



November 2024, Volume 24, Issue 11

BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKittrick Elementary

Message from the PTA Vice President

On behalf of the PTA, I am so relieved to see life on campus slowly returning to normal this month. We recognize that all members of the McKittrick community were impacted in some way by the hurricanes last month and we are incredibly grateful for everyone's health and safety. We were also relieved that our campus goats, Luna and Athena, did well through the storm in their shelter that was renovated last year. Even as a native of Tampa with many hurricanes under my belt, I still felt the stress and fear that is only heightened by trying to keep young kids safe during a natural disaster. The American Academy of Pediatrics has helpful guidance on talking with your children about natural disasters that you can click [here](#). Additionally, The Florida PTA has many hurricane relief links that you can find [here](#).

As we get ready for (hopefully) cooler weather, we will have a Winter Spirit Wear sale November 4-15. Make sure to get your orders in! We look forward to honoring and celebrating Veterans on November 8. Fall picture makeup day has also been rescheduled to November 8. As a reminder, there is no school on November 11 in recognition of Veterans Day.

Our PTA has partnered with Hungry Greek to host our next Dine Out on November 12 from 3pm-8pm. We will have 2 location options to best serve our population so make sure to stop by because 10% of sales will benefit our school. Finally, we are excited for our school to continue the important tradition of the Great American Teach-In on November 21. We look forward to seeing many parents on campus!

As we noted last month, the PTA and Administration decided to postpone our school fundraiser, Boosterthon. Boosterthon will now be held in the Spring with the kick-off scheduled for March 26 and the Fun Run scheduled for April 4. Mark your calendars!

The month of December will be jam packed with the holiday shop, holiday concert, and spirit days. In the meantime, I hope we can all welcome the month of November with open arms!

Brandi Kenny
PTA Vice President 2024-2025

CALENDAR

November

- 1st Reflections Applications Due
- 4-15 Spirit Wear Sales
- 8th Veterans Day Program / Fall Picture Makeup Day
- 11th Non-Student Day
- 12th Dine out: Hungry Greek
- 15th All Pro Dads Meeting
- 21st Great American Teach-In
- 25th-29th Fall Break

December

- 9-13 Holiday Shop / McKittrick Cares Toy Drive
- 12th Holiday Concert
- 13th All Pro Dad Meeting
- 16-20 Holiday Spirit Week
- Dec 23-Jan 3 Winter Break

JOIN THE
MCKITRICK
Parents Club



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

2024-2025 McKitrick Yearbooks are available to order! Prices will increase so don't wait! You can also design and purchase a business ad or student dedication. Ads will be available through January. 5th grade supplements are available to order which includes pictures from events that take place after the regular yearbook printing deadline. Supplements will be distributed in August.

[Click here to order your yearbook:](#)

YEARBOOK ORDER CENTER

2024-2025 McKitrick Yearbooks are available to purchase!

DON'T FORGET YOUR 5TH GRADE AD!



SCHOOL ORDER NUMBER 10651

ORDER NOW! PRICES WILL INCREASE IN JANUARY!



McKitrick Elementary

5503 Lutz Lake Fern Road

Lutz, Florida 33558

813.558.5427

Principal/Administrator:

Allison Cline



MCKITRICK





2024-2025 Student Academic Calendar
School Board Approved 9/19/23
Revised 10/23/24

Students' First Day of School	Monday, August 12, 2024
Labor Day/Non-Student Day	Monday, September 2, 2024
End of 1 st Grading Period	Friday, October 25, 2024
Veterans Day/Non-Student Day	Monday, November 11, 2024
Fall Break/Non-Student Days	Monday, November 25 - Friday, November 29, 2024
Students Return to School	Monday, December 2, 2024
Winter Break/Non-Student Days	Monday, December 23, 2024 - Friday, January 3, 2025
Students Return to School/Early Release Day	Monday, January 6, 2025
Early Release Day	Monday, January 13, 2025
End of 2 nd Grading Period/1 st Semester	Thursday, January 16, 2025
Martin Luther King, Jr./Non-Student Day	Monday, January 20, 2025
Florida State Fair/Non-Student Day for West County Schools only	Friday, February 14, 2025
Presidents' Day/Student Day	Monday, February 17, 2025
Strawberry Festival /Non-Student Day for East County Schools only	Monday, March 3, 2025
Spring Break/Non-Student Days	Monday, March 17 - Friday, March 21, 2025
Students Return to School	Monday, March 24, 2025
End of 3 rd Grading Period	Friday, March 28, 2025
Non-Student Day	Friday, April 18, 2025
Memorial Day/Non-Student Day	Monday, May 26, 2025
Last Day of School/2.5 Hour Early Dismissal End of 4 th Grading Period/2nd Semester	Friday, May 30, 2025

