

F A L L 2 0 1 3

the BULLDOG BARK

Written for the Students and Families of R. B. Stewart Middle School

Principal's Message

Dear Bulldog Families:

It's hard to believe that we have completed Quarter One of the 2013-2014 school year. The year is moving as quickly as the walls are climbing higher and higher on our new gym. We have made many changes in our instructional program at R. B. Stewart Middle School during the past year and I want to outline a few of them for you.

At R. B. Stewart Middle School we provide educational opportunities that have the power to change our student's lives. We have created a positive and caring environment where all decisions are based on what is best for students.

Students at R. B. Stewart Middle School are engaged in relevant and active learning. FCAT skills are embedded in this relevant instruction. Our curriculum is aligned from grade to grade and classroom instruction is guided by academic standards. Assessment data from multiple sources is used to evaluate instructional practices and identify areas that need improvement. Data is also used to develop strategies to follow up on progress of targeted students to assist them in reaching their goals.

In addition to the support we can provide at school, it is important for you to be involved in your child's education. I encourage you to talk to your child about their classes, ask them what assignments are due, when is their next test. If they are not sure, seek out your child's teacher or guidance counselor. We are here to support our families in any way we can.

Future issues of the Bulldog Bark will be distributed on the same day that report cards go out. They will also be posted on our school website if you want to refer to it at a later date. This is a wonderful communication tool for you to use as a resource. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist in any way. Our goal is for all students at R. B. Stewart Middle School to reach their highest potential.

Shae Davis, RBSMS Principal

Save the Date!

Calendar of Events

Oct. 21-Teacher Planning-No school for students
Oct. 25-Top Dog Lunch
Oct. 28-31
Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 28-Report Cards
Nov 4th Thanksgiving Food Drive
Nov. 6-6th grade Hearing Screening
Nov 8 - Honor Roll
Nov. 14-Fall Pictures
Nov. 20-Great American Teach-In
Nov. 20 - Progress Reports
Nov. 27-29-Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 23-Jan. 6 Winter Break
Jan. 6-Teacher Planning-No school for students



Guidance Corner

At the beginning of September, each grade level counselor conducted classroom guidance lessons focused on the topic of conflict resolution strategies, bullying prevention and reporting information.

Please visit the Guidance section of our school website. On this page you'll find the latest information to keep you updated on school-wide Guidance events, how to schedule an appointment, how to report a concern, and much more! Visit often, we'll have plenty of new information posted regularly!

Red Ribbon Week

We will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week from October 28-October 31st. Below is the schedule of our planned themes for each day.

Monday 10/28: "Hats off to being drug free" -

Students are encouraged to wear a hat of their choice and wear red to kick off the week

Tuesday 10/29: "Buddy up against drugs" -

Students are encouraged to dress as twins

Wednesday 10/30: "Team up to be drug free" -

Students are encouraged to wear their favorite sports team's jersey or shirt (school appropriate attire - no hats)

Thursday 10/31: "Pawsitively Drug Free" -

Students are encouraged to show their Bulldog Strong Spirit

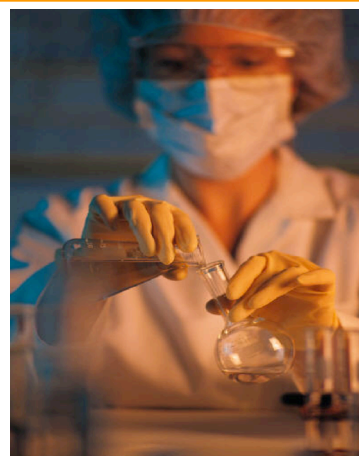
Honor Roll

We are excited to announce that we will be holding our 1st Quarter Honor Roll Ceremony on Friday, November 8, 2013. During this time we will be recognizing students who received a 3.2 grade point average (GPA) or higher for 1st Quarter.

We realize the amount of hard work and dedication it takes for students to achieve honor roll status and we look forward to celebrating their success. The 7th and 8th grade ceremony will take place at 9:15 a.m., and the 6th grade ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Any parents and guardians who are able to attend the ceremony on November 8, 2013, **please be aware that parking will be held on the PE field on this date** due to the current construction on our campus.

