



Volume 8 Issue 1 September
Cimino Elementary School, State School of Character

Cougar Chronicles

4329 Culbreath Road Valrico, FL 33596

(813) 740-4450—<http://cimino.mysdhc.org/>

A Hillsborough County Public School

Deborah Talley, Principal Cindy Dowdy, Assistant Principal



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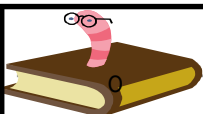
Superintendent of Schools

MaryEllen Elia

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From the Office of the Principal...

Deborah Talley



Welcome to another great year at Cimino Elementary.

Our theme this year is "FOCUS on the STARS." We will continue our great Reading Program with CUB Time during the day. CUB (Cougars United through Books) time is an uninterrupted silent reading time. Out of all the ways children spend their time, reading books is the best predictor of reading achievement between second and fifth grade. Children who read twenty minutes a day in addition to the reading of text books in school are among the highest achieving students.

Safety is our focus at Cimino. Dismissal has gone well so far. We are making minor adjustments in making the flow even smoother. Culbreath car rider line gets the award for following directions.

Thank you for staying in two lines through the back of the parking lot. This takes more cars off of Culbreath. Thank you to all the parents who have picked up their car hang tags. This helps us to call the names faster. Thank you for staying in your cars. This helps keep your children safe and away from strangers.

With safety as our focus, please remind your children of the importance of a helmet. Also, we ask all students to dismount from their bicycles, scooters & rip sticks upon arriving at the cross walk. Once across Culbreath Road, all bicycles, scooters & rip sticks should be walked/carried to the bike rack.

It is the policy of Hillsborough County Public Schools that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The district will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying or harassment as defined in the policy, is prohibited. All Hillsborough County students and employees will receive updated information at the beginning of the school year. Information is also in the Student and Teacher Handbooks. The Hillsborough County Public Schools District expects students and school employees to conduct themselves appropriately for their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities. Also, there needs to be a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and the care of school facilities and equipment.

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) is pursuing Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) District Accreditation. HCPS has maintained a productive relationship with SACS since 1914, resulting in the accreditation of all of our high schools. District accreditation means that all of our schools will now be SACS accredited. The district office now has the responsibility for ensuring that all schools meet high standards through Strategic Plan and School Improvement Process. SACS District Accreditation assures that all people, processes, departments and operations in the school system work in concert to increase student learning and organizational effectiveness. We will keep you informed as the process unfolds.

From the Front Office:

Please make sure you have turned in all forms from your First Day Packet

- Emergency Cards can be updated in person with an ID only.
- Dismissal changes need to be written in your child's agenda.
- Medications dispensed at school require forms from our Health Assistant, Mrs. Stover
- Agendas may be purchased for \$ 6.00.

FOCUS ON THE STARS

Cougar Calendar

Sept 2

12:15 Early Release

Sept 3

Spirit Night-Chick-fil-a

Sept 7

Labor Day- No School

Sept 10

6:30 Boy Scout Round Up

Sept 15

Spirit Night-Toppers

Sept 16

8:15 Volunteer Training

12:15 Early Release

Sept 17

6-8 Open House

Sept 18

National Run Walk Day

Sept 22

6:15 Girl Scout Round UP

Sept 24

6:00 PTA General Assembly

Sept 25

Terrific Kids Award

Sept 29

8:15 Cool Cats Award

Oct 2-Yearbook Pictures

Fall Pictures

Attendance Line
740-4450, press 1

Please call the Attendance Line by 8:30 AM to report your child's absence or tardiness. State your child's name, teacher's name, date and reason for absence.

If your child is late, a parent must come to the main office to sign them in and get a tardy slip.

If your child needs to be signed out early, you must do so from the main office **BEFORE 1:50 PM.**



Welcome back! This year our FOCUS is on “Reaching for the Stars!” Our staff certainly is leading the way by finding the time this summer to attend numerous trainings on reading, math, science and social studies. We are proud of our school grade and the progress our students made last year, but our staff is always working towards learning and growing in order to provide the best instruction. I am honored to work with a group of dedicated professionals who are not content with remaining where they are but are always “reaching” for something higher.

We do have some new programs and assessments this year. K – 5 students will be assessed three times annually with the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading. Developed by the Florida Center for Reading Research in collaboration with Just Read, Florida!, this new assessment system will provide teachers screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring information for the purpose of targeting instruction to meet individual student needs.. Grades 3 -5 will take a portion of the assessment on the computer beginning September 8th.

Students in grades 2 – 5 will also participate in a computerized program called FASST Math. This program will work on building fluency in computation skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. After an initial assessment, students will practice these skills in short timed segments 2 to 3 times a week.

If your child took the CELLA (Comprehensive English Language Learner Assessment) in the spring of 2009, those results have arrived and you should have received your child’s scores and an interpretative guide.

This year, our feet will not stay on the ground as we REACH FOR THE STARS!

