



GATOR TALES

Issue 3 | Date: November 15, 2019

PTA PRESIDENT, MR MATTHEW STEELE



Hello Fuguitt Families,

I hope the school year is going well for everyone.

1. "I don't have time." 2. "I work a full time job." 3. "My spouse handles these things." 4. "I wouldn't be much help." These are just a few reasons we hear from parents and teachers as to why they won't join the PTA. So I wanted to take this opportunity this month and set the record straight and provide a few reasons

why it's important to join. Membership is down this year despite our best efforts and multiple incentives such as a pizza party for the class who gets the most members or a break room remodel for the teachers if we get 100% staff participation. We have had positive turnouts for the events we are hosting but now is the time we need parents and teachers to come forward and join. I mentioned last month sustainability and we are in danger of losing the PTA due not having enough people willing to get involved. So let me dispel some of these above reasons about the PTA.

1. It's ok if you have a full time job. Everyone on the board works. I probably hear this more than any other reason. Yes, it might seem overwhelming but it's possible to be involved and work full time.

2. Volunteering on the PTA will not consume your life. Most of what needs done may only require an hour or two a month. A small price for the benefits the PTA provides. And the more people involved the less work there is to go around.

3. See #1. We are all not stay at home parents. It's ok if your spouse or family signed up. You can too. There is no limit to the number of family members that can join the PTA.

4. It's easy to think there might not be a place to help. Volunteering isn't all about running concessions or putting up decorations. Perhaps you like numbers and would make a good treasurer? Or maybe you like writing and would be a good secretary at board meetings? Have an idea for an event that you can tie to something your passionate about? There is a job and place for everyone on the PTA.

I'll close with these final thoughts that Parents and Teachers should both ask themselves.

Parents - Does your child struggle or is having behavioral problems in the classroom? Take charge of the situation and use the PTA as a way to connect to your child's teacher and get in the school and show your presence and involvement to your kid(s). You might be surprised how that might improve performance both in the classroom and at home. **Teachers** - Do you have parents who you wish were more involved? Use the PTA as a resource to connect with parents and that their involvement is appreciated and needed. What better way to do this then at the PTA events. The outcome may surprise you and allow you to spend more time on what matters. Teaching.

So everyone, please take the first step and sign up online and become a member. You can visit <https://fuguitt.memberhub.store/>. I hope to see everyone at future events.

"The best way to make children good is to make them happy"
-Oscar Wilde

MEET OUR STAFF

Dear Fuguitt Family,

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Annie Sanchez Rosario and I have recently joined the Fuguitt staff. I am from Puerto Rico, I came to the USA on November 2nd 2002



with a bag full of dreams and goals, understanding that to see them come true I would need to do my part. I have worked in Pinellas County Schools (Food Service Department) for more than 8 years. In August 2018 I decided to apply for the Manager Intern position for Food and Nutrition, a few months later in April 2019 I graduated from the program. It is a pleasure to work for children and families, my mission is to be able to serve the Fuguitt staff, students, and families how they deserve, with excellence. I am open to keep learning while I am doing my best in everything I do for the benefit of Fuguitt Elementary School, where I feel welcome in a happy and encouraging atmosphere. I am a single mother, I have 3 kids, ages 20, 19 and 17, two are still living with me. I hope I'm setting a good example for them, and like I taught them... Everything that you need to reach your goals and see your dreams come true is already in you. Just go for it. Thanks to Dr. Bentley for the opportunity given to me to be your cafeteria Manager. *Sincerely, Annie*

KEY DATES

Thanksgiving Break:

NOVEMBER 23rd - DECEMBER 1st



DECEMBER



- 13th** Holiday Shop Review
- 13th** PTA General Meeting at **5:30 pm**
- 13th** Winter Night from **6 - 8 pm**
- 16-20th** Holiday Shop Open **TBD**
- 20th** All Pro Dad's Meeting at **7:30 am**



**1-2-3-4
WE DECLARE
PENNY WAR**

PENNY WAR

We declare a **PENNY WAR** on the first week of December for Pre-K, K-5th and I've/Sve!!!

