Welcome Back!

One of the great things about the education calendar is that it affords the perfect opportunity for renewal. We trust you had a relaxing summer, and that you have returned prepared to join in making this our safest and most productive year ever.

Congratulations and many thanks go out to Barbara Campbell, Training and Safety Coordinator, and Cheri Grey, Training and Safety Secretary, who produced the excellent inservice on August 21st, bringing together more than a dozen speakers and covering more than two dozen topics. Anyone who was unable to attend the inservice missed a wealth of information.

One of the highlights of the day was Naomi the Bus Lady, a former school bus operator from Charlotte county. She used measures of humor and reality to share her message, one that was repeated over and over during the day-long presentation: Operators and Assistants, those on the front line, are the most important elements in the quality of the Transportation service.

If you did miss the inservice, make certain you seek out and attend other trainings during the year in order to obtain the necessary points to maintain your eligibility for next year.

As we approach the end of its first decade, it’s interesting to see the changes that the 21st Century has brought. Certainly a prominent and positive change this year is the melding of the position of ESE Transportation Coordinator with the Training and Safety department.

While her job description remains the same, Nancy Fagerstrom’s duties have been expanded to include examination of our procedures, in order to ensure that we are in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations. Nancy will also help determine that the more than 12.5 million student trips that we conduct each year are the safest that we can possibly make them. As part of her expanded duties, Nancy will also be monitoring our workflow, to ensure that we have the most efficient operation possible. In this expanded role, Nancy will become a very visible element of the Transportation team.

The Training and Safety Department will continue to expand their offerings, providing more and varied opportunities for training during the coming year. For their assistance with the inservice and throughout the year, Barb and Cheri would like to thank Dr. Frayed for his continued support, as well as the added assistance of Nurse Miss B. Haven. Stay tuned for more information.
SERVICE PINS

79 EMPLOYEES - 700 YEARS COMBINED EXPERIENCE

25 Years
Carol Guider
Operator
Northwest

Sue Meinhardt
Relief Operator
Southeast

Ramona Williams
Assistant
East

Joan Alexander
Route Specialist
Southeast

Joyce Arnold
Operator
Northwest

Dianna Harvey
Operator
Northwest

Nancy Ranion
Operator
Northwest

Linda Williamson
Operator
Northwest

15 Years
Mary Aboud
Operator
Northwest

Jean Decker
Route Specialist
Northwest

Nancy Engstrom
ESE Coordinator
West

Tabitha Hobbs
Assistant
West

Everett Houghtalen
Operator
West

Rose Johnson
Assistant
Northwest

Bonnie Renzetti
Operator
Northwest

Torrie Godwin
Operator
Southeast

10 Years
Sandra Bonilla
Operator
East

Roberta Deletetsky
Assistant
Northwest

Beatrice Desmaris
Assistant
Central

Cynthia Dorazio
Assistant
West

Elaine Dare
Assistant
West

Sandra Gonzalez
Relief Operator
Southeast

Amy Sue Hammond
Operator
Northwest

Linda Himesbaugh
Operator
Northwest

10 Years
Michael Huntoon
Assistant
Northwest

Maureen James
Route Specialist
Central

Mary Jennings
Assistant
Central

John Kleinhand
Relief Operator
Northwest

Jane Lake
Assistant
West

Judith Lundberg
Assistant
Central

Diane Morrill
Route Specialist
Southeast

Nancy Scheiner
Operator
West

10 Years
Marilyn Tyler
Operator
West

Robin Walter
Route Specialist
East

Robert Wilson
Operator
Northwest

Frank Ambrosino
Operator
West

Patsy Barto
Relief Operator
Southeast

Sherri Bell
Operator
Central

Carrie Brady
Relief Operator
Southeast

Royden Brocki
Operator
West

5 Years
Dianna Canton
Operator
Northwest

Sharon Chmielewski
Route

Deborah Cochran
Relief Operator
Southeast

Robert Deletetsky
Assistant
West

Virginia Dey
Operator
West

Patricia Dhonau
Operator
Northwest

Nadalie Ebrahim
Assistant
West

Linda Ellerbee
Assistant
Central

5 Years
Frank Ambrosino
Operator
West

79 EMPLOYEES - 700 YEARS COMBINED EXPERIENCE
AAA Auto Club South in conjunction with the Transportation Department, provided a “1st Bus Ride” for a number of area children. Many thanks to John Fuller and Kathy Hobden, who volunteered time on a Saturday to operate the buses. The willingness of Transportation employees to volunteer their time certainly supports the District vision to create a community that works together.

A June 3rd letter from Principal Ric Mellin of Land O’ Lakes High was to let Mr. Sawyer “three fantastic individuals” from Transportation. He went on to praise Theresa Coleman, Donnamay Lohrke, and Frank Ambrosino, who provided assistance with a flat tire, allowing him to participate in the MHS graduation at the Sun Dome. Said Principal Mellin, “It’s a pleasure to call these people my colleagues.”

September is “Prostate Awareness Month.”
October is “Breast Cancer Awareness Month.”
Outstanding!

We always like to get positive feedback from the public, and everyone likes to hear good things about themselves. In May, Mr. Sawyer got a letter from the parents of two children at Longleaf Elementary School with glowing praise for the children’s bus driver. Following is an excerpt from that letter.

“Mr. John Campanella is an Outstanding Bus Driver with the Pasco County Schools.” That alone would be sufficient cause for pride within us all, but the letter continues.

“His positive encouragement and recognition of (our child’s) accomplishments when she would get on the bus in the mornings gave her something to look forward to. I know that I do not speak for myself or my children, but for all of the kids in our ... community. They all love him and are disappointed when he is out and not their driver. I know that it can not be easy driving a bus full of elementary kids, but he must do something right because they all enjoy and respect him greatly.”

Operators and Assistants, you are the eyes, the ears, and the hearts of Transportation. You cannot imagine how far your kindness and understanding will spread.

AVATAR

Nope! It’s not a Hindu deity. Nor is it the thoroughbred racehorse. It’s not even a 3-D science fiction film. AVATAR is the name of Pasco’s system which allows you to sign up for inservice training to earn additional points all year, view your point accumulation, and even print certificates upon successful completion of some of the courses.

Yep! You’ll need a computer to view your points and sign up for courses (other than our Training and Safety inservices). Every compound has one which may be used in situations just like this one.

Via FIREFOX, go to the District School Board of Pasco County website, <http://pasco.k12.fl.us>, and then to the Staff Development main page where you’ll find the AVATAR login instructions.

Once you have followed the login instructions you’ll be well on your way to viewing your portfolio and signing up for courses!

As always, please call with any questions! Barbara and Cheri will be happy to help!

Safe Driver Committee Elections

At each bus compound, we will be conducting the annual election for representatives to the Safe Driver Committee. The form on which to nominate yourself (operators only) will be distributed on September 18th. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration when submitting your name for this responsibility.

The Safe Driver Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month in our Central compound conference room from 10:30 to 12:30. This is paid time, at your hourly rate of pay.

Once the nominations are in, a ballot will be prepared and presented to you on Friday, October 2nd. Please vote for the person whom you believe will represent the County in the most conscientious manner.

If elected, your first meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

“Adults are always asking little kids what they want to be when they grow up, because they’re looking for ideas.”
Paula Poundstone

Pasco District Schools Transportation
6125 Pinehill Rd
Port Richey, FL 34668
http://trans.pasco.k12.fl.us/ 727.774.4000