

Mary Giella Elementary

September 2013

Pasco County Public Schools



Look Who's New

Superintendent, Kurt Browning, stopped by MGES to welcome our new Assistant Principal, Kara Abbattello and our new Dolphin Mascot. Make sure you say hello to Mrs. Abbattello and our Dolphin. Think of a name for the Dolphin as we will name it at a later date.



The Principal's Corner

We welcome you and your child to this school year! As always, we invite you to be involved in your child's education. Signing up to be a volunteer, joining our PTO or School Advisory Council, are just a few ways to be a part of our MGES family. (We are currently looking for some dad's to help start an All-Pro Dad's club too!)

Let's have a fantastic year of growth and learning for your child. Here are some things to know!

- Attendance- expect your child to be at school all day, every day. You get them to school, and we will be responsible for their learning. (Deal?)
- Rules- our 3 school rules are: *Be Respectful*, *Be Responsible* and *Be Safe*. Please discuss what this "looks" like during the day at school.
- Communicate- whether writing in your child's planner, or via teacher's email, please be in contact with your child's teacher. Signing the planner, reading to your child nightly, and reviewing what is learned during the day are all vital components to your child's success.

Mr. Papa, Principal

Mark Your Calendar

- Sept. 4th – 12th ----- Book Fair
- Sept. 10th -----Open House / Book Fair
- Sept. 12th -----Skate Night
- Sept. 17th ----- PTO Meeting 4:15 p.m.
- Sept. 19th ----- Yankee Candle Fundraiser Begins
- Sept. 19th -----Progress Reports
- Sept. 26th ----- Health Screening
- Sept. 27th -----Student Recognition @2:50 p.m.
- Sept. 30th ----- SAC Meeting @ 8:30 a.m.

Open House / Book Fair / Title I

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Primary

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Intermediate

Book Fair

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MGES 3 School Rules Are:

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe

School Board Members

Allen Altman

Joanne Hurley

Cynthia Armstrong

Allison Crumbley

Steve Lulkart

Kurt Browning, Superintendent



Meet Our New Assistant Principal

I want to warmly welcome you to the 2013-14 school year. As your new assistant principal, it is my sincere pleasure and honor to be able to assist Mr. George Papaemanuel in making this a great school year! I look forward to working with the dedicated staff to help provide the best educational experience for our students.



Parents, teachers, support staff, community and administration all have important roles to encourage our children to become active, life-long learners. It is my sincere desire to provide expanded opportunities for our students to acquire the skills to become productive citizens in our vastly changing society.

Through a close and collegial partnership with everyone associated with Mary Giella I am confident we can make our school a better place for our students to learn and grow. Please feel free to stop in and say hello, as my door is always open.

Frequently Called MGES Phone Numbers

For your convenience we have listed some of the most frequently called phone numbers.

Main Number ----- (727) 774-5800
Cafeteria ----- (727) 774-5878
Clinic ----- (727) 774-5805
Guidance Counselor
----- (727) 774-5814
Guidance Secretary
----- (727) 774-5809

Media ----- (727) 774-5821
Parent Involvement/
Volunteer/Business Partners
----- (727) 774-5829
Principal's Secretary
----- (727) 774-5800

Parent Right to Know

You have the right to know the professional qualifications of the educators who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to obtain certain information in a timely manner about your child's classroom teachers and instructional assistants/paraprofessionals. You have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's teachers and instructional assistants/paraprofessionals:

1. The teacher's Florida certification area(s) and,
 - o if the teacher is teaching infield, or
 - o if the teacher is qualified infield according to the District School Board of Pasco County.
2. The teacher's college degree(s) and area of study.
3. The teacher's advanced college degree(s) and area of study.
4. The qualifications of any instructional assistant/paraprofessionals who provide services to your child.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please send a written request to George Papaemanuel (Mr. Papa), Principal-MGES.

"Too Sick for School?"

