



Foundation Forum

January 2010

This is a monthly newsletter to keep you updated on projects and initiatives of the Pinellas Education Foundation. Please forward this to anyone you feel would be interested in learning more about the Pinellas Education Foundation.



Evening of Excellence Promises to be a Spectacular Event Celebrating Best Educators and Business Partners in Pinellas County

Be there on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater for the Evening of Excellence honoring those who are preparing our society's next generation of leaders. The Pinellas Education Foundation will host this exciting first-of-a-kind event which will include the awarding of the 2009-2010 Outstanding Educator; Unsung Hero; Business Partner of the Year; and Gus A. Stavros Institute Hall of Honor Inductee. A limited space private reception begins at 6:00 pm and the Awards Program gets underway at 7:00 pm. Tickets may be purchased online [here](#) for the reception and program or program only. Visit www.PinellasEducation.org for more information about this exciting event. Purchase your tickets now and they will be waiting for you at WILL CALL the night of the celebration. Ticket Prices:

- ❖ **Seniors and Educators:** Reception and Program: \$25; Program: \$10
- ❖ **General Public:** Reception and Program \$125; Program: \$25

Never before has there been a single moment in the year dedicated to celebrating the Best in Pinellas County Education, and you won't want to miss it! : Our seating capacity is limited, so please buy your tickets early! Purchase online at www.PinellasEducation.org today!

Calling all STAR TEACHERS! Bright House Networks is proud to announce that its 2010 Star Teacher Awards Program has officially kicked off!

Find out [what's new in 2010](#) and you'll be excited about this year's competition! Read this year's [program guidelines](#) and find out all you need to know to enter in this year's competition. Updated [FAQ's](#) will answer any questions you may have. You may [contact Bright House](#) directly for any further information and receive a response within 24 hours.

[Meet the 2009 Winners](#) and get some great ideas of how their use of Cable in the Classroom programming garnered them national recognition. A complete [list of winners](#) for the past 20 years is also available online. And, you can [view videos](#) about each project for the past several years. Want to hear about more opportunities and ideas throughout the next few months? Then click here to [register for updates](#). *(Register and receive a special gift. If you registered before November 9th, then reregister to receive you free gift.)*



Bank of America.



Nominate High School Juniors and Seniors for Bank of America's Student Leaders® Program

Bank of America invites nominations for high school juniors and seniors for its Student Leader program. Do you know a student with a passion for improving their community, who wants to serve the greater good, inspire others, and make the world a better place? If so, this exciting program can open up a world of opportunity for him or her. Participants come from all walks of life and have served their communities in a variety of unique ways. The program is an integral part of Bank of America's Neighborhood Excellence Initiative®, and it offers community-minded high school juniors and seniors an invaluable opportunity to help change the world through the following benefits:

- An 8-week paid summer internship at a local non-profit
- A Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.
- Learn how nonprofits, government, and business can partner to create a positive place,

Applications must be received by February 17, 2010 at bankofamerica.com/neistudentleaders, and students are also welcome to submit self nominations.

Follow us on Facebook!





Save the Date for the Annual Career Education Breakfast – March 24, 2010, pTEC St. Pete

The Pinellas Education Foundation invites you to save the date for the 2010 Career Education Breakfast on Wednesday, March 24 from 8:00 am – 9:30 am at pTEC's St. Petersburg Campus. Join us for a delicious breakfast catered by Sweetbay Supermarkets. This event is free to attend, and it is our hope to inspire you to contribute to the Frances Stavros Career Education Programs, allowing us to both preserve our existing career education endeavors and develop new projects to address the needs of students and teachers. We will hear moving testimonials from Pinellas County Schools' students, graduates and educators whose lives have been forever

impacted by the opportunity to pursue career education. Most importantly, we want you to become more familiar with the Pinellas Education Foundation and our life-changing initiatives. Stay tuned for more details and an e-invitation in your inbox in the coming weeks. You can read more online at www.PinellasEducation.org.

Wilbooks and Bruce Larkin Donate Books to Pinellas Education Foundation to Benefit Girlfriends of Pinellas

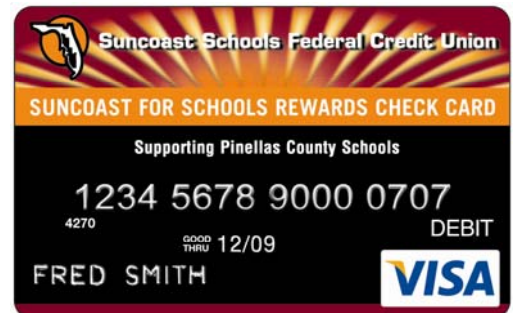
Bruce Larkin, the owner of Wilbooks and published author of over eight hundred early children's books, including the popular Larkin's Little Readers Series, recently donated 12,000 books to the Pinellas Education Foundation, which in turn donated the books to Girlfriends of Pinellas. Wilbooks was started with the belief that all children deserve access to quality books. One of Bruce Larkin's goals is to encourage and support early literacy efforts. In keeping with that mission, this donation will benefit students at each Title One Elementary School in Pinellas County as well as all elementary schools with Girlfriends of Pinellas groups. School Board Member and Girlfriends of Pinellas founder Mary Brown was instrumental in organizing the distribution of books to benefit the maximum number of children.



