

MacFarlane Park PTA

Explorer World News

MacFarlane Park PTA, 1721 N. MacDill Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33607

November /December 2011 • Volume 2011-2012, Issue 3



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PRESIDENT'S PIECE

by Tristan Schofer, Outgoing PTA President

Hello MacFarlane Park families! What a fantastic year it's been so far. See the *Goodbye Fall & Hello Winter: 2011 Recap* section for more details!

Although the weather has cooled off significantly, wouldn't it be nice if our children had a water cooler near the covered court to hydrate on those hot Florida days? MacFarlane Park has recently received approval from the District to install a water cooler as soon as we can work out the details. An installation date is coming soon!!!

For those of you that have visited the school recently, you might have noticed a large box outside of Mrs. Reynold's office. This is the final SMART Board needed for Ms. Blake. Once the order for installation can be filled by the District, all of our homerooms will be equipped with SMART Boards. Fantastic achievement!!

This is the final time you will hear from me in our PTA newsletter. Therefore, I wanted to say thank you all for making

this such a pleasant seven year journey. Truly, leaving MacFarlane Park will be one of the hardest things about leaving Florida. My family and I are excited about our new adventure, but it is safe to say we will miss the friends we have made and the memories we have collected through the years. I leave you in the capable hands of your 2011-2012 PTA Board, who will guide you through the remaining months of your school year. I'm honored to have served as your PTA President this year and will greatly miss such a supportive and talented Board.

Did I mention I'll be back for the always exciting Auction on April 14th (something you won't want to miss) and the 5th grade banquet No??? Well, you didn't think you'd get rid of me that easily, did you?

Much love and be sure to look us up if you're driving through Atlanta y'all!!! Signing off. . . over and out . . .

Tristan, Your PTA President



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

From the Desk of Dr. Riveiro

The holiday season is upon us and it is time to celebrate in many different ways and in the essence of many different cultures. As we quickly move through December, it is hard to believe that 2012 is right around the corner. December is full of many activities to make December special for you and your family. On December 8th, the school hosted its Winter Strings concert at Jefferson High School. Our Winter Chorus Concert will be held on December 14th at 9:00 a.m. on the courts.

MacFarlane Park students, parents, teachers, staff and PTA are the best!! Thank you for the wonderful support we received for our Veterans' Day program and fundraiser for Marine Cpl. Nicholson and the Kindergarten Feast. Thank you, too, for your support of our community service projects - canned food drive, strings at St. Joseph Hospital Aides Awareness Day, community riverside clean up, toy sales for the Children's Home, saving the elephants, the winter holiday toy project for 14 children, and many individual student services. What a wonderful lesson these activities are for our students to document in their service passports.

MacFarlane IB students demonstrate compassion and caring traits. These traits are demonstrated by feeling kindness for people, animals and the earth, and expressing feelings through acts of generosity and service. Thank you for all of your hard work and help during the first part of the school year and I know your continued support will assure the tradition of success here at MacFarlane Park IB World School.

Our school family would like to take this opportunity to send a special wish to you and yours a joyous and safe holiday. May the joys of this season be yours now and throughout the New Year.

Signed,
Dr. Riveiro



To promote childhood health and wellness, the National PTA celebrated Healthy Lifestyles Month. Throughout the month of November, PTAs nationwide participated in PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month by conducting programs and events that promote health education, physical activity and parental involvement. Knowing that a healthy child can achieve and learn more, PTAs are encouraging families to increase their physical activity, eat fresh fruits and vegetables, develop community oriented physical activity programs and promote healthy lifelong behaviors. National PTA's Healthy Lifestyles Month has encouraged PTA to get creative and develop clever initiatives that make living healthy fun.

For more information go to:
http://www.pta.org/healthy_lifestyles.asp



STAY INFORMED!!

The HCC PTA/PTSA is now on [Twitter](#). Get information as soon as it's released! Simply click the link up above and start following HCCPTAPTSA or text "on hccptapta" to 40404 to have the alerts sent to your cell phone.

HCC PTA/PTSA is also now on [Facebook](#) too. Be sure to sign up for the e-newsletter.

