



BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary School

Message from the PTA President

This is our last newsletter of the school year! BIG shout out of thanks to Kara Coleman, who has been our editor in chief behind the scenes making these newsletters so beautiful month after month. This is a thankless position on the PTA and I want to make sure she is recognized.

This was my first year as president and I have to say I feel that our group transitioned from a covid year quite successfully. We assisted our school in helping with open house on campus, hosted a newcomers event and All Pro Dads social, brought back sweetheart dance, sons & stars bowling event and multiple dine outs which in turn supports our local community. We also hosted a fun new event, the Fall drive through, at the beginning of the year where the entire school community came together. We collaborated with our teachers on the Bobcat Bash this year, and although it was different then we have seen before the kids had a blast! We also introduced a new health & safety team this year who advocates for the health & safety of our students with informative articles in our newsletters and walk & bike to school safety day. With your support and help, we purchased a brand new laptop for every teacher and staff.

There isn't enough room in our newsletter for me to thank everyone who has volunteered or assisted in the PTA this year. We have an AMAZING team that individually have really owned their committees this year. The 45 members on our PTA board are all volunteers and spend countless hours during the school year and over the summer working together to promote the welfare of our children, collaborate with families and our educators and administration to help families to be engaged in their children's education. We also engage the public in united efforts by supporting our local community, raise awareness about the importance of the arts and provide students the opportunity to explore and be involved in the arts. Our PTA does not just plan fun events and fundraisers.. We are a non-profit organization with the sole mission to "make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children." If you would like to be more involved with this amazing organization with plenty of volunteer opportunities, please email president@mckitrickpta.com.

I hope you have a great summer and thank you for a fantastic school year!

Lindsay Jimison
PTA President 2021-2022
president@mckitrickpta.com

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

May 2022

- May 11th - Final PTA General Membership Meeting
 - May 12th - National School Nurse Day
 - May 17th - PTA Summer Kick Off & Appreciation Event
 - May 23rd - 5th Grade Field Day
 - May 24th - 5th Grade Dance Party & Banquet
 - May 26th - 5th Grade Field Trip
 - May 27th - Last Day of School
- 5th Grade Clap Out, Awards and Yearbook Signing

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!

McKitrick Elementary
5503 Lutz Lake Fern Road
Lutz, Florida 33558
813.558.5427

Principal/Administrator:
Allison Cline



Bobcat Bash 2022

Thank you
Volunteers for
helping make
this a successful
event!

McKitrick Elementary



FRIDAY 4/8

We raised \$11,980 that will go directly into the classrooms. Thank you for all of the generous donations!

Let's Get Those Minds Turning!

The Reflections Art Program returns this Fall.

The 2022-2023 theme is: **SHOW YOUR VOICE**



If your student would like to get a head start on their submissions over the summer please email us for more details.

Want to Volunteer to Help?

If you would like to volunteer with the Reflections Committee please email Katie Stahl at: Reflections@McKitrickPTA.com

We will post more information about the program in our August Newsletter, on the PTA Website, and on our Facebook Page.



Are you on Facebook?

**Join Our McKitrick
Parents Club**

SCAN ME



JOIN THE MCKITRICK *Parents Club*

Have you joined the McKitrick Parents Club Facebook group? It's a great place to connect with other families, ask questions, and share information relevant to McKitrick Elementary.



QUICK LINKS

[McKitrick PTA Website](#)

[McKitrick PTA Store](#)

[McKitrick PTA Facebook](#)

[McKitrick PTA Twitter](#)

[McKitrick Elementary
Website](#)

[2021-2022
School Calendar](#)

[McKitrick Lunch Menus](#)

[Meal Pre-Pay](#)



