

# The Grady Gazette

A publication of Grady Elementary PTA  
Volume 2, Issue 1, September, 2013

## From PTA President, Damaris Allen

Dear Grady Parents,

Welcome back, Grady Tigers! We are so excited to begin the 2013-2014 school year. It is my privilege to serve as your PTA president. I serve alongside an incredibly talented and dedicated board of eight other members, all of whom are working hard to make this an incredible year.



Grady Elementary PTA works hard to enhance the feeling of inclusiveness and sense of community at Grady. We partner with Grady parents, teachers, staff and our community to bring fun and educational programs, events, services and opportunities to our children to enrich their academic experiences.

PTA is for everyone. If you have not already, we encourage you and your family to join. Your membership and participation in our events will result in our school being able to purchase enriching curriculum materials and will help Grady Elementary with the construction of a new multipurpose building on school grounds.

Grady is a wonderful school, with a dedicated staff and a great group of parents. I am confident that with your help this will be a banner year at Grady. I look forward to serving you this year!

Sincerely,

Damaris Allen (email: [GradyElementaryPTA@gmail.com](mailto:GradyElementaryPTA@gmail.com))



## Go Grady Tigers!

The Grady Gazette is a publication of the Grady Elementary PTA. It is designed to keep our entire school community informed about all of the activities of the Grady Elementary PTA. It is published six times a year in September, October, November/Dec., January, Feb./March and April/May.

**The deadline for submission of articles is the tenth of the month prior to the publication date. Please email submissions to:**

[GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com)

Our Mission: The Mission of the Grady Elementary PTA is to provide programs and activities to support our students, teachers and parents in order to enhance the educational experience at Grady Elementary School.

Principal: Kristine Dosal  
PTA President: Damaris Allen  
Editor: Ellen Lyons



**We are going green.** This first issue of The Grady Gazette will be printed in hard copy, but all successive issues will be transmitted by electronic mail. PTA members will automatically receive future newsletters and updates by email. If you are not a PTA member, but would like to receive future issues of this newsletter and updates via email, **please send an email with the word "newsletter" in the subject line to [GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com)**. If you do not have email, printed copies of the Grady Gazette will be available in the front office immediately upon publication of each newsletter.

# PTA<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.one voice.<sup>®</sup>*

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Follow us on Twitter!  
[@gradytigers](https://twitter.com/gradytigers)



## Box Tops for Education



Once you start looking, you'll see these little pink coupons everywhere! **Each Box Top coupon is worth 10¢ for Grady Elementary. And they really add up.** Last year Grady earned **\$1,237.00** from Box Tops for Education, and this money directly supports school programs. Let's continue to clip box tops from hundreds of products (General Mills, Pillsbury, Hefty, Scott and Betty Crocker, just to name a few). **Our goal is to receive 20 box tops per child.** Please put the clipped box tops in a Ziploc bag and send them to school with your child **on or before October 18, 2013.** Please contact box top coordinator Amy Jarman at [akojaman@msn.com](mailto:akojaman@msn.com) with any questions.

To learn more about Box Tops for Education and see a complete list of participating products, please go to: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/products/participating-products>

## Great American Fall Fundraiser By Jessica Schentrup VP of Fundraising

Dear Grady Parents,

I hope the school year has started off well for each and every one of you. The PTA has an exciting year of events planned for the children and families of Grady Elementary. The first is the annual Fall Fundraiser which kicked off on August 29th. Grady Elementary has partnered with Great American for a catalog based fundraiser, with a huge variety of high quality products that appeal to everyone. Choose from holiday wrap and accessories from the Martha Taylor Collection, plus magazines, jewelry, chocolate, kitchen, garden and more. Plus, visit the website [www.gafundraising.com](http://www.gafundraising.com) for an expanded selection of fantastic items.

The main goal of the Fall Fundraiser is to raise funds to build a new multipurpose facility for our school as well as support the teachers as they implement the new Common Core State Standards this year. Look for the catalog packets, which went home with each child on August 29th. Don't let your child miss the chance to win a collection of up to 20 adorable monkey key chains! Monkeys will be distributed randomly and students will be able to trade with other students and teachers.

We hope to raise \$10,000 from this event. We can make this year a great success if we work together. We are asking every family to participate in the fundraiser to reach our goal. I look forward to an outstanding year with all of you at Grady Elementary.

Jessica Schentrup, MSF, VP of Fundraising  
([GradyPTAFundraising@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTAFundraising@gmail.com))

### Family Nights

Please come support our school. Enjoy family nights sponsored by Grady's business partners. Please mention Grady Elementary when you order and a portion of your purchase will be donated to our school. Watch for our family night at **PDQ**, located at 2207 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, on Friday, **October 4**, from 5-8 pm, and our upcoming family nights at Pizza Hut, 4055 S. Dale Mabry Hwy. (near Britton Plaza), and Pinarama, located at 5008 S. Dale Mabry Hwy.



