



## Title I Secondary Parent Newsletter

### Winter Break



Where does the time go? Our Winter break is just around the corner! We had a great start to our school year. Our students and staff have been working extremely hard and we are proud of all their successes thus far. Their learning and progress is our District's mission and we are dedicated to ensuring all students succeed. We are thankful for the opportunities to impact young lives.

Thanks to all the wonderful parents who are helping their children succeed!! On behalf of the staff of the School District of Palm Beach County, we wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and New Year.



### SAFE SCHOOLS

The School District of Palm Beach County was awarded a Project Aware Grant to focus on Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The project will provide training in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) to teachers and adults in the community who interact with youth. The three year grant aims to train 2,275 individuals who will become First Aiders. These individuals will be trained by a group of 14 instructors which includes school district, non-profit and government personnel. There are two goals the project aims to accomplish: 1.) train a variety of adults in the county who work with youth 2.) increase the number of individuals referred to mental health or related services. Ultimately, the project will address behavioral health disparities by increasing mental health literacy among adults and increasing referrals of youth. Project Aware will serve middle and high school students throughout the County and the Department of Safe Schools will oversee the grant. For additional information, please contact Rick Lewis, Program Director at 982-0920.

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### SECONDARY EDUCATION

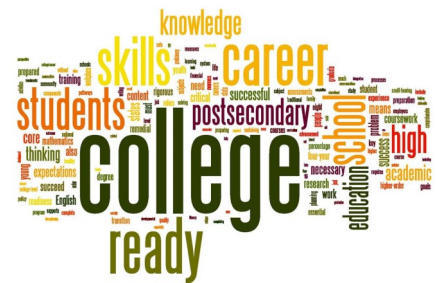
The Department of Secondary Education is pleased to offer the college readiness program, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), to many of our students. AVID is dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other post-secondary opportunities. It is currently offered in 27 elementary and secondary schools in the School District of Palm Beach County. We invite all parents to visit [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org) to learn more about AVID's research-based strategies and curriculum that provide intensive support with strong student/teacher relationships and teaches skills and behavior for academic success. For additional information regarding our District's AVID initiatives, contact Kisa L. Permenter, AVID Program Planner at (561) 982-0910.

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- School Police - Holiday Safety Tips
- "Just Take 20"

1. **Develop College and Career Aspirations** - Talk to your children about going to college or pursuing a career. Set high expectations and empower them to develop the skills and confidence to overcome obstacles. Share your story.
2. **Academic Planning** - Encourage your children to always do their best in school and challenge them to take rigorous classes.
3. **Extracurricular Engagement** - Being involved in clubs, activities and sports inside and outside of school provide children the opportunity to develop social skills, leadership skills and talents. Help your children to pursue activities beyond the regular school day.
4. **College and Career Exploration** - Create opportunities to learn more about the many career and postsecondary training options available to your children.
5. **College and Career Planning** - It is never too early to start a family plan for college-career exploration, application, and expenses.

- Your child's school counselor
- School and local libraries
- My Future Palm Beach <http://myfuturepalmbeach.org/>
- Florida Shines <https://www.floridashines.org/>
- You Can Go! <http://youcango.collegeboard.org/>
- Federal Student Aid <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>
- ACT - <http://www.actstudent.org/>
- College Board - <https://student.collegeboard.org/>



National Office for School Counselor Advocacy <http://nosca.collegeboard.org/eight-components>

## SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE

**CUSTOMER APPRECIATION-** Monthly the School Food Service department picks a day to offer students a fun and healthy surprise as a part of their lunch. RIPS SLUSH is one of the items that will be provided as a surprise.

## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)

[https://connect.palmbeachschools.org/graduation\\_requirements\\_2015\\_presentation\\_for\\_parents/](https://connect.palmbeachschools.org/graduation_requirements_2015_presentation_for_parents/)

## DEPARTMENT OF ADULT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

### **First Adult Virtual Academy in Palm Beach County Kicks Off at [AVAPBC.org](http://AVAPBC.org)**

Too busy to attend a class? The solution: attend classes online, anywhere, anytime. The Adult Virtual Academy (AVA) offers online Academic and Fun & Leisure classes at [AVAPBC.org](http://AVAPBC.org). The Academic area offers virtual GED®, ESOL and school classes. Students are guided by a virtual teacher via phone, text, and/or email. The Fun & Leisure area offers self-guided, self-paced virtual classes and online registration by credit card. Classes can be viewed on a computer and in some cases, can be downloaded to a mobile device, to learn “on the go”. AVA has partnered with educational operators to offer classes such as cooking, DIY handyman, languages and multimedia software. Additional classes and providers will be added over time. What are you waiting for? Try an online class today! Go to [AVAPBC.org](http://AVAPBC.org).

### **WINTER 2016 TERM ADULT EDUCATION DATES:**

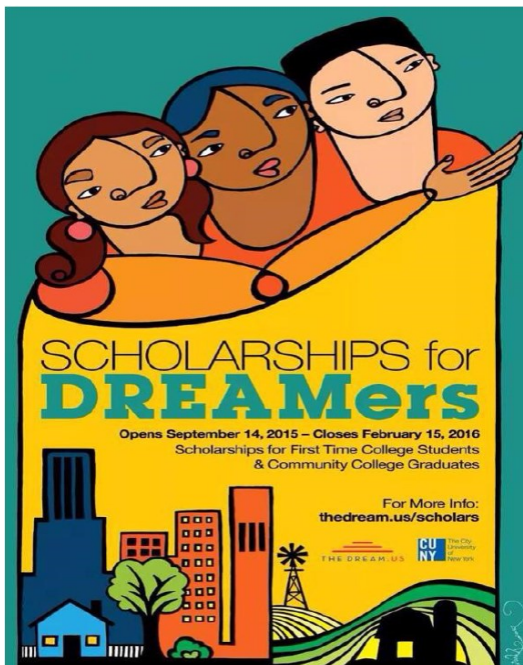
GED, ESOL, Adult High School Classes: January 19, 2016 to April 22, 2016

**Registration begins January 4, 2016**

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, PINTEREST and INSTAGRAM at: [aceofpb](https://www.facebook.com/aceofpb)

## COLLEGE NEWS

Palm Beach State College has recently become partner with the Dream US Scholarship for Fall 2016. The scholarship link is now open and will remain so until February 15, 2016.



**Scholarships for DREAMers**  
3<sup>rd</sup> National Round - Opens September 14, 2015

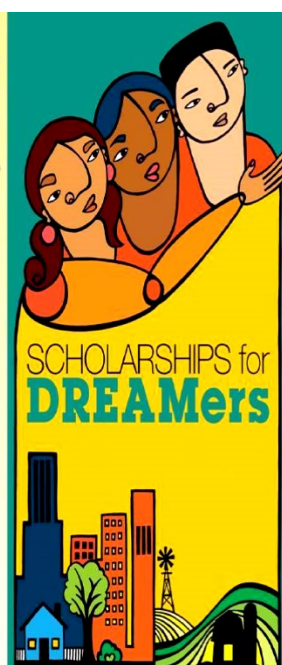
TheDream.US, the nation's largest scholarship program for DREAMers, is offering scholarships up to \$25,000 for first time college students and community college graduates.

- Our scholarships are for highly motivated DREAMers with DACA/TPS status who cannot afford to go to college.
- Applicants must demonstrate significant financial need, academic promise and determination to succeed.

Learn more at [www.thedream.us](http://www.thedream.us).  
Apply by February 15, 2016.

**THE DREAM.US**

TheDream.US is a project of New Venture Fund, a 501(c)(3), which provides fiscal sponsorship for innovative public interest projects focused on conservation, education, and global health.