From the ESE Specialist : Sheryl Yordan



Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. I hope everyone had a fabulous summer vacation and enjoyed time with family and friends. We are certainly excited to begin this new year **targeting** the necessary tools to **Foster Outstanding Character Under the Stars**. Our **keen** specialists have been working diligently to create daily schedules, implement lessons, and **aim** for activities that will promote growth—both academically and socially. Working with your children full-time this year is: Mrs. Priola and Mrs. Mercado; Mrs. Ruck and Mrs. Rosas; Mrs. Moody and Mrs. Tumicki; Mrs. Czaja, Mrs. Paramore, and Mrs. Solate; Ms. Anton and Mrs. Crute-Crist; Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Myers, and Mrs. Olson. We are blessed to have two new additions to our ESE team, Mrs. Shafer-Wise and Mrs. Tibbits. They will be working with our students with Varying Exceptionalities in addition to Ms. Stoutenburg, Mrs. Rivera, and Mrs. Molinelli-Ziegler. (Congratulations to her for tying the knot on July 5th). Our speech therapists for this school year include Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Roush—as well as our new assistant, Mrs. Crawley. Fortunately, Mrs. Winnie Mazanec, our wonderful IEP Assistant, is back with us and will be contacting parents throughout the school year to schedule meetings. And last, but not least, we are privileged to have Ms. Kim Lucker and Mrs. Victoria Doud working with our children in the gifted program. As always, I look forward to the numerous **adventures** ahead in our Cimino community as our students **reach for the stars**.

The Media Center has opened –Every 1st-5th grade class in the school went through Media Orientation. AND, we have really been checking out!! Do we need volunteers to help us in our busy, busy Media Center? YES! We would love for you to come by the Media Center to introduce yourself, or call Tawnya McCormack (our awesome PTA Media Coordinator) 900-0869, to volunteer. Our preschoolers and kindergarteners will be starting their orientation in a few weeks, and will be checking out 1 book each time they visit the library. First and second graders are checking out 2 books; and our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are taking 3 plus 1 magazine. **Magazines** have become very expensive and because of their construction, don’t hold out as long as a book does. We understand this and can live with it. However, we are now subscribing to many magazines that our students LOVE, such as *Nintendo Power*. These are the kind of magazine that has a tendency to disappear after it is checked out. We are putting a new policy into effect this year with these few, highly popular titles. There will be a contract taped to the front of each issue that states “If this magazine is lost, the replacement cost will be \$15.” This is the same price as a book – and very close to what each of these magazines cost. If you would prefer that your child not check out these magazines, please discuss this with them. We have spent a lot of time discussing the proper care of library books and we have all decided, the SAFEST place to keep our library books at school and at home, is in our BOOK BAG. **Parents** can help by reminding their children to always put their books in their backpacks as soon as they finish reading them at home. If a book is lost or accidentally ruined, the replacement charge is \$15. We are looking forward to our upcoming Scholastic Bookfair which will be held during the first week of December. We will have our Annual Kid’s Bake Off, photos with Mr. and Mrs. Santa, a family dinner, and even more surprises...**so save the date and mark your calendars.**



Welcome New Students

A special "Welcome New Students Day" was held on Monday, August 31, 2009. Students in grades 1-5 were given a pencil and a special "Welcome to Cimino" certificate. In addition, these students were recognized on Cimino's Morning TV Show.

Cimino Elementary, State School of Character

Character Education News

Cimino Elementary is very proud of its dedication to teaching and helping students practice good character. Specific character traits are emphasized every grading period.

During the months of August and September, students will learn about the importance of **RESPECT** by helping them get along with others, use good manners and follow rules. The Hillsborough County Anti-Bullying Policy will also be explained and enforced at Cimino. With October comes the introduction of **RESPONSIBILITY** where learning to do what is expected and making good choices is highlighted. In addition, our students learn the importance of **PATRIOTISM** by participating in our Veteran's Day Celebration with a feeling of love and devotion for our country. During the month of November, it is our goal for students to recognize and be thankful for what they have with **GRATITUDE**. The students will learn the significance of **CARING** and showing **COMPASSION** to others in December. The students also are involved in various service projects like the Echo Food Drive and Twinkle toes Collection to demonstrate their obligation to assist others in need. Students are taught that **HONESTY** is the best policy during January and show **PERSISTENCE** to do their best during the standardized testing period in February. During March, **PATIENCE** is practiced and the students learn the importance of waiting calmly without complaining. During the last two months of the school year where students begin to yearn for summer vacation, **SELF-CONTROL** and **COOPERATION** is encouraged. These character core values are integrated in the school day in everything we do! **ALL students receiving NO "N's" in the "expected behaviors" section of their report card will get their names displayed on the GOOD CHARACTER BOARD in the school cafeteria and receive a special character trait tag to wear on a chain.**

Student Nutrition: Cheryl Grandville

All Students can enjoy a FREE breakfast everyday!!

