



BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKittrick Elementary

Message from the PTA President

School is now underway and I hope everyone is getting settled into their routines. The transition from summer to school can be overwhelming and so can keeping up with the communication and all the back to school paperwork! PTA has made this easier for parents by putting together some fantastic resources to keep up to speed on the happenings at McKittrick. Please make sure to sign up for your PTA membership which will subscribe you to memberhub to get our monthly newsletter, follow us on facebook and twitter and check out our website. Here you will stay informed and "in the know!".

Check out what PTA has been working on over the past month:

- ◇ School Beautification Day
- ◇ Open House
- ◇ General meeting with budget approval
- ◇ Family Dine Out
- ◇ Volunteer training
- ◇ Ice cream social on campus
- ◇ Reveal of new mascot costume
- ◇ Goat pen renovations
- ◇ School spirit shirt sale
- ◇ PTA membership drive

Thank you to all our volunteers for helping us have such a wonderful start to the school year.

Lindsay Jimison
PTA President 2022-2023



CALENDAR

September

- 1st PTA General Meeting
- 5th Labor Day - No School
- 7th Picture Day
- 16th All Pro Dads Meeting

October

- 2nd Custodian Appreciation Day
- 4th Boosterthon fundraiser kick-off
- 12th Walk & Bike to School Safety Day
- 13th Boosterthon fun run day
- 17th Non-Student Day
- 21st Reflections Contest Application Deadline / All Pro Dads Meeting
- 26th Family Fun Movie Night
- 31st PTA Membership Classroom Contest Ends



In August our McKitrick PTA was recognized for our hard work and achievements with receiving a 2021-2023 National PTA School of Excellence designation! This prestigious recognition symbolizes our incredible work and commitment as national leaders in building an inclusive and welcoming school-community where all families contribute to enriching the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

McKitrick was **1 out of 220+ schools nationwide** and **1 of 34 schools in the state of Florida** to receive this designation!!!

Why did we receive this designation? Our PTA received this recognition for the goals & achievements made last school year in helping the transition of our rising 6th grader students and families. This wouldn't have been possible without the feedback received from our 5th grade families and partnerships with Martinez Middle school.

ORDER NOW

McKitrick
YEARBOOKS
GET YOURS TODAY!

\$35
UNTIL 10/31
PRICE GOES
UP 11/1!

ORDER NOW

[HTTPS://MCKITRICKPTA.COM/YEARBOOK](https://mckitrickpta.com/yearbook)



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

Principal/Administrator:
Allison Cline



The Reflections Art Program Is Here and Ready for Submissions.

This year's theme is: SHOW YOUR VOICE!

CALLING ALL

Artist
Choreographers
Composers
Dancers
Film Producers
Musicians
Photographers
Writers



Interested in More Information?

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. Deadline for Submissions is October 21, 2022.

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

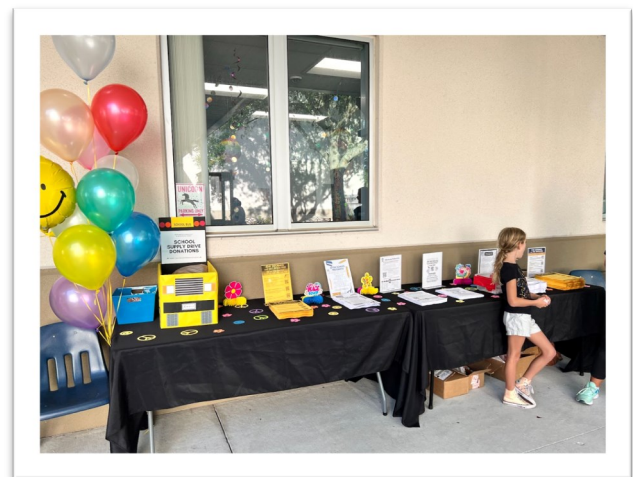
Open House 2022

We hope everyone had an amazing time at this year's Open House. We were thrilled to see everyone back on campus again! We saw lots of new faces!

Thank you to all the families who stopped by our PTA tables to ask questions and learn about membership. We hope your students enjoyed the McKittrick Bobcat stickers and had fun with the scavenger hunt. We especially want to thank all of the teachers and staff who worked so hard to prepare for Open House. We couldn't do it without you!

Have a fantastic year ahead, Bobcats!

- The Open House Team



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

Reminder: This is the Picture needed for the Yearbook

GIGANTE PRODUCTIONS

FALL 2022 PICTURE DAY

ORDER PROCESS ON PHONE



OPEN YOUR CAMERA APP ON YOUR PHONE



SCAN QR CODE
POINT CAMERA AT QR CODE AND WAIT FOR POP UP

ORDER PROCESS ON COMPUTER



GO TO
giganteproductions.com



CLICK ON
SCHOOLS > VIEW & ORDER

The School Beautification Day was an awesome way to start off the school year!

THANK YOU to all the Bobcats who came out to help make our campus even more beautiful!

The McKitrick Serves Committee is the newest addition to our PTA, and the Beautification day was our first event.