Honor Roll invitations will be sent home with eligible students on Tuesday, October 29, 2013.



Science Department Kicks off Science Projects

Our Science classes have kicked off Science project for this year. Every student will be expected to turn in a project in November. The Science Department held Parent Night September 30th and students have detailed information from their teachers. Our school Science Fair will be held December 12. We've heard lots of great ideas already and are looking forward to seeing the finished projects.

NJHS

The National Junior Honor Society has elected their officers for the current school year. These officers are:

Madison Reidenbach – President

Tahiri Medina – Vice President

Jessica Liu – Secretary

Eden Faison – Treasurer

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our club will be collecting canned and boxed food items for families in our community starting November 4th through November 20th. Donated food items will be counted for each grade level and the grade with the most donations will earn music during their lunch. The food items can include canned vegetables, fruit, soup, etc.

WE GIVE THANKS!!!

Citizen of the Month

Citizen of the Month

The Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with RBSMS to honor and reward our students who are willing to help others, the community, make good choices as well as always striving to improve his/her life.

Congratulations to all of our RBSMS September Citizens of the Month!
SCHOOL WIDE CITIZEN OF THE MONTH: Annica Morgan

TEAM	CITIZEN OF THE MONTH
Persistent Pups	Gisselle Sierra
Powerful Pups	Joshua Geraty
Dashing Dogs	Alester "AJ" Tate
Clever Canines	Maria Gonzalez
K-Nine Krew	Xavier Ford
Hound Dogs	Annica Morgan
Courageous Canines	Ileayah Mills
Classic Canines	Vincent Ocasio
Herioc Hounds	Chriffy Saji
Daring Dogs	Hailey Daffron



Zephyrhills Junior FFA

The Zephyrhills Junior FFA chapter has started a very busy year. There are more than 55 members in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Some of this fall's activities include a Livestock Seminar for the Florida State Fair, a field trip to the Sunbelt Agriculture Expo in Moultrie, GA and hosting two Livestock Ethics Trainings.

Congratulations to the following FFA members elected to serve as officers for the 2013 – 2014 school year: President - Montana Smith, Vice President - Tiffany Larson, Secretary - Kendra Williamson, Treasurer - Danielle Lovett, Reporter - Madison Tilton, Sentinel - Vincent Ocasio and Student Advisor - Davlin Watson. On October 9th officers attended the state FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Program at the Leadership training center.

Each year the chapter sponsors a 'chapter animal' program, where members can train and show a dairy goat, sheep, llama or rabbit owned by the FFA chapter. Members and parents are reminded that applications are now available for showing a chapter owned animal at one of the fairs.

School Garden Grant

Congratulations to the Agriculture and Culinary Arts classes! They will receive a \$1,000 Team School Garden Grants through the Florida Farm Bureau and the Agriculture in the Classroom program.

The purpose of the project is to educate students about where food comes from and the nutritional benefits of eating fruits, vegetables and herbs. So grant funds have to be used to pay for an edible herb garden that will be called the Stone Soup Garden. Miss Nawlin's agriculture classes will plant and grow a culinary herb garden in the area adjacent to the CTE building. Mrs. Wells and the Culinary Arts classes will use the herbs in their cooking laboratories.

Using the Gardening for Grades and Nutrients for Life curriculums, students will learn the importance of culinary herbs.



THANK YOU

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School, we would like to send out a **Thank you** to all of our past and current Community Business Partners and Supporters. We have had a lot of community support for our school and we appreciate all of you!

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union

Pasco Education Foundation

Publix

Lions Club

Rotary Noon

Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce

First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Pilot Club

Renovate Church

Sweetbay

Town Ark

VFW Post 8154

Walmart

Women of the Moose

Dave's Treats Twistee Treat

Dominoe's Pizza

Other local churches, businesses, organizations and community individuals.

Thank you all for your support!

NOTIFICATION OF INSPECTION FOR ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final rule, 40 CFR Part 763, Asbestos Containing Material in schools, commonly referred to as AHERA. This rule requires all Local Education Agencies (LEA's) to identify asbestos containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and to take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers.

