On August 31st, all parents will be receiving home with your children an AdvanceEd Accreditation Stakeholder Survey. As Brevard Public Schools prepare for an upcoming system accreditation renewal in January, they must solicit input from parents, students, and employees regarding areas needing improvement and areas that are effective. This survey is a way parents can provide their input. You will be receiving a survey for each child; and therefore, some parents will be completing more than one survey. When you have completed the survey, please send it back to school with your child. All surveys are due Friday, September 4th.

Those students who return a survey by September 4th, will be put in a primary (K-3) or intermediate (4-6) drawing to win one of two baby stuffed philibin bears!

Just a reminder that next week (Aug. 31-Sept. 4) is the LAST week to order school T-Shirts, if you have not already done so. There is a sample T-shirt in the front office along with order forms. The T-Shirts are $10, and CASH ONLY.

A great big THANK YOU to BJ’s who supplied goodies for all of the children and families for our Open Houses. BJ’s has adopted Challenger 7 this school year, and as a result, has donated $500 to the school, a year-long membership, a $100 gift card to redeem at DonorsChoose.org, along with many other donations. Additionally, until September 1, 2015, for anyone who purchases a discounted membership ($40 for 15 months, regularly $50 for 12 months) or a renewal at the same rate, BJ’s will donate $5 to the school. Membership/Renewal applications were handed out at Open House and are also available in the front office. Please return all applications to the school by September 1. So, hand them out to all of your friends so that Challenger 7 can benefit.

The first Chat with the Principal is scheduled for Monday, September 14, from 8:00-8:45am. This is a time when anyone with a concern, suggestion, or just a desire to visit can stop by, grab a muffin and coffee donated by our business partner, Port St. Java, and talk. The principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, and Title I teacher will be available. You can come any time within the timeframe and stay as long or as short as you’d like. We look forward to getting to know our parents better through these chats!

We will be having our first Parent Leadership Team meeting in Viera on Friday, September 11th from 9:30-11:30. We need parents to represent Challenger 7. We can provide a ride to the meeting…just meet in the front office by 8:45am, on the morning of the meeting. Please be sure to keep our school Compact in a safe place at home. Everyone should have received one at Open House. If you didn’t attend Open House, then one should have been sent home. If you did not receive a school Compact, please let your child’s teacher know. Please take the time to fill out an application for free/reduced lunch. Applications are available online on the school board website (www.brevardschools.org) > Parents & Students tab > Free and Reduced Information. We have paper copies available in the front office as well. If you choose to do a hard copy, please remember to fill it out in either BLUE or BLACK INK only. Please take advantage of this service for your family. If you need any help let us know!

Congratulations to the following students who will be earning an ice cream party compliments of United Way for their participation in and completion of a summer reading program:

Kindergarten: Raelyn Whittington
First Grade: Charles Albritton, Jackson Barth, Arianna Carew, Jannelle Sidbury, and Nadia White
Second Grade: Abby Mincee, Belle Slaton, Keira Smith, Emma Watt, Abigail Williams, and Holtin Whittington
Third Grade: Katelin Mahan, Nikolas Turner, and Leah Watt
Fourth Grade: Gina Anderson, Nila Runyon, and Hailey Strong;
Fifth Grade: Breanna Anderson, Sabrina Mirabito, and Stephanie Mirabito
Sixth Grade: Madison Harden, Alicia Merrell, and Ashley Merrell

Mission: All Children can learn. Vision: College and Career Readiness

To request this document in an alternate format, please contact Kim Riddle, ESE Resource Teacher, 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940 or telephone 321-633-1000 ext. 537.
Thank you to all family members who attended Tuesday night’s Open House. Kindergarten is off to a great start this year! Students have been learning new routines and making new friends. Thank you to all parents and guardians who have sent in school supplies for their child. If you have not done so, please send them in as soon as possible. Please remember to reinforce school/classroom rules with your child at home. It’s going to be a great year! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

Welcome to 1st grade! We have been off to a great start! Please look over your students’ papers when they come home. If your child has an F/F on their paper this means they had to fix or finish their paper during that time on Friday. Review these papers and go over the errors with your child. We began our homework, spelling, and sight word program this week. Homework is due Friday and sight word books need to be returned to school every Thursday for your child to be tested. Make sure your child is practicing the weekly phonics pattern to prepare for the spelling test on Friday.

