



PLEW'S NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
2026



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thank You for Your Patience

A heartfelt thank you to all families for your patience and understanding as we continue to refine our dismissal process. Your cooperation helps ensure that every student leaves school safely and efficiently. We appreciate your support as we work together to make each day run smoothly.

FAST PM 1: Florida Assessment of Student Thinking

This month, students will participate in the FAST PM 1 assessment. The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is an important tool that helps teachers understand each student's current academic level. By analyzing the results, teachers can tailor instruction to meet individual learning needs, ensuring that every child receives the support and challenges necessary for growth. The FAST assessment is administered three times a year, measuring academic progress from spring to spring. This ongoing process allows us to track student growth and celebrate achievements throughout the year.

Important Reminders

- Please ensure your contact information is up to date for smooth communication.
- Encourage your child to read daily and share what they are learning at home.
- Reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Together, we nurture curiosity, celebrate progress, and help every student "Unlock their Panther Potential"!

Mrs. Matz

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I want to thank our Panther families for helping us build a safe, supportive school community. One important way you can partner with us is by talking with your children about **controlling their words**, especially when they're feeling upset. Even statements made in frustration can be interpreted as threats, and when that happens, the school is required to take specific safety actions. This is a serious matter, and we want every student to understand that their words carry weight. Feeling angry is completely normal – we all experience big emotions. What matters is how we respond. Please remind your child that when they feel overwhelmed, the safest choice is to **pause, breathe, and ask for help**. Our staff is here to support them, and together we can ensure our children learn to handle frustration in healthy, responsible ways.

Sincerely,
Heather Phillips



UPCOMING DATES

- **9/3:** K/3 Parent Patio Lunch
- **9/7:** Labor Day-No School
- **9/14:** Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A (order in app)
- **9/15:** PLA Meeting-6pm in Cafetorium
- **9/17:** 2/4 Parent Patio Lunch
- **9/21:** SAC Meeting-3:15
- **9/21-25:** Scholastic Book Fair
- **9/22:** Open House and Book Fair 5-6:30pm
- **9/24:** 1/5 Parent Patio Lunch
- **9/24:** Fall Pictures

PARENT PATIO LUNCHES

With a few exceptions, we will have a rotating schedule for Parent Patio Lunches.

- K/3: First Thursday of every month
- 1/5: Second Thursday of every month
- 2/4: Third Thursday of every month

*Please note, due to testing, that September is one of those exceptions.

There will be no grade level specific lunches in November, as all parents are invited to attend the Thanksgiving Parent Lunches on November 18th (1, 4 & 5) & November 19th (K, 2 & 3).

There will also be no parent lunches in December, March, April and May due to on-campus events and/or testing.

Please refer to the monthly newsletter and/or the "Events" section of the Plew website for specific dates. Please use the chart below for each teacher's specific lunch time.

As always, you must bring your ID and check in at the front office.

<u>Kinder</u>		<u>First</u>		<u>Second</u>	
K. Wallace	10:30-11:00	Rodgers	10:45-11:15	Hann	11:00-11:30
Leavins	10:30-11:00	Young	10:45-11:15	Murphy	11:00-11:30
Zieinski	10:30-11:00	Marrion	10:50-11:20	Frale	11:00-11:30
LaPointe	10:35-11:05	Bivins	10:50-11:20	Graham	11:05-11:35
Schanbeck	10:35-11:05	Hall	10:50-11:20	Burnette	11:05-11:35
Wendt	10:35-11:05			Sekas	11:05-11:35
<u>Third</u>		<u>Fourth</u>		<u>Fifth</u>	
Miller	11:45-12:15	Funk	11:20-11:50	Palmer	12:15-12:45
Sabo	11:45-12:15	Hill	11:20-11:50	Teel	12:15-12:45
Yen	11:55-12:25	Carr	11:20-11:50	Loken	12:15-12:45
Williams	11:55-12:25	Martino	11:25-11:55	Cotterman	12:20-12:50
Early	12:00-12:30	E. Wallace	11:25-11:55	LaRue	12:20-12:50
Needham	12:00-12:30	Hanson	11:25-11:55	Sowinski	12:20-12:50

DROP OFFS

We have had an excessive amount of drop offs already this year. This is a huge interruption to classroom instruction for, not only your child, but for the teacher and for the rest of the class. **Please send your student with everything they need to be successful for the day, including lunches, water bottles, homework, glasses and clothing items.**

Going forward, teachers will be notified of all drops via email, with the exception of lunches, for which we will call. We appreciate your help in this matter!

PE NEWS

PE@Plew ELEMENTARY

- Athletic shoes must be worn daily for active play.
- Weather appropriate clothing should be worn and need to cover student while sitting, bending, stretching. If skirts or dresses are worn, shorts need to be underneath.
- Water bottles need to have a closable lid, and be leakproof. Label with first and last name.
- Students are not permitted to bring toys, candy, or gum to PE.
- Students have PE outside when weather is above 40 degrees in the cooler months.

FUN RUN
YOU'RE INVITED

OCTOBER 30TH
DECEMBER 17TH

We are excited to invite you to a special event that will take place during your student's regularly scheduled Special Area time. Fun Runs are put on twice a year for all grade levels. Parents are welcome to join their student on the track to walk or jog laps.

- FUN RUNS ARE 45 MINUTES IN LENGTH
- STUDENTS MUST REMAIN ON TRACK THE ENTIRE TIME
- STROLLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON TRACK
- ALL VISITORS MUST WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR (ATHLETIC SHOES)
- OUTSIDE FOOD / DRINKS ARE NOT ALLOWED - WATER BOTTLES ONLY
- NON-PLEW SIBLINGS MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES (THE PLAYGROUND AREA IS OFF LIMITS)
- STUDENTS CAN ONLY BE CHECKED OUT AT THE END OF FUN RUN - FROM THE CLASSROOM TEACHER
- VISITOR STICKERS MUST BE VISIBLE AND WORN AT ALL TIMES
- STUDENT'S CANNOT BE CHECKED OUT TO ATTEND ANOTHER STUDENT'S FUN RUN
- VISITORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN IN DRESSING FOR THE THEME
- OCTOBER 30 - NOT SO SPOOKY FUN RUN
- DECEMBER 17 - JINGLE JOG

FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Save the dates for our Music Programs for Plew Families this Year:

- Kindergarten Dec. 18th
- 1st Grade Nov. 10th
- 2nd Grade Oct. 22nd
- 4th Grade Apr. 7th
- 5th Grade May 26th

Parents, we look forward to having you on campus to see your child perform! For your planning purposes, all of our programs begin at 8:50 am. If you have a 3rd grader, they will get on stage, but families are not invited the event. 3rd Grade leads our All-School Singalong Student Assembly before Winter break. This event is a fun school spirit event to help us get ready for the Holiday Break.

Musically Yours,
Mrs. Hayes

FROM DEPUTY DORIA



CHARACTER COINS
BUILDING CHARACTER THROUGH THE ROAR HONOR CODE

ROAR Traits We Look For:

- R - Responsibility:** Following rules, making good choices, and taking ownership of actions.
- O - Organization:** Keeping school supplies, desks, and schedules in order.
- A - Achieving Goals:** Working hard, staying focused, and reaching academic or personal goals.
- R - Respect:** Showing kindness and consideration to peers, teachers, and staff.

HOW STUDENTS EARN A CHARACTER COIN

- Demonstrate ROAR character traits in class, with peers, or around school.
- Being recognized by staff and Safety Patrol for positive behavior.
- Going above and beyond in responsibility, organization, respect, and goal achievement.

THE REWARD SYSTEM

Students collect 3 Character Coins. Once they have 3 coins, they bring them to Deputy Doria and trade them in for a prize from the Treasure Box!

