



Teacher of the Year

Ms. Lopez wins big award.

PAGE 2



After 35 years Coach Miller retires from teaching.

Page 2



Students take tours of the places in their community.

Pages 5, 8-9

Mrs. Lopez wins Teacher of the Year

This was her fourth nomination and first time winning. She said she was excited and proud.

BY RONALD KELLY, KEYMONI POWELL and RAKELL HOOKS, 5th grade

“I love you Melrose!” shouted out Mrs. Lopez when she won Teacher of the Year. After being nominated four times, 5th grade teacher Mrs. Lopez finally took home the trophy.

When the announcer called out Mrs. Lopez as the winner, she didn’t realize she was the winner till Ja’Shanna Lyons, a fifth grader, said “That’s your name!”

Ja’Shanna was at the ceremony to give a speech for Mrs. Lopez.

“I was happy for Mrs. Lopez because it was her first time winning,” said Ja’Shanna.

Mrs. Lopez said she was shocked and excited.

“There are a lot of excellent teachers at Melrose,” said Mrs. Lopez. “I am just one of them.”

Mrs. Lopez won a trophy, \$1,500 and a

\$6,000 scholarship. She used her \$1,500 winnings to get a flight to see her son’s new baby. Because Mrs. Lopez will retire after next year, she said she plans to donate the \$6,000 scholarship to a younger teacher who doesn’t have enough money to go back to school to learn.

“I want to put it toward a younger teacher who has many years left,” she said.

Mrs. Lopez also got to ride in a limo to school the next day. However, Mrs. Lopez said she got in trouble because she cancelled the ride the night before. Principal Mrs. Grasso convinced her to take the limo ride.

“I cancelled the limo. I didn’t feel right about driving up to school in a limo. Mrs. Grasso reminded me it’s not about me, it’s about Melrose,” said Mrs. Lopez.

A lot of students were happy for Mrs.



DESHAYNE MCCULLOUGH | 4TH GRADE

Ms. Lopez celebrates with Ronald Kelly a during a math small group. Ms. Lopez consistently celebrate the success of her students.

Lopez once they heard that she won Teacher of the Year.

One her students, Myesha Hill, said she watched Mrs. Lopez win on the news. “When they first came in to give Mrs. Lopez the award, I was crying because I was happy for her,” she said.

Another student who was happy was Miracle Watts.

“I feel good that my teacher was Teacher of the Year,” she said.

Mrs. Lopez said the award has also come

with a lot of congratulations. A custodian from another school that Mrs. Lopez worked at years ago even came to Melrose, and then waited until she was done teaching to congratulate her.

Before Mrs. Lopez won, she had to answer lots of questions from interviewers. Mrs. Lopez said she didn’t go in to the interview wanting to win. She wanted to be herself.

Say goodbye to Coach Miller

Coach Miller- After 35 years of teaching, Coach Miller will retire at the end of the year. He loves his job because he “enjoys the interaction with the kids.”



ETHAN BOUEY | 5th grade

He will be retiring after this year.

By JA’SHANNA LYONS and RONALD KELLY, 5th grade

If you didn’t know, Coach Miller (one of our best coaches) is retiring.

But don’t worry, he said he might be back to volunteer. Coach Miller said he is leaving with fond memories of the faculty and kids. His fondest memory being when Coach Perrin came back to school.

The reason Coach Miller is retiring is because he’s reaching 36 years and that’s a lot of years. Coach Miller said with a happy voice, “I will absolutely miss P.E.”

Coach Miller said he has mixed emotions about leaving. “There’s a lot of potential here,” he said.

Melrose wins kickball championship



Photo by MS.WYMAN

The Melrose kickball team wins first place in the championship game against Campbell Park. The team won the final game with a score of 6-2.

The team wins against Campbell Park Elementary.

By VERN MILLER AND CARMELLO CHURCH, 4th grade

Boom! Melrose Elementary wins the championship and comes home with the 2015 Pinellas County Kickball trophy!

The Melrose team won against Campbell Park with a score of 6-2. The team had an awesome season, winning 13 games and losing only two games.

"It took the whole team to win," said Coach Perrin, who plays short stop on the team.

Coach Perrin said everybody on the team is the MVP, which stands for Most Valuable Player. He said beating Campbell Park was his favorite memory from the season.

Coach Wong was also on the kickball team.

"I was very excited and I hugged and high-fived everybody," he said.

Coach Wong gave a shout-out to Mr. Puh. "He kicks better than anybody on the team!"

Ms. Ali is also a member of the team. She said she loves winning and hanging out with teachers outside of work.

"I think that everyone does a really good

job," she said.

