



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

Points of Pride: On the forefront of Florida education with the Marzano Pilot. Before and after school tutoring.

Mascot: Bulldogs

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

From the Desk of Mr. Pribble

Welcome Back!!!!

I am looking forward to a great school year with you and your family. I invite you in to have lunch with your child at anytime and I believe the time you spend with your child at school or discussing their school work places an emphasis on education for life. So please take the time to read with your child, ask questions, or just create crazy math games. Your child will soar to success :) I look forward to working with you this year.

Principal Pribble

Gulfport Declared National PTA School of Excellence

Gulfport Elementary School has been awarded the National PTA School of Excellence Award.

The recognition demonstrates the school’s leadership nationwide and its commitment to partnering with families to support student success and continuous school improvement.



Giving back to the community is a major priority for the school and the PTA, said Gulfport Elementary Principal James Pribble. “It’s not about bringing in funds to the school,” he said. “It is more about giving back to the people that need it.”

The National PTA School of Excellence program was launched in 2013 to help strengthen family-school partnerships across the country and make measurable progress in the areas of education, health and safety, and arts and cultural exploration. Gulfport Elementary was one of 124 schools designated as [2015-2017 National PTA Schools of Excellence](#). Only 18 schools throughout Florida received the recognition.

“More than 40 years of research shows that when families and schools work together, student achievement increases, schools improve and communities grow stronger,” said Laura Bay, president of National PTA. “National PTA Schools of Excellence are true examples of what can be accomplished when schools and families collaborate.”

Gulfport Elementary School’s office clerk, Brian Garner, also recently received the Pinellas PTA Teacher of the Year award.

Montessori News

Welcome new families and welcome back to our established Gulfport families. It always amazes me to see the growth of the children over the summer. They seem much taller but have the same beautiful faces.

Monday, August 31, was Maria Montessori's 145th birthday (she died at age 81). She was an amazing woman who left behind a legacy that guides educators (even in the traditional world) today. Each class learned about Maria Montessori in their classes. Then the Montessori community gathered in the courtyard at the bottom of building 5 to form a peace circle right before dismissal. Mrs. Dawson led us in The Peace Pledge to honor Montessori. She believed that education was the key to bring peace into our world by helping children see their place in our world and how we are all interconnected.

Our magnet has grown! We have 12 classes this year which is one more than last year. We are full with a wait list at each grade level.

The Montessori program is a Pinellas district application program. District application programs have guidelines so all students can learn each day. The magnet commitment agreement went home the second week of school. Please be sure to sign it and keep your copy before returning to school. The expectations are on the front and the consequences for infractions are on the back. We do have an intervention committee which meets when a student needs a success plan for not following the magnet guidelines. We want our program to be successful and the children to learn in a positive Montessori environment.

I look forward to meeting you at the first Montessori Meet Up to give an overview of Montessori work and philosophy. More information to come out shortly.

My new office is behind Mrs. England and Mrs. Evans' classrooms. My new extension is 1096 but my email is the same: ludlumk@pcsb.org. Please contact me with questions, comments or concerns you may have. Email is the best way to reach me.

Happy Fall!
Kathy Ludlum
Montessori Coordinator

Volunteer News

Welcome to all our mentors, tutors, volunteers and business partners. We look forward to working with you during the 2015-2016 school year. I will be contacting you in the near future to set up a schedule for your volunteer activities. If you have special requests, please contact me at 727-893-2643 x 2004 or bumgarnerm@pcsb.org I am in the office daily from 8:00-noon.

Volunteers at Gulfport Elementary School encourage, tutor and mentor students, help classroom teachers, chaperone field trips, work in the Media Center and Cafeteria, provide coverage in the office area, help with the Pack-a-Sack program and provide family education and fun activities through an active Parent Teacher Association. Gulfport volunteers ROCK.

Please check out the following article: "5 Surprising Benefits of Volunteering" by Mark Horoszowski (March 17, 2015). Mark Horoszowski is the co-founder and CEO of MovingWrolds.org, a global platform helping people volunteer their skills around the world. Briefly to summarize the article, there are five surprising benefits of volunteering:

1. Volunteering time makes you feel like you have more time.
2. Volunteering your skills helps you develop new skills.
3. Volunteering your body helps you have a healthier body.
4. Volunteering your experience helps build your experience.
5. Volunteering your love makes you feel more love.

