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Manatee Messenger
pcsb.org/manateemessenger
Melrose Elementary



Who's in charge
Meet our new
leaders, Ms. Reed
and Ms. Dixon.
Page 3



T'ANIYA BELL | Fifth grade

OUR SCHOLARS ARE SERIOUS

Everyone at Melrose is working hard for a successful year

What else is new?

A new crest, a new cafeteria name, a new way of teaching and learning, among other things. **Pages 12-13**

Dear Next President

As Election 2016 nears, Melrose scholars tell the country's future leader what's important. **Page 15**

news and views

Manatee Messenger

Editor: Sanyiah McRae, fifth grade

Fifth grade staff:

Reporters: Dana Evans, Sanyiah McRae, Mykeira Webb, Jashaun Norton, Laniya McCaulla, Honesty Reynolds, Byrone Moultrie, Dekera Huntley, Soraya Kelly, Ta'niya Bell. **Photographers:** Jaliyah Perez, Soraya Kelly, Bre'ashia Church, Ta'niya Bell, Vermon Miller, Alexcia Langston, Markese McCullough, Ja'kwon Brumadge, Mykeira Webb, Jocelyn Fisher, Dana Evans, Venzell Holmes

Fourth grade staff

Reporters: Myalyn Pompey, Corey Joseph, Zy'kerion Smith, Ma'liyah James, Psalms Carson, Shanice Williams, Breanna Bouey, Daniece Curry, Alexander McDuffie, Shawnteze King, Aa'niyah Gaye, Bobby Crawford, Jordan Rushing, Lakeyia Thompson, Kam'Ron Haughbrook. **Photographers:** Darron Stewart, Aa'niyah Gaye, Arthur Hamilton, Jakyla Harris, Michael Webb, Myalyn Pompey, Breanna Bouey, Dantaisha Belamy, Shanyjah Williams, Ma'liyah James, Morgan Roundtree

Third grade staff

Reporters: Shania Fisher-Sutton, Chance Terrell, Laterrika Brinson, Javier Thomas, Jontae Nettles, Marley Morrow. **Photographers:** Shania Fisher-Sutton, Chance Terrell, Jontae Nettles, Zy'Kiria Johnson, Messiah Danford, Javier Thomas, Laterrika Brinson, Michael Webb

Journalism Mission

Student journalists at Melrose Elementary promise to: be curious about new things; be observant and look for details; be accurate and check their facts not once, not twice but three times; be fair and tell all sides of the story; and do their best to understand other people and anything they are reporting on.

Code of ethics

The *Manatee Messenger* is a public forum that strives to report an accurate, balanced and truthful depiction of the news while remaining objective.

Letters to the editor

Want to tell us what you think about the newspaper or anything else that's on your mind? Send us a letter to the editor. We welcome class letter projects and will publish the best work. Letters may be edited for content and clarity. Email letters to milnesk@pcsb.org or put in her mailbox.

The *Manatee Messenger* is produced by the students of Melrose Elementary, 1752 13th Ave. S, St. Petersburg FL 33712

Find us online: Check out the school website at pcsb.org/melrose-es and the *Manatee Messenger* site at pcsb.org/manateemessenger

Volunteers

Tampa Bay Times: Lara Cerri, Tim Nickens, Andy Rosenthal, Katherine Snow Smith and Alexa Volland. **St. Petersburg High:** Patrick Tobin



Community conversation with: Mr. Woodard

An occasional feature about people who grew up, live and work in our St. Petersburg community.

BY SHANICE WILLIAMS, ALEX MCDUFFIE, BREANNA BOUEY, DANIECE CURRY AND SHAWNTEZE KING
Fourth grade staff writers

Dederick Woodard is a motivational speaker who calls himself a dream coach and likes to rap.

Mr. Woodard talked to *Manatee Messenger* journalists in September about how to make their dreams a reality and how to reach their goals in life.

"I try to connect people with their goals," he said. "I am a dream coach."

Mr. Woodard likes to talk about fire and water. He calls fire the situation and the water is the solution. For example, he said, if you have a fire on your stove it will spread if you don't pour water on it. When you do put water on it, he said, it goes away.

If students think of a problem like an argument is fire, the solution is talking it out and expressing your feelings, Mr. Woodard said.

Mr. Woodard, 40, has written two books and is starting a third one. He grew up in St. Petersburg and attended four elementary schools, graduating from Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School and Northeast High School. He attended St. Petersburg College and is an adjunct professor there now. He also teaches rap



DARRON STEWART | Fourth grade

Dederick Woodard, motivational speaker and rap teacher, answers questions from fourth grade scholars during a press conference.



DARRON STEWART | Fourth grade

Dederick Woodard, who calls himself a dream coach, says journalism is like science.

classes.

When he talked about actor and martial artist Bruce Lee, Mr. Woodard shouted, "Ka!" He said that stands for knowledge and action that you need to be successful in life.

Scientists and reporters are a lot alike because they study things and write down their observations, Mr. Woodard said.

At the end of the press conference, Mr. Woodard turned on his beat box and started to rap about his experience answering the reporters' questions.

"Listen, listen, listen," he rapped. "Open your ears."

Mr. Woodard's message: Lis-

tening is good advice for succeeding in school and in life.

To watch a clip of Mr. Woodard's rap, go to pcsb.org/manateemessenger

Survey says: LET'S EAT!

