



November 2022, Volume 22, Issue 11

BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary

Message from the PTA President

Hello Bobcat Family!!

As we approach the holidays, 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!

We're thankful for the support of our families, faculty, business partners, and our ROCK STAR PTA Team that make McKitrick an amazing & safe place for our children!!

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

Jessica Campbell
PTA Vice President



CALENDAR

November

4th Report Cards Available

10th Veterans Day Program

11th Veterans Day/Non Student day

14-17 McKitrick Care Clothing Drive

17th Great American Teach In Family Dine Out: Three Brothers NY Pizza

18th All Pro Dads Meeting

21-25 Fall Break

December

5-9 McKitrick Care Toy Drive/ Holiday Shop

8th Holiday Concert

19-23 Holiday School Spirit Week

McKitrick Elementary

5503 Lutz Lake Fern Road

Lutz, Florida 33558

813.558.5427

Principal/Administrator:

Allison Cline

McKitrick Cares

Hi Bobcats! Due to Hurrican Ian and scheduling conflicts, the annual **McKitrick Cares Clothing Drive** will now be held **November 14-17**. Donation boxes will be outside the front office and cafeteria (bus drop-off). Please send in any items listed below on the flyer. Thank you for your support. Questions?

Email mckitrickcares@mckitrickpta.com



MCKITRICK CARES

CLOTHING DRIVE

Along with our annual coat drive, we will also be collecting additional clothing items to restock the nurse's office.

! RESCHEDULED FOR

NOVEMBER 14-17

Donation boxes located outside of front office and cafeteria.

Accepting clothing for elementary-age kid sizes up through adult large. All gently, used clothing should be laundered and ready-to-wear.

New or Gently Used Items Needed:

- Coats
- Jackets
- Sweaters
- Warm Clothing
- Shirts
- Shorts



New, Unopened Items Needed:

- Underwear
- Socks

All donations will be given to students and the nurse's office. Many kids come to school underdressed or need a change of clothes. Thank you for supporting them. Contact mckitrickcares@mckitrickpta.com with questions.



Fall Conference Night

Our PTA was thrilled to provide dinner for our hard-working teachers as they stayed late on campus for Conference Night.

We truly couldn't have picked better teachers at McKittrick!

Thank you to our PTA business partner, **Chicken Salad Chick**, for the delicious food and yummy cookies for dessert.

Thank you to Lauren Borio and Melissa Weitzenfeld from our Teacher Appreciation Committee for coordinating the meal.

School Custodian Appreciation Day

October 2 was National School Custodian Appreciation Day. The Teacher Appreciation Committee put together goody bags for our McKittrick custodians as a thank you for the incredible work they do to keep our school clean and safe. We also provided goody bags to our amazing bus drivers and student nutrition staff.



JOIN THE MCKITTRICK Parents Club

Have you joined the McKittrick Parents Club Facebook group? It's a great place to connect with other families, ask questions, and share information relevant to McKittrick Elementary.



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



The **Boosterthon Team** would like to thank everyone including all our wonderful parents, PTA, all the donor's, business donors, endless volunteers, homeroom parents, school admin, teachers and students for all your support during our Boosterthon fundraiser!

We are excited to announce we **SMASHED** our goal of \$50K and raised >**\$66K** for teacher grants for classroom resources, printers & school technology, cafeteria enhancements, Goat pen & other school improvements.

Congratulations to all our WINNING classes below!

★ TOP CLASS OVERALL: Ms. Dorazil ★

- Top Kindergarten class: **Ms. Dorazil**
- Top First Grade class: **Ms. Nolan**
- Top Second Grade class: **Ms. Moffatt**
- Top Third Grade class: **Ms. Hill**
- Top Fourth Grade class: **Ms. Noble**
- Top Fifth grade class: **Ms. Brewer**



As promised, since our school met our fundraising goal, Ms. Cline and Ms. Stone will have a **lip-synch battle!** The top 3 fundraising students in each grade level will get to join them!

Thanks again for all your support in making this year's Fun Run such a success!

*2021-2022 Boosterthon Team
McKittrick Elementary PTA*



As we approach our Thanksgiving season, we want to express how thankful we are to all our volunteers! **Your time and willingness to step in and support our school is very appreciated!** Thank you to all who have served our school for the National Walk and Bike to School Day, Biz-Town, and Boosterthon.



We also look forward to having volunteers starting again in the lunchroom! Fill out [this form](#) if you are interested.

