



January 2025, Volume 25, Issue 1

BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKittrick Elementary

Message from the PTA Vice President

Welcome to a new year, PTA! As expected, the month of December flew by. It was fantastic to see so many families at the holiday concert. We hope your kiddos enjoyed the hot chocolate on a chilly night. Thank you so much for the amazing support of the Holiday Shop and Toy Drive as well.

While the school year may be halfway through, we still have so many exciting events coming up. Ticket sales for the Sweetheart dance will begin online on January 10. The dance will be held on January 31. We are also looking forward to a fun SMATH and Literacy night at the school on January 28 from 5pm-7pm.

Please join the PTA virtually for our second general PTA meeting of the year on January 22 at 5:30pm. We will discuss important plans for the remainder of the year and vote on budget changes. We are also looking for volunteers to join the nominating committee, which will help establish our slate of 2025-26 PTA Executive Board.

On behalf of the PTA, we wish you a happy and healthy new year!

Brandi Kenny
PTA Vice President 2024-2025

CALENDAR

January

- 6th Early release day
- 13th Early release day
- 10-17 Sweetheart Dance
Ticket sales
- 17th All Pro Dads Meeting
- 22nd PTA General
Meeting
- 28th SMATH and Literacy
Family Night
- 31st Sweetheart Dance

February

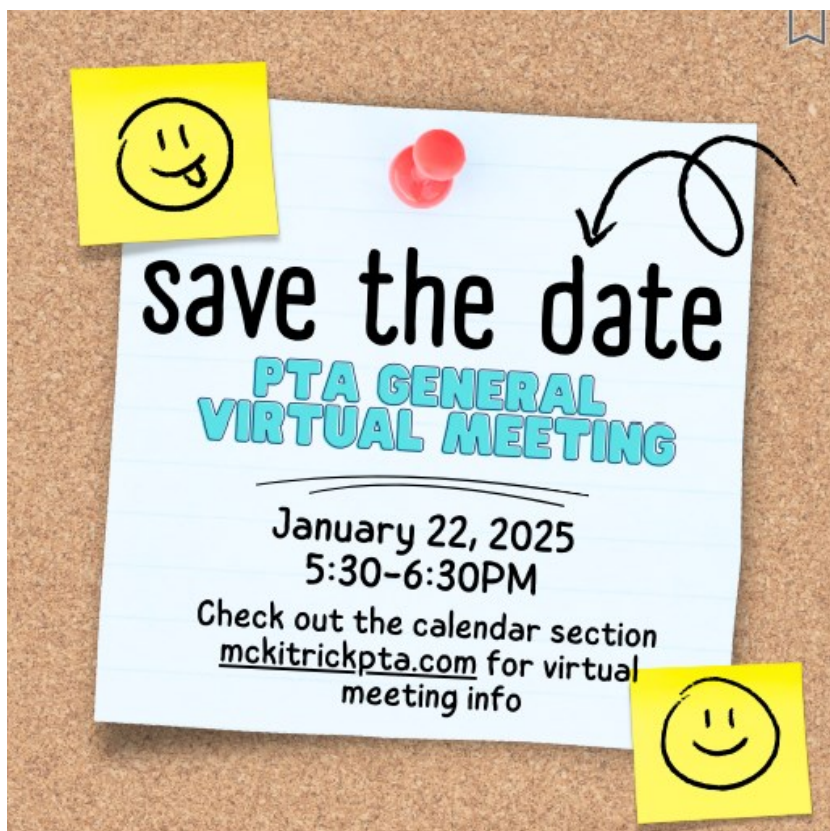
- Tbd Spring Conference
Night
- 14th Non Student Day
(FL State Fair Day)
- 21st All Pro Dad Meeting

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



MCKITRICK ELEMENTARY PRESENTS



A NIGHT IN PARIS

Sweetheart Dance

*McKitrick Gals, grab a special adult and
join us for an evening of fun!*

FRIDAY, JANUARY | 31 | 6:00PM - 8:30PM

SOIRÉE STATE

5710 HAPPY TAILS LANE, LUTZ



\$45 COUPLE*, \$20 SIBLING TICKET
(*1 ADULT + 1 CHILD)

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ONLINE ONLY
FROM 1/10-1/17 AT:
MCKITRICK.MEMBERHUB.COM/STORE

*Due to limited parking at the event venue, please plan to carpool or
use our complimentary shuttle bus from Grace Family Church.*

Martinez Middle School - 6th Grade Rising Open House

Don't forget to attend the 6th-grade rising open house at Martinez Middle School. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about life as a Mustang. Tour the campus and learn about general expectations, electives, extracurriculars, and more! Hope to see you there! February 20th from 5:00-7:00.

