



Bobcat

October 2024, Volume 24, Issue 10

BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKittrick Elementary

Message from the PTA Vice President

We hope all of you are safe from Hurricane Helene. So many people in multiple states have been affected by flooding and damage from the hurricane. I personally have been helping my Grandmother recover from her entire home being flooded with water. Driving around seeing the severely impacted areas in our local communities has been devastating. I encourage you to find ways to reach out to those in need. A kind stranger dropped off snack packages to us while we were working. I can't tell you how much we appreciated it. The PTA and school administration are working on a plan to help those affected by Hurricane Helene. We will send out more details soon.

We also wanted to inform you that in light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, the PTA and school administration has decided to postpone our annual school fundraiser, Boosterthon.

Don't forget the Reflections Art Contest is accepting submissions until November 1st. All students can participate. Winners will have a chance to be judged at local, state and national levels. We will also have an award/participation ceremony at school. Check out the flier in the newsletter for more information.

Please reach out to school administration if you need any assistance during this time. Our McKittrick Cares program is available every school year to support students and families.

Heather Foster
PTA President

CALENDAR

October

2nd Custodian Appreciation Day

3rd Rescheduled Conference Night

10th Picture Day Make Up

14th Non-student Day

18th All Pro Dads Meeting

28th Veterans Donation Drive Begins

November

1st Reflections Applications Due

8th Veterans Day Program

11th Non-Student Day

15th All Pro Dads Meeting

25th-29th Fall Break

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.



SCAN the QR code here to join our online community today!



Quick Links

McKitrick PTA Website

McKitrick PTA Store

McKitrick PTA Facebook

McKitrick PTA Twitter

McKitrick Elementary Website

2024-2025 School Calendar

McKitrick Lunch Menus

Meal Pre-Pay



McKitrick Elementary

5503 Lutz Lake Fern Road

Lutz, Florida 33558

813.558.5427

Principal/Administrator:

Allison Cline



Attention All McKittrick Families!

The 5th grade class needs your help!

Who: McKittrick's 5th grade class

When: All items Due by **October 11th**

What: We will be collecting items to help all of those who were recently effected in the Tampa Bay area by Hurricane Helene

Where: Donation Boxes will be located in the front office and all class hallways




- Water bottles
- Sports drinks
- Baby diapers
- Baby wipes
- Gently used or new Clothes (men, women, kids)
- New underwear (men, women, kids)
- New socks (men, women, kids)
- Hygiene products
- Cleaning supplies
- Dry snacks
- Canned goods
- Non perishable items
- Bleach
- New or gently used blankets
- New or gently used towels
- Collapsed boxes
- Plastic totes

Car Line Reminders

Families: While we are seeing a steady improvement with the flow of car line, we want to provide a few reminders on how to make the process safe and efficient for everyone.

Morning car line families: To help ensure your student is in their seat by 7:40am, please keep in mind that the most congested time for car line is in the last 10 minutes as the high school car line also gets going. Please adjust your arrival time accordingly so that you can also exit the campus smoothly.



Car Line Reminders

Arrival:

- Students should not be let out of your car until 7:10am. This ensures staff is available to monitor them.
- DO NOT EVER let your child out on Lutz Lake Fern Road.
- Have your car seats on the RIGHT side of the backseat.
- Have your student ready to get out of the car: backpack ready, shoes on, etc.
- Parents DO NOT get out of the car; someone will help your child.
- Pull all the way forward as directed by staff.

Dismissal:

- For safety, parents cannot line up before 12pm on Mondays and 1pm on other days.
- Parents DO NOT get out of your car; your child will come to you.
- Have your car tag visible.
- Have car seats on the RIGHT side of the backseat.
- Continue pulling up. Do not stop when you see your student.
- If your child needs help buckling: Pull up before helping them or teach them how to buckle themselves.



Car Line Reminders



DO pull all the way forward in line. This is the only way to ensure there is enough space for students to get out on time.



DON'T ever let your child out on Lutz Lake Fern Road. This is dangerous for everyone.

Advocacy: Millage Referendum on November 5th Ballot

Support Our Students!

