



NOVEMBER 2021, VOLUME 21, ISSUE 11

# BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary School

## Message from the PTA President

**Hello Bobcat Family!** I hope these recent cooler Fall evenings allow your families to enjoy the outdoors a little more like I have with mine.

Last week our inaugural Fall Festival Drive Thru event turned out to be a HUGE SUCCESS! This is the first time since the pandemic that we've gotten our entire McKitrick Family together & do something fun for our Bobcat community. We appreciate the adults for your patience as you slowly paced through the long carline. Hopefully it was quality time well spent with your children to talk about their day and how they're doing. BIG SHOUT OUT to our Family Night's committee for planning & organizing this event. THANK YOU to all the volunteers, McKitrick National Honor Society students, teachers, faculty and business sponsors for bringing your excitement & making this a fun experience for our families. We hope to see you all for our next Bobcat Family Dine In/ Out event at Chick Fil A on Dale Mabry coming up later this month!

The first week of November kicks off our BIG PTA fundraiser, BOOSTERTHON and concludes with a fun 80's themed classroom DANCE FIT party which will take place on Wednesday, November 10th. Our PTA will be working hard to bring the excitement, including school-wide decorations, classroom celebrations, character building morning videos and handing out the POPULAR prizes for participation! Make sure to ask your child about the daily BOOSTERTHON character themes and help them create their BOOSTERTHON PLEDGE ACCOUNTS.

As we approach winter break, it's easy to feel rushed and overwhelmed by everything we want to get done before the holidays arrive. But there is so much more about the month of November which is to take the time to enjoy, relax, and be mindful of the things we're thankful for!

If you have any questions for the PTA or would like to get involved, please let us know! Happy November, and Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Lindsay Jimison  
PTA President 2021-2022  
[president@mckitrickpta.com](mailto:president@mckitrickpta.com)

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> - McKitrick BOOSTERTHON Fundraiser Kick Off
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Day - No School
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Dine Out Night @ Chick-Fil-A
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> - FALL BREAK- No School

### December

- 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> - McKitrick Cares Holiday Toy Drive
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Shop
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> - WINTER BREAK- No School

### January 2022!

- 4<sup>th</sup> - Happy New Year! Back to School
- 17<sup>th</sup> - MLK Day - No School

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

*Principal/Administrator:*  
**Allison Cline**



# MCKITRICK Bobcats

## MCKITRICK'S Biggest Fundraiser Starts November 1st, 2021!! Are You READY???



We have big goals this year, laptops for teachers. We can do this with your support. Boosterthon, a fundraising company we have successfully partnered with in the past, will be helping us again this year. The children will be completing a Totally Rad 80's DanceFit in class on November 10th. Funds raised through this exciting program will help benefit our teachers and students in a BIG way. All students will get to participate in this fun event, regardless of financial giving.

**KICKOFF IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST.**  
**Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for teacher laptops and other technology.**

Your homeroom parents and teachers will keep you updated on the details. Please make sure to follow McKitrick's PTA Facebook Page for daily updates.

### KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Donation opens: 10/28**
- **Fundraiser Kickoff: 11/1**
- **Dance Day: 11/10**

**BOOSTERTHON  
IS HERE!!**

**BOOSTERTHON  
IS HERE!!**



# National Walk and Bike to School Safety Day

October 6 was National Walk and Bike to School Safety Day. Students, parents, and even some dog friends had a blast in the early morning hours as we formed a walking school bus. Glow bracelets and our PTA volunteers in bright safety vests lit up the path to school as we celebrated the benefits of walking and biking to school safely.

We even had a special visit from Officer Camacho! Our PTA has partnered with Sidewalk Stompers to help improve the safety of student pedestrians. Special thanks to our PTA volunteers, the Health and Safety Committee, and to Hope Church for allowing the use of their parking lot for our event!

We look forward to participating in National Walk and Bike to School Safety Day again next year!



## 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](#)

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!



## Volunteer Update

Limited on campus volunteers for Tutoring have been approved! For those interested in volunteering with the McKitrick Tutor Program, be on the lookout for an email from our Tutoring Committee.

Don't forget to submit those at home volunteer hours. A link to the log can be found here:

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

# FALL FEST DRIVE THRU WAS A SUCCESS!

**Thank you to all the Bobcat families** that came out to enjoy our Fall Fest Drive Thru on October 27th! We loved seeing so many kiddos with smiling faces and amazing costumes, filling their buckets with treats as they passed by the themed tents in carline! Of course the teachers and staff made it such a special evening by waving and even dancing in their costumes along the way! We were fortunate enough to have a group of wonderful students from the National Junior Honor Society volunteering their time handing out candy as well. **We also appreciate the generous donations of giveaway items from several of our business partners, including:**

