

W I N T E R 2 0 1 4

the BULLDOG BARK

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

Principal's Message

Dear Bulldog Families:

I hope the New Year finds each of you healthy and looking forward to the year that awaits. I would like to thank the many students and parents who participated in our canned Food Drive in November. We were able to provide Thanksgiving dinners for 30 families in need. A special thanks goes to the school staff, clubs, and community for providing 50 families with holiday gifts and food for Christmas. I continue to be impressed with the willingness of our students, staff, and school community to help those in need.

I would like to congratulate all of our student athletes for their excellent performance throughout the fall athletic season. The football, girl's volleyball, boy's soccer, and girls basketball teams all excelled on and off the field. A special congratulations to the football team for winning the conference championship.

Our music students have also had a very successful first semester. Several of our band and chorus students auditioned for and received prominent positions in All-County Chorus and Band events held this fall. Our chorus held their Winter Concert at Zephyrhills High School and they did an outstanding job. Not to be outdone, our Bulldog Band had a record turn out for their Winter Concert that was held at RBSMS in the cafetorium. All those in attendance agreed that it was truly a special evening.

As we move into the second semester of school, I would like to thank our parents for the support they provide to students and staff. Parent involvement makes a big difference in the success of individual students and the school as a whole. The contributions of parents continue to be a significant help to the efforts of Raymond B. Stewart Middle School staff to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students.

Shae Davis
Principal

Save the Date!

Calendar of Events

Jan 13th Report Cards
Jan 20th MLK Jr Day No School
Jan 27th - 31st Erase the Hate Week
Jan 28th Honor Roll
Jan 31st Erase the Hate After School Dance
Feb 7th Progress Reports
Feb 10-14 Random Acts of Kindness Week
Feb 17th Presidents Day-No School
Feb 27th Community Connections



RED RIBBON WEEK

Our annual Red Ribbon Week celebration October 28-October 31st was a big success! Red Ribbon Week is a nationally recognized week each October that is designed to promote the importance of living a healthy, drug free life. Both our RBSMS students and staff members showed great enthusiasm for this cause by participating in our daily themes. Pictures of some of our spirited staff members can be seen on our Guidance page under the Red Ribbon Week information.

COME VISIT OUR SITE

We encourage you to visit our Guidance Department section on the school website. You can find our site by clicking on Guidance under the Parent tab on our RBSMS website. On this page you'll find the latest information to keep you updated on school-wide Guidance events. In addition, our Guidance Counselors have provided links on the page which can help you access information on many important topics. If you scroll down on the Guidance page and click where it says **New Parent Information Page**, there is a link <http://connect.pasco.k12.fl.us/apinsky/parent-info/> which takes you to a page with a wide variety of topics. Under the section titled **How to Talk to Your Child About** there are links with parent tips on how to talk to your child about serious issues such as cyber bullying and Instagram. We mention these examples in particular because of how frequently problems arise in these areas. As the parent of a middle school student, the more you know about social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram, the better. If your son or daughter is using these sites, we would strongly encourage you to keep a very close eye on the content of what they are posting or commenting on. Many students are misusing such sites, which causes a multitude of problems. Such inappropriate online behavior not only puts them at risk for very serious problems, but also takes their focus away from what they should be doing to be successful at school.

SMALL GROUP COUNSELING

The Professional School Counselors at R.B. Stewart's Guidance Department provide Tier II Guidance support groups for each grade level. At-risk students are receiving evidence-based curricula support for study skills, social skills, and self-management strategies. Small group instruction is an effective way students learn necessary skills. Each grade level counselor is currently running a social/emotional skills group and an academic skills group. The social/emotional skills groups focus on topics such as relational aggression, changing family dynamics, healthy conflict resolution, strategies for dealing with gossip and drama, and emotional regulation. The academic skills groups focus on topics such as organizational skills, study skills, time management, and goal setting.

