



Volume 8, Issue 1

October 2011

Dates To Remember

11 November
Veteran's Day
(No School)

23-25 November
Thanksgiving Break

22 Dec - 7 Jan
Winter Break

16 January
Dr. King Holiday
(No School)

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THE TRANSIT TRIBUNE

Pasco District Schools Transportation

<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/transportation/>

August Inservice

It may be difficult to believe, but the inservice this year, surpassed the previous year in both the quality of information provided and in sheer entertainment value. Please congratulate Barbara, Cheri, and Diego on a job well done. And, by the way, this is the same opening paragraph I used last year.



Rhema Marvanne

The morning began with the Lutz Civil Air Patrol Color Guard presenting the colors, accompanied by the River Ridge High School Drum Corps. There was also a recorded video of 7 year old singing sensation, Rhema Marvanne, with her version of the Star Spangled Banner.

Next came the first video of the day. *Tailswing* brought a chorus of oohs, aahs, and groans from the crowd. Everyone was warned in advance not to call out, "Hey, that's me!" if they recognized their bus in one of the videos. The action shots were all staged, and no buses were hurt in the making of the videos, well, maybe one. However the still photos were of actual crashes, and they weren't pretty.

After the gut-wrenching bus videos came discussion of topic that is even more serious. Bullying is a topic that should remain in the forefront of all our thoughts. Bullying occurs most often wherever supervision is restricted.

Along with rest rooms and playgrounds, buses are among the most common place for bullying to occur. Buses, with their protective student compartmentalization, afford bullies a good place to ply their trade. Operators need to be especially vigilant, and pay particular attention to claims of bullying, especially by younger, smaller, or otherwise

more vulnerable children. To further control bullying, the Assistant should always be seated behind the last students, and one reason is to watch for just such behaviors.

After the break, Courtney Leach from Care Here spoke about the new wellness centers with three locations spanning the county. She was joined by Uthona Shelton from Care Here Wellness, and our own Cheri Grey to talk about all aspects of Care Here, including Operator physicals.



Courtney Leach

The morning session concluded with the Training department's version of Jeopardy. Teams of players from each compound vied to provide the correct question to a variety of Transportation answers. Success was mixed, but audience participation helped arrive at the correct responses, and much good learning prevailed.

One of the big hits of the day was the parody of Gilligan's Island starring Jack Greene as the Skipper (SkipJack) and Will Napolitano as Gilligan (or Willigan). Kudos are due Diego for his production which he wrote, directed, and video taped. The video was wholly entertaining and included underlying themes of safety and customer service.



SkipJack

The video *Temple Grandin* accompanied by a discussion of Autism by Christa Vail completed the full day of training.