One of the standout players was Ms. King.

"I liked the challenge and being part of a team," said Ms. King. Ms. King said the whole team worked together to win the game. "I couldn't do it by myself," she said.

Most of the players' favorite part was beating Campbell Park.

"I felt vindicated because there were certain people on the other team that really needed to get beat," said Mr. Lumb.

First grade teacher Ms. Sutherland said she was extremely happy and proud of the team. Ms. Sutherland was bragging and said "I was happy to beat Campbell Park's butt."

Ms. Sutherland jokingly said she was the MVP, but then said Coach Wong "killed it."

"It felt fantastic," said Mr. Black. Ms. Johnson said she was excited, but also scared.

"I thought we were going to lose, but we came back!" she said.

Melrose! Our champions!

Tuck in that shirt

Students have to follow some new rules at Melrose.

By MARQUAY SMITH, SHAVION HOBBS AND AARON CLAY, CARMELLO CHURCH, 4th grade

At Melrose elementary there are some new specific rules to help students be respectful, responsible and safe. These new guidelines started recently, but they will continue next year.

In case you didn't know, to be respectful means to respect to your teachers and peers. When someone tells you something, listen. It might be good advice.

Principal Mrs. Grasso said the new rules follow a line protocol. She said these new rules help kids stay organized and ready to learn.

"It sets the tempo for the day," she said. "It helps you keep your focus on your academics."

Another rule is that girls walk first in line and boys walk last. Girls also have to sit on one side of the table in the cafeteria and boys on the other side. While students sit in the cafeteria they can watch on the screen to see how many points they have earned toward a popcorn party.

Students also have to have their shirts tucked in and walk on the right side of the hall with arm's length apart.

"We have those guidelines because procedures and consistency will make for better behaviors at this school," said behavior specialist Mrs. Matanle.



AVERY BEATON | 4th grade

Ms. Borders makes sure that Ms. Young's kindergarten class follow the school rules for walking in line.



LISANDRO MORALES | 4TH GRADE

Grandma Ms. Butts, left, Ms. Brown, center, and Ms. Snow joke with each other during a break. Ms. Butts has been at Melrose for 20 years and Ms. Brown has been at the school for eight years. This is Ms. Snow's first year. She is called her the "New Kid on the Block" by Ms. Brown.

Melrose grandmas offer a helping hand

Grandmas at Melrose Elementary are in the classrooms to offer additional support.

By SOLOMON PEGUES, ZYEIRE MACK AND ARYANA OSPINA, 4TH GRADE

When you walk down the halls you might say "Hi grandma!"

But chances are she's not your real grandma. However, the Melrose Elementary grandmas are like real grandmas because they are kind, loving, helpful and funny.

The grandmas love working here and helping the children.

All of the grandmas help the classroom teachers with the students, help with math, reading and discipline.

Grandma Snow is one grandma at Melrose in Ms. Green's class. She is nice and funny. She has a beautiful smile with a gold tooth. She likes to have fun. You can see her all over school helping children.

Grandma Snow said she liked her job.

"I look forward to every school morning coming to work with the kids," said Grandma Snow.

Grandma Snow said her job is "helping the children learn discipline, structure and having fun."

She said her most important job is helping out the classroom teacher.

Grandma Snow said she has worked at Melrose since last October.

"I'm the new kid on the block," she said with laugh. "Write that down."

Ms. Green said she likes having a grandma in her class.

"She supports the class," said Ms. Green. "We enjoy all the extra help we can get."

Teachers and students get extra help with paras

A paraprofessional offers a helping hand in the classroom

**By DERRION JAMES, DIAMOND BROOKS, ARI ROSS AND DAILAN MCCALLISTER, 4TH GRADE
SHEKERA COTMAN AND ZYON DUGGAN, 5TH GRADE**

There are a lot more friendly faces walking around Melrose this school year now that classrooms have paraprofessionals.

"This is a new initiative from the district for five schools in Pinellas County. The purpose is to have more support in order to provide small group instructions," said Vice Principal Ms. Bockover.

We interviewed lots of our paraprofessionals to see how they feel about teaching students in the classroom.

A para is another teacher that helps the students in the class. The paras help the permanent teachers in the school.

One para in the school is Mr. Fowler, who is 5th grade teacher Mrs. Lopez's para. Mr. Fowler said "it's exciting" to be a para.

"I love dealing with kids," he said. This is Mr. Fowler's first year being a paraprofessional, and he said he loves working with Mrs. Lopez.

"She's always on point," he said.

