



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

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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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The 2015-2016 school year has almost come to an end. It has been a year where our students have seen lots of academic progress in Reading, Math, and Science. We have had students participate in All County Chorus and others have won Art competitions. Many great things have happened at Gulfport Elementary this school year and I want to take the time to thank the families for your help and support. The successes are made possible because of families and the school working together. THANK YOU!!!! :) **We could not do it without you!**

I am already looking forward to next school year and working with you to help increase our school grade. One of the best ways to do this, is making sure students are doing homework. It does not have to be a lot, just enough to reinforce what they are learning in the classroom. It is that little bit of extra practice that makes the understanding in school just a little easier. I would like each of you to **make a personal commitment** to making sure your students get their homework complete.

Also, if your student is currently struggling in Reading or Math, please **sign your child up for the free summer bridge program**. This will help to catch them up a little bit or keep them from falling behind over the summer.

Once again, thank you for all that you do to support your child's education and our school. I am celebrating this year's successes and looking forward to the many successes we will have next year as well.

Principal Pribble

Tea Room

- Open for Lunch & Afternoon Tea
- Special Events by Reservation
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5325 Gulfport Boulevard
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Birthday Parties

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

Sweet-Tea Celebrations

(727) 498-0590

Montessori Corner

What does the 'turn around' status mean for our Montessori program? We are venturing into the unknown in this process. I look forward to educating the district personnel about the Montessori method and philosophy. Even though Gulfport has gone through this process before, there are different requirements this time. Your child's education in the Montessori program you chose will remain the top priority as we plan for next year.

I thank the families who continue to make school attendance a priority and get their child to school every day on time. Remember the district application program agreement states, "As the parent of a student in this magnet program I agree to ensure my child attends school consistently and on time." The district student code of conduct (copy sent at start of school year and available on portal to review) has clear expectations and guidelines for all students. The language in section V is shown here- Parents and students must do the following in connection with school attendance:

- A. Ensure the attendance of a child of compulsory school attendance age, as required by law. (F.S. 1003.24)
- B. Notify school personnel of their child's absence prior to the end of the school day of the absence, if possible and provide written notification within 48 hours of the child's return to school. Otherwise, the absence will be unexcused.
- C. If requested, provide documentation of illness from a physician or public health unit within 48 hours. The maximum number of days that a student may be absent without acceptable documentation justifying the absence is five (5).
- D. Notify the school of any change of address, phone numbers and emergency contact numbers.
- E. Obtain application from currently assigned school if a student is eligible for homebound instruction
- F. Notify school personnel if the family is moving out of town or out of the school's attendance boundary.
- G. Be aware of school district calendar and coordinate trips, vacations and personal business to support attendance.
- H. Notify the school and request a copy of the Hospital/Homebound referral packet if a student is expected to miss at least 15 consecutive school days due to illness, medical condition, or social/emotional reasons, or may miss excessive days intermittently throughout the school year for the same reasons. Please keep this in mind as we move into the end of the school year.

Summer activities- Some of our students will be attending Summer Bridge this summer. If your child isn't, it's still wise to keep them learning. Here are some of the things I did with my own children. We did work Monday-Thursday for about an hour. First, sign up for the summer program at your local library, they offer story times and incentives for reading. Require 15 minutes of reading each day and have them write something about it in a journal (you can use the one your child's been using at school). Write for 15 minutes about a topic or observe in an area outside. Work on ST math and I-station. My kids groaned but it became routine. My girls are 22 and talked recently about working each day as a fond memory. They worked while I made lunch after swimming in the morning. My boys don't bring it up but didn't object. They remember the library story time and earning items from a treasure box for reading.

Want to learn more about Montessori? Any books by Maria Montessori will help. Also look for books by Paula Polk-Lillard on Montessori and Positive Discipline by Jane Nelson. Here are a few websites that are rich in Montessori information: amshq.org/Montessori-Education/Introduction-to-Montessori; www.montessori.org/parents-information

Enjoy your family time this summer. We come back earlier next year, students begin on August 10th.

... **Kathy Ludlum, Montessori Coordinator**



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Volunteer News and Notes

Thank you to all of our volunteers. Our students have truly benefitted from your dedicated work.

Special thanks to the Gulfport Elementary School PTA: Ms. Pace, Ms. Henry, Ms. Muscat, Ms. Belich, Ms. Tracy and the many volunteers who work with PTA. These volunteers have made Gulfport Elementary School a National PTA School of Excellence. Remember to "like" Gulfport Elementary PTA on facebook. This facebook page provides timely information, parenting tips and school news on a regular basis.

