

THE TRANSIT TRIBUNE

PASCO DISTRICT SCHOOLS

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

June 2009
Volume 5, Issue 4

WELCOME BACK!



Daniel Grant (p.3)

Dr. Frayed takes time out of his busy schedule to offer some encouragement. (p.4)

Dates to Remember:

Jun 15
ESY Trial Run Day

Jun 16
ESY Day 1

Jul 27
Pick Letters Mailed

Aug 17
Fall Route Selection

Aug 18
Secondary Registration

Aug 19
Elementary Registration

Aug 20
Inservice

Aug 21
Trial Run Day

Aug 24
School Start 09-10

Emergency Bus Evac Drill

Only a Test



The Accident Scene

On Friday, March 26, 2009, members of the Pasco District Schools Transportation department along with Pasco Sheriff's Office, Pasco Fire Rescue, NPR Fire and Police, Community Hospital, and Pasco Emergency Management, conducted an emergency bus evacuation drill at Gulf High School. Additionally, members of the Mitchell High School drama team and the sheriff's Explorers volunteered to go under the makeup artist's brush to become the victims of a terrible bus crash. While we all hope that such an incident will never occur, the realistic drill serves to make all of the first responders, as well as those who support them from the various operations centers much more aware of their own roles in such a disaster.

Things began the day before when Tatum's Towing and Recovery hauled an old bus from the depot on Pine Hill Road over to the Gulf High School

parking lot beside the football field. Next, the bus was flipped over on its side. Then Fire Rescue took over. Knowing that they would have to cut an escape opening in the top of the bus, the decision was made to do this the night before the exercise to reduce the possibility of risk to the actors playing the victims.

Next morning, the actors entered one of the most intensive makeup sessions of their young careers and the other players gathered at the GHS Buccaneer football field for an explanation of how the day would go.

With the briefing complete, the action moved to the site of the crash, and when all was set, James Johnston of Pasco County EOC set the action in motion.

Radios crackled, sirens began to wail in the distance, and very soon the scene was alive with police and fire rescue personnel. Just as would happen in a real emergency, parents and members of the general public began to show up as well. The scene was soon roped off to keep the area clear for emergency personnel. Also within the zone were designated "observers" who were to report at the debriefing later just what they saw.

See: Bus Crash on p.3

Only half of America's students take the school bus to school; the others use more dangerous forms of transportation.

Employee Recognition

Five Years' Service

CAROLYN SHARP

The above-named individual was inadvertently omitted from previous recognition lists. If anyone else who has completed at least five years of Transportation service has been overlooked, please notify your Route Specialist.



Cindy Stevens	25 yrs
Wanda Jane Allen	22 yrs
Eugene Waters	16 yrs
Jane Maceikis	10 yrs
Diane Williams	5 yrs

Congratulations!

Congratulations to David Chmielewski from Central Compound. His picture and a short bio were published in the April 12 issue of *Parade Magazine*, a supplement to the *Tampa Tribune*. Mr. Chmielewski, who submitted his information to "What People



Earn," an annual feature of the *Trib*, has received recognition from coworkers and teachers within the District as well as family members and others. Mr. Chmielewski vows to remain untouched by all the media attention.

Tory Wolter is a driver who follows the rules. She does an excellent job of teaching her students the proper hand signals and of teaching them to stop immediately if she blows her horn.

All of this paid off on May 6th when Ms. Wolter was transporting PRSMS students. The students were getting off of the bus at



Bonita & Melody and crossing in front of the bus. A car came out of nowhere and ran the bus' stoplights. The driver laid on the horn and the students stopped in their tracks. Her action prevented 5 students from serious injury or worse. The driver told Mrs. Butcher and she was rewarding these 5 students with "PRSmith Bucks."

Tears of gratitude flowed when a parent called the West Compound to compliment driver W. C. Rains. The mother stated that if not for the driver utilizing the hand signals her child would be dead or severely injured today. Her son started to cross the road at Jasmine Blvd. and Hilltop Dr. Noticing a car



approaching, Mr. Rains blew his horn and yelled for the kids to wait, just as the car blew through the bus' stoplights. The mother was so appreciative that the driver uses the hand signals every day. She feels that Mr. Rains is doing a great job looking out for the safety of her child.

People whose problems are all behind them are probably school bus drivers.