Ms. Moore is a para in Mr. Pough's Kindergarten class. She helps out with small groups in reading and math. "I like the interactions with children and seeing their learning process. I like working with Mr. Pough," she said. Ms. Moore said she thinks Melrose has a family atmosphere.

Another 5th grade classroom para is Mrs. Fuller. Mrs. Fuller is the para in Mr. Lumb's class.

"We support each other," she said. "It's a wonderful profession to be in."

Mr. Black is one of the 4th grade paras. He said it feels great to be a para in Mrs. Bradley's class.

"I love the potential of each and every child," he said. "I believe that every kid here has a chance to become successful in life despite their circumstances," he said.



ARYANA OSPINA | 4th grade

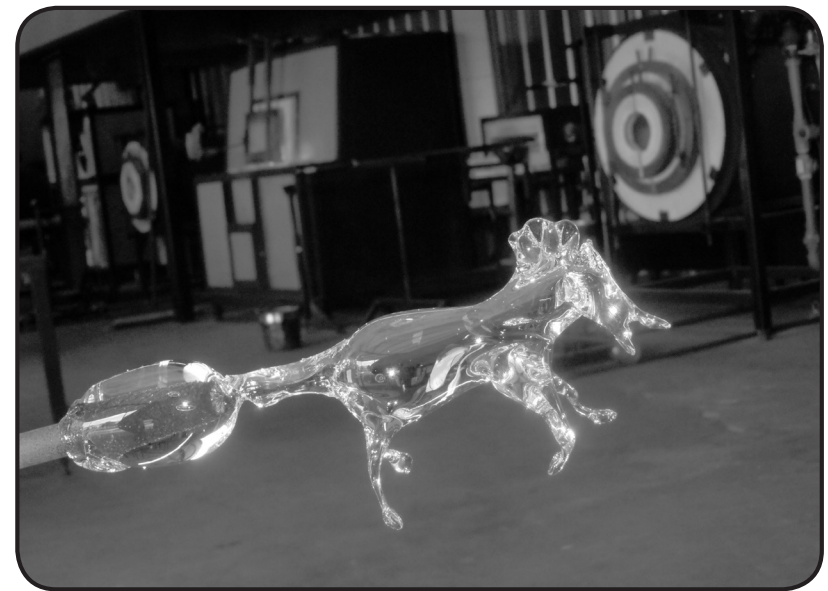
Ms. Vencill helps Jorden Byers solve a problem on ST Math. She has been a paraprofessional for two years. Her classroom teacher, Ms. Custis, says she is "loving and creative."

Knowing our community

Second-graders go beyond the school to discover what makes their community special.



SHANTEZE KING | 2nd grade



DA'MYAH WRIGHT | 2nd grade

BY MS. DAVIS' CLASS

The **Publix** supermarket located on 54th Avenue S. opened in 2009. It serves over 1 million customers and has 150 associates. Cupcakes and cake slices are some of the most popular desserts sold at the store. Vanilla butter cream and carrot cake with cream cheese just some of the tasty treats customers like to eat.

BY MS. MCDONALDS CLASS

The **Duncan McClellan Gallery** has artists from all over the country work and show their art. The gallery offers workshops to artists who want to learn more about making glass art. Visitor from around the world can even see the artists make these amazing pieces of art.



J'VON ROBINSON | 2nd grade



DARRON STEWART | 2nd grade

BY MS. GREENE'S CLASS

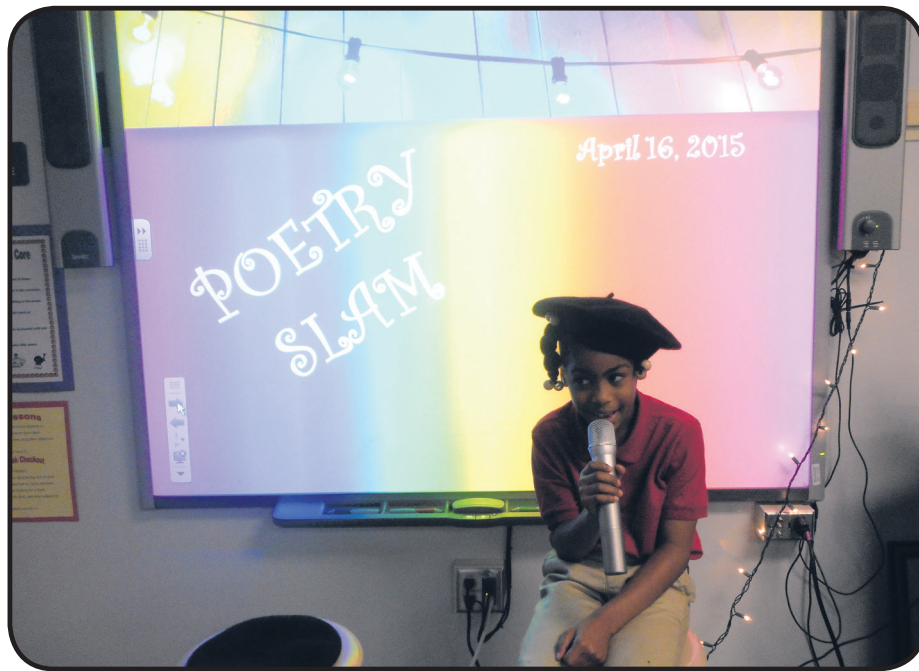
Dell Holmes Park is filled with fun activities for people to enjoy. The park has a splash pad, playground, and rope climbing. It also has a fishing pier, with a beautiful view of Lake Maggiore, a golf driving range and picnic shelters.