Staff Recognition for Years' Service

Kelly Albro	November 18, 2005	William Smith	August 7, 2006
Clara Allan	August 7, 2006	Debra Somerville	August 14, 2006
Gwendolyn Allen	August 28, 2006	Helen Stempel	February 10, 2006
Christine Altenes	August 7, 2006	Charles Sweeny	February 9, 2006
Loretta Badger	February 9, 2006	Terry Sweetser	December 13, 2005
Tom Bernard	August 7, 2006	Abby Tawney	November 1, 2005
Debra Branfield	November 1, 2005	Arthur Thompson	August 7, 2006
Shenell Brewer	August 14, 2006	Owen Unks	March 16, 2006
Rita Carlson	August 7, 2006	Jan Van Ommen	December 13, 2005
Kathleen Carlyle	August 7, 2006	Anthony Vegas	November 16, 2005
Ivan Castillo	August 7, 2006	Tory Wolter	March 16, 2006
Paul Christensen	August 7, 2006	Linda Woodruff	December 13, 2005
Theresa Coleman	August 7, 2006	Jean Zuffranieri	April 24, 2006
Ann Conley	November 17, 2005	Robert Aboud	October 27, 2000
Sandra Corbran	August 7, 2006	Tomas Aquino	September 21, 2000
Carol Desimone	August 7, 2006	Florence Barile	December 7, 2000
Zulema Gaton	February 8, 2006	Sharon Barrentine	February 7, 2001
James Gentry	August 7, 2006	June Breyer	September 11, 2000
Janice Goldsby	October 7, 2005	Theresa Broderick	September 21, 2000
Jeanette Gungle	November 3, 2005	David Chmielewski	February 7, 2001
Chrisoula Hadjiyerou	December 13, 2005	Gloria Clockedile	August 23, 2001
Patsy Hickman	March 1, 2006	Kathy Cordoba	August 10, 2001
Mary Hughes	August 7, 2006	J Diego Espinosa	November 15, 2000
Marcie Iselin Hueppi	May 5, 2006	John Fuller	May 3, 2001
Annette Jacome	August 7, 2006	Torrie Godwin	February 7, 2001
Billie Jo Jimenez	March 31, 2006	Janet Holliman	September 11, 2000
Karen Kaminsky	September 20, 2005	Jo Ann Hutter	August 30, 2001
John Kinne	August 7, 2006	Tammy Loftus	August 10, 2001
Sidney Lafayette	August 7, 2006	Vicki Lucas Gawel	September 21, 2000
Beverly Laffin	August 7, 2006	Amanda Mckillen	December 7, 2000
Paul Lamoureux	August 7, 2006	Morag Mclellan	March 20, 2001
William Lancer	November 3, 2005	Aida Perez	August 16, 2001
Arlene Langmaack	September 28, 2005	Leonard Prather	October 27, 2000
Princess Layne	April 29, 2005	Richard Reed	February 7, 2001
Ronald Lewis	August 7, 2006	Tina Roque	February 7, 2001
Rhonda Lopes	August 7, 2006	Neville Rose	December 7, 2000
Teresa Lyle	November 18, 2005	Celestina Segundo	August 23, 2001
Joan Maccabee	April 18, 2011	Carolyn Sharp	October 27, 2000
Arthur Madden	August 7, 2006	Katheren Southward	August 10, 2001
Chrysta Mcbee	August 7, 2006	Venus Stone	August 30, 2001
James McNulty	March 16, 2006	Fermana Villa	August 10, 2001
Albert Megnath	August 14, 2006	Brenda Wadlinger	May 3, 2001
Kurt Melange	February 9, 2006	Laura Weiss	October 2, 2000
Jeanne Miller	November 28, 2005	Dawn Wilbourn	October 2, 2000
Nerida Morales	May 5, 2006	Julie Bratzke	September 28, 1995
Helen Mulgrew	February 9, 2006	Cosimo Caruso	November 2, 1995
Sandra Munoz	September 20, 2005	Theresa Kaar	September 25, 1995
Michael Odonnell	August 7, 2006	Jennifer Kennedy	November 27, 1995
Craig Perrin	December 13, 2005	Ronald Larrivee	August 23, 1996
Donna Petersen	August 7, 2006	Bonita Mayle	August 23, 1996
Gloria Phillips	March 8, 2006	Diane Morrill	October 17, 2005
Jonna Preto	November 1, 2005	Virginia Mosley	November 7, 1995
Carol Raab	March 16, 2006	Delores Williams	September 25, 1995
Jeanne Rand	November 30, 2005	Glenda Bullington	March 4, 1991
Frank Ranello	February 8, 2006	June Griffin	September 3, 1991
Harvey Ryan	November 3, 2005	Patsy Ann Arnold	August 22, 1986
Arthur Salimena	August 7, 2006	Marian Netherly	September 17, 1986
Diane Salmond	May 5, 2006	Cheryl Rogers	February 17, 1986
Christine Secone	September 20, 2005	Brenda Memmel	January 7, 1981
Sandra Smith	March 16, 2006	Laurie Simon	March 3, 1981

Parent Thanks

Dear Wilson (Hernandez),
Thank you so much for taking care of my daughter, Jamie, during her first week of kindergarten this year. I'm happy to know that she's in good hands with you while she's riding the bus. You have such precious cargo on board, and I just wanted to say a big Thank You to you for getting our children to and from school safely!

Kathy

A Non-event

One of our new drivers, Nicholas Mouhteros, did an excellent job yesterday morning avoiding an accident in his school bus with students on board. He was traveling down US 19 at Sunray Blvd. when a car ran the red light and was turning onto US 19. Our bus driver reacted very quickly and was able to get his bus into the median to avoid the car hitting the bus. Another one of our bus drivers witnessed the non-event, and quietly breathed a sigh of relief.

VP Visits OES



David and Larry with the Vice President

On Tuesday, October 4, 2011, the students and staff of Oakstead Elementary School experienced, first-hand, the hype and hoopla that accompanies a visit by the second most powerful man in the free world. Vice President Joe Biden, on a trip to support passage of the American Jobs Act, came to Pasco, where 500 employees were laid off last year.

Transportation played a role in security for the Vice President. Six buses from Central compound were deployed to OES to act as a backdrop for photos and as a barrier between the Vice President and any wooded areas surrounding the school. In addition to the host of secret service agents, the buses were on the front line of defense.

As some of you may know, David Lambert, Area Manager, TrC has contacts that others can only dream. True to form, Mr. Lambert and Route Specialist, Larry Phillips found themselves in the thick of it on Tuesday.



Central prepares a bus for the visit

GreenFiber Recycling



As some of you may know, the District School Board of Pasco County contracts with GreenFiber to recycle our paper products into insulation that is sold locally at Home Depot and Lowes. Each site has one 8-yard GreenFiber recycling container for the sites to recycle their paper products.

At intervals throughout the year, each site receives a check based on how much material the site has collected. The more we recycle, the more money we receive, and while it isn't much, it's certainly better to have someone pay us for our trash, than having to pay to dispose of it. Also, there's the added benefit that none of it ends up in our rapidly dwindling landfills.

