

Susan Tkacik
Pride Elementary School, Hillsborough County
2020 NIE Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention

Susan is a media specialist at Pride Elementary School in Hillsborough County.

Susan was chosen as a 2020 NIE Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention for her use of the Times as an instructional tool over many years. For example, her fifth-grade television crew has used the Times every morning for more than a decade to research and write a local sports story for the school morning show.

In 2019-2020, Susan's fourth-grade students created a school newspaper, the Pride Times, using the Tampa Bay Times as their model.

Students learned what newspapers are, why they are important and what roles they serve in society. They learned how to identify key parts of newspapers, such as headlines, datelines, bylines, cutlines and photo credits. As a class, they discussed the differences between advertisements and news, and between hard news and commentary. Finally, they explored some of the special features such as comics, weather, and puzzles.

The students came up with a name for their newspaper and applied for various beats, including editor, opinion writer, photographer, advice columnist and beat reporters.

The students successfully produced a monthly, student-written newspaper that includes news articles, opinion pieces, interviews and features such as an advice column, crossword puzzles, word searches, riddles and cryptoquotes. The newspaper also includes advertisements, which students purchase using the "Pride Bucks" they earn for good behavior.

Working together to create a student newspaper has improved Susan's students' speaking, listening, writing and reading abilities. They have practiced and honed their skills for almost all of the fourth grade Florida Standards for writing. And in addition to the numerous writing skills learned, they have learned both to work on their own initiative and to work as a team.

I'M THANKFUL

PRIDE TIMES

Edition 2 Pride Elementary Student Newspaper November 2019

Mrs. Stouffer Announces the Three R's

By Colin W.
 Has Mrs. Stouffer ever come to your room? Mrs. Stouffer has been using Second Step to teach students about the three R's (Recognize, Report, and Refuse). To recognize is for you to know whether someone is bullying someone else. Reporting is to ask a trusted adult about what to do when you see bullying happening. Refusing is to make sure the bully won't hurt you or anyone else and for you to stand up to that bully.
 "Mrs. Stouffer teaches us how to stand up to bullies and why it's bad to bully," said Sampurna, a fourth-grade student in Ms. Sorondo's class.
 So, if you see Mrs. Stouffer around the school tell her thank you for teaching us about the three R's!

Fifth Grade Goes to Work

By Jaisenvir D.
 Are you guys wondering what are the 5th graders are doing? Fifth grade team leader Mrs. Green says, "5th graders are currently preparing for a field trip to JA Biztown. Students will apply for a job, work in a business, visit other business and maintain a checking and savings account."

Mrs. Green was born in Springfield, Illinois, (Springfield is the capital city of Illinois), on June 4, 1979. Mrs. Green has been a teacher at Pride for 17 years. In those years, she has taught about 850 students! The equation is 17x50 which is 850. Mrs. Green has said that 5th grades strongest area is multiplying; on the other hand, their weakest is DIVIDING! Before you go to sixth grade, work on dividing.

Riddle

By Vaibhav P.
 You were captured by a mad scientist. You must defeat one of the mutants below to escape. Which one should you choose?
 ~A praying mantis with a hammer head shark head.
 ~An ape with an iguana head.
 ~A jaguar with a mouse lemur head.

(See solution in the December edition!)

Fun Programs Pop Up in School Library

By Ayanna D.
 Mythology Bowl, SLAM, No Wimpy Readers, Magic Tree House, Story Safari and Library Lions—what do they all have in common? They are all reading programs sponsored by Ms. Tkacik in the library. That's not all that happens in the library either.
 She teaches kindergarten and another grade level every other week. In her class she teaches lessons on research, reading, information literacy, and literature. Ms. Tkacik has been teaching for 11 years. She is so amazing that she has taught more than 2,500 students. Ms. Tkacik earned her degrees from Auburn and USF.

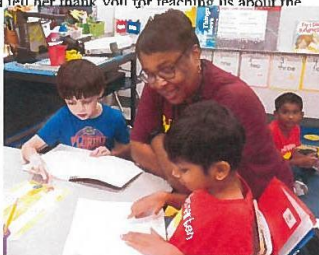


Photo Credit—Luke T. and Sampurna S.