On November 5th, we have a unique opportunity to vote YES on the Millage Referendum and help support our local schools. For just 75 cents a day, your vote can make a lasting difference by providing much-needed funds to benefit teachers, support staff, and students.

Here's what your YES vote will achieve:

- \$6,000 more annually for Teachers
- \$3,000 more annually for Support Staff
- Funding for Arts, P.E., and College/Career Counselors at all high schools
- Enhanced hands-on learning experiences

A YES vote helps build stronger schools, improves our community, raises property values, and attracts better jobs to our area.

Want to learn more? Attend one of these important events:

- School District Town Halls: Hear directly from Superintendent Van Ayres:
 - 9/18 @ Plant City HS, 5:30 PM
 - 9/23 @ Gaither HS, 5:30 PM
 - 9/24 @ Alonso HS, 5:30 PM
 - 9/30 @ Riverview HS, 5:30 PM
 - 10/21 @ Middleton HS, 5:30 PM
- Click the link for more information about Town Halls - <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/Page/10869>
- Join a Virtual Info Session: Hosted by HCCPTA and School Board Member Nadia Combs.
 - 10/2 @ 12PM & 8PM
 - 10/16 @ 12PM & 8PM
 - 10/30 @ 12PM & 8PM
- Click the link to register for the virtual sessions: <https://bit.ly/VIRTUALINFOREG>

Get informed about the Millage Referendum and be ready to Vote November 5th:

- Learn More: [Hillsborough Schools Millage](#)
- Calculate Your Investment: [Use this calculator](#)
- Join the Movement: [Vote Yes for Students](#)

VOTE YES
FOR
STUDENTS

VOTE **YES** THIS NOVEMBER 5TH FOR THE MILLAGE REFERENDUM



Supporting education has never been simpler!
Your vote can make a **HUGE** difference.
*For just **75 cents a day** for the typical homeowner, here's what your support will achieve:



- \$6,000 annually for Teachers
- \$3,000 annually for Support Staff
- \$6,000 annually for Principals & APs
- Funding for Hands-on Learning & the Arts
- College & Career Counselors at all High Schools
- Additional Athletics & P.E. Programs

Your YES vote enhances our community's future by **boosting local schools**, which in turn **improves property values** and attracts **high-paying jobs!**

LEARN MORE:

Attend a School District Town Hall with Superintendent Van Ayres:

- 9/18 @5:30PM: Plant City HS
- 9/23 @5:30PM: Gaither HS
- 9/24 @5:30PM: Alonso HS
- 9/30 @5:30PM: Riverview HS
- 10/21 @5:30PM: Middleton HS



Join a Virtual HCCPTA Info Session with School Board Member, Nadia Combs:

- 10/2 @12PM
- 10/2 @8PM
- 10/16 @12PM
- 10/16 @8PM
- 10/30 @12PM
- 10/30 @8PM



All students deserve the best educational experience possible.



Students who ride the bus to school, should arrive on-time every day.

When there aren't enough bus drivers, students arrive late.



Students need a high-quality and consistent teacher in their classroom every day.

Currently, 450 classrooms are without a full-time teacher.



Students deserve a positive school culture where they can thrive.

Students are affected when leaders leave their school.

To provide the best educational experience, we need additional funding to retain and recruit high-quality educators and support for our schools.

School districts across the state have faced this same challenge. To address this, voters in 25 other counties approved a millage referendum to provide the additional funding to pay their teachers and support staff more. Hillsborough County is the only county in the six-county area that does not have an additional millage.



A Promising Solution!

This November, a millage referendum for our schools will be on the ballot. These essential funds will help us retain and recruit high-quality teachers to create the best classroom experience for our students.

What is the cost to property owners?

Property owners would pay \$1 for every \$1,000 in taxable home value.



Example of a typical home in Hillsborough County:

\$281,000 Taxable Value

The investment for a typical homeowner would be \$281 per year, which averages to about 75 cents a day.

What is the benefit for our schools?

A millage would raise an estimated \$177 million to support our students each year

\$150.4 million to district schools

\$26.6 million to charter schools
based on enrollment - as of 1/23/24

Millage must be renewed every 4 years.