By: Michele Lennon, School Nurse

Many children become ill during the winter months. A child who is sick needs rest, plenty of fluids, and "tender loving care." Here are some "heathful" hints:

- A child who has fever with a temperature greater than 100 degrees (orally), has been vomiting, or has diarrhea should stay home for 24 hours AFTER the symptoms are gone.

- Consider a medical evaluation for:
 - o fever that last 3 or more days
 - o drainage from the ear
 - o cough that continues for several days
 - o repeated episodes of diarrhea or vomiting
 - o rash
 - o itchy eyes with clear or cloudy drainage
 - o sore throat, with or without
 - o cold symptoms that last more than one week
 - Children of all ages need 8-10 hours of sleep at night and good nutrition including adequate fluids (milk, juice, water).
- ENJOY A HEALTHY, HAPPY SCHOOL YEAR!

Dolphin Zone

By: Julie Kennedy, Manager

MGES breakfast is **free to all MGES students**. Students may purchase a second breakfast if they have money, but the first breakfast is free. Please encourage your children to come to breakfast and try something. We have up to 3 choices, so they will most likely find something they enjoy. Remember Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, it is critical for the learning process. If you are interested in coming to breakfast with your child, the cafeteria opens for breakfast @ 9:20, **adult breakfast is \$1.60** and children other than MGES students can purchase breakfast for \$1.25.

Lunch time is a good opportunity to visit your child and encourage a healthy school lunch. Lunch has changed over the years, but it still may bring back memories of old. We love to see parents join their students and purchase lunch through our lunch program. We have a variety of student choices daily and anyone who wants to order from the adult menu can call and order a fresh adult salad or sandwich daily. We are proud to show off our adult meal program and do take preorders, just call prior to

10:00 a.m. and ask what salads/sandwiches are available for you to purchase for lunch. If you come to eat lunch with your child: Adult salads are \$3.00, Adult sandwiches are \$3.00, and Adult Meals are \$3.35. We have other items that can be purchased a la carte at the time of your visit. We hope to see you sometime throughout the year. Remember, you can place your order in two ways: call (727-774-5878) or email (jdkenned@pasco.k12.fl.us).

On September 9th, we will be honoring our grandparents who come and eat with their students. Come to lunch with your MGES student. Purchase a meal and you will enjoy a free dessert. We will be sending home communication about this special day. Grandparents can also pre-order their lunch (see above information). Even though lunch is different from the school lunch of past, we are not able to accept credit/debit card payments, We accept payment by cash or check or use your student account.

Guidance News

By Shannon Savage, Counselor

I am very excited that the 2013-2014 school year is underway! For the month of September I will be visiting every classroom and welcoming our new students to Mary Giella. During my visits, I will be talking about the role of a school counselor and I will be teaching a lesson on bullying prevention.

Bullying is defined as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or school employees. In my lessons, students will be taught that they have the power to stop bullying. Students will also be taught



Fifth grade students bring a book to lunch. After they are finished eating, they use the outdoor classroom for silent reading time.

how to use assertiveness and reach out to an adult if they find that they themselves or a friend is being bullied. If you would like to read more information about how you can help your children with bullying issues please visit www.stopbullying.gov.

If you feel your child is being bullied or regarding any other personal/social or academic concerns, please feel free to contact me. The best way to contact me is by calling the front office line, (727) 774-5800 or by emailing me at ssavage@pasco.k12.fl.us. I look forward to working with you and your children this school year!

Ways to Get Involved

Studies have shown that students do better when their parents are involved at their school. Here are some ways to be involved:

- **Make a Difference, Be a volunteer!** We need your help! We encourage you to become a *Pasco County School Volunteer*. There are many ways you can make a difference in a student's life. You can work in the classroom, make copies, or do projects at home. Complete the *Volunteer Application at:* https://webdb.pasco.k12.fl.us/fmi/i/wp/cgi?-db=vol_db&-loadframes

or contact Shirley Picklo if interested! (To go on a field trip with your child, you **MUST** be a registered volunteer.)

