

## Lighthouse Team

## At A Glance

### Lighthouse Mission

Palm Bay Academy makes the choice to forge leaders every day within ourselves and our students, standing together as the lighthouse of the community.

Hello Parents and Guardians,

This month "Leader in Me" focuses on Habit #5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood.

Learning to communicate effectively is the most important life skill. Stephen Covey reminds us that "If you're like most people, you probably seek first to be understood; you want to get your point across. And in doing so, you may ignore the other person completely, pretend that you're listening, selectively hear only certain parts of the conversation or attentively focus on only the words being said, but miss the meaning entirely". Because most people listen with the intent to reply, not to understand, it is common to misunderstand others.

Students of PBA will work on Seeking To Understand by practicing how to really listen to someone, listening actively and listening empathetically. They will learn to communicate in a positive way so they Will Be Understood, not misunderstood.

Remember to ask your students to practice Seeking First To Understand and Then Being Understood at home.

Sincerely,

PBA Lighthouse Team

More "Leader in Me" information can be found on our website...

[www.PalmBayAcademy.org](http://www.PalmBayAcademy.org)

## Editor

Hello!

I'm Donna Moore, the editor of the Charter Chatter. We want to know what you think! If you have something you'd like to submit, write us a note. The content will be approved by the school. We do reserve the right to edit your material for appropriate content and to fit the space available.

- 01/08 Students Return
- 01/10 Friday Early Release Day
- 01/14 Tuesday Tea @ Trad, 8am
- 01/16 Panther Parent Leader Mtg, 6pm
- 01/17 Friday Early Release Day
- 01/20 Martin Luther King Jr Birthday – Holiday For All
- 01/23 Family Book Club @ Trad, 3pm
- 01/23 School Spelling Bee @ Midd, 6pm
- 01/24 Friday Early Release Day
- 01/27 Read-A-Thon launch
- 01/31 NUT Day

### UPCOMING

- 02/03 Pasta For Pennies through Feb 28th
- 02/07 Friday Early Release Day
- 02/13 Panther Parent Leader Mtg, 6pm
- 02/17 Hurricane Dorian Make Up Day – Regular School Day

## PBA Leadership

### Administration

- ◆ Madhu Longani – Dir. & Principal, Elem
- ◆ Marilyn Kinsel – Dir. of Operations
- ◆ Daniel Scott – ESE
- ◆ Vanessa Maiorino – ESE, Middle
- ◆ Michelle Allred – Title I
- ◆ Janet Esteves – ESOL
- ◆ Nina Orellana –MTSS

### Board of Directors

- ◆ Martha Wolf – President
- ◆ Allison Cunningham – Parent Liaison
- ◆ Cynthia Harris – Board Member
- ◆ Brendan Purcell – Board Member
- ◆ Margaret Wilson – Board Member

Every 3rd Monday (no mtgs Dec or Jun)

### Questions?

- ◆ Busing – Front Desk
- ◆ Curriculum – Marilyn Kinsel
- ◆ Student Reading Assist – Ms. Gilchrist
- ◆ Events – Front Desk
- ◆ Field Trips – Your student's teacher

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### Reminders

- Feb 17<sup>th</sup> is no longer a student holiday. Brevard Schools has made this a Hurricane Dorian Make Up day. This day is a regular school day.



# January

Leader in Me

# First Things First

## Reminders

- ◆ Make sure to follow us on our social channels...
  - On Facebook @PalmBayAcademy, link <https://www.facebook.com/PalmBayAcademy/>.
  - On Instagram search for @palmbay.academy
- ◆ PBA Car Loop Traffic – Please do not use your cell phone while in the car loop. The left lane is to be kept clear; please do not pass other vehicles or pause/stop in the left hand lane.
- ◆ Please remember that the Traditional front office is closed during; Dismissal M – Th 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Dismissal F & early release days 12:45 – 1:45 pm.

## Focus Articles

### 1. Why you should first seek to understand — before trying to be understood

Article By [Mike Greene](#)

People really don't listen.

People are just either not that interested in what you're saying, or they are too focused on their own agenda. It's ridiculous to see two people acting like they can't really hear each other — by choice.

In "The Significance Principle," authors [Les Carter](#) and [Jim Underwood](#) posit that we should listen past where the other person has finished. We should even pause before answering. Let them get their point, their story, their compliment, and even their criticism out. Completely.

Then, before preparing your response, ask more about what they said. Get engaged. Understand what and why.

[Stephen Covey](#) defines this as the fifth habit in his bestselling book, "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." It's critical: Seek first to understand, then to be understood.

Seeking real understanding affirms the other person and what they have to say. That's what they want. That's what we all want — to be understood, valued and affirmed.

What if you seek to understand but others don't? Two things come to mind. One person truly listening is generally better than none. More important, one person listening generally leads to two people listening. Let's be honest, if I honor you with my ears, you'll be more likely to reciprocate. Others learn the habit through our example.

