

Tarpon Springs Middle School

"Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today"

Tarpon Springs Middle
501 N. Florida Ave.
Tarpon Springs, Fl. 34689

October 29, 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

Principal's Message



As the new Principal of Tarpon Springs Middle School, it is my sincere pleasure and honor to become a member of this great school community. Tarpon Springs Middle enjoys a rich history of academic and cultural excellence that is the result of the hard work and dedication of our staff, and of the partnership between the school staff and parents who provide a diversity of experiences for our students.

One of my greatest objectives is to provide the leadership that will facilitate a positive school culture and environment that delivers the best possible instruction to meet the needs of each and every one of our students. I am a firm believer that collaboration between parents and school staff is critical for the success of our students. I believe that creating a close, positive, and collaborative culture will make our school an even better place for our students to learn and grow, and succeed. I am committed to working together with you to make this happen.

Please continue to monitor your child(ren)'s grades in portal. If you need assistance, please contact Kathy Borne at (727) 943-5511.

Visit our school's website at <http://www.pcsb.org/tarpon-ms>, all our school activities and important dates are listed on the school calendar.

Educationally yours,

Raquel P. Giles, Principal

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**Congratulations Aimee
Greenbaum ESE Rookie
Teacher of the Year**



Coffee with the Principal

Principal Giles is hosting the first of three Coffee with the Principal focus groups for the year. Parents and community members are invited to come and discuss ways to improve communication and education for all students and hear more about school initiatives.

The group will meet in the Teacher's Lounge on Friday, November 7 from 8:00-8:30am. Please call Kathy Born if you are able to attend.

6th Grade News

Conservatory and PreCambridge Information

The last day to apply for the Leadership Conservatory for the Fine Arts and PreCambridge (PreAICE) program is December 31, 2014. The 2015-16 application period for District Application Programs begins January 7, 2015 and ends January 16, 2015. For more information about the application process, visit www.pcsb.org/choice or call 727-588-6210.

The Annual Patriotic Concert will be held on November 11, 2014 in honor of our veterans who have served our nation. Our Fine Arts Conservatory has prepared an inspirational program, and we invite our families and veterans to attend with their students.

Extended Learning Opportunities

The second ELP session began Tuesday, October 21st; hours are from 4:15 to 5:45. The program provides additional support for students who are struggling with learning gaps and/or are failing a class. Program brochures were sent home with report cards for students who would benefit from the program. Please call your child's grade level office for further information.

Parent Conference Survey

Your feedback is very important, therefore, the administrative team is asking parents to complete a Parent Conference Survey after each conference. You may complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TMPMPFX> on [surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). A paper copy will be provided upon request.

Grade Level Seminar

During the next two weeks, I will meet with the sixth grade classes to share common assessment data, as well as reviewing school policy. This is an opportunity to celebrate our first quarter accomplishments and chart our goals for continued success.

Margaret Attkisson
Assistant Principal

STUDENT COUNCIL

From November 10 until November 21, the Tarpon Springs Middle School Student Council will be holding its annual Canned Food Drive for the needy. Donations will be going to the Shepherd Center in Tarpon Springs, and also to the Salvation Army.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items through 1st period classes. Students are encouraged to help make a difference as part of their civic duty. The class collecting the most items will be recognized with a celebratory breakfast.



7th Grade News

Great Things Are Happening!

As we approach the end of the first grading period, we are happy to let you know how well the 7th grade students are doing. Our teachers are working hard with the students and the results have been amazing. Grades are coming up, disciplinary incidents are decreasing and the students are showing a sense of pride in their accomplishments. I will be meeting with the students to share some updates and data with them at our next Grade Level Seminar. I will meet with students after each grading period to discuss the positive growth they are making.

Zeroes Aren't Permitted

The ZAP program will begin again after this grading period. ZAP is an intervention program to hold students responsible for all incomplete assignments. If a student does not do their work at home, they will be requested to complete missed assignments during lunch at a private table with no distractions.

We are always Available

If you feel a conference would help your child improve their performance in school please do not hesitate to contact the 7th grade office. We are always happy to meet with our parents and help the students achieve to their potential. Please make sure your child is sharing with you how their day went. If we do not know there is a problem, we can't fix it.