Bus Crash (cont. from p1)



Bring On the Bus



Bus Flip



A Brand New Sunroof



Tad Addresses the Staff



Inside the Accident



Fire Rescue

Jack Greene, senior Transportation staff member (officially) on site moved about the scene, checking on student welfare, the driver's welfare (Diego from West Compound), and generally working the scene from our perspective. Mr. Greene felt that the exercise was beneficial, and he was impressed with the professionalism of all our staff. Also on the scene from the department in a variety of capacities were all of the Area Managers, and many of the Route Specialists, plus Tad Kledzik, and Gary Sawyer.

The entire exercise took most of the morning and ended with a debriefing session at Community Hospital in New Port Richey. The Transportation Department would like to thank community for their participation in creating this invaluable exercise.

Find us on the web at <http://trans.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

Happenings...

Welcome Back and... Thank You

Daniel Grant has returned to the West Compound as a Relief Operator after being on active military duty since January 2008. He served in Tikrit, Iraq (the birthplace of Saddam Hussein) as a Team Leader for the Police Transition Team. This

involved the training of Iraqi police officers. Daniel suffered a concussion when his truck was destroyed after it hit a land mine.

On May 12 at 6:00 AM we all welcomed Dan back. By 6:25 AM he was already back on duty for his first route of the day.



West Compound Brightens Chasco Parade

For the third year in a row, The United School Employees of Pasco (USEP) has sponsored a float

in the Chasco Parade, held this year on March 21st. A good time and camaraderie are enjoyed both during building of the float and on parade day. Participation is open to School Board employees and family members.

This year's participants included Margaret Ackley, Marvin Coleman, Theresa Coleman, Rose Conder, Edna Copeland, Vivian Gardner, Karen Garton, Tessa Holt, Ed Houghtalen, Pat Houghtalen, Betty Neymeiyer, Frank Roder, Ameer Schawkee, Rick Wolf, Sue Wolf, and others.

If you would like to join the fun next year, you may contact Marvin Coleman at the Transportation West bus compound.

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The District School Board of Pasco County



*The World's Safest
Drivers,
Transporting the
World's Most
Precious Cargo*

Our thanks go to the
students of Marchman
Technical Education Center
who printed this newsletter.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://trans.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

Our School Board

Frank Parker - Chairman
Allen Altman - Vice Chair
Joanne Hurley
Cathi Martin
Kathryn Starkey



Don't B A FRAYED!! Dr. B. A. Frayed



Dr. Frayed here. I want to zank you all for ze vundaful vay you are doing with your DOE physicals! It does my ticker good to zee zo many healthy school bus drivers!

Getting physical so far this spring has been "no strain" for most of you! Thanks to your efforts, 97% of you have passed your physical with flying colors! When I arrive at each compound to begin physicals, I see pride and preparation in "fluid" action! (Not to mention some hopping around and crossing of the legs, usually because you want to get rid of some of that fluid. (HA! HA!))

A great majority of you are healthier and better prepared; armed with documentation from your personal physician, which makes passing a DOE physical a "piece of cake" without the calories, as it were!

However, if you were issued a 3 or 6 month medical card, you should be seeing your physician regularly and

obtaining the needed letters or documentation (written on the doctor's letterhead or script paper, of course). Please note that if your physical expires, say in August, for example, you will want your letter and documentation to be dated as close to the **target date** (usually 10 business days prior to the expiration date listed on your card) as possible.

We will send you a "follow-up" 11" x 17" physical form to complete and a **target date** by which the form and your documentation should be in the hands of the folks at Company Care.

Also, we will either send you a self-addressed, stamped envelope in which to mail your paperwork to Company Care, or one can be obtained at your Compound. Ask your Area Manager, if you're not sure where to find them.

Of course, if you have any questions **DON'T B A FRAYED** to ask that "vacky, red-head voman!" (Cheri), and don't forget to keep zat zample varm!

Superintendent Joins Z Celebration

On April 17th, the Superintendent attended the celebration of the Zhills biggest loser challenge. Such affairs at Southeast are always accompanied by food, but this year's fare was especially healthy. The Superintendent handed out certificates to all participants.

One of the highlights of the day was an appearance by celebrity impersonator, Chris Godwin, as Richard Simmons. A good time was had by all.



Jody congratulates the Red Hot Tomatoes

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Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent

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