall. Her vast teaching experiences, connections to the kids, and teaching strategies shined through it all.

To start off, Mrs. Crispino has taught for a total of eleven years, and counting! Her all time favorite grade to teach is fourth grade. According to Mrs. Crispino, “ My favorite part of teaching is when my students make a connection to the material they are learning about.”

Lastly, the connection Mrs. Crispino is able to make with all of her students is astonishing. Even after students leave her class and graduate to another grade, they still come and visit her. Some of her old students even student aide for her, because they love her, and her teaching. They don't want to

give that up. Mrs. Crispino even helps children who are struggling in other classes out of the kindness in her heart, because that's just the kind of person she is.

To sum it up, Mrs. Crispino is a kind, smart, and dedicated teacher. She is not only an amazing teacher, but an amazing person.



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PKS Editorial Page



By: Joey Patterson

Something that has created a lot of controversy is the Black Lives Matter protest in the NFL. Some football players are sitting or kneeling during the National Anthem to protest. This is very bad thing because it disrespecting our freedom, our country, and the people fighting for America.

First of all, police officers are the ones killing black males, not American soldiers. Soldiers shouldn't be disrespected cause police officers are trying to stop crime. Some of these deaths are unjustified, but most are justified because they were breaking the law. Now officers have body cameras, so they record what really happens. Really people shouldn't be protesting, they should be helping inner-city minorities.

"If (Colin) Kaepernick really cared about black

lives, he would be in Chicago telling (people) to stop killing each other." -USA Today.

Also, sitting during the National Anthem isn't helping the Black Lives Matter movement. It is just making it worse. It's increasing racism and hate instead of trying to solve the problem.

When people see football players disrespecting our country by sitting or kneeling during the National Anthem, they just get upset. It doesn't do anything positive to bring awareness to this problem.

So if you're going to disrespect America, you should go to like Russia or Syria and see how they treat people there. We should all be proud and grateful to stand for the National Anthem to honor the Americans who have bravely fought and died for our freedom.

Why Can't Kids Vote?

By: Abby Sebben

Why do we have to be a certain age to vote? If people say that every vote counts, but not everyone votes, so how can all votes count? Why can't kids vote? Teenagers fourteen and up know a lot about politics. Some kids are very responsible, and they should be able to vote. Maybe some of us know more than our parents do.

Kids are being told lies. Many adults chose not to vote because they don't care or they are too lazy to go to the polls. Many parents talk all the time about who is going to be the best president and who is not going to be good. They also complain a lot if the president they voted for didn't win. The president is important and kids recognize this. They show more respect than the adults.

Kids should be able to vote younger than age eighteen because even though our brains are not fully developed, we should still have a voice in important issues in America. A lot of it affects us, like education. We are as smart as our parents, and we deserve to speak our minds. Many of the issues could be helped by a kid's perspective. The law needs to be changed so kids can vote!



On Friday, January 20, 2017, Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States of America. The ceremony began at 11:30 and was followed by a parade. Many former presidents were in attendance including President Barack Obama, President George W. Bush, President Bill Clinton, and President Jimmy Carter. President George H.W. Bush was unable to attend due to health issues.



2017 New Year: New Resolutions!

By: Mia Milchman, Brooke El-Koury and Katelyn Gilman

Everyone is wondering what is your 2017 New Year's Resolution? Well, we asked around and gathered some pretty good ones. So here's some background history about the New Year's.

This new year of 2017, we are going to be having some changes like, more birthdays, a new president, and many more. We have more and more people coming up to us talking about the new year of 2017, with the new president Donald Trump.

Time balls were made for the new year and the fall time change. The ball has been remodeled and uploaded, new materials and many more has been done. In Spain, they eat 12 grapes in the last 12 seconds that lead to the new year.

Not all celebrations were actually on January 1st. In Greece, they celebrated on the winter solstice. The ball drop tradition started in 1907. The famous ball of New York City has been remodeled and it's materials have changed over time. The Greek made ring shaped cakes with a silver or gold rings inside to represent the new year.

This year we are going to be having many people either excited for the new year or maybe even sad or mad. This year is 2017 and some want it to come faster. Here are some people's 2017 resolutions: Mrs. Taylor: "To Recycle more," Mrs. House: "To travel More," and Mr. Mangel: "To be best person I can be."

Are Elective Classes More Important Than Regular Classes?

