

# Cypress Elementary Community Tracks

November 2016

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Cypress Elementary is more than a building with students and teachers. Cypress is a community. A community involved WITH our students FOR our students.

## Family Involvement

**School Web Page** Check out our new webpage design! The DSBPC offered schools a more device/user friendly program, and we are very excited to provide this to our families! Check it out soon! [Ces.pasco.k12.fl.us](http://Ces.pasco.k12.fl.us)

**Great American Teach-In** We have an exciting line-up of speakers for our GATI, but we have room for more! Please contact us so you can share your career/hobby with students eager to learn about exciting job opportunities awaiting them as they work towards completing school and setting goals!

**Volunteers** It is the time of year to announce our Volunteers of the Year! We thank these two ladies for the exemplary volunteer service given to Cypress students, family and staff during the 2015-16 school year!

**Cypress Elementary Outstanding Senior Volunteer of the Year** You could say Mrs. Jasmine came to us as part of a package deal. She is the supportive mother to one of our kindergarten teachers, and the loving grandmother of one of our 1<sup>st</sup> grade students!

Kindergarteners are a lively, energetic, busy, curious, loving, unstoppable group of students. The warm, experienced touch of good ol' grandma can settle the boisterous of the bunch. That is what Mrs. Jasmine brought to our kindergarten classrooms. At first she stayed close to her grandson's classroom while she gathered her footing with our young cubs. As her confidence grew and she established a working rapport with our students and teachers, she ventured into other kindergarten classes, being an extra set of eyes and hands, guiding, caring and loving our kindergarten classrooms.

This school year, Mrs. Jasmine has gained so much confidence in the classroom while volunteering, that she has begun working as a substitute teacher. We look forward to the upcoming years, watching her involvement with Cypress grow, and bringing her caring to all of our Cypress Cubs!

**Cypress Elementary Outstanding Volunteer Nomination** Mrs. Rebecca Rattee is truly an amazing volunteer. We all know delivering a quality educational program to 800 students takes commitment, dedication, extra hands and extra minutes in the day. Becky Rattee has been the set of extra hands and has given us the extra minutes for the last 13 years. She comes into the school weekly, sometimes daily, and works countless projects, from making take-home centers for Primary students to taking Student of the Month pictures monthly. Each time she comes in to volunteer, she will not only leave with our utmost thanks, but also a box or two of things to do at home.

Each project she does allows our teachers and staff those extra minutes to work one-on-one or in small groups with students, or the extra minutes needed to record and chart vital data.

Being very humble, Becky does not work for praise, and you certainly do not need to guide her from one project to the next. Efficiency and confidence guide her work, often with a little mind reading. If you have had the pleasure



of having her as a parent volunteer, you know what it is to be a spoiled teacher. She will lavish you with her time, making you feel like you have won the lotto and have been selected as Educator of the Century all rolled into one.

For 13 shining years, Becky has given so much of herself, we could not possibly give her enough recognition to thank her for the service she has given our students, families and staff. Through her love of volunteering, her children, Cypress Alumni, also come to volunteer, giving back to the community just as their mother has modeled for them. Even now, with her children in Middle School, High School and College, when we SHOULD be giving HER TIME, finding ourselves stating "WE NEED SOME BECKY TIME!"

**Cypress PTO** Thank you to everyone who helped make our Fall Festival a huge success! Our next event is Holiday Night on December 6th from 5-7pm. We will have cookies and milk, crafts and pictures with Santa. The Gingerbread Shop and the BOGO Book Fair will also be open during this time. Our next meeting is November 15th at 4:15 in the media center.

## Community Involvement

Thank you to the following community members for partnering with Cypress: Nifty Niner's Golf Association at Timber Greens, The Lees Family, Daughters of Penelope, FDN, Inc, Daughters of Penelope Eros 356, The Scheiderer Family, Dr. Lamman, Riverwalk Publix, Tasha Whitehead, Port Richey Home Depot, Patty Didik, Arlene Brock of Sparton Manor, Kim Spinuso, Mama Mia Pizzeria, Andrea Makris RRHS Counselor, Amanda Murphy State Representative, Frances Werner-Watkins Attorney, Betty Konstantinidis and Gerry Pietschler of Mary Kay. We also acknowledge Knowledge Points and Under the Lights Flag Football for the generous contributions made to Cypress.

