



The Grady Gazette

A publication of Grady Elementary PTA
Volume 2, Issue 4, January, 2014



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

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.

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PTA President: Damaris Allen
Editor: Ellen Lyons

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.[®]

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Newly Designed Website:
<http://grady.mysdhc.org/>

Follow us on Twitter! 
@gradytigers

From PTA President, Damaris Allen



Dear Members of the Grady Elementary Community,
Happy New Year! I hope that 2014 brings you and your family much happiness.

Our PTA had a busy, but wonderful December. We enjoyed a wonderful Winter Concert on December 19, 2013, complete with a successful bake sale (\$692 in revenue) and beautiful silent auction projects by each class. The silent auction projects, featuring the work of Grady students, were amazingly creative and generated \$1,270 in revenue for the PTA. We also held a free uniform swap. Due to the positive response to the uniform swap we plan to have another uniform swap at the Spring Musical.

The Winter Concert performances were fantastic. **Thank you** to Mr. Steven Florio and to all Grady teachers and administrators for all of your hard work in producing the Winter Concert. Thank you to all of you who volunteered to set up chairs, who baked, and who made the beautiful projects for the silent auction. And thank you to the donors who bought our baked goods. The Winter Concert was a wonderful way to conclude the year.

Prior to the Winter Concert, the PTA held a general meeting at which the PTA's bylaws were amended. The PTA board will now have 10 members. At the general meeting, we also said *bon voyage* to our fellow board member, Events Co-VP Jennifer Postelwait, who has moved with her family to Ohio. Jennifer, who has the ability to see the positive side of nearly any situation and fixes problems with hard work, will be greatly missed here in Tampa.

Now it is January 2014, and we have a whole new set of events planned for Grady students and their families. First, Grady Elementary is hosting **Unlock the Treasures of Reading Night** on **January 16, 2014**, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Both parents and children are invited to the school for this evening program about reading. Children will enjoy listening to books read by Gasparilla pirates while parents learn important information about reading development and school testing.

Next, our Walk-a-thon, **Grady Tiger Trek**, will take place **Friday January 24, 2014** on campus. Grady students are encouraged to collect pledges prior to Tiger Trek. Hundreds of prizes and incentives will be given away to students and their parents in connection with Tiger Trek. To learn more about Tiger Trek or to volunteer to cheer our Tigers on, please visit our website at

<http://grady.mysdhc.org/tigertrek>.

Finally on **January 31, 2014**, Grady Elementary will host multiple presentations to students by author **Augusta Scattergood** in connection with **Battle of the Books**. Ms. Scattergood will speak to students about character development, and more generally about how to become an author, to all third, fourth and fifth grade students. This presentation will be especially meaningful for the fourth grade, as each fourth grader is reading Ms. Scattergood's book, *Glory Be*, in connection with Battle of the Books. This is going to be a great event and is the result of the hard work of the many teachers who secured Ms. Scattergood's attendance and received a mini-grant from the PTA to pay Ms. Scattergood's appearance fee. **Ms. Scattergood's presentation is a perfect example of the PTA partnering with Grady Elementary to provide educational enhancements for our children.**

In addition to helping with the Battle of the Books, Grady Elementary PTA is funding the purchase of 3 new iPads (up to a total amount of \$1,500) for the ASD program. We recently received a wonderful hand written thank you card from the ASD program for the \$300 mini-grant that the PTA made to the ASD program for special ASD projects. It is heartwarming to know that the money raised by parents, teachers, grandparents and members of our community is enhancing the lives of our students and is also much appreciated. We are in the process of approving additional grants for projects that will help our entire school. There is still money available for 2014 teacher mini-grants. We hope that fundraising from Tiger Trek will enable us to fund even more enhancements to our school.

In closing, I encourage you to continue to visit Grady Elementary School's website <http://grady.mysdhc.org/home> for constantly updated information on school and PTA events.

Sincerely,

Damaris Allen, President (email: GradyElementaryPTA@gmail.com)

Membership, By Debbie Bresnahan



Dear Members of the Grady Elementary Community

Want to save money, help Grady AND be in the know?

PTA Membership cards were sent home in December and January. Please take a few moments to activate your card(s) at <https://www3.pta.org/Ebusiness/Default.aspx?TabID=291>. By doing so, you will accomplish 3 things:

1. Be the first to know about PTA member savings opportunities, such as \$30 adult and child single day tickets to Legoland during the month of January;
2. Ensure the Florida PTA knows Grady parents are active; and
3. Receive monthly updates from the Florida PTA regarding important legislative information.

It will also assist us in applying for PTA awards. There is an award for having 25% of the membership being male. To qualify 100% of our male membership cards must be activated by March 31, 2014. There is a similar award for Teachers, and all cards must be activated.

Please help Grady attain award-winning status and show our school has outstanding parental involvement.