Thanks to our community sponsors last semester:

Publix Supermarket (Pasadena)
McDonalds
Smokin' Js
Winn Dixie (Pasadena)
Walmart (34th Street South)
Great Explorations
St. Petersburg History Museum
Wendys (Pasadena)
VFW Post 1074
American Legion Post 125
Pasadena Community Church

We have an amazing team of volunteers! Volunteers at Gulfport Elementary School volunteered 6,500 hours last year. Let's do even better this year.

School News and Tidbits

Bright House Internet Information:

Pinellas County Schools is partnering with Bright House Networks again to provide affordable Internet service at \$9.95 per month for qualifying families. You are receiving this letter because your family may be eligible for this service provided by Connect2Compete, a national nonprofit initiative aimed at giving families access to the Internet.

Your household may be eligible if you:

- * Have one child eligible for free or reduced lunch that is attending a Connect2Compete partner school
- * Have not subscribed to Bright House Networks Internet Service within the last 90 days.
- * Have no outstanding bills or unreturned equipment with Bright House Networks.

Interested families who are eligible can sign up for affordable Internet service through Bright House by calling 1-855-877-4909 and using the offer code PCSC2C. The offer expires Nov. 30, 2015. You will receive a Connect2Compete flier that will explain more.

This is an important opportunity for Pinellas families. Internet service will provide access to PCS Beyond the Classroom learning resources; online research materials; information for school projects and homework; college and career information; and Pinellas Virtual School classes.

Internet service will also give you access to Focus, the Student Information System used for online registration and viewing important information about your child's progress.

Through Connect2Compete, you may also have the opportunity to buy a computer starting at \$162, with Microsoft software pre-installed. You will find out details about this offer in the Connect2Complete flier mentioned above.

Our school and the school district are eager to expand opportunities for learning outside of the school day. We are hoping that this generous offer will give more families access to valuable educational resources.

GIRLS ON THE RUN

Girls on the Run is back for another exciting season! We will begin on September 28th, led by Coach Courtney Cox from Stetson Law and Coach Rachel Mita from Gulfport Elementary.

For 10 weeks, the girls will be encouraged to positively develop themselves emotionally, socially, mentally, and physically by creating and strengthening healthy relationships, exploring how they can positively connect with and shape the world, and training for a 5K! Through physical activity in preparation for the end of the season celebratory 5K, the girls will be inspired to appreciate fitness and build habits that lead to a lifetime of health.

We will meet at Gulfport Elementary on Mondays and Wednesday from 2:45-4:00. Each lesson will consist of fun activities and running. At the end of the 10-week season, the girls will participate in a non-competitive, celebratory 5K in Tampa, as well as a community project!

Please note that GOTR is not a competitive running program; however, regular attendance at the twice-weekly practices is expected so that each girl will be prepared for the celebratory 5K at the end of the season. For more information, to register, or help sponsor a girl, please contact Rachel Mita at mitar@pcsb.org.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that Gulfport Elementary has a full time gifted and talented program? Students can be nominated by their classroom teacher, school personnel, or by a parent/guardian. It is important to understand the difference between a bright student vs. a gifted learner in order to know if your child exhibits gifted behaviors. The following link will take you to information that can help make that decision easier. <http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/specialty/tag/r5brightchild.pdf> . Once nominated, students will be administered a gifted screening. If the student qualifies, they will need to meet further requirements including an IQ test provided by the district, gifted characteristics, and have a need for the gifted program. If you have any questions or to request a parent nomination form, please contact Mrs. Kelly at the school.

PTA Corner

MEMBERSHIP:

PTA membership is open for the 2015–2016 school year. Membership is \$ 5.00 per person and each paid membership comes with a local merchant discount card! (This is limited to the first 300 members.) It pays for itself!! In joining the PTA you are joining the Nation's oldest child advocacy group, PTA was founded in 1897! GULFPORT PTA is very active and always in need of volunteers, the amount you assist can be as much or as little as your schedule allows. This year we are having a membership challenge between families and friends and the school staff! Help us raise the membership totals! Membership is open to all, parents, Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, Great Grandparents, friends and employers!

PTA BOARD EMAILS:

If you need to contact the PTA BOARD you may email us at:

gmepresident1@gmail.com
gmemembership@gmail.com
gmeways_and_means@gmail.com
gmeseecretary@gmail.com

TEE-SHIRTS

Tee-shirts are on sale through the PTA, the price is \$ 8.00 each. The tee-shirts are navy blue with a school based logo and are the acceptable alternative to a uniform shirt/ blouse. You may drop off your order in the PTA lockbox in the front office and the shirts will be delivered to your child's classroom.

