



PANTHER POST

“WE’RE ON A SAFARI OF LEARNING”



everychild. one voice.



Volume 5, Issue 9

May/June 2010

Collins Elementary
12424 Summerfield Blvd.
Riverview, FL 33579
(813) 672-5400

Ellen Cyr, Principal
Steve Sims, Asst. Principal
Sue Chapin, Guidance
David Kincaide, Social Worker

Helpful Information

- To report your child’s absence please call 672-5400 X 1.
- No student can be signed out after 1:30 pm.
- The Panther Post is published in 9 issues (Sept–May). It is a publication of Collins PTA.
- Email submissions and advertisements to pta@collinspta.net by the 3rd Friday of each month.

PTA Executive Board 2009-2010

Christine Lynch	President
Cheryl Wagner	VP Programs
Maria Egal	VP Membership
Vacant	VP Marketing
Debbie Wilson	VP Fundraising
Lisa Guillory	Treasurer
Kim DiCesare	Secretary

Website: www.collinspta.net
Email: pta@collinspta.net

Newsletter Editors:
Christine Lynch & Maria Egal
Publisher: Post & Pack

PTA Corner

By: Christine Lynch, Collins Elementary PTA President

As we close out the 2009/2010 school year, there is much to be thankful for. First, we would like to thank our Staff/Teachers/Administration for all that has been accomplished this year, all with one common interest in mind, our children. May 2-8 is Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week. Be sure to let them know how much we appreciate them! Collins Elementary is a phenomenal school to be a part of and I am proud to be part of the team.

We would also like to thank our Collins Volunteers. We are very proud to say that we truly have the BEST VOLUNTEERS in the County! Without your support, many things would not be possible. In light of your hard work, Collins and the Collins PTA would like to invite all of our volunteers to a breakfast in your honor in the Media Center on May 19, 2010, from 9:00 to 10:30am. We would love for you to come and enjoy breakfast with us so we can thank you for your dedication to the school. More details to follow.

Congratulations to our 5th Grade! We hope you enjoy your Field Trip and Banquet. We are proud of you and wish you well on your endeavors after Collins.

The PTA thanks the parents, students, and staff of Collins Elementary for your generosity during the 2009/2010 school year. Here is a list of some of the items and events we were able to provide: Agendas, Birthday Bags, Honor Roll Awards, Panther Pride Awards, Peer Mediators at Camp Cristina, Staff & Volunteer Appreciation, Monthly Newsletter, Volunteer Breakfast and proudly a Sunshade for the K-2 playground. As always, for more information, please check our website at www.collinspta.net. We are proud to be a voice for the children of Collins.

Thank you to those who attended our last General PTA Meeting of the year. We discussed the progress of the year plus held our annual elections. Collins PTA would like to introduce the new Executive Board for 2010/2011:

Debbie Wilson, President	Lisa Guillory, VP Membership
Cheryl Wagner, VP Programs	Terry Barbee, Treasurer
Kim DiCesare, VP Marketing	Karin McQueen, Secretary
Christie Sazy, VP Fundraising	



Congratulations to the new Executive Board. I am confident this Board will continue to devote their time to the care, protection and education of each child. As always, the PTA’s purpose is to foster a closer relationship between the home and the school so that teachers and parents may cooperate together in education.

I would like to personally thank the Principal, Asst. Principal, staff, parents and students for allowing me the opportunity to be President for the past two years. It truly has been an honor serving Collins as a Volunteer. I have enjoyed spending time with the children and, of course, getting lots of hugs on a daily basis. As my family transfers duty stations, I will surely miss the Collins family that I have grown close to. Have a wonderful summer!

My Best Regards, Christine Lynch, PTA President



Guidance Corner

By: Sue Chapin, Counselor



March was another exciting month for our students at Collins Elementary. Our K Kids continue to read to their buddies and reinforce good behavior with special stickers. Reading is such an important component of learning. There are five main building blocks that can help your child be a successful reader. Remember, you are your child's first teacher and that reading does not usually come naturally to a child. It takes lots of practice. Phonemic awareness is the first steppingstone in learning to read. Read aloud to your child – play word games – sing songs and say poems, rhymes, etc. – focus with your children the sounds in a word. It is important for your child to recognize familiar written words and decode and identify unknown ones. Encourage your child to read to you, look for words around you, practice writing – drawing can help make it more fun! You can also help your child with fluency by rereading familiar books, listening to a book on tape, reading aloud to your child, make lists of common words, and gently help your child with words misread. Teach your child one new word a day with its meaning. Help break the word apart and then use it often when speaking. Give your child a dictionary as a special present. Help them discover the magic of how to sound out a word, break it into parts, its meaning(s), use in a sentence. Talk together and explore new subjects and interests. Make sure you ask questions as you read a story to your child. Have your child compare stories and retell the story to you. A great question to end the night with is “What have you learned today by reading?”

