

The Grady Gazette

A publication of Grady Elementary PTA
Volume 2, Issue 3, November/December, 2013



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.

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

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.[®]

Grady Elementary PTA
Grady Elementary School
3910 W. Morrison Ave.
Tampa, FL 33609
Tel: (813) 872-5325

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

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

From PTA President, Damaris Allen



Dear Members of the Grady Elementary Community,

Thus far, our PTA has enjoyed a wonderful fall semester. Since my last letter to all of you, we've hosted a Mom's Night Out, two Family Nights at PDQ, a uniform exchange during conference night, two homeroom parents meetings and we partnered with Grady Elementary to present the Fall Festival.

We hope that you and your family had fun at the Fall Festival. There were a variety of games and activities, bounce houses and a photo booth at the festival. **The Fall Festival required an enormous effort from our teachers, administrators, homeroom parents and parent volunteers. Thank you to each of you for your hard work, which greatly benefits the students at our school.** Financially, the Fall Festival was a huge success because it raised about \$5,000 for our school.

We also completed a very successful Fall Fundraiser, which raised in excess of \$10,000 for our school. We are so proud of the hard work everyone has been doing to help raise funds for our school.

Since my last letter to you, the PTA has funded additional educational enhancements for our school. In October and November, the PTA funded the following amounts in mini-grants for educational enhancements: (1) \$475 for the purchase of the First in Math Program for the second grade; (2) \$275 for the registration costs for a teacher and assistant teacher to attend a speech pathology conference; (3) \$1,000 for audio books for the Kindergarten, first and second grades; (4) \$270 for purchase of the Starfall Math and Reading online program for the Kindergarten and first grade; (5) \$240 for the purchase of books for Battle of the Books for the fourth grade; (6) approved the purchase of 3 iPads for the ASD Program; (7) \$450 toward the ASD Program's weekly student project expenses. These expenditures are in addition to the \$6,000 we spent toward Common Core materials and the funds devoted to September mini-grants. We hope that Grady Elementary students will enjoy these educational enhancements paid for by your contributions of time and money.

On October 18, 2013, Grady Elementary School's new website went live. The **new mobile friendly website**, <http://grady.mysdhc.org/>, contains up-to-date information about our school and about PTA events, a link to Edsby, a link to First in Math and a link to purchase your yearbook online. All PTA newsletters and updates are available on the site as well. Please take a minute to familiarize yourself with the new website and all of its features. If you have comments or ideas about the website, please send an email to the PTA VP of

Communications at GradyPTACommunications@gmail.com and your ideas and comments will be forwarded to our website developer.

Next, we are expanding our PTA board to accommodate the needs of our school and our membership. We now have more than 260 members and we are focusing on helping the school in an ever growing capacity. We want to offer more opportunities for PTA members to serve on the board and committees. Furthermore, we want to continue to fund educational enhancements while focusing on building the gymnasium/multipurpose facility through grants and donations. To achieve all of these objectives, we feel that we need a larger board. Thus, our PTA board voted to amend the Grady Elementary PTA bylaws to increase the number of vice presidents to 7 and to expand the total board to 10 members. The notice of proposed amendments was served on November 13, 2013. The proposed amendments will be presented to the general PTA membership for a vote on December 19, 2013 at 5:30 pm, immediately before the Winter Concert. If you have any questions about the proposed amendments, please email me at GradyElementaryPTA@gmail.com.

We have more wonderful events planned for you. On **December 19, 2013, Grady Elementary will host a Winter Concert** and the PTA will be hosting a Silent Auction of class projects. The items available for silent auction will include painted plates, wreaths for all occasions, paintings and pictures made by students from each class in the school. We will also be offering a donation-only bake sale (including baked goods, coffee, water and hot chocolate). Please come to the Winter Concert and look at the beautiful projects and consider bidding on them in the Silent Auction.

I hope that you have enjoyed our events thus far and that you will join us for the Winter Concert. I also hope that your family enjoys a safe and delightful holiday season.

Sincerely,

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

Membership, By Debbie Bresnahan



Dear Members of the Grady Elementary Community

Thank you so much for all you support this year. We are currently at 264 members. We have applied for the **Gold Early Bird Award** for exceeding last year's membership numbers in the first month of school, and I am happy to report we will be applying for the **Grandparent Gold Membership Award** because we have more than 25 Grandparents as PTA members this year.

We are still working toward 100% membership, so please encourage other parents to join. Every member can and does make a difference. Thanks for all that you do.

Sincerely,

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

Congratulations to Grady Elementary School's Teachers of the Year:

Alberta Ward

Elected Teacher of the Year

Margarita Baxter

The Ida S. Baker Diversity Teacher of the Year

Maria Apockotos

Para-professional of the Year



We are so PROUD of YOU!



Dad's Club Update

Grady Elementary Dad's Club is putting the finishing touches on a Dad's Night Out event at Beef O'Brady's. The event will be announced by a PTA Update email in the near future. For questions about the event or to join the Dad's Club, please contact Adam Vance at abcflorida@gmail.com or (727)434-0690.