Revenue amounts are projected estimates for fiscal year 2025-2026, when the funds would be available for use.



For more information:
hillsboroughschools.org/millage
or email millage@hcps.net



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for Life

OUR STUDENTS
OUR FUTURE
#InvestingInStudents

There's still time to unleash your creativity and enter the 2024-2025 Reflections Art Contest!

This year's theme: **Accepting Imperfection**

Register now: <https://mckitrickpta.com/reflections>

Deadline change: Submissions are now due Friday, **November 1st** (previously Nov 8th). Don't miss out!

The National PTA's Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boosts student confidence and success in the arts and in life.

Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student selected theme. This 50+ year-old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life. Students create and submit original works of art in under the follow divisions: Primary (Pre-K to - Grade 2) or Intermediate (Grades 3-5).

The arts categories are: • Dance Choreography • Film Production • Literature • Music Composition • Photography • Visual Arts, and • Accessible Arts (all grades).



Register
Now



Date
changed!!

Nov 1

Get involved! PTA.org/Reflections

Deadline for Entries:

November ~~8~~ 2024

For Details:

reflections@mckitrickpta.com



FUNdraising Corner

Dear McKitrick Families,

We hope all of you are safe from Hurricane Helene. We understand many of you, your loved ones and friends may have been affected by flooding and damage from the hurricane.

In light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, the PTA and school administration has decided to postpone our annual school fundraiser, Boosterthon.

The PTA and school administration are working on a plan to help those affected by Hurricane Helene. Please stay tuned for more details soon!

Thank you,
McKitrick Elementary 2024-2025
Boosterthon Committee

A graphic with a blue border and yellow stars. At the top, a red stamp with the word "POSTPONED" in white capital letters is tilted. Below it, the words "BOOSTERTHON UPDATE" are written in bold blue capital letters. The text reads: "In light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, the PTA and school administration has decided to postpone our annual school fundraiser, Boosterthon." and "The PTA and school administration are working on a plan to help those affected by Hurricane Helene. Please stay tuned for more details soon!". At the bottom left, a yellow circle contains the text "STAY TUNED!" in blue, with a blue arrow pointing down. At the bottom right, a black silhouette of a person is pointing at a calendar icon. The website "www.mckitrickpta.com" is at the bottom.

POSTPONED

BOOSTERTHON UPDATE

In light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, the PTA and school administration has decided to postpone our annual school fundraiser, Boosterthon.

The PTA and school administration are working on a plan to help those affected by Hurricane Helene. Please stay tuned for more details soon!

STAY TUNED!

www.mckitrickpta.com

Thank you to our Bobcat families, teachers & staff who attended our first Family Dine Out at Three Brothers Pizza. We recognize there were some hiccups, but Three Brothers Pizza and the PTA appreciate your patience and support. McKitrick shows up! We raised a whopping **\$940** for our school!



School Supply Donations

Thank you so much for all of the school supply donations. All donations were given to Hillsborough Education Foundation to benefit Hillsborough County students. We appreciate your support!

To learn more about HEF, visit their website at <https://educationfoundation.com/>



We are so excited to announce an OASIS donation drop box is located at McKittrick! You can donate new or gently used clothing and shoes. OASIS serves over 15,000 at-risk and low-income students in Hillsborough County each year. As you are school shopping and cleaning out closets, please consider donating. All sizes from K - 12 grade are appreciated. Find out more about OASIS at <https://www.oasisopportunities.org/clothing-sites>

BE THE CHANGE, DONATE NOW

CHECK OUT THE NEW OASIS DONATION DROP BOX AT MCKITTRICK

OASIS OPPORTUNITIES

Their mission is to provide clothing and fundamental necessities to economically disadvantaged Hillsborough County Public School students to ensure their personal and academic success.

Visit their website for more information and ways you can help!
<https://www.oasisopportunities.org/>

WHAT YOU CAN DONATE

CLOTHING & SHOES

New or lightly used clothing and shoes are accepted at the donation drop box.