HONOR ROLL

We are excited to announce that we will be holding our 2nd Quarter Honor Roll Ceremony on **Tuesday, January 28, 2014**. During this time we will be recognizing students who received a 3.2 grade point average (GPA) or higher for 2nd 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 cafetorium. Any parents and guardians who are able to attend the ceremony on January 28th please be aware that parking will be held in the PE field on this date due to the current

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 December Citizens of the Month!
SCHOOL WIDE CITIZEN OF THE MONTH: Edison Lin

TEAM	CITIZEN OF THE MONTH
Persistent Pups	Ethan Tremblay
Powerful Pups	Grace Riner
Dashing Dogs	Logan Kempf
Clever Canines	Joshua Lopez
K-Nine Krew	Eden Faison
Hound Dogs	Juliet McCleary
Courageous Canines	Haley Torres
Classic Canines	TrinaDee Morse
Herioc Hounds	Edison Lin
Daring Dogs	Samantha Crist

Congratulations to all of our RBSMS November Citizens of the Month!
SCHOOL WIDE CITIZEN OF THE MONTH: Nicholas Whittington

TEAM	CITIZEN OF THE MONTH
Persistent Pups	Kaitlyn Simmons
Powerful Pups	Jesse Buntyn
Dashing Dogs	Nicholas Whittington
Clever Canines	Katharine Ayers
K-Nine Krew	Isaiah Smith
Hound Dogs	Devin Sherwood
Courageous Canines	Kayli Coleman
Classic Canines	Robert Cortese



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. A special Thanks to those organizations that helped many of our students have an extra special holiday. We have had a lot of community support for our school and we appreciate all of you!

Gold Wing Road Warriors
C.O.P.E.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Rotary Noon
Town Ark

Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce
Pilot Club of Zephyrhills
Publix

Dave's Treats Twistee Treat
Dominoes' Pizza
Elizabeth McLaughlin
Bahr's Propane
Brantley Smith
Gail Fisher

Other local churches, businesses,
organizations and community individuals.

Thank you all for your support!

Help for Art Department

The Art Dept. could use donations of:

plastic or silk flowers – used, new,
even faded are fine!
white kleenx – no lotion or aloe
rolls of duct tape – grey or colors
rolls of masking tape (3/4")

Thanks!!!!!!!
Dr. Zimmerer
RBSMS Art

Great American Teach-In

Our Great American Teach-In was Wednesday, November 20th - 22nd. What a wonderful turn out. We had a total of 30 speakers ranging from Law Enforcement and Fire Rescue to a retired undertaker and staff from One Buc Place. The students and teachers both learned a lot from this experience. A Big THANK YOU to all who took time out and participated. We Appreciate You!

NJHS

NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) would like to thank everyone for their participation in the RBSMS Thanksgiving food drive. Over 400 food items were collected, and several families were able to receive food baskets. Thank you Bulldogs!

Volunteers

If you plan to volunteer during the 2013 - 2014 school year, please remember you must register every school year online at www.pasco.k12.fl.us. Make sure you select Raymond B. Stewart Middle School as your designated school. When your application has been approved, the district supervisor of volunteers will send you a letter of confirmation. Remember, you must be an approved volunteer to be considered for chaperoning a field trip or school event. If you have any questions about volunteering contact Robyn Herndon 813-794-6500, RBSMS Parent Involvement Coordinator

Coaches' Corner in the classroom

"Caught Ya' Reading"

The "Caught Ya' Reading" school-wide reading incentive program kicked off on Monday, December 2nd. All teachers were given Caught Ya' Reading tickets to hand out to any student that was caught reading at an appropriate time. The more times a student was caught reading, the more tickets they earned for the drawing. The prizes were displayed in the media center window so students could see what they would win. On December 20th, we had a gigantic drawing for prizes on the morning announcements. Tickets were drawn, and the student whose name was on the ticket came down to the media center to claim their prize. Some of the prizes we gave away included: sports equipment, electronics, games, stuffed animals and books!