**Adopt A Class** We are pleased to support our teachers by facilitating the Adopt A Class Program. The following families/businesses have sponsored a teacher/special area at Cypress by donating \$100-\$150. The Harrison Family adopted Mrs. Quina and Mrs. Asbel's Class!  
The Laman Family adopted Mrs. Sowash's Class  
Dr. Jennifer Laman adopted Mrs. Sowash's Class  
Forensic Technologies, Inc adopted Mrs. Sowash's Class  
Inn on the Gulf adopted Mrs. Santagata's Class

**Cypress Banner Program** Want a great advertising value? Check out our Banner Program! For \$200 we will display your banner on the recess fence! Contact Debbie Burd for more information!

**T-Shirt Sponsor** This year we are offering a new sponsorship for businesses looking for inexpensive advertising. In the spring we will be having a school wide Boosterthon (a fun innovative fundraiser) in which all students receive a t-shirt. To help lower our cost, we are looking for sponsors. Think of it- 900 mini billboards walking throughout the community with your name proudly displayed.

**Community Paper Recycling Program** 

Recycling items that can go in the Recycling Dumpster: Brown paper bags, cardboard, cereal boxes, construction paper, gift wrap, magazines, newspaper, paper, and phone books may be placed loosely in a participating school's GreenFiber recycling container. Please do not place glass, metal, plastic bottles, plastic bags, aluminum, string, or foam in the GreenFiber recycling container.

**Gates open 6am – 6 pm**

**Business Partners**

We are truly grateful for all the support we receive from our Cypress community! Without the donation of volunteer time, goods/services, and of course financial donations, many of our programs would not be as successful.

**2015-16 Business Partners**

Riverwalk Publix, McDonald's (Jose Hernandez/HMCC MGMT. Corp), Beef 'O' Brady's, Inn on the Gulf, Astro Skate, Mama Mia Pizzeria, Stassi's Restaurant, Regis Lima Martial Arts and Mathnasium.

What  
is your  
SUPER  
CUB  
POWER?



Shop Office Depot and Help Cypress! We participate in Office Depot Give Back to School Program. When shopping, tell them you are with Cypress Elementary and 5% of your purchase is given to Cypress!

Special shout-out for Mrs. Quina!

"Mrs. Quina goes above and beyond to keep me updated on Joey's progress. I appreciate all the steps she takes in her class to ensure all students are successful! Her students are lucky to have her!"

Special Shout-out for Ms. Robinson!

"For getting the extra support in math that he needed and making him like school again!"

Has a staff member at Cypress Elementary gone above and beyond for you, your child, or family?

If so, please take a few minutes to fill out this form, and send the form back to the school so that the administration can convey this recognition to that special person.

We would love to hear from you!

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of person you wish to recognize)

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child's (children's) names (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Your child's (children's) names (s) \_\_\_\_\_

What did the person you wish to recognize do to exceed your expectations?:

## Congratulations Ms. Housel SRP of the Year



Congratulations Mrs. Rodriguez Teacher of the Year!



## It's time for our Cypress Elementary Holiday 2016 Food Drive

Starting November 1<sup>st</sup> Cypress Elementary will have a class vs. class contest to raise food for local families in need this holiday season. Winning classes for primary and intermediate levels will receive a special party on Friday, November 18th. We are looking for the specific items listed below. When sending in items, please label them with the teacher's name so it can count for their classroom. Thank you so much for your help! Send in items starting tomorrow!



### **Holiday Food Drive Items**

- \* Boxed Potatoes
- \* Gravy
- \* Stuffing
- \* Corn bread
- \* Canned Vegetables
- \* Cranberries
- \* Fruit Cocktail
- \* Green Beans

# NOVEMBER

Last week we had the opportunity to celebrate Red Ribbon Week. It was such a great success with fun dress-up days, and here at Cypress, each child received a paw reading, “Just Say No” when they signed our Red Ribbon banners. Not only were there two traveling trophies for the primary and intermediate classes with the most dress-up days participants, but also some fantastic outfits showing what “Just Say No” means to our Cypress Cubs.

Coming soon is our next Cub 100 Mystery Prize Party! We have such a great time celebrating our students and the positive choices they make each day. Earning those Cub 100 tickets definitely pays off!

Speaking of parties, our cLic (creating Leaders and intentional culture) 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girl’s sleepover was a huge success. Thank you to ALL involved. Pictures are all up on our Cypress Elementary Facebook Page!

We are working on our details for the upcoming Holiday Food Drive as well as our Cypress student leaders visit to a local nursing home to spread holiday joy. Watch for announcements in the next week to come home with your Cub.

This month’s Counseling Connection Lessons continue to focus on being Safer, Smarter Kids. These lessons are a great opportunity for kids to recognize that they have a voice, the choices they make matter, and that together we can make a great school and safer community.

I hope you’re having a great fall so far!

Mrs. Allen M.S.C.

*School Counselor*