Grade level with the **MOST POINTS** wins a **Mini Golf Party!!! Gain** points by adding **pennies and bills** to your grade's jug. **Lower** other grades totals by adding **silver coins** to their jugs.

Funds raised help to fund PTA sponsored events.

Pennies & Bills

All pennies and bills
ADD to your grade
level's total

Silver Coins

All silver coins
SUBTRACT from the
grade level's total

+ Adding +		Points: - Subtracting -	
Pennies	+1 Point	Nickels	-5 Points
\$1 dollar	+100 Points	Dimes	-10 Points
\$5 dollars	+500 Points	Quarters	-25 Points
\$10 dollars	+1000 Points		
\$20 dollars	+2000 Points		

PTA INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL of Fuguitt Elementary School

Kathlene Bentley, Ed.D.

ADDRESS of the School

13010 101st St., Largo,
FL 33773-5600

PTA BOARD 2019-2020

President

Matthew Steele

Vice President

Alexa Bonnici

Secretary

Samantha Steele

Treasurer

Heather Greve

Membership Committee Chair

Jeremy Ludes

Programs Committee Chair

Leta Ludes

Communication Committee Chair / Newsletter

Dasha Ruzanova

Membership Report

111 Total Amount of Members

PTA MISSION

To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

JOIN PTA online at

<https://fuguitt.memberhub.store/>



PRINCIPAL, MRS KATHLENE BENTLEY, ED.D.



Dear Families,

We have some great things going on at Fuguitt!! We had an awesome turn out for our Reading night, Reading is Snow Much Fun in November with lots of cool crafts, prizes and our book fair!! In December, we will host our Annual Winter Night and our Holiday Shop will be open!

Our students will be taking their second MAP Growth Test in Reading, Math and Science in December. Unlike paper and pencil tests, where all students are asked the same questions and spend a fixed amount of time taking the test, MAP Growth is a computer adaptive test—which means every student gets a unique set of test questions based on responses to previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions get harder. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions get easier. By the end of the test, most students will answer about half the questions correctly, as is common on adaptive tests. The purpose of MAP Growth is to determine what the student knows and is ready to learn next. MAP Growth can track students' individual growth over time – wherever they are starting from and regardless of the grade they are in. For instance, if a third grader is reading like a fifth grader, MAP Growth will be able to identify that. Or, if a fifth grader is doing math like a third grader, MAP Growth will identify that, too. Both things are incredibly important for a teacher to know so that they can plan instruction efficiently. This information is important for parents as well! If you have questions about your child's score, please contact your child's teacher. The MAP Growth test is given three times a year. For students in grades 3, 4, and 5, the December MAP Growth score is a strong indicator of how well they will do on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). Please encourage your student to read every day, this is the one thing that research shows that helps students perform better in school! Make reading exciting by helping your child to choose a book about what they like and don't forget to sign your child's Reading Log nightly!!!

I encourage all parents to sign up for Parent Connect. Parent Connect gives you access to your child's grades and other records through the internet. This is a great tool for parents to stay informed on the progress of their child. Please stop by the front office if you need assistance and to receive your login information.

During our holiday break, we hope our students engage in some fun educational activities. Students that continue to be engaged in reading and math activities will maintain or improve their current level of performance upon their return in January. We are looking forward to an exciting 2nd semester beginning on January 7th.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Fuguitt Elementary and your child's education. Thank you parents and families, for all you do! It is with your help and guidance that we continue to improve and grow leaders every day at Fuguitt Elementary. The staff and I wish you and your family a blessed holiday season! We hope you enjoy time with your family over the holiday break.

kindest Regards,

Dr. B



family
RESOURCES

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Family Resources' Family Support Program

is focused on improving attendance of all children enrolled at Fuguitt Elementary School between 1st and 5th grade. Our Family Support Specialist works to provide wraparound services to families including: case management services, family and student support, behavior support, community Referrals, advocacy. For more information or to sign up for our program, please contact: **Niki LaDue, School Social Worker** (727) 588-3576 or **Regena Sipiala, Family Support Specialist**



rsipiala@family-resources.org (727) 588-3576. Visit [our website](#) to learn more.