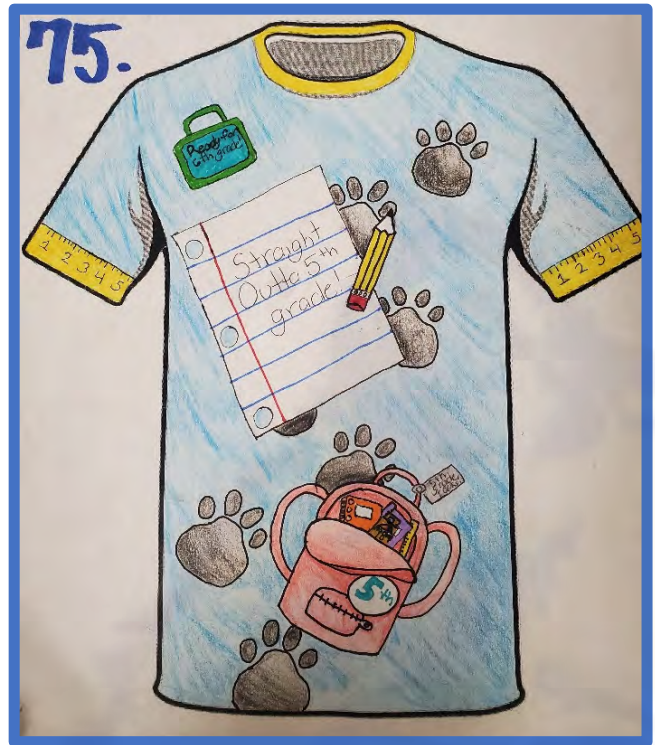
**MCKITRICK
ELEMENTARY**

**The School
Where "It" Happens!**



5th Grade Activities - 4 weeks until we're "Straight Outta 5th Grade!"

There are a lot of fun things happening in the next few weeks! Below are updates to our BIG Events:



- **5th Grade T-Shirts** - Please wear your t-shirts whenever you've got the 5th Grade McKitrick spirit!
- **Field Day** - Monday, May 23rd. We'll be spending the first half of the day outside, playing games, and enjoying AJ's Snowballs! *****5th Grade Parent Volunteers Needed!**
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EAEAC29A75-5thgrade2>
- **All Day Dance Party & 5th Grade Banquet** - Tuesday, May 24th. 5th graders will dance and party the day away as the cafeteria is transformed! 5th Graders should wear white, and lunch is provided.
- **Field Trip** - Thursday, May 26th. Plan for a long day of off campus fun at Busch Gardens. Wear your McKitrick





5th grade t-shirts! All chaperones are required to attend a meeting at 8:00am on May 26th in the cafeteria.

- **Last Day** - Friday, May 27th

- All 5th grade parents are invited to attend the student Clap Out. **Please be in line at the front office with your ID by 7:45am.**
- At 8:30am, 5th grade parents and the rest of the school will clap for the 5th grade students as they leave their classes and head the award ceremony.
- Once the clap out is complete, parents will leave campus until early dismissal.
- Awards Ceremony - The school will host their annual 5th grade awards! This is for 5th grade students and faculty only.
- Please remember to send in yearbooks. Signing and refreshments will happen after the awards. For students who do not have their yearbook, there will be an alternative provided.



- **Volunteers and Donations** - There will be volunteer opportunities, please make sure you have completed a SERVE form. Please be on the lookout for sign-ups from your Homeroom Parent.



- Please help with additional needs by donating from our Amazon Wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/397QYDONK273Z?ref=wl_share



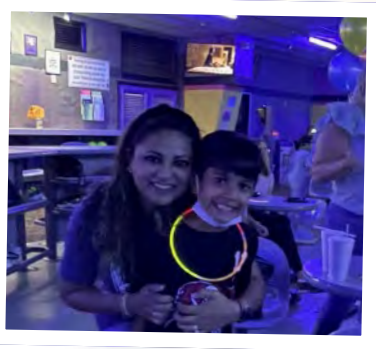
McKitrick Sons & Stars

On behalf of the McKitrick PTA and the Special Events Committee, we would like to thank all the students, families and teachers who came out and participated in the Sons and Stars Bowling Extravaganza on April 3rd! The event was a true success because of everyone's involvement both in big and small ways. It was so special to be able to join together in person and create some fun memories with our Bobcat boys! Everyone had a blast bowling, snacking, playing in the arcade, taking silly photo booth pictures, and just laughing together. This is what these precious elementary years are all about!

We would like to share a few special recognitions for those that went over the top to help create this memorable afternoon. First, a huge thank you to Robin Perrone and Pin Chasers for hosting our event at their Veterans location. They made the day seamless and graciously opened their doors to accommodate our school! Also, we are grateful for Josh with ShinyBooth photo booth for providing the on-site printed photos including silly props!

Thank you to Kara Coleman and her company, PaperPaperDesign, Ink!, a generous business partner at McKitrick for so many of our events. Kara graciously designed the awesome Sons & Stars bowling tickets and flyers this year. Please consider contacting her for all of your design and paper product needs. Lastly, a huge thank you to all of the volunteers that donated their time to help make everything run smoothly. We are honored that we were able to plan this event and look forward to many more fun activities together in the future!

Sincerely,
Evan Walker & Adam Greir
Sons & Stars Committee & Special Events Team



We Love Our McKitrick Teachers and Staff!

Teacher Appreciation Week was a success! We were able to provide breakfast and lunch for teachers and staff twice and provide treats for the teacher lounge. Thank you to all of the families who purchased flowers for the teachers and for providing much needed classroom supplies. Our teachers and staff work so hard to make McKitrick a great school and environment for our kids and they deserve to have the red carpet treatment!

