Dear Parents,

Spring has arrived, our grounds are blooming, and your children have begun the last nine weeks of school with gusto! Thank you to those who worked on our grounds over Spring Break. They are looking so much better.

In light of the recent unfortunate school events in south Florida, we are reviewing our safety procedures to assure that we are vigilant in safeguarding your children while they are at school.

We celebrated our 50th anniversary on Thursday, March 29th. All students had popsicles during PE and former teachers, administrators, and community members toured our campus that afternoon catching up with each other and all that has changed at James E. Plew.

Once again Plew will be represented at the county art show. The exhibits are open to the public April 25th and 26th from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the County Fair Grounds. All grades and schools provide art work, and of course, our students will be well represented.

New AR goals have been set. Please encourage your children to read, read, read this nine weeks. Great readers excel!

~Carolyn McAllister, Principal

Team Plew Elementary would like to thank you for your generosity during our Purple Feet Relay for Life Fundraiser. The families of Plew raised over $600; wow, thank you so much. Be sure to look in the cafeteria as the new feet will be going up soon! Our last fundraiser will be in May, be looking for the purple puffer to come home at that time.

Team Captain- Kim Wendt

I continue to read books and research on nurturing resiliency in children. Resiliency is something that needs to be strengthened. Ginsburg (2011) states that, “Rather than trying to cheer up a child every time he experiences failure or disappointment, we should focus on resilience.”

A child can learn some valuable lessons from every situation. Ginsburg further notes that, “we want children to feel good as a result of what they have done.” It reminds me how important it is to praise our students for the effort that they have put into studying for a test, or competing in an academic contest. Our goal is to guide children to develop confidence.

~Mary Peterson, Assistant Principal

Friendly Reminder: Parents are allowed to eat with their children outside the cafeteria at the café tables on Mondays and Fridays ONLY. Thank you!
Friendly Reminders:

ALL Car Rider students need to be picked up by 3:00pm on Car Rider ramp

ALL visitors MUST SIGN IN through the office using their driver’s license.

Regularly check your child’s head for lice and/or nits.

www.okaloosaschools.com/plew/

Check out our district policy on head lice: http://www.boarddocs.com/fl/okaloosa/Board.nsf/public?open&id=[p;ocoes#] Find it in Section Chapter 4—Students Under Number 04-42

MEDIA CENTER

Our Media Center continues to see new books being added to our collection weekly. I want to add a shout out to Mrs. Pat Smalles. She processes all of our library books saving Plew hundreds of dollars each school year. Her own children haven’t attended Plew in over 8 years, but she continues to give generously of her time and talents. Thank you Mrs. Smalles for making a difference!

Please remember to use good book care with the books you borrow. We regularly find some books aren’t cared for as well as they should be...water damage, bent or torn pages, food stains, crumbs, etc. If you find damage, please bring it to Mrs. Crist’s attention so it can be repaired, replaced or discarded.

On a whim, I’ve started collecting quarters for this last quarter of school.

If you are interested in joining me and seeing how fast our collection can grow, I welcome your participation. It seems to be a small thing, but I have been amazed how quickly they have added up! There is never enough funding for all the books my students request, so I thought...why not?

Lending Library

If you haven’t already noticed, we have the most darling Lending Library for our students. It is located on the corner by the Kindergarten playground and walker gate at the front of the school. I have always wanted a Lending Library here at Plew and wouldn’t you know a generous Plew family stepped up and provided one. A special thank you to the A Ordonez family for building, painting, filling and roofing the library. I am beyond thankful for the amazing community where I live! I love this school and our families!

~Mrs. Crist, Keeper of the Books

PE NEWS

Due to testing there will be NO MILE CLUB April 20th & April 27th.

The LAST mile club will be on May 4th.

Mile Club Awards for Top 10 Girls/Boys (grade level) and Top 10 Schoolwide will be given out May 18th.

CHESS CLUB

(3rd—5th Grades)

There are just 3 meetings left for this school year...April 10th, April 24th and May 1st. I still have “Just Say Chess” t-shirts available if your player is interested. The design will be the same next school year, so you can buy it a little larger if you’d like. Please make your checks out to Shawna Crist or send cash with your chess player.

NEW BUS INFORMATION:

Parents of BUS RIDERS:

Bus safety is important!

ALL students must remain in their seats with a seat belt on while the bus is moving. Bus drivers will send a bus referral to the office when a student does not comply with a directive to sit down.

- First referral: A warning and a documented call to the parent letting the parent know that further incidences will result in a bus suspension.

- Second and subsequent referrals: Each referral after the first warning will be a one day bus suspension for each referral.

MUSIC

4th Grade Rehearsals in April will be the 3rd and 17th at 7:30 am in the Music Room. Open to ALL

4th Graders

5th Grade Rehearsals are

Every Thursday at 7am in the Music Room

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Happy Spring! April is a great month to hug your child and let them know all the things you love about them! Take a break from the distractions of this world and have a picnic in your yard and enjoy some fresh air. I hope Spring Break was a relaxing time for your family and you enjoyed some down time.

I would like to share a resource I use often. Kids Health is a great website for Parents, Kids, and Educators! There are tabs as well as a handy search button. I searched for *Coping with Stress* and over 100 results came up! Please take some time and visit this link for useful tips for any of your concerns or questions: [http://kidshealth.org/](http://kidshealth.org/)

Also, for a great laugh copy and paste the following link to view our teachers demonstrating how Plew students will “Go For Gold!” this year with TEAM FSA! [https://drive.google.com/open?id=11w_LJ-JSISNF1fU-IU3D8sh_UuQT6qx](https://drive.google.com/open?id=11w_LJ-JSISNF1fU-IU3D8sh_UuQT6qx)

**Thank you to our wonderful Volunteers, Proctors and Mentors at Plew. It is so refreshing to see your smiles while you help support our students!**
FROM THE SLP

From the SLP: Social and outside play are valuable. Here is a recent article on limiting screen time: https://www.webmd.com/parenting/news/20170504/a-toddlers-screen-time-tied-to-speech-delay

~Anita DeVuyst, M.S., CCC/SLP

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FROM THE SLP BOX TOPS are an easy way to raise funds for Plew. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents. Send them in with your student anytime! We raised over $3000.00 last year and the money goes to the PLA to purchase items for your students.

Thank you!

~Peggy Barnes

SUPPORTING PLEW

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We raised over $3000.00 last year and the money goes to the PLA to purchase items for your students.

Thank you!

~Peggy Barnes

Used Book Sale

It is almost time for our annual Used Book Sale. If your child has outgrown books in their home library, we welcome the donation of gently used books for this sale that benefits our library. We only accept children’s books and we will be glad to take them anytime. There never seems to be enough chapter books to go around. Thank you in advance for providing books for this fun experience for our students. Special thanks to Mrs. Holly Gideons for so generously taking on this valuable opportunity for our students. She organizes and displays all the books for the sale. Thank you Mrs. Gideons for stepping up to help raise money to keep Plew Library the best EVER!!

Coke Caps…we have a new collection spot in the front office. Just look for the large Coke bottle. Remember every cap is worth a nickel! Those add up pretty quickly, too. If you are a Coke, Sprite, Diet Coke, or Powerade drinker, please save your screw off caps for our school. If you buy the 12/24 packs, the cardboard piece you pull out has a code that adds $$ to our account, too.

Mrs. Eileen Marello inputs dozens of caps each month to the benefit of our library. She also volunteers one full day a week in the Media Center and has taken an additional shift for a volunteer who has had some medical issues. I can’t express my appreciation enough for the gift of her time!! Thank you for your determination in reading those tiny, little, itty bitty numbers in each one of those caps, too. Thank you Mrs. Marello for your dedication and love of our school!! ~Mrs. Crist
Hello, Plew Family! It’s April! Hopefully everyone enjoyed their Spring Break and had a chance to reset and recharge. Now we’re all buckled in for the final quarter of this school year! But don’t worry...we still have plenty of activity (and opportunities!) at the school:

- If you are a Plew Planter, now is the time to get in your gardens and spruce it up for spring!
- If you have a day or two to help proctor the FSA tests this month, please contact Mrs. McClaren.
- If you are interested in helping with Evening of the Arts on May 14th; please contact your classroom teacher to help with the classroom gallery set-up, or contact this year’s EOA coordinator, Mari Plante (See info below) to help with the overall planning of the event.

At the last meeting, the PLA voted to purchase acoustic panels for the cafeteria walls to help reduce the noise and try to make lunchtime less of a sensory overload for the students and faculty. Stay tuned for progress on this project.

Our next meeting is April 20th. We will be voting for next year’s PLA board. We have some fantastic candidates on the ballot who will bring renewed energy to the PLA. Please join us!

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your support!

Bobbie Goodwin
plewplapresident@gmail.com
210-232-0284

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**EVENING OF THE ARTS**

**Evening of the Arts: Monday May 14, 5-7:30pm**

We are looking for volunteers! We need help with food, art, silent auction & set up. Want more information? Like our FB event page to keep informed about meetings & volunteer opportunities. [https://www.facebook.com/PlewEOA2018/](https://www.facebook.com/PlewEOA2018/)

Have something to donate to our silent auction? Gift certificates for services? Art pieces? Email mari4plante@gmail.com

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**Plew Gardens**

Spring is in the air and it’s time to get back in the Gardens! We ask that all gardens be weeded and cleaned within the next couple of weeks. Pine Straw will be ordered soon and will need to be spread also. I will keep you posted on dates of arrival. Sadly, I will be PCSing in May so my position will be needing a new Chair. If you are interested, please let me know as I would love to talk with you about it!

Melissa Rohde
PLA Beautification Chair, Plew Gardens

“Plant Dreams, Pull Weeds & Grow A Happy Life!”