



January 2024, Volume 24, Issue 1

BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary

Message from the PTA President

Happy New Year Bobcats! As we begin to plan for the second half of the school year, we would like to invite you to our **PTA General Meeting**. It will be held virtually on **Tuesday, January 23rd at 5:30 PM**. Members will be voting on our revised mid-year budget. We are also looking for volunteers to be on the nominating committee which will help slate the 2024-25 PTA Executive Board. Lastly, we will be giving updates on all the exciting events and activities coming up. Come join the conversation!

JOIN US VIRTUALLY FOR THE

MCKITRICK PTA GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD | 5:30PM

Virtual meeting link will be posted prior to the meeting in the calendar section of mckitrickpta.com

McKitrick PTA members will be voting on revised mid-year budget and electing the nominating committee that will prepare the slate of McKitrick PTA Executive Officers for the 2024-25 school year. You also don't want to miss our exciting update of upcoming events and how you can get involved!

See you there!



You can still purchase a PTA membership for the 2023-24 school year at [Join the PTA \(mckitrickpta.com\)](http://Join the PTA (mckitrickpta.com)).

Heather Foster PTA President

CALENDAR

January

12-19 Sweetheart Dance Online Ticket Sales

15th No School—MLK Day

19th All Pro Dad Meeting

22-26 Florida Literacy Week

23rd PTA General Meeting

24th Report Cards Available

25th SMATH & Literacy Night

February

9th All Pro Dad Meeting / Sweetheart Dance

16th Non-Student Day

22nd Martinez Open House

McKitrick Elementary

5503 Lutz Lake Fern Road

Lutz, Florida 33558

813.558.5427

Principal/Administrator:

Allison Cline

Hillsborough County

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Preparing Students for Life

Martinez Middle School 6th GRADE OPEN HOUSE



This event is for rising 6th grade students and their families. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about life as a Martinez Middle School Student! Tour the campus, learn about general expectations, electives, extracurriculars, and more! We hope to see you there!

February 22nd | 5:30PM-7:30PM

Quick Links

[McKitrick PTA Website](#)

[McKitrick PTA Store](#)

[McKitrick PTA Facebook](#)

[McKitrick PTA Twitter](#)

[McKitrick Elementary Website](#)

[2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

[McKitrick Lunch Menus](#)

[Meal Pre-Pay](#)

SAVE THE DATE! SMATH & LITERACY NIGHT IS BACK!

Please mark your calendars for Thursday evening, January 25, 2024 for some fun learning with your Bobcat friends. Teachers will provide hands-on learning through science, math & literacy activities in the cafeteria, while the library will get everyone excited about reading and writing! A dinner option will be available for purchase, and kids in attendance that evening will receive a free homework pass!



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!



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SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

The 2023 Holiday Concert, which was held on December 6th, was an unforgettable evening with joyful performances and community spirit. The stage came alive with the enchanting melodies of the Bobcat Singers Chorus, the electrifying beats of Mickey Tricks Rock Band, and the heartwarming tunes of the Melody Makers Chorus, showcasing an array of musical talent from the children. Complementing the harmonies were the delectable offerings from Three Brothers Pizza, Station House BBQ, and Twisted Kettle, offering a delightful dinner spread and scrumptious treats. Activities from Swag Party Rentals and "Art, Paper, and Scissors" added an extra layer of excitement, while The Club at Cheval, McKittrick PTA toy drive, and the holiday shop, along with Elite Ink's spirit wear, fostered a sense of giving and festive cheer. It was a night filled with music and community engagement from our Bobcat families, setting the perfect tone for the holiday season!





McKitrick Elementary
presents

DENIM &
Diamonds
Sweetheart Dance

McKitrick girls, grab your dad or other special adult for an evening of fun with heavy hors' d'oeuvres, lawn games, a photo booth, & of course music & dancing!