Another thank you to our Gulfport Elementary School Outstanding Volunteers and partners for the 2015-2016 school year:

Grayson Barnard, Youth Volunteer;

Shelley Bowden, Senior Volunteer;

Bill Silva, Adult Volunteer

Cell Phone Solutions, Business Partner of the Year

Pasadena Community Church, Florida Association of Partners in Education

School Newsletter, Volunteer Editor, Holly Tracy

Gulfport Elementary School K-9 Readers will be recognized at the May 12th meeting of the St. Petersburg City Council. We are fortunate to have these furry friends work with our students.

*Kristen Adams-Smith and Luke; *Tammy Allen and Sadie; *Lois Brockson and Cody; *Sandy and Michael Legge and Mindy; *Bunny Mirth and Boo; *Cathy Salustri and Calypso; *Marsha Savage and Daisy; *Mary Ellen and Bill Silva, Abbey and Max; *Tom Spencer and Doofus; *Vickie Waterstratt and Trixie.

We look forward to the return of all of our tutors, mentors and volunteers for the next school year.

May Calendar of Events

May 2 – 8 Screen-Free Week (see article)

May 5 – PTA's Mom's Day Cake Decorating (must have preordered)

May 10 – Science Night

May 10 – Montessori – New Montessori Families Welcome Event

May 13 – Astroskate Party

May 18 – PTA Meeting & International Potluck 6 pm (see article)

May 19 – Spring Music Concert for Grades 3/4/5 – 6:30 p.m.

May 27 – PTA End of Year Party & Membership Kick Off 6 p.m. (see article)

May 30 – NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day

June 7 – Last Day of School

August 10 – 1st Day of School!!! Early this year. Take note!

Screen-Free Week!

The Florida PTA is proud to endorse Screen-Free Week! From May 2-8 children, families, schools and communities around the world will swap digital entertainment for the joys of life before the screen. Screen-Free week is a fun way to reduce dependence on television, video games, smartphones, tablets and computers. It's a chance for children and adults to power down and re-connect with the world around them.

Visit <http://www.screenfree.org/> for more information.



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PTA Corner

How can it be that Spring is here already and Summer is just around the corner? Your PTA has some exciting things planned for May to finish out a purpose-filled, fun-filled school year!

May 5th, Thursday at 1 pm the children who signed up for the Mother's Day Cakes from Publix will have the opportunity to make that treat, (Teachers will know who is to be at the event). Friday, May 13th we will host our last AS-TROSKATE roller skating party of the school year. The information/permission slip will be coming home very soon. Wednesday May 18th at 6 pm will be our last PTA meeting in the café (see more details in this newsletter). This meeting will bring some exciting news on a program all families can sign up for, a hint.....it is a program that offers support and growth as an individual and as a part of a family!

Our last PTA event for the year will be a party / celebration to open the PTA memberships for NEXT school year. Yes, we are already looking ahead and one of our goals is to increase our memberships! PTA is a voice for every child and we need your membership! Membership does not come with a requirement to volunteer, although volunteering is most rewarding and there are so many different opportunities!

The PTA party is Friday, May 27th from 6 to 8 pm. Adult admission is \$ 5.00 Per adult, (this is the cost of your membership for the 2016 -2017 school year. Children are free with a paid Adult membership , (limited to family units). Plan on attending to enjoy the music of DJ PAM, the bounce house and the game trailer! The hotdog wagon and KONA ICE will be available for individual family purchases.

Opportunities for volunteering with the PTA:

- a. PTA Board Secretary
- b. Book Fair Chairperson
- c. Committee person for individual events
- d. Newsletter Coordinator
- e. Yearbook Committee/Coordinator

Please consider "giving GULFPORT FIVE". Your time makes a difference to a child. We are GULFPORT MONTESSORI / ELEMENTARY and WE ARE PTA PROUD!!

Barbara Pace, President

Danielle Kelley, REALTOR - GRI RSPS MRP

727-459-9178 text or call DanielleKelley@remax.net

www.facebook.com/daniellekelleyrealtor www.PinellasPropertyOnline.com

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Ms. Annette Anthony: Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Anthony represents all of the great teachers we have here at Gulfport. She teaches the Montessori 4th and 5th graders with her specialty in Science & Math. Ms. Anthony was nominated as our representative for teacher of the year because she has embraced the Marzano Pilot, taken over the after school STEM club, and is constantly working with students and families to help make our students successful academically and personally. We are very proud of Ms. Anthony! You make us Bulldog Proud!