By: Katelyn Gilman

Don't you get bored sitting in a class and you think that you're never going to need this in real life? Your electives can be used in real life situations. Many students think that elective classes are better. Most electives have to do with jobs and real life.

Our school electives help us with moving on in life and getting adult responsibilities. Some electives at PKS are Journalism, Art, Music, Stem and many more. Our electives can help make us money once we are old enough to get jobs. Our electives help us academically and to do better later in life.

Now, students, we don't get nearly as much homework in electives than normal classes. Unless you like getting homework, this is for you. Usually our elective teachers are also very nice. Some teachers don't like teaching electives, but it is less work for the teachers to grade. Our electives are super important. I hope I persuaded you towards more time in elective classes.

Does The Price of Makeup Matter?

By: Haley De La Torre

Does the price of makeup matter? Well, in my opinion the price of makeup totally matters. The more expensive the better. The less expensive, the quality of the make-up goes down. Makeup prices totally matter.

First, the more expensive makeup is, the better quality it is. "In my opinion, Mac makeup is better than Loreal," said Natalie Turner.

Second, the makeup that is more expensive you will be able to keep it for longer. It's a fact that Sephora makeup is longer lasting than CVS makeup. Makeup prices really do matters so much.

In addition, more expensive makeup doesn't have added oil like cheap makeup. I know this because one time I used cheap foundation, and it made my face oily for a week. On the other hand, you will still look good with cheap makeup. But, you will look even better with expensive makeup.

In conclusion, you should always buy either Mac makeup or Bareminerals makeup instead of cheap products at CVS or Walgreens. You should also always buy makeup that is new. Makeup does get old and can harm your skin. In the end, the more expensive make-up you buy, the less likely you are to have a skin breakout.

Is Wearing Makeup Worth It?

By: Lexi Kumar

Is it worth wearing makeup? Even if you get pimples and acne when you wear it? Makeup can be a vicious cycle. You want to wear makeup, but when you wear it, you begin to have pimples on your face. So is it really worth it?

First, when you put makeup on, your pores clog up with makeup. So when you apply the makeup, it goes directly into your pores. Also, when you sweat, your makeup gets oily and sweeps into your pores. Then it can block the pores and turn into acne or blackheads. It stays in there until you pop them. Which then can damage or scar your skin.

Secondly, what are pores and what makes them big? Pores are a hair follicles and sebaceous glands that serve as a getaway for sebum, your skin's natural oil. Poor hygiene and dirt make them big. When you apply oily makeup, it goes into your skin and makes the makeup slip in your pores. You need to wash your face really well to avoid breakouts.

Third, some people like wearing makeup. They cover up things they don't like or they don't feel secure about. They cover up pimples with makeup. The makeup adds oil to the pimples, which makes them bigger and redder than they were before.

Makeup is pointless and there is no reason to wear it. You get pimples, acne, blackheads, and your pores fill up. You can be yourself and be makeup free. Don't feel you have to wear makeup to cover up things. You are who you are, so you should appreciate yourself!

Career Day teaches Students to Plan for the Future

By Kailee Nason and Autum Conroy

On Thursday, November 17, 2016, Plantation Key School held a school-wide career day to educate students about future professions. The event was organized by the career day committee, led by Laurie Beaton, PKS guidance counselor and Alicia Jensen, middle school team leader.

Middle school students had the opportunity to learn about many jobs and occupations; while elementary students got to learn about the responsibilities of service animals from Dr. Glade, see the Monroe County bomb squad robot, watch a presentation from the Everglades Alligator Farm, and listen to FWC Officer McKay.

When asked, "How do you think career day influenced students' futures?" Beaton replied, "It broadened their ideas for a future career path." She continued, "It's an opportunity for students to deviate from core academics, while still participating in fun, academic activities."

Students agreed that career day was interesting and informative.

7th grader Kristy Mollineda said, "I really enjoyed the DEA presentation. I might like solving crimes."

John Bedell of City Hall Cafe discussed the stressful, yet rewarding restaurant environment. 7th grader Maria Gonzalez said, "Mr. Bedell taught me that instead of getting stressed over something, you should take a deep breath and think about the situation."