The word for April is *Courageous/Good Sport!* At Collins, we want our students to practice *doing the right thing in the face of difficulty and following their conscience instead of the crowd!* We help our students to use their potential to the fullest. Just as you do, we encourage our students to *strive for their best in all situations!* Please discuss with your child/children what being *Courageous/Good Sport* means throughout the month of April. Please feel free to use your Courageous/Good Sport ideas from the monthly calendar.

Remember, too, it is never too early for our students to begin creating their career path starting with career awareness. Talk with your child about family careers – create a career family tree. This will share family values, personal abilities, skills, interests, and other fascinating information. You might want to share about any stereotyping that was involved in your career path. Discuss with them the requirements necessary for and on the job. It is important for our students to learn how to make decisions, set goals, understand planning, and develop interests. This will help make the path to the world of work smoother.

Our new mediators will be soon be finished training. Mediation is such a great way to solve conflicts and students sent to mediation may gain lifelong skills and how to better solve conflicts. This is even more important in today's world! Our mediators are always fine-tuning their talents by helping our students to win/win in situations. They have developed fantastic mediation skills, useful throughout life!

Please remember to let our supporters – Mimi's Café, Sun City Pizza Hut, McDonald's (Casper's Corp.) Chick-Fil-A, and SweetBay know how much we truly appreciate their support.

We are so glad that you are part of our school. You are the Best!!!!
Sue Chapin Counselor

March Great Citizens

at Collins Elementary sponsored by
MiMi's Café, Casper's McDonald's,
and Chick-fil-A

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Jenin Abel | Yantza Kweyete |
| Adriana Amaro | McKaily Lambert |
| Taylor Ball | Prisca Mathe |
| Rylie Birkey | Katie McColgan |
| Josiah Bonafe | Jarod Mitchell |
| Nathan Bryant | Paola Muniz |
| Anthony Bunn | Anthony Nieves |
| Gianna Caligiure | Jennifer Oakey |
| Adrian Castro | Genesis Ocasio |
| Sebastian Castro | Cierra Pearce |
| Logan Cole | Alizehia Pimentel |
| Juan Esquivel | Patrick Pittard |
| Jack Fletcher | Danny Robu |
| Daniela Garzon | Janellis Rodriquez |
| Kailin Henson | Tiara Rodriquez |
| Austin Hill | Eli Samudio |
| Sanaa Hodge-Butler | Angelique Southwell |
| Amanda Hodges | Megan Talley |
| Janya Hollis | Abel Todd |
| Cheyenne Jenkins | Gloria Trejo-Cabatsky |
| Lauren Johnston | Alex Urteaga |
| Anthony Jones | Coraliz Valentin |
| Heather Jones | Cade Vitale |
| Devyon Joyce | Tamia Williams |
| Clayton Keene | |

**March Kindergarten Citizens of
the Month**

Sponsored by the SCC Pizza Hut



- Jevon Ball, Jalen Bing, Kerrigan Blakemore,
Dylan Cutcher, Taylor O'Neal,
Gabrielle Racine, Alexa Schilling,
Isabel Schultz, Stephanie Trinidad,
Katelyn Wood

March Terrific Kids

at Collins Elementary sponsored by the
SCC Kiwanis Club, Casper's McDonald's,
Ruby Tuesday and SweetBay

Maranda Archer	Michelle Nguyen
Kayla Argudo	Brandon Noe
Miranda Bernier	Keith Norates
Angelina Betty	Jenessa Ortiz
Cory Burleigh	Fernando Palacios
Gelayza Cabrerros	Jacey Paleveda
Christopher Caporaso	Aidan Parshad
Adam Colantuoni	Lauren Parziale
Kylie Cooper	Shivan Patel
Megan Dixon	Sully Racine
Kayleen Drada	Taylor Randall
Mackenzie Eitel	Megan Rivera
Marc Flores	Andrea Rodriquez
Marina Groseclose	Jessica Rodriquez
Aidan Hashem	Dalton Skasko
Haylee Hauhuth	Alexis Smith
Maxwell Jurgens	Kayla Smith
Hannah Koedel	Justice Sniffen
Emma Levitt	Madison Stiles
Bobby Lewis	Niaya Velasquez
Abiel Lopez	Ja'Meyra Wallace
Joshua Lopez	Ariah Woods
Blake Lovelace	Elijah Wordly
Rebecca Macchione	
Jasmine Moses	
Jessmyn Nguyen	



TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

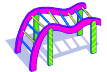
MAY 2-8

- ~ A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. >Henry Adams
- ~The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book. >Unknown
- ~Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions. >Unknown
- ~Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well. >Voltaire
- ~The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. >Wm. A. Ward
- ~ THANK A TEACHER



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

THANKS TO THE ENTIRE FAMILY OF COLLINS ELEMENTARY,
THE PTA WAS ABLE TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY FOR A
SUNSHADE OVER THE K-2 PLAYGROUND.



Please keep in mind that there are many County Codes to follow as we work on the next step towards installation.

Greetings from Collins Cafe,

Where did the school year go! Wow, can you believe we are finishing our 5th year at Collins? The children that started in kindergarten in August 2005 will be in the 5th grade next year.

It has truly been a pleasure to my staff and I serving our students breakfast and lunch and watching them grow up.

We had a wonderful time during our Dining with Dads Lunch on April 23rd. It was a great turnout and the kids, as well as their invited guests, were very happy.

If anyone would like to request a refund we have special forms that need to be filled out. Usually the middle of May is the cut off date for refunds.

I still have many negative balances that need to be paid. Payments for these balances can be made up to the last day of school. Please remember that both positive and negative balances will roll over to next year.

I will be working Monday-Thursday during the summer if you have any questions or concerns. Please feel free to call me. I will be more than happy to assist you.

The 2010-2011 looks to be another exciting school year with new menu items, new promotions, Muffins with Moms, Dining with Dad, Grandparents Breakfast, etc.!

My staff and I would like to wish you and your family a very safe and happy summer vacation.

Til' next time.... in August.

Always,

Susan Paszkowski, SNS Manager



SHOW COLLINS SPIRIT!



Show your school spirit and come to East Coast Pizza on May 11th for the FINAL Spirit Night of the year!

We THANK East Coast Pizza for ALL your support this year!

**Hillsborough County
Elementary Mathematics Council**

MATH AT THE MALL

Students of Grades K-5

Join us on an exciting Mathematical Journey!!

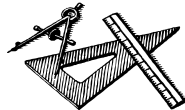
Where: Westfield Brandon & Westfield Citrus Park

When: Saturday, May 8, 2010

Time: You're welcome anytime between 10:00—2:00 pm

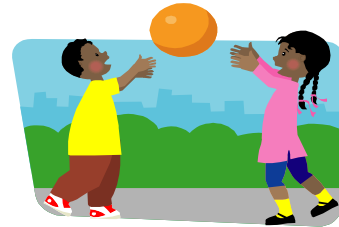
Come to: Pattern Land..Geometry Land..Number Sense Land..Measurement Land..Data Land.....

Come join some of our Collins Teachers who will cheer you on....Ms. Bihlmeyer, Mrs. Dwyer, Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. Lewis and Ms. Scipione...to name a few....



IDENT-A-KID

The IDENT-A-KID Program will be at Collins on Friday, May 14th to PHOTOGRAPH, FINGERPRINT, WEIGH and MEASURE children. Participation in the program is at the individual Parents' option. A fee will be charged and the parents will be provided with a laminated wallet size ID CARD (similar to a Driver's License) with information about their child. An Application Envelope with additional information about the IDENT-A-KID Program will be sent home with the children about one week before the program date. Siblings are welcome on day of program.



