

GULFPORT ELEMENTARY



BULLDOGS

gulfport-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us

Principal
James Pribble

Vice-Principal
Brenda Butler

School Hours
8:35 to 2:35
“We teach bell to bell”

Uniforms: Yes

Title I School: Yes

Magnet or Academy Program:
Montessori Academy

Mascot: Bulldogs

Like Us on Facebook at Gulfport
Montessori Elementary PTA

Check out the full newsletter
version by visiting
<http://www.pcsb.org/gulfport-es>



Gulfport Elementary
2014 52nd St. South
Gulfport, FL 33707
(727) 893-2643

PTA CORNER

The spring PTA fundraiser will be week of **February 8th through February 22nd**. Watch for flyers. Delivery of the JELLY BELLY and chocolate items will be before Easter / spring break.....NEW THIS SPRING!!!! Any student selling over 12 items will be invited to a GAME EQUIPPED TRAILER FOR ONE HOUR on our school campus!

March 11th is an afterschool PTA skating party at Astroskate. Money must be PREPAID and the flyer will have a permission slip on the back that needs to be filled out and returned.

Looking forward....**April 23rd (Sat)** is the PCCPTA Beach clean-up day. Hope you can come out and help!

Watch your back-packs for more details

If you haven't **joined the PTA** yet, do so today. It is not too late to take advantage of the PTA discount card & special deals for PTA member (i.e. Legoland for \$30).

Gulfport Elementary PTA Membership Form 2015-16	\$5.00
Name: _____	
Email: _____ Phone: _____	
Child's name(s), Teacher(s): _____	
Interested in volunteering at school events or on the PTA Board? (not required) Yes No	

(drop this form off in the PTA box near the front desk)

Tea Room

- Open for Lunch & Afternoon Tea
- Special Events by Reservation
- Tea Trimmings Gift Shop



Birthday Parties

- 2 Hour Tea Party for Girls Ages 4-12
- Tea & Treats
- Games & Prizes
- Make & Take Craft Favor

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Montessori News

Maria Montessori used the term “normalized” to describe the child who is accustomed to their setting. In the classroom we work on setting up our environments and routines so students are successful on their own. The “normalized child” is able to function appropriately in this environment which results in a well-balanced child capable of achieving their goals.

The characteristics of a “normalized child” are...

1. Shows self-discipline
2. Demonstrates concentration
3. Acts independently
4. Is self-motivated
5. Enjoys repetition
6. Finds pleasure in work
7. Has a love of learning

To attain these characteristics, it takes time, patience, consistency, and a positive attitude. Let me know if you have any questions on Montessori.

Kathy Ludlum
Montessori Coordinator

Tidbits & Treasures

In order to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his emphasis on non-violence, one of the more prominent foundations established in his name has promoted the time between January 15 and February 14 (Valentine’s Day) as “100 Acts of Kindness” time. Students all over the country graph, chart, or otherwise record acts of kindness they do – either individually or as a class. Many display their progress on posters, etc. in order to remind/encourage others to do the same.

We’ll post pictures on the school website of classes who participated in their special ways. Check it out.....

DID YOU KNOW.... It has been 5 years since Gulfport Elementary has done a Yearbook. The Bulldogs are ready to remember the year. Yearbooks will be on sale shortly. Reserve yours today! Watch for more information and the order form to be sent home.

Yearbook Assistance

If you are interested in any type of assistance, please send an email to htracy@tampabay.rr.com. You can help by taking pre-orders, formatting pictures, helping either at home on your off hours or during the school day. Please contact Holly Tracy if interested.

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School Pyschologist Says

Let Your Kid take Time To Develop Social Skills:

- * Some kids can become very friendly with others while some may not be comfortable at all.
- * Some kids develop social skills at an early age, while some would not develop it until a certain age.
- * You can encourage your child to develop the social skills in a gentle way.
- * Remember not to force him as he might take it in a negative way.