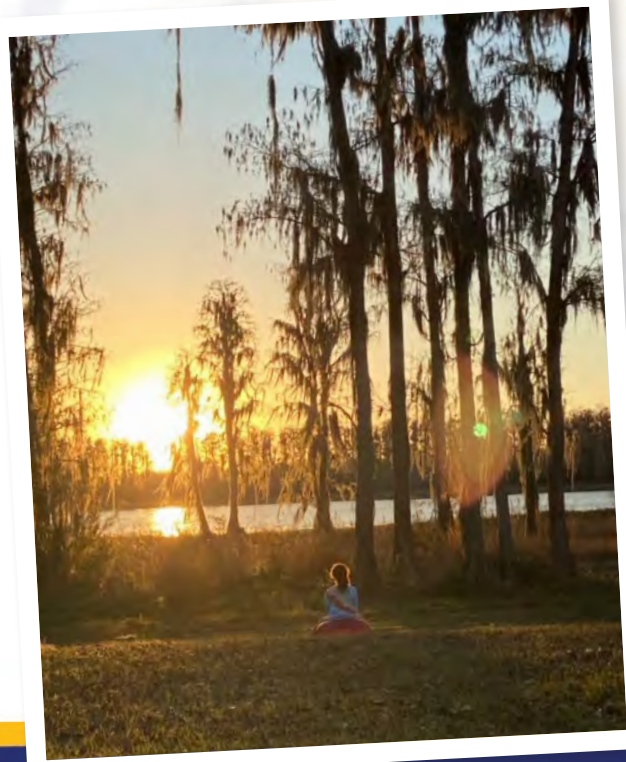
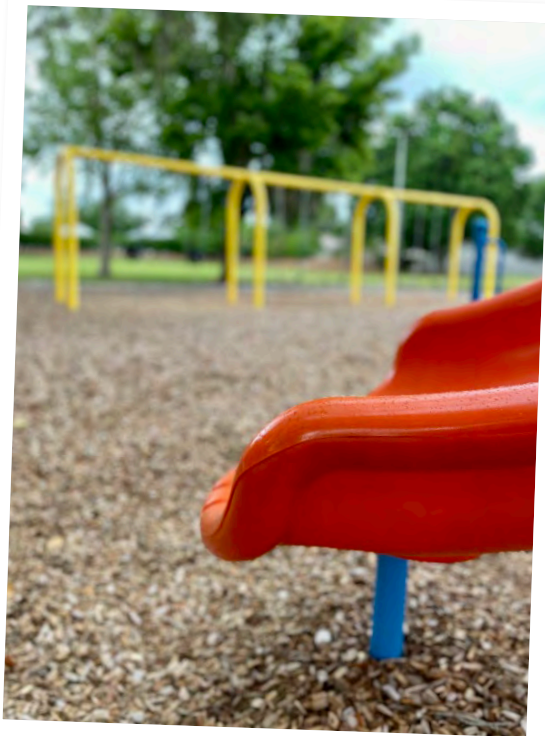
A huge thank you to our Teacher Appreciation committee PTA volunteers led by Lauren Borio: Viviana Lit, Louise Johnstone, Violetta Fahie, Jessica Williams, Crissy Blair, Cheryl Rodriguez, Melissa Weitzenfeld, and Catherine Priebe.

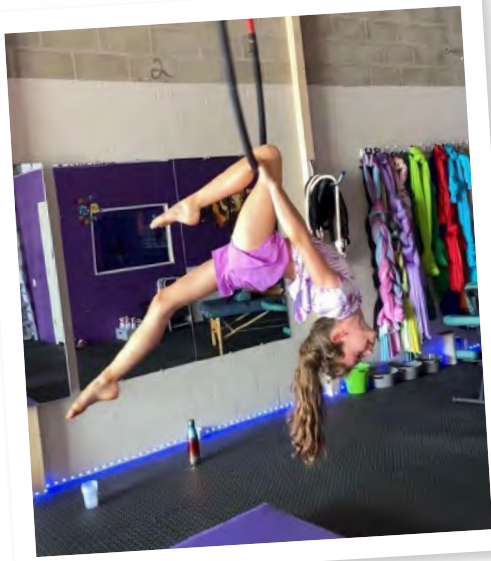




Capture your Community

The communities we live in play an important role in supporting healthy, active children. We asked students to show us a unique space that defines their neighborhood, a place that feels like home, or a fun activity that they like to do in their community.





ACTION FOR THE YOUTH OF TEXAS
CONNECTING THE DOTS
HEALTH AS ART

Capture Your Community

An art-based social-emotional health activity
for peer leadership-based learning.

An illustration of a person in a green shirt operating a professional video camera on a tripod. The background features colorful abstract shapes in orange, purple, and green.



FUNdraising Corner

SUCCESSFUL Spirit Night For McKitrick Elementary Families

Once again, McKitrick Elementary showed up!!! The school earned a whopping \$595.00 during our final Dine Out at BURGERFI.

It was a record night for sales and we moved from 15% to 20% kickback because of ALL the great support from McKitrick families AND teachers. I know it was not an efficient night (I was there) so I do want to acknowledge everyone's patience and supportive attitude on Wednesday night. Our families are truly the BEST!

The good news is McKitrick Elementary is now a case study with BURGERFI corporate on how to better prepare for family fundraiser nights. We raised the bar so much they don't want to be caught unprepared again!! I truly can't thank McKitrick families and teachers enough for their continued support.



THANK YOU for your Support this Year McKitrick Families & Teachers!

SCHOOL Fundraising UPDATES

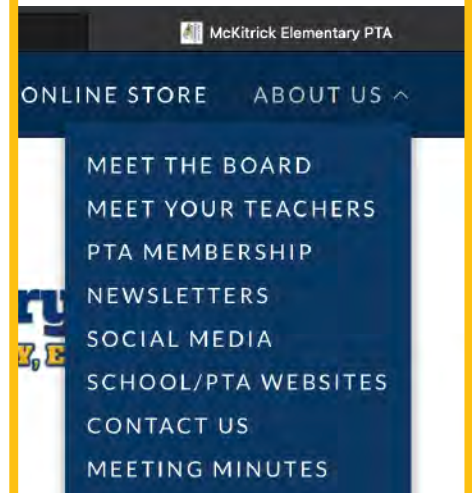
HOW TO EARN BOX TOPS MAKES IT EASY.

All you need is your phone! Download the Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then use the app to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will identify Box Tops products on your receipt and automatically credit your school's earnings online. **Twice a year, your school will receive a check and can use that cash to buy whatever it needs!**

Meet Your Teacher

A brand new feature called "Meet Your Teacher" can now be found on the McKitrick PTA website under the "About Us" tab.

CHECK IT OUT RIGHT HERE!
<https://mckitrickpta.com/meet-your-teachers>



5th Grade Sponsors

A HUGE thank you to so many parents and families that have donated to make our 5th graders final months at McKitrick so special. We also recognize the following business partners for their generous sponsorships of 5th Grade Activities!



PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO LOG YOUR VALUABLE VOLUNTEER HOURS!

Part of the McKitrick standing as a School of Excellence is our wonderful volunteers and the time they put into helping out, big or small. If you have volunteered your time whether on or off campus, i.e making copies, cutting paper, in the media center, at any of our PTA events, ANYTHING to benefit our school.

Please submit volunteer hours using the Volunteer Hours Tracker found here:

<https://mckitrickpta.com/volunteer-1>

HOW TO PREVENT YOUR KIDS FROM LOSING WHAT THEY LEARNED IN SCHOOL DURING SUMMER VACATION

Summer break is typically a time for kids to kick back, indulge in a little extra screen time, play outside, and embrace the kind of freedom that only comes with being young and having zero responsibilities. However, all of this free time can lead to the summer slide, a regression in academic proficiency due to summer break, and experts warn it is hindering kids' progress when they head back to school.

What Is the Summer Slide?

The concept of the summer slide has been on researchers' radar since at least 1996, when one of the first comprehensive studies on the phenomenon was published. The study showed that kids lose significant knowledge in reading and math over summer break, which tends to have a snowball effect as they experience subsequent skill loss each year. A more recent study of children in 3rd to 5th grades also showed that students lost, on average, about 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading and 27 percent of their school-year gains in math during summer break.

Who Is at Risk?

Younger children are prone to the most learning loss because they're at a crucial stage in their development. "In general, kids learn a lot more in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade than kids in middle school or high school, because learning follows a curve where it's accelerated early in life and then plateaus," says James Kim, Ed.D., an assistant professor of education at Harvard University. "Things like decoding, letter knowledge, and word reading skills are very susceptible to decay without frequent practice, as are math facts like addition and subtraction."

Children from low-income families are also disproportionately affected by the summer slide, in ways that can affect them years into their education. In fact, research cited by Kim shows that more than half of the gap in reading scores between low-income 9th graders and their middle-income peers could be attributed to differences in summer learning accumulated between first and fifth grade.

What Can Parents Do to Help?