Storybook Parade, October 31, 2013



On October 31, 2013, the students of Grady Elementary participated in the annual Storybook Parade. All Grady students were invited to dress up and parade around the school as a character from their favorite storybook. Many students proudly carried the storybook from which their character came. The Grady administration, faculty and staff also dressed up in circus themed costumes, with Mrs. Dosal serving as ringmaster.

Fifth Grade Report, By Stacy Quinones

Thank you for participating in our doughnut sales! We will continue to sell doughnuts the first Friday of every month. Meet us at the drop off line on Friday, December 6th from 7:30 am to 8:00 am for doughnuts. Doughnuts are \$7.00/dozen or \$1 each.

The Fifth Grade Committee met on November 12, 2013 to discuss upcoming events for the fifth grade class. We are always looking for parent involvement. To join our Fifth Grade Committee, or if you have any questions, please contact Stacy Quinones at (813) 838-1713 or stacyqny@gmail.com.

If You Upgrade Your iPad This Holiday, Consider Donating Your Prior Generation iPad to Grady PTA

Perhaps you are thinking that you would like to upgrade to the new iPad Air during this year's holidays, but you still have a working prior generation iPad. If so, please consider donating your prior generation iPad to Grady Elementary PTA, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Grady Elementary PTA will wipe the information off of the donated device and place it in a classroom in Grady's Autism Spectrum Disorder program. If you donate your prior generation iPad to Grady Elementary PTA, you will receive a receipt for tax purposes, which may potentially entitle you to a tax deduction at tax time. To donate your iPad, please bring it and a sheet of paper with your contact information, to Ms. Taylor in the Grady front office.

News and Notes

- After many years of serving as nurse to so many students, Health Assistant **Chris Mathis is retiring**. Many parents and students have appreciated her nursing services and sage advice over the years.

As a result of Ms. Mathis' retirement, Grady will soon need a **new Health Assistant**. Ms. Mathis says that the best aspect of the position is that it does not require work on weekends or holidays. In fact, the new Health Assistant will have the same days off as the students. Interested RNs or LPNs are encouraged to apply online using the link below. The specific position for Grady Elementary is not yet listed, but interested persons can make a general application that will be considered once the position is listed. Click below for details.

<https://www2.sdhc.k12.fl.us/employment/>

- You can buy Grady school uniform logo polo shirts online at Land's End. Grady receives up to 3% cash back on uniform purchases. Click this link to find the page for Grady uniforms.

<https://www.landsend.com/pp/p/schoolaccount?launchSearch=true>

- If you are coming to Grady during school hours, please be ready to show identification at the front office. If you plan to volunteer at any point during the year, please fill out and submit a SERVE volunteer form, available on the Grady website.

Winter Concert, December 19, 2013

By Jennifer Narvaes and Jennifer Postlewait

Grady Elementary students will be performing songs at a very special **Winter Concert, set for December 19, 2013 at the school Pavilion. The event will begin with a PTA general membership meeting at 5:30 pm and the concert will begin at 6 pm and end at 7:30 pm.** Music teacher, Mr. Florio, has selected the songs and is preparing the students for their night in the spotlight.

In addition to beautiful songs and riveting performances, you will also be able to see a collection of class projects that will be available for silent auction at the Winter Concert. Bidding on the projects will begin at 5:30 pm and will conclude just before the conclusion of the Winter Concert. The highest bidders will be announced after the show (or they will be notified by phone if they are not present). The highest bidders can pick up their projects after the show. Cash or checks are accepted. We will also have a donation only bake sale featuring baked goods coffee, hot chocolate and water. Please email VP of Events Jennifer Narvaes and VP of Events Jennifer Postlewait at gradyptaevents@gmail.com with any questions about this event.

Homeroom Parents Update



Homeroom Parents Meeting, October 8, 2013

Grady PTA recently held two Homeroom Parents meetings – on October 8, 2013 and November 13, 2013. At the October Homeroom Parents Meeting the homeroom parents finalized the details of the Fall Festival. At the November meeting, the homeroom parents selected items for their classes to make for the silent auction that will take place during the Winter Concert on December 19, 2013. The homeroom parents will be contacting parents with information about the class projects. The homeroom parents have been so enthusiastic about helping this year and we hope their enthusiasm is contagious. If you have any questions about the class projects, the silent auction or how to participate as a homeroom parent, please send an email to GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com

Class Wreaths from Winter Concert, 2012



Last year, each class participated in making a wreath or project. This year, each class will also make a project, but the types of projects will include painted plates, canvases, garden stones and wreaths.

Sponsorship Update, By Kris House



A drawing of the proposed new gymnasium

Dear Members of the Grady Elementary Community,

The school year is in full swing, with the waning days of November flying by! We have been receiving sponsorship donations on a regular basis, and I am happy to report that the donation amount is now \$5,150.00! Reflecting on this happy news, I would like to make note of the upcoming holiday, Thanksgiving, and extend **my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our wonderful donors and sponsors.**

You have contributed to a very worthy undertaking at Grady Elementary, and are helping to make the "Grow Grady" gymnasium and wrought iron fence project a true reality. Every dollar that is donated helps our school – **and remember – your contributions are tax-deductible!** The sponsorship money collected throughout the school year will be combined with grant money and outside charitable gifts.