We are off to a great start as the second graders are learning what it means to be a STARR student. The Compact for Learning should have been reviewed at home, signed and returned to your teacher. We have high expectations of parents, students, and teachers to share the responsibility to improve academic achievement. Becoming an independent learner is a gradual process and needs all of our support. If you need another copy, let your teacher know. Each night please check folders and backpacks for any papers to be reviewed and removed. Mondays are due dates for Daily Reports/Reading Logs. The goal is to read at least 100 minutes a week. T-shirt order forms were also sent home.

In language arts, we are studying different types of sentences and short and long vowels. In math, we are working on rounding with tens and hundreds, and number lines. In science, we are studying plants and how they are affected by their environment. In social studies, we are studying maps skills, continents and oceans. Please be sure to check planners on a regular basis for parent/teacher communication.

Welcome fourth graders and parents! We have started the year off with a BANG and are already working on many things. In reading, we have been looking at story structure and author’s purpose. In language arts, we have begun to practice the correct ways to answer written responses. In math, we have been looking at how multiplication and division relate to each other. In science, we have been reading about plant life cycles. In social studies, we have begun Florida government. Please make sure your child reads at least 20 minutes each night and studies his/her multiplication facts daily. We appreciate your interest in your child’s education. Together we can make a difference!

In math, we are finishing up our topic on place value - which we will continue to focus on all year long and into the next topic - adding and subtracting decimals. Students will be coming home with a "tenmarks" ID and password that they will be able to access from home. It is great extra practice! In reading, all three classes are currently working with the essential question “What are the Traits of a Leader?” Students read non-fiction selections about American presidents who are historically seen as good leaders. Students must read "closely" to locate evidence to support the main ideas. In preparation for the C-7 Science Fair in November, students are putting the scientific method into practice in the classroom. Each class has chosen a project that we will be developing and implementing over the next two weeks. In efforts to master United States geography, students are traveling from the west coast to the east coast of the USA. Along their journey, they will learn how to budget their money, research landmarks and historical events that occurred in the states they travel through, and learn all 50 states and capitals.

In social studies, each Monday we will be having a Daily Geography and a Daily Science which will be due each Friday. These will reinforce standards previously learned and standards that we will be learning throughout the year. Students may use multiple resources to find the answers to these questions. Science Fair Help Night will be on Tuesday, September 29th. Science projects are due Monday, November 16th. In reading, we have been focusing on Character Development and how characters respond and change throughout texts. We are now moving on to Author’s Purpose. Throughout all skills and standards, we will continue to focus on using details from the text we are reading to support answers to questions. Chasing Vermeer is the first chapter book that we will be reading together this grading period. We will also be starting to work in our “STARS” book: Strategies To Achieve Reading Success, which offers great practice for our comprehensive review problems. In math, students are setting up their MRJ (Math Reflective Journal) and Math Folder which contains many reference materials that will be used throughout the school year. Congratulations to our first Strategic Tic Tac Toe Tournament winners: Samantha Steele, Destiny Ragsdale and Paul Dooley. They are to be commended for using their logic and reasoning skills to be their class’s champion.

We have been ‘tuning in’ to where music can be found in our world. We have discovered that music is in us, body and soul, and we can make music with our human body by clapping, stomping, snapping, patching as well as the use of our voices to make sounds into rhythms. Also, before and after school music classes will be starting in September: Beginning Strings starts on Tuesday, September 2 at 7:15am and Intermediate Strings on Wednesday, September 3. The String Classes are offered to 5th and 6th grade. The Nebulae Chorus will begin meeting after school on Tuesday, September 8 at 2:30 pm and is offered to students in 4th - 6th grade. If your student is interested in these classes, please have them speak to me, and acquire a flyer with the information on when classes meet and what is expected. I hope to see your student there! - Ms. Rockwell, Music Teacher

Please remember on your child’s PE day to dress them appropriately. Students with improper footwear may have to sit out. Sandals, flip-flops, and other shoes of this type are safety concerns when children have to run at PE. Also remember to send your child with a water bottle, especially during the hot months of the year! Thanks for all your help! - Coach Binderup

Cookie Dough Orders: Please have all cookie dough orders and money/ money order to Ms. Howell by Monday, August 31st. (Cash only, no personal checks are accepted at Challenger.)
The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at Challenger 7 invites everyone to become a member and play an active role in supporting the school. The PTO organizes various fundraisers and events throughout the school year in order to raise funds to support further school wide initiatives.

The meetings are open to the public, and are held in the Media Center at 3:30pm according to the following schedule: Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 1, April 5, and May 3.

The SaveAround coupon books have arrived and will be going home with your child this week. Please be on the look out for this very valuable book! If you’re interested in the book(s) that are sent home with your child(ren), please keep the book(s) and return $20 for each book purchased. If you do not want the book, please return the book intact as soon as possible. We will need all books returned or your cash payment sent back to the school no later than September 14th. Remember payment is CASH ONLY. Thank you for your support!

In late January, Mrs. Badgett will be sponsoring an added club to the mileage club called Girls on the Run (GOTR). It is a physical active-based positive development program designed to develop and enhance our 3rd through 6th grade girls’ social, psychological, and physical competencies to successfully navigate life experiences. On August 29th at 6:35pm, Brevard County Manatees will take on the Clearwater Threshers - plus it’s FIREWORK night! Best part is that tickets will be supporting Girls on the Run Space Coast. Tickets are $10 & $12. Buy a GOTR ticket and get a free baseball cap! You can buy your tickets at groupmatics.events/#/event/gotrsc or by contacting Suzy Leonard at sudy.leonard@gmail.com.

Food for Thought: Thanks to all of the children who have brought in canned goods to support our Food for Thought drive. We will continue to collect through September 14. This is a reminder that we will be collecting items for our Backpack for Kids and local food pantry through the rest of the school year.

Attention all roving photographers: In an effort to make the 2015-2016 yearbook a success, we have incorporated a new feature to help you get involved and upload pictures to be considered for the yearbook. Please consider joining our Pictavo Community. Pictavo Community is a secure online portal for students, teachers, parents, and grandparents. You can join online at http://community.pictavo.com or you can download the Pictavo Community mobile app thru the Apple Store or on Google Play. You will need to create an account and choose our school. Once set up properly, you can begin to upload pictures you want considered for the yearbook. We’re especially looking for candid shots of the first day of school, field trips, class parties, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Lorenzi at ext. 1004 or by email at lorenzi.heid@brevardschools.org.

Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program - Open Letter to Parents: Your school has a wonderful room that houses information on lots of topics, with something special for everyone. That room is the library media center. In it, you will find what our school board recognizes as “the center of the educational program of the school. It provides materials and services that meet academic, technical, personal and social needs of the school community.” In meeting these needs, the media selection policy makes available a wide range of materials on varying levels of difficulty, with something to appeal to everyone. Many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups are represented in the school library, and specific criteria are used in considering items to be included. Because libraries are forums for information and ideas, books are provided for the interest and enlightenment of all students and teachers. Many of these books are on various reading program lists, such as Sunshine State Young Readers’ Awards, Accelerated Reader, Reading Counts, and Young Adult Choices. Some of these lists also include recommended reading levels. These reading levels are determined by companies that are selling the book product, and they do not necessarily reflect the appropriate chronological age, developmental age, maturity level, or family values for all students. As with all other aspects of a student’s education, parents are encouraged to be involved in a student’s book selections. The books in the media center, whether part of a specific reading program or not, are available for the review of all patrons, but are specifically recommended for none. Since reading is vital to success in our world, and since we know that the best readers are those who have parents that are involved in their education, we encourage parents to read and review the books your student selects. Come in and visit. Browse the collection of your school media center. You may find just the right book to share with your child.

Thanks to our business partner, Dominos for sponsoring a Dominos Night the first Wednesday of every month. Challenger 7 receives a portion of the sales that evening to be used for teachers and students. Thanks for your support in making Dominos your dinner on these special nights! The next Dominos Night is September 2.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday, September 18, 2015. If you have any questions about any item in this newsletter, please contact the school at 321-436-5801.