



# The Grady Gazette

A publication of Grady Elementary PTA  
Volume 2, Issue 2, October, 2013

## From PTA President, Damaris Allen

Dear Members of the Grady Elementary Community,

I'm pleased to report that our PTA is off to a great start. We have already signed up more members in August and September than we did during the entire 2012-13 school year.

We are poised to win two Florida PTA membership awards due to grandparent involvement and due to the speed with which we've built this year's membership. We want to continue our mission of advocating for all of our school's children and providing educational enhancements for our children. Your membership in our PTA goes a long way to helping us meet those goals, so PTA members, **thank you for joining**. If you have not yet joined, there is a form on the back page of this newsletter that will help you become a member.



Another way that we are off to a great start is with events. We have already hosted a PTA general meeting, the Tiger Tears event for parents new to the school, and two Grandparents' Breakfasts. We are in the process of planning an exciting Fall Festival (October 18) for your family to attend.

We have also conducted a very successful fundraising campaign that has raised thousands of dollars for Grady. The success of our fundraiser could not have been possible without the contributions of many parents and grandparents, so we thank you for your participation in the fundraiser.

Our Homeroom Parents program is also off to a great start. The Homeroom Parents have already met and are busy helping our teachers prepare for student events and activities.

In addition to the money Grady Elementary PTA provides to Grady for curriculum and educational supplies not funded by the school district, the PTA has developed a mini-grant program whereby \$6,000 in PTA funds are earmarked annually for mini-grants requested by Grady Elementary faculty or staff. At the first PTA board meeting in September, the PTA funded Common Core State Standards reading materials for the first grade team; a speaking fee for *Glory Be* author, Augusta Scattergood, to speak to the third, fourth and fifth grade students in conjunction with the Battle of the Books event, and a hand truck to be used by the custodial staff to move furniture and boxes around the school. We hope that our mini-grant funds are used throughout the year to help provide enhancing opportunities for our children.

I am so pleased with the hardworking Grady PTA team that we have built. I hope that you will join us in our efforts to advocate for our children and support our school.

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



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Follow us on Twitter!   
**@gradytigers**

## Sponsorship Update, By Kris House

We're off to an excellent start this school year, having already collected over \$3,000 in sponsorship money! This is in addition to the Fall Fundraiser we just completed. (I hope all of the kids are enjoying those monkeys!) Also, Grady Elementary was selected as the first winner of the \$2,000 Earning for Learning prize from Westshore Plaza.

By participating in the sponsorship program, you become a Grady PTA Tiger Partner! Some of the benefits of becoming a Grady PTA Tiger Partner are increased visibility, awareness and recognition of your business within the Grady family, opportunities to interact within the Grady community, and creating positive public and community relations.

The five levels of participation are:

Leader of the Pack--\$1,000 +  
Bengal--\$500 +  
Cougar--\$250 +  
Tiger--\$100 +  
Cub--\$50 +

Every amount helps our school, and remember: all of your contributions are tax-deductible!

We are currently working towards raising funds to build a new multi-purpose facility as well as adding a beautiful wrought iron fence around the perimeter of the school. The cost of this project is \$1.5M. If you haven't seen it already, there is a beautiful picture of the facility in the front office. Together, we can make a difference and together, we can make this happen! I look forward to your continued support in helping our Grady Tigers' dreams come true!

Sincerely,

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

## Membership, By Debbie Bresnahan

Thank you Grady PTA members! This is turning out to be an excellent year for membership. We have already exceeded last year's total membership (204) by signing up **220 members in August and September**. Because we have exceeded last year's numbers in such a short period of time, we will be able to apply for a Florida PTA Early Bird Award. We also have had tremendous response from grandparents and anticipate being able to apply for a Florida PTA Grandparent Involvement award. We still have a ways to go, but I feel confident we can achieve 100% PTA membership this year. How fantastic would it be to say that Grady Elementary is an award winning PTA with 100% membership! If you haven't joined yet, please do so you can help us attain this coveted status.