BY MARLEY MORROW AND JONTAE NETTLES
Third grade staff writers

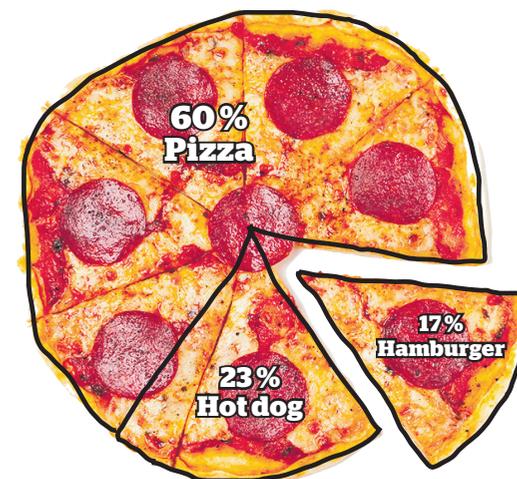
Third grade journalists asked second graders to name their favorite foods. Pizza wins, hands down. Here are the survey results:

Total numbers:

Pizza: 28

Hot dogs: 11

Hamburgers: 8



Who's in charge



Principal Reed, shown working in her office, says scholars need to be in the classroom for teaching and learning.

LATERRIKA BRINSON | Third grade

Extra! Extra! Read all about our new principal!

Ms. Reed came from Tennessee to create “a positive school culture where scholars want to come and learn daily” at Melrose.

BY COREY JOSEPH AND MYALYN POMPEY
Fourth grade staff writers
AND SANYIAH MCRAE
Fifth grade staff writer

Ms. Reed plans to make Melrose a success factory.

“I love serving. I wanted to be sure scholars receive success,” Ms. Reed said about why she came to Melrose from Tennessee.

Dr. Michael Grego, Pinellas County Schools superintendent, told her about Melrose, and she knew about the five schools that had been struggling in St. Petersburg. She wants to prepare scholars for college and career readiness, she said. She is working to create a collegiate atmosphere at Melrose. “That’s why I call you scholars,” she told the student reporters.

One of the changes Ms. Reed made was naming the cafeteria University Hall. Pennants from numerous colleges around the country are on display in University Hall. She also has music and videos playing during lunch,

to help the scholars learn their math facts. Grades K-2 are working on addition and subtraction and grades 3-5 are working on multiplication.

This year Melrose has a school crest. Ms. Reed came up with the idea for the crest. She said that it represents college and career and everything about Melrose: The book stands for the importance of reading, the computer stands for jobs in technology, the still and video cameras stand for the journalism magnet program and the torch lights the flame for Melrose to be a success factory, she said.

Ms. Reed plans to introduce several new clubs this fall. She wants to develop the whole child, she said. She wants the scholars to be well rounded, so that when they graduate Melrose they will be ready for college and career. “I want to create a positive school culture and climate where schol-

ars want to come and learn daily,” she said.



Another change is that Melrose has an extended school day this year (90 minutes extra, which is 60 minutes more than last year). Data shows not all scholars are on grade level, so the extra time is being used for intervention.

In addition, she stopped sending scholars to the refocus room. “This was taking scholars out of class and they need to be there for teaching and learning.”

On a personal note, Ms. Reed has one son who is 22. She has served in the military for the past 15 years. Ms. Reed is a first sergeant with the 164th Airlift Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

“I love seafood,” she said. Her favorite restaurant is 400 Beach Drive Seafood and Tap House. When she’s not working, Ms. Reed enjoys reading, running and shopping.

Meet Ms. Dixon

Our new assistant principal brings lots of local experience to the job.



JALIYAH PEREZ | Fifth grade

Ms. Dixon, assistant principal, gives directions during lunch in University Hall.

BY PSALMS CARSON, MA'LIYAH JAMES AND ZY'KERION SMITH
Fourth grade staff writers

Ms. Dixon has always been fearless and brave. When she was just three she jumped out of the second floor window of her family’s two story apartment.

Ms. Dixon didn’t always want to be a principal. When she was little she wanted to be a nurse. Her second grade teacher Ms. McLaurin inspired her to be a teacher. “She wanted the best for me,” Ms. Dixon said. “Even when I was misbehaving.” Every day was a fresh start in Ms. McLaurin’s class. Ms. Dixon’s first teaching job was teaching second grade at Clearview Elementary. Once when she was at a training for second grade teachers, Ms. McLaurin was there and she recognized her former student, Ms. Dixon.

Ms. Dixon graduated from the University of South Florida. She has three degrees: a bachelor’s in Elementary Education, a master’s in Elementary Education Math/Science and a master’s in Educational Leadership. In addition to being a classroom teacher, she was a math coach at Lakewood Elementary and

an assistant principal at North Shore Elementary before coming to Melrose. Ms. Dixon has taught math at USF in the past and she serves on the advisory board for the college of education.

“The district needed the best administration at the best schools, she said. “Last May the transformation team interviewed me, and that’s how I got the job at Melrose.” The hardest thing about being an assistant principal, Ms. Dixon said, is testing;” keeping on top of the testing.”

She wants the scholars of Melrose to know that life after Melrose can be college. It’s an option for them. That is one reason the cafeteria has been renamed University Hall.

A longtime resident of St. Petersburg, Ms. Dixon has lived here for 38 years. She is married and has four children: Jerrod who is 22, Darquell, 18; Marqia, 12; and Marcus, 10. She also has a granddaughter, Jamiyah who is 4.

Fun fact: Ms. Dixon’s favorite food is “broccoli, buttered broccoli.”



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Pre-K and Kindergarten

The learning



ARTHUR HAMILTON | Fourth grade

First graders ZY'rayla Cromartie, left, and Ashanti Washington read together.



MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade

Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Warren's Pre-K class line up in front of the playground.



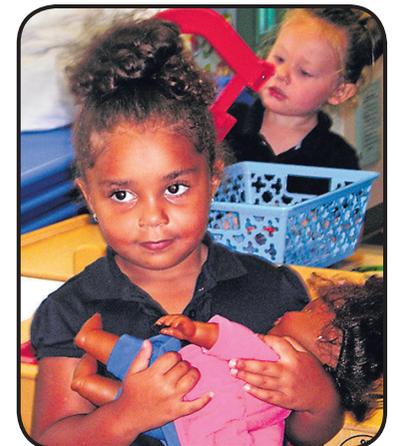
MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade

Students in Ms. Kimmel's and Ms. Warren's Pre-K class study a town map together.