## SAFE SCHOOLS - MCKINNEY-VENTO PROGRAM

The McKinney-Vento Program (MVP) team consists of the homeless liaison along with social service and education professionals who work to address problems often faced by homeless children and youth in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. The team ensures the educational rights and services of these students district-wide. During the 2015 school year almost 4,000 students were identified. Students are considered to be experiencing homelessness if they live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, campground, on the street, in abandoned buildings, or are doubled-up with relatives or friends due to a hardship. If you, your family or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, contact the MVP team. The MVP team can be reached at (561) 494-1569. For more information about our services and the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness, please visit: [http://www.palmbeachschools.org/sis/2015\\_WEBSITE\\_SS/MVP\\_2015-SS.asp](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/sis/2015_WEBSITE_SS/MVP_2015-SS.asp).

## THE FAMILY IMPACT PROGRAM

Our Mission is to empower adults for lifelong learning with knowledge and skills needed at work, at home and in the community to compete in today's global society. We have several convenient locations at Highland Elementary, Barton Elementary (*for Barton parents only*), Greenacres Elementary and Pahokee Elementary. We are proud to announce a 5th and new location at South Grade Elementary school. For information about registrations, class dates and the monthly Family Literacy event, please contact Sherrie Bedwell at (561) 649-6004.



## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

### VISION STATEMENT

The School District of Palm Beach envisions a dynamic collaborative multicultural community where education and lifelong learning are valued and supported, and all learners reach their highest potential and succeed in the global economy.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The School District of Palm Beach County is committed to providing a world-class education with excellence and equity to empower each student to reach his or her highest potential with the most effective staff to foster the knowledge, skills, and ethics required for responsible citizenship and productive careers.



### The School District of Palm Beach County

3300 Forest Hill Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Phone: (561) 434 -8000  
or visit

[www.palmbeachschools.org](http://www.palmbeachschools.org)

## SCHOOL POLICE - HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

As we prepare for a much-needed break, we recognize the importance of contributing to the safety and security of our community during the holiday season. We can never be too careful or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors.

- If you need to go shopping, be aware of parking lot lights and try to park in a well-lit areas close to your destination.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with darkly tinted windows.
- Shop with a family member or buddy.
- Lock your valuables in your trunk – do not leave bags or items in plain sight where a thief will be tempted to break into your car.
- Before leaving the store be sure you have your keys in your hand so that you can get into your car quickly.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. If you feel unsafe, ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so children, elderly persons or family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.

### Contact School Police at

(561) 434-8300 or

email: [spfpoffice@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:spfpoffice@palmbeachschools.org)

For more information about  
School Police please visit:

[http://  
www.palmbeachschools.org/  
schoolpolice/](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/schoolpolice/)

Facebook! [www.facebook.com/  
PBSSchoolPolice](http://www.facebook.com/PBSSchoolPolice)

Twitter! [@SchoolPolicePBC](https://twitter.com/SchoolPolicePBC)

Pinterest! [www.pinterest.com/  
SchoolPolicePBC](http://www.pinterest.com/SchoolPolicePBC)

YouTube! [www.youtube.com/](http://www.youtube.com/)

## Everyday Reading for Florida Families – “Just Take 20”

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) created the “Just Take 20” campaign to provide K-12 Florida families with practical, easy-to-implement reading activities that establish literacy as a lifelong value. “Just Take 20” encourages families to seize everyday teachable moments by using 20 minutes a day to integrate reading into their busy lives.

### **Benefits of Reading Every Day**

- Increased fluency and confidence
- Vocabulary, comprehension, and writing skills
- Help students experience the world around them and understand how literacy leads to college, career, and beyond
- Help students form a positive habit, increasing the likelihood they will establish the value of lifelong literacy

Go to [www.justtake20.org](http://www.justtake20.org) and sign-up now to be part of the Everyday Reading for Florida Families. Learning happens anywhere, anytime, in fun and creative ways!