- **Be a substitute teacher!** Pasco County Public Schools, and Mary Giella Elementary, are always looking for great substitute teachers. Contact our *Bookkeeper*, Gail Kogelman if you are interested in

becoming a substitute teacher!

- **Join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).** See the PTO flyer for more information.

Media News

By: Terri Falk

We are very excited to start off this new school year with many exciting things happening in regards to media, technology and literacy. My name is Mrs. Falk and I am the new ICT Literacy Coach. Many of you may remember me from a couple of years ago. I was the School Media Specialist here at MGES for 6 years! I am very happy to be back in a different, but similar position. ICTL stands for Information Communication Technology and Literacy, therefore I will be working with the students and teachers incorporating information literacy in their classroom. We also have another new face in the media. We welcome our new Media Technology Assistant is Mrs. Foreman. She has worked at MGES as our Guidance Secretary for a couple of years and is now my teammate. This year is bringing much change and our team is here to offer assistance in any way we can. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns regarding the use of the media center and/or technology.

School Advisory Council

Every public school must have a *School Advisory Council (SAC)* as mandated by Florida Legislature. It is composed of an appropriately balanced number of teachers, educational support employees, parents and other businesses and/or community partners who are represent the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. Council members are people like you participating in identifying our school's needs and developing plans for meeting those needs.

Each year, SAC positions become available and positions are filled. If you did not receive a nomination form,

and would like to be considered to serve on SAC, please contact our secretary, Holly. The first SAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 30th.

Thank You Business Partners!

NXGEN-DC; Staples Advantage, and IMARK Group

NXGEN-DC; Staples Advantage and IMARK Group provided supplies for all our teachers and our students. Thanks to their generosity, teachers received supplies such as; dry erase markers, tape, staplers and students received pens, pencils, and dry erase markers.

Publix:

Teachers in the portables will be kept dry. Thanks to Joe Corwin, manager of *Publix at Seven Hills*, located at the corner of Mariner and County Line Road, each of our six teachers received a large golf umbrella. Publix has been a MGES Business Partner supporting the staff and students for the past five years.

Heritage Pines Niners

Heritage Pines Niners are a part of the *Heritage Pines Community* that supports MGES throughout the school year. *The Niners* purchased supplies for the beginning of school and book bags on wheels that will be used for our *Backpack Program*.

Land O'Lakes First United Methodist Church

The *Land O'Lakes First United Methodist Church* has been partnering with MGES for four years. The members of the church donate food items all year long. The food is used for the MGES Back Pack Program. The program helps families that are temporarily in need.

PE Department

By: Coach Troyer, Coach Garner and Coach Caruthers

Welcome back to a new year of Physical Education at *Mary Giella Elementary School*. Coach Garner and Coach Troyer are returning full time this year. Coach Caruthers will be here on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We are excited to be back and are looking forward to working with your children on their fitness levels. We are going to continue to utilize the fitness lab, run club, and a wide variety of sports units. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents

to have their children wear the **proper clothing and shoes** to class.

Due to the high Heat Index students are also encouraged to bring a labeled water bottle with them to PE. Please

only send water with your child. We look forward to an exciting year of physical activity with your child. We will be incorporating an additional PE lab for some classes this year. This will be an additional time beyond their regular PE times that we will be working on choosing healthy foods and habits, individual fitness goals, movement and nutrition.

What is Title I?

You have heard 'Title I', but what is Title I? Title I is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools. The goal of Title I is a high-quality education for every child. The program provides extra help to schools who need it the most. Schools must qualify to receive Title I funding. The program serves millions of children in elementary and secondary schools

each year. A Title I brochure is available upon request at Open House.

PTO News

BY: Kristie Merriman, PTO Board

The P.T.O would like to thank all M.G.E.S. teachers, staff and families for their continued support. With your sponsorship and support we were able to purchase our first dolphin mascot costume, pencil sharpeners for every teacher during teacher appreciation, medals for the Sunshine State Readers, classroom incentives, provide food at

various school events, and approve the much needed classroom grants for supplies and materials. We were also able to redesign the school spirit shirts which are available in blue, lime green and pink for \$10.00. This year our goal is to raise enough money to purchase shade

A Lowes Hero is hard at working placing mulch around the trees. Students



awnings to cool and preserve our playground equipment.