The "Caught Ya' Reading" school-wide reading program would not have been possible without the money our school earned from collecting Box Tops For Education. Ms., Haines, our ICT Literacy Coach, collects them from classes every quarter. Thank you Ms. Haines!



EVERY MINUTE
COUNTS!

Qué pasa in Spanish class

Qué pasa in Spanish class 7th Grade Spanish

7th grade Spanish students are doing a great job writing descriptive sentences. They have been working really hard learning how to describe people and/or things. They also practiced asking questions such as, how old are you, where are you from, and what is your name.

7th graders just completed a role-play where they wrote a script and acted it out for the class pretending they were interviewing a famous person or character.

Next they will be learning how to talk about what activities they like, and how to make plans with friends for different activities.

Way to go 7th grade!

8th grade Spanish

8th graders have been learning how to order food at a restaurant. Students created a restaurant menu in Spanish and a role-play where they ordered food at a restaurant. 8th graders did a great job acting out their role-plays.

8th graders also practiced their listening skills by listening to the movie Cars 2 in Spanish.

Next 8th graders will be talking about their daily routine and staying fit and healthy in Spanish.

Mrs. Donahue
Spanish Teacher



FCAT Testing Is Right Around The Corner

FCAT testing is right around the corner. We are sending out the dates for testing now because it is not only important that your student is present every day of testing, but that your student is on time each day.

February 25th – 8th Grade FCAT Writes
 February 26th – Make-Ups for FCAT Writes
 *6th & 7th graders will participate in a writing activity at the same time the 8th graders are FCAT testing.

The testing window for FCAT Reading, Math and Science is April 15th - May 7th. Specific testing dates for each tested subject will be sent out at a later date.

Welcome to RBSMS

We have several new additions to Stewart Middle School

Please welcome:

Brooke Meyer	Lang Arts/Reading Teacher
Virginia Dorman	Cafeteria Manager
Pam Watson	Asst Cafeteria Manager
Berta Reyes Galaz	FNS Assistant
Ronda Rumbaugh	FNS Assistant

WELCOME BULLDOGS!

Science Fair

Science Fair was held Dec. 11 in the Media Center, with Student Judges from Zephyrhills High School. We had a record 179 projects entered. Our first place winners will go to District Fair on Feb. 8 at River Ridge High School.

1st Place Winners:

Kapil Patel
 Braden Venger
 Dalton Davis
 Chase Compton
 Susana Milanes
 Ayden Smith
 Paige Zimmer
 DJ Hillory
 Katie Ayers
 Riley Taylor

2nd Place Winners:

Nick Gleaton
 Blake Smith
 Emily Jennings
 Ethan Vest
 Rachel Frontera
 Katie Jelinek
 Isabella Pellegrino
 Makayla Hall
 Sydney Baldus
 Amaya Gomez
 Trey Ownes

3rd Place Winners:

Celeste Lasecki
 Michael Relyea
 Sandy Lin
 Ashley Navarete
 Christian Bragg
 Makenzee Eddleman
 Kiersten Herman

Congratulations to all of our RBSMS October Citizens of the Month!
SCHOOL WIDE CITIZEN OF THE MONTH: Elisabeth Faison

TEAM	CITIZEN OF THE MONTH
Persistent Pups	Derico Quiles
Powerful Pups	Caylee Pettit
Dashing Dogs	Kayla Zine
Clever Canines	Kaylee Brady
K-Nine Krew	Jordan Metzler
Hound Dogs	Destiny Ellis
Courageous Canines	Brendan Castleberry-Cook
Classic Canines	Elisabeth Faison
Herioc Hounds	Robert Searight
Daring Dogs	Madison Shipley