Yearbooks Now on Sale!!!

Did you miss the April 30 deadline to order? There may be extras available. These will be available on a first come, first serve basis. The cost is \$20 for a year of memories! The yearbook is hard cover with pages of class pictures, clubs, school event fun, teachers and staff and more! Order forms at the front desk for memories of your 2015-16 Gulfport Bulldogs!!!

All-International Pot Luck

Who's Invited: Gulfport students and faculty and their families

Date & Time: Wednesday May 18th, 2016 from 6pm-8pm
(following a short PTA meeting)

Location: Gulfport Elementary School cafeteria

- * Come join us for a night of fun, food and sharing as we celebrate the diverse cultures and heritages that we have right here at Gulfport Elementary!
- * Bring a favorite dish that will feed 8-10 people that also represents your family's heritage!
- * Be prepared to join in on games to get to know each other and laugh!
- * If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda or Susannah by calling the school office at 727-893-2643 and leave us a message. We will return your call.

Summer Reminders

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ SAVE THOSE BOX TOPS AND MORE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!!!! \$\$\$\$\$

Take a close look at those Green Bean cans before recycling them. Look underneath those Tissue boxes. There are hidden **Box Tops**, **Labels for Education**, **Tyson A+ Labels**, **Coke Rewards** (on 12 packs where you pull off for the handy distribution and under the caps of bottles), and **Capri Suns** emptied without the straw, everywhere.

Summer is a GREAT time to start an envelope or plastic baggie in the corner of the kitchen or garage and look over all of those items before you throw money in the trash or recycle center. The school earns money for each of them!!! PLEASE SAVE THEM and bring them in when school starts up. If you have some you have been collecting, drop them off to Miss Iris in the front office for a neat surprise!

Shopping on Amazon during the summer? Use THIS LINK for your School..... go to...

(www.smile.amazon.com), buy whatever you like, and then at checkout they can select "Gulfport Montessori Elementary PTA" and a portion of their purchase price will go to the PTA. Mark this as your favorite! Prices are the same, and our kids earn the profit!!!! You are buying the item online anyway, so why not benefit the school at no cost to you! Thank you!



School Psychologist Says:



May- School Psychologist Says...

Enhance Self Esteem:

Creativity can influence your child's psychology in a positive way.

As a responsible parent, you can try to enhance your kid's creativity through motivation.

Hang up his artwork on the wall, frame them for your living room display or post them on your blog to encourage them further.

This would help your child to build his self-esteem and concentrate more on his creative activities.

Create A Peaceful Sleeping Time:

Do not let your kid indulge in video games or watch TV before bedtime as it will prevent him from falling asleep faster.

Offer a peaceful environment before he/she goes to sleep by setting the room with night lamps.

You can also read out a story as a bedtime routine.

If your kid gets enough amount of sleep, it is best for developing a positive attitude.



June- School Psychologist Says...

Discuss Your Interests To Avoid Arguments:

The main key to understand children psychology is to know what features are common between your kid and you.

It might be food, music, games, subjects, hobbies or any other thing.

Discuss about your interests with your kid and have a plan about how to develop it further and have fun.

This would help you avoid small fights or big quarrels such as who is going to have the TV remote, or which place you should visit for a family vacation.

Don't Stop Talking Even If Your Child Is Not Listening:

As a parent of a growing child, you will agree that your kid does not listen to whatever you tell him.

Though he might argue with you, your advice would stay etched in his mind as he grows up.

Even if he might not agree with what you say, the essence of your advice sticks on.

So do not stop your advice session as it will help your kid as he grows and matures.

PCS Family Engagement Mobile APP!

Stay in touch with PCS Family Engagement information wherever you are – on your phone or tablet!



Pinellas County Schools is proud to introduce the ***PCS Family Engagement APP!*** The App provides educational tips, videos, a calendar of activities, messages, Parent Academy workshops, resources, and more – to help you support your child's education! The App is **free** for all iPhones and Android phones.