## Board Member Spotlight: Events

Two Jennifers are sharing the role of Grady PTA VP of Events. Jennifer Narvaes is a mother of two boys, a first grader and a second grader. This will be her second year as a Grady Elementary mom. Last year, she was a homeroom parent and she volunteered at multiple school events, so she is well versed in how our events work. She is originally from Hawaii, but as a military wife, has lived in many places over the last decade. She is hopeful to be in Tampa for several years to come.

Jennifer Postlewait is married to retired Army Sergeant Major Rob Postlewait and the mother of two girls; one in second grade and the other in first grade. Last year, she also served as a homeroom parent and volunteered at multiple school events.

This year's events include the Grandparents' Day Breakfasts, Fall Festival, Winter Concert, the Walkathon and the Spring Musical. See the attached calendar of events for the day of each event. Jennifer Narvaes and Jennifer Postlewait both hope that you and your family enjoy the wonderful events they are planning for you. Both Jennifers may be reached at [GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com).



**2013 - 2014 PTA Board**

From top left to bottom right

Jennifer Narvaes – Events  
Debbie Bresnahan – Membership  
Kris House – Sponsorship  
Melissa Azevedo – Secretary  
Jessica Schentrup – Fundraising  
Ellen Lyons – Communications  
Julie Cuevas – Treasurer  
Jennifer Postlewait – Events  
Damaris Allen - President

### Research Shows Students with Highly Involved Parents Do Better in School

Combining data from 77 studies, researchers found **the achievement scores of children with highly involved parents were higher** than those of children with less involved parents. This finding held across all ages and ethnic groups and all measures of achievement, including grades, test scores, and teacher ratings.

From William H. Jeynes, *Parental Involvement and Student Achievement* (2005)

**Grady Spirit Shirts are now on sale for \$10/ea. at Teamwork Imprinted Sportswear, 2403 S. Dale Mabry Hwy. Open Monday-Friday, 9 am to 6 pm. Tel (813) 258-0331.**

## Mom's Night Out, Monday September 30

Calling all moms! Want a fun filled night off and a chance to meet other Grady moms? Please join us at **Kona Grill**, 4134 W Boy Scout Blvd, Tampa, FL 33607 (restaurant telephone number is (813) 877-5938) for food, drinks and conversation. The **Mom's Night Out** is set for **Monday, September 30, 2013, starting at around 6:30 pm and ending around 9 pm**. We hope to see you there. To RSVP or ask questions, please email Ellen Lyons at [GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com) or call at (813) 760-0699.

## Grady "Eye of the Tiger" Video

Take a second look at the amazing video our Grady teachers and staff made to celebrate this year's theme, Eye of the Tiger. [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B3fiT\\_Hcd-X5U00zMW9yZTRiQ28/preview](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B3fiT_Hcd-X5U00zMW9yZTRiQ28/preview)

## Please Help Grady Elementary Reach 100% PTA Membership! By Debbie Bresnahan, VP of Membership

The goal of our PTA is to involve **all parents** and grandparents in the Grady family. Thus, we request that **someone from every Grady family join the PTA this year**. Membership costs just \$6 for a single member and \$10 for two members. Because volunteering is requested, not required, you can **feel connected, without fear of a time commitment**. Every family has something to offer, such as sending in box tops or supporting our events. So please help to enhance our children's school experiences by joining the PTA. **To join, please fill out the form on the last page of the newsletter and send it with cash or check to your child's teacher.** Please contact Debbie Bresnahan at [GradyPTAMembership@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTAMembership@gmail.com) with any questions.

# Grady PTA 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

PTA Email: [gradyelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:gradyelementarypta@gmail.com)

## August

8/29 Weds Great American Fundraiser Kickoff (ends 9/13)

## September

9/2 Mon LABOR DAY HOLIDAY-No School  
9/4 & 9/5 7:15 AM Grandparents Day Breakfast  
9/5 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting  
9/30 Thurs 6:30-9 PM Mom's Night Out at Kona Grill

## October

10/3 Thurs 12-1 PM Board Meeting  
10/4 Fri 5-8 PM Family night at PDQ  
10/18 Fri Fall Festival  
10/21 Mon Non-Student Day-No School

## November

11/7 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting  
11/11 Mon VETERAN'S DAY—No School  
11/25 -11/29 Thanksgiving Holidays—No School

## December

12/5 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting  
12/19 Thurs Winter Concert  
12/23-1/3 Winter Holidays—No School

## January

1/9 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting  
1/9 Thurs 5-8 PM Family night at PDQ  
1/16 Thurs 5-7 PM Unlock the Treasures/2<sup>nd</sup> PTA General Meeting  
1/20 Mon MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY—No School  
1/21 Tues Non-Student Day—No School  
1/24 Fri Walkathon

## February

2/6 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting  
2/7 Fri FAIR DAY HOLIDAY—No School  
2/28 Fri 8-10 AM Kindergarten Roundup

## March

3/6 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting  
3/10 - 3/14 SPRING BREAK HOLIDAY—No School

## April

4/3 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting  
4/18 Fri Non-Student Day – No School

## May

5/5-5/9 Teacher Appreciation Week  
5/14 Thurs 5-7 PM Spring Musical/3<sup>rd</sup> PTA  
5/26 Mon MEMORIAL DAY

## June

6/6 Fri Last day of school!