The **Top Dog** program has been in place at RBSMS for over 15 years. Our sponsors, the Pilot Club wanted to do something for the middle grade students of Zephyrhills and have been treating the chosen students to lunch at Hungry Howies, certificates and a very special golden "Top Dog" tag. Each team chooses one student each quarter who exemplifies Leadership, Citizenship, and Academic success. Pilot Club is a service organization in Zephyrhills. They focus their project efforts on children, the aged, and as an international project, brain related illnesses.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2nd
QUARTER TOP DOGS!**

Persistent Pups – Ryan Diaz
 Powerful Pups – Ben Isaacs
 Dashing Dogs – Darion Lopez
 Heroic Hounds – Paige Zimmer
 Daring Dogs – Logan Castro
 Clever Canines – Eleanor Wilkinson
 K-Nine Krew – Levi Smith
 Hound Dogs – Aleksander Martin
 Courageous Canines – Brooklynn Holmes
 Classic Canines – George Morris

Lunch N' Learn

Our first Lunch N' Learn was a HUGE success! Jan Anderton, one of our East Side regional team members, presented higher order thinking strategies to our teachers that they could immediately use in their classroom. The menu included Bowtie Pasta w/ Chicken in cream sauce, salad and bananas foster for dessert. Thank you to Gail Fisher for preparing the delicious lunch. Thank you to Bahr's Propane Gas & AC, Inc. & Silverado Golf and Country Club for making a donation. This would not have happened without their donation!



Erase the Hate Week

We are excited to be holding our 2nd annual **Erase the Hate Week** January 27-31st and have many activities planned for students. Our Erase the Hate Week is designed to heighten school awareness of the consequences of hate-filled choices and promote a school climate of tolerance for all. We will be discussing related topics as well as holding activities with students through the morning announcements, students' BARK period, at each grade level lunch, as well as through students' social studies classes.

As with last year's Erase the Hate Week, our focus will center around anti-bullying, the importance of respecting one another, celebrating diversity, and increasing students' tolerance and acceptance toward one another. As guidance counselors, we often tell students that we understand it's not realistic to think everyone can be best friends. However, we do stress to them that it is possible for all students to come to school and show each other respect. During this week we will put a special emphasis on the idea that our differences are what make each of us unique, and diversity is something to be celebrated, not criticized. Like pieces of a puzzle, we want our Stewart Bulldogs to believe in the slogan "Our School... A Place Where Everyone Fits!"

Choices

Beginning in mid-January, all 8th grade students will be scheduled in our Digital Dawg Lab in order to complete the career components of Florida's CHOICES career education program.

Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) week

Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Week is being held all around the world from February 10-14th this year. The timing works out nicely, since we will have recently concluded our Erase the Hate Week. At RBSMS, we participated in RAK events and activities last February, and we are looking forward to doing so again this year. Last year we recognized this week by encouraging students to perform random acts of kindness. We emphasized that the purpose is not to be acknowledged or rewarded for their kind acts, but rather to experience how great it feels to help others. While we of course believe our students should practice kindness every day, during RAK Week, we encourage them to go above and beyond to make others feel special. In doing so, many students realize how rewarding it can be to complete kind acts for others, whether they're "caught being kind" or not.

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation is the organization, which promotes this important week in February. Their website is a fantastic resource, which includes activity and event ideas, lesson plans, and ideas for random acts of kindness for children and adults. If you and your child are interested in learning more, you can visit their website at <http://www.randomactsofkindness.org> for fun ideas on how to help spread the kindness.

Community Connections Night

Our second quarter Community Connections Night was held on December 12th. Thank you to all the parents who attended to meet with their child's teachers to discuss their progress in the classroom and to set up a plan to ensure continuing success in the classroom. Mr. Schmidt, our band director, and his jazz band provided entertainment for the families while they enjoyed a delicious meal. There were also informative sessions offered by our teachers that our families were very complimentary on the valuable information they took away from these sessions.

The teachers and the sessions they offered were: Sally Schultz- "Real Life Math", Bill Adams, "eSembler", Bill Morehouse "Weekend Scientist, and Troy Reed and Shannon Mathews "Adolescent Transitions".