BY MS. FURSE'S CLASS

Pathfinder has many activities for everyone to enjoy. People are able to climb trees, ride in a canoe, and learn about nature. It also helps people to become more confident and learn how to work together as a team.

Melrose in pictures

Kenyata Day reads a poem to the audience during Melrose's Poetry Slam held in the Media Center. Over 20 students performed in front of family and friends.



ISAAC HARRIS | 4th grade



Mr. Lumb's class battles against Mr. Mincey's class in Tug of War games, music, and face painting. The coaches come in at 6 a.m.



KADENCE SCHWANTES | 1st grade

Ta'Kayla Reynolds-Gilley, a student in Ms. McDonald's class, works on I-Station with Ms. Hall in the Media Center. Ms. McDonald's students held classes in the Media Center for one week while the classroom portable was under construction.



JASMYN

Taquesha Watts cleans the teeth of **Malakai Rohlsen** inside the journal. Free dental cleanings were provided to all students who turned in pe



MYKALA LANE | 5th grade

Far on Field Day. The event is a fun-filled Olympic competition with m. to set up for the students.



CARL MITCHELL | 1st grade

Terri Lipsey Scott reads *A Sweet Smell of Roses*, by Angela Johnson, to students in Ms. Sutherland's class on African-American Author Day. Over 20 volunteers came to read books written by African-American authors.



EWRIGHT | 5th grade
alism portable.
rmission slips.



ASIANNA MCKINNES | 5th grade

Cameron Minter, foreground, works hard on his writing assignment for Mr. Mincey's science class.



Ms. Williams gets excited about dressing up like a student for School Spirit Week. "I want my students to know that teachers can still have fun," she said.

Photo by MESSENGER STAFF



RASHEED GUESS | 3rd grade

Ray Wunderlich III, the manager at Pioneer Settlement Garden, talks to Ms. Salazar's class about growing fruits and vegetables. The garden donates most of the fruits and vegetables that it grows.

Local garden helps feed the homeless

Third graders went on a field trip to Pioneer Village to interview Farmer Ray.

BY TANIYA BELL, SHAYLA SMITH AND MAKAYLA DANIEL, 3rd grade

Rows of plants and vegetables took over the garden at Pioneer Village. The plants were small, but some were big. But all that food wasn't for one person!

Farmer Ray, who works at the farm, said 90 percent of the food grown goes to the homeless. That is almost one ton of food.

Some of the food in the garden was broccoli, strawberries, cabbage, carrots, kale and collard greens. All the vegetables were or-

ganic. Organic means that the plants are all natural and don't have any chemicals. All of the plants were divided by planks of wood that you have to step on so you don't hurt the plants.

Farmer Ray was not afraid to eat something right out of the dirt. Ray looks over the garden and plants the food. He is serious about the garden to make sure it stays safe.

Students soar with birds of prey

The birds at Boyd Hill will never make a full recovery. But lucky for them, the volunteers make the birds as happy as they can.

BY DAE'SHONNA JONES, RA'NYAH BRINSON, VURNAJA COX, AYANNA LINDER, NEVAEH SANDERS AND DOMINIQUE BACON, 3rd grade

They hunt with their feet, they only eat meat and you won't find them in the streets. Figured it out? They are birds of prey!

There are lots of birds of prey at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in St. Petersburg. The birds that go to Boyd Hill were injured or were almost killed. The volunteers at the bird sanctuary take care of the birds by feeding them, treating them right and training them to perch on their hands.

The volunteers train the birds every day by building relationships with them. The birds are on leashes and have to sit on the trainer's hands.

"They are trained but not tamed," said Anne Marie

Jordan, a volunteer at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve.

This means that the birds are still dangerous – they have extremely sharp talons.