SAVE THE DATE

FEB. 20TH 5:00-7:00

ATTENTION FUTURE MUSTANGS!

MARTINEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL IS HOSTING OUR 6TH GRADE RISING OPEN HOUSE

COME LEARN ABOUT LIFE AS A MUSTANG! TAKE A CAMPUS TOUR AND SEE WHAT MMS HAS TO OFFER

FEBRUARY 20TH 5:00-7:00

Join us for a night filled with information

2024/25 McKitrick Yearbook



**ORDER
NOW!**

Yearbooks are a great way
we capture memories and
can look back on all the fun
we had for years to come!

Scan the QR code now to order a
2024–2025 McKitrick yearbook!

*PRICES WILL INCREASE
JANUARY 28TH!*



A collection of colorful icons representing science and literacy: gears, a lightbulb, a globe with a rocket, an open book, a ruler, a microscope, and math symbols like plus, minus, and multiplication.

SAVE THE DATE FOR

SMATH

AND

LITERACY NIGHT!

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Teachers will provide hands on learning
through science, math and literacy activities.
The SLAM showcase will displayed in the
media center.



McKitrick Cares

Thanks to all of your generous donations to the Toy Drive, we were able to make the holidays extra special for fellow McKitrick students. The donations also went to students at Alexander Elementary School. They were able to have a day for parents to come in and shop for gifts for their children.

We couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you!

THANK
YOU

Holiday Shop

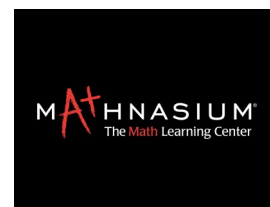
Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the holiday shop a success! It would not have been possible without volunteers to help set up, clean up and volunteer for slots to assist our students with shopping. Big thank you to Lisa Peluso & Megan Wilson who did a wonderful job with this annual McKitrick event. What a great opportunity for students to select thoughtful gifts for loved ones while practicing budgeting and learning the joy of giving.



Family Fun Night & Holiday Concert

The 2024 Holiday Concert was a beautiful evening with performances from the Ukulele group, Bobcat Singers Chorus, Mickey Tricks Rock Band, and the Melody Makers Chorus, showcasing an array of musical talent from the children. BIG thank you to Mrs. Ward and Mr. Whiting who both go above and beyond for their students.

Thank you to our community partners - Three Brothers Pizza, Twisted Kettle, Just a taste by Glenna, Mathnasium and Art, Paper, and Scissors for providing food, snacks and fun! We hope you enjoyed shopping at the McKittrick Holiday Shop and appreciate your donations to the McKittrick Toy Drive. Thank you to the Family Fun Nights Committee for providing complementary hot chocolate and our volunteers for making this event possible.



Hello to all Reflections Participants!

On **Jan 28th (SMATH and SLAM night)** we are having a special reception in Mr. O's art room to celebrate the art, music, dance and literature pieces in the contest. This reception will be open anytime from **5:30-6:30** in the art room. All artwork and literature will be on display provided that you turn it in as physical artwork by Jan 21st. Since all art was originally sent virtually, please send these items to the office to be collected. I will provide a bin to the office to collect visual artwork, literature and photography. Please mat your artwork and literature pieces with a black background. You can use cardstock, it does not need to be an actual mat. I will be playing all dance and music compositions in this room, also. You do not need to do anything except show up if you submitted a dance or music composition.

We plan to have a goody bag and a certificate for each child who participated in the program. We want each child to feel accomplished in this program! We are excited to honor your student. For any student moving on to the county level, I will need to hang onto your artwork. That info should be coming out soon.

If you are not able to attend, please let us know so we can arrange for these items to be delivered to your child's classroom. We are still happy to display your child's art if you are unable to attend. In addition, music and dance will be featured on morning announcements the week of Jan 20th. Please double check the list below and alert us of any errors! Thanks to all of our participants and congrats to our award winners! A special shout-out to our Award of Excellence and Merit winners moving on to the county level.

Primary:

Lit:

- Jonah Kubach- Award of Excellence

Int:

Lit:

- Anna Hurless- Award of Excellence
- Suprajaa- Rajesh- Award of Merit
- Penelope Wagoner- Award of Merit

Music:

- Kinnari Patel- Award of Excellence
- Anna Hurless- Award of Merit
- Ruhika Kerkar- Award of Merit
- Elise Harake

Visual Arts:

- Anya Adhikari- Award of Excellence
- Austen Williams- Award of Merit
- Penelope Wagoner- Award of Merit
- Ritika Doddapaneri
- Anna Hurless

Photography:

- Zaki Nazary - Award of Excellence

Dance-:

- Penelope Wagoner-Award of Excellence





FUNdraising Corner

Does your car need a wash?