Pasco Schools to Hold Information Meetings on New State Standards

Land O' Lakes, FL – (December 10, 2013) – Pasco County Public Schools has scheduled a series of 13 community meetings starting at Anclote High School on January 14, 2014, to educate parents and the community about Florida's new standards for k-12 students.

Meetings are scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at each district high school for parents whose children attend the high schools and the elementary and middle schools that feed into them. Those who attend will hear a presentation by district experts, receive materials explaining what the Common Core State Standards are and are not, and participate in a question and answer period.

The Florida Board of Education adopted the standards in 2010, and in 2011 schools began implementing curriculum and training teachers to help kindergarten and first grade students master the standards. The standards will be fully implemented in all grades starting with the 2014-2015 school year.

The meeting schedule is attached. It also can be viewed by going onto the Pasco Schools homepage, www.pascoschools.org, and clicking on the CCSS link under Quick Links. The Common Core page includes news links and multiple sources of information for students, parents, and the community.

COMMON CORE COMMUNITY MEETINGS 6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

DATE	SCHOOL	ADDRESS	LOCATION
Tuesday, January 14, 2014	Anclote High School	1540 Sweetbriar Dr., Holiday	Media Center
Thursday, January 16, 2014	Pasco High School	36850 SR 52, Dade City	Media Center
Thursday, January 23, 2014	Mitchell High School	2323 Little Rd., NPR	Cafeteria
Tuesday, January 28, 2014	Fivay High School	12115 Chicago Ave., Hudson	Cafeteria
Thursday, January 30, 2014	Gulf High School	5355 School Rd., NPR	Cafeteria
Tuesday, February 4, 2014	Wesley Chapel High School	30651 Wells Rd., Wesley Chapel	Cafeteria
Thursday, February 6, 2014	Land O' Lakes High School	20325 Gator Ln., LOL	Mini Theater - RM 500
Tuesday, February 11, 2014	Hudson High School	14410 Cobra Way, Hudson	Main Bldg - Mayer Rm
Thursday, February 13, 2014	River Ridge High School	11646 Town Ctr. Rd., NPR	Media Center
Thursday, February 20, 2014	Zephyrhills High School	6335 12th St., Zephyrhills	Commons Area
Tuesday, February 25, 2014	Sunlake High School	3023 Sunlake Blvd., LOL	Cafeteria
Thursday, February 27, 2014	Ridgewood High School	7650 Orchid Lae Rd., NPR	Media Center
Tuesday, March 4, 2014	Wiregrass Ranch High School	2909 Mansfield Blvd., WC	Business Learning Community Area



We are Bulldog Strong!

GIRLS SOCCER

Coach: Kathleen Jeffcott

Date	Event	Location
Jan. 23	Pasco Middle	ZHS (home)
Jan. 30	Centennial Middle	ZHS (home)
Feb. 4	Pineview	ZHS (home)
Feb. 6	John Long Middle	ZHS (home)
Feb. 11	Rushe Middle	SLHS (away)
Feb. 13	Weightman Middle	WCHS (away)
Feb. 18	Pasco Middle	PHS (away)
Feb. 25	Centennial Middle	ZHS (away)

Game Time: 6:00 P.M.

All games are played at the high school Stadiums

BOYS BASKETBALL

7th Grade Coach: Mark Holifer

8th Grade Coach: Norman Scheuerman

Date	Opponent	Location
Jan. 22	Pasco Middle	PMS
Jan. 29	Centennial Middle	CENMS
Feb. 3	Pineview Middle	PVMS
Feb. 5	John Long Middle	JLMS
Feb. 10	Rushe Middle	CENMS
Feb. 13	Weightman Middle	CENMS
Feb. 19	Pasco Middle	CENMS
Mar. 3	Centennial Middle	CENMS

Game time: 6:00 pm

7th grade team will play first, followed by the 8th grade team. Due to the construction of our new gym all home games will be played at Centennial Middle School