JALIAH PEREZ | Fifth grade

Kindergarten students demonstrate the Manatee Stance as they line up for lunch in University Hall.



MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade
Raylyn Dzubiak, Pre-K, hugs her doll.



JAKYLA HARRIS | Fourth grade

Isaiah Richardson, kindergarten, gets some help in reading from Jashaun Norton, fifth grade.



VENZELL HOLMES | Fifth grade

Ms. Silver's kindergarten class gather for an exercise.

First and second grades

starts here

The job of scholars in Pre-K through second grade is to learn, learn, learn the fundamentals, from reading to math to science. An important part of learning and teaching is having fun, and loving what you're doing. A team of *Manatee Messenger* photojournalists in third, fourth and fifth grades covered the campus to capture their younger classmates and their teachers in action.



Ms. Moore, a paraprofessional, helps first grade students Shaneece Jackson, center and Tyrell Mays with a math activity.

MESSIAH DANFORD | Third grade



Vic Rembert, second grade, left, reads with Mr. Kimmel.

ZY'KYRIA JOHNSON | Third grade



Ms. Matthews helps first grade students during reading class.

ZY'KYRIA JOHNSON | Third grade



Solomon Thomas, second grade, focuses on his computer lesson.

ARTHUR HAMILTON | Fourth grade



Promise Wheeler, second grade, gets a hug from paraprofessional Ms. Culbertson.

ARTHUR HAMILTON | Fourth grade

Is there a doctor in the house?

As a matter of fact, there are two. But don't ask them for a check-up.



Fifth grade teacher Dr. George conducts a classroom activity.

JALIYAH PEREZ | Fifth grade

BY DANA EVANS AND TA'NIYA BELL
Fifth grade staff writers
AND MYALYN POMPEY
Fourth grade staff writer

Two of Melrose's teachers are doctors, but not the medical kind. They worked just as hard as a surgeon or pediatrician to earn their degrees.

Becoming a doctor isn't easy. "It's lots and lots of work, studying, giving up part of your life to achieve your dream," said Dr. George, a fifth grade teacher. She has a doctorate in Instructional Leadership from Argosy University in Tampa. Dr. George said that she kept hearing about the struggling schools and she wanted to help make a difference. "My heart went out to them and I answered that calling."

Dr. George comes from a big family. She grew up in the West Indies. She came to the United States when she was 16. She goes back every summer to visit. She always has been an active person, playing tennis and competing in track and field. Dr. George has two children. Her 24 year old is in medical school and she has a 10 year old daughter. Dr. George likes different kinds of music including Calypso, Spanish, and reggae. Her



JOCELYN FISHER | Fifth grade

Fourth grade teacher Dr. Garcia helps a student in the bus line.

favorite things to eat are island food and seafood.

The other doctor at Melrose is Dr. Garcia, who teaches fourth grade. "Completing my doctorate was an opportunity for me to continue my life-long journey of education. My Ph.D allowed me to delve deeper into my passion of teaching as well as making me a better educator through the research that I completed and published, said Dr. Garcia.

Dr. Garcia earned her doctorate in a little under two years. She

has a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Ph.D in Philosophy from Keiser University. Dr. Garcia is married and has three boys. The oldest is 21 and is a competitive bowler and is ranked third in the nation. Her 18 year old is working to be a paramedic/firefighter and her youngest is 15 and a sophomore in high school.

When Dr. Garcia is not working she likes to go to the beach and she is also a competitive bowler. She travels across the state to bowl in tournaments.



JONTAE NETTLES | Third grade

Third grade teacher Ms. Scanlon lines up scholars as they prepare to switch classes.

What makes team teaching so *important*

BY KAM'RON HAUGHBROOK
AND LAKEYIA THOMPSON
Fourth grade staff writers

When you think of teams you think of sports. But students in the classroom are on a team, too. They are part of team teaching. The students are like the players and the teachers are like the coaches.

This year at Melrose all third grade, and most fourth and fifth grade students have two teachers every day. They are called their team teachers. One teacher teaches reading, writing and social studies. The other teacher in the team teaches math and science.

"I have a passion for teaching for math and science and I enjoy bringing those content areas alive in the classroom," said Mrs. Morehead, fourth grade teacher.

She focuses on math and science, her favorite subjects, while the other teacher in the team, Mrs. P. Anderson, teaches language and social studies. Mrs. P. Anderson also teaches great life lessons such as "never give up" or "mind your

manners."

Ms. Reed said that she decided to have the teachers in grades 3-5 team teach, because the standards are rigorous and if a teacher can just focus on math/science or reading/writing it will empower the scholars more.

Let's see what the students think of team teaching.

"I like switching classes," said fifth grader Saniyah McRae. "Mr. Schmidt is more serious and Mr. Anderson is more fun. I think we are learning more because we learn reading and writing in Mr. Schmidt's and math and science in Mr. Anderson's."

Fourth grader Shanice Williams likes having teachers with different personalities and passions.

"If one teacher doesn't know exactly about math and science then the other teacher does," she said.

"I think it's good because it helps the students get to know more teachers. Knowing more teachers can help you learn more," said fourth grader Alex McDuffie.

News

With Ms. Lackey, Melrose is alive with music

BY SHANIA FISHER-SUTTON AND CHANCE TERRELL
Third grade staff writers

This year 32 scholars in fourth and fifth grades will be learning to play the violin as part of the new orchestra program. A teacher from Skyview Elementary donated the violins. Ms. Lackey plans on getting more instruments with referendum money, so that eventually every child will have an instrument and can take it home to practice.

Ms. Lackey passes on her own passion for music. “I love music, because it’s fun,” she said. “I like the challenge of learning things.”

This year the orchestra will just play the violin, but next year they are adding the viola. Ms. Anderson, a third grade teacher, donated a cello to the orchestra. The orchestra practices every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the school day for the whole year. Ms. Lackey has four music performances planned this year. The tentative dates are Dec. 15, Feb. 16, March 23 and May 18.