For more information go to:
<http://hccpta.mysdhc.org/home%20page>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NO SCHOOL – Winter Break: December 19th – 30th
- Holiday Candy Grams (5th grade fundraiser) – on sale December 12th through December 16th
- Winter Chorus Program – December 14th, 9:00 a.m.
- Lindsey Stirling Violin Performance – December 19th, 3:30 p.m. @ New Tampa Public Library. Two students from each grade level will be selected to attend.
- Reading & Writing Workshop (1st grade only) – January 5th, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- 2nd Quarter RP Celebration – January 20th
- Sun Safety Essay Due – January 27th
- Save-the-Date: 2012 Auction – April 14th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Goodbye Fall & Hello Winter: A Recap of 2011

This past year, the PTA and MacFarlane have had many successful events thanks to the support of students, teachers, administration, staff, and the parents. Here is a brief recap of those events. Thank you as always for all of your support.

Fall Festival Kudos!

FALL FESTIVAL WAS A HIT! The PTA received countless compliments on the Fall Festival including compliments regarding the set-up; event operations; booth variety and creativity; food selection; and our wonderful D.J., Mr. Joshua Schofer, a.k.a., Mr. Tristan!! The PTA thanks the Fall Festival Committee for pulling everything together, our volunteers for covering booths, set-up and tear down, and our Board for working the entire night through. The payoff is our families enjoyed their time, the event was a huge success, and everyone is looking forward to future events.

The PTA would like to thank our teachers: Ms. Flaque, Mr. Menzies, Mr.

Stringfellow, Mr. Brady, Coach Roberts, and HOST staff member, Mr. Jason, for participating in the dunk tank. The PTA knows it speaks for the entire General Assembly when we say, “we appreciate your time!” The students had a blast trying to make certain you remained soaked.

Nurse Yeni was instrumental in returning all Fall Festival decorations to storage and we greatly appreciate her time and everything she does to support our PTA Board.

Thank you all so much for making this a positive experience for our children and for your continued support!

Health & Wellness Week = HUGE SUCCESS!

On October 10th – 14th, MacFarlane Park IB World School hosted its annual Health & Wellness Week. The purpose of Health and Wellness Week is to educate students on healthy topics and to promote wellness.

Each day of the week had a different theme, from Morning Jams Monday to Throwback Friday! We also had the participation of several special guests! For example, on our Morning Show, Loralee Koontz from South Tampa Dermatology, discussed the importance of sunscreen. Additionally, the Football Club - Tampa Bay visited our school and showed off their professional soccer skills! MacFarlane Park Explorers also

kicked off their first Spirit Night at Evos for the 2011-2012 school year!

As you can see, Health & Wellness Week was a HUGE success. It certainly set the stage for further monthly Health and Wellness activities. To keep the healthy train moving, see our “Try it Tuesday” recipe for Green Slime Smoothies. Enjoy!

GREEN SLIME SMOOTHIE

- 1 Banana
- 1 cup of apple juice
- 1 cup of white grapes
- 1 cup of fat-free vanilla yogurt
- 1-2 cups of spinach leaves

BLEND WITH ICE AND SERVE!



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT !!

Thank you MacFarlane Park Explorers for joining the PTA for Family Movie Night on **Thursday, November 10th**. Our students enjoyed "RIO" with popcorn, pizza, and more! Thank you for also supporting the 5th grade bake sale.

Stay tuned for the next Family Movie Night!!



Explorer Brag Tags



Hi Explorers! Here's an update on our new and exciting rewards and incentives Explorer Brag Tags program that began this year. All students should have received a chain and an Academic Olympics tag to start out the year. Many students also received additional explorer tags at our 1st quarter Awards Ceremony last month. Throughout the remainder of the school year the PTA will award Explorer Brag Tags for the following achievements and participation in school/PTA activities:

Principal's Honor Roll	Honor Roll
Commitment	Perfect Attendance
Morning Show Crew	Safety Patrol
Student Council	Guitar Club
Strings Club	Chorus
Reflections	Science Fair Winners
Service Learning (5, 10 and 15 passport stamps and Service Leader tags)	Math Bowl Teams

In addition, MacFarlane Park faculty will also have the option of rewarding students with additional Explorer Tags for achievements in their particular classrooms. This portion of the reward and incentive program should be up and running in the new year. Students are responsible for taking care of their own chains and whatever tags they earn throughout the year. We will not be able to replace lost chains or tags. Please encourage your children to place their tags on their chain and proudly display them by attaching them to their backpacks or shoelaces.