Mr. Browne
Assistant Principal

Our campus is undergoing ongoing changes. We hope you have a chance to stop by and see the transformation our campus is undergoing. A big thanks to Ms. Marshall, Ms. Austin and the Environmental Club.



8TH Grade News

Readistep Test

Readistep is scheduled on 10/27-10/29 during the 1st period classes. The Readistep is a middle school assessment that students will take in class and it consists of three multiple choice tests in the areas of Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing Skills. The Readistep assessment has multiple purposes. It helps middle school students prepare for high school and college and will provide you with important insight into your child's academic progress. It also provides feedback on those skills where your child excels and areas that may need improvement, as well as advice on how to develop those skills. This information will help you get a head start on improving academic skills and selecting courses that will prepare you for high school and college planning. When the results are returned to the schools in December, teachers will spend time reviewing the results in class to insure that your child understands how to read the Student Report, as well as use it to determine where to focus their improvement efforts.

Career Exploration

Lessons will take place in social studies classes in November. Get an early start by exploring the careers on: <http://www.careercruising.com/login/PIN>. Username is PIN-R2D2 number without a period. Your password is the same as what you have for Focus, (s.plus the last 8 of your school ID).

Need to improve your math skills, join Mr. Coser for tutoring on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:45am in room 5223. Enrichment learning program will start session 2 on October 21-December 18. For more information, contact Ms. Sampson, 8th grade counselor at 943-5511 ext. 2028.

Mr. Machado
Assistant Principal

Student of the Month

Please congratulate the following students for being nominated as our Shining Stars!

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Dana Liberto	Savvina Zaronias	Yianna Mavromatis
Luke Unbehagen	Nicholas Bolles	Brandon Adams
Kreelee Campbell	Victoria Brennan	Maria Chagaris
Jordan Boffil	Christian Llauget	D.J. McGuire

Dear Parents,

In keeping with our mission of Highest Student Achievement for each student, Pinellas County Schools is committed to having qualified and professional educators in all classrooms. There are times when it becomes necessary for the regular classroom teacher to be absent from school for an extended period of time. When this occurs, our district works with the school principal to secure the services of substitute teachers who continue the quality education of your child during the absence of the regular teacher.

As you may know, the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) Act defines new standards for teacher quality. Under NCLB, teachers (and substitutes) must have a Bachelor's degree and hold a valid teaching certificate from the Florida Department of Education in the grade level/subject area assigned. In addition, our state defines a "highly qualified" teacher as one who demonstrates subject matter knowledge by either passing a state test or majoring in the subject in college.

Please be advised that, in all cases, long-term substitute teachers are selected after careful consideration by the principal in cooperation with school district personnel. Although the substitute teacher, Laura Burge, does not meet all credentialing requirements, she has been selected as the very best candidate to meet the needs of the students during the absence of their regular teacher.

We anticipate that Laura Burge will be your child's guidance counselor from September 2, 2014 until June 4, 2015.



NEWS FROM THE PTSA

Dear Parents and Families;

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the TSMS PTSA Board members for the 2014-2015 school year:

President Carolyn Miller	carolyn2766@aol.com
Vice President: Christine Huth	chuth@tampabay.rr.com
Secretary: Kathy Born	bornk@pcsb.org
Treasurer: Nicole Lampadarios-Free	kakologia@gmail.com

We are still in need of volunteers to fill committee positions and to help with activities. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Carolyn Miller at carolyn2766@aol.com. If you would like to join the PTSA please contact Christine Huth at chuth@tampabay.rr.com.

We would like to thank all families who participated in our "Enjoy the City" fundraiser. Unfortunately, the fundraiser was not as successful as we had hoped, so we will be holding another fundraiser. Please be on the lookout for our Gourmet Popcorn and Mixed Bag fundraisers in a few weeks. The PTSA raises money to fund school activities, teacher requests, clubs, awards and provide financial assistance for school trips and activities for students in need.

Your support is essential. Thank You for supporting the PTSA and helping to ensure our students success.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Miller
TSMS PTSA President
carolyn2766@aol.com

"Be the change you want to see in the world"