- Early Release Mondays scheduled October 21, 2024 - December 16, 2024, and January 27, 2025 - May 19, 2025 were converted to full school days after Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton school closures.
- East County schools are listed in the chart below. Only students attending these schools are scheduled for a non-student day on March 3, 2025. All schools not listed below are considered West County Schools.

Elementary			Middle	High	Non-Traditional
Bailey	Jackson	Springhead	Marshall	Durant	Simmons Career Acceleration Academy
Bryan PC	Knights	Trapnell	Mulrennan	Plant City	Simmons ESC
Buckhorn	Lincoln Magnet	Valrico	Tomlin	Strawberry Crest	Willis Peters ESC
Burney	Nelson	Walden Lake	Turkey Creek		
Cork	Pinecrest	Wilson PC			
Dover	Robinson				



2024-2025 Student Academic Calendar
School Board Approved 9/19/23
Revised 10/2/24 and 10/23/24

Students' First Day of School	Monday, August 12, 2024
Labor Day/Non-Student Day	Monday, September 2, 2024
Non-Student Day Hurricane Make-Up Day (Full School Day)	Monday, October 14, 2024 <i>Changed due to Hurricane Helene Schools Closed - Hurricane Milton</i>
End of 1 st Grading Period	Friday, October 11, 2024 Friday, October 25, 2024 <i>Extended due to Hurricane Milton</i>
Veterans Day/Non-Student Day	Monday, November 11, 2024
Fall Break/Non-Student Days	Monday, November 25 - Friday, November 29, 2024
Students Return to School	Monday, December 2, 2024
Winter Break/Non-Student Days	Monday, December 23, 2024 - Friday, January 3, 2025
Non-Student Day Students Return to School/Early Release Day	Monday, January 6, 2025 <i>Changed due to Hurricane Helene</i>
Early Release Day	Monday, January 13, 2025
End of 2 nd Grading Period/1 st Semester	Friday, December 20, 2024 Thursday, January 16, 2025 <i>Extended due to Hurricane Milton</i>
Martin Luther King, Jr./Non-Student Day	Monday, January 20, 2025
Florida State Fair /Non-Student Day for West County Schools only	Friday, February 14, 2025 <i>Revised due to Hurricane Milton</i>
Presidents' Day/ Non-Student Day Student Day	Monday, February 17, 2025 <i>Changed due to Hurricane Milton</i>
Strawberry Festival /Non-Student Day for East County Schools only	Monday, March 3, 2025 <i>Revised due to Hurricane Milton</i>
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Last Day of School/2.5 Hour Early Dismissal End of 4 th Grading Period/2nd Semester	Friday, May 30, 2025

- Changes/revisions due to Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton school closures are noted.
- Early Release Mondays scheduled October 21, 2024 - December 16, 2024, and January 27, 2025 - May 19, 2025 were converted to full school days after Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton school closures.
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Cork	Pinecrest	Wilson PC			
Dover	Robinson				



SHOPELITEINK.COM

11/4 - 11/15

**GET READY TO BUNDLE UP IN STYLE! OUR
WINTER CLOTHING SALE IS HERE!
ONLINE STORE WILL BE OPEN NOVEMBER 4TH AND CLOSE
ON NOVEMBER 15TH. ORDERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO
CLASSROOMS BEFORE FALL BREAK!**



DINE OUT



HUNGRY GREEK

fresh. healthy. Greek.

Tuesday, November 12th
3PM - 8 PM



JOIN US AT:

ORDER ONLINE!



Hungry Greek (Van Dyke)
3947 Van Dyke Rd Lutz, 33558

OR

Hungry Greek (Ballantrae)
17772 Aprile Dr. Land O' Lakes, 34638

10% OF PURCHASES WILL GO TO
MCKITRICK, OPA!