Debbie Bresnahan, VP of Membership
(GradyPTAMembership@gmail.com)

PTA Membership Benefit



PTA members get discounted tickets to Legoland for visits during the month of January. Children and adults are both just \$30/person for a single day admission. To purchase tickets, click the link on Florida PTA's webpage: <http://www.floridapta.org/>

Box Tops Update



Please start sending in your box tops for the box tops competition that ends on February 14, 2014. Each box top is worth 10 cents to our school. Please send your box tops into your child's class in clear Ziplocs with a maximum of 50 per bag. Please include a slip of paper with your child's name, grade level and the number of box tops. The grade level with the most box tops collected as of February 14, 2014, wins a party.

You can also attach box tops to box top collection sheets, printable at: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/all-about-boxtops/boxtops-downloads>

PTA Membership Statistics

Grady Elementary is quickly closing in on 100% PTA Membership (membership equal to 75% of the number of total students enrolled). Currently, we have 272 members, made up of the following types of members:

Parents: 199
Teachers: 35
Grandparents: 35
Other: 7

Dale Mabry, McFarlane Park and Mitchell have a higher percentage of PTA membership than us, but Gorrie does not. Please encourage your friends to join the PTA to show our involvement in our children's lives and to help Grady shine among schools.

Fifth Grade Report, By Stacy Quinones

The Fifth Grade will continue its doughnut sales to raise money in support of the Fifth Grade Banquet. The next doughnut sale will take place on Friday, February 7, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the front loop. Doughnuts are \$7.00/dozen or \$1 each.

The Fifth Grade Committee is working hard to plan a fantastic Fifth Grade Banquet. If any parents are interested in serving on the Fifth Grade Committee, please call Stacy Quinones at (813) 838-1713 or email her at stacyQny@gmail.com.

Kindergarten Round Up

Kindergarten Round Up will take place at 8:30 am on Thursday, February 6, 2014, in the Kay Hance Media Center. Parents interested in sending their children to Grady Elementary and their children are welcome to attend.

School administrators and each of the Kindergarten teachers will speak. The program will conclude with a tour of each of the four Kindergarten classes. No RSVP is necessary. Please tell your friends with future Kindergarteners about this program so that they can come see all that Grady Elementary has to offer.

Grady T-shirts For Moms, Dads and Faculty

Show your Grady pride with Grady Mom, Grady Dad and Grady Faculty shirts. The Grady Mom and Grady Faculty shirts come in fitted and relaxed styles with shiny beading (the fitted shirts run small, so please order a size up). The Grady Dad shirt is a performance fabric (like dri-fit) shirt with the Tiger paw logo in the upper left chest area. To order your Grady shirts, see the forms available at <http://grady.mysdhc.org/grady-t-shirts>



Grady Faculty T-Shirts
Cost is \$25 per shirt



Grady Mom T-Shirts
Cost is \$25 per shirt



Grady Dads T-Shirts
Cost is \$15 per shirt

Grady PTA Delivers Doughnuts To Fire Station 14



Parent Resource: FCAT



FCAT Explorer's Parent and Family Guide assists parents in their efforts to help children strengthen the critical skills outlined in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and tested on the FCAT. FCAT Explorer also features exercises to help children strengthen their skills. Check out FCAT Explorer at: <http://www.fcateexplorer.com/>

Common Core Resources



For information regarding the Common Core State Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/>
For grade-by-grade guides to the new Common Core State Standards: <http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?itemNumber=2910>
For information regarding Florida's implementation of Common Core State Standards: <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/ccs.asp>

Dear Parents and
Members of the Grady
Community,

We are asking for your
support!

WHAT: The 2nd annual
Grady Tiger Trek Walk-a-
thon. Your child will have
an opportunity to raise money in a fun way while they exercise!

WHEN: January 24th during school hours

WHY: This PTA fundraiser will have no food to buy, magazines to order or catalogs to look through. *100% of the proceeds* will go directly to Grady to benefit your children and our school.

HOW: Students can ask family members, friends and neighbors to support Grady PTA by pledging money towards their participation. Parents, you may also take this form to work to ask co-workers to support your child at Grady. For your convenience, per-lap pledges have been replaced by flat donations. However, your walker will still enjoy competing for prizes on the number of laps completed.

GOALS AND PRIZES:

We encourage every walker to *raise at least \$30* in donations. The PTA has worked hard to win sponsorship from local businesses. There will be *hundreds of prizes* from Whole Foods Market, Xtreme Juice, Chick-Fil-A, Sally O' Neal's Pizza, Yogurtology, Pinarama Lanes, LA Fitness and Seal Swim School. Others have graciously given monetary donations and you'll see their logos on the event T-shirt.

The event t-shirt will be awarded to walkers who *raise a minimum of \$30 in donations*. Your child can wear their Tiger Trek t-shirt on Fridays for Spirit Day- so expect their excitement!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, **January 8th**- *Donation Envelope* goes home with your child. Inside is a list of prizes. Please use envelope to record and submit donations.

Wednesday, January 22nd- *deadline to return the Donation Envelope* if your child is earning a Tiger Trek t-shirt.