Groups of Girlfriends members are reading books to first and second graders at elementary schools across the district, while Bayside High students will read donated books to High Point elementary students. The Girlfriends also shared the books with the eight family shelters that serve Pinellas County as well as Coordinated Child Care, which received 1,000 books. Additionally, 200 books were delivered by Girlfriends to All Children's Hospital, and another 200 were distributed at a Magnet Fair held January 9, 2010.

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union Special Offer Supports Pinellas County Schools

Have you heard? Open a checking account at Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union and you will be helping to fund education-related initiatives in Pinellas County Public Schools. Through the Suncoast for Schools Rewards Check Card program, each time a member uses their check card at the point-of-sale and signs for the purchase instead of using their PIN, a portion of the income earned through the transaction is donated to the Suncoast for Kids Foundation and earmarked to support public school programs. Members residing in Pinellas County that use their card are earning money specifically for Pinellas County education programs. With public school employees and public school students now eligible for membership at Suncoast, there is even greater opportunity for develop the partnership between Suncoast and Pinellas County Public Schools. For more information, to find a convenient branch location or download the account application, visit suncoastfcu.org or call (800) 999-5887.



AT&T Foundation Awards \$20,000 Grant to Gibbs High School through Pinellas Education Foundation

The AT&T Foundation recently awarded a 20/20 Grant to Gibbs High School for its "Intelligent Classroom Project." Funding will be used to purchase five Smart Board systems for classroom including Math, History, English, Science, and ESE, across ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades. Each of these rooms will be equipped with Smart Boards, sound enhancement, and digital presenters for classroom use. The use of Smart Board technology in these programs will enable teachers to offer an

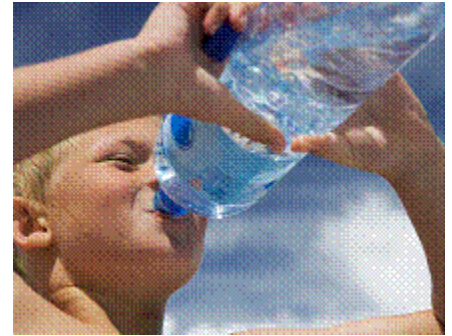
interactive learning experience to students, with the goal to generate in increased student participation, and as a corollary, an anticipated increase in attendance and student performance. Smart Boards will permit teachers in these classrooms to teach daily subject matter lessons in a more engaging way, which will give students a clearer understanding of visual and core concepts across many disciplines. According to Gibbs principal Kevin Gordon, The funds will be used to upgrade technology in classrooms. We want to provide 21st century tools that will engage our students." AT&T's grant focus in 2009



included projects with education and technology elements, geared toward online learning. Click [here](#) to read more about the AT&T Foundation and its work in support of public education in Pinellas County and Florida.

Purchase Kelley Springs Natural Spring Water at Sweetbay Supermarkets and Benefit Students in Pinellas County Schools

A new partnership between the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations and Kelley Springs natural spring water is making a difference for public schools in Pinellas and 16 other counties across the state. More than 100 Sweetbay Supermarket stores along the Gulf Coast from Naples to Gainesville will sell Kelley Springs water. A minimum donation of 5¢ per case will benefit Consortium member local education foundations where the water is sold, including Pinellas County. The "Helping Kids, Helping Schools" message.

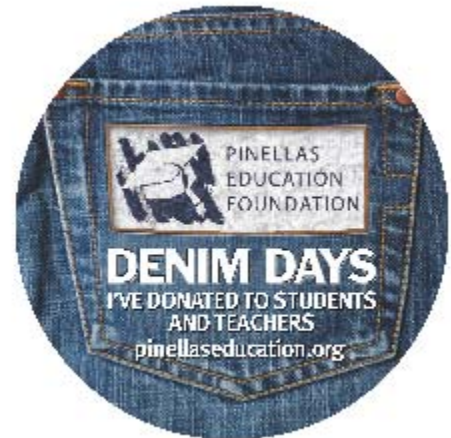


Bring “Denim Days” to Your Office

Engage your colleagues to support education. Denim Days allows employees to wear jeans to work in support of a good cause, boosting employee morale and encouraging philanthropy and team-building.

