

GULFPORT ELEMENTARY



BULLDOGS

Gulfport Elementary/Montessori Academy

gulfport-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us

October 2014

Principal
James Pribble

Vice-Principal
Brenda Butler

School Hours
8:35 to 2:35
"We teach bell to bell"

Uniforms: Yes

Title I School: Yes

Magnet or Academy Program:
Montessori Academy

Points of Pride: On the fore-
front of Florida education with
the Marzano Pilot. Before and
after school tutoring.

Mascot: Bulldogs

A Message from the Principal...

I know it still feels like summer outside, but autumn is upon us. We are well into our school year and our students have picked back up where they left off. I am walking through classrooms and seeing students completely engaged in discussions and writing about what they are learning. They are excited to show me what they are writing about or to tell me how well they have done on an assignment. Your children are happy with the success they are realizing. I ask you to continue reading, having your child write to explain what they have read, and just having conversations about what they are learning in general. This not only promotes great learning, but it also promotes great family time.



I encourage you to take time as often as you can to enjoy your children and share in their learning. I invite you to Come out and have lunch with your child any day of the week. Hopefully you can come or attended our first All Pro Family event Friday Sept. 26th from 7:30-8:00 a.m. You are always welcome here! :) That time spent with family, as a family, is so critical to any child and to us as adults.

I hope to see you around campus or at one of our events, but if I do not, thank you for your continued support at home. We could not make the growth we are making without you.

James Pribble
Gulfport Elementary Principal

Gulfport Elementary
2014 52nd St. South
Gulfport, FL 33707
(727) 893-2643

An advertisement for LegalShield featuring a family walking on a beach. The text reads: "Protect yourself and your family. Talk to an attorney about legal matters for as little as \$17 a month." There is a "Buy Now" button and the LegalShield logo with the tagline "Worry Less. Live More."/>

Protect yourself and your family.

Talk to an attorney about legal matters for as little as \$17 a month.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/26 – All Pro Family Event – 7:30 – 8 a.m.

9/27-28 - Gulfport Blues Fest – PTA manning the Coke truck to raise money for a shaded lunch area for students in the courtyard. Volunteer or Stop By!

10/7 – PTA Board Meeting

10/7 – SAC Meeting (tentative)

10/8 - National Walk to School Day - meet at 7:45 a.m. at Tangerine Greenway.

10/13 – District Wide Mentor Fair 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m., Feather Sound Country Club

10/13 – Montessori Monday (tentative)

10/17 – End of Grading Period

10/20 – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

10/23 – PTA Trunk or Treat 5-8 p.m.

11/1- PTA Toys for Tots drive begins

11/3-7 – PTA Book Fair (volunteers needed!)

11/19 - Great American Teach-In (see Ms. Bumgarner to share your activity)

12/12 - Last day of PTA Toys for Tots drive

Montessori School News

My name is Kathy Ludlum and I'm the Montessori magnet coordinator. I am very excited to be back at school after an illness. My contact information is 727-893-2643 X2077 and ludlumk@pcsb.org. Feel free to contact me if you have a concern.

I'm interested in your questions about the Montessori program to be answered in future newsletters. Please email me or leave a phone message with your questions. If you're wondering about something Montessori, chances are good another parent is wondering the same thing. No questions are too small.

The Montessori magnet program has a parent, teacher and child commitment agreement which lists the responsibilities for each of us. Your child brought that form home, please ensure you read the front and the back, signed it and returned the white copy (you keep the yellow copy for your records).

Level 2 district volunteers, I'm looking for a parent or parents who will attend our intervention committee meetings monthly. The intervention committee meets to discuss students who are struggling with academic, behavior, attendance, or participation expectations spelled out on the commitment agreement. The intervention committee comes up with a success plan and sets the next meeting date to determine progress. We'll meet one day a month. I'm still working on setting up the day and time (probably after school). If you're interested, please email or call me to volunteer. We can have multiple parents share the months if needed.



Click on the ads in this newsletter to learn more about these great companies!



Sweet-Tea Celebrations
We are Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice!

Birthday Parties ~ Special Events **Maria Baker**, (727) 202-6860
240 46 Avenue, St Pete Beach, FL 33706

PTA BOARD MEMBERS

President – Anna Kate Mackle

VP Ways & Means – Regan Henry

Treasurer – Barbara Pace

Secretary – Courtney Guill

VP Membership – Anna Kate Mackle

We are always looking for new Board members, please drop a note at the front desk if you'd like to serve on the board or want to get involved in volunteering. The Book Fair is coming up in October and the PTA will need helpers! It's lots of fun, so consider donating your time to your student's school.

PTA Membership is only \$5 this year! What a deal!!! One benefit is LegoLand tickets for \$30 through year end. Sign up for PTA today. Pick Up and Drop your form in the front office today!

A Message From the PTA President

Greetings, and welcome to the 2014-15 school year!

The PTA is very excited to welcome all of our new and returning families to the Gulfport Elementary School community. We are so proud to be able to work closely with Principal Pribble to provide our students and families with programs and tools they need to reach their full potential.



This year we are pleased to provide students with many opportunities to be able to help others. For two weeks we hosted a clothing drive through Go Green Charity Recyclers and had a phenomenal response! Thank you to all who donated. There will be a few other clothing drives throughout the school year, but if you have items to donate in between drives you may feel free to place them in the large white container in the car circle. We will also host a Toys for Tots campaign during the month of November, and in February we are planning a Family Fun Night involving making cards for a local senior citizen's home.

We will also have events at Gattitown throughout the year, as well as a fall fundraiser, Bucs ticket fundraiser and cookie dough fundraiser in the spring. We are looking into starting Kiwanis K-Kids Club and Girls on the Run after-school clubs soon, as well. We hope to have many students and families participate in these events, as well other PTA events, such as National Walk to School Day (October 8, we will meet at the Tangerine Greenway 7:45am), Trunk or Treat (October 23, 5-8pm) and the Book Fair (November 3-7).

Please feel free to Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/gulfportelementarypta), and if you shop at amazon a portion of the money you spend can go to the PTA, which goes directly back to the school. Go to: www.smile.amazon.com and select Gulfport Montessori Elementary PTA as your charity.

Thank you for your support!
Anna Kate Mackle
PTA President



Olympus Printing, Inc.
6476 5th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
727-302-0919
info@olympusprinting.com



Greetings From the Art Room!



This year's art theme is PIRATES! Art students will be exploring the world as a pirate sees it, but with both eyes.

Montessori 3-5, 4th and 5th grade students are working on the Word and Image art show. The theme is "My personal hero." They are practicing their writing strategies by writing about a personal hero in their life. Their writing is accompanied by an artwork that depicts that hero. Up to 12 artworks will be sent to the art office for judging.

K-3 students have started their journey by drawing sea creatures and treasure maps from imagination, real-life, or experience. They are also exploring watercolor techniques and learning words like "Hue" and "Pattern."

Up next, all K-5 students will explore the country of Switzerland and modern artist Alberto Giacometti. Each grade will learn about Swiss traditions and culture through different media. They will learn vocabulary words such as currency, 3-dimensional, additive sculpture, subtractive sculpture, form, and texture. Some will be using clay, while others will use wire and foil. Say "CHEESE!" Some artworks will be chosen for judging for the K-12 ceramic arts show.

On the horizon, the traveling digital arts lab will visit our school for 8 school weeks starting in November. All grades will use different iPad apps to create digital artwork. Some artworks will be entered in one of the upcoming arts show.

The voters who voted yes for the referendum money to the arts, music, and technology made the iPad lab possible. Thank you for your support. You can always support our wonderful artists by bringing in toilet paper/paper towel rolls or any other items you think we could use.

I would like to give a huge thank you to the two people who donated money to the art program. They made many of these projects possible. Thank you!

Artfully yours,

Kathy McLean
Art Educator

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Habana Café
5402 Gulfport Blvd S., Gulfport, FL 33706
727.321.8855



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Volunteer speakers welcomed for the *Great American Teach-In, Wednesday, November 19, 9:00-2:00.* Let us know what topics, grade levels and times you would like to speak to our students.

Wacky Walking Wednesday – 7:45 a.m., near the Wells Fargo Bank Parking lot, join us to walk with your child on Wednesday mornings. Help your child learn to be safe walkers and bikers.

ADOPT-A-CLASS forms were sent home in August. If you need additional forms, let us know.

Additional Announcements

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Studies show that parental involvement and involvement by members of the community in a child's education is one of the most important factors in raising student self-esteem and academic achievement. Moreover, most experts agree that parental involvement should go beyond parent's attending teacher conferences and open house. We realize, however, that each of our families and members of the community are unique – with their own priorities, needs, talents and time constraints—so we try to provide as many different opportunities for volunteer involvement as possible. Please contact Mrs. Mary Ruth Bumgarner, Volunteer Coordinator, at 727-893-2643, ext. 2004, to learn about volunteer opportunities.

NEW NURSE: Gulfport Elementary School welcomes our new nurse, Ms. Elizabeth Hinton, and Health Support Tech/Medical Assistant Ms. Gregnecia Ross. Ms. Ross is filling in for Ms. Ashley Joinville, who will be returning to our clinic soon. Our clinic health professionals would like for parents to remind their children to wash hand often. This helps prevent the spread of colds and flu.

REMEMBER TO BRING in Box Tops, Labels for Education, Tyson A+ labels, Capri Sun pouches (empty and without the straw), and Coke Rewards numbers (on lids of bottles and on the easy-serve pull off of 12 packs). Look over that package before you throw it away! Some are worth 24 cents per label!

GULFPORT IS NO LONGER a “Nut-Free” school. Peanut butter and other nut products are NOW ALLOWED! If your child has a nut allergy or any related health issues, please let the front office and teacher know so a reasonable accommodation can be made.

THE PTA THANKS to all who came out to the PTA Gattitown fun on Thursday, September 16th. It was well worth the drive to see the teachers and families playing and having a fun time. A special Bulldog ‘Bark Out’ to Ms. Dawson, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Blevins for adding to the delight of the children! And a HUGE Thank You!! to Barbara Pace for working the Gulfport spinning wheel’ table!! Much of Gattitown is free, or with purchase of a \$6 buffet. For those of you who missed it, we hope to see you next time! (PICTURES ON PAGE 6)

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**2727 23rd Ave. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713**

Key Things to Remember for the School Year!!

- * All visitors must have a Visitor Badge. Please **have your driver's license IN HAND** (out of wallet) before requesting a badge to come on campus.
- * Students can earn "No Uniform" day privileges by exhibiting good behavior during the school week. **MAKE SURE** that the teacher has communicated to you that it is OK for your child to not wear a uniform on a Friday! They typically do this through a note in the Agenda. **IF IN DOUBT**, opt for the uniform to be worn and send in the non-uniform clothes in your child's backpack and he/she may change at school after teacher confirmation. **NO UNIFORM DAY** is a "Privilege" children earn. Help us keep it that way!
- * If your child is known to have "bathroom accidents," please keep a full change of clothes (including underwear) in their backpack or classroom cubby. Remember to replace it as accidents occur!
- * We realize that there are reasons for picking up your child early (doctor's appointments, etc.) but the latest you may pull your child out for **early release is 2:10 pm**. After that time, you must wait until normal dismissal at 2:35 pm to pick up your child. **Be Sure To Plan AHEAD!**

GATTITOWN FUN!



Title I, Part A (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged) is the largest single program of federal aid for elementary and secondary education. The key element of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is accountability, which requires schools to show results of their instructional efforts.

TITLE I PROVIDES





Title I Teachers and Specialists Books and Supplies Extended Learning Program **I♥READING** Family Involvement Events




After school tutoring Home computers for 3rd and 4th grade families


DCS
Title I Center
Family Resource Library

2499 25th Street South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

If you have additional questions regarding Title I please contact the school at 727-893-2988 or for more information visit the Title I website:

www.pcsb.org Click Department and Divisions and then click Title I

Pinellas County Schools Focus Procedures for Volunteer Sign-In & Adding Volunteer Hours

Using the computer at the school: Click on the **Focus** icon on the desktop,  or

If signing on at home: Go to <https://focus.pcsb.org/focus>

Please use Fire Fox, Google Chrome or Safari...do not use Internet Explorer

Sign into Focus using your v. account (last name first initial).

Username Example: v.smithw

The password is your Last Name (the first letter capitalized) immediately followed by your birth year.

Example: Smith1975 Press "Enter" or Click Login In

If you cannot access your account, please contact the liaison at the school to ensure your login is correct. If you access the account more than 3x the system will lock you out of Focus.

Adding Volunteer Hours to Your Account:

Click on the **Volunteer** icon. A dropdown menu will appear. Click on **Add hours**. Enter the following information:

Date: The date will default to today's date. Changing the date for hours recorded for another day is optional.

School: If you volunteer at more the one school there will be a dropdown selection. Select the school location where you volunteered.

Hours: Select the hours worked.

Description: Choose the activity or if a tutor the subject.

Student: Choose student you worked with if a "Tutor or Mentor."
If you worked with a group, *choose***All Students**.

Location: Choose where you worked.

Comments Box: Add any information that is important such as: materials covered, or subjects discussed.

Click:**"Enter hours" to save.**

*Get Engaged in Education – Pinellas County Schools Mentor
Recruitment Fair*

Date: **October 13, 2014**

Time: **11:30 am to 7:00 pm**

Location: **Feather Sound Country Club, 2201 Feather Sound Drive, Clearwater, FL**

Join us, bring a friend and help a student discover their endless potential....the fair will
be a “one stop” shop event for all attendees

You can register to volunteer, obtain a background screening and a level 2 screening,
attend one of four one-hour mentor workshops, and
be matched with a student at the school of your choice.

Please R.S.V.P. to attend one of the four mentor workshops

12:00 to 1:00pm – 1:30 to 2:30pm – 4:00 to 5:00pm – 5:30 to 6:30pm

Call 727-588-5050 or email: robergem@pcsb.org