Please visit Grady Elementary School's new website at <http://grady.mysdhc.org/>. There is a wealth of school information on the new site, including a section on sponsorships.

If you have any special skills or ideas that will be beneficial to this project, or know of a company or organization willing to make a sizable donation, please contact me at the email address below, or feel free to call the Grady Elementary front office to set up a meeting. Together, we can make our Grady dreams a reality!

Sincerely,

Kris House, VP of Sponsorships (GradyPTASponsorships@gmail.com)

"If the mountain seems too large to climb, don't climb it. With enough hard work and determination, you can MOVE the mountain!"

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!

Yearbook, By Janneth Romero



Dear Grady Tigers,

Yearbook sales are going extremely well. Ad sales are complete, but a limited amount of Shout Outs (messages that will appear in random spaces in the yearbook) are available for purchase and they are \$5 for up to 25 words. Shout Outs can be purchased through the online yearbook store. You do not need to purchase a yearbook in order to purchase a Shout Out.

Each child who has signed a media release will appear in the yearbook three or more times.

To purchase and customize your yearbook and to purchase Shout Outs, you can access the online yearbook store through the new Grady website (use the PTA bar and drop it down to the Yearbook link) or at <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectTask> (Yearbook ID CODE 11885214). To get more information about Shout Outs or to get personalized help in making your purchase, please contact Yearbook Coordinator, Janneth Romero at the email address below.

Janneth Romero, Yearbook Coordinator (gradytiger_yb@yahoo.com)

Great American Fall Fundraiser By Jessica Schentrup, VP of Fundraising

Dear Members of the Grady Elementary Community,

I am pleased to report that Fundraising is off to an excellent start this year. We have met and exceeded our financial goals for the Fall Fundraiser! **The Fall Fundraiser 2013-14 has generated \$10,500.00 in proceeds for our school to date, with more dollars still coming in. Furthermore, we are at 115% of last year's proceeds. Way to go Grady Tigers!**

On October 24th, the Grady students who sold 25 items were treated to an exciting limousine ride and luncheon at PDQ. There were twenty-one students who participated. Mrs. Dosal even joined us at PDQ to recognize these high achievers! It was an enjoyable time for all who attended. Of these high achievers, there were six students who were recognized for selling 35 items. They were awarded a full set of all twenty adorable monkeys, in addition to the luncheon. Congratulations to all of the winners!

The second annual Grady Elementary Walk-a-thon is the next major PTA fundraising event of the school year. It will take place in the Spring 2014. We are currently working on logistics and sponsorships opportunities. Please stay tuned for further details.

I look forward to your continued support in helping the Grady Tigers meet our Fundraising goals for 2013-14.

Sincerely,

Jessica Schentrup, MSF, VP of Fundraising
(GradyPTAFundraising@gmail.com)

Ranger Cookies



Ranger cookies take time to prepare, but they are distinctive, delicious cookies. This recipe **makes 8 dozen cookies** – perfect for a holiday cookie exchange.

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
2 cups oatmeal
1 cup butter (softened)
2 eggs (beaten)
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups chopped walnuts
2 cups shredded coconut
1 1/2 cups chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Mix the flour, brown sugar, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large mixing bowl.
2. Mix the butter, eggs and vanilla in a small bowl. Add the buttery batter to the flour mix that is already in the large mixing bowl.
3. Add the oatmeal, walnuts, coconut and chocolate chips to the batter in the large mixing bowl. Mix it all up and spoon onto ungreased cookie sheets.
4. Bake each sheet at 350 degrees for approximately 12 minutes.

Grady PTA 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

PTA Email: gradyelementarypta@gmail.com

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
1/16 Thurs 5-7 PM Unlock the Treasures/2nd 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/3rd PTA
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)
VP of Events: Jennifer Postlewait (GradyPTAEvents@gmail.com)
Secretary: Melissa Azevedo (mazevedo@tbo.com)
Treasurer: Julie Cuevas (jbc2011j@gmail.com)

Fall Festival, October 18, 2013



Mom's Night Out, September 30, 2013



The Fifty Dollar Cookie



This cookie gets its nickname because it tastes like it should cost \$50.

Ingredients

- 2 sticks (1 cup) of butter softened
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup packed, of light brown sugar
- 1 cup of sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon of vanilla extract
- $3\frac{1}{2}$ cups of all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 10 oz bag of chocolate chips
- 1 regular size package of Oreo cookies

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cream butter and sugars together with a mixer until well combined. Beat in eggs and vanilla.
3. In a separate bowl, mix the flour, salt and baking soda. Slowly add to wet ingredients along with chocolate chips until just combined.
4. Using a cookie scoop or large spoon, take one scoop of cookie dough and place on top of an Oreo cookie, take another scoop of dough and place on the bottom of the Oreo cookie. Seal the edges together by pressing and cupping in hand until Oreo cookie is enclosed with dough.
5. Place cookies onto a parchment or silpat lined baking sheet, very far apart (these cookies expand). Bake each sheet of cookies 9-13 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool for 5 minutes before transferring to cooling rack.



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