



Volume 7, Issue 4

June 2011
Dates To Remember

14 June
ESY Trial Run Day

15 June
First Day of ESY

28 June
Last Day of ESY

15 July
Last Day of
Reading Camp

11 August
Fall Route Selection

18 August
Fall Inservice

19 August
Fall Trial Run Day

22 August
First Day of SY 2011

In This Issue

Customer Service
Page 1

Preparedness
Page 1

Staff Recognition
Page 2, 3

Training & Safety
Page 4

Score One
Page 4

THE TRANSIT TRIBUNE

Pasco District Schools Transportation

Customer Service

The Transportation department was selected to receive the Customer Service award for Quarter 3 by a panel of judges, because our members exceed the expectations of their customers and have been “caught in the act” of delivering exceptional service. The award was presented by the Superintendent on April 20, 2011. On hand to receive the award were West Operators, Jennie Smith and Gus Santos.



Preparedness

Briana Jones (not her real name) of ZHS was very proud of her science experiment. She had spent many hours researching online the best way to make her homemade rocket. On Friday, April 22nd Briana boarded her bus in Zephyrhills for what would be a short trip up Dairy Rd to just behind Florida Hospital of Zephyrhills. Unexpectedly, her concoction of rocket chemicals reacted and exploded injuring her and contaminating everyone on the bus including the driver and assistant. Fortunately, Briana’s only injuries of the day were actually ant bites. Confused yet? I'll give you a hint. April 22nd was a non-school day and Briana is a drama student at ZHS.



Triage

Pasco County Emergency Operations, Pasco Fire Rescue, Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Zephyrhills Police Department, Zephyrhills Fire Rescue, and the District School Board of Pasco County participated in a mock disaster drill at Florida Hospital of Zephyrhills. Students from ZHS drama were sprayed with a sugar water solution and covered in talc to simulate being contaminated by the homemade rocket chemicals. The drill was designed to evaluate how well the responding agencies would handle a situation where no documented response plan existed.

As the various units responded and set up their equipment, the school bus Operator and Assistant comforted their students who were experiencing burning skin and eyes from the unknown chemicals. Fire Rescue worked to triage the students while members of the Hazardous Incident Team suited up to enter the “hot zone” and collect a sample of the substance.



Got Water Pressure?

The contaminated students were led to a fire department ladder truck where they were flushed with water at a rate of 300 gallons per minute from a nozzle mounted overhead on the extended ladder. Bob Prather and Diane Morrill of Southeast Compound played the roles of Operator and Assistant. They also received a mid-morning shower courtesy of the fire department! This “gross decontamination” then allowed the students and employees to be transported to the hospital nearby for additional decontamination and treatment. The entire event allowed the participating agencies to experience this type of incident and to identify what some of the difficulties

See Preparedness P4

STAFF RECOGNITION

Roger is a new Operator who just started in February. East Compound received a call from Mr. Jeter, the owner of School Unique Day Care, who stated “I know that you normally hear from me when I’m unhappy about something and call to make a complaint, but this time I just want to ask a question, “Can we keep our driver that we have now? We’ve had a lot of drivers this year, but this driver that we have now is great. We like him a lot, and the kids absolutely love him. He does everything right at the stop as well as managing the students and the discipline on his bus. He is kind to everyone.” The office staff here at East think that Roger is doing a great job as well.

Congratulations to Ashley Cappadona who just earned her bachelor’s degree. Great work!

RETIREMENTS

Margaret Anderson	34 yrs.	West	Patricia Brenskelle	18 yrs.	West	Nancy Johnson	8 yrs.	West
Thomas Blazo	32 yrs.	West	Everett Houghtalen	18 yrs.	West	Linda Peek	8 yrs.	Central
Ann Vitson	31 yrs.	N West	Raymond LaPalme	14 yrs.	N West	Thomas Pentland	8 yrs.	Central
Linda Bone	29 yrs.	S East	Elaine Dore	13 yrs.	West	Tom Congram	7 yrs.	N West
Tony Hooks	28 yrs.	S East	Linda Himebaugh	12 yrs.	N West	Charles Henry	7 yrs.	Central
Anthony Deblase	26 yrs.	S East	Michael Huntoon	12 yrs.	N West	Nelly Logan	7 yrs.	West
Peggy Zierler	26 yrs.	S East	Robert Wilson	12 yrs.	N West	Charles Zumbrun	7 yrs.	S East
Constance McDonald	25 yrs.	S East	Chalotte Ball	11 yrs.	Central	Nicholas Krzeminski	5 yrs.	West
John Kolmonen	21 yrs.	West	Sandra Martin	11 yrs.	East	Ernest Richards	3 yrs.	N West
Josena Tift	21 yrs.	West	Margaret Hood	8 yrs.	Central	Dennis Walton	3 yrs.	Central
Dolores Brown	20 yrs.	N West	Wayne Johnson	8 yrs.	West	Joe Leeds	1 yrs.	S East



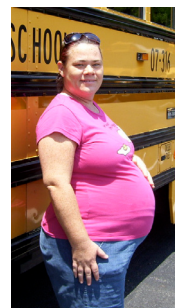
Paul King & Alisha



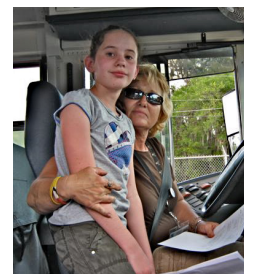
Marilyn Typer & Falisha



Irma Montelongo & Isabel.



Jaimie Sweeney & Jr.