Looking ahead to December, we are excited to provide our members with volunteer opportunities to help with the Holiday Shop and more!

Two things to note:

1. Before you perform any in-person volunteer work, you must have a [Y.E.S form](#) approved by HCPS. If you did one last year, you do not need to do it again, but will need one if it has been longer than that.

1. Please make sure you log your volunteer hours – whether it be for hours you’ve done at home or on campus. This helps us recognize both your contribution and our school’s collective effort. Submit your hours [here](#) or at [McKitrickPTA.com](#) → Programs → Volunteer → Log Hours.



Sign up for an Amazon smile account and assign McKitrick Elementary School to receive 0.5% of all purchases!



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT
DINE OUT!!!

**THREE
BROTHERS
PIZZA**

November 17th | ALL DAY
17773 Gunn Hwy, Odessa

ALL PROCEEDS FROM SALES THAT DAY GO TO
OUR SCHOOL! TELL THEM YOU'RE FROM
MCKITRICK WHEN YOU ORDER!

LAST CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE
SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS: November 18th

This year's theme is: **SHOW YOUR VOICE**

CALLING ALL

Artist
Choreographers
Composers
Dancers
Film Producers
Musicians
Photographers
Writers



The County has extended their submission deadline, so all HCPS are extending our deadlines as well. This means if your student would like to submit entries, there is still time to do so. Also, any students who have already submitted entries are able to edit their submissions until the new deadline. Don't forget you can submit 1 entry per category, so you are invited to participate in as many categories as you would like.

Information can be found at: www.McKitrickPTA.com

You can also email us at: Reflections@McKitrickPTA.com and we will send you an Informational Packet and answer any questions you may have about the program. All entries must be submitted by 11:59pm on **Friday, November 18th** via email to: Reflections@McKitrickPTA.com

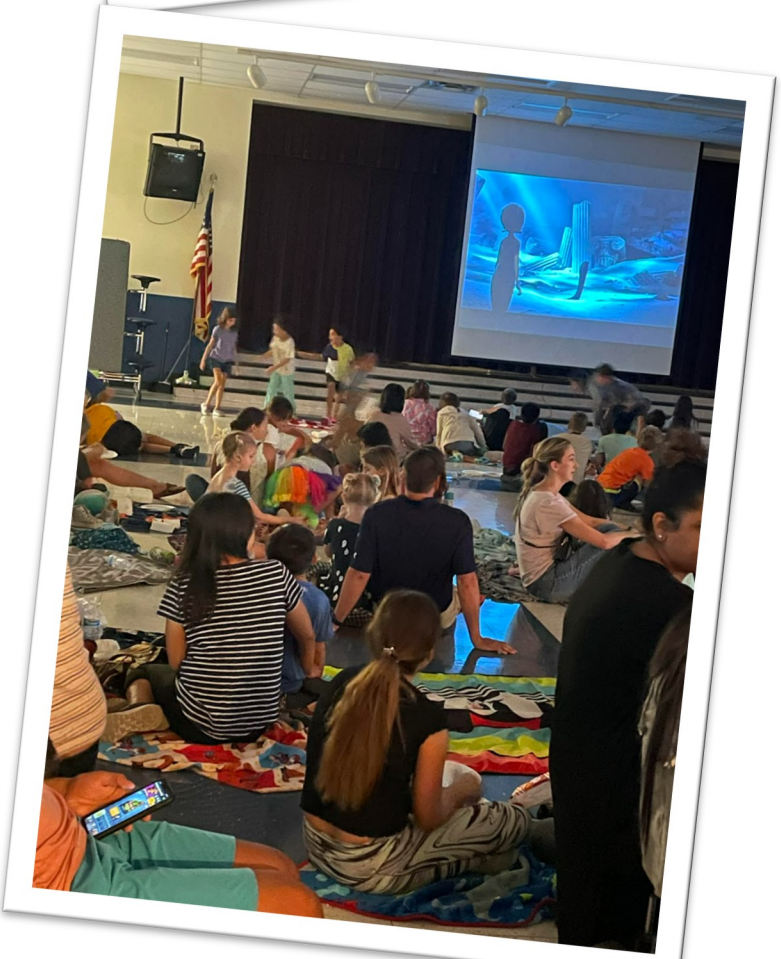
This is a National Program with Awards available for our Students at the School, County, State and National Levels.

MOVIE NIGHT!