As this is a new program for our school, we welcome any additional ideas. Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments or suggestions.

Angela Palkoner
 RP/Explorer Brag Tag Coordinator
 Palkoner@verizon.net



Planning for MacFarlane Park's 2012 Auction Party is Underway!!

Dhamarka! A Night in Bollywood, is the theme of MacFarlane Park's 2012 Auction Party! The date has been set and the venue booked! The date is April 14, 2012 at St. Mary's Hall located at 4311 W. San Miguel Street, Tampa FL 33629. Please join us as we dance the night away at our Bollywood-themed auction party. Bollywood is the name given to the film industry in India and is the world's largest film-producing unit, producing well over 1500 movies a year. Celebrate this exciting theme, as we make new friends, have fun and raise money for our children's school.

Passport of Service



Wow!!! We have had a great year of Explorers in Action. The service passport program is going well and growing every month with 37 participants in September; 30 participants in October; and 54 participants in November. We had some really great projects.

On Veterans Day we honored Cpl. Michael Nicholson with a special visit from local band 10th Concession, Clarke Ingrahm with his service dogs and a special visit from Michael's mother Mary. The next evening there was a benefit concert at the Amphitheatre raising \$2,750 for his Road to Recovery fund.

On November 17th we had a toy sale drive during the awards ceremony. The students voted to support The Children's Home, a local orphanage. We raised \$600 to help these young people. Way to go Explorers!

On November 19th we had the Hillsborough River Cleanup we had 32 people cleaning up the waterway along Rome Ave/ Columbus Ave. Bridge. Peraryana Fields also participated in the Trashformations contest and created a beautiful castle from recycled trash. Amazing!

Two Fifth graders jumped into action and collected well over 100 "Coats for Warm Hearts." The 4th and 5th graders strings program performed at St. Joseph's hospital to bring awareness to AIDS. Thank you Dr. Moorehead. There was a toy drive sponsored by the Bailey's (1st grade family) held at United Skates of America to collect toys for the Salvation Army.

We also had an author Paula M. Parlor come and read a book to K-2 about inclusion and disabilities. Thank you Mrs. Hutchinson! As you can see it has been a very busy month!! We have several service projects going on right now:

The Family Holiday Support is going well. We are helping 14 of our own MacFarlane students and their families. Thanks to Mrs. Nanfra and Mrs. Gonzalez for their support and help with this project.

The Pet Food Drive and Schools Fight Hunger campaigns are well under way and also doing well. These are also student driven projects. So many of the students really took action and made a difference.

Please visit our website for upcoming events and to download your community Service Log. This is a critical piece of any service and an important part of your child's education. You may also pick up a form from Mrs. Goodknow or your teacher.

Upcoming events:

January 14 - Getrealinvolved.org -Steppin Stone Farms-for at risk teenage girls.

February 18 - Get realinvolved.org-Horsepower-working on the farm to support monthly Fun at the Farm day.

As always please feel free to contact me with any questions or service ideas. I can be reached at tripltheadventure@gmail.com - Teri Bennati

WITH EVERY SEASON, CHANGE COMES . . . INTRODUCING:

Sarah Alvarez, your new PTA President for the duration of the 2011 – 2012 school year. Many of you have seen Sarah around or know her face from all the hard work she's dedicated to MacFarlane Park over the last few years. Please join the rest of the PTA in welcoming her aboard as our new PTA President and thanking her for stepping up to the challenge. Here's a quick word from Sarah:

As gifts are given and received this holiday season, I think of the gift of our wonderful families and staff, delight in all of your children and treasure the opportunity to continue to support our amazing school in 2012. Wherever you are and whatever you celebrate in the coming weeks, I and the entire PTA Board hope your holidays are filled with peace and joy.

Students, You Can Help Your School Win a Free Shade Structure!!!

The parents of MacFarlane Park have expressed concern about the lack of sun protection on our playground area. Now that our much loved Giving Tree has been removed, we no longer have shade on our Reading Garden area. Your PTA has been researching costs for shade structures and received estimates between \$28,000-\$44,000 just for the playground area. We have also been diligently researching available grants to help defray the high costs. Well, we found a grant which will award a complete shade structure to five elementary schools in Florida! *Students, write an essay about what you know about Sun Safety and you could win a shade structure for our school!* In addition to awarding shade structures to five elementary schools, The National Skin Education Foundation (NSEF) will also select one Grand Prize Student Essay Winner who will also receive a free trip to Orlando for your family and your teacher to present their winning essay.