Ms. Lackey came up with the idea to start orchestra by listening to kids. She heard kids say that they wanted more music choices at Melrose. The orchestra will play traditional music, but modern touches will be added.

This year Ms. Lackey received \$10,200 in referendum and grant money, which she is using to build the music program at school. She recently attended a workshop called, “Little Kids Rock Modern Band.”

After completing the



Ms. Lackey works with Laniya McCaulla as she practices the violin during orchestra class.

CHANCE TERRELL | Third grade



From left, Daemond Murray, Deishaun Kentish, and Laniya McCaulla practice the violin during orchestra class.

SHANIA FISHER-SUTTON | Third grade

workshop she received 30 credits to buy select instrument ranging from guitars, electric bass, keyboards, drums, microphones and amps. The modern rock band will be a special project for fifth grade classes during their regular music time.

Ms. Lackey has always had a love of music. She started playing the flute and viola in fourth grade. Instruments she currently plays are the flute, oboe, English horn, saxophone,

trombone, ukulele and violin. Ms. Lackey teaches music to scholars in grades K-5. “I love to watch them grow as musicians,” she said.

Last February during Black History month which honors African American heroes, Ms. Lackey received the Elementary School Excellence in Education Award. She was recognized as an outstanding educator and received \$1,500 from the Volunteer Florida Foundation



MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade

P.E. Coach Perrin hands out tickets for good behavior.

BY BOBBY CRAWFORD, AA'NIYAH GAYE AND JORDAN RUSHING
Fourth grade staff writers

The first thing you see when you walk into Coach Perrin’s office are the clipboards. Eleven of them, to be exact.

The clipboards represent each year Coach Perrin has been at Melrose Elementary, where he started teaching in November 2005. He has taught at Melrose longer than any other current staffer.

“I like to teach the kids new things,” he said. “I love being at the school.”

When Coach Perrin was in P.E. as a kid, he said the class was much different.

“When I was a kid, I didn’t play as many games as you played,” he said. “I teach you a lot more than I was taught in P.E. when I was a kid.”

A four-sport athlete growing up, Coach Perrin was very active. That’s what sparked his interest in physical education.

“I was an athlete my whole life,” the USF grad said.

When he’s not teaching P.E., Coach Perrin is a baseball coach for Fossil Park Youth Baseball/Softball. His baseball background helped him invent a training device to help pitchers hold the ball correctly to help prevent pitcher injuries.

Among teams that use Coach Perrin’s device are 30 colleges and half of MLB teams. Hall of Famer John Smoltz also recommends young pitchers to use this device.

Awake every day by 4:50 and on the Stairmaster by 4:55, Coach Perrin still finds time to spend with his family. His wife, Therese, helps with support and help to allow him to work three jobs. The youngest of five loves his family.

“My mom is 83, and she is a fire-



AA'NIYAH GAYE | Fourth grade

Coach Perrin stands in his office below his famous clipboards. He has one for each of his 11 years at Melrose.

FAST FACTS

Coach Perrin File

Favorite sport: Hockey

Favorite team: Detroit Red Wings

Player NHL player: Steve Yzerman

Favorite NBA player: Larry Bird

Favorite food: Maine lobster and fresh fish

Favorite travel destinations: National parks

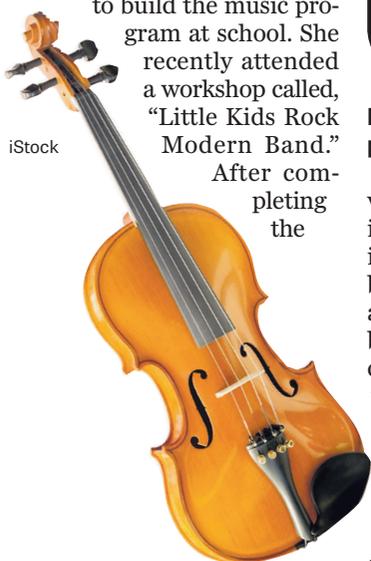
cracker,” he said. “I get my personality from her.”

When he’s not teaching or coaching, Coach Perrin enjoys dancing, spending time at the beach, gardening, cooking and traveling.

But more than anything, Coach Perrin loves Melrose.

“Why do I teach at Melrose? My answer is, is there anywhere else to teach?”

See a photo of Coach Perrin’s invention at pcsb.org/manateemessenger.



iStock

We *love* learning and playing at **M**



ZY'KIRIA JOHNSON | Third grade

Ms. Carey, first grade teacher, works with students during math.

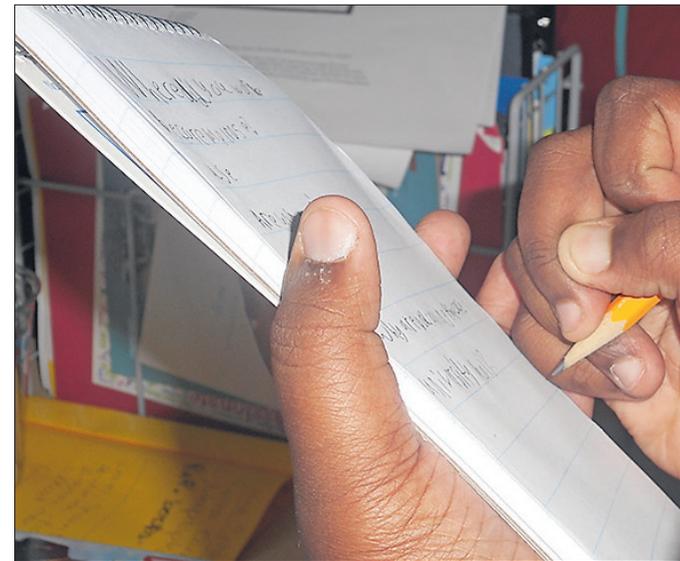


BREANNA BOUEY | Fourth grade

Fourth graders A'anyah Gaye, left and Myalyn Pompey, put on their skates at Astro Skate Family Fun Center, during a party for scholars with perfect attendance.