Debbie Bresnahan, VP of Membership  
([GradyPTAMembership@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTAMembership@gmail.com))

## Thank You, Sponsors!

### Leader of the Pack!

Silly Dilly Tot Spot, A Tiger Partner

### Bengal

Gerry and Linda Gilbert: "We are hoping that Grady Elementary will continue its climb towards academic excellence!"

The Lyons Family

The Pham Family

### Tiger

Lucia Espana and Family

Jack and Denise Hamilton

Mike and Van Tuong Vu Phan

### Cub

Pam LaCrosse, In recognition of Kay Hance

Carine Lachat

Erin McCormick

### PTA Drop Box & Volunteer Hours

Did you know that Grady PTA has a locked drop box in the front office? It is behind the front desk near the sign-in computer. You can leave money, forms or private messages in the drop box. Please ask an office employee to help you when dropping items off in the drop box.

Also, if you are volunteering for a school event, please sign in to the computer as a "Volunteer" for the "PTA" rather than as a "Visitor." Logging in as a Volunteer helps our PTA accumulate volunteer hours needed for certain end of year PTA awards. Thank you for your service!

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



VP of Fundraising Jessica Schentrup and President Damaris Allen total up the fundraising results

Dear Members of the Grady Community,

I want to take this opportunity to share the excitement that we have experienced from the Great American Fall Fundraiser. The Monkeys invaded Grady Elementary on August 29th and roamed our halls for two weeks! Every morning was a frenzy, as students turned in coupons for their favorite monkey! The chaos continued with the "Monkey of the Day" drawing on the Morning Show. Those students with the coveted Monkey of the Day received an additional prize - a throwback Penguin. The fundraiser was a lot of fun for all who participated.

A BIG thank you to all of you, parents, grandparents and teachers, for your efforts in making this fundraiser a success. Having such a dedicated and involved community is what makes Grady Elementary an exceptional school. Although orders are still being processed, it appears that we are close to meeting our financial goals for this fundraiser. Proceeds will go to the highly anticipated multipurpose Building, a new, state-of-the-art facility where the Grady students, administration and families can gather.

### IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE...

The highest producing students who sold 25 items or more will be treated to a Limousine Ride and Lunch at PDQ.

The highest producing students who sold 35 items will receive a complete set of the adorable Monkeys.

Although we are no longer accepting physical order forms, your child can still participate by ordering online at [www.gafundraising.com](http://www.gafundraising.com). Online and physical sales are combined, so all orders will count toward your child's total. Winners will be notified in October.

Orders are anticipated to arrive in mid-October. We will notify you when the orders are ready to be picked up. Thank you!

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

## Box Tops for Education



**Please start sending in your Box Tops for Education.** We are collecting Box Tops now and the first Box Top submission deadline is **October 18, 2013**. When submitting box tops please clip them neatly and **place them in plastic Ziploc bags of 50 box tops each**. If less than 50 box tops are in a Ziploc, please note the number on the Ziploc or on a slip of paper inside the Ziploc. Please send the Box Tops in Ziplocs in your child's homework folder. Please contact box top coordinator Amy Jarman at [akajarman@msn.com](mailto:akajarman@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>

## We are staying green

We are working hard to build a school-wide database of email addresses, so that we can save trees and continue to publish this newsletter electronically. To anyone who 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).**

Printed copies of the Grady Gazette will be available in the front office immediately upon publication of each newsletter.

## Fall Festival: Friday, October 18 at 5 pm

Fall is here and Grady will be celebrating. Our **Fall Festival takes place on October 18, 2013 from 5pm to 7:30pm** on campus. The Fall Festival is for the whole family and non-Grady siblings/family members are welcome to participate. There will be **carnival style games, two bounce houses, an obstacle course and booths made by our Grady teachers with lots of fun activities, including hair and face painting.** Admission to the event is free and tickets for each activity are \$1, but we are pre-selling wristbands for **unlimited games, bounces, activities, snow cones and popcorn and one ticket to the photo booth for \$20 for the first wristband and \$15 for each additional wristband.**

This year the teachers are outdoing themselves with multiple booths that include colored hairspray, nails, face paint, tattoos, muffin tin toss, edible bracelets, lollipop booth, Guess the amount of candies in a jar booth, duck pond, bowling, corn hole, creepy crawly feel box, etc. In sum, there will be a lot of different activities at the Fall Festival.