Friday, January 24th- date of Tiger Trek Walk-a-thon

Questions? Volunteers? Visit www.grady.mysdhc.org/tigertrek or email GradyPTAfundraising@gmail.com



Tiger Trek Sponsors

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors



-and-



Family Sponsors:

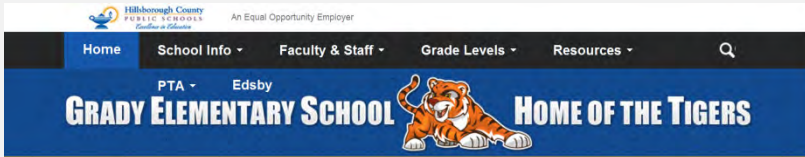
*The de la Garza Family
The Hickinbotham Family
The Robinson Family
The Schentrup Family
The Iles Family
The Grady Elementary Family*

In Kind Sponsors:

PINARAMA BOWLING CENTER



Website Update



Grady's new website, which is easy to use, mobile friendly and constantly updated, appears to be well received. From the date the new website went live, October 18, 2013, until the conclusion of 2013, 1,332 unique visitors came to the site. Those 1,332 people made 2,754 visits during this period. 55.7% of the visitors are returning users, and we expect that percentage to increase as more parents and teachers check for updates. The average visitor to the Grady Elementary website spends 4 minutes and 6 seconds on the site. The pages with the highest interaction are the Events, News and PTA News items, respectively.

Grady Elementary has continued to upgrade and improve the website. Grady Elementary added **teacher profiles**, pictures and the email addresses of Grady instructors and administrators to the teacher profiles. Now you can see photographs of teachers, learn their email addresses and learn more about teachers using the website.

Notably, on the day that we sent the PTA blast email about the addition of teacher profiles to the site, website use shot up to a record level -- 92 visitors in just one day. We are delighted that so many people have visited the website.

If you have ideas to improve the website, or questions about it, please email: GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com

Here is a chart that shows the number of unique visitors to the Grady website on any given day between its launch and the end of 2013.



1,332 people visited this site



Thank You!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

LEADER OF THE PACK

Silly Dilly Tot Spot
Kuhn Honda-Volkswagen
House of Huckleberry

BENGAL

The Lyons Family
Chris and Sarah Boyd and
Butler & Boyd, P.A.
Gerry and Linda Gilbert
The Pham Family (for the 5th
Grade Class)

TIGER

Hoffman Realty – South Tampa
Property Management
Lucy Espana and Family
Jack and Denise Hamilton
Mike and Van Tuong Vu Phan
Esther and Jeremy Muench

CUB

Pam LaCrosse (In recognition of
Kay Hance)
Carine Lachat
Erin McCormick

Thank You!

Grady PTA 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

PTA Email: gradyelementarypta@gmail.com

January

- 1/9 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting
- 1/9 Thurs PDQ Family Night
- 1/16 Thurs 5-7 PM Unlock the Treasures
- 1/17 Fri End of Second Grading Period
- 1/20 Mon MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY—No School
- 1/21 Tues Non-Student Day—No School
- 1/24 Fri TIGER TREK WALKATHON

February

- 2/6 Thurs 12-1 Board Meeting
- 2/6 Thurs 8:30 am Kindergarten Round Up
- 2/7 Fri FAIR DAY HOLIDAY—No School
- 2/14 Fri Last day to turn in box tops for the holiday season competition
- 2/21 Fri 8 am Donor and Volunteer Breakfast in the Kay Hance Media Center

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 Wed 5-7 PM Spring Musical/3rd PTA General Meeting
- 5/26 Mon MEMORIAL DAY

June

- 6/6 Fri Last day of school!



2013 - 2014 PTA Board Contact Information

- President: Damaris Allen (GradyElementaryPTA@gmail.com)
- VP of Membership: Debbie Bresnahan (GradyPTAMembership@gmail.com)
- VP of Communications: Ellen Lyons (GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com)
- VP of Sponsorships: Kris House (GradyPTASponsorships@gmail.com)
- VP of Fundraising: Jessica Schentrup (GradyPTAFundraising@gmail.com)
- VP of Events: Jennifer Narvaes (GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com)
- Secretary: Melissa Azevedo (mazevedo@tbo.com)
- Treasurer: Julie Cuevas (jbc2011j@gmail.com)

Winter Concert, December 19, 2013



Hearty Turkey Chili

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 pound ground turkey
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cups water
- 1 (28 ounce) can canned crushed tomatoes
- 1 (16 ounce) can canned kidney beans - drained, rinsed, and mashed
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper



Directions (15 minutes of prep time; 30 minutes of cooking time)

1. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Place turkey in the pot, and cook until evenly brown. Stir in onion, and cook until tender.
2. Pour water into the pot. Mix in tomatoes, kidney beans, and garlic. Stir in chili powder, paprika, oregano, cayenne pepper, cumin, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 30 minutes.



Carol W. Kurdell – Chair
Susan L. Valdes – Vice Chair
Doretha W. Edgecomb
April Griffin
Candy Olson
Cindy Stuart
Stacy R. White, Pharm.D.



GRADY ELEMENTARY PTA

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