P.T.O. Board: President Patti Ream, Vice Present Melissa Ingersoll, Treasure's Kelly Gillespie & Wendy Post, Secretary Kristie Merriman, Fundraiser Coordinator Julie Kennedy, Historian Nancy Evert, Toni Moles Teacher Liaison.

We are looking for anyone who is an approved volunteer and would like to help through the year at various events. Our upcoming events are: Skate Night Sept. 12 and Nov.7, Yankee Candle fundraiser starts Sept 20, Fall Festival Oct. 11, School Mall fundraiser starts Oct. 21, Holiday House Dec. 9. See you on campus....

PTO Skate Night @ LOCOMO

On September 12th, the PTO will sponsor another LOCOMO Skate Night. It is a fun-filled evening for the family. Come out and support your PTO.

Wednesday Folders

We will reinstate our *Wednesday Folders*. We will send most of our information home on Wednesdays. From time to time that may not be possible so please check your child's book bag nightly.

Book Fair

The Oasis Book Fair is coming! MGES will host a Scholastic Book Fair in our media center from September 5-12. The hours are 9:15 am-3:30 pm daily. Our Family Event will be the night of Open House from 5:00-8:00 pm. The best way for your child to become a better reader is to practice. So please support our school and visit our Book Fair all proceeds directly benefit our students and staff.



A *Lowe's Hero* helps to construct the outdoor classroom for our campus.

Thank you for your support *Lowe's Heroes*, *NXGEN-DC*, *Staples Advantage*, and *IMARK Group*! Over the summer, these business partners provided the following for our students and staff: *Lowe's Heroes* constructed an outdoor classroom for the enjoyment of learning. *NXGEN-DC*; *Staples Advantage*, and *IMARK Group* provided supplies that will be used by teachers and students. When the community and school join together, it is a win-win for the students!

Respect and Civility Policy

The District School Board of Pasco County believes that a safe, secure, nurturing and civil environment is essential in accomplishing its mission to create a community which works together so all Pasco County students will reach their highest potential.

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among all district employees, students, parents and the general public. The policy is not intended to deprive any person of his/her right to freedom of expression. Rather, it is intended to maintain, to the extent that is possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free workplace for students, families and staff, that is free of disruptive, demeaning, intimidating, threatening or aggressive behaviors.

1. Distract staff will treat students, parents, fellow staff members of the public with respect and will expect the same in return.
2. District staff will not conduct business with those who use obscenities or otherwise speak in a demanding, loud, insulting or threatening manner.
3. Volatile, hostile or aggressive actions and words will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in these activities may face penalties up to, and including, criminal prosecution.

District students' rights and responsibilities are further defined within the Code of Student Conduct.

Authority: 1001.41(2) F.S.
PCSB Policy: KFA

Morning Drop Off or Walking Students to Class

In an effort to promote school safety we are asking parents to help us in the following ways:

- If you are dropping off your child, and not walking them to class, please use the West parking lot. There is staff there to open the car door and to direct them through the gate and on to class.
- If you are walking your child to class, please park in the East parking lot. Spaces are limited (you may also park on the roadway lawn in the front of the school).
- For student safety, when you parking by the sidewalk, please do not park in a way where you will have to backup. You may not see a student who is walking behind the car.
- U-turns are not permitted. If you enter the parking lot and see a space at the front of the line, please do not do a U-turn to park in the space.
- If you are on a tight schedule, you may not want to park in a parking space as you may be blocked.
- Follow the traffic pattern. If you don't you may meet another car head on and cause an accident.
- DO NOT block the entrance to our school.

Our staff is there to help you. When we work together as a team, our students benefit. Thank you in advance for your help, and let's keep our kids safe!

