

THE TRANSIT TRIBUNE

PASCO DISTRICT SCHOOLS

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

March 2009
Volume 5, Issue 3



Da Otter Getter Dun Band
Holiday Winners

Driver receives
accolades for
volunteer spirit. See
Pg 2 for details.

Dates to Remember:

Mar. 10
Lunch & Learn E

Mar. 11
Lunch & Learn SE
Safe Driver Committee

Mar. 17
Lunch & Learn C

Mar. 18
Lunch & Learn W

Mar. 19
Lunch & Learn N

Mar. 27
Non-work Day

Apr. 6 - 10
Spring Break

Apr. 15
Safe Driver Committee

May 1 & May 25
Non-work Days

Lose Big and Win

The Zhills Challenge

In the Fall of '08, one near and dear to the hearts of the Zhills folks realized that she had a growing problem. This inspired her to ask some of the drivers if they would be interested in a weight-loss competition. They agreed but wanted to wait until after the New Year. It was December and minds were on the Holidays. Never the less, when Berta asked about the challenge, Jody jumped into gear and hung a sign-up sheet for anyone interested.

The response was overwhelming! 48 people signed up for the challenge. Jody knew if they were going to put this together, it had to be BIG. With her head in the clouds, she made a plan: before and after pictures, weekly

winners, weekly prizes, teams, rules, inspiration, motivation, focus, and recognition. Phewww!

Using her best collaboration skills, Jody called a meeting to go over her ideas and take suggestions. When all was said and done, there were eight teams with six members on each team.

Excitement about "Z Biggest Loser" was growing, and there was a desire for community involvement. Jody called the *Local 24 Hour Gym*, where school board employees get a discount. As a result, there is a personal trainer available to the Losers at a reduced rate.

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Holiday Decoration Competition

On Wednesday, December 17th the Central, East, and Southeast compounds competed in a holiday decoration competition. The rivalry was fierce, and the details were closely guarded secrets until the big reveal.

High points were given to all for a great show and a lot of fun. More points were awarded to East for staying so much on task: using the song from the video, showing the video, and just being downright

dead ringers for the cast in the video.

East and Southeast were tied with four otters. Velvet was sorry she didn't bring in the road kill otter she saw on way to work that morning.

Central had the actual mascot otter on loan from Oakstead Elementary School tied to Sharon's head.

Continued on p3

California law requires school bus operators to physically escort all elementary students across the street.

Employee Recognition

Twenty-five Years' Service
LYNN ARNOLD
LEONARD BIAGI

Twenty Years' Service
NANCY RUNION
JOANN ALEXANDER
CARL PAGE

Fifteen Years' Service
EVERETT HOUGHTALEN
WALTER SCHOLZ
NANCY FAGERSTROM
BONNIE RENZETTI

Ten Years' Service
AMYSUE HAMMOND
NANCY SCHEINER
MARILYN TYLER
ELAINE DORE

35 Years' Service

September 1, 1969



LINDA
ELLERBEE

MAUREEN JAMES
JUDITH LUNDBERG
LINDA HIMEBAUGH
ROBERT WILSON
WAYNE SMITH

Five Years' Service
SHERRI BELL
ROYDEN BROSKI



30 Years' Service

November 8, 1978



DAVID
TAYLOR

DIANNA CANTON
VIRGINIA DEY
JOSEPH HALLER
PAMELA JONES
JOSEPH LYNN
ERIK PIERCE
CAROLYN BODIFORD
SHARON CHIMELEWSKI
TIMOTHY HEGGATON

JAY PHILIPSON
MARK ROY
FRANKLIN WORKMAN
GINA SCHNEIDER
CARLOYN PROVENZANO
GARY SAWYER
BRENDA SUSICK

CAROLYN BODIFORD 22 yrs
HAROLD HOGLUND 20 yrs
JOSEPH MACEIKIS 12 yrs
ROBERT VANBUSKIRK 12 yrs



Congratulations!

Ms. Diana Blevins, school bus operator from the Northwest Compound, received a big write-up in the *St. Petersburg Times* on January 23rd. Diana created the *Cheer Club Dragons* in Shady Hills, teaching as many as twenty girls at a time. Some of the girls have been with her for six or seven

years, and some are as young as four years of age. Classes include dance, tumbling, cheering, and stretching. Diana takes some of the girls to competition, and she does it all as a volunteer. Thank you Diana; you make us all proud.