Encouragement Makes a Great Teacher

By Kacey F.
 Mrs. Toliver, a current Kindergarten teacher, was born in Portsmouth, VA. She grew up with two sisters, one currently living, and one deceased. She attended Brunswick County Schools and St. Paul's College.
 She became a teacher because an assistant superintendent encouraged her to become one. She loves teaching at Pride because of the wonderful school family. She has two children, Corwin and Brittany. Her favorite thing to do is to spend time with her #1 guy, Mr. Toliver. Thank you, Mrs. Toliver for all

ESOL Helps Develop English

By Navita M.
 ESOL stands for English Speakers of Other Languages. It is a great program where you can learn how to speak English fluently if it is not your native language. It is a great way to develop your speaking skills.
 ESOL teacher Mrs. Garcia said, "I fell in love with helping students that were learning English which is why I became a teacher." Recently, Mrs. Garcia hosted an open house that took place in the 300 building. The purpose was for teachers to observe all the resources available. They have been having parent meetings as well.

AP Loves Growth

By Andrew L.
 Ms. Gluth is the vice principal of Pride Elementary.
 "The pros of being at Pride is that we get to spend all day watching the students grow and learn. I love seeing everyone in their classrooms and talking to students around campus. I love getting to know everyone and watching you all grow up," said Mrs. Gluth.
 She also says that she wants students and families to know that they are planning more family events afterschool like bingo, movie night and game night.

ESE Serves

By Andrew H.
 Exceptional Student Education (ESE) is an important program that helps kids succeed. ESE Head Ms. Noll has been working in ESE for 27 years (19 at pride). Her team teaches kids in all grades. The ESE team is a key part of our school.
 "Seeing the kids feel good about themselves and alleviating parent fear is what I

TAP MS. TEREZI FOR FUN

By Vaishnavi G.
 Ms. Terenzi loves to dance and share her skills. She wanted to try something new, which is why she started tap dancing. Ms. Terenzi learned to dance at Firethorn Academy, where she trained for 11 years. Then, she took a 10-year break to work on competitive swimming. After that, she missed tap so much that she went back as an adult. She taught at Firethorn for eight years. Her theory is, "If you are having fun, then you know how to dance."



Photo Credit—Luke T. and Sampurna S.

Speaking of Fourth Grade...

By Kohana B.
 Fourth grade team leader, Ms. Sorondo, says that, "Writing is the hardest subject to teach because it is very complex." Even teachers can face challenges! Ms. Sorondo must be very talented because she teaches writing in English, and it's not even her first language. She was born in Heidelberg, Germany. Teaching writing in your non-native language might be a challenge, but students face their own personal challenges. Fourth grade student Zachary says that he hopes to learn harder multiplication and find new ways to divide during this

Upcoming Events			
Dec. 5 th	Fifth grade field trip Biztown, PTA-5:30 pm	Dec. 13 th	Mother son night of fun
Dec. 6 th	Club pictures	Dec. 17 th	PBIS cookie decorating
Dec. 9 th --13 th	STEM fair projects on display	Dec. 18 th	Lyrical lions winter program
Dec. 10 th	Dad's club at blaze pizza	Dec. 20 th	Terrific lion celebration (excellence)
Dec. 12 th	Cub Chorus Winter program	Dec. 21 – Jan. 6 th	WINTER BREAK!!!

A Letter from the Editors

By Srinija C., Ayele L. and Navita M.

This is the second edition of the Pride Times. We are proud to say that we have added a lot of cool features we think you will love and hope you will enjoy this second issue. Our first edition was a success, and the Pride Times staff hopes that our second edition will be a triumph. It has been a great honor to be Editors of this edition. Thank you for taking your time to read the Pride times and we hope your support will be with us.

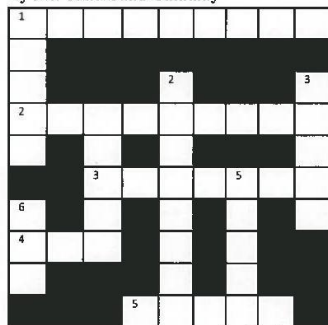
If you have suggestions on helping us to make a better paper, please send letters to the Pride Times Editor's Office.