Fifth grade scholars Venzell Holmes, Soraya Kelly, Ta'niya Bell, Ja'kwon Brumadge, and Danterrio Bellamy cheer on Team Melrose.



TELROSE



MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade
Mykeira Webb, Bre'ashia Church



DANTAISHA BELLAMY | Fourth grade
Cartier Guess, first grade, walks to school with his dad during the "Million Father March" last month. The nationwide movement encourages men to be part of their children's education.



ZAHARA JOHNSON | Second grade
Vic Remert, left, and Ja'liaha Clay-Brooks, second grade, frolic in front of the classroom.



Zantrelle Boose, a Pre-K scholar, takes a break from the sun while out on the playground.



Zy'kerion Smith, fourth grade, takes notes during an interview.

MA'LIYAH JAMES | Fourth grade

MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade

Who's new

Hello, new teachers!

We're glad you're here

Fifth-grade *Manatee Messenger* staff writer **Mykeira Webb** created the questionnaire we sent to the many new faculty and staff at Melrose this year. We will print some of their responses in each issue, as they are received. Is your Q&A not here? Please return your answers via email to Ms. Letterman so we can publish it in December.



DR. GARCIA

Fourth grade
Self-contained, all subjects

Education: I have a Ph.D from Keiser University.

Where were you working before you came to Melrose?

I was teaching on the East Coast of Florida. This is where I taught for the last 17 years.

Why did you decide to come to Melrose?

I wanted to work with a school that I know would be one filled with dedication, commitment to learning and where students would feel that we are a family of lifelong learners.

What do you like most about your Melrose experience so far?

I love to see the smiling faces, the compliments from my scholars to other scholars and, most important, the trust the scholars put upon us teachers to make sure that they understand. Scholars will be successful, no exceptions because we are here to teach and learn every day.

MS. JOHN-BAPTISTE

Kindergarten

Self-contained, all subjects

Education: I studied design and media management. This included journalism, photography, graphic design and other media-related disciplines.

Why did you decide to come to Melrose?

I came Melrose because I love kindergarten and wanted to teach in this neighborhood.

What do you like the most about your experience so far?

My students are awesome and my classroom has more resources in it than I have ever seen!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to go to the beach with my dog.

Interesting fact: I was a film extra in a Batman movie.



MS. DOUGLAS

Third grade
English Language Arts

Education: University of Florida, Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Master of Arts in Elementary Education/ESOL

Where were you teaching before you came to Melrose?

Avant Garde Academy in Hollywood, Florida

Why did you decide to come to Melrose?

I wanted to help Melrose become a "SUCCESS STUDIO" where all scholars can develop a love of learning, self-confidence, creativity and higher levels of academic success.

How long have you been teaching?

I have approximately 20 years of classroom experience.

What do you like the most about your Melrose experience so far?

The awesome students and teachers who make Melrose special!

What do you like to do in your free time?

Spend time with my husband (Mr. Douglas) and two kids (Logan and Delilah) traveling, going to the beach and trying new foods. I also love to read, write poetry, scuba dive, create art and cook foods from all over the world.

What did you do over the summer?

Besides being busy moving to St. Petersburg to teach at Melrose, I also went to Sea World and Legoland with my family. We also spent many days having fun at the beach in Hollywood.

Interesting fact:

I have lived and taught in a huge city in South Korea (twice!), the cloud forest of Costa Rica (twice!), an island in Malaysia, Hawaii, Mexico, Tennessee, and Florida! I have also visited Jamaica, Thailand, Japan and Nicaragua. I hope to travel more extensively in the future.



DR. GEORGE

Fifth grade
Self-contained, all subjects

Education: Florida Community College of Jacksonville, Associate Degree; University of North Florida, Bachelor of Arts in Education; University of South Florida, Master of Arts in Math and Science Education; Argosy University, Ph.D in Instructional Leadership

Where were you teaching before you came to Melrose?

I was teaching self-contained fifth grade at Anona Elementary School in Pinellas County.

Why did you decide to come to Melrose?

I heard about what was happening at Melrose and other schools here in St. Petersburg, and my heart went out to the students who were not getting an equal opportunity to learn and achieve at Melrose. I wanted to come to the school and make a difference, and give students the growth mindset that is needed to grow as learners. Plus, I wanted to instill in them that they are capable of acquiring a quality education and achieving their dreams and hopes for their future.

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 23 years

What do you like most about your Melrose experience so far?

I like that the scholars are willing to capture the information and learn the curriculum. It gives me great pride in seeing the scholars change their fixed mindset to growth mindset. The sky is the limit, and they are just realizing that!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to travel with my family and meet new people around the world. I like surrounding myself with people of different backgrounds and to embrace the culture of people from many nations. I also like to read a lot of self-help and inspirational books to empower my mind, body and soul, working from the inside out. Life is too short, and I want to make every moment count.

What did you do over the summer?

I make it my No. 1 priority to visit my Caribbean family members and have my children reconnect with my roots.

Interesting fact:

I grew up on a British West Indies island called Antigua and was born on an island, St. Thomas. My parents are British West Indians, and I am very proud of my heritage.



MR. DOUGLAS

K-Fifth grades
Library Media

Education: I went to Rutgers University and studied visual art with a focus on photography and video art.

Where were you teaching before you came to Melrose?

I was teaching technology to K-5 students in Hollywood, Florida. I taught our students using an amazing Lego curriculum that had them take their own digital pictures so that they could make comic books and tell their stories using Legos.

Why did you decide to come to Melrose?

I came to Melrose because I loved the idea of being in charge of the Library Media Center so that I could help our students learn to love reading. I also want to get our students access to exciting technology such as 3D printers and robotics sets so that they can become engineers, computer scientists, and inventors!