The McKitrick Services Committee is designed to help cultivate the love of service and giving 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



Back To School Teacher Luncheon

The PTA was thrilled to welcome back our amazing McKitrick teachers with a luncheon on August 2. The Media Center looked super groovy and fit in perfectly with this year's theme of Peace, Love, and Learning! The teachers were excited to hear all that we have on the PTA agenda for the upcoming school year. A big thank you to our PTA business partner, Three Brothers, for catering the lunch. The pizza, pasta, and salad were delicious!

The Hospitality Committee



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](#)
- [2022-2023 School Calendar](#)
- [McKitrick Lunch Menus](#)
- [Meal Pre-Pay](#)

The **PTA membership drive** is off to an exciting start! The following classes have taken an early leads, but anything can happen:

- ◇ **Ms. Monaghan's** first grade class
- ◇ **Ms. Brewer's** fifth grade class
- ◇ **Ms. Leske's** first grade class
- ◇ **Ms. Gaudineer's** second grade class
- ◇ **Ms. Contreras'** third grade class
- ◇ **Ms. Hill's** third grade class



Please support your school by purchasing a PTA membership. It does not require you to make a time commitment! <https://mckitrick.memberhub.com/store>

Chicken Salad Celebration

Huge thanks to all the Bobcat Families and teachers who came out to support McKitrick at our first dine out of the year at **Chicken Salad Chick!**

It was wonderful catching up with everyone and, as always, we showed our restaurant partner what an amazing community our school has! Stay tuned for information on our next dine out later in the fall!



McKitrick Cares

Thank you so much to our Bobcat families for your incredible donations. The McKitrick Cares School Supply Drive was a success!

Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to provide back-to-school supplies to students for the entire year.

The McKitrick Cares team was also able to organize the donations so teachers and staff can easily get supplies into students' hands year round.



Volunteer Orientation and Homeroom Parent Training was a success!!

Thank you to everyone that made it out to the August 30th meeting!! Check out these slides from the training session for information on volunteer requirements and opportunities, and learn how to get involved.

- ◆ [Volunteer Presentation](#)
- ◆ [Homeroom Parent Presentation](#)
- ◆ Fill out our [PTA Volunteer Interest Form](#) to let us know what types of volunteering opportunities you are interested in!
- ◆ You must complete an [HCPS Y.E.S form](#) before volunteering on campus
- ◆ Becoming a [McKittrick PTA member](#) means you'll receive all of our online volunteer sign up sheets

August was a great and busy start for our volunteers!! Our wonderful volunteers helped lay mulch on Beautification Day to get our campus ready for the school year. They also helped make Open House a success! Then everyone had a great time and enjoyed the Membership Drive Ice Cream Social event. Last, we wrapped up the month with a joining Homeroom Parent and Volunteer Training in the morning and finished strong with Spirit Night at Chicken Salad Chick! We could not have managed all these events for our school community without our volunteers!

Please know that you are appreciated and remember to make your hours count by [logging them!](#)





FUNdraising Corner



amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

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



McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight

National Bath is honored to be partnering with McKitrick Elementary School this year and would like to offer McKitrick families a special discount on any shower project + complimentary upgrades to Waterford Fixtures - a \$1200 value.

So if you are looking to transform your shower or bath - please call us at 813-733-6679 to schedule a free in-home estimate and be sure to mention McKitrick Elementary School!"

Or fill out the contact form on our website and someone will be in touch with you soon! www.nationalbath.com



National Bath

If you have or know of a business that would like to support McKitrick, Please contact Emily Draper at businesspartners@mckitrickpta.com

McKitrick All Pro Dad's,

What an amazing first meeting August turnout! Enjoy the picture below.

To help you learn more about what the monthly All Pro Dad meetings the third Friday of each month are all about, here is feedback from our August meeting:



“During the 30 minute meeting in the cafeteria, Dad’s had such wonderful things to say about their children on the topic Initiative and the kids won fun prizes for speaking up to share their thoughts on taking Initiative. Kids spoke on taking the initiative to make their beds, how they joined cheerleading or other sports and what they had accomplished in their practices like learning all 4 swimming strokes! An impressive list of accomplishments for everyone to hear. Dads were able to walk their children to their classes to drop them off after the team meeting which was nice for all involved.”

The next meeting topic for us to enjoy together is **Positivity** and the location is the cafeteria **7am to 7:30am Friday September 16th.**

Here is the next meeting RSVP link; we check in at the front office at 7am with a driver’s license: https://allprodadchapters.com/chapters/2990/chapter_meetings/41881/rsvp

We are also in the planning stage of an off-site, after hours meeting for the Dad’s, so be on the lookout for that information. Once you RSVP to one meeting, you are on the email distribution going forward.

I have attached a link to an article written by former Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Tony Dungy. He talks about managing a family and a demanding job. As a father of eleven kids, he has some excellent insight for us:

<https://www.allprodad.com/how-manage-work-and-family/>

Please ask questions and provide your feedback to allprodads@mckitrickpta.com. Thank you Bobcat family for being such a supportive school!