Understand Fears Or Apprehensions Of Your Kid:

- * When your child is apprehensive about certain things, do not label him/her as being afraid.
- * Try and figure out the real issue that is bothering him.
- * Help him overcome the fear by digging deeper and finding out what factor induced the fear.
- * Even if your kid is not able to express the reasons behind the fear properly, you can try to bring out the real reason by letting your child express his inner feelings.

Explain Your Side:

- * If you have taken a decision that your child is not happy with, let him know the reasons that led you to take that decision. This way, you are helping him to grow up as a good decision maker.
- * Even if it is about the time you have fixed for your child to get back home, you can tell him that you have concerns regarding his safety.
- * Even if your kid is not happy with it at the moment, he would appreciate it as he grows into an adult.

Be Flexible:

It is good to set some rules and follow it. • You have to remember that there can be few exceptions when such instances arise. • You can bend a few rules at such occasions and make sure your kid stays happy and know that their happiness means a lot for you. • This rule can be applied while watching a match of your kid's favorite sport or a popular movie that you are watching with him.

Calendar of Events

Feb 3-10: School Choice Acceptance Period – IF you participated in the Application period, You MUST log in and accept or decline your options.

Feb 5: Montessori Meet Up – Campfire Night – 6 pm - pre-registration required

Feb 8–22: PTA Spring Fund Raiser

Feb 12: PTA Sock Hop Dance – Become a PTA member today to get the discount!

Feb 15: NO SCHOOL – Teacher day

Feb 20: Pinellas Cty PTA Health & Safety Fair – Largo Park 10 – 2

Mar 11: End of 3rd Quarter

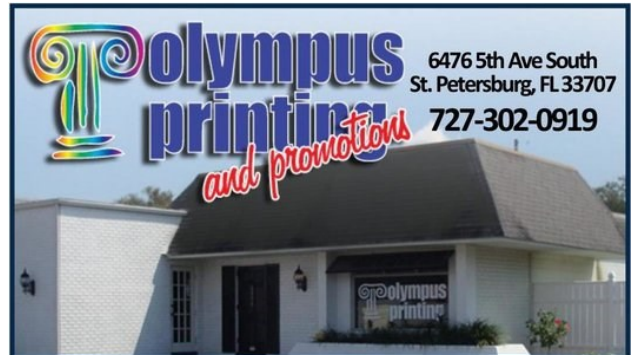
Mar 11: Astroskate Skate Party – preregistration required

Mar 13: MOVE CLOCKS AHEAD 1 hour! Daylight Savings Time

Mar 14: NO SCHOOL for Students

Mar 21–26: NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK

Mar 28: SCHOOL REOPENS – Don't be late! 8:35 start!



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Greetings from the Art Room!

Congratulations to the following students who have been recognized for the Kids Tag Art Awards: Josie Pitzen, Alicia Mitchell, and Avery La-vallee.

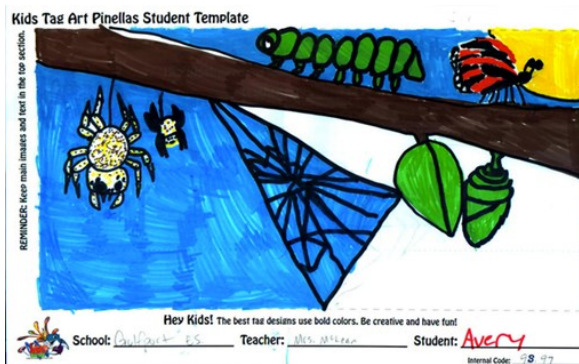
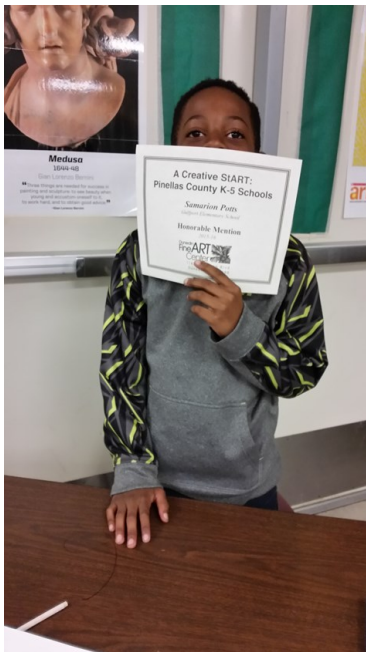
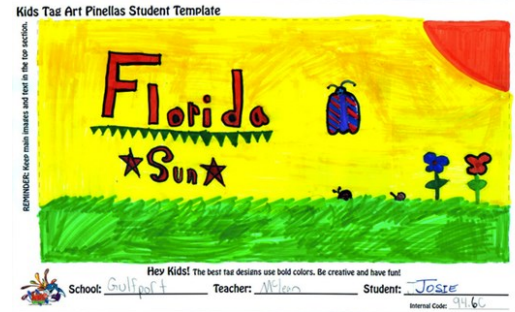
Kids Tag Art Artwork is still on sale at <http://kids-tag-art.myshopify.com/>