The Pinellas Education Foundation has created a “Denim Days” kit, including stickers, posters and other promotional materials that can be used at companies throughout Pinellas County. You can determine the length of your corporate campaign and the amount of the individual contribution.

To learn more about how you can involve your corporation in supporting the programs of the Pinellas Education Foundation, contact Marilyn Browne at 727-588-4816 ext. 2112.



Save the Date for Walker’s Rising Stars – May 27, 2010

The Pinellas Education Foundation invites you to take your seat for the Annual Walker’s Rising Stars Scholarship Gala. Join us on Thursday, May 27 at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. The evening kicks off with a private reception from 6:00pm – 7:00pm followed by the program from 7:00pm – 8:00pm. Tickets will be available for purchase online soon!

Walker’s Rising Stars was created and funded by noted Bay Area neurosurgeon Dr. Jeffrey Walker, to recognize Pinellas County Schools’ most outstanding public high school junior and senior solo performers in the fields of instrumental music, vocal music, theater, dance and visual arts. More than 200 students enter the annual competition. Scholarships valued at \$65,000 will be awarded in categories of: dance, drama, vocal music, instrumental music and visual arts. “We’re pleased to announce that a new category for a

team to win a first-ever digital video award has been introduced this year,” said Terry Boehm, President of the Pinellas Education Foundation. Complete details are available at the [Events](#) link of the Pinellas Education Foundation website or www.pinellaseducation.org.

Foundation Welcomes Clearwater High Intern as Event Coordinator

The Pinellas Education Foundation is pleased to welcome as its new intern, Nicole Laster, a 12th grade student at Clearwater High School. Nicole is senior class president at Clearwater and serves as the state Region IV vice president of Future Business Leaders of America. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, serving as public relations officer, as well as Youth in Government, serving as the chapter secretary. Nicole holds a part-time job at Smoothie King and volunteers for the non-profit organization Clothing to Kids. At the Foundation, Nicole is responsible for supporting the Development and Marketing team. Her responsibilities include formulating and coordinating event activities to include facility arrangements, hospitality planning, guest relations, and post-event documentation. Nicole will be actively involved in both upcoming events the Evening of Excellence and Walker's Rising Stars events. The Pinellas Education Foundation is delighted to welcome Nicole to its team!





Freedom Square Sponsors Holiday Seniors & Scholars Breakfast – Holiday Treats for All!

Friends of the Foundation celebrated with a double holiday treat at the monthly Seniors & Scholars Breakfast in December. Chef Michael of Freedom Square in Seminole whipped up a scrumptious egg strata for the 200 guests who were then serenaded by the Dunedin High School Falconaires and Madrigals. These two dynamic ensembles showcased holiday favorites plus several feature pieces from their repertoires of hit tunes and traditional period melodies. Director Rodney Chapman is to be commended for his inspirational shaping of musical talent in Pinellas County.

Freedom Square and Lake Seminole Square sponsored the event. Both are Brookdale Senior Living communities, whose representatives Diane Vandiver and Andrea Sieradzki helped to celebrate the season of giving with special prizes featuring the home baked goodies from Freedom Square. The Foundation is pleased to announce that Freedom Square is now the caterer for future Seniors & Scholars breakfasts.

Save the Date for the next Seniors & Scholars Breakfast on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the Achieva Conference Center of the Gus A. Stavros Institute, 12100 Starkey Road, in Largo. The breakfast seminar is free, but you will need to call 727-588-4816 extension 2109 to reserve your seat.



Pinellas Education Foundation to Hold Financial Planning Seminar January 28th

The Planned Giving Office offers Financial Planning Seminars that are ideal for educators and other Pinellas County School Employees who are in the DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Program) or who may be entering DROP. The second in the series of seminars is scheduled for January 28 at Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy at Tarpon Springs High School, 1411 Gulf Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689.

This complimentary program will run from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. and a light dinner will be provided. An attorney, a Social Security expert, and financial advisors will give a comprehensive snapshot of retirement planning options, gift planning ideas and information to guide individuals in their pre-retirement considerations. Reservations are required and can be made by clicking [here](#) or calling Jacquelyn Schuett at 727-588-4816 ext. 2119.



Team Building at the Stavros Institute – Sign up Today

Building a team from the ground up isn't easy. That's why we have a program in place ready to help your team, refresh, refocus and reenergize. In six hours time, we can have your corporate team learning new communication skills, sharing creative ideas, and discovering they don't need a box to think outside – when you're relating to children, you're already there!

Our Enterprise Village and Finance Park teams are ready to challenge your team to a unique experience of teamwork, creativity, planning, leadership, trust and communication by working together on a variety of programs including hands-on business simulations and strategies.