The Pride Times Staff after the inaugural printing



A Thankful Crossword

By Ms. Tkacik and Chinmay



Across

1. A thankful feeling
2. Carrot, onion, etc.
3. A pilgrim's collar
4. A dedicated poem
5. To share the same opinion

Down

1. Something to put on top of mashed potatoes
2. What you might cook inside a turkey
3. A big meal
4. To eat too much



CHECKMATE!

By Vaibhav P.

Have you ever played chess? Well if you want to, you should know that there are chess lessons in our school community, led by Coach Ritter. He has taught over 18,000 students.

"Trying to get students to accept that losing is one of the best ways to improve," said Coach Ritter. A problem he has is his students sometimes they let their ego get in their way. "The best part is definitely sharing my passion," he said.

"It's a good way for students to compete and

PTA Helps Many

By Mason M.

The PTA is working hard these days. The PTA president, Ms. Mustafa, who joined the PTA this year, thinks the PTA is a great learning experience. "This is a great place to make changes that benefit the school," said Ms. Mustafa. Fourth grade student Haylee thinks that if she was in the PTA, she would come and volunteer at every single school event. Ms. Mustafa said that the hardest thing is getting parents to join the PTA and recruiting volunteers. So, if your parent has free time, encourage them to volunteer sometime.

OPINION--Teachers Deserve Higher Salaries

By Arhan R. and Lucas B.

Education is the most important skill in your life. You can get a very good job and be extremely successful. Teachers DO deserve higher salaries that they earn. Leading the pack is extremely hard. Dobie News says, "Doing a difficult job, such as attempting to properly educate young adults, demands a lot of patience and hard work." I would want a lot more money if I were a teacher. Sad Fact: We are the 46th lowest state (out of 50) for teacher pay. We can't become the lowest state in teacher pay. Therefore, teachers must get higher

Second Grade Grows

By Adrien H.

Students in second grade are growing along with the Magic Tree House Reading Program. Classes are racing each other to see who can read the most Magic Tree House books and earn leaves for the media center tree.

In second grade science they are making a parachute for Jack to come to the ground because the beanstalk is covered in spikes. Ms. Dash, second grade teacher, also says they are also learning folktales and how to be kind.

First Grade Treks to MOSI

By Sean L.

Have you ever wondered what is going on in 1st grade? One of the biggest upcoming events is a field trip to MOSI! Julia Wiley in Ms. Brennan's class says she is very excited about the upcoming field trip.

"I love working with children," said Ms. Brennan. She has had a career of teaching at Pride for 14 years. Something that Ms. Brennan has always wanted to do is camp at Disney with her family.

AP Loves Growth

By Andrew L.

Ms. Gluth is the vice principal of Pride Elementary.

"The pros of being at Pride is that we get to spend all day watching the students grow and learn. I love seeing everyone in their classrooms and talking to students around campus. I love getting to know everyone and watching our students grow up," said Mrs. Gluth.

She also says that she wants students and families to know that they are planning more family events afterschool like bingo, movie night and game night.

Third Grade Skates

By Otis C.

Third grade will be rolling over to United Skates for a field trip soon. Third grade team leader Mrs. Evans has been skating through teaching for more than 23 years. She likes teaching at Pride the most because she is making relationships with her kids and watching them grow. Sheetala from Ms. Evans' class says that she thinks our school is organized. Skate away to the next grade third grade!

Dear Miss Advice

By Rayna R.

Dear Miss Advice,

There is a new student in my class and I want to make friends with her. What should I do?

Sincerely, Friend Maker

Dear Friend Maker,

Well, I think that the best way to make friends with her is to start with hello. Like saying hi and introducing yourself. That way you could start a conversation and may-be find out that you have something in common with the new student!

Your Advisor, Miss Advice

Friend Announcements

Compiled by Mallory W.

A huge shout-out to all the students, staff and families that donated candy for our First Responders and to Ms. Berger, Ms. Harris, Ms. Smith, Ms. Fisher, Ms. Vaccaro, Ms. Fassel, Ms. Kaylor-Bean, Mr. Wilinsky, Ms. Evans for delivering the baskets of candy and Ms. Johnson for wrapping and delivering! —Mrs. Zilbar

Happy birthday, Sai Srayani! From your friend, Srinija!

You are my BFF, Rayna! Love, Rylie G.

Sahasra, you are so funny! :) —Tarini

Om, you are the bestest friend ever! :) —Hayden

Happy birthday, Rylie G! —Mallory