In addition we have a **photo booth for you to take pictures with all your friends and family.** When you get hungry, there is a grill station for hot dogs, chips and drinks, which will be \$1 each. If you just want a snack, we will have snow cones and popcorn. There will also be a bake sale (accepting donations) put on by the fifth grade and vendor booths, including Silly Dilly Tot Spot, which will be raffling off items from its store. Come and join the fun. For any questions about this event, contact [GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com) **See you at 5pm on October 18, 2013.**

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## Fifth Grade Report, By Stacy Quinones

This year the Fifth Grade will be continuing its monthly donut sales and pencil gram sales. We are also looking into other fundraising ideas to support our year-end trip to Busch Gardens, Fifth Grade Banquet and fifth grade t-shirts. Right now, **we are building a Fifth Grade Committee and we need your help.** To join our Fifth Grade Committee, please contact Stacy Quinones at [stacyqny@gmail.com](mailto:stacyqny@gmail.com) or call (813) 838-1713.

Stacy Quinones, Fifth Grade Mom (email: [stacyqny@gmail.com](mailto:stacyqny@gmail.com))

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## New Tardy Policy

School begins promptly at 8:00 am. In order to maximize the instructional day, when students are tardy parents will need to sign their child in at the front office and the **office staff or patrols will escort the child to class.** Parents will no longer escort their child to class after 8:00 a.m.

**Students should not be on campus prior to 7:30 am because there is no supervision earlier than 7:30.** Patrols will be supervised by Ms. Barra starting at 7:25am

## Easy to Make Halloween Oreo Cookie Spider Snacks

Your children can help you make these super cute spider snacks.



What You'll Need:

1. Oreo Cookies
2. Pretzel Sticks
3. Frosting
4. M&M's candies

Instructions:

1. Break pretzel sticks in half.
2. Stick 4 pretzel sticks on each side into the center frosting so they stick out.
3. Squeeze two drops of frosting for the eyeballs to stick on the top of the Oreo Cookie.
4. Place an eyeball or M&M on each drop of frosting for the spider eyes.
5. Enjoy!

## Get Your Grady Mom Shirt



Black, v-neck Grady Mom short-sleeved shirts are now on sale for \$25 each. Fitted and relaxed versions are available. Contact [GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com) to order one of these great shirts.

## Homeroom Parents



Homeroom Parents Meeting, September 12, 2013

Homeroom parents volunteer to help their children's teachers with the organization of events and class parties, and help make class projects for the Winter Concert and Spring Musical. The first event our homeroom parents are working on is the Fall Festival.

Our homeroom parents recently met to discuss the logistics of the Fall Festival and discuss how to communicate with the other parents in their children's classes. To facilitate quick communication, the homeroom parents will be collecting email addresses from parents.

Lots of great ideas came up at the meeting and we are looking forward to helping our children's teachers. If you are interested in becoming a homeroom parent, please email: [GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com](mailto:GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com)

## Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 to October 15

We are in the midst of Hispanic Heritage Month. This month-long celebration of the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the United States, begins on September 15, marking the anniversaries of independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The month ends on October 15, after the celebration of Columbus Day on October 12. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period. This month celebrates the achievements of many Americans, including Nobel Prize winning scientists [Luis Walter Alvarez](#) (physics), [Mario Molina](#) (chemistry) and [Severo Ochoa](#) (bio-chemistry) and astronauts [Ellen Ochoa](#) and [Franklin Chang-Díaz](#).

### Wanted: Dads' Club Coordinators

Grady PTA is looking for a few good dads to coordinate fun events for our Grady Dads to get to know one another and to have additional bonding experiences with their children.