One of the birds was named Angie. It was a little owl, but full grown. Angie's wing was injured.

Another owl was named Archimedes. He was a big owl. He can turn his head 270 degrees. Owls can turn their head that much because their eyes don't move. This way, the birds can stay safe from other animals. These birds can also hear another animal creep up behind them.

There is a lot of work that goes in to making the birds happy.

"With team work we make it work," said Jason Cowen, a volunteer.



ALIJAH AUSTIN | 3rd grade

Nora Gaunt holds Archie, a Great Horned owl, while talking to Ms. Adam's class about Boyd Hill Nature Preserve. Archie has a wing injury and cannot live on his own in the wild. He has lived at the preserve for almost three years.



JYSIRIUS HALL | 3rd grade

The new St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue opened in 2011 and took six years to build. It is one of the most environmentally friendly fire and rescue houses in the city.

Fancy fire station opens its doors

The new station was built to be energy efficient.

By TYZEONA GRAY, JOSIAH LYONS, COREY STEWART AND MYKEIRA WEBB, 3 grade

Big fire trucks and heavy suits so hot that sweat drips as soon as you put them on fill the brand new fire station. When you think of a fire station, the color red might come to mind. However, Fire and Rescue Station No. 8 is all green.

The trucks were big, but when you go inside it's cramped with tools and buttons. The station has two trucks, which are both really expensive. A truck can cost \$75,000, but it also depends on what is on the truck. A truck with a ladder can cost \$900,000. Taxes pay for the equipment.

The brand new fire station costs \$1.3 million. The fire station is a green station, which means it recycles and saves energy. The building saves energy by having large, glass windows to light the room instead of electricity. The building is 5 percent more efficient than a standard building. They save about \$6,000 per year in electricity. They save 500 gallons in water.

The firefighters don't have to pay for anything except for their food.

The floors were shiny, polished concrete. The furniture was black and looked brand new! The kitchen was

big, with 3 refrigerators in it. It's a good thing, because the firefighters have to stay in the building for 24 hours at a time.

There are lots of different jobs that a firefighter might have. They are paramedics, and some fighters go in the building to save people. They have to go through a lot of school to become a firefighter. There are a lot of things that firefighters have to know so they can stay safe. They have to continue their education so they can get out of a bad situation.

"We don't just sit in the fire station waiting for the bell to ring," said John Barfield, a firefighter.

"It's fun," said Bladimir Silverio, a firefighter. "You do different things."

Henry Simmons, a fire lieutenant, said the men and women have to check their equipment to make sure everything is in order before they get a call.

"Lives depend on our tools working properly," said Mr. Simmons. He said he loves his job because he gets to help people. "Nobody got rich being a firefighter," he said.

All the firefighters have to work as a team. They said they are like a family.



JAUVION MCLAURIN | 3rd grade

Pinellas County Solid Waste recycles the trash or changes most of its trash to energy. It has a Waste to Energy plant that is able to convert trash to electricity. The electricity it makes can power to 43,000 homes.

The dump brings surprises

Ever wonder where your trash goes?

By VERMON MILLER, SEMAJI BOLDEN, DA'MAYA BROUGHTON, SHAQUAJA HUMPHRIES AND ASIHYA MADISON-HUBBARD, 3rd grade

The smell of rotten eggs filled the air. Even though the garbage dump was filled with stinky trash, the ground seemed to sparkle like diamonds.

Thousands of vultures were flying overhead to look for food.

"They get used to the stinky smell," said Tom Robert, who works at the Solid Waste and Recycling Center.

Ever wonder where all your trash goes? It goes to the dump! The first thing that happens when a truck enters the dump is it gets weighed so the workers know how much trash was collected.

Everyone's trash in the area goes to this dump. One truck can hold 5,000 pounds of trash. That's a lot of trash!

The trash then has to be organized. There are lots of things that could happen to the trash. It can be separated, recycled and burned. Trash that can be burned in one pile, trash that cannot be burned goes into another. There is some garbage outside, but it is mostly ash. Little, bity pieces of glass that were in the ash caught the light of the sun.

The garbage dump wasn't always like that.

They used to throw it on a big old pile, and now they don't. There claws to pick up trash and keep everything organized. The claw was orange.

They heat up water and use the steam to turn it into electricity.

There were 1,000 tires sitting in a pile. The workers can only burn a few tires a day because of the pollution.

The garbage dump in St. Petersburg, Fl. is really big, trucks zoom around the ground. And that is where your trash goes!