2012 Sun Defense Essay Contest

Overview: The purpose of the NSEF Florida Sun Defense Essay Contest is to educate elementary school age children and their parents about the importance of sun safety and to promote literacy.

Rules: Participating students should write an essay, 500 words or less, about the reasons why people should protect themselves from the sun and why their school should be awarded a shade structure. Essays must be neatly handwritten and should be submitted to the student's teacher. Teachers will select one essay from their class to be turned into the MacFarlane Park PTA, no later than **Friday, January 27, 2012**. All essays will be sent to the judging panel for review and school staff judges to represent our school in the statewide contest. Contest rules and more can be found on the PTA website.

WHAT do you KNOW about Sun Safety?

Write a Winning Essay and have a chance to win a great prize for your school!

Dear Florida Elementary School Students,

What Do You Need To Do?
Write an essay of 500 words or less—Why you should protect yourself from the sun and why your school should be awarded a shade structure. Then, give it to your teacher.

What Can You Win?
A chance to win a shade structure for your school and a trip to Orlando for your teacher and your family Memorial Day Weekend to accept your award at the FSDDS Annual Meeting.

Submit your handwritten essay to your teacher by Friday, January 27, 2012. Winners will be announced March 26, 2012.

For more information visit fsdds.org, email: sunshadecontest@fsdds.org or call the FSDDS office at 904-880-0023.

NATIONAL SKIN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Explorers in Action!



International Coastal Clean-Up



ABC Clubs: Golf Inaugural Tournament



Newsletter Information You Can Use!

GOT SOMETHING TO SHARE THAT IS PTA NEWSWORTHY? SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE TODAY!!!



PTA President - Tristan Schroer
Principal - Dr. Denise Riverio
Editor - LaKisha M. Kinsey- Sallis

Issue Month	Submissions Due	Newsletter Printed	Newsletter Posted to Web & Distributed (first Monday of each month)*
January	January 2	January 9	January 10
February	January 27	February 3	February 6
March	February 24	March 2	March 5
April	March 23	March 30	April 2
May	April 27	May 4	May 7
June	May 25	June 1	June 4

Note: Dates subject to change

Save-the-Date!

SAVE THE DATE!
MacFarlane Park's 2012 Auction Party

dhamarka!

A Night in Bollywood
April 14, 2012
St. Mary's Hall - 4311 W. San Miguel Street, Tampa FL 33629

Please join us as we dance the night away at our Bollywood-themed auction party. Bollywood is the name given to the film industry in India and is the world's largest film-producing unit, producing well over 1,500 movies a year.

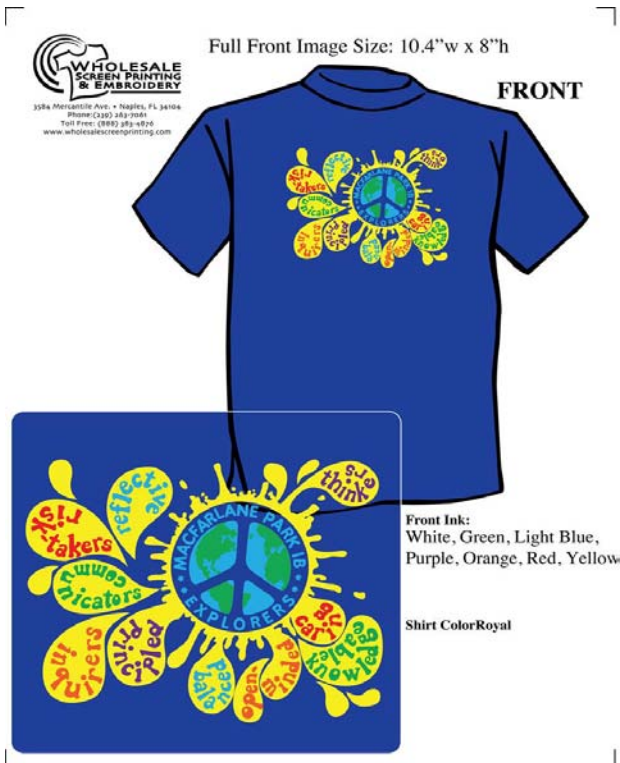
Celebrate this exciting theme as we make new friends, have fun, and raise money for our children's school.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED!