## Sponsorship, by Kris House

Grady Parents:

I would like to provide you with a brief overview of the Tiger Partner Sponsorship Program. Grady Elementary PTA's primary mission is to provide programs and activities to support our students, teachers and parents in order to enhance the educational experience at Grady Elementary School.

To make our mission a reality, we rely on parents, grandparents, neighbors and community sponsors to fund our Tiger Partner Sponsorship Program. This program consists of **five levels**, listed in the sponsorship packet, **of tax-deductible contributions to help fund all of the important projects we offer at Grady Elementary**. Every student has received the sponsorship packet, and extra copies are available in the school's main office.

An example of how the money is used is this year the PTA provided each teacher with a \$100 Lakeshore Learning gift card at the start of the school year. These gift cards are used for **classroom supplies not funded by the district**. The teachers normally purchase these supplies with their own money. Another example is that in June 2013, the PTA provided **funding for the World Drum Curriculum**, which will be used in Mr. Florio's music classes. This new program will be started this year at Grady Elementary, and **every single child will get to participate**. Another of our main goals is to raise money for a new multipurpose facility. The new facility will allow us to offer a full range of extra-curricular activities, provide shelter for physical education on extremely hot days or in the case of inclement weather and house our events such as the Winter Concert and Spring Musical.

When it comes to Grady Elementary School, I am very passionate. Funding these programs is extremely important because they are needed and appreciated by our very own children. I ask you to join me in my enthusiasm and passion for our kids, and give them the future they deserve!

Kris House, VP of Sponsorships  
([GradyPTASponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTASponsorship@gmail.com))



### Vote for Grady!

Help Grady earn a donation from Target! Just 25 votes will give Grady \$25. Every vote after that gives Grady another \$1 up to \$10,000. It is free to vote so please vote for Grady once a week!

Voting ends 9/21/13

<https://givewith.target.com>

### Mini Corn Dog Bites Recipe

Mix 1 box of Jiffy corn bread mix according to package directions. Spray a mini-muffin pan with Pam Cooking Spray. Spoon the corn bread batter into the mini muffin pan, filling each spot approx. 3/4 full. Slice 2 low sodium hot dogs (e.g. Boars Head Brand) into 12 pieces. Place one piece of hot dog into the center of each spot of the muffin pan. Bake at 400° for 10+ minutes or until crust is golden brown. Makes 12.

## Florida PTA Statewide Convention Report

In July, Florida PTA held its annual statewide convention. President, Damaris Allen, VP of Membership, Debbie Bresnahan, and VP of Communications, Ellen Lyons, attended the conference. The conference provided extensive training to PTA members, with special emphasis on event planning and communication. The conference also featured an excellent program on conflict resolution. The conflict resolution program emphasized that honest communication can come from properly identified and managed conflict. The key is to understand that different values are the source of conflict, to work toward a shared value and to show respect to others in the process. The conference provided our board with many new ideas for the coming year.

# Grady Tiger Tears Event at Kay Hance Media Center

August 20, 2013



## The Importance of Trust

A study of trust in Chicago schools found that higher achieving schools had higher levels of trust, while schools with the lowest achievement rates had minimal trust. The researchers used four qualities to define trust, which we can all remember to use in our daily lives:

**Respect:** Recognizing that each person plays an important role in a child's education and knowing that parents and educators can talk honestly and openly

**Competence:** Feeling that families and educators can create an effective working environment and will work hard to get the job done

**Integrity:** Feeling that people keep their word, doing what they say they will do, and always put the best interests of children first

**Personal regard:** Knowing that people in the school community are willing to go out of their way to help each other

Anthony S. Bryk and Barbara Schneider, *Trust in Schools: A Core Resource for Improvement* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2002), quoted from National PTA Guide

Healthy Lunch Box Ideas:

[www.wholefoodsmarket.com/2012/08/kids-lunches](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/2012/08/kids-lunches)



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Carol W. Kurdell - Vice Chair  
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Stacy R. White, Pharm.D.



# GRADY ELEMENTARY PTA

## 2013-2014 PTA Membership Application

The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Please help support your child(ren) and our school by joining the Grady PTA for the 2013-2014 school year. Anyone can join the PTA: Parents, Grandparents, Teachers, Faculty, Staff and Members of the Community.

Membership dues are \$6 per person or \$10 for two. Cash or check is accepted. **Please make checks payable to Grady PTA. Please return this form and payment to your child's teacher.**

**Please include all email addresses you wish to receive PTA notifications.**

Type of member  
(parent, teacher, grandparent, other)

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ P T G O

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Grade/Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ P T G O

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Grade/Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

**If you haven't already joined the PTA and want to stay connected to other Grady families, please join today by using this form**