PLEASE JOIN US IN
HONORING AND
CELEBRATING

VETERANS DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



NOVEMBER 8th

3rd thru 5th grade- 8:00-8:45

VPK thru 2nd grade- 9:00-9:45

National Anthem - Color Guard - Guest Speakers

McKitrick Elementary
School

Please RSVP with QR Code by 11/6





MCKITRICK ELEMENTARY

Toy Drive

Accepting Donations

December 9-13, 2024

Bring a toy and spread some joy!

Place a new, unwrapped toy in marked boxes located across campus. There will also be a donation box outside the front office until 3:30 pm each day.

Donations to benefit students and brighten their holiday.

Thank you for your generosity!

We will also be collecting donations at the Holiday Concert on 12/12.



If you have any questions, please contact: mckitrickcares@mckitrickpta.com



HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 12, 2024

5-7 PM

**Performances by: Melody Makers,
Bobcat Singers Chorus, Mickey Tricks**

(Save-the-Date, More info to follow!)

McKittrick's WONDERLAND

Gift Shop



DECEMBER 9TH-13TH

Students will shop as a class

Students can pay with cash, Check or gift card. To purchase a gift card go to www.wonderland-GC.com

Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities

More Information to come

Great American Teach In - November 21, 2024

Hi Bobcats! As part of our mission to celebrate the diverse cultural makeup of our school, we would like to highlight an opportunity for families to come on campus and share their culture. The Great American Teach In is a wonderful event to share your culture through a presentation or experience to enrich our students' experiences and understanding of their fellow classmates. If you are interested in being a presenter for your child's class, please reach out to your teacher. If you would like to present to multiple classes/grade levels, please contact the front office to coordinate at (813) 558-5427. GATI was started to help students learn about the world around them and we would love for you to be a part of it.



**The Great American (GATI)
TEACH-IN**

**NOV.
21,
2024**

Please contact the school of your choice and ask for the Teach-in Coordinator by **November 8, 2024**

For more information, please contact the school of your choice or email volunteer.services@hcps.net for district-wide virtual/in-person opportunities.

Fall Conference Night

Our PTA was excited to provide dinner for our hard-working teachers as they stayed late on campus for Conference Night. Our teachers enjoyed delicious food from Los Chapos Tacos. Thank you to our Teacher Appreciation Committee for coordinating the meal.



Hello from the Library!

A big thank you to all the families that participated in the Tissue Box Storybook Character Project this year. We appreciate all the hard work of the students and all the tissues we now have available when needed in our Media Center.

After Hurricane Milton all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes came to the media center for our **Student Literacy and Media (SLAM)** Kickoff lessons. For some classes this program is optional, but there are many classes (like all of 5th grade) that this project is required. Please check with your child's teacher to see if it is an optional project or required.

First and Second grade students start their SLAM lessons **Friday, November 1st** and will continue visiting the media center for their kickoff lesson through **November 7th** and then Kindergarten will have their lessons **November 13th-15th**. The student handout is in this newsletter so that you all have it available.

All SLAM entries are due Tuesday, January 21st! We will have SLAM/Literacy/SMATH night on Tuesday, January 28th on campus where all projects will be on display. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Aimee.Kennedy@hcps.net.

Happy Reading!
Ms. Kennedy

Congrats to **Mrs. Monaghan's Kindergarten Class** for winning the PTA Membership Drive Pizza Party! They enjoyed delicious pizza from our Business Partner Three Brothers Pizza. Thank you for your support.

You can still get a PTA membership at <https://mckitrick.givebacks.com/store>





Welcome to SLAM 2024-2025!

SLAM is a reading program for all Hillsborough County K-12 students which promotes reading a collection of books nominated for our state awards.

Students are encouraged to read these nominations and respond to them through artistic expression. Projects will be displayed at school and district Showcase events and celebrations.

Students are invited to read the books listed on the back of this paper and respond in any of the following ways (multiple entries are accepted):

Video Creative Expression

Students may work together or individually to create a video about one of the book selections. Videos must be one minute or less in length, and must contain pictures, sound, title, author and citations. These elements must have appropriate copyright permissions or be original work.