Career day was a fun way of opening students eyes to their future job options. The presenters not only discussed jobs, but also related life skills to the students. Thank you to the presenters: Kara Lundgren, general manager of Amara Cay Resort, John Bedell, owner of City Hall Café, FWC Officers Steinmetz and Dube, Bahia Honda Park Ranger Keely Kesler, PKS SRO Officer Stark, KAPOW presenters Carolyn Cambell, Mary Akers, and Loretta Thompson, Jennie Nicholson, Air Force, and PKS Nurse Kerry Biondoletti. Rob Stober, Hershoff, Lupino and Yagel Attorneys at Law, and DEA agent Joseph Carucci.

New Apple iPhone 7 Proves to be Disappointing

By Kaitlyn Dickerson



First off, there are many flaws in this new phone. There is no headphone jack, so you need special headphones. Also, you have probably seen references that the phone is waterproof. It's not. Apple refers to it as being "splash, water and dust resistant." That is only one of the flaws in the phone.

An Australian man has claimed that his iPhone 7 caught on fire while left inside a car as he went surfing. The phone was under a pair of pants. When he returned he found the car windows were completely black. When he opened the door, he saw the fire. He was sure that the phone was the source of the fire.

Lastly, our very own 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Horsley said she really likes it. She has had no problems so far. The camera quality is better. Her storage is 164gb. But prices are high. Her case was \$50. Her phone was \$750. Unfortunately, she had to buy a new case because the camera is very big. The only thing she needs to get used to is the home button. This is because it doesn't click. It uses a fingerprint instead.

All in all, iPhone 7s have their own story to tell. Everyone has their own experiences. Some people will take the risk just to have the newest device on the market, while others are waiting for the next model.



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The Chicago Cubs Finally Win the World Series

By: Elani Coll and Abby Sebben

108 years, it's a long time don't you think? That's how long it's been since the Cubs won the World Series, that is until last night, November 2, 2016. The Indians haven't won a World Series in 68 years and they can add one more year to that. Right now the manager of the Chicago Cubs is Joe Hoyer. From 1921-1951, with just a short break during World War II, the Cubs trained on Catalina Island off the coast of Los Angeles. After every World Series game, they would have a huge parade and every student is excused from school.

After a Cubs victory they hold up a "W" flag -- which means Win -- atop of the centerfield scoreboard. After they win a game

and they hold up the "W" flag, they sing a song called "Go! Cubs! Go!". Did you know that the only Cub to ever win back to back MVP awards was Ernie Banks, also known as "Mr. Cub." He won MVP in both 1958 and in 1959.

We went around the school and asked a few students who they wanted to win. The Cubs had the most votes. The Indians got the second most votes. Some people voted none because they don't like baseball. Did you know that the Cubs had a fan who was born the same day and that the Cubs won their first World Series and died on the day they won the second time?

NFL Running Backs

By: Cody Kennedy

This year's leading running back is Ezekiel Elliott. He plays for the Dallas Cowboys leading with 891 yards so far this season. He has seven touchdowns and averages five yards a carry and 111.4 total yards per game.

The next leading running back is DeMarco Murray. He plays for the Tennessee Titans, having ran 807 yards so far this season. He averages 4.6 yards a carry with a total of 89.7 yards a game. He has seven touchdowns so far.

My personal favorite in the top five best running backs so far is Jay Ajayi. He plays for the Miami Dolphins, our home team, and he is the 5th best running back. So far, he has a total of 646 yards on the season and averages 6 yards a carry. Jay Ajayi has 6 touchdowns and with 6 carries over 20 yards with his longest carry at 62 yards. He gets an average of 92.3 yards every game.



The Cowboy's Quarterback Controversy

By: Matt and Joey Patterson

One of the most talked about things in the NFL is the Dak Prescott/Tony Romo quarterback controversy.

Should the rookie take the job or should they go back to their regular long time quarterback? With Dak Prescott as their quarterback, the Cowboys are 10-1 and have playoff hopes. The last time Tony Romo played a whole season, they finished 8-8. Tony Romo has been hurt since last season.

According to NFL writer Conor Orr, "At the moment, Prescott's interception rate, TD to INT ratio, yards per completion and completion percentage are all better than Romo's career averages." So far this season, Prescott has a 67.9 completion percentage, 2339 passing yards, 18 touchdowns, 2 interceptions, 0.7 interception percentage and a quarterback rating of 108.6. In Tony Romo's career he has a 65.3 completion percentage, 35,154 passing yards, 247 touchdowns, 117 interceptions, 2.7 interception percentage, and a 97.1 quarterback rating.