The good news is that basic skills aren't hard to maintain over the off-season! There are a number of ways to keep kids engaged in reading and math over the summer:

1. Let kids read what they want.

Children won't gain as much from summer reading if they aren't truly enjoying it. Professor Kim says kids should have access to a wide variety of books that they enjoy reading and are fully able to comprehend. They'll be on board: Nearly 60 percent of children ages 6 to 17 say they love or like reading books for fun a lot, and 52 percent think it's extremely or very important, according to the Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report.

HOW TO PREVENT YOUR KIDS FROM LOSING WHAT THEY LEARNED IN SCHOOL DURING SUMMER VACATION (CONTINUED....)

To get started, check out this year's Scholastic Read-a-Palooza Summer Reading Challenge, a free, educational program in which kids can enter reading minutes online to unlock exclusive digital rewards and help donate books to kids in need across the country. Ask your child's teacher or local librarian if they're participating — if not, you can register your child individually.

View book lists by age for the Challenge by clicking [here](#) and scrolling down to "Resources," or browse selections at the Scholastic Store Online.

2. Make time for smart play.

Games and puzzles are a great way for kids to brush up on the basics while having fun at the same time. Whether it's a game geared specifically toward teaching kids math skills, like this [Mobi Math Tiles Game](#), or a learning activity that helps them brush up on vocabulary, like these [Sight Word Learning Mats](#), there are plenty of ways to get children engaged and help them flex their brain power without turning it into a tutoring session.

3. Get out of the house.

Experts have found that novelty stimulates the brain and promotes learning. Visiting a historic site or even simply reading together at the park can help your child get more excited about reading and learning. You can also visit a certain location inspired by the books you read together: For instance, read [Hidden Figures](#), the inspiring true story about four black female mathematicians who helped NASA launch astronauts into space, and then check out a planetarium, bringing up topics covered in the book. This helps reinforce what kids are learning from books in a real-world setting.

4. Use your imagination.

Kids who use their imagination are also expanding their vocabularies and experimenting with new concepts. Even though it may not seem like they're directly "learning" when they're crafting their own superhero capes with a superhero starter kit or dreaming up complex chain reactions with educational LEGO sets, they're still calling on familiar skills and developing new ones. You could even play "theater" and put on a show inspired by all of the great summer books you're reading together.

**Article taken from: <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/summer-slide.html>





Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary School

2021-2022 PTA COMMITTEE

President: Lindsay Jimison

Vice President: Jessica Campbell

Treasurer: Erin Circelli

Recording Secretary: Tanya Kayani

Parent Outreach: Amanda Hurst

Fundraising: Megan Wilson

Special Events: Lindsay Whitney

Student/School Support: Brandi Kenny

Programs: Jessica Diefenderfer

Communications: Steve Clark

**Newcomers/Kindergarten Round Up:
Chryssa Samhoury & Farheen Aldeen**

Parents Club: Chryssa Samhoury

All Pro Dads: Jason Crow

Homeroom Parents: Darbie Wilder

Volunteer Coordinator: Yajaira Chappelle

Memberships: Amanda Hurst

Spirit Wear: Salina Ruiz

**Boosterthon: Erin Circelli,
Viviana Lit & Adam Grier**

Holiday Shop: Jessica Diefenderfer

**Bobcat Bash: Katie Stahl,
Kara Coleman & Violetta Fahie**

Business Partners: Emily Draper

**Family Dine Outs: Kristin Swenson
& Melissa Chevalier**

Box Tops: Kimberly Olson

**Sweetheart Event: Lisa Peluso,
Tanya Kayani & Jessica Diefenderfer**

**Knights Event: Evan Walker
& Adam Grier**

**Concessions: Louise Johnstone
& Iris Sims**

**Family Nights: Amy Sweeney,
Melissa Chevalier & Punit Shah**

Fifth Grade Activities: Jaclyn Young

**School-Wide Hospitality/Decorating:
Open Position**

Open House: Adi Kaplan

**Teacher Appreciation: Lauren Borio, Louise
Johnstone, Viviana Lit & Violetta Fahie**

**Health & Safety: Jessica Greene
& Katalin Vinci-Sierra**

**Reflections: Katie Stahl
& Meredith Renuart**

Tutoring: Erin Dombrosky

**Junior Achievement: Rick Coleman
& Loren Mednick**

McKitrick Cares: Heather Foster

IT- Website: Cassandra Johnson

IT- Google/Website Back Up: Billy Stahl

Yearbook: Robert Hudson

Social Media: Priya Davbhat

Newsletter: Kara Coleman

Front Marquee: Billy Stahl

**McKitrick Elementary
The School Where "It" Happens!**