Bonnie Mayle & Chelsea

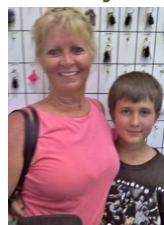


Bill Singleton & John

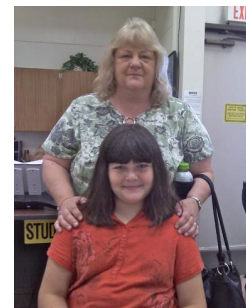


Diana Seda & Kyle

Take our sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters and nieces and nephews to work, oh my



Bonnie Taylor & Drew



Debbie Thompson & Brooke



Anna Smith & Alexis



David Lambert & Taylor



Kathy Bowser, Maryann & Emily



Denise Nucci & Dominic



Deanna Truelove & Brooke

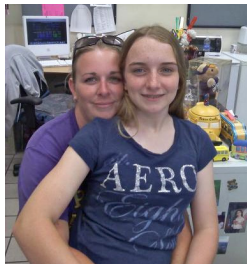
The Transit Tribune Volume #7, Issue #4, June 2011



Stephanie Garrett & Hope



Jonna Preto & Sara



Mariann Stringer & Chelsie



Tiffany Jackson & Jimmy Steven Rivera & Seth



Michelle Varnadoe & Kristin



Tiffany Jackson & Jimmy Steven Rivera & Seth



Ekirima Ferguson & Eric



Katheren Southward & Jay



Terri Kaar, Christian & Jessica



Sandy Munoz & Sophia



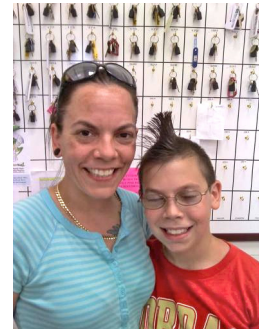
Danielle Davis & Logan



Joe Serden & Rye



Roxeann Ortiz & Carlos



Jessica Francis & Kyle



Larry Porter & Nathan



Wendy Miller & Adam



Jessica Whitson & Wesley



Ana Contreras Hernandez & Priscilla



Nancy Lopata, Ranger & Tory Wolter



Susan White & Rachael



Jeanette Gungle & Caleb



Ramona Williams & Malcolm



Leeann Lambert & Cody



Christine Gerrish & Joshua Terri Kaar & Nick

are in responding to it. Our response plan will be modified to include lessons learned from this activity. The main item identified was that good, clear, and timely communication between all participants is paramount.

As for Briana, she did an exceptional job at being unconscious. Unfortunately, she did so relatively close to an ant pile. Maybe sugar water was not such a good idea.

Score One for Management

We often publish positive letters and comments we get concerning our Operators and Assistants. The following is from an Operator, and this just seemed the proper venue. Please forgive us for blowing our own horn.

On the morning of March 31, 2011 the weather was foul, as bad as many long-time residents had seen. By the first run of the day, the driving conditions were rapidly deteriorating. Lightning, or perhaps high winds, created electrical blackouts in several areas, with many traffic control devices rendered inoperative. The airwaves were radio-active with reports of hail, heavy rain, high winds, trees down blocking the roadways, and driving conditions getting worse. I was struggling to keep my windshield clear, and I was sure there were other bus drivers having difficulty driving safely.

At this difficult time came a radio transmission instructing us to get off the road in a safe place to wait for improved conditions. Yes! Our supervisors were thinking about our primary responsibility, STUDENT SAFETY! No, they weren't merely reminding us to practice this. They were taking a stand. A decision was made to put our students' safety first, and wait for improved conditions.

I suppose we will never know if an accident, or injury was avoided, but I do know our supervisors were not frozen by indecision. They placed the SAFETY of our students first and foremost.

Sometimes in the midst of chaos, with an Area Manager on one line asking for instructions, the Superintendent on another line asking for clarification, and the TV news on a third



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Our School Board

**Joanne Hurley - Chairwoman
Allen Altman - Vice Chair
Alison Crumbley
Cynthia Armstrong
Steve Luikart**

line hoping for someone to make a mistake that they can use to fire up their audience, it can be difficult to make the right decision. In this case, the decisions that were made didn't satisfy everyone, but everyone got to school, and home again, safely. And, as the Operator pointed out in the above-referenced letter, *"that is our primary responsibility, too."* We just thought someone should know.

Training and Safety

The Training and Safety department has been very busy this school year. Very busy. We have trained 28 new Assistants and 55 new Operators since the start of the 2010 – 2011 school year. Barbara, Nancy, Diego, Cheri, and Paige, our BCE student, have worked incredibly hard to streamline the process, while still improving the quality of instruction.

Despite their hard work and the consolidation of numerous routes, we are still just keeping up with attrition. It is our intention to have trained Operators waiting in the pool, ready to take over when an Operator leaves us. While that hasn't happened yet, at least our Relief Operators have been able to meet the need, so that Route Specialists have not been compelled to drive on a daily basis.

While Operators and Assistants are enjoying their much deserved summer break, Training and Safety will continue to do what they do so well. At least two training classes are scheduled for the break, which, hopefully, will mean that we do not start the 2011 – 2012 school year down by nearly 20 Operators as we did at the start of this year.

In between training up to 40 new Operator candidates over the summer, the department is hard at work planning our August inservice. Each year, the trainings become more interesting, more interactive, and more informative. However, Miss Hattie Fenderbender, Taylor Swing, and Oliver DaRoad are going to be a hard act to follow. But you can expect another excellent program when you return.