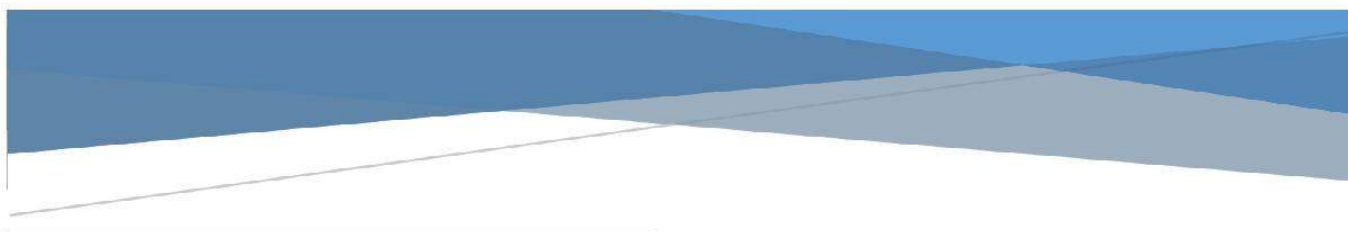
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FLORIDA PARENT CHECKLIST

As a part of the Florida Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act, the following checklist is being provided to all Pinellas County School parents and families. This checklist is meant to provide a meaningful guide to increasing family engagement in your child's education and academic progress.

As you go through the checklist, if you find you need additional help, please direct any academic concerns directly to your child's teacher or the School Counselor. Volunteer questions can be addressed by the School's Family and Community Liaison.

*Pinellas County Schools
Office of Strategic Partnerships
Family and Community Relations
March 2016*

FLORIDA PARENT CHECKLIST

The purpose of the Florida Parent Checklist¹ is to support parent's involvement in their child's educational progress by identifying actions and linking to resources² that:

- Strengthen the child's academic progress, especially in the area of reading;
- Strengthen the child's citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others;
- Strengthen the child's realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals; and
- Emphasize communication between the school and the home.

ACADEMIC

- Support reading with age appropriate home activities.
- Ensure that your child has a consistent time and place to do homework.
- Ensure that your child has access to materials needed to complete assignments.
- Discuss school work regularly with your child.
- Attend workshops on helping your child at home.
- Visit the local library and encourage your child to check out books of interest.
- Read to/with your child on a daily basis.
- Set an example by reading in your home and discussing what you've read with your child.
- Ask your child to explain his/her math homework.
- Emphasize the importance of education and doing one's best in school.

RESOURCES:

- ✓ [Just Take 20](#)
- ✓ [Just Read, Families!](#)
- ✓ [FloridaShines.org](#)
- ✓ [Florida Standards Family and Student Resources](#)
- ✓ [Floridastudents.org](#)
- ✓ [AskALibrarian.org](#)
- ✓ [Exceptional Student Education Parent Involvement](#)
- ✓ [Special Education Toolkit](#)

CITIZENSHIP

- Teach and reinforce positive behaviors such as respect for self and others, hard work and responsibility.
- Ensure that your child has a regular routine.
- Encourage your child to accept responsibility for his/her actions.
- Ensure that your child is in attendance and on time to school each day.
- Monitor and promote your child's participation in extracurricular and after-school activities.
- Monitor your child's television viewing.
- Reinforce the school's behavioral expectations.

¹ Reference Florida Statute 1002.23(3). The Florida Parent Checklist must be issued each school year to all parents of students in grades K-12. ² Resource links related to academics, citizenship, goal-setting, and communication should be considered as a guide to assist in the discovery of information to strengthen parental involvement.

RESOURCES:

- ✓ [Positive Behavior Support Home Matrix](#)
- ✓ [Positive Solutions for Families Brochure](#)
- ✓ [Helping Your Child Become a Responsible Citizen](#)
- ✓ [Bullying Prevention](#)
- ✓ [Engaging Youth in Service](#)

SETTING GOALS

- Express the belief in your child's ability to be successful.
- Encourage your child to set short- and long term- educational goals.
- Celebrate academic accomplishments.

RESOURCES:

- ✓ [MyCareerShines Kuder Navigator®](#)
- ✓ [CareerHelp Kids Start to Think Abouts](#)
- ✓ [Financing Future Education Goals](#)

SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATION

- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher(s) in person, by telephone, through email or writing.
- Prepare for and attend parent-teacher conferences and/or other individualized student meetings, such as Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Academic Improvement Plan meetings.
- Attend open houses, science fairs, plays and musical performances, field trips, sporting events, curriculum nights and other school activities.
- Volunteer in the school setting when possible.

RESOURCES:

- ✓ [Tips for Communicating With Teachers Effectively](#)
- ✓ [Parent-Teacher Conference Tip Sheets](#)
- ✓ [The Parent-Teacher Conference](#)

Revised: 3/2016