Friday, February 9, 2024

6:00-8:30pm

SoireEstate - 5710 Happy Tails Ln, Lutz

\$45 Couples Ticket (1 adult, 1 child)

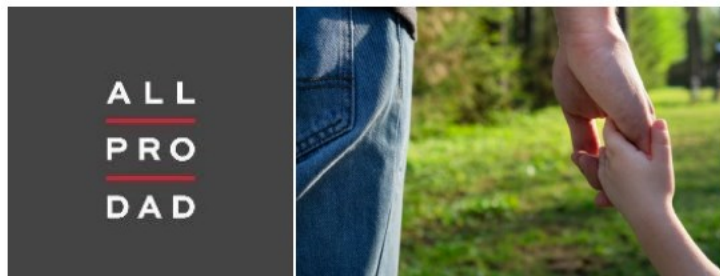
\$20 Sibling Ticket (1 child)

** Please just 1 adult per family*

Tickets on sale from 1/12/24-1/19/24 online only at
<https://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.*





January Update & Highlights!

Attention dads! As we step into the new year, it's a fantastic opportunity to deepen our connections with our kids. Join us for the first All Pro Dads meeting of 2024 on **Friday, January 19th, at 7:00 am** in the **McKitrick Elementary Cafeteria**. This month's theme is **Dependability**, an essential trait that

strengthens trust and builds respect, making it a perfect focus to kick off the year.

RSVP at https://allprodadchapters.com/chapters/2990/chapter_meetings/47605/rsvp to help us accommodate everyone comfortably. As always, a quick and smooth check-in at the school reception is key, so don't forget to bring your ID.

Recap of December's Meeting

A big thank you to the dedicated McKitrick dads and kids who joined us for our December session, focusing on the profound theme of **Forgiveness**. For those who couldn't be there, we encourage you to engage in this reflective exercise with your child:

Dad to Kid: Who is someone you've had to forgive?

Dad to Kid: How did you do it, and how did it make you feel?

Kid to Dad: When is a time you needed to forgive someone?

Kid to Dad: What is the hardest part of forgiving someone?

The discussions we had on Forgiveness opened up avenues for understanding, empathy, and personal growth. It was a powerful reminder of the strength in letting go and the healing power of forgiveness, especially during the holiday season.

Also, heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to our book drive – your generosity will enrich many more of our meetings and families.

As always, feel free to reach out to me, your All Pro Dad captain Steve Attard, at allprodads@mckitrickpta.com for any input or thoughts.

Looking forward to another impactful session and building even stronger connections with our wonderful McKitrick families!



Volunteer Update

DECEMBER RECAP

Welcome back, Volunteers! Your dedication has transformed this holiday season into something truly magical, from dazzling concerts to heartwarming toy drives. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers who generously gave their time to assist with various holiday events. Special appreciation goes to homeroom parents for their unwavering support and contributions, enhancing classroom festivities.



A special shout-out goes to the Special Events Committee/Family Fun Night committee (Amy Sweeney, Donna Tucker, Lacey Ranucci, Lauren Jennings, Christie Quinones). Their collaboration with the school administration and staff elevated the holiday concert experience, coordinating food and activities for a memorable evening.

Lisa and Megan's holiday shop was a tremendous success, raising an impressive ~\$7,000 for our school. We commend them for their hard work, providing students with a fantastic shopping experience while raising funds for our school.

Kudos to Jennifer Ptack for leading the winter spirit wear sale, injecting school pride into our halls. The McKittrick Cares Team, including Lymari La Llave, Yajaira Chappelle, and Hyojeong Bae, did an outstanding job handling the toy drive, ensuring students at our sister school, Alexander Elementary, had a joyful holiday season.

Our appreciation extends to Meredith Renuart for spearheading the Reflections program, successfully enrolling participating students and submitting their work. Steve Attard's dedication to the All Pro Dad's program and IT website services for the PTA deserves special mention.

JANUARY UPDATE

As we step into the new year, consider unleashing your inner hero by joining us in upcoming volunteer opportunities, including SMATH & Literacy Night and the SweetHeart Dance. Keep an eye out for sign-ups in the coming weeks.

TUTORING HELP

If you're passionate about making a lasting impact on a child's learning journey, join our tutoring program. We still have room for 1-2 volunteers to support our teachers. Email our tutoring committee at tutoring@mckittrickpta.com if you're interested; a short training session will be provided.

LUNCHROOM HELP

We need your help to keep our lunchroom running smoothly during December. Please sign up to volunteer [here](#)

PTA OPEN POSITION - HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

We also have an open position for the Health and Safety committee for the rest of the school year. If you're interested in heading or assisting in this committee, please email us at volunteercoordinator@mckittrickpta.com.

For newcomers, if you wish to participate in volunteering opportunities, please fill out the [Y.E.S form](#) before engaging in any volunteer activities. This application process is required by Hillsborough County Public School for the security of our schools.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support!