McKittrick Elementary PTA is hosting a fundraiser offering \$30 car wash vouchers for just \$10, supporting 5th grade activities. This is a fantastic opportunity to get a great deal on a car wash while contributing to enriching experiences for the 5th graders. Don't miss out on this chance to support the school community and keep your car sparkling clean.

Order forms were sent out with the students.



GET CLEAN CAR HAPPY

Join 5th grade in selling these amazing Car wash Coupons.

Each voucher is \$10 for a \$ 30 car wash value.

Coupons expire in 12 months.

Single washes purchased via your organization fundraiser are valid at all Tidal Wave Auto Spa locations.

Sale takes place January 6th – January 17th

LUTZ, FL | SUN VISTA DRIVE

2209 SUN VISTA DRIVE
LUTZ, FLORIDA

LUTZ, FL | ATMORE GROVE DRIVE

3893 ATMORE GROVE
DRIVE
LUTZ, FLORIDA

NEW PORT RICHEY, FL | LITTLE RD

5136 LITTLE RD.
NEW PORT RICHEY,
FLORIDA

NEW PORT RICHEY, FL | RIDGE ROAD

8539 RIDGE RD
NEW PORT RICHEY,
FLORIDA

OLDSMAR, FL

3500 TAMPA ROAD
OLDSMAR, FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

2600 34TH ST N
ST. PETERSBURG,
FLORIDA

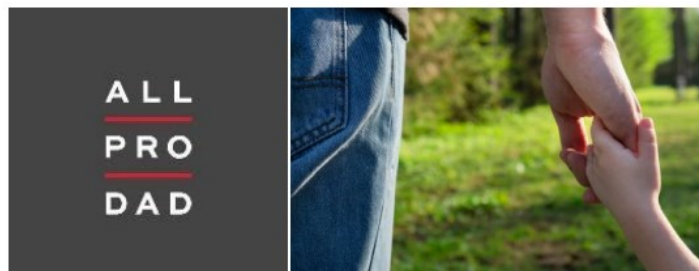
For additional Location:

<https://www.tidalwaveautospa.com/locations>

Coupon Vouchers will be delivered to student 2-3 weeks after last date of presale.

All Pro Dad January Update

Happy New Year, McKitrick families! We hope your holiday season was filled with joy and togetherness. As we step into a new year, it's the perfect time to reflect on our last meeting and prepare for the next.



Recap of December's Meeting: Humility

Thank you to all the dads who joined us this December for a heartfelt discussion on the theme of Humility. It was inspiring to hear so many stories shared by our dads and kids, especially during a season that calls for reflection and gratitude. Humility isn't just about seeing less of ourselves; it's about recognizing the value in others, a lesson that's particularly poignant at this time of year.

To keep the conversation going at home, here are a couple of questions to discuss with your children:

Dad to Kid: In what ways is having humility heroic?

Dad to Kid: What do you think it takes to have humility?

Kid to Dad: What is the most inspiring act of humility you have ever seen?

Kid to Dad: Who is someone you know who has humility? Why did you choose that person?

January Meeting: Embrace Self-Discipline

Our next meeting will be on **January 17th, 2024, at 7:00 AM** in the McKitrick Elementary cafeteria. We'll explore the theme of **Self-Discipline**. This vital skill helps us manage our actions and emotions effectively, paving the way for success in all aspects of life. As we embrace the new year, let's discuss how self-discipline can help us and our children set and achieve meaningful goals.

RSVP Now: Please [RSVP](#) at by January 15th. Even though RSVP is not required to attend, doing so helps us prepare your visitor's badge in advance, ensuring a smoother check-in process and more quality time spent at breakfast with your kids.



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

We look forward to seeing you there and diving into a discussion that promises to start our year on a strong and positive note!





McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight

Blair Sawhill | Your Trusted Travel Partner w/ Magical Travel & Events

As a military spouse of 20 years and a mother of four, I understand the joys and challenges that come with family travel. My experiences living in and exploring various countries around the world have shaped my approach to planning unforgettable vacations. I believe every trip should be a blend of adventure, relaxation, and cherished memories.

Why Choose Me?

1. **Personalized Planning:** I take the time to understand your family's unique needs and preferences, ensuring that every detail aligns with your vision of the perfect getaway.
2. **Extensive Travel Experience:** Having traveled extensively, I offer firsthand insights and recommendations that go beyond standard travel guides. Whether it's a family-friendly resort or a hidden gem, I know where to find the best options.
3. **In-Depth Research:** I thrive on the excitement of pre-trip planning. From accommodations to activities, I meticulously research to ensure you get the best value and experiences.
4. **Strong Supplier Relationships:** With over 30 years of successful client experiences, my partnership with Magical Travel & Events means I have access to trusted suppliers and exclusive deals that can enhance your travel experience.
5. **Empathy and Understanding:** As someone who has navigated the complexities of military life and family travel, I can empathize with the unique challenges you may face and offer practical solutions.