ONLINE WISHLIST

Fulfill online wishlist registries at Amazon, Target and Walmart for goods and hygiene products.
<https://www.oasisopportunities.org/oasis-student-wishlists>



LOCATION:

McKittrick Elementary -
5503 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd,
Lutz, FL 33558



Congratulations to **Mrs. Monaghan's Kindergarten class** for winning the PTA Membership Class Contest with 39 memberships!

Amazing job! Thank you to everyone for your support. You can still get a PTA membership to receive important updates and volunteer opportunities directly to your email. Purchase at <https://mckitrick.givebacks.com/store>

McKitrick PTA Membership Drive

Pizza Party Winner



Monaghan's
Kindergarteners



MCKITRICK ELEMENTARY PTA TUTORING

CALLING ALL TUTORS

Please view and complete the interest survey if you would like to be a tutor this year. Materials and guidance will be provided. We appreciate you and are looking forward to another successful year!

Please email
tutoring@mckitrickpta.com
with any questions.

[Interest Survey Link](#)



Hispanic Heritage Month - September 15th - October 15th

We are excited to celebrate the vibrant cultures, rich histories, and significant contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. The dates for Hispanic Heritage Month were chosen to coincide with the Independence Day celebrations of many Central American countries. We invite you to join us in celebrating this special month with HCPS & McKittrick and participate in the activities below.

Students are encouraged to check out books that feature Hispanic and Latino history, individuals and experiences as its focus. The media center has amazing books in their Hispanic Heritage display for all reading levels. MyOn is having a reading challenge to see what schools can read for the most minutes. This challenge will run from September 15 to October 15. As long as your child is logged into MyOn and reading a book, it will count the minutes. We have many Bobcats that read on MyOn, so let's see what you can do! See the flyers below!

- Explore Hispanic culture and create a poster showing what you've learned. All entries will be displayed in the Media Center. Check out the details below.
- October 3rd - Hispanic Heritage Community Celebration (A.P. Leto High School) from 5:00-7:00 pm.

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative: Check out Hispanic Heritage Month activities and resources including a bookmark contest. Submissions are due October 16th. <https://hcplc.org/HispanicHeritage>



The challenge

Hillsborough County Public Schools is hosting a special reading challenge to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

All students are encouraged to participate by reading as many books as they can between September 15 and October 15.

Time spent reading will be recorded automatically within the myON platform. If students are reading offline, they should be sure to log back into myON with WiFi before October 15, so their reading activity is included in their school's total minutes read.

School winners in each regional area

The school with the highest average minutes read on myON during the challenge period in each of the regional areas will be recognized with a school banner.

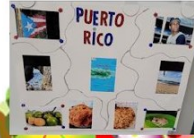
Attention: All HOST Students!

Your participation in the 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month Digital Read-In makes you eligible to win a HOST Scholarship for the Spring 2025 term!

Check with your HOST site for information on how to register. To be eligible to win, HOST students must read at least 1,000 minutes from September 15 to October 15. That's less than 34 minutes per day! Winners will be selected by random drawing.

Hispanic Heritage Artistic Expression

McKittrick's
Got Talent!



Attention all students in McKittrick!

Ready to show some pride in your cultural background? Or are you interested in exploring one of many Hispanic cultures?

Create a 9 X 12 poster or painting showing some aspect of your Hispanic culture of choice!

All entries will be on display in the Media Center!

A few entries will be selected to display on the morning show!

Get ready to show some pride, respect, honor, and talent!

You are invited to the District Advisory Council Meeting

Join other multilingual families to celebrate our heritage and learn important information about the school system and your child's education.

Date: October 3, 2024

We will have two sessions for your convenience!

5:45 – 6:15 and 6:30 -7:00

**Location: Leto High School
4409 W Sligh Ave, Tampa, FL 33614**

This informative session will take place during the Hispanic Heritage celebration.

Your participation is important, you are the guest of honor!

All Pro Dads: October Update & Highlights!