Also, Dak Prescott is a mobile threat too. He can run the ball for many yards, when Romo is only a pocket passer. Also, Tony Romo might pass the torch because of his heartfelt speech that he made November 15. In his speech he said, "Dak Prescott, and what he's done, he's earned the right to be our quarterback." Jerry Jones said that Tony would make a great offensive coordinator for the team. To sum it all up, It looks like Dak will be "Da Man" for the Cowboys as they move toward the future.

Cleveland Browns Have A Tough NFL Season

By: Luke Webb

"Being 0-12 is the hardest thing ever" said Hue Jackson. At that point in the season, the Cleveland Browns were the only team that had not won a game yet. At that point, they had played 12 games and hadn't won yet. They eventually won one game against the San Diego Chargers, ending the season 1-15. They are in the AFC North and are the worst team in their division and in the entire league. The division has four teams. The Baltimore Ravens, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Cincinnati Bengals are the other teams. The Steelers ended up winning the division this year and went up against the New England Patriots for a shot at the Super Bowl.

The Cleveland Browns were established in 1946. They play in FirstEnergy stadium and are currently owned by Mr. Jimmy Haslam. They have been in the playoffs 24 times, but have never won the Super Bowl. The name of the team was named after Coach Paul Brown. I guess it's a good thing that Cleveland has a good baseball team and a good basketball team because football isn't going so well for them right now. Hopefully, they will have better luck next season.

Winter Panther Q & A:

How do people think Santa's Elves became what they are today?

By Mackenzie Hupka and Ally Cooper



Mrs. Frier said: "They were kids who never wanted to grow up and wanted to play with toys forever."

Mrs. Patterson said : "They were leprechauns who wanted a time to celebrate other than St. Patrick's Day."



Mrs. Corliss said: "Santa had a bunch of babies and he just wanted them to work."

Mrs. Beaton said : "Santa was so good to them that they wanted to help him out by making toys for him."





YOUR NEW YEAR HOROSCOPE

By Lauren Settoon and Natalie Turner

Aries (March 21- April 19)

The year 2017 comes with good news and good opportunities. You are blessed with an optimistic and energetic approach to your everyday life. With possibilities of major changes coming in your life, there will be many challenges that you might have to face but keep your positive attitude and your actions will speak for themselves.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This year, focus on your own well-being above everything. You have the ability to create the future you want so do not waste your time.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

2017 will give you many chances to move forward on your goals on life. You have big ideas, but it will be hard for you to start them on your own. Using your people skills, you will team up and find partners to help you bring your goals to life.

Cancer (June 21- July 22)

You will have to make important decisions in 2017. This is a great time to make that big change that will change you for the better and make you a better person emotionally and mentally. Stay close to that one close friend.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

This year will be slower for you but easier. With time feeling slow this year, you may also get a lot more done each day. Use your time wisely and focus on what is important to you.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This year you get a fresh start. You will find adventure along with new friendships. Say goodbye to the people that bring you down and make changes in your life. As you would usually make careful decisions, bravery and open mindedness will seep out.

Libra (September 23- October 22)

You are big hearted, you will do endless good things in the new year. You will make strong allies and bond with many. You have good vision and an especially good vision on looking at how far you've come and how close the rest seems to be.

Scorpio (October 23- November 21)

This year will go by quickly for you. Getting stressed out about everything will not help you. Stay close with your true friends and don't be afraid to take a mental vacation.

Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)

For you, 2017 will be full of open opportunities. You will want to learn more and do more. You will work hard and be incredibly successful, but the most progress you will do will be internally.

Capricorn (December 22- January 19)

It's your year to charge ahead, make bold changes for progress, success, and achieve greater respect in the world. Family and friends will listen and support you. But it may be love that generates the most progress for you.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

2017 is a time of great potential and personal growth. Hard work and success are there too. Make sure you make the right choices for yourself and try not to worry about others.

Pisces (February 19- March 20)

This year your hard work will pay off! Have fun with your friends and spend time with family. You will learn how to get through all situations. Your feelings will be intensified by stress but you will catch yourself and benefit about what the past has taught you.

**The PKS PTA Panther Family Paint Fun Run/ Walk 5K
will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2017.**

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. at mm 86.7.

The event ends at CSHS with a fun after party on the football field!

Hope to see everyone there!



By: Haley De La Torre & Lexi Kumar