Please take the time to browse through Gulfport’s finest artists’ work.

Our young artists are making discoveries into Ancient Egypt. They are learning about mummies, pyramids, pharaohs, climate, and traditions. Be sure to ask them what they have learned from the Egyptians.

- ☐ Kindergarteners- are exploring clay and 3-dimensional form while studying Egyptian Scarab beetles.
- ☐ 1st graders- are working on visual movement and color to create beetles.
- ☐ 2nd graders- are working on Egyptian landscapes involving contrast and forms and shapes.
- ☐ 3rd graders- are exploring digital photography by creating “paintings” made out of light.
- ☐ 4th graders- are working on drawing by creating a sarcophagus influenced by ancient Egyptians.
- ☐ 5th graders- are making coil pots designed as canopic jars. These jars would hold the internal organs of a mummy.

Special Congratulations to Samarion Potts. His artwork won an Honorable Mention award at the Creative Start art show at Dunedin Fine Arts Center. Please visit <http://www.dfac.org/current-art-exhibits/> for a closer look. Congratulations to Sophia Santiago, her artwork was one of the best in the county and is also on exhibit at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

THANK YOU!!!

The volunteer e-mail data base is once again operational. Thank you for your patience while this data base was updated. If you have not received an e-mail recently (January, 2016), please let me know your e-mail address. I will add it to our data base. We want to thank all of our volunteers; **everyone** has been enormous help for our students. We look forward to your continued support.

If you have a Level II volunteer status and have not already completed a VCHS form, please see me. This is a new requirement this year from the State of Florida, Department of Law Enforcement.

Please check out and "Like" the Gulfport PTA Facebook page. Many thanks to Gulfport Elementary School's Parent Teacher Association for all they do for the students, faculty, administration and parents. Consider supporting this group by volunteering and becoming a member of this great organization.

Mary Ruth Bumgarner

Family and Community Liaison, Volunteer Coordinator

HOW TO LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS From home, your phone, or anywhere! You may also record your hours on the Volunteer Log in the front office.

Step 1: Login at <https://focus.pcsb.org>

Step 2: Sign into Focus using your v.account

Username: last name, first initial, all lower case letters

Example: v.smithd (if there is more than one dsmith in the countywide data base, you may need to go to the second or third letter of your first name)

Password: Last name (first letter capitalized) immediately followed by 4-digit birth year.