### Wanted: Family Night Coordinator

Grady PTA is looking for a Family Night Coordinator to contact local businesses interested in giving back to our school and organize Grady family nights at those businesses.



### 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



## Yearbook, By Janneth Romero

The sale of Grady Elementary yearbooks will start soon, so please **look out for the flyer/order form that your child will bring home**. This year's yearbook will offer many **options**. The cost for a **standard soft cover yearbook is \$18**, but you can upgrade to a hard cover for just \$6, and personalize the cover with a student's name and portrait for an additional \$6.

We will offer additional inserts such as a "zoom" year in review insert for \$2.00, extra autograph pages for \$1.50 each, and repositionable decorative stickers for \$1.50 a sheet. All of these options can be ordered in different packages, listed below:

Package A (includes all personalization and insert options):

Soft Cover \$27.25; Hard Cover \$33.25

Package B (includes zoom insert, personalized cover, autograph insert):

Soft Cover \$26.00; Hard Cover \$32.00

Package C (includes zoom insert and personalized cover):

Soft Cover \$25.00; Hard Cover \$31.00

Package D (includes personalized cover):

Soft Cover \$23.50; Hard Cover \$27.50

We also will have **Dedication Pages/Business Pages** on sale:

Size:

1 page \$100

1/2 page \$50

1/4 page \$25

1/8 page \$17.50

We have a limited amount of Dedication Pages/Business Pages (sold on a first come, first serve basis), so please reserve your page now. We will create the page for you, so all you have to do is submit the picture you want to use and the text. If you are very creative, feel free to submit your own page as a jpg file.

You also have the option to purchase hidden personalized messages of up to 40 words for \$5, which will be randomly posted in the yearbook, for the message recipient to find.

We will have a yearbook booth at the Fall Festival and will feature samples for you to look at and we will be able to answer any questions you have. You will be able to pre-order the yearbook directly at our yearbook booth. I hope you enjoy all the new options we are offering this year.

Janneth Romero, Yearbook Coordinator  
(email: [gradytiger\\_yb@yahoo.com](mailto:gradytiger_yb@yahoo.com) )

**Congratulations, Grady Elementary for winning \$2,000 from the Earning for Learning Contest at Westshore Plaza. Thanks to Westshore Plaza for funding this contest, which has selected Grady as a top prize winner two years in a row!**



### Spooky Mummy Pizzas



Kids can help make this recipe by spooning the pizza sauce on the English muffin and making the mummy face with the cheese and vegetables.

What you'll need:

1. English muffins
2. Pizza sauce
3. Black olives
4. Scallions
5. Red or green pepper
6. Cheese sticks or slices

How to make it:

1. Heat the oven to 350° F. For each mummy, spread a tablespoon of pizza sauce onto half of an English muffin (toast it first, if you like).
2. Set olive slices in place for eyes and add round slices of green onion or bits of red or green pepper for pupils.
3. Lay strips of cheese (we used a pulled-apart cheese stick) across the muffin for the mummy's wrappings
4. Bake for about 10 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the muffin is toasty.

# Grady PTA 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

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

## **October**

10/3 Thurs 12-1 PM Board Meeting  
10/3 Thurs Conference Night  
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 Wed 5-7 PM Spring Musical/3<sup>rd</sup> PTA  
5/26 Mon MEMORIAL DAY

## **June**

6/6 Fri Last day of school!

# Grady Elementary Grandparents' Breakfast

September 4 and 5, 2013



## GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents bestow upon their grandchildren  
The strength and wisdom that time  
And experience have given them.

Grandchildren bless their Grandparents  
With a youthful vitality and innocence  
That help them stay young at heart forever.

Together they create a chain of love  
Linking the past with the future.  
The chain may lengthen,  
But it will never part...

-Author Unknown-



April Griffin - Chair,  
Carol W. Kurdell - Vice Chair  
Doretha W. Edgecomb  
Candy Olson  
Cindy Stuart  
Susan L. Valdes  
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**