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for seven years. I started my teaching career in South Korea where I taught kindergarten and elementary age students English. After that I taught in Costa Rica, Malaysia and elsewhere in the USA.

What do you like the most about your Melrose experience so far?

I like being a fun teacher who kids can come to when they need help. I also like giving kids a chance to be creative and express themselves in their work!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to play the guitar, garden and cook. I also like to read books, go to the beach and stand-up paddle board.

What did you do over the summer?

This summer I went to the beach with my family! I also rode my bike with my daughter and tried some new restaurants.

Interesting fact:

I love trying different kinds of food and LOVE South Korean BBQ. I have also been stung by a scorpion in the rain forest of Costa Rica and have also had monkeys try to steal food out of my kitchen by tricking me!

Photos by: Mykeira Webb, fifth grade; Dana Evans, fifth grade and Myalyn Pompey, fourth grade

around campus

Hoping and dreaming

BY LATERRIKA BRINSON AND JAVIER THOMAS
Third grade staff writers
 PHOTOS BY LATERRIKA BRINSON, JAVIER THOMAS AND VERNON MILLER

This year all around Melrose you can see hall displays and door signs showcasing scholars' and teachers' hopes and dreams. We asked some staff members three questions about their hopes and dreams. Here is what they had to say.

Ms. Reed, principal



MM: What were your hopes and dreams when you were in elementary school?

Ms. Reed: I always wanted to be an "A" student. I had to work really hard. It didn't always come easily for me. In seventh grade I became an "A" student!

MM: What are your hopes and dreams?

Ms. Reed: I want each scholar to grow in their character, become responsible and gain self-control. I want to see teachers teaching and scholars learning and achieving. I want to turn Melrose around.

MM: What can students do to make their hopes and dreams come true?

Ms. Reed: Scholars need to be reading at school, reading at home, paying attention and participating. Most important, ask questions when you don't understand.

Mr. Graham, behavior coach



MM: What were your hopes and dreams when you were in elementary school?

Mr. Graham: My hopes were to grow up to be superman and graduate from high school. (He did it! College, too!)

MM: What are your hopes and dreams?

Mr. Graham: I hope that all Transformation Zone Schools raise up to a C or better.

MM: What can students do to make their hopes and dreams come true?

Mr. Graham: Set a goal, plan to achieve that goal and work your hardest.

Ms. Greene, Pre-K



MM: What were your hopes and dreams when you were in elementary school?

Ms. Greene: I wanted to be a cheerleader in middle school. (She did it!)

MM: What can students do to make their hopes and dreams come true?

Ms. Greene: Make a goal. Stick to it and keep on pushing until you achieve it.

MM: What are your hopes and dreams?

Ms. Greene: I hope that all my scholars remember to let their little lights shine, just like in the song we sing every day.

Coach Perrin, PE.



MM: What were your hopes and dreams when you were in elementary school?

Coach Perrin: When I was young I wanted to be a professional athlete. After a sports injury I changed my goal to become a P.E. teacher. (He did it!)

MM: What can students do to make their hopes and dreams come true?

Coach Perrin: It takes hard work and commitment. If you work hard you will succeed. You can make your dreams come true.

MM: What are your hopes and dreams?

Coach Perrin: I hope to become a successful business man. I invented a baseball training tool and have some really great sponsors. (He's getting there!)

Ms. Cameron, art



MM: What were your hopes and dreams when you were in elementary school?

Ms. Cameron: When I was in elementary school my hopes and dreams were that I would become a great artist or an opera singer. (She IS a great artist!)

MM: What are your hopes and dreams?

Ms. Cameron: My hopes and dreams are to create a positive classroom environment where scholars are learning and creating. I hope that I create a love of art in all of my scholars. My dream is to build my scholars up so that one day they too can achieve their hopes and dreams.

MM: What can students do to make their hopes and dreams come true?

Ms. Cameron: Learning and following directions in school is a major part of reaching your dreams. Learn as much as you can in and out of school and always try your best.

Mr. Kimmel, paraprofessional



MM: What were your hopes and dreams when you were in elementary school?

Mr. Kimmel: I wanted to be a professional baseball player or work with sharks.

MM: What are your hopes and dreams?

Mr. Kimmel: I want to graduate from college and become a teacher. (He's getting there!)

MM: What can students do to make their hopes and dreams come true?

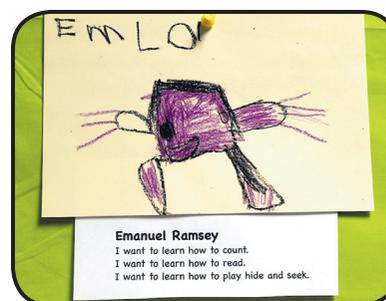
Mr. Kimmel: Set a goal, make a plan, work to achieve that goal.



The hopes and dreams of Ms. John-Baptiste's kindergarten class.

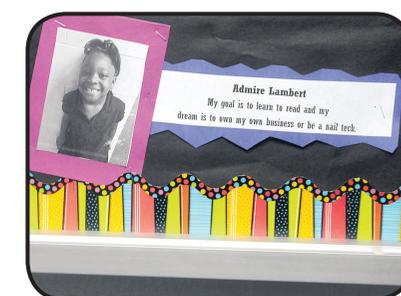


The hopes and dreams of Derrick Hines, kindergarten.



The hopes and dreams of Emanuel Ramsey, kindergarten.

Special thanks to Mrs. Volland, Melrose speech and language pathologist, for helping with this story.



The hopes and dreams of Admire Lambert, kindergarten.

around campus

What's new at Melrose

The new school year brings a new principal, new staff, a new school look and new ways of doing many things. Here's a sampling of some of the changes, and what some administrators, staff and students think about them.

NEW STRUCTURE

BY MYALYN POMPEY
Fourth grade staff writer

The *Manatee Messenger* spoke with Dr. Antonio Burt while he was on campus recently. Dr. Burt, who is the Pinellas County Schools Director of Transformation, had a lot of positive things to say.