Students in grades K-2 may work independently, in a group of up to three students, or as a class. Students in grades 3-5 may work independently, in a group of up to three students.

2D Art Expression

Individual students create a drawing, painting, collage, or digital media as an expression of one of the books. Artwork must be mounted on a sturdy material and must not exceed 11"x14", including mat. Artwork must lay flat on the poster (no 3D art accepted).

A reader's statement which explains the inspiration and connection between the book and the student work must be submitted with each project. This statement must be at least one sentence but may not exceed 300 words. This must be the work of **students only**, and adults are not allowed to alter the student creation in any way.

******3-5 students may create 3D Art Expression that represents the book, guidelines are on the MC webpage-and can be given to the student if they ask for them.**

Entries must be submitted to the Media Center by January 21, 2025. We will have a school SLAM showcase on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, during SLAM/SMATH/LITERACY night.

The top entries for the school will be taken to the district SLAM Showcase at the Tampa Convention Center on March 5, 2025. Those student creators will attend to experience the projects from all the schools. Students will also get to see award-winning authors and storytellers from this years Sunshine State books.

Any Questions please feel free to contact Ms. Kennedy at Aimee.Kennedy@hcps.net

Booklist for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade Students

These booklists include nominations for
the Florida Literacy Association (FLA) Children's Choice Award
the Sunshine State Young Readers Association Jr. (SSYRA Jr.) Award

TITLE	AUTHOR	Nominated By
<i>Mr. S: A First Day of School Break</i>	Monica Arnaldo	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Henry Like Always</i>	Jenn Baily	SSYRA Jr.
<i>The Greatest in the World</i>	Ben Clanton	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Evergreen</i>	Matthew Cordell	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Our Incredible Library</i>	Caroline Crow	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Carina Felina</i>	Carmen Deedy	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Rick the Rock of Room 214</i>	Julie Falatko	SSYRA Jr.
<i>My Pet Feet</i>	Josh Funk	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Got Your Nose</i>	Alan Katz	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Duck Never Blinks</i>	Alex Latimer	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Don't Eat Bees: Life Lessons from Chip the Dog</i>	Dev Petty	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Awesome Orange Birthday</i>	Mitali Ruths	SSYRA Jr.
<i>We Are Going to be Pals</i>	Mark Teague	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Out of the Blue</i>	Robert Tregoning	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Worm and Caterpillar are Friends</i>	Kaz Windess	SSYRA Jr.
<i>Milo's Monster</i>	Tom Percival	FLA
<i>Babo</i>	Astrid Kamalyan	FLA
<i>I am Made of Mountains</i>	Alexandra S. D. Hinrichs	FLA
<i>Jumper</i>	Jessica Lanan	FLA
<i>Our Roof is Blue</i>	Sara E. Echenique	FLA
<i>Okra Stew</i>	Natalie Daise	FLA
<i>Matter</i>	Lola M. Schaefer	FLA
<i>Anne & Her Tower of Giraffes</i>	Karlin Gary & Aparna Varma	FLA
<i>Wolfboy is Scared</i>	Andy Harkness	FLA
<i>Invader From Mars</i>	Peggy Robbins Janousky	FLA

Please note: Our library has a limited collection of these books. If you are looking for books and can't find them at our library or the public library, they can be purchased online or at local bookstores. Students may also try to get them on Boundless a free E-book library provided for the district.

Booklist for Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Students

These are nominations for the Sunshine State Young Readers Association Award.

TITLE	AUTHOR
<i>The Aquanaut (Graphic Novel)</i>	Dan Santat
<i>The Big Sting</i>	Rachelle Delaney
<i>Bound for Home</i>	Meika Hashimoto
<i>The Cursed Moon</i>	Angela Cervantes
<i>Finally Seen</i>	Kelly Young
<i>The Girl who Built a Spider</i>	George Brewington
<i>The Grip</i>	Marcus Stoman
<i>Home Away from Home</i>	Cynthia Lord
<i>Manatee Summer</i>	Evan Griffith
<i>Penny Draws a Best Friend</i>	Sara Shephard
<i>Race to Fire Mountain (Future Hero Book 1)</i>	Remi Blackwood
<i>The Shelterlings</i>	Sarah Beth Durst
<i>Treasure in the Lake (Graphic Novel)</i>	Jason Pamment
<i>The Ultimate Goal</i>	Tommy Greenwald
<i>When Sea Becomes Sky</i>	Gillian McDunn

Please note: Our library has a limited collection of these books. But if you are looking for books and can't find them at our library or the public library, they can be purchased online or at local bookstores. Students may also try to get them on Boundless a free E-book library provided for the district.