Movie night was back at McKittrick and we had a fantastic turn out! Students, teachers, and families watched a fun fall movie while enjoying free popcorn! Our new bobcat mascot Blaze was also there for the celebration!

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the PTA.

Keep an eye out for our next family fun



McKitrick Serves

McKitrick Services Committee is designed to help cultivate the love of service within our Bobcat Family. We are excited to start this program and are looking forward to creating more events that give our families the opportunity to serve the community together.

Interested in helping with this new committee?

Email us at: McKitrickServes@McKitrickPTA.com

We are planning 2 service opportunities for December and will announce the dates and sign up opportunities soon.



Family Service Event

Date: TBD

Paws for Literacy

Date: TBD



McKitrick All Pro Dad's,

What an amazing full October meeting last month! So much joy from everyone discussing the topic of Reading. Here is feedback to share with you when we asked the kids and Dads about Reading:

From the kids:

'My Dad likes books about sports'
 'He reads the boring news everyday' lol
 'My Dad reads about flying'

From the Dads:

'My children like to read and memorize Bible verses'
 'My son has read up to the 6th Harry Potter book already'
 'My daughter loves to read so much that she started writing her own books!'

We also discussed how up to 1 in 5 children have extra challenges in learning how to read and we cheered on everyone for being willing to persevere through these hurdles. Some Dads shared how they prefer audiobooks and listen to over a hundred a year.

What excitement to hear all the wonderful ways our Bobcat family appreciates lifelong learning!!!

The next meeting topic for us to enjoy together is **Thankfulness** and the location is the cafeteria 7am to 7:30am Friday November 18th.

Here is the next meeting RSVP link; we check in at the front office at 7am with a driver's license for our next amazing 30 minute meeting:

https://allprodadchapters.com/chapters/2990/chapter_meetings/43475/rsvp

Attached is a link to an All Pro Dad article on Thankfulness: <https://www.allprodad.com/10-things-to-be-thankful-for/>

Please ask questions and provide your feedback to allprodads@mckitrickpta.com. Thank you Bobcat family for being and raising such involved compas-



Quick Links

[McKitrick PTA Website](#)

[McKitrick PTA Store](#)

[McKitrick PTA Facebook](#)

[McKitrick PTA Twitter](#)

[McKitrick Elementary Website](#)

[2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

[McKitrick Lunch Menus](#)

[Meal Pre-Pay](#)

Walk and Bike to School Safety Day

October 12 was National Walk and Bike to School Safety. The PTA organized a morning meetup at Hope Church and formed a "walking school bus" to campus. Students received a warm welcome from Mrs. Stone along the way.

Thank you to all of the Students, Parents, and four-legged friends who joined in! It was a great way to start the morning and celebrate the importance of walking and biking safely. Thank you to our PTA volunteers for ensuring everyone's safety and to Katalin Vinczi-Sierra from our Health and Safety Committee for organizing the event! We also want to thank Hope Church for allowing us to use their parking lot for the event.





McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight

For the past few years, the McKitrick PTA has given us an opportunity to promote our school and our services in the newsletter. Rather than rah-rah about our awesome school, we prefer to just say THANK YOU!

Since opening nearly 4 years ago, **Bach to Rock** has nearly 400 kids taking weekly music lessons or participating in one of our 18 bands. Our first lesson in November 2018 was with Nadira, a McKitrick student. The support from the Bobcat community is unmatched and represents the largest percentage of our students taking lessons. Thank you so much!

It's amazing that many of our original McKitrick students from 2018-2019 are still taking private music/DJ lessons or are members in one of our bands. Some are now Mustangs or Warriors, and their Bobcat siblings are now taking lessons. Thank you so very much!

We are excited to continue as a McKitrick PTA sponsor in 2022 and beyond. THANK YOU for supporting Bach to Rock!



**THIS
SCHOOL
IS COOL.**

lutz.bachtorock.com

Snack Ideas When Traveling

The Holidays are here, and traveling will start to begin! Whether you are traveling by car, train or plane, snacks are always a crucial part of planning (especially with kids). The challenge is keeping the snacks healthy and convenient. Having your child carry their own backpack with snacks is also very helpful, which is where a kids bento snack box comes in handy. Packing an insulated lunch box with some items that might need to stay cold is a great idea as well (if able depending on the travel).