All inspections for Raymond B. Stewart Middle School have been completed and a Management Plan describing the results of the inspection and the action plan to control any asbestos found during the inspection, where applicable, has been submitted to the Governor for approval. A copy of this plan is located in the administrative office of this school and at the District School Board of Pasco County Maintenance & Facility Services Department and is available for review upon request.

"On-Track" Incentive Program

We are very excited to introduce our incentive program here at RBSMS. We are calling it our "On-Track" program. Students who are "On-Track" will enjoy some special privileges on campus this year. The first of which will be the ability to use their different electronic devices including phones, hand held games and ipods during their commons time before 1st period, during their lunch period, and after dismissed from 7th period. "On-Track" students will also get to line up first for lunch, and then go outside with their classmates when they finish lunch with students who are also "On Track." This is just one of the many ways that RBSMS will be rewarding students for working hard this school year.

So how is a student determined to be "On-Track?" Students are "On-Track" when they meet the following criteria for an entire quarter: have a C or better in all their classes, have no more than 3 absences, and no more than 1 discipline referral. This data is collected each quarter and all students who meet these expectations will receive an "On-Track" lanyard and ID card. Students wearing this lanyard and card will be entitled to any privileges and/or events that are for "On-Track" students only throughout the following quarter. The monitoring of this data began on Monday, August 26th and will go through the end of the 1st quarter to determine eligibility for the "On-Track" program for quarter 2.

Students currently in 7th and 8th grade who attended R.B. Stewart Middle School and were "On-Track" for the fourth quarter during the 2012-2013 school year, were recognized at the beginning of school during a school dance. "On-Track" lanyards were issued and special "Stay Calm...I'm On-Track" t-shirts were presented to these students. We are looking forward to recognizing our students for their achievements at the end of the first quarter. Our goal is for all of our students to be presented with our "On-Track" t-shirt for the 2013-2014 school year!



Coaches' Corner in the classroom

This is a year of change for your student. Your student will be participating in Discovery Education assessments throughout the year instead of Core K12 (for Math and Science) and FAIR (for Reading), which were assessments used in previous years. Discovery Education assessments align with the common core curriculum and cover math, science and reading/language arts.

Discovery Education assessments will provide data for teachers so they know where their students' are doing well and which skills or concepts need continued focus. Please encourage your students to do their best on these assessments throughout the school year. The assessments are on their current year's curriculum, and teachers expect to see growth after each test.

Literacy Mentor Teacher -	Kim Rulison
Math Inst. Coach	Sally Schultz
Science Inst Coach	Karen Stewart
ICT Coach	Nancy Haines
MTSS Mentor Teacher	Troy Reed
SSAP Student Coach	Shannon Mathews

We are very fortunate to have these coaches here to support your child. Please contact one of the coaches if you need any assistance.



Qué pasa in Spanish class

7th Grade Spanish

7th grade Spanish class got off to a great start. Students started off learning how to count to 30, write the date, and tell time in Spanish. Then we moved on to greetings, and introductions. Students wrote interview questions, interviewed each other and asked how are you and where are you from.

7th graders are doing a great job listening and understanding spoken Spanish language tracks from our textbook. Next, 7th graders will be ready to start writing sentences in Spanish, as we have been reviewing some basic grammar. They have been doing a great job conjugating the yes ser. Way to go 7th grade!

8th grade Spanish

8th graders have been reviewing grammar and vocabulary from last year. 8th graders have been doing a great job practicing their Spanish speaking skills in class. Students have been talking about likes and dislikes, birthdays, and greetings.

Students created a role-play in Spanish to make plans to invite a friend to do a specific activity, such as going to the movies. Students were required to act out the role-play in class for the teacher.

Students also reviewed AR, ER, and IR verbs along with classroom objects, and family vocabulary. Students have also been watching and listening to different Spanish speakers on videos from our textbook, to help improve their listening skills.

Mrs. Donahue
Spanish Teacher



FCAT Explorer: Free FCAT Practice On The Internet

A PARENT & FAMILY GUIDE FOR YOU

You can use the FCAT Explorer Parent & Family Guide for free, and you don't need a password. Go to www.fcatexplorer.com

and click Parent & Family Guide. All the information your will need is in the Parent & Family Guide. You can always contact your student's teacher if you have any questions. The Parent & Family Guide is currently available in English, Spanish, and Haitian.