McKitrick Serves

Paws for Literacy:

Paws for Literacy is a free program offered for children ages 5 and up. Humane society provide reading stools, books and treats (for the animals), but children are welcome to bring their own books if they wish. Books provided include animal tales, stories of the animal-human bond and books that teach empathy to young readers. Humane Society's Paws for Literacy program offers volunteer spaces on **Tuesday and Thursday 2:45-4pm**

[Paws for Literacy - Humane Society of Tampa Bay \(humanesocietytampa.org\)](http://humanesocietytampa.org)

Goat Volunteers:



HELLO MCKITRICK FAMILIES

Would you like to help take care of our sweet McKitrick goats Luna & Athena? If you are interested please reach out to me Katie at McKitrickServes@mckitrickpta.com

Thank you to our McKittrick Business Partners!

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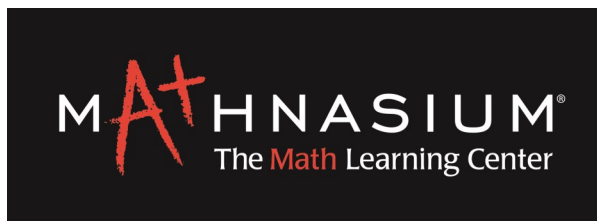
Elite
INK

Thank you to our McKitrick Business Partners!

Gold



Silver



We love our Business Partners! With the start of the new school year, we are welcoming new Business Partner applicants. We have several commitment levels available. For more info, please contact Emily Draper at businesspartners@McKitrickPTA.com



Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary School 2023-2024 PTA COMMITTEE

President: Heather Foster

Family Dine Outs: Lisa Peluso & Megan Wilson

Vice President: Lindsay Jimison

**Bobcat Bash: Barrie Vause, Gina Willemin,
Jennifer Teixeira & Lacey Ranucci**

Treasurer: Erin Circelli

**Sweetheart Event: Lindsay Whitney, Lauren
Borio, Consuelo Benassi De Tilio & Shelley
Blanco**

Recording Secretary: Jessica Campbell

**Teacher representative: Principal Cline & Mrs.
Contreras**

**Sons & Stars Event: Candace Kasetta & Tiffany
Rendel**

Parent Outreach: Gina Willemin

Concession: Louise Johnstone

Fundraising: Darbie Wilder

**Family Nights: Amy Sweeney, Donna Ticker,
Christie Quinones, Lacey Ranucci & Lauren
Jennings**

Special Events: Hannah Breig & Becky Maenner

Student/School Support: Risa Anasky

**Fifth Grade Activities: Chryssa Samhoury,
Lindsay Jimison, Farheen Aldeen, Melissa
Weitzenfeld, Consuelo Benassi De Tilio, Tiffany
Rendel, Lauren Borio**

Programs: Barrie Vause

Communications: Lauren Constantine

Open House: Heather Foster & Lindsay Jimison

**Newcomers/Kindergarten Round Up: Brandi
Kenny & Hanyeh Pulver**

**Teacher & Staff Appreciation: Ariel Martinez,
Jessica Williams, Jincy Soler, Jennifer Ptack,
Melissa Weitzenfeld**

Parents Club: Chryssa Samhoury

All Pro Dads: Steve Attard

Health & Safety: **OPEN POSITION**

Homeroom Parents: Brittany Harake

McKitrick Serves: Katie Metz

Volunteer Coordinator: Viviana Lit

**McKitrick Cares: Lymari La Llave, Yajarira
Chappelle & Hyojeong Bae**

Memberships: Kim Hunt

Reflections: Meredith Renuart

Spirit Wear: Jennifer Ptack

Tutoring: Ariel Martinez

**Boosterthon: Consuelo Benassi De Tilio, Erin
Circelli, Christie Quinones, Jincy Solar & Gina
Willemin**

Junior Achievement: Loren Mednick

**Holiday Shop: Lisa Peluso &
Megan Wilson**

**Website/Givebacks (formally MemberHub):
Steve Attard & Hanyeh Pulver**

**Bobcat Bash: Barrie Vause, Gina Willemin,
Jennifer Teixeira & Lacey Ranucci**

Yearbook: Robert Hudson & Cassandra Johnson

Business Partners: Emily Draper

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!