TOGETHER, LET'S CELEBRATE AND ENCOURAGE ROAR CHARACTER IN EVERY STUDENT!

- Teachers, staff and Safety Patrol will help observe and recognize students.
- Deputy Doria will provide coins to staff/teachers who wish to participate.

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Eric Aden

SPEAK OUT FOR SAFETY!

FORTIFY FLORIDA

FortifyFI is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement and school officials

FLORIDA COUNTY SCHOOLS DISTRICT

#FortifyFI

SCAN ME

FRONT OFFICE REMINDERS

Just a friendly reminder that **all afternoon transportation changes must go through the front office**, via either a note sent in with your student of an email sent to both front office secretaries:

Jennifer.Gesch@okaloosaschools.com

Rebekah.Heye@okaloosaschools.com

Notes and/or emails should include the student's first and last name, the teacher's name, the mode of transportation and the date/date range of the change. Please see attached handout for specifics. *Please note, we ask that all transportation changes be received by 1pm. Thank you!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

September is a busy and exciting month at Plew! PM1 testing will take place this month, and we want to remind our students to do their best and stay focused. Getting a good night's sleep, eating breakfast, and coming to school ready to learn can make a big difference.

This month, our Resiliency Education word is Citizenship! For our students, being a good citizen means doing our part to make our school, home, and community a better place. Good citizens are kind and respectful, follow rules, help others, take care of their surroundings, and make responsible choices—even when no one is watching!

Throughout the month, students will learn that they don't have to do something BIG to be a good citizen. Small acts like including someone who feels left out, helping a classmate, picking up trash, being respectful, or standing up for what is right can make a big difference. ❤️

Family Question:

"What is one thing you can do this week to be a good citizen at home, at school, or in your community?"

I hope you have an awesome month!

PLA NEWS

The PLA is off to a great start! We invite all Panther families to join us for **our next meeting on September 15th in the Plew Cafetorium**. Come connect with other families, hear what's happening at Plew and discover ways to get involved—big or small! Scan the QR code to view & subscribe to the PLA calendar and stay up to date on upcoming meetings, events and volunteer opportunities. Together, we can unlock every Panther's potential!





PLEW ELEMENTARY

Afternoon Transportation Changes A Quick Guide for Parents & Guardians



Important Reminder: Any change to your child's afternoon transportation must be communicated through the Front Office.
To help ensure a safe and smooth dismissal for all students, transportation changes must be received no later than 1:00 PM.



How to Submit a Transportation Change

Choose ONE of the following:



Send a written note with your student

OR



Email BOTH Front Office Secretaries



Jennifer.Gesch@okaloosaschools.com



Rebekah.Heye@okaloosaschools.com



Helpful Tip: Please copy (CC) your child's teacher on the email whenever possible.



Changing to a Car Rider or Walker

Please include:



Student's First & Last Name



Homeroom Teacher's Name



Name of the person your child will be leaving with (if not a parent/guardian)



Date(s) of the change



Today only



Date range



Permanent change



Changing to After-School Care

Please include:

- ✓ Student's First & Last Name
 - ✓ Homeroom Teacher's Name
 - ✓ Name of the daycare or after-school program
 - ✓ Date(s) of the change
 - ☐ Today only
 - ☐ Date range
 - ☐ Permanent change
-



Changing to a Bus Rider

Please include:

- ✓ Student's First & Last Name
 - ✓ Homeroom Teacher's Name
 - ✓ Destination Address (Home, relative's home, friend's home, etc.)
 - ✓ Bus Number and/or Bus Color
 - ✓ Bus Stop Location or Cross Streets
 - ✓ Date(s) of the change
 - ☐ Today only
 - ☐ Date range
 - ☐ Permanent change
-  Bus routes, stop locations, and bus numbers can be found at [InfoFinder.com](https://www.infofinder.com)
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Remember!

Transportation changes received after 1:00 PM cannot be guaranteed.

Thank you for helping us keep all Plew Elementary students safe during dismissal!