Example: Smith1975

Step 3: Click "volunteer" button

Step 4: Click "add hours"

Step 5: Log your hours

Step 6: Log out



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Curriculum Corner

Gulfport Elementary Montessori School

Curriculum Specialist
Dr. Jackson



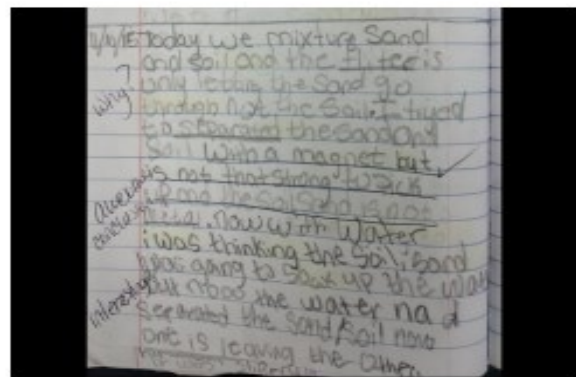
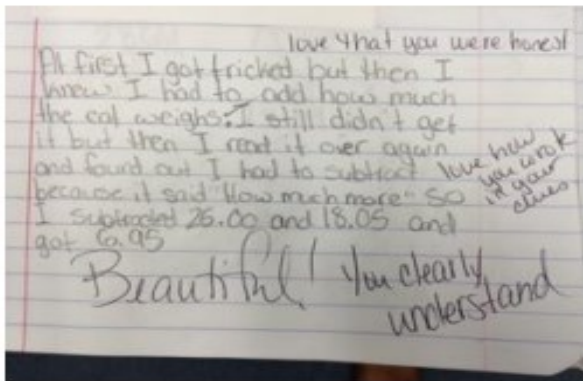
Responding in Student Journals

Much of the success and failure of journals lies with the teacher and the teacher's response to what students have written (Fulps and Young, 1991). Children invest more interest and energy in journal writing when their teacher writes back to them. Strackbein and Tillman (1987) believe three or four sentences that respond positively and specifically to the writer's content will encourage students to share their ideas and questions far more than a smiley face will.

When responding in journals, teachers affirm ideas and feelings, provide specific information, request information related to students' response, model elaboration, and guide students to examine their ideas as they discover new insights. Below are two examples of teacher's responses in journals.

Fulps & Young (1991). The what, why, when, and how of reading response journals. *Reading Horizons*, 32.

Sample Teacher Responses in Student Journals



Reminders

End of Report Period

- January 5, 2016

Final Grades Due

- January 8, 2016

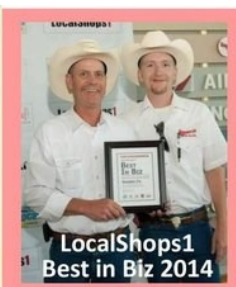
Report Cards Distributed

- January 13, 2016

Notify Parents of Potential Retention by

- February 19, 2016

January Curriculum Corner, 2016



5145 Gulfport Blvd (727) 329-8624

Do This One Thing Right Now

Posted December 31, 2015 by Rebecca Staples, 1-on-1 Coach



Find a piece of paper and write down one thing you want to change in your parenting or family life this year. Not a list of resolutions, or everything that's going wrong right now. Just one change you want to make over the next few months.

Done? Just one thing. You'll be amazed at what can happen at home in the coming months.

Here are some of the changes we talk about at Empowering Parents with our own kids:

- * Yell less
- * Find a morning routine that works
- * Work on being a calm parent
- * Figure out bedtime routines
- * Limit our family's technology use

Something we have to constantly remind ourselves – and other parents – is that habits take a long time to form and a long time to change. If you're in a pattern you don't like, you CAN change it. It just takes time.

Choose one goal and make a plan. With practice and support, you'll be amazed at what can change around you.

Let's say you have a homework battle at 4pm every day. Let's make a plan together.

Write down your goal – No more homework battles!

Find tools to help you, like this article: [End the Nightly Homework Struggle: 5 Homework Strategies That Work for Kids](#).

Make a plan. What behavior of your own will you change? What is your strategy? This is what you will be practicing over the coming months.

Practice, practice, practice!

Get support when you need it, whether from a friend, a relative, or the Empowering Parents coaches and community. Support helps keep you on track.

Remember that change is work; there is no magic bullet. But when you put in the work and see the change happen, the results can feel amazing,

You are in good company here. Let us know if you make a goal and how it's going!
Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year,

Becky & The Empowering Parents Team