Here are some snack ideas when traveling:

1. Nuts: These keep well, are healthy and easy to pack. You can buy them in already portion-controlled bags or easily bag them yourself. As a source of plant-based protein, healthy fats, and fiber, nuts provide nutrients that can keep you full for hours. There are so many to choose from.
2. Vegetables: Baby carrots, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers are all great snacks on the go and keep well without refrigeration while traveling. Vegetables have a ton of vitamins, minerals, and fiber.
3. Portable fruits: Great nutrient-rich snack and easy to travel. Bananas, apples, clementines, canned fruit in its own juice and apple squeezes are all good options. Dried fruit is also easy and healthy to travel with.
4. Salty snacks: popcorn, pretzels, goldfish, veggie straws, crackers, and low sugar cereal are good salty snacks when traveling. These take time to eat, and kids of course love them.
5. Granola bars: You can either bring your own or make homemade ones before travel. Some good store-bought granola bars are: Lara bars, kind bars, Natures Bakery, Made Good, Z-bars. Granola bars also contain great nutrients to help achieve a well-balanced snack when on the go.
6. Homemade trail mix: This can be a fun way to get the kids involved in asking them what they would want in a trail mix. Store bought is also a good option and easy especially if adding snacks to your travel is last minute.

Homemade trail mix ingredients:

1. Pick a nut (pistachios, almonds, cashews, walnuts, peanuts, pecans)
2. Pick a dried fruit (blueberries, cranberries, raisins, banana chips, cherries)
3. Pick a seed (sunflower, flax, pumpkin, hemp)
4. Pick a sweet treat (m&m's, peanut butter chips, chocolate chips, marshmallows)
5. Pick a grain (cheerios, granola, popcorn, pretzel)

One last addition to your snacking needs is ginger. Although it might not be something you think of, ginger is a natural aid in digestion and relieves nausea. When traveling consider packing ginger chews or ginger teas to have easy-to-access relief on hand when needed for motion sickness or overeating at a holiday meal.



Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary School

2022-2023 PTA COMMITTEE

President: Lindsay Jimison

Vice President: Jessica Campbell

Treasurer: Erin Circelli

Recording Secretary: Tanya Kayani

Parent Outreach: Yasamine Vieland

Fundraising: Megan Wilson

Special Events: Lindsay Whitney & Kelly Lynn Shultz

Student/School Support: Brandi Kenny

Programs: Jessica Diefenderfer

Communications: Lauren Constantine

Parents Club: Chryssa Samhoury

All Pro Dads: Clint Swigart

Homeroom Parents: Brittany Harake

Volunteer Coordinator: Viviana Lit

Memberships: Yasamine Viehland

Spirit Wear: Jennifer Ptack

Boosterthon: Darbie Wilder, Gina Willemin, Consuelo Benassi & Erin Circelli

Bobcat Bash: Darbie Wilder, Gina Willemin, Barrie Vause, Lacey Ranucci

Holiday Shop: Jessica Diefenderfer & Lisa Peluso

Business Partners: Emily Draper

Family Dine Outs: Kristin Swenson & Melissa Chevalier

Open House: Tanya Kayani

Fifth Grade Activities: Jessica Diefenderfer

McKitrick Cares: Heather Foster & Katie Metz

School-Wide Hospitality/Decorating: Cheryl Rodriguez & Jessica Williams

Sweetheart Event: Lisa Peluso, Tanya Kayani & Jessica Diefenderfer

Sons & Stars Event: Evan Walker & Adam Grier

Family Nights: Amy Sweeney, Donna Ticker, Lacey Ranucci, & Barrie Vause

Teacher Appreciation: Lauren Borio, Jennifer Ptack, Cassandra Johnson, Viviana Lit, Melissa Weitzenfeld

Health & Safety: Jessica Greene & Katalin Vinci -Sierra

McKitrick Serves: Katie Stahl, Heather Foster & Michelle Dacanay

Reflections: Katie Stahl, Michelle Dacanay & Meredith Renuart

Junior Achievement: Rick Coleman & Loren Mednick

Tutoring: Paula Hamadani

IT- Website: Steve Attard

Memberhub: Holly Montgomery & Steve Clark

Yearbook: Robert Hudson & Cassandra Johnson

Social Media: Chryssa Samhoury

Newsletter: Cristine Whitman

Front Marquee: Erin Circelli

Concessions: Louise Johnstone & Iris Sims

Family Nights: Amy Sweeney, Melissa Chevalier & Punit Shah

Family Dine Outs: Kristin Swenson & Melissa Chevalier

Newcomers/Kindergarten Round Up: Chryssa Samhoury & Farheen Aldeen