- **Pin Chasers**
- **Sunshine Pediatrics**
- **Dr Bee Pediatric Dentistry**
- **Mathnasium**
- **Bach to Rock**
- **Primrose Schools**
- **PaperPartyDesign, Ink!**
- **Urgent Care & Wellness Center of Lutz**

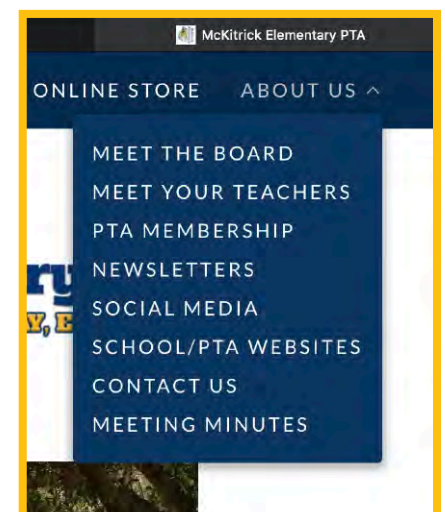
**A BIG THANKS to everyone who was a special part of this fun and memorable evening!!!**



## NEW!! 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. This includes the personal lists of favorite things for each participating teacher. This is the perfect reference for the upcoming holidays, teacher appreciation week, birthday's, ect. or just to get to know more about your child's teacher!

All non homeroom teachers' list of favorite things is coming soon. Please check it out at the link here! <https://mckitrickpta.com/meet-your-teachers>







# AND THE WINNER IS...

Mrs. Monaghan's 1st grade class! They will be receiving a class party!

Thank you to EVERYONE who showed their support by purchasing a PTA membership for the 2021-2022 school year! Memberships are always available for purchase year round!

Still need to buy a PTA membership? No worries! Visit [mckitrickpta.com](https://mckitrickpta.com) any time to make a purchase!







# Membership Leaderboard

**McKittrick**

## KINDERGARTEN

Atkinson 22  
Figueroa 25  
Bump 38  
Spear/Bishop 9  
Valcin 18  
Draper 28  
Peterson/Rotondo 23

## FIRST GRADE

Baker 18  
Leske 25  
Granell 57  
Chisholm 39  
McDonough 30  
Bedessem 19

**Monaghan 66**

## 2ND GRADE

Kashansky 31  
Moffatt 26  
Franko 19  
Brangaccio 33  
Agoncillo 29  
Gaudineer 23  
Jones 21  
Goff/Guzman 24

**Mrs. Monaghan's class is the WINNER of our class contest!**

**Still need a membership? Visit [www.mckittrickpta.com](http://www.mckittrickpta.com) to buy your memberships today!**

## THIRD GRADE

Hill 10  
Prentiss 30  
Jones 26  
Casiano 25  
McDonnell 21  
Contreras 30  
Zweben 17  
Alderman 42  
Hoyos 19

## FOURTH GRADE

Orijuela 23  
Abbett 34  
Streicher 24  
Bocklund 25  
Moon 24  
Arnold 13  
Kappris 11  
Brice 31  
Steckman 11

## FIFTH GRADE

Flynn 16  
Peraza 11  
Olson 8  
Mountain 20  
Lockwood 26  
Manrique 18  
Rives 17  
Strain 14  
Brewer 19

**Thank you for all of our Bobcat families for your membership support!**



# FUNdraising Corner

## MCKITRICK'S NEXT DINE OUT

Calling all McKitrick families! Let's show that awesome McKitrick Spirit during our next Dine Out. Chick-fil-A will host McKitrick families on **Monday, November 15th, ALL DAY (6:00 AM - 10:00 PM)**. Dine in or take out, just mention McKitrick and your family will help raise funds for our school.

See YOU at the **Chick-fil-A on North Dale Mabry Hwy. on Monday, November 15th!**



## 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!**



### MCKITRICK ALL PRO DADS!

Our October All Pro Dad's Social Hour at ¡Cuatro Restaurant at Tampa Bay TPC had a great turn out! We had twelve dads attend with ten of them being new to our McKitrick family. Stay tuned to hear about our next upcoming event in the new

calendar year. In the meantime, if you want to learn more about All Pro Dads or how you can get involved, please reach out to Jason Crow at [allprodads@mckitrickpta.com](mailto:allprodads@mckitrickpta.com).



# MCKITRICK *Bobcats*

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EXCITEMENT!

**The McKitrick 5th Grade Class of 2022 just voted on their new theme that will be revealed soon! Fifth graders, be on the lookout for a class T-shirt design contest coming up next!**



# PRACTICING GRATITUDE *and* MINDFULNESS

The Holiday season is a perfect opportunity for introspection and personal reflection. Practicing gratitude and mindfulness meditation on a regular basis has been shown to reduce a negative state and increase positive attitude towards one's self and others. You can find a toolkit to practicing gratitude at this link: Gratitude Resources — [Calm Blog](https://blog.calm.com/gratitude-resources) (<https://blog.calm.com/gratitude-resources>)

***Below is a simple and brief mindfulness practice that can guide you in practicing gratitude:***

Take some time to find a safe and peaceful place for yourself. Take a few deep breaths and let your chest rise and fall with each inhalation and exhalation. Notice your breathing and close your eyes if it feels comfortable, letting go of any tension in the body.