FUGUITT OCTOBER LEADERS

Congratulations Fuguitt Elementary Leaders of the Month for exhibiting exemplary behavior in one of the seven Leader in Me habits for the month of October!

FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Farmer's Class

Phong Pham – The 7 Habits

Mrs. Montague's Class

Aubrey Young - Be Proactive

Mrs. Rafferty's Class

Indie Suwardhana – Be Proactive
Kaylee Sturtevant – Think Win-Win

Mrs. Cellamare's Class

Julian Maceira – Be Proactive

SECOND GRADE

Mrs. Correa's Class

Savannah O'Roake – Begin with the End in Mind
Hejing Yang – Begin with the End in Mind

Ms. Panakhyo's Class

Michael Jennings - Be Proactive

Ms. Kraus' Class

Reagan Stoneburg - Be Proactive
Isabella Burgos-Abarca - Synergize

Mrs. Kubes' Class

Curtassia Richardson – Put First Things First
Eligh McDaniel – Synergize

Ms. Robinson's Class

Landen Moua – Being Proactive

THIRD GRADE

Ms. Phillips' Class

Lina Johnson – Begin with the End in Mind

Mrs. Hildreth's Class

Jimmy Shahinaj – Seek First to Understand Then to be Understood

Breighlyn Davis – Put First Things First

Mrs. Kallas' Class

Isabella Oeser – Being Proactive
Avaya Oswald – Begin with the End in Mind

Mr. Long's Class

Hayven Self – Sharpen the Saw

Mrs. Byrd's 3rd -5th Grade Class

Jamir Griffin - Synergize

FOURTH GRADE

Mr. Catlin's Homeroom

Nicolas Herrera – Put First Things First

Mrs. Catlin's Homeroom

Klesti Trushi – Put First Things First

Mrs. Timberlake's Homeroom

Sadie Voskian – Be Proactive

Mrs. Krieger's Homeroom

Isabella Clements – Put First Things First

FIFTH GRADE

Mr. Freed's Homeroom

Gavin McElvain - The 7 Habits

Ms. Palumbo's Homeroom

Caleb Huff – Put First Things First

Mrs. Berrian's Homeroom

Chloe Rafferty – Seek First to Understand Then to be Understood

Ms. Hagan's Homeroom

Santy Salavarrieta – The 7 Habits

HELD EVENTS

PIZZA Party, November 1st at 2 PM

As you may know, in September we announced such kind of competition among classes for winning Pizza Party by joining PTA. **CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Craig's Kindergarten class** with the most PTA membership participation!!! Kids were so happy and excited that day!!!



Family Reading Night, 6 - 7.30 PM

We had "snow much fun" at our family reading night. Families enjoyed several reading and crafting stations throughout the school, cookies and hot coco! Congratulations to our prize winners! Smiles from kids all around!!!



ALL PRO DAD'S MEETING, November, 15th at 7:30 AM

That morning with coffee, sliced apples and delicious sausage biscuits, kindly donated by McDonald's, we discussed this month's topic, that is called "**Contentment**". When you think about what people want most in life, it is happiness. Even the Declaration of Independence states that we have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Contentment is not an easy concept to teach your kids. Being happy with and grateful for what you have is hard when your kids compare themselves to others. Sit down with your children and explain why they can be proud of their family and what you have. Make a list of all things that make you happy - you may find it is more than tangible items. Spend time with your child talking about how grateful you are for them and the things you have that make you content. Check out these articles from All Pro Dad for more resources: [How to Find Happiness](#) and [10 Thoughts on Happiness](#).