The MacFarlane Park PTA is always looking for helping-hands to assist with coordinating with school activities, classroom support, etc. We are always so grateful to those parents who volunteer countless hours to supporting the school and the PTA but can always use more help! Please join us if you can!

Up for the challenge?? Join the Auction Committee! For more information, please contact Elise Bengtson at elisebengtson@verizon.net or Shannon Brannagan at shannon.brannagan@accenture.com

Spirit Item & Uniform Orders



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To Order Uniform Polos and Spirit Shirts

Mail or bring your order form with payment to the school at 1721 N. MacDill, Tampa, FL 33607, Attn: PTA Uniforms

If you have any questions, please contact **Jerri Carlson, Uniform Coordinator**, at macfarlaneuniforms@verizon.net

Youth Polo (red or green) - \$14
New Youth Spirit Shirt - \$12

Adult Polo (red or green) - \$15
New Adult Spirit Shirt - \$12

Get these great Spirit Items while supplies last:

Visor - \$10
Car Magnet - \$5

2011-2012 PTA Board Members

President: **Tristan Schofer** - mfpptaprez@gmail.com

VP of Programs: **Teri Bennati** - tripletheadventure@gmail.com

Co-VP of Programs: **Shannon Brannigan** - shannon.brannigan@accenture.com

VP Business Partners: **Gary Hardie** - ghardie@lsandco.com

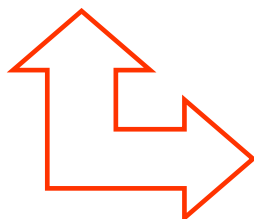
VP of Volunteers: **Jerri Carlson** - iwanttovolunteer@verizon.net

VP of Public Relations: **Sarah Alvarez** - macfarlanepta@yahoo.com

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: **Rebeca Fenton** - rebecafenton@yahoo.com

Treasurer: **Susan Hawkins** - mfpptatreasurer@gmail.com

Contact Us



2011-2012 PTA Committee Members

Uniforms/Spirit Orders: **Jerri Carlson** - macfarlaneuniforms@verizon.net

Membership: **Elise Bengtson** - elisebengtson@verizon.net

Club Coordinator: **Jeanne Williams** - jnine96@yahoo.com

Homeroom Coordinator: **Jerri Carlson** - iwanttovolunteer@verizon.net

Reflections: **Jeanette Tipton** - jeanetteleet@verizon.net

Trash To Treasure: **Jeanette Tipton** - jeanetteleet@verizon.net

RP & Brag Tags: **Angela Palkoner** - palkoner@verizon.net

Yearbook: **Jerri Carlson** - iwanttovolunteer@verizon.net

5th Grade Events Coordinator: **Lisa Pistorino** - pistmjla@tampabay.rr.com

Hospitality: **Beth Harris** - bethwharris13@gmail.com

JOIN THE PTA TODAY!

Support our children, teachers and school by joining the MacFarlane Park PTA!

Membership in the MacFarlane Park PTA is open to anyone who has an interest in the education of children and who is involved in a child's life: parents, grandparents, guardians and other family members, teachers, school staff and administrators, businesses, and community members. Yearly dues are only \$6.00/person.

*final*thoughts

The PTA strongly encourages all parents to get involved to SERVE. There are many ways you can volunteer with the PTA, in the classroom and with various school and PTA programs and events. For more information, please email **Jerri Carlson, Volunteer Coordinator**, iwanttovolunteer@verizon.net. SERVE forms are on the PTA website.

Your MacFarlane Park PTA membership dues include membership in National and Florida PTAs. \$3.50 of each membership is remitted to Florida PTA to cover national and state dues. Presently, our PTA has 300 members and is looking for more!!

PTA Membership . . .

Become A Part of Something That Works!



MacFarlane Park
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Tampa, FL 33607

Phone:
(813) 356-1760

Fax:
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E-mail:
<http://macfarlanepark.mysdhc.org/>

"The World's Best
World School"



MacFarlane Park Elementary School
1721 N. MacDill Avenue
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**MACFARLANE PARK
STUDENTS & FAMILIES**