As you continue to breathe, focus your attention to the area around your heart. Focus on the feelings of love, compassion, empathy, forgiveness. Bring to mind something or someone you are grateful for. Perhaps, you feel gratitude for being alive, or healthy. Perhaps you are grateful for the abundance of nature that produces food to nourish your body, and beautiful scenery to nourish your soul. Bring your attention to people who truly nourish you in your life and how they bless you with their presence.

Feel gratitude for your own life and the many gifts you have been blessed with. Notice how this gratitude feels. With each inhale, let this feeling grow outwards. Expanding to fill your chest, your arms and hands, your legs and feet. With each inhale this feeling grows, filling you up. And now, even as you return your attention to your breath, let your body remember the sensations of your gratitude (Adapted from Changetochill.org)

Other ways to practice gratitude include writing a letter to someone who has made a major impact on your life, letting them know specifically what you appreciate about them. Visiting someone who you appreciate and letting them know how you feel. Keep your "eyes out" throughout the day for reasons to say "thank you", paying attention to small actions. Finally, take a gratitude walk, and make a special effort to appreciate your surroundings (adapted from Therapist Aid - Gratitude Exercises).

You can also help your children practice gratitude. Ask them what are three things that they are grateful for, and what makes them feel proud. You can also help them by using a gratitude journal (such as the one linked here: [\*\*\*The 3 Minute Gratitude Journal for Kids: A Journal to Teach Children to Practice Gratitude and Mindfulness\*\*\*](#) (Press, Modern Kid: 9781948209564: Amazon.com: Books).

This will help your children practice gratitude on a regular basis and become more intentional with "looking inwards" and being introspective from time to time, noticing their thoughts, feelings and sensations. Increasing self-awareness can help children and adults become more grounded and confident individuals.



# October's McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight: PaperPartyDesign, Ink!

Hi McKitrick Families! I'm Kara Coleman, The Owner/Designer of PaperPartyDesign, Ink!, and a fellow McKitrick Mama of 2 Bobcats! (a 4th and 1st grader) PaperPartyDesign, Ink! was created in early 2016. Event and party designs, such as birthday parties, weddings & showers, seasonal and DIY personalized printable items are my specialty. I swoon over the little memorable details of what makes an event come together, whether it's an invitation for a child's birthday party, a wedding day program or baby shower banners, I love creating personalized designs that develop into precious memories of life's sweetest events! The past couple years I've been creating and adding more and more school related items in the shop as well, such as my best selling school memory kit printables and assorted graduation and seasonal holiday printables.

I am a one-woman shop who personally creates every design you see over at my shop. My Etsy shop is 100% Printables/DIY Digital Downloads, however my local clients love that I can offer 100% custom design services, printing, can order envelopes, and offer assembly and delivery also- rolled all into one price package. Completely custom design is available too! I've been in the Lutz area for almost 10 years. We love our McKitrick Bobcat Family and being a part of this incredible school! To help McKitrick throughout the year, I donate my creative design services for multiple school events happening at McKitrick and I look forward to contributing my creativity and designs where I'm able, for years to come.



**Kara Coleman**  
OWNER/DESIGNER  
813.323.0833

**PaperPartyDesign, Ink!- Your Creative Source for Printable Party Invitations, Decorations and More!** Find me on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest too! @PaperPartyDesignInk

**E** [Etsy.com/Shop/PaperPartyDesignInk](https://www.etsy.com/shop/PaperPartyDesignInk)

[paperpartydesignink@gmail.com](mailto:paperpartydesignink@gmail.com)



## At Home or At School Show Your School Spirit!!



**Mascot Universe is conveniently located at 19259 N Dale Mabry Hwy or shop online at [Mascotuniverse.com](http://Mascotuniverse.com) and have your spirit wear shipped for a fee. Mascot donates 20% of all sales to McKitrick!**

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**Please like on Facebook and watch out for social media updates!**

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**Please contact Mascot at 813-933-2333 with any questions about your orders.**

**WHETHER A NEWCOMER OR RETURNING FAMILY, CHECK OUT OUR NEW THEME BASED SHIRTS!**



**DON'T FORGET, SHOW YOUR SCHOOL PRIDE AND WEAR YOUR SPIRIT WEAR ON FRIDAYS!**



USE THIS QR CODE TO HEAD RIGHT TO THE MCKITRICK SPIRIT WEAR!

MCKITRICK ELEMENTARY WHERE "IT" HAPPENS!



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!**