NATIONAL PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

GULFPORT ELEMENTARY / MONTESSORI ACADEMY PTA has been awarded the prestigious NATIONAL PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD !! The award is given to schools across the Nation that demonstrate and welcoming environment to all families, engage in a true partnership with school staff for the continual improvement of the school. We are proud of our School, we are proud of our PTA....we are GULFPORT !

UPCOMING PTA EVENTS:

September 9th, 6pm in cafe.....general PTA meeting – THANK YOU for attending!

September 18th ASTROSKATEflyer sent home!

September 24th American Red Cross presents the PILLOWCASE PROJECT....flyer sent home. Be sure to register.

September 24th 3 to 7 pm.....the Bloodmobile will be at the school for donations

October 29th Second annual TRUNK or TREAT.....flyer will be coming home with all the info

School Pyschologist Says:

Spend Time With Your Kid:

When you spend less time with your kid, you might not have an intimate relationship with him/her:

- * You have to spend more time with your child and get yourself involved in his life, know his friends and such.
- * This would make him comfortable in discussing his issues openly with you.
- * Whether you have a tight work schedule or an important meeting, set aside a few minutes, to stay in touch with your kid and let him know you are there for him.

Teach Your Child To Be responsible:

This can be the toughest thing in your life as a parent.

- * As a parent you have to make your kid realize his responsibilities at an earlier stage. This will help your child in the future.
- * If your child pours milk in his mug without spilling, encourage his actions and praise him for being responsible.
- * If your child puts back all the toys in the box after playing, it indicates he is responsible.
- * Encourage your kid, as it would help him realize his responsibilities and be independent.

School Counselor News

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2015

Gulfport Elementary—School Counseling

Meet Mrs. Tolisano

Character Word of the Month:

Responsibility

Doing your best and taking ownership for your words and actions.

Welcome back to another great year at Gulfport! My name is Heather Tolisano and I am the School Counselor at Gulfport Elementary. I am a Licensed Mental Health counselor specializing in conflict resolution and social/emotional health. School Counselors wear many hats and provide many services for the school including individual and group counseling, crisis support, and classroom developmental guidance lessons. School-wide, I sit on several committees and coordinate character education, schoolwide behavior and intervention programs, and exceptional student education, among many other duties.

Periodically I offer parent education classes or workshops. I am also available for parent consultation and parent/teacher conferences. If you have questions or need assistance please contact me via email at maturoh@pcsb.org or call the school. I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year!



Read a Great Book!

See You Later Procrastinator By: Pamela Espeland

How to Do Homework Without Throwing Up By: Trevor Romain

Homework By: Arthur Yorinks

Homework Without Tears By: Lee Center

Tips For Parents

Tired of one-word answers when you ask your child, "How was your day at school?" Talking with your child about his/her school day is important. Try some of these questions or comments to delve a little deeper:

1. Best and worst: What was the best part of your day? What was the worst?
2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
3. What is the coolest place at school?
4. If you got to choose, who would you want to sit next to in your class? Why?
5. Tell me a weird word you heard today.
6. How did you help someone today?

When considering class adoptions, don't forget the School Counselor. Funds are used for resources to instruct and support children in Pre-K through 5th

School Shopping



Clothes to Kids is an organization which provides free clothing to school age children in need. Families can shop twice a year with a referral from the school counselor or other authorized person. If your child receives free or reduced lunch and is in need of clothing call Mrs. Tolisano for a referral. If your child has outgrown his clothing you can also donate clothes to Clothes to Kids. Go to www.clothestokids.org for details.



Counselors: The Heart of Student Achievement

Get Engaged
in Education
 PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS



Make Education a Priority in Your Home!

- ✓ Discuss the importance of education with your child.
- ✓ Have your child attend school every day. If they are not in school, they **will** miss information.
- ✓ Talk with your child daily about his/her school day, homework, and activities.
- ✓ Assist with homework, when needed.
- ✓ Check homework to see if it is complete and correct.
- ✓ Attend your child's performances and other school events.
- ✓ Celebrate their accomplishments.
- ✓ Listen to your child. You will learn as much from them as they learn from you!

For more information on how to get engaged in your child's education, contact your school's Family and Community Liaison!



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you are – on your phone or tablet!**

Important information at your finger tips:



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- **Parent Portal**
- **Tools to Support Learning**
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