Practice Makes Progress!

That's why the Florida Department of Education built FCAT Explorer—to provide practice for helping your child make real progress on the skills needed in the classroom, on the FCAT, and in life.

Fun, Effective, and Free!

FCAT Explorer is a set of free, web-based practice programs. The content is from the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards that are tested on the FCAT. Kids can practice by themselves because the programs give them corrective feedback and learning guidance.

Best of all, FCAT Explorer is online, which means you can use it on any computer connected to the Internet: at school, at the library, even at home.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!

Parental Notification

DATE: October 28, 2013
SUBJECT: Out of Field Teaching Assignment

Dear Parent/Guardian,
Individuals who are teaching out-of-field are certified in at least one area and are qualified to teach but are required to take additional course work or testing to add a coverage/endorsement to their certificate. The state also requires a teacher to take coursework/in-service towards an English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) endorsement, when the teacher is the primary language arts provider and/or reading teacher for an ESOL student.

The following teachers are taking classes to fulfill their requirement.

Valerie Fournier Gifted Science
Allison Edwards-Wiley ESOL
Judith Galbert: ESOL
Michael Johnson ESOL

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Shae L. Davis Principal



GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN

We would like to invite you to join us for this year's Great American Teach-in, which will be held on **Wednesday, November 20, 2013**. The Great American Teach-in provides an opportunity for members of the community to come in and speak with students about their occupations, hobbies, or areas of interest. Although the focus of the Great American Teach-in is to give students information on a variety of careers, we are also encouraging volunteers to speak about hobbies and areas of interest because often one person's passion is another person's profession!

Presentations for this age group should last about 15-20 minutes and then we are requesting that you allow about 10 minutes for questions at the end. When planning for this presentation we are asking that you link the topic to the importance of receiving a quality education. In the past, speakers have dressed in clothing related to the topic and/or brought in props, pictures, or brief videos to engage the students. These are suggestions but are certainly not necessary.

We need your help to make certain that there are enough speakers so that all students can benefit from this program. If you are willing to participate in the Great American Teach-in, please take a moment to fill out the bottom portion of this letter and return it to your child's first period teacher by **November 4, 2013**.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Robyn Herndon, RBSMS Parent Involvement Coordinator at (813)794-6510. Thank You!



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

TOPIC OF PRESENTATION _____

DSBPC - R. B. Stewart Middle School
7227 Land O'Lakes Blvd.
Land O'Lakes, FL 34638

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #6651
TAMPA, FLA.

Address Label

We are Bulldog Strong!

*Our Bulldogs have
gone **undefeated**
this season!!!*

Great job team!



BOYS SOCCER

Coach: Kathleen Jeffcott

Date	Event	Location
Nov. 12	TEWMS	WCHS(away)
Nov.13	Pasco Middle	PHS (away)
Nov. 19	Pineview	ZHS (home)
Nov. 21	Centennial	ZHS (home)
Dec. 10	Centennnial	ZHS (away)
Dec. 12	Rushe	SLHS (away)
Dec. 17	Pasco Middle	ZHS (home)
Dec. 19	JLMS	ZHS (home)

Game Time: 6:00 P.M.

All games are played at the high school Stadiums

GIRLS BASKETBALL

7th Grade Coach: Mark Holifer

8th Grade Coach: Shannon Mathews

Date	Game	Time
Nov. 6	Stewart @ Pasco	6:00 P.M.
Nov. 18	Stewart @ Centennial	6:00 P.M.
Nov. 20	Stewart @ Pineview	6:00 P.M.
Nov. 25	Stewart @ Dr. Long	6:00 P.M.
Dec. 4	Rushe @ Stewart	6:00 P.M.
Dec. 10	Weightman @ Stewart	6:00 P.M.
Dec. 11	Pasco @ Stewart	6:00 P.M.
Dec. 18	Cetennial @Stewart	6:00 P.M.

6:00 P.M. games: 7th grade team will play first, followed by the 8th grade team.

2:00 P.M. games: 8th grade team will play first, followed by the 7th grade team.