Join us for our next All Pro Dad meeting on **Friday, October 18th**, at 7:00 am in the McKittrick Elementary cafeteria. This month, we delve into the theme of **Purpose**. Understanding your purpose gives you direction and motivates your actions, helping you make crucial decisions in life. It's a powerful session that I'm excited to share with you all!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 16th if possible (although not required to attend), to help the school arrange your passes in advance. This will ensure a quicker check-in process, allowing us more time to enjoy breakfast with our kids. Due to our ever increasing attendance number, this month the school has offered to prepare pre-packed lunches for other students, giving us more space and reducing noise in the cafeteria.

So please go ahead and scan the QR Code or click here to RSVP for the October meeting: https://allprodadchapters.com/chapters/2990/chapter_meetings/57625/rsvp



**Scan to RSVP
for October's
Meeting**

Recap of September's Meeting

Last month's meeting on the topic of Sensitivity was profoundly impactful, attended by over 120 participants, including many new families. The discussions were especially meaningful as kids came on stage to share their experiences and interpretations around the topic. I was personally touched by your stories about dealing with sensitivity issues at school or with siblings. These stories underscored the relevance and necessity of our monthly themes.

Here are the prompts for Sensitivity that we discussed - feel free to use these at home if you weren't at the meeting, or just need a refresher:

- **Dad to Kid:** "Who in your life has shown sensitivity? How?"
- **Dad to Kid:** "In what ways have you shown sensitivity?"
- **Kid to Dad:** "What's the hardest part about being sensitive to others?"
- **Kid to Dad:** "What are some ways we could work on our sensitivity this week?"

We're grateful to all dads who provided RSVPs in advance, aiding the school in managing the large turnout and minimizing check-in delays as the school also works through onboarding their new IT system. And as always, I'm here for you. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or just want to chat, don't hesitate to reach out to me, your All Pro Dad captain, Steve Attard, at allprodads@mckittrickpta.com.

Let's continue to grow and bring more dads into our circle. See you on October 18th for an enlightening discussion on Purpose!





Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary School

2022-2023 PTA COMMITTEE

President: Heather Foster

Vice President: Brandi Kenny

Treasurer: Gina Sciatcchitano

Recording Secretary: Erin Circelli

Teacher representative: Principal Cline,
Mrs. Contreras, Mrs. Behnke

Parent Outreach: Viviana Lit

Fundraising: Darbie Wilder

Special Events: **OPEN POSITION**

Student/School Support: Risa Anasky

Programs: Barrie Vause

Communications: Lauren Constantine

Newcomers/Kindergarten Round Up:
OPEN POSITION

All Pro Dads: Steve Attard

Homeroom Parents: Brittany Harake

Volunteer Coordinator: Jessica Irizarri

Memberships: **OPEN POSITION**

Spirit Wear: Jennifer Ptack

Boosterthon: Lindsay Jimison, Erin Circelli,
Jincy Soler

Holiday Shop: Lisa Peluso &
Megan Wilson

Bobcat Bash: Barrie Vause, Jennifer
Teixeira

Business Partners: Cristine Whitman

Family Dine Outs: **OPEN POSITION**

Sweetheart Event: Lindsay Whitney,
Shelley Blanco

Sons & Stars Event: Alexandra Santana,
Michelle Dacanay, Heather Hubbard

Concessions: Louise Johnstone

Family Nights: Amy Sweeney, Donna
Tucker, Lauren Jennings, Patricia Baldwin

Fifth Grade Activities: Chryssa Samhoury

Open House: Heather Foster & Lindsay
Jimison

Teacher & Staff Appreciation: Ariel
Martinez, Jincy Soler, Dani Molla

Health & Safety: **OPEN POSITION**

McKitrick Serves: **OPEN POSITION**

McKitrick Cares: Hyojeong Bae

Reflections: Meredith Renuart & Viviana Lit

Tutoring: Ariel Martinez

Junior Achievement: Loren Mednick

Website/Givebacks: Hanyeh Pulver

Yearbook: Robert Hudson & Lacey Ranucci

Social Media: Chryssa Samhoury

Newsletter: Cristine Whitman

Interested in being more involved in the PTA? Please contact president@mckitrickpta.com to learn more about open positions and volunteer opportunities!