MM: What do you like about Melrose?

Dr. Burt: I like that the teachers are teaching differently. I see a very structured (and calmer) learning environment.

MM: What are some positive changes you have noticed this year?

Dr. Burt: I see high student engagement, and teachers are enthusiastic. I see the students in the classroom on task, and buying into the rules. Kids are following directions the first time they are given.

I also see the community and parents buying in. There are more parents at meetings.

The changes are very visible.



ARTHUR HAMILTON | Fourth grade
Ms. Reed, Melrose principal, confers with Dr. Burt in Ms. Reed's office.

NEW SIGN



TA'NIYA BELL | Fifth grade
Reaching higher, Manatee Messenger journalists are ready to do their best on some reporting assignments. The sign above them proclaims a new goal for Melrose.

CREST

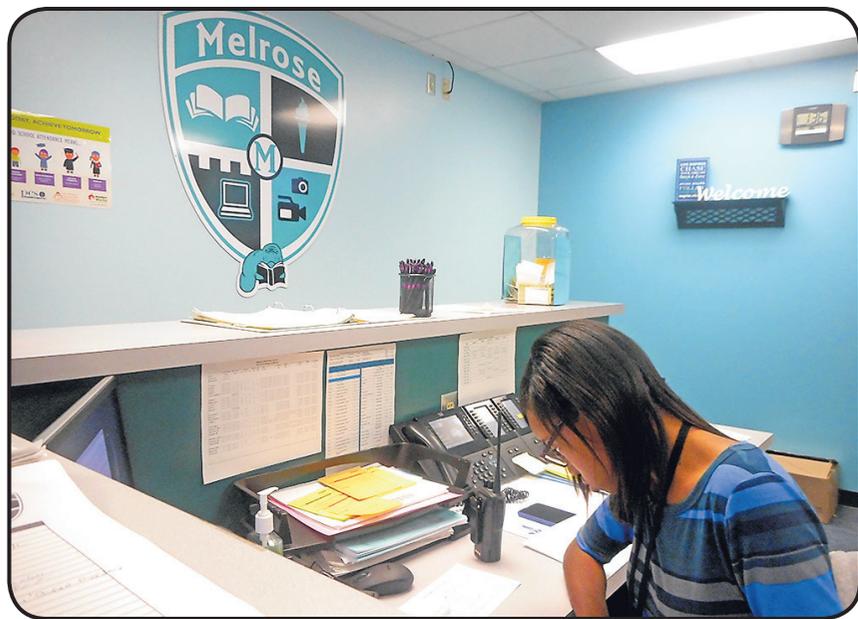


MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade
Surrounding the crest, Melrose scholars lend a hand for learning.

Melrose has a new crest. It's on the outside of the building, on the office wall, uniform shirts, scholar agenda books and welcome mats. The crest is part of Principal Reed's effort to make a collegiate atmosphere. The four sections represent the most important parts of Melrose: A torch to light the way to success, cameras to stand for the journalism and multimedia magnet; a computer for technology and books to highlight the emphasis on reading. The mighty manatee loves to read!

around campus

COLOR SCHEME



MYKEIRA WEBB | Fifth grade

Ms. Dawson works in the front office, with its calming new color scheme, the school crest and a welcome touch on the shelf.

When you walk into the office at Melrose you are greeted by cool blue and teal walls and homey touches, like a wooden “welcome” sculpture on a shelf. Students can now wear teal, gray or navy tops. Once their red tops wear out, the new colors will be all you see. These changes match the teal blue Principal Reed chose for the new school crest.

LONGER DAY

Scholars at Melrose have more time to spend on learning this year, 90 minutes more than most other schools in Pinellas County.

“I love it,” said first grade teacher Ms. Esalomi about the extra time. “I do morning meeting, and it’s a good time to do more interventions (and enrichment). I don’t know how to get my teaching and learning done without it.”

Not all share the same positive opinion. “I think it’s too much, and my brain is going to explode,” said fifth grader Unique Thompson with a laugh.



Fix the clock

Can you make the clock say 3:35?

MURAL



Melrose scholars hug the mighty manatees swimming on the mural on the outside of the two-story classroom building. Manatees, one of Florida’s most beloved marine creatures, have recently seen positive improvements in their habitats, so their populations are growing. The mural depicting the Melrose mascot and other Florida marine life was a project last semester of former art teacher Ms. Haraminac and student volunteers from Shorecrest Preparatory School. Handprints of last year’s fifth graders (not shown) are part of the mural.

MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade

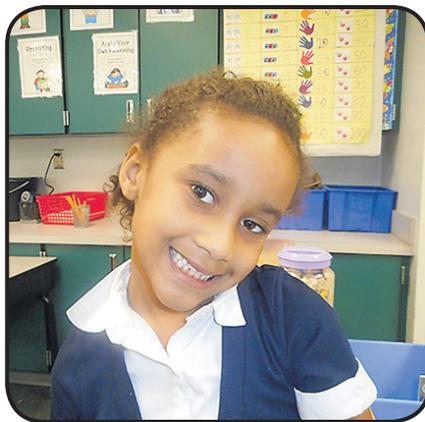
learning journalism skills

Ready for their close-ups

One of the first journalism lessons learned in kindergarten, first and second grades is how to take good portraits. Here is a sampling of their work.



