



THE THUNDER REPORT

Volume 1, Issue 3--- November 16, 2020

Administrators' Message

We are all in different places with everything that is happening around us. Please know we can only move forward one step at a time. Be gentle on yourself. NONE of us have EVER traveled these uncharted waters. We have been called to this profession to as teachers, mentors, surrogate parents, confidantes..etc...We can and will do everything within our powers to help our students. I am confident that together we will continue to provide unprecedented top notch education to our students to the best of our ability and our abilities are pretty awesome!!!!Thank you for your dedication and support of our students.

Sharon Fahey LCSW, EdS

Assistant Principal
Pinellas Park Middle School

CALENDAR EVENTS

November 18

Progress Reports

November 23-27

Holiday break

December 1

Cambridge Discovery Night

5:30-7:00 pm

Quote of the day

"May you see sunshine
where others see
shadows, and
opportunities where
others see obstacles."
-unknown

Congratulations PPMS' Teacher of the Year Karen Midkiff and Nelson Garcia for earning School Support Employee of the Year!

Ms. Midkiff has been teaching for 8 years. She started her teaching career at Clearwater Fundamental and followed my Principal Dave Rosenberger to PPMS when he transferred and have been a proud Thunderbird for the last 7 years. She has taught U.S. History, World History, Civics and Advanced 8th grade Language Arts. She currently teaches Civics. *See page three to read her interview.*



Mr. Garcia has been with, Pinellas County Schools 11 years. He began his career in education because he was eager to make a difference in the lives of children. He is currently in school to become a physical education teacher.



THANK
YOU

I come bearing FREE GIFTS!

Kim Smith, the owner of CreativEd Services based in Orlando, has donated some of her best selling educational resources to our school. I've had the awesome opportunity to present with Kim at professional development sessions for school districts across the country. I can attest that the books are great resources for spicing up lessons with fun subject specific educational games that the students actually enjoy. My fave is the Leadership book which can be adapted to any subject. The resources are **easy to read and instructions are simple to follow.** I have U.S. History, Business & Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Leadership books. Come by my room 1-132 or leave a note in my box (Richards) and I'll leave the book in yours if you're interested!



<https://www.creativedservices.com/about>

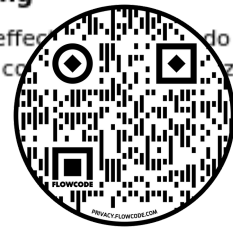
Parent Tech Tips

Need help with PCS Portal login instructions?
Use the link below
for instructions in English and Spanish
<https://www.pcsb.org/Page/33798>
Use the link below for help with Canvas.
<https://www.pcsb.org/Page/33748>



7 High-Impact, Evidence-Based Tips for Online Teaching

What do highly effective teachers do in online classrooms? We compiled dozens of studies to



Click the link or scan the code with your phone to see the best research-backed ideas.

<https://edut.to/3f3y4rm>

Staff Member Highlight

Mr. Ladarius Hollowell



Subject: Business Technology
Last read: Kobe Bryant Memorial Magazine
Years taught: This is my first year
Born: Memphis, TN
Interesting Fact: I enjoy volunteering. I will be volunteering during the Super Bowl in Tampa this year!

Ms. Karen Midkiff's Teacher of the Year interview continued

Why have you chosen to remain in teaching rather than working in another field that is addressing inequity?

I've always wanted to be a teacher, as early as elementary school. Prior to becoming a Teacher, I was a paralegal at a law firm for 18 years. When I transitioned into the teaching world, I feel like I found my calling. Becoming a Teacher has made me a better person and I feel like I make a difference in my students' lives. I don't just teach my curriculum, I teach equity, acceptance and understanding of diversity. One of the greatest advantages of teaching Civics, is that we get to have candid real-life conversations about the social injustices we have in our country and how the choices this generation makes can change the world in a positive way. I get to see the future every day – and the future is bright.

What do you love most about teaching?

I love the interaction with the students. The energy and positivity they bring to class invigorates me and I leave the campus at the end of the day better than I when I walked onto it in the morning because of my students. They lift me up, especially in these challenging times.

How has your role as a teacher evolved over the years you've been in the classroom?

I take pride in making strong connections with all of my students, I call them my kids because before the end of every school year, in my eyes they are like my own children. I wear many hats in the classroom, all teachers do, but one of my greatest achievements as being a teacher is making sure that each and every student in my classes know they matter to me. Their voice matters, their life matters, they matter. I feel I have solid bonds with my students, and they know they can trust me and that I will always be there for them, long after they are no long in my classroom.

What advice would you share with people who are interested in becoming teachers?

Good teachers teach from the heart, not the textbook. If you want to be a teacher, bring your heart into the classroom and let the students know you are a human being, that is not without flaws. Own up to your mistakes in the classroom and apologize to a student if you have falsely accused them of something (like talking) in front of the entire class, so that they all see you are just like them. Respect is earned and has to be given to be received. All any student wants is to feel valued and respected. Once you earn that respect – you created a bond that will never go away and that student will do anything to not disappoint you.

PPMS Girlfriends Ordination Ceremony

Thank you to the Mrs. Murray, Advisor/Mentor Mrs. Lamb, Mentor and Mrs. Ruffin, Mentor for inspiring our youth!



Staff Shoutouts!

To Mr Hinson for always helping fellow teachers and students. Thanks for helping me be a better teacher! Ms. Dean

Ms. Stanaland works diligently to provide the best for her students- keep it up!

Stubbs, You are an amazing DMT we are lucky to have you

I am shouting out Linda Croce! She is always so positive and welcoming! I don't know what I'd do without her! -Feldt

Shaw, Thank you for being so generous and thoughtful even when your own cup may be empty. - Liggett

If you would like to submit a shoutout, use the pink box in the copy room!



We are thankful for our community members. Kristina Cole, our school's Social Worker, is leading our "Turkey Give Away Event." We love you Thunderbird Community!



***Gratitude** allows us to recognize good in our lives, **Thankfulness** is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of the thankfulness, and **Gratefulness** is a feeling or showing appreciation of kindness.*

This Thanksgiving, we are grateful for everything! During the pandemic we are grateful for the heroes who showed up everyday to educate our students. We are grateful for the students who walked on the campus and showed up in class. We are grateful for the parents who trusted the teachers and the leaders to handle their precious cargo. We are grateful for our leaders who are leading us fearlessly under extreme circumstance.