SCHOOL YEAR KICKS OFF IN A "SWEET" WAY!

What a "sweet" evening we had on August 23rd at the back-to-school ice cream social! We had a fantastic turnout, and it was wonderful to see students, families, teachers, and staff enjoying time together again on campus!

Big thanks to **Lutz Scoops** for providing the delicious ice cream, and we appreciate the **Cheval Athletic Club** for keeping the kids entertained with games and prizes! We were also fortunate enough to have three food trucks there providing dinner options for our families!

Our new Bobcat mascot also made his debut that night with lots of high fives, hugs, and photo opportunities. The school will be voting on a name for him soon!

Special thanks to everyone that signed up for PTA memberships! Bobcat families are amazing! Keep an eye out for our next family fun night coming up in October!



MCKITRICK'S Biggest Fund-raiser Of The Year Kick's Off October 4th!

Are You Ready???



Our goal is to raise **\$50,000** for teacher grants for classroom resources, printers & school technology, cafeteria enhancements, goat pen & other school improvements! 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. Money raised with **YOUR SUPPORT** over the recent years funded the track and laptops for all the teachers and administration at our school. This was a huge accomplishment that would not have been possible without your donations. 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.

Be sure to check your email from McKitrick PTA & your teachers to 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: Monday, September 19th
- ◇ Fundraiser Kickoff: Tuesday, October 4th
- ◇ Fun Run Day: Thursday, October 13th



We can't wait for our [Grand Land](#) Destination Dash!!



Helping your child to stay focused

It is often challenging for children to stay focused as they are tempted by many distractions. They might also feel rushed from having a busy schedule. Helping them build the mental and emotional muscle for initiating, remaining engaged and accomplishing a task is going to benefit them not only in the present, but also in the long run. Plus, it will make your life as a parent a lot easier, so that you do not have to worry about getting them to finish a task or accomplish a long term goal.

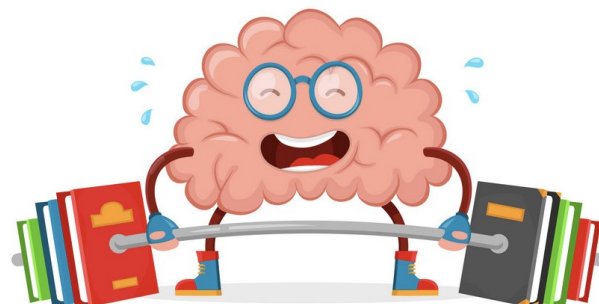


10 ways to help your child stay engaged and focused

1. Make sure your child's environment is conducive to learning and focusing. Eliminate distractions and ensure your child has a dedicated work/play space in your home so they can build positive associations. It is always a good idea to engage your child in creating a space that encourages focus time.
2. It can be difficult for children to focus on tasks that they are not comfortable with. Help your child to set their own goals by focusing on their interests, strengths and accomplishments. To encourage your child to do something that he or she is not confident with, start with a strengths based approach to increase their self-esteem and help them to see how they have conquered challenging moments.
3. Planning ahead of time with your child helps them to get mentally ready and know what to expect. Remind your child of their daily routine at the beginning of each day. Spend some time on Sunday, as you get ready for school, talking to them about their week ahead. You can print the daily or weekly schedule and post it on the wall to serve as a visual reminder.
4. Break down challenges into small, manageable steps, so that your child is focusing on one step at a time. This way, he or she can see progress and remain invested in accomplishing a bigger goal.
5. Help expand their ability to concentrate by suggesting activities that require focus, such as puzzles. During everyday activities, take time to point out small details to your child to help them practice staying focused on the present moment.

Helping your child to stay focused cont...

6. Name it to tame it! Helping your children to label their feelings can support their emotional regulation skills. You might say: "I see that this is hard for you. I wonder how you are feeling right now?" If your child is struggling to find the right words to express their emotions, offer some options, for example: sad, mad, hurt, confused, excited, frustrated, disappointed, etc.
7. Provide just enough support for your child to be successful. By helping your child feel safe and supported, you can increase your child's self-confidence and the ability to do things independently. Often, initiating a task can be hard, so help your child to start until they gradually build mastery over something new or scary. Make sure you check-in with your child once they are confident enough to do things on their own. This will help them to make progress and finish a task.
8. If your child is feeling frustrated and gives up, remain supportive and help them to get unstuck by taking a break, reflecting on their choices and consequences. This is another good time to use emotional regulation skills, by validating their feelings and helping them to explore creative problem solving skills.
9. Use the "Healthy Mind Platter" as a guide, to give your child plenty of time to have fun, connect with others, relax and rest. The Healthy Mind Platter includes 7 daily activities that optimize brain matter and create well-being. These are: focus time, play time, connecting time, physical time, time in, down time, sleep time. For more information go to: [Healthy Mind Platter - Dr. Dan Siegel \(drdansiegel.com\)](https://www.drdansiegel.com)
10. Finally, build consistency with a good routine, so that focus time becomes just another daily routine. And don't forget to have fun along the way! Kids feel extremely proud when they accomplish something new or difficult!





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