KNALANIE JACKSON | Kindergarten
Ava Lock, kindergarten



NA'ZARIA BOOTH | First grade
Khloe Bright, first grade



ZAHNIYA GAY | Second grade
Macayla Whyte, second grade



CARTIER GUESS | First grade
Maliyah Morrow, first grade



TRINITY CRAWFORD | Second grade
Cordajia Allen, second grade



DE'ARIEL HUNTLEY | Second grade
Da'kota King, second grade



ELIJAH ANDRADE | Second grade
Destinee Pollock, second grade



ZAHARA JOHNSON | Second grade
Eri'yanna Minter, second grade



HONESTY HARRELL | Kindergarten
Kimani Collins, kindergarten



JACOBY VARNER | Second grade
Jielle Green, second grade



DAY'SHAUN MOULTRIE | Kindergarten
Terrian Booth, kindergarten



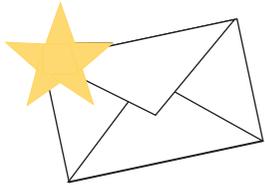
DA'KOTA KING | Second grade
De'ariel Huntley, second grade

Election 2016

Dear next president: Lend us your ears

The election next month will put a new president into the White House. Melrose students have some strong opinions about the candidates running for that office, but no matter who wins they want to know the new leader of the United States of America listens to what they have to say.

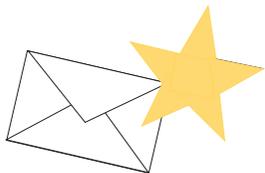
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL WEBB



Dear Next President,

I want you to know that there are great schools in America. Kids are learning, becoming great people and getting famous because of school. Schools help them know what they need to know to be successful. I hope you change world hunger because world hunger is killing people. There are some children that can't eat and they need help. That's why you should make a program that helps people eat.

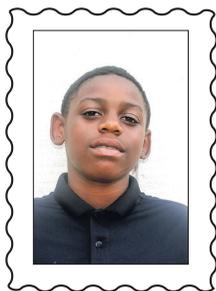
Sincerely,
Byrone Moultrie, fifth grade



Dear Next President,

Kids these days are suffering because of hunger. It's sad. Can you please give people a house and enough money on their food stamp card, please? I hope you are able to stop criminals from stealing, because people are stealing from schools, and teachers are having to buy stuff each and every day. Kids have been dealing with no clothes, shoes and money so we need your help.

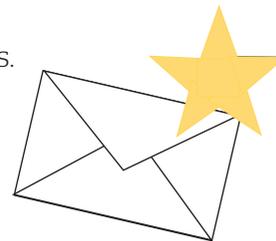
Sincerely,
Laniya McCaulla, fifth grade



Dear Next President,

Some kids are dying because criminals are around killing people, including kids' parents. Some kids' families need more food stamps. I hope you can help kids get homes, because some people need homes and money for homes and clothes.

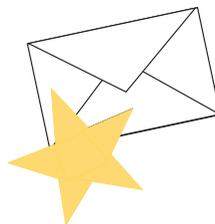
Sincerely,
Dekera Huntley, fifth grade



Dear Next President,

You should know that children don't feel protected. Children are scared because of abuse that goes on in the world. Black lives matter and so do other lives. I hope you can change what parents allow their children to be around. You might think that has nothing to do with you but it does.

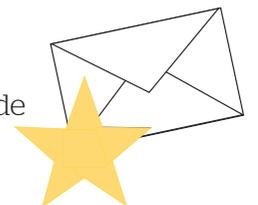
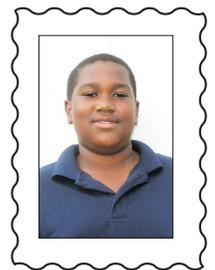
Sincerely,
Honesty Reynolds, fifth grade



Dear Next President,

I want to have the next President to help us make something out of our city because there are too many people dying. Too many people are killing each other and the funny part about it is that the people dying are so young that some of them don't get to see their 18th birthday. I hope you can stop the people from killing each other while they're young and even when they're older. They are doing this stuff because the stuff that goes on at home stays in their brains and it makes them do stuff to other people in the world and it's over nothing.

Sincerely,
Jashaun Norton, fifth grade



Dear Next President,

I hope you change the negativity about the world. Young people are getting killed by police. Their parents are marching because they are hurt. I think you should do something about bad video games that allow you to kill and to be a thief. Keep reminding everyone that all lives matter.

Sincerely,
Mykeira Webb, fifth grade



around campus

Some memorable Melrose moments



DANTAISHA BELLAMY | Fourth grade

Jakyla Harris arrives at school with her family during the "Million Father March" event last month.



MORGAN ROUNDTREE | Fourth grade

Shanice Williams, fourth grade, poses for a portrait.



SHANYJAH WILLIAMS | Fifth grade

Ms. Esalomi, first grade teacher, was chosen as Teacher of the Month for August.

Teacher of the month

"I love the kids I have," said first grade teacher Ms. Esalomi

BY HONESTY REYNOLDS AND SORAYA KELLY
Fifth grade staff writers

In just her first year teaching, Ms. Esalomi was chosen as Teacher of the Month for the month of August at Melrose Elementary.

"I feel like Ms. Reed chose me because I'm dedicated and I've been trying to stay neat and I get all my lesson plans done," Ms. Esalomi said.

The first grade teacher has enjoyed her time at Melrose so far.

"It shows me transformation of how hard I've been working, and the love of kids I have," she said. "I love seeing the kids succeed."

Ms. Esalomi said she loves the ages of the kids she teaches because she loves teaching kids how to read.

Ms. Esalomi started her career working in finance before attending USF and getting her master's degree in elementary education and ESOL.

In her free time, Ms. Esalomi likes to go to the beach and watch movies with her husband, Mr. E. She also likes to take her pitbull Cocoa for walks. She also has a cat, Sophie.

Ms. Esalomi was pleased with her accomplishment.

"I was surprised and happy," she said. "I told my family and it made me feel like my hard work was being noticed and it encouraged me because it was my first year of teaching."



DARRON STEWART | Fourth grade

Alexander McDuffie, fourth grade scholar, takes notes during a press conference.



ALEXCIA LANGSTON | Fifth grade

A first grade class exercises during PE.



MARKESE MCCULLOUGH | Fifth grade

Zanyiah Walls is using an iPad in her Pre-K class while Torrence Robinson looks on and helps.



JA'KWON BRUMADGE | Fifth grade

Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Warren's pre-K class spend time on the playground.