Make your morning count with a school breakfast.

We are proud to offer a complete healthy school breakfast to all students. Consider school breakfast as a solution to meeting your child's nutritional needs and streamlining your morning routine if...

- **Your family has a hectic morning schedule.**
- **Your children are too groggy in the morning to eat breakfast before they leave home.**
- **Your children have to catch an early morning bus.**

Researchers have found that a healthy school breakfast can: Improve classroom behavior, reduce trips to the nurse, perform better on assessment test, and improve attendance. School breakfast provides 25% of the recommended Dietary Allow-



Smart Food Choices of the Month

Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables—canned, fresh, froze, dried or 100% fruit juice everyday can help make your body healthy and strong!

A colorful plate is a healthy plate! Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables every day provides the essential vitamins and minerals your body needs to stay healthy.

September	Purple/blue	Raisins & Berries
October	Green	Apples & Cucumbers
November	Orange	Peaches & Sweet Potato
December	Red	Tomatoes & Cherries
January	Orange	Florida Citrus
February	Green	Broccoli

ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is mandated by the US Constitution. Census data are used to distribute Congressional Seats to states, to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year and to make decisions about community services. The 2010 Census questionnaire will be one of the shortest in history and consists of 10 questions, taking about 10 minutes to complete. Strict confidentiality laws protect the confidentiality of respondents and the information they provide.

Preparing our Families

A hurricane can strike with little time to prepare what you need to stay safe. Do you have a plan? Follow these simple steps to plan for safety:

✦ Familiarize yourself with the hurricane jargon and Hillsborough County government's role during an emergency.

- Hurricane WATCH – Issued when coastal lands are in danger of experiencing hurricane conditions within the next 36 hours.
- Hurricane WARNING – Issued when coastal lands are in danger of experiencing sustained winds of at least 74 miles an hour within the next 24 hours.
- Voluntary & Mandatory Evacuations – Voluntary evacuations are ordered by Hillsborough County when severe wind gusts or heavy rainfall is expected to cause local flooding and debris hazards. Some School Board and Red Cross shelters will open. Mandatory evacuations are ordered to protect residents from storm surge or tropical force winds. It is against the law not to obey a mandatory evacuation order. Remember, emergency responders cannot respond to calls once the weather becomes too dangerous.
- Hillsborough County's Role – By County Charter, Hillsborough County emergency officials are responsible for making the decisions that affect your safety during a declared emergency: ordering evacuations, opening shelters and more. During this time, the safety of Hillsborough County residents—whether they reside within the city limits of Tampa, Plant City or Temple Terrace—is the primary responsibility of Hillsborough County government.

✦ Create a disaster plan.

- Meet with your family. Discuss with your children the importance of preparing for the event of a hurricane. Take into account the special needs of you and your family members, and apply for a special needs shelter or transportation, if necessary.
- Pick two places to meet: At home or outside of your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact."
- Discuss the possibility of an evacuation. Make arrangements to stay with family or a friend who lives on higher ground, or find out where your nearest shelter is located. Shelters should be used as a last resort and remember, most do not accept pets.
- Make a survival kit. Include enough supply of water, food clothes, medicine, special items for children or seniors, batteries, important documents and pet items.
- Make a checklist of things to do when a state of emergency is declared. Include the possibility of reinforcing your home, notifying family and friends of your plans, obtaining enough cash, turning your water and power off, or filling your tank with gas.

✦ Practice and maintain your personal plan.

- Review your plan every few months and take any changes in your family's needs into consideration.
- Quiz your children so they remember what to do.
- Replace stored water every 3 months and stored food every 6 months.

✦ Remember!

- Keep your important documents in a water-proof plastic bag. Include your will, insurance policies, contracts, social security cards, family records, bank and credit card account numbers, inventory of valuable household goods and important telephone numbers.
- Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons. Special needs residents should register early to receive additional medical and transportation assistance during an emergency.
- HART will begin its bus routes through evacuation zones soon after shelters are opened.
- Stay away from downed power lines. When evacuating, use routes recommended by emergency officials—shortcuts may be dangerous. If your power goes out, do not light matches or turn on electrical switches. Use flashlights if you suspect damages.

Disaster supply Kit

Water – at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days

Food – at least enough for 3 to 7 days

- Non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices
- Foods for infants or the elderly
- Snack foods
- Non-electric can opener
- Cooking tools/fuel
- Paper plates/plastic utensils

Blanket / Pillows, etc.

Clothing—seasonal / raingear / sturdy shoes

First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs

Special Items – for babies and the elderly

Toiletries – hygiene items

Moisture wipes

Flashlight / Batteries

Radio – Battery operated and NOAA weather radio

Cash—Banks & ATMs may not be available for extended periods

Keys

Toys, Books and Games

Important documents—in a waterproof container

Tools

Vehicle fuel tanks filled

Pet Care items