Do you want to be a better leader, salesperson, parent, spouse or friend? Be a better listener. Let's avoid the habit of collective monologue by really listening — with the intent of understanding, appreciating, and affirming.

The ability to hear is a gift. The willingness to listen is a choice.

### 2. Seek First to Understand - The Foundation of Personal and Professional Success

Article By [Mike Sturm](#)

Not long ago, I caved and read the classic of the personal development genre [The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#). I admit, it's a really good book — it lives up to the hype. You can read the 7 habits for yourself [here](#), but I want to focus on one in particular because it has helped me immensely in both my personal and professional life:

Seek first to understand, then to be understood.

To me, this habit is the most important of the 7, without question.

The essence of this habit is a temperament that favors curiosity, open-mindedness, empathy, and patience — all rolled into one. In order to really seek to understand, you cannot have already judged a person or situation. You need to develop a desire to understand — meaning a desire to see things from others' point of view, to see their reasons, and feel what they feel.

The great thing about this habit is that it not only makes you a better friend, co-worker, and partner to those around you, it provides tremendous benefits to you as well. Here are but a few that I have found, as I try to employ the strategy of seeking first to understand:

### **1. You learn better**

Being a lifelong learner is important. If you're reading this, you have probably read a few of the thousand pieces on the internet that talk about just how important it is to be continuously learning. Well, there is little that you can do to more effectively cultivate the mindset of a lifelong learner than to seek to understand.

When you seek to understand, you admit that you don't currently understand. Which means you admit that you are not in possession of all the relevant information. Which means you're effectively ready to learn it. Boom! Life Learning!

### **2. You prevent yourself from saying things you'll regret**

Few things can get you into more trouble than being too quick to talk. You can end up committing to things that you shouldn't, saying things you don't even mean, and generally killing your credibility. In many cases, we speak first and speak often because we're looking for people to understand us.

If we seek to understand others first, we're more likely to listen *before* we speak. When we do that, we can avoid saying things that on reflection we shouldn't have. We also tend to ask more questions, rather than making statements, which keeps us from over-committing and contradicting ourselves.

### **3. Your emotional intelligence skyrockets**

Emotional intelligence is all the rage these days. Everyone from leaders to up-and-comers are being told just how important it is to be able to read people's emotions (as well as their own) and react to them appropriately. Doing that effectively will require a disposition to desire to understand how others feel. You will have to seek to understand the feelings of others, just as much as you seek to understand your own.

### **4. Your ability to influence improves dramatically**

When you seek to understand others, and begin to act accordingly, two things will likely happen.

First, you'll gain a rapport with them. They will be more likely to talk to you about various things, and you will be more likely to be privy to information that can be helpful to you. When you're trying to achieve ambitious goals, build a team, and get buy-in, rapport is *everything*.

Second, your words will tend to hold more weight with people. For those that you have made a point to understand better, when you tell them something, it will tend to carry more weight. After all, you've proven that you care about understanding their point of view, so it becomes easier for them to give you the benefit of the doubt.

## Featured Interest

### LIM Award Ceremony

We will be holding our Leader in Me Award Ceremonies this month. Family members will be sent invitations to the events ahead of time so plans can be made to attend. We are recognizing our student's leadership merit for...

**Academic Excellence** – Goes to the student with the most improvement or the student that demonstrates studious behavior every day.

**Leader in Me** - Goes to the student that exemplifies the 7 Habits every day; tries hard to lead by example and keep a positive attitude no matter what is going on around them.

**Teacher's Choice** – This is a specialized award for exemplary and /or consistently amazing modeling of Leader in Me principles.

### Reading Is Your Superpower Read-A-Thon

Palm Bay Academy loves books and we cannot lie! Starting January 27 through February 7, students and teachers will track their reading and show the world just how much we love to read. Students earn prizes by the number of minutes read, cash donations, or donations given through the Read-A-Thon website. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to support the end of the year literacy events like Seuss-A-Bration and the Kick-off to Summer Reading.



## LIM Focus

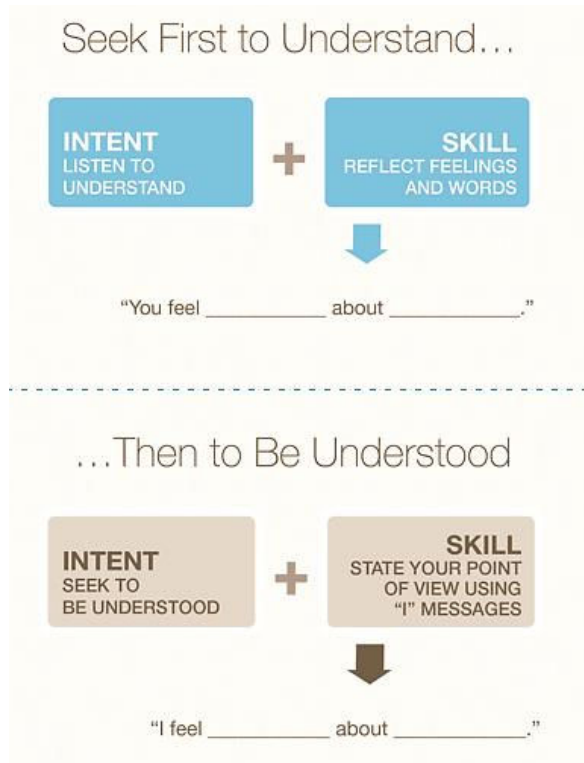
### Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood / Franklin Covey

"Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply."

**DR. STEPHEN R. COVEY**

Communication is the most important skill in life. You spend years learning how to read and write, and years learning how to speak. But what about listening? What training have you had that enables you to listen so you really, deeply understand another human being? Probably none, right?

If you're like most people, you probably seek first to be understood; you want to get your point across. And in doing so, you may ignore the other person completely, pretend that you're listening, selectively hear only certain parts of the conversation or attentively focus on only the words being said, but miss the meaning entirely. So why does this happen? Because most people listen with the intent to reply, not to understand. You listen to yourself as you prepare in your mind what you are going to say, the questions you are going to ask, etc. You filter everything you hear through your life experiences, your frame of reference. You check what you hear against your autobiography and see how it measures up. And consequently, you decide prematurely what the other person means before he/she finishes communicating. Do any of the following sound familiar?



**SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND**  
Because you so often listen autobiographically, you tend to respond in one of four ways:

**Evaluating:** You judge and then either agree or disagree.

**Probing:** You ask questions from your own frame of reference.

**Advising:** You give counsel, advice, and solutions to problems.

**Interpreting:** You analyze others' motives and behaviors based on your own experiences.

You might be saying, "Hey, now wait a minute. I'm just trying to relate to the person by drawing on my own experiences. Is that so bad?" In some situations, autobiographical responses may be appropriate, such as when another person specifically asks for help from your point of view or when there is already a very high level of trust in the relationship.

"If I were to summarize in one sentence the single most important principle I have learned in the field of interpersonal relations, it would be this: Seek first to understand, then to be understood."

**DR. STEPHEN R. COVEY**

## Social Media

Make sure to follow us on our social channel...

On Facebook @PalmBayAcademy  
Link <https://www.facebook.com/PalmBayAcademy/>.

On Instagram search for @palmbay.academy

# Recognition

## Sunshine Recognition – Students Exemplifying Leadership Principles

The following students were selected as being the best in their classrooms at exemplifying the following leadership principles:

### Think Win-Win

#### 12-2 to 12-6

Aiden Wilson  
Lundyn Hill  
Bri'anna Hughes  
Dyland Lopez-Nieves  
Brianna Le'Juste  
Zairah Hernandez-Rivera  
Keagan Larsen  
Jonathan Humphrey  
William Clowers  
Josiah Rodriguez  
Nick Krehley  
Olnicha Vilsaint

#### 12-8 to 12-12

Kylon Honrada  
Daniel Lugo  
Jonathon Miller  
Landen Loyd  
Brandon Culbertson  
Derrick Turner  
Zahara Zorzy  
Jaywayne Thomas  
Baylie Tucker  
Zoey Passmore  
Emmanuel Small  
Mizani Newsome

### Think Win-Win

#### 12-16 to 12-20

Hailee Strawley  
Isabella Stafford  
Torrian Filer  
Charlotte Stafford  
Tyler Kemeling  
Emma Gray  
Craig Hilton  
Adyra Conley  
Jordan Escobar  
Josiah Rodriguez  
Riley Coles  
Jordan Humphrey

### Most Giving

Serenity Rose  
Baylee Gonzalez  
Keily Cruz  
Cristopher Montalvan  
Rivera  
Tayla Donahue  
Lester Filer  
Hunter Williams  
Parese Perry  
Paige Henning  
Chrissy Gowins  
Annie Wu  
Benshaika Joseph

### Most Joyful

Josiah Armodovar  
Bryanna Moseau  
Keily Nieves  
Arecia Williams  
Tayla Donahue  
Aubree Sanford  
Jonathan Jordan  
Adyra Conley  
Omari Taylor  
Isabella McCary  
Corbin Isom  
Pamizki Perry

### Most Adaptable

Kobe Lakes  
Bryanna Moseau  
Kamarri Walker  
Kyreiq Pryor  
Ali Servinc  
Arie Williams  
Ricky Carmona-Nieves  
Tatyanna Hicks  
Baylie Tucker  
Henry Tucker  
Mel Jones  
Isabella Almodovar

## The 7 Habits® Tree