Let's Make Your Dream Vacation a Reality

As Graduation season approaches, why not think outside the box when it comes to gift-giving? This year, consider gifting your loved ones a Spring Break escape!

Imagine the joy of unwrapping a surprise trip—an opportunity to create unforgettable memories together. Whether it's a relaxing beach getaway, an adventurous mountain retreat, or an exciting city exploration, a vacation can be the perfect way to bond and rejuvenate.

Contact me today to start planning your next adventure!

Blair@magicaltravelevents.com 813.298.5565

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BLAIR SAWHILL
TRAVEL ADVISOR

813.298.5565
blair@magicaltravelevents.com
www.mtetravel.com

Making Travel Easy Since 1992



McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight

Primrose School of Lutz is owned by Ketan and Ami Gohil, after taking over ownership on May 1, 2017. Mr. & Mrs. Gohil also own a thriving Primrose School in the Bloomingdale area that opened in 2011, and Mrs. Gohil taught Pre-Kindergarten for several years at another local Primrose School. They have two daughters that are both Primrose School graduates, and live in the Lutz area.

Each Primrose school is independently owned and operated by Franchise Owners, who partner with parents to help children build the right foundation for future learning and life, and offer an environment that helps children have fun while nurturing Active Minds, Healthy Bodies and Happy Hearts®.

Primrose School of Lutz is managed by Mrs. Sonya Boyette, Managing Director of Operations, and operated daily by Mrs. Monica Rivas. Mrs. Boyette has over 18 years of Primrose experience and over 30 years of experience in Early Childhood Education as a teacher, management team member, trainer, and Franchise Owner. Mrs. Rivas has over 10 years of experience in Early Childhood Education and 5 years with Primrose Schools. The Leadership Team includes, Ms. Danielle Nales (Admin Assistant), Mrs. Samantha Strong (Education Coordinator), and Mrs. Denise Meier (Education Assistant). The Leadership Team has over 30 years of experience with Primrose Schools, as teachers and management team members.

We are in our first Semester in our Academic School year for our Infant through Pre-Kindergarten classes, and we are looking forward to an exciting Summer Camp for our after-school age children, full of live and virtual field trips, in-house guest speakers/activities, cooking lessons, art appreciation, science fun, and more! Our STEAM based themes make Summer Camp learning fun and challenging. We have low student/teacher ratios, meals included, and experienced/trained teachers.

Primrose School of Lutz is accepting applications for just a few openings in a couple of classes for our 2024 – 2025 Academic School Year. Enrollment for 2025 – 2026 will be open to the public Spring 2026, and we will be accepting applications for new students. To learn more about our school and programs, logon to our website: www.primroselutz.com or our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/primroselutz . You may also contact the school office at [813.920.9384](tel:813.920.9384).





McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight

Fresh Legal Perspective was founded by attorneys who believe there is much more to life than billable hours. We understand that to our clients' time is precious and resources are limited. That is why we are committed to working closely with our clients to develop a plan that will provide them with practical solutions, including cost effective legal representation.

We strive to:

- Provide legal services at a reasonable price. When possible, we will offer a flat rate for our services.
- Be aware of our clients' needs and create a strategy that works towards those goals in the most efficient way possible.
- Be a socially responsible company by encouraging our attorneys to participate in Hillsborough County's free legal assistance program and encouraging attorneys and staff to volunteer with local non-profit organizations.

Services Provided:

- Estate Planning, including:
 - Last Will & Testament
 - Living Will, Health Care Surrogate, & Power of Attorney
 - Revocable Trust & Irrevocable Trust
- Probate & Probate Litigation
- Business Transaction
- Civil Litigation
- Real Estate Law
- Tax Law

While everyone cannot always leave a monetary legacy, everyone does have the power of making the preparations that will make their family's lives easier during difficult times – a gift that is better than any sum of money. Contact our compassionate and experienced estate planning and probate lawyers to schedule a consultation, so that you can make a difference for your family today.

Fresh Legal Perspective – Passionate staff. Professional service. Personal touch.

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**FRESH LEGAL
PERSPECTIVE**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Protect your Family
Wills. Trusts. Estates.

A photograph of a woman with dark curly hair smiling and holding a baby. The letters 'FLP' are overlaid on the right side of the image.

FLPLawFirm.com

813.448.1042



Yvonne T. McKittrick 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**

McKittrick Serves: **OPEN POSITION**

McKittrick 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@mckittrickpta.com to learn more about open positions and volunteer opportunities!