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MAY 2010



WORD OF THE MONTH: COOPERATION

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
IMPORTANT REMINDER to sign the Agenda DAILY...		THANK a staff member of Collins! Each member plays a tremendous part in the daily success of Collins Elementary School!! We are the BEST!!				1 Discuss what cooperation means as a family.
2 TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK MAY 2-8 →	3 KCOTM Boy Scouts to visit Gr. 1-5	4 BE SURE TO THANK A TEACHER!!!!	5 Early Release 12:15	6 Terrific Kids 8:30	7 Courageous/ Good Sport Students 8:30 HAT DAY	8 Talk about why cooperation is a must! Math at the Mall
9	10	11 Boy Scouts evening program in Cafeteria 6:30p ~Cookie Dough ~East Coast Pizza	12	13	14 IDENT-A-KID	15 Identify famous people who show cooperation.
16 Thank you to Young Smiles Massage for your generous donations during Staff week!	17	18 Spring Music Program 7:00pm	19 Volunteer Breakfast in Media Center 9-10:30am Early Release	20	21	22 Check out books that deal with cooperation at your public library.
23 Thank you RAYMOW for your support to Collins!	24	25	26	27	28 Gr. 5 Banquet	29 Create family jobs and put cooperation to work.
30	31 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day	Memorial Day is a day of remembrance. Let's reflect and honor those who have given their lives in service to our country. All gave some; some gave all.				



JUNE 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WORD OF THE MONTH: INTEGRITY		1	2	3	4 Gr. 5 Field Trip	5 Discuss what integrity means.
6 HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!	7 End of Year Awards Gr. K 8:30 Gr. 4 9:15	8 End of Year Awards Gr. 2 8:30 Gr. 3 9:15	9 End of Year Awards Gr. 1 8:30 Gr. 5 9:15	10 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL EARLY RELEASE.....	11 CONGRATS TO OUR 5TH GRADERS!!	12 Identify ways each family uses integrity on a daily basis.

Home & School Connection

Working Together for School Success
May 2010
School Board

Susan L. Valdes, Chair
Doretha W. Edgcomb, Vice Chair
Jennifer Fallero
April Griffin
Carol W. Kurdeil
Jack R. Lamb, Ed.D.
Candy Olson



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Rhonda Harris, Guidance Services

Superintendent of Schools
MaryEllen Elia

Deputy Superintendents
Kenneth R. Otero
Daniel J. Valdes

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Wynne A. Tye

SHORT NOTES
I'm a swimmer!

Learning to swim will give your child a fun way to stay fit throughout life. Contact your local parks and recreation department or a community pool about free or low-cost classes. Try to go swimming together between lessons—the more time she spends in water, the more comfortable she will become.

Pick a pronoun

Help your youngster use pronouns correctly. For example, it can be tough to choose between "I" and "me" ("Kevin and I are playing baseball," but "Dad played baseball with Kevin and me"). Your child can double-check by leaving the other person's name out: "I am playing baseball," or "Dad played with me."

Bucket of goodies

Suggest a creative way for your youngster to thank her teacher for a great year. Help her fill a plastic beach pail with treats (a crossword puzzle book, nail polish, tea bags). Then, have her write a thank-you note and use a ribbon to tie it to the handle.

Worth quoting

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."
Les Brown

JUST FOR FUN

Q: When is your birthday?

A: July 15.

Q: What year?

A: Every year!



At-home adventures

Sue Chapin, Counselor

Summertime is learning time! Suggest fun activities while school's out, and send your child back in the fall ready to learn. Try these ideas.

Lemonade, anyone?

Your youngster can practice math skills and learn about running a business by opening a lemonade stand. Help him get supplies and figure the cost for a cup (the cost per batch divided by the number of servings). Then, he can set his price. Making the lemonade will teach him about measurement, and he'll practice addition and subtraction as he charges customers and gives change. *Idea:* To boost sales, have him make blue lemonade (add frozen blueberries to his recipe or mix).

My reading space

A cozy spot can make reading special for your child—and motivate him to read more. Put pillows, a blanket, and a basket of books in a corner of his room or in a tent in the family room. You might have him add a sign: "Mark's Reading Corner." Visit the library weekly so he can restock



his basket. *Tip:* Suggest that he choose a variety, including stories, nonfiction, magazines, and poetry.

Creative board games

Encourage creative thinking by having your youngster invent new board games. He might start by designing a game that combines two existing games. For example, he could draw a game board that uses Clue characters (Colonel Mustard, Mrs. Peacock) and Candy Land cards (gumdrop, lollipop). Players try to figure out who ate which candy. Have him write out instructions, and then play as a family. *Challenge:* See if he can come up with a new game each week.♥

Playing safely

When your youngster plays outside, help her keep safety in mind with these tips:

- She should wear a helmet, knee pads, and elbow pads when skating or using a scooter. She always needs a helmet for bike riding, too. Don't allow her to wear headphones, since music will drown out traffic noises.
- Remind your child to go down slides feet first and to avoid walking close to moving swings. Also, she shouldn't wear necklaces or drawstrings on the playground—they can get caught on equipment.
- Fill bottles with ice water before going out, and have your youngster drink frequently. She needs about 5 ounces every 20 minutes when playing in hot weather.♥



Home & School CONNECTION®

May 2010 • Page 2

Sibling harmony

Your children will be spending more time together once school lets out. Here are three ways to help them keep the peace on summer days.

