

Mitchell Elementary



PTA Welcome Packet with Committee & Event Descriptions

WELCOME TO MITCHELL ELEMENTARY PTA

Thank you for your interest in joining the Mