



THE LAKE WALES LEAD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
LAKE WALES CHARTER SCHOOLS

Volume 4, Issue 17, February 11, 2023

Dr. Ro is currently reading:
Wyoming Wildlife, January
2023 Issue

DALE R. FAIR BABSON PARK ELEMENTARY--MAKING A DIFFERENCE TODAY FOR A BETTER WORLD TOMORROW

At Babson Park Elementary our mission statement is "Making a Difference Today for a Better World Tomorrow." Our vision is centered around instructional goals that are designed to challenge the curiosity of each student and provide an opportunity to discover, enrich, and expand his/her abilities, interests, values, attitudes, understanding, and the skills appropriate to his/her needs and level of development. We feel that these goals can be achieved through doing, exploring, discovering, and creating. The purpose and responsibility of our elementary school is to help a student learn HOW to think rather than WHAT to think.

We also pride ourselves in being a learning family. We realize how important it is for parents, teachers, and community to work together to educate and care for our children. Research tells us that family support is more important than any other factor in determining a child's success in school. Some of our favorite ways to involve parents are Bring Your Parent to School Days, Family Library Checkout Nights, Supper with Santa, and All Pro Dad's.

Our specials classes include Music, Art, PE, and STEM lab, and we provide a variety of extracurricular opportunities such as 5th Grade A Team, Gnat Chorus, and Gnat News Network as well. We also believe in the importance of celebrating students. We celebrate their hard work and good behavior each month with our Super Gnat Ceremony and special reward activity--whether that's playing on the shores of Crooked Lake or making slime.

The uniqueness of Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elementary is not credited to programs, activities, or the latest and greatest phases. However, its foundation is time-proven, research based practices that foster independent learners with a solid academic future.

--Contributed by Principal Elizabeth Tyler, DRF Babson Park Elementary



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Enrollment
Jan 9-Feb 15



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Volume 4, Issue 11, February 3, 2023

Dr. Ro is currently reading:
What Do You Do with an Idea
by Kobi Yamada

HANDS-ON LEARNING AT HILLCREST ELEMENTARY

Learning is exciting at Hillcrest Elementary! Recently we enjoyed Literacy Week and National Read-aloud day. Guests visited our classrooms to read to us, and we even paired up with friends in other grades for buddy reading! We have also had fun with hands-on learning in our academic coaching time. Hillcrest teachers work hard to create rich learning experiences that help students soar. Second graders recently wrapped up learning about force and motion with a friendly game of tug of war to practice push and pull. Hillcrest also strives to give students experiences in the arts, including visual art, music, dance and theater! We have also started to provide an elementary Ag experience as we work to develop well-rounded students--several of our Agriculture students earned blue ribbons at the Polk County Youth Fair last week!

--Contributed by Principal Rebecca Thomas and Nicole Goodman, Hillcrest Elementary



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Volume 4, Issue 14, February 7, 2023

Dr. Ro is currently reading:
Wyoming Wildlife, January
2023 Issue

JANIE HOWARD WILSON--YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION STARTS HERE

Janie Howard Wilson Elementary is ready to have your child take action with his/her learning and realize the power of student agency and action. We want our students to take ownership not only with academics but be involved and leaders within their community.

Janie Howard Wilson Elementary is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). The programme offers an inquiry-based and concept-driven transdisciplinary model of learning and teaching, supported by a strong understanding of how students learn. PYP students develop knowledge, conceptual understandings, skills and the attributes of the IB learner profile to make a positive difference in their own lives, their communities, and beyond. Students also demonstrate the agility and imagination to respond to new and unexpected challenges and opportunities and to take action for a better and more peaceful world.

Janie Howard Wilson chose to implement the PYP programme to develop students' academic, social and emotional wellbeing, focusing on international-mindedness and a sense of belonging to local and global communities. The PYP nurtures independent and collaborative learners, encouraging every student to have voice, choice and ownership in their own learning. We believe in the power of the community and have community leaders, parents, and stakeholders come into our school to educate our children. We are fortunate to have this support with our community! Thank you Lake Wales!

Janie Howard Wilson Elementary has the following programs to offer:

- Spanish class for K-5
- Dance/Music Class and showcases throughout the year
- Electives for students in grades 3-5 that include: TV Production, Archery, Digital Art, eSports
- After school sports opportunities: Cheer, Football, Basketball, Track

--Contributed by Principal Kim Griffiths, Janie Howard Wilson Elementary



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Volume 4, Issue 13, February 6, 2023

Dr. Ro is currently reading:
What Do You Do with an Idea
by Kobi Yamada

LEARNING AND LEADING AT POLK AVENUE ELEMENTARY

Polk Avenue Elementary is a Leader in Me school with Lighthouse status, and we are proud of the many Avenues of Learning that we provide our students and families. Polk Avenue recognizes that there are various learning styles, and we work to provide a rigorous curriculum to support all learners and learning styles.

We are building strong leaders on our campus with the Leader in Me program as our foundation. Our campus embraces the eight habits that are taught to all students, Pre-K through 5th grade. As a Leader in Me school, our students participate in a variety of leadership activities throughout the year. Our Polk Avenue Cardinals lead themselves by setting personal and academic goals in their Leadership Notebooks. They track their goals and can articulate to others about their progress. Each month our students participate in Club Genius, Data Chats/Reading Buddies, Covey's Kids and Cardinal Kid. Each Spring we showcase our students' progress and growth in all areas during our annual Leadership Day, which is run by our Cardinal Leaders.

This year Polk Avenue has added a full-time librarian, and our librarian and staff are celebrating and encouraging our students' participation in reading SSYRA (Sunshine State Young Readers Award) books, and students are earning brag tags for each one they complete. Art has also made a return to The Avenue for all students. It is wonderful to see art in the halls showcasing students' creative sides. We have expanded our SAC and PTO by creating the Family Lighthouse Team, which creates a space for all stakeholders to participate and learn about all the happenings at Polk Avenue Elementary and to provide feedback as we continue to grow and be the best we can be.

Avenues of Learning:

Science: On campus STEM lab, gardens on campus and each grade level participates in at least one STEM field trip during the year

Math: Annual Math fact competition and various manipulatives and hands-on math activities all year long

Reading: Annual literacy parade, literacy week activities, guest readers, and print rich classrooms and growing classroom libraries

Library: Book fairs (Fall & Spring), open checkout

Art: 5th grade art Clubs, FL Tag art, Art Show and all grades receive art lessons once a week

Music: Chorus for students in 4th and 5th grade, and all grades get Music class once a week

PE: Field Day, Drum fit, Turkey Race and Turkey bowl jamboree, exposure to numerous sports and annual fitness challenges

--Contributed by Principal Anna Barcenas, Polk Avenue Elementary



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Volume 4, Issue 18, February 11, 2023

Dr. Ro is currently reading:
Wyoming Wildlife, January
2023 Issue

BOK ACADEMY NORTH: CREATING CRITICAL THINKERS

The mission of Edward W. Bok Academy North is to create, engage, and empower critical thinkers with an intercultural view of the world. Knights will be open-minded risk-takers who are reflective in their inquiry of knowledge-making impacts as lifelong learners.

Bok North is proud to offer a wide variety of Keystones to its students: Spanish, Fab Lab, STEM, Outdoor Leadership, Art, Agriculture, Physical Education, Band, and Color Guard. Bok North and Principal Drisdorn are also focused on implementing the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme, which will empower our students to be critical thinkers. We also offer many athletic opportunities: archery, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, track, soccer, tennis, and volleyball.

Bok North's two new buildings--a 20-classroom addition and a new cafeteria with a Culinary Arts classroom--are nearing completion. This complex will allow students to have a single teacher and normal class size. Each classroom offers teachable moments with a Fabrication Lab, allowing the school to print its own shirts, create signs, design and 3D print objects, as well as build and program drones and robots. The cafeteria and Culinary Arts classroom will provide our students with opportunities to learn about creating small scale catering experiences.

We teach our students to understand their role in our larger community, and they participate in many community projects such as Night to Shine. Our community engagement along with the potential of the 1919 Building will help us create dynamic learning opportunities.



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Volume 4, Issue 10, January 31, 2023

Dr. Ro is currently reading:
What Do You Do with an Idea
by Kobi Yamada

WRITING AND READING AND STEM, OH MY!

This past week, 8th graders at Bok Academy South have been working on creating a water filtration system in Language Arts as an introduction to the book Swiss Family Robinson. Students had to imagine that they were shipwrecked on the shores of Crooked Lake, just like the family in Swiss Family Robinson and had to create a water filtration system that would allow them to have clean water. The students did a little research, wrote the steps to building their system, wrote a hypothesis, tested their filter, and wrote the outcome. We got to take advantage of the nice weather to go down to the lake to test our filters. We are fortunate to teach on the shores of Crooked Lake.

--Contributed by Principal Damian Rosado and Teacher Kaylee Morgan, Bok South



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THE LAKE WALES LEAD

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Volume 4, Issue 12, February 4, 2023

Dr. Ro is currently reading:
What Do You Do with an Idea
by Kobi Yamada

POWER-FUL HIGHLANDERS

Kayden Arliss is the District Champion in Olympic and Traditional Powerlifting and the Regional Runner Up in both categories in the 154 lb. Class. Kayden plans to attend a college where she can still compete in Olympic weightlifting and pursue her education in the field of Exercise Science. In middle school, her dad bought a weightlifting machine, and she started developing muscle while she trained, so she tried out for the powerlifting team and made it. She loves the continuous growth of weight training and how it develops a strong mental approach to goal-setting: Weights are absolute, but mindset can change outcomes based on your attitude toward the work.

Lydia Denton is the 169 lb. District Champion for Olympic & Traditional and the Regional Champion for Olympic and finished 3rd in Traditional. She also plays softball and plans to commit to play softball at State College of Florida as a 3rd baseman: "When I complete my career at State College of Florida, I plan to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine or sports medicine at the University of Florida. I will continue to pursue my love of weightlifting in my future as well. I did not lift my freshman or sophomore year, and my friend introduced me to it. I went to conditioning in the summer, and I just fell in love with the program-the coaches and the team and the environment they created. My biggest regret is not competing my freshman or sophomore year, but this year I plan to make a big statement. The bond and teamwork we have is our team's greatest strength. Both ladies will compete at the state championships on February 17 and 18.

Coach Tashawn Williams is the weightlifting coach. He believes "We have a good group of young ladies who are really special. We have won 4 consecutive district titles in Clean & Jerk and Bench and 2 consecutive Olympic and Traditional district championships. I coach boys and girls year around in powerlifting and Olympic lifting. I love the interaction with my kids and seeing them grow and succeed." He is proud of what the program has done for kids who did not have high confidence and loves that weightlifting transformed their self-concept. Coach Williams values family, love, and doing things the right way.



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FAST Overview

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 1048](#) was signed into law in 2022 and replaces Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) grade-level summative assessments with the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST). FAST is aligned with B.E.S.T. standards.

- FAST is a Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) system for assessments:
 - Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) - Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA)
 - VPK - Grade 8 Mathematics
- All FAST tests are computer-based.
- Per [s. 1008.25\(8\), F.S.](#), FAST will be administered three times per year.
 - Progress Monitoring 1 (PM1): August 15, 2022 - September 30, 2022
 - Progress Monitoring 2 (PM2): December 5, 2022 - January 27, 2023
 - Progress Monitoring 3 (PM3): May 1, 2023 - June 2, 2023
- Each subject-area assessment will be administered on a single testing day.
- The first (PM1) and second (PM2) administrations are for informational purposes.
- The third administration (PM3) is a summative assessment used for accountability purposes and for other legislative requirements.
- Paper-based accommodations will be available for Grades 3-10 assessments.
- Read-aloud and text-to-speech accommodations will be available for VPK - Grade 10.
- FAST Writing will be administered in Grades 4-10. FAST Writing is a separate component from reading and will not contribute to an overall ELA score.
- State Assessments with No Changes
 - End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments
 - Civics
 - Algebra 1
 - Geometry
 - U.S. History
 - Biology
 - Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE)
 - Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA)
 - Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
 - Statewide Science Assessment (SSA)
 - Grade 5
 - Grade 8
- Graduation ([s.1003.4282, F.S.](#)) – Students will be required to earn a Level 3 out of 5 on the PM3 administration of the Grade 10 FAST ELA and the Algebra 1 EOC.
- Promotion to Grade 4 ([s.1002.25, F.S.](#)) (or third-grade retention) – Students will be required to earn a Level 2 out of 5 or higher to move to grade 4. Good cause exemptions will still be in place.

The state's approach to this year school grade is a "hold harmless" plan used in 2014-15 when the state transitioned from FCAT to FSA. School grades will be based on proficiency only in the winter of 2023. Learning gains and the Federal Index Indicators will be factored into school grade following this year.



Lake Wales Charter Schools Superintendent Update as of February 14, 2023

Lake Wales Charter Schools Journey – **31,000** – words recorded so far in my digital journal since June 23, 2022 to Present – Actual Start Date was July 1, 2022.

The Opening Day of School March - August 10, 2022 - 7 Schools - 288 Classrooms
A visit to every classroom, cafeteria, office, and media center to welcome students, teachers, and staff members back to school.

57 Literacy Business Partners - Read 20 Campaign to share Books with Businesses – We have recruited 57 businesses as literacy partners – They place books and our Read 20 Pledge Cards for students to read in their lobbies of their businesses.

234 Hand-Written Thank You Notes to date (For Meetings & Attendance - Thank You)
Hand-written thank you notes are designed to thank people for a service they have performed, an interview they have agreed to do regarding career pathways or attended an event at our school system. We believe in showing gratitude to people for sharing their time. It only takes a few moments to write, address, and send a letter of thanks for someone giving us their time.

Home Visits – 512 Home Visits – We are in the 3rd round of home visits. We are doing multiple rounds where we visit homes and leave our cards and ask families what else we can do to help their students be successful in Lake Wales Charter Schools.

61 Published The Lake Wales Lead – Newsletters including a new feature of Student & Teacher Spotlights – Spanish & English

29 Completed Highlander Pathways - Career Pathway Interviews – These are interviews of individuals with career in the 17 Florida Career Pathways. We are building a 102-interview digital career book for our students. This book will be published to introduce our students to career pathways.

32 - READ 20 Literacy Army Volunteers – We are recruiting Literacy Readers for every elementary campus to read with our students. First meeting was at First Baptist Church.

We have started the Strategic Planning Process – Each school will build a 16 category, 240 goal plan for the next five years. We will combine the seven schools’ goals to build a Lake Wales Charter Schools system-wide strategic plan. We’ve formatted 3,500 pages of strategic planning.

56 Speaking Engagements and Meetings

102 Goals for Year One as Superintendent – Many of these goals are in process and several are complete.

4 Charter Renewal Packets have been submitted. Polk Avenue, Janie Howard Wilson, Bok North, Lake Wales High School – We have had the preliminary renewal meetings with the team from Polk County Schools.

2 Charter School Plans of Improvement have been submitted by Polk Avenue & Janie Howard Wilson and approved by PCSB.

6 Published Dare Greatly Weekly E-Mails from the superintendent outlining excellent leadership stories, student motivation and reading comprehension tips and a quote of the week.

2 Hurricanes