If you enjoy working with students and can donate six hours of your time, we have an exciting opportunity for you. Volunteers are needed daily to work with students in Enterprise Village and Finance Park, both programs of the world-renowned Stavros Institute dedicated to educating students in the free enterprise system. We will provide your corporate volunteers with all the necessary training to have a fun and rewarding team building experience. There is no cost for this experience, and you'll learn a little something in the process. We guarantee it!

To have us help facilitate your next company retreat, please contact Marilyn Browne at 727-588-4816 ext 2112 for more information. We look forward to assisting you with this unique experience, which will have your colleagues talking about around the water cooler for years to come.

Thank You for Supporting the Alumni Giving Campaign

Thank you for your support of the Alumni Giving Campaign in 2009. There is still time to participate in this important project in 2010. Gifts to the Pinellas Education Foundation in support of your alma mater help us bring critically needed programs and opportunities to today's students who are most in need of our assistance. Indeed, today more than ever, our children are under incredible pressure, facing new societal and escalating economic pressures and sadly, dropping out of our schools in alarming numbers.



Your support can help bring an end to this pattern by enabling the Pinellas Education Foundation to provide all students with the opportunity to be successful. Our programs include Doorways Scholarships for economically challenged students, the Enterprise Village and Finance Park real-world learning experiences, Teach for Excellence Classroom Grants, and the Frances Stavros Career Education Scholarships. There are more than **45,000 deserving students** attending Pinellas County Schools, and they need your help.

Please join us in this important effort. You can **make a gift** toward a scholarship to support an aspiring student at your alma mater, in memory or in honor of a loved one, or organize a group donation effort. Sponsor the programs that make a difference and give hope to the children of Pinellas County. Or give the gift of your time as a mentor, or volunteer at Enterprise Village and Finance Park. All gifts are tax-deductible. Visit our **website** to read more about how our programs have already made a difference to students at your high school.

Planning Your High School Reunion? Contact the Pinellas Education Foundation Today!

Pinellas High School alumni who are volunteering on a class reunion are invited to contact the Pinellas Education Foundation for class list information. Email Amy Bodow at **bodowa@pinellaseducation.org** with your name, high school, year of graduation and date and location of your class's upcoming reunion. There is no cost for this service.

Volunteers Needed!

Enterprise Village teaches fifth-graders about the free enterprise system, what it takes to run a business and a community, how to write checks and make wise consumer choices. During their visit, students actually "work" a designated job, get "paid" for their work and on their breaks, become the consumers.

Finance Park teaches eighth-graders about personal finance. Each student receives a simulated life situation, which they use to determine their net monthly income, prepare a budget and make financial decisions that we all face every day. Students must pay all of their bills and balance their checkbooks by the end of the day.

If you would like more information on volunteering or if you are able to help advertise our volunteer need, please contact Karen Brighton at 727-588-3746 or e-mail **brightonk@pcsb.org**. Read more at **www.stavrosinstitute.org**.



Come See How the Pinellas Education Foundation Changes Lives - Have Lunch on Us!

The Pinellas Education Foundation changes lives through learning by supporting the following programs:

- Enterprise Village & Finance Park promoting free enterprise and financial education for 5th & 8th graders
- Doorways scholarships & mentoring opportunities for financially deserving students
- Frances Stavros Career Education Fund opportunities & the Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy
- College-bound scholarships for graduating high school seniors
- Pinellas County Outstanding Educator of the Year honoring the profession of teaching
- Teacher classroom grants that inspire innovative projects
- Walker's Rising Stars competition featuring talented high school students in the Arts
- Seniors & Scholars breakfast series and events benefiting our 55+ population



We offer one-hour informational sessions to help educate members of the community about the Pinellas Education Foundation and how our programs impact the teachers and students in Pinellas County public schools. These one hour educational sessions include lunch courtesy of Sweetbay Supermarket and a tour of our world-renowned program Enterprise Village. Won't you join us?

Upcoming dates are: Thursday January 28, Tuesday, February 9.

To reserve your spot, contact Marilyn Browne at 727-522-4816 ext. 2112 or **brownem@pinellaseducation.org**.



Have you Moved Recently?

Please remember to update the Pinellas Education Foundation with your new mail and / or email address if you have recently moved or changed positions. We want to keep you informed of our programs, events and opportunities. Keeping our records updated also helps us to save on postage costs! Thank you for helping us to save money and keep you informed! Send updates to: info@pinellaseducation.org or call 727-588-4816.

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The Pinellas Education Foundation is a member of the [Consortium of Florida Education Foundations](#) and the [National School Foundation Association](#).

The Pinellas Education Foundation would like to acknowledge the donors listed below for their pledges and contributions during the month of December 2009. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Pinellas Education Foundation, [please click here](#).

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