Tina Ellis, secretary at the West Compound, as well as all the Route Specialists have been nominated to receive the "We Treasure Your

Customer Service Award" for their hard work and due diligence in ensuring that Students in Transition receive needed bus transportation.

Congratulations to Ms. Theresa Broderick from the West Compound, who received a letter of thanks from Superintendent Fiorentino for her, "quick-thinking when witnessing the actions of a

suicidal community member. Your... decision-making most likely saved her life." You are, in many ways, the eyes and ears of the community as well as those of the first responders.

Bernie Schneider and Terri Tsirigots, driver and assistant at the Northwest Compound, have received glowing accolades from Crews Lake MS

for their "excellent performance, ... exceptional cooperation, and dedication in working with ESE students." They are role models for us all.

Great job Tina Roque! The watchful eye of School Bus Operator, Tina Roque resulted in the capture of a stranger loitering at several bus

stops. Tina's quick action in reporting her observations to the office and school made this apprehension possible. She is to be commended.

Lose Big and Win *cont. from p1*



Team Blue



Team Green



Team Orange



Team Pink



Team Purple



Team White

It was clear they needed a Loser leader board. Hoping to borrow bulletin board paper, Jody called West Zephyrhills Elementary School across the street. Who could have known that such a small request would lead to an even bigger challenge? Jody received several phone calls from WZES along with a personal visit. They wanted to be part of the challenge!

In the first week of the competition, the total was 102.4 pounds lost, and the first weekly winner was John Kinne, who lost 11.6 pounds. Congratulations!

The momentum spread. On January 20th, Jody received a call for information from East Compound, so they could start their own challenge.

Congratulations and good luck to all the big Losers, and thanks for allowing us to feel like a part of it. Now, the more you loose, the more we all win.

As of now, Zhills as lost a total of 232 pounds.

See Biggest Loser DC on P 4

Holiday Competition *cont. from p1*



Emmett Otter's Jug Band

In the end, the open campfire, the otter trading post, David actually playing his wash bucket bass, (someone said that wasn't fair 'cause he probably plays that thing every weekend camping anyway)

the involvement of everyone, including drivers as camouflage when Mr. Greene, Princess Tina, and the other judges pulled up, played well. With all things considered, Central Compound was declared the winner.



The No Name Band

"Everyone is in awe of the lion tamer in a cage with half a dozen lions - everyone but a school bus driver." Dr. Laurence J. Peter

The students of
Marchman Technical
Education Center printed
this newsletter.

PASCO DISTRICT SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION

The District School Board of Pasco County

Recognizes

THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

For their outstanding customer service
October-December 2008



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Transporting the
World's Most
Precious Cargo*

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Our School Board

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Allen Altman – Vice Chair
Joanne Hurley
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Kathryn Starkey



Bus Video - Lights, Camera, Action!

REMINDER: The new 2008 International school buses were purchased with the latest in video technology. The VHS system has been replaced with a computer that records directly to a hard disk. It is very similar to the digital video recorder (DVR) that you may have at home from your cable or satellite provider. The video system comes on shortly after starting the bus

and continues to record until you turn the off the ignition.

One key feature can be found on the driver's side instrument panel. There is a small red button that allows the driver to place a virtual mark on the video. This allows the route specialist reviewing the video to quickly jump to that point in time.

ESE Corner Barb Campbell

ESE equipment update training is nearly completed. Drivers and assistants at all compounds have been updated, except Central, which will be completed the first week of March. I would like to thank everyone who helped with coordinating this effort. This project has been a huge undertaking, and I never could have done it without everyone's help. Thank you!

I have been extremely happy, while conducting the classes, with the level of interest shown by drivers and assistants. The driver trainers have reported that everyone has taken a real interest in ensuring that they are using the equipment properly. In the future, anyone who transfers from a regular run to special needs or who becomes a relief driver will be required to complete the 4 hour training before beginning their new position. Everyone should study the training materials to make sure you can show proficiency in using the equipment.

I hope everyone is feeling more confident with the use of the equipment and keeping our students safe during transportation. If you have any concerns, don't be afraid to ask for help!

Biggest Loser DC

Twenty-one people from the East Compound took up the Loser challenge. They created five teams. Instead of computing total pounds lost, the DC people are measuring and comparing percentage of weight lost. So far, there have been two weekly winners. Keep us posted, so we can celebrate your progress with you.



District School Board of Pasco County

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Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent

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