Items that can be recycled include brown paper bags, cardboard, cereal boxes, construction paper, gift wrap, magazines, newspaper, paper, and phone books. All items should be placed loosely into the GreenFiber recycling container. All cardboard boxes must be flattened. Plastic windows should be removed from envelopes.

In the most recent round, Central collected almost twice as much as the next nearest compound. Here are the numbers.

Central \$15.12; East \$7.02; Northwest \$6.75; West \$6.48; Southeast \$1.89

Marvin, Custodian at West Compound, has issued a challenge. In the next round, West will collect more stuff than any other compound. Let the games begin.

Traffic Control Symphony

Traffic Control Officer Jan Murray has been with the Sheriff's Office for nineteen years and on the corner of Orchid Lake Rd. and Lemon Rd. for thirteen of those years. Mrs. Murray said, "I got to see my kindergartners' from Calusa Elementary twelve years ago, graduate last year from Ridgewood High School. I really love my job. I really believe this is what I was born to do."



Mrs. Murray in Action

Ridgewood High School senior Dominic Anger agreed. "She's fantastic at her job!" Another boy passing was heard saying, "Thanks, Mom," as he crossed the intersection under her guidance.

Mrs. Murray said, "The only thing that makes my job difficult is when drivers don't use their signals to let me know which way they're going, but I still love all the people I see every day, and those bus drivers are all so very nice to me and wave 'Hello' to me daily. Many times some of the motorists also show their gratitude by yelling out their window things like, 'Awesome job!' or 'Thank youuu!' That makes me feel good!"



TCO Jan Murray

Mrs. Murray has controlled thousands of kids through this intersection over the last thirteen years, placing herself in harm's way, right in the middle of the road where most

of us would rather not be.

Thank you, Mrs. Murray, and thank you to all the TCO's and crossing guards who stand and deliver, helping to keep our kids safe.

Substitute Assistants Movin' On Up!

There's an old saying that I really like, "The best part of the cookie is the fillin'." Get it? You know; the white stuff in the middle of your favorite chocolate sandwich cookie currently manufactured by a familiar national company with over half a trillion sold making them the best selling cookie of the 20th Century. But this isn't about cookies.

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

2011 - 2012
ELECTION RESULTS
CONGRATULATIONS
TO

KEVIN SHEARER
SAFE DRIVER
REPRESENTATIVE
CENTRAL

BONNIE MAYLE
SAFE DRIVER
REPRESENTATIVE
EAST

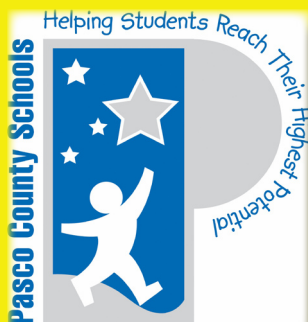
DANIELLE GOULD
SAFE DRIVER
REPRESENTATIVE
NORTHWEST

GAY KENNEDY
SAFE DRIVER
REPRESENTATIVE
SOUTHEAST

JEANNE MILLER
SAFE DRIVER
REPRESENTATIVE
WEST

Our School Board

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



We have been gifted with many fine substitute Assistants who served as the fillin' over the past several months. We keep adding to these ranks at break neck speed, it seems, and they keep "movin' on up", to full time employment almost as fast, either for us or in other Pasco County Schools or programs!

Please join me in congratulating, and thanking, ALL of our wonderful Assistants. Whether they are "fill-ins" or full timers, they keep our cookie from fallin' apart!

Each one is truly an essential part of what it takes to make our wheels roll safely and efficiently every day! Thank you, one and all.

If you know anyone who would like to become a substitute Assistant for us, please have him/her contact Cheri at 727-774-1862, 813-794-1862, or 352-524-1862.

Ain't No Grinch

The unbelievable, incredible, most dastardly of deviousness has happened. The Grinch actually stole our Christmas, our boughs and holly, and even our Christmas tree, too! The Big Elf was truly, bothered, befuddled, and bewildered! How could this be?

But, Alas, the defiling debauchery of the despicable Grinch, could not, would not, and by gosh and by golly, shall not steal our spirit of joy and giving during this season. So, true to the hearts of all Whoviller's and Transportation folks alike, The Spirit of Giving survives!

The good folks of Transportation have decided to show how Bus Folk give back to the community! Each site is developing a plan to show their spirit of giving that most reflects who they are and how much they care.

In the true Whoviller's spirit, there will be no competition, and no keeping score. Each site will delight in the outpouring of giving in this most joyous time of year! So, Hear Yee! Hear Yee! One and All! Come, enjoy, and prosper in this most virtuous feeling of all.

Fill yourselves with the true spirit of this glorious time, and make true Whovillers of us all!

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