1. A daily routine

Knowing what to expect can help your youngsters get along better. Set a schedule for sleeping and eating, and plan for both active and quiet time. For example, your children might play outdoors after breakfast and relax with paper and crayons after lunch.



2. Boredom busters

Children who stay occupied have less time for arguments. Help your youngsters brainstorm things to do if they get bored (organize trading cards, build a block city). Post a list on the refrigerator, and remind them to look at it when they're restless.

3. Problem-solving skills

Teach your youngsters to compromise when arguments crop up. Sit down together, and ask each child to tell you her side and suggest a solution. Then, help them combine their ideas so they're both satisfied. Once you've done this a few times, try to let them solve problems on their own (unless someone is getting hurt).♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

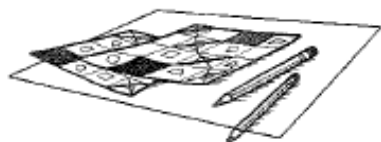


Waiting-room bingo

Make waiting more fun with this bingo game. You'll build your child's thinking and observation skills.

Materials: poster board, pencils, crayons

Before you leave for the doctor's office or a sibling's karate class, have your youngster create a bingo card for each person. Help him cut a small poster board into gameboard-size squares. On each one, he can draw a grid with four rows and four columns. Then, have him color in some of the boxes (blue, green, red) and draw shapes in the others (square, oval, rectangle).



To play, look for items in the waiting room that match the colors and shapes on your board. *Examples:* a blue raincoat, a rectangular window. Cross out each box as you spot an object that matches. The first one to get four in a row wins. If you have more time, try to find every item on your board.♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Family volunteering

Q: I'd like to teach my son to help others. How can our family volunteer together?

A: Most communities have plenty of volunteer opportunities for families. Choose a cause that your child is interested in or that he can understand. He will learn a valuable lesson about helping others.

For example, if he loves animals, your family might help the Humane Society at a pet adoption event. A nature lover may enjoy planting flowers at an arboretum or a school. If your family has an ill relative or friend, you might sign up for a fund-raising walk (visit www.thewalkingsite.com/events.html to look for events).

As you volunteer, talk to your youngster about what you are doing and how it makes a difference. For example, you might say, "We are showing our support for people with cancer and raising money so researchers can find a cure."♥



My child, the teacher

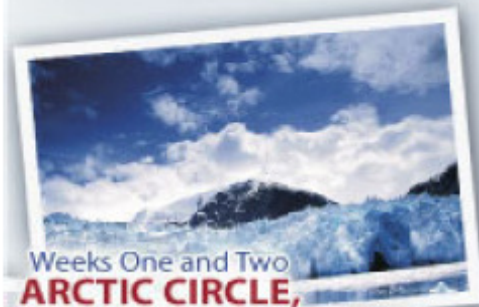
I was playing school with my kindergartner recently while my fourth-grader, Ava, was studying for a math test. She kept mixing up the steps for long division, and she was getting frustrated. I remembered how she loved playing school when she was little, so I asked her to be the teacher and show me how to divide.

Ava put a problem on her little sister's chalkboard. She went through each step slowly, and I

followed along—while her little sister pretended to. Explaining the process in her own words really seemed to clear it up for Ava.

She did well on her math test, so I suggested that we play school for other tests, too. So far, Ava has "taught" me the major exports of our state, how plants create food, and how to make subjects and verbs agree in a sentence. She loves playing teacher, and her little sister and I are learning a lot!♥





Weeks One and Two
**ARCTIC CIRCLE,
HERE WE COME!**



Weeks Three and Four
**AMAZON RAINFOREST
ADVENTURES**



Weeks Five and Six
**EXHILARATING
CAVE CLIMBING**



Weeks Seven and Eight
**TREMENDOUS
TWILIGHT OCEANS**



Weeks Nine and Ten
**OUTRAGEOUS
OUTER SPACE**

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