All Pro Dad Returns in November with a Focus on Gratitude

After an unexpected pause in October due to the severe storms, we're eager to resume our All Pro Dad meetings. We sincerely hope all our McKitrick families have managed well through the challenges brought by the recent events.



This November, we invite you to reconnect at our upcoming meeting on **Friday the 15th at 7:00 AM** in the McKitrick Elementary cafeteria. This month's theme, Gratitude, couldn't be more timely. As we approach Thanksgiving, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the blessings in our lives, especially in the aftermath of adversity.

Join us for a morning where dads and kids come together to explore the profound impact of appreciating what we have—our lives, relationships, and even the challenges that help us grow. This discussion promises to enhance our understanding and appreciation of the everyday joys that we might overlook.

Don't forget to RSVP for the meeting by scanning the QR code provided or clicking here: https://allprodadchapters.com/chapters/2990/chapter_meetings/58414/rsvp. Your early registration, though not obligatory, helps us prepare better and ensures a smoother start to our gathering, allowing more quality time for breakfast and bonding with your kids.



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

We look forward to seeing many familiar and new faces as we continue to build our community of supportive and engaged dads. Let's make this meeting a testament to our resilience and gratitude.

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!





McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight

Your Trusted Family Law Partner!

Facing complex family challenges? I'm Geneviève Torres, Partner at NLG Divorce & Family Law. The Divorce process can be overwhelming & I want to help you through this difficult time! Here are some things to know about our firm:

- ◆ Family-Centric Approach: We prioritize your family's well-being, offering personalized solutions for delicate matters.
- ◆ Expertise You Can Rely On: Our team knows family law inside out, from divorce to domestic violence.
- ◆ Innovative Strategies: Tailored to your unique needs, ensuring the best outcomes.
- ◆ Empathy & Compassion: We guide you with care and understanding.
- ◆ Strong Advocates: Fierce protectors of your rights and your family's interests.
- ◆ Comprehensive Services: From mediation to litigation, we have the tools to help.
- ◆ Schedule Your FREE Consultation with Geneviève H. Torres today.
- ◆ Location: 3003 W. Azelee St - Tampa, FL 33609
- ◆ Contact Us: 813-350-7890
- ◆ Visit Our Website: www.nlgfamilylaw.com

Let's work together for your family's brighter tomorrow!

#NLGFamilyLaw #DivorceSupport #FamilyLaw #LegalGuidance

NLG
DIVORCE & FAMILY LAW

Geneviève H. Torres
Partner

*Your family's well-being is our top priority.
Let us provide you with the legal support
and guidance you deserve.*

813.350.7890
www.nlgfamilylaw.com
@nlg_divorceandfamilylaw



McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight



Sunshine Pediatrics of Florida

Bringing Sunny Smiles To Children From 0-21 Years



Payal Patel, MD
Pediatrician

Saumeel Mehta, MD
Pediatrician

Kwisa Davis, MD
Pediatrician

Kristina Black, MD
Pediatrician

Lauren Calhoun
DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC

Juliana Chaves
MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC



- Pediatric Care from Birth - 21 years
- Nutritional and Exercise Counseling
- Well Child/ School and Sports Physicals
- Urgent and Sick Visits
- ADHD, Depression, & Anxiety
- Asthma and Allergy Care
- Immunizations
- Telemedicine

Call (813) 948-2679 to make an appointment!!



Lutz 18934 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Suite 101 Lutz, FL 33548	Wesley Chapel 33921 SR-54 Ste 101 Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	Tampa 1213 W. Hillsborough Ave, A Tampa, FL 33603	Zephyrhills <i>NEW</i> 7008 Jason Dr Ste 1, Zephyrhills, FL 33541
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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: **OPEN POSITION**

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!