Students explore Sunken Gardens

By KEDAR BARNES, JA'KWON BRUMADGE, MIRACLE GASTON, RIGHTOUS MAYS, MARKESE MCCULLOUGH, LEWIS SIMMONS, AND KENONIE WHEELINGS, 3rd Grade

Rainbow trees, an alligator snapping turtle and flamingos fill Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg. The garden was bought in 1903 by Mr. Turner, who was a plumber. Although the garden has been around for a long time, there are lots of new changes happening.

One of the new things at the garden is that they are trying to get a flock of flamingos. One flamingo costs \$3,000 and the garden is trying to raise money to get 20 flamingos in total. Currently, the garden has two flamingos.

They had an eagle in the safe house, but they are trying to get another bird in the safe house. They are also trying to raise money for a children's garden. They are also raising money to get better cages for the animals. The garden is hoping the children's gar-



KLOIETHOMAS | 3rd grade

This flamingo is one of only two flamingos at Sunken Gardens. The birds have lived there since 1956.

den will be done by the spring. The new children's garden will have clay children, and tables for learning.

The garden has rainbow tree, which has several different colors. There is also a vine plant that stretches over a wooden canopy.

Before the Sunken Gardens became the beautiful garden it is now, it was once a giant sink-hole. Because Mr. Turner was a plumber, he was able to drain it.

"He decided to live here," said Ms. Susan Rebillot, the garden specialist.

Some of the trees were planted from seeds by Mr. Turner. "We tried to keep everything he planted and take care of it," said Ms. Rebillot.

around school



DEMONTAE BLANKS | Kindergarten

"I am special because I like to play Mario Race and Madagascar," Zamarian Williams said.



ERIKA WATTS | Kindergarten

"I am special because I have nice friends," Connor Middleton said.



EMMANUEL ALEXANDER | Kindergarten

"I am special because I am happy," Briasia Brown said.

Kindergarten learns over lunch

Students get to chat about the future while eating at set tables

By SHEKERA COTMAN and ZYON DUGGAN, 5th grade

Tablecloths cover the table and candles sit on top. That might sound like a fancy restaurant, but it's really a kindergarten classroom.

Every Wednesday, Mr. Pough's class has Lunch and Learn. Students bring their food into the classroom and sit at tables with colorful tablecloths and electric candles. Students get to talk about their future, making it to first grade and using the guidelines for success.

"Guidelines will take you anywhere," said Ms. Moore, "whether you're 3 or 30."

Ms. Moore is the paraprofessional in Mr. Pough's class, and the one to start the tradition. She said Lunch and Learn is good because it helps out the kids and is fun to do.



QUARON LITTLE | 1st grade

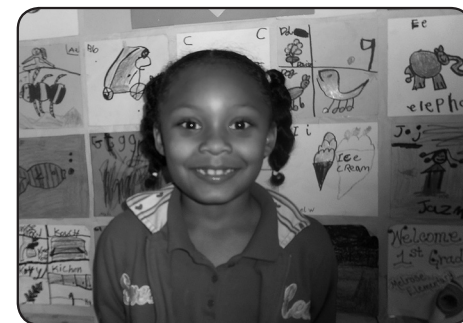
"When I grow up I want to be a football player. I want to make touchdowns," said Jamaal Miles.

When I grow up, I want to be ...



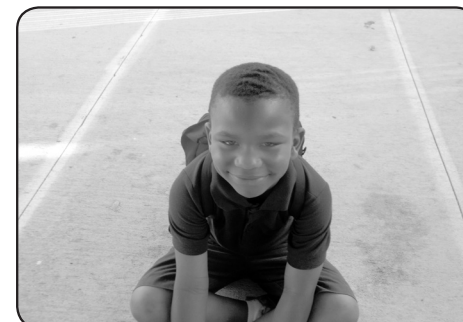
KADENCE SCHWANTES | 1ST GRADE

"When I grow up I want to be a cheerleader because cheerleaders do cool stuff and tricks," said Melina Morales.



JAZMINE REDDICK | 1ST GRADE

"When I grow up I want to be a vet because I will get to pet puppies and kitties and fish," said Daisy Harris.



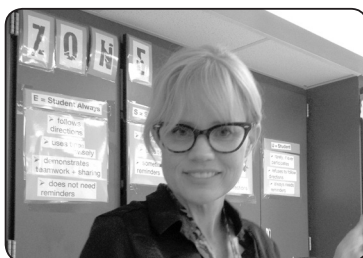
AR'NASIA PATRICK | 1ST GRADE

"When I grow up I want to be a football player. I get to run and catch the ball," said Nykwann Powell.

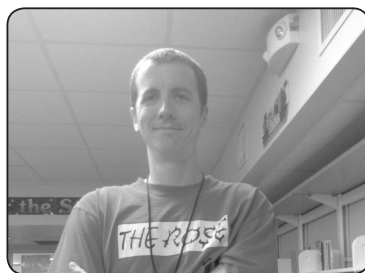
around school

Teachers learn at school too

Students learn a lot during the year, but teachers learned a lot this year too. We walked through the halls and asked them what they have learned. Here's what they had to say:



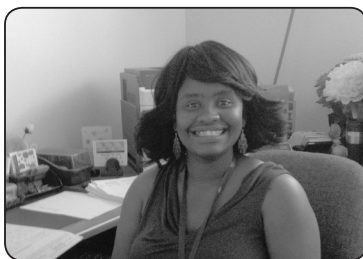
"There are too many things that I've learned over the school year. Every day new things happen. There are new opportunities every day to learn as a teacher," said Mrs. Haraminac.



"I've learned that if I focus on the things that I can control and I stop worrying about things outside of my control, that I feel happier and more successful and I am more helpful to other people around me," said Mr. Puhr.



"This year I learned how to be a little more patient and organized. Getting organized really did help me stay on top of the extra things we are doing this year, and be able to have more fun with my students," said Mrs. Furse.



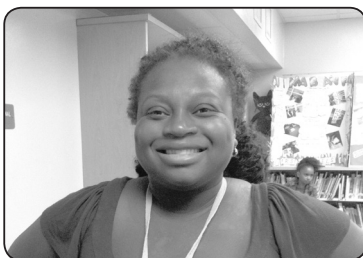
"I've learned that you always need to be nice to everyone, you need to work hard. The harder you work and the more that you stay focused you'll continue to be blessed and good things will happen to you," said Mrs. Wyman.



"What I have learned this school year -- from the short time that I've been here -- is to never quit. Never give up. That has to do with students as well as adults," said Ms. Williams, paraprofessional.



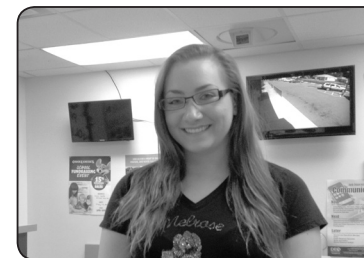
"I learned this year to be patient with the students and with the new processes being put in place," said Ms. Young.



"I've learned to be more patient with my students," said Mrs. Joseph.



"I learned how patient I am, and how patient I'm not as well as being better organized," said Mr. Pough.



"I have learned that you have to be very patient," said Ms. Ally.



"I've learned how to stay patient through hard times," said Coach Wong.

Advice for new fifth graders...

BY ALANA WASHPUN AND SHAKIRA FELTON, 5TH GRADE

Dear upcoming 5th graders, before we go off to middle school we thought we would spill the beans on what to expect when you come back to Melrose elementary nextttttt year!!! This past year we learned how to be more confident in and out of the classroom. We are dropping some knowledge, and you should pick it up.

1. Being RESPECTFUL is helpful. Just because you're a big and bad 5th grader doesn't mean you can forget the golden rule you learned in Kindergarten.
2. When you are doing your work and being RESPONSIBLE someone might say something mean to you. Know that it's important to know your ABC's and 123's. You shouldn't let someone make you feel bad for being smart.
3. In class, just because you're in a higher grade that does not mean you should be bad and be out of class and throwing things at people. Be SAFE.
4. Setting an example well be hard but you can still try to be respectful, responsible and safe. When you're a 5th grader everyone looks up to you.
5. Appreciate your teachers. Fifth grade teachers, thanks for being there! Bye!

PHOTOS AND QUOTES GATHERED BY CURTIS HUBBARD, ATÉ PORTER AND AARON YOUNG, 4TH GRADE

around school

Manatee Messenger Staff

On the cover:

Ms. Lopez, Pinellas County Teacher of the Year, works with Khalil Lindsey on ST Math. Photo by Makyla Webb, 4th grade. Coach Miller photo by Myesha Hill, 5th grade. Sunken Gardens photo by Ashanie Maynor, 3rd grade.

Ms. Lopez's Class

Reporters: Rakell Hooks, Ronald Kelly, Ja'shanna Lyons, Shimya Mitchell, Keymoni Powell. **Photographers:** Ethan Bouey, Jovan Duncan Demetri Gibson, Myesha Hill, Mykayla Lanne, Khalil Lindsey, Donisha Washington, Miracle Watts, Jasmyne Wright

Mr. Lumb's Class

Reporters: Ke'niya Brumadge, Isaiah Harris, Zykereya Preston and Alana Washpun. **Photographers:** Zerrion Baker, Jasmyne Barnes, De'jah Boyd, Jaevon Davis, Shakira Felton, Sammaria Hallman, Amahria Lewis, Asianna McKinnes, Ja'tavius Milton Mya Trice and Lashanti Williams

Mr. Mincey's Class

Zanavia Bolden, Savionna Brown, Ki'nyiah Carter, Shekera Cotman, Jacquez Day, Amauni Edmonson, Zyon Duggan, Averyon Fort, Da'jion Gamble, Davon Harris, Branjaha Mcrae, Cameron Minter, Jeremiah Okoh-Brown, Malachi Randolph, Elijah Redix, Joneasha Whitehead

Ms. Bradley's Class

Diamond Brooks, Erijah Byrd, Neveah Gamble, Da'niyia Gray, Curtis Hubbard, DaWayne Ingram, Derrion James, Joseph Key, Dailan McCallister, Deshayne McCullough, Ramona Mitchell, Zhanariea Montgomery, Ate Porter, Khiaria-Zahnea Ross, Kaleb Watson, Aaron Young

Mr. Durspek's Class

Jadarius Boykin, Carmello Church, Jahmiah Colston, Searra Davis, Davontae Dawson, Qyashia Evans, Anaya Graham, Isaac Harris, Jammeria Howard, Terrence Howard, Torian Johnson, Verntavious Miller, Lisandro Morales, Markese Norfleet, Giovonte Powell, Ameire Roberts, Anthony Sutherland and Kamala Times

Ms. Grizzle's Class

Shakia Batson, Deonte Bishop, Juan'ae Bowens, Vurniya Carter, Ja'merius Church, Aaron Clay, Shavion Hobbs, Charles Johnson, Keshia Mitchell, Najae Reid, Marquary Smith, A'zariah Sutton, Isaiah Thomas, Samaria Tunsil, Malcolm Woods

Ms. Williams' Class

Avery Beaton, Dyamond Corbett, Demetrius Davis, Latrillion Harris, Javarius Jones, Solanzje' Jones, Alexia Levesque, Zyeire Mack, Aryana Ospina, Solomon Pegues, Nateria Spivey, Zackary Vereen, Jazymine Webb, Makyla Webb, Zamari Williams

Advisory Committee

Susan Alvaro-Maidenberg, asst. principal Lakewood High; Heidi Bockover-Goldstein, asst. principal, Melrose Elementary; Kristin Brett, Kb& Associates; Barry Brown, principal, John Hopkins Middle; Beth Casey, attorney, Stetson Law School; Goliath Davis, community volunteer; Tammie Fields, weekend anchor/reporter, WTSP-TV; Robert Florio, asst. principal, John Hopkins Middle; Tim Franklin, president, The Poynter Institute; Nanette Grasso, principal, Melrose Elementary; Joni James, Tampa Bay Times; John Just, director, Precyse University; Gretchen Letterman, retired Tampa Bay Times journalist, JJAC chair Cynda Mort, J in J founding coordinator, Journeys in Journalism; Marti Newbold, Associate Dean of Students for Community Initiatives, Eckerd College; Shrimatee Ojah-Maharaj, grants officer, City of St. Petersburg Casey Peterson, academic program specialist, USFSP Journalism; Steve Plummer, supervisor of Business and Information Technology, Marketing & Diversified Education Programs, Pinellas County Schools; Mary Shedden, journalist, WUSF Public Media, Lindsey Hall and Robert Vicari, principal, Lakewood High.



Mrs. Mort listens to a student talk during Midtown Summer Journalism Camp in 2008.

Lara Cerri | Tampa Bay Times

In loving memory...

Mrs. Mort has been an inspiration to students, co-workers and the community in general with her tireless work in building from scratch the best K-12 journalism program in the country.

Thirteen years ago Mrs. Mort started the Journeys in Journalism program right here at Melrose Elementary, helping even the youngest students gain confidence in themselves as they reported, wrote and photographed stories that matter to the Melrose community and beyond,

and learn important life skills that will serve them no matter where their paths lead.

Some of her first prodigies have graduated college and work in successful multimedia careers, including journalism education.

No one cared more than Mrs. Mort about giving every student a chance at making the most of him or herself. She gave her heart and soul to the journalism program and will be greatly missed.



Courtesy of the Mort Family



Courtesy of the Mort Family

Mrs. Mort dances with her husband, Kevin Mort.



Courtesy of the Mort Family

Mrs. Mort with her family: husband Kevin and sons Andrew and Zachary.



Paul Jerome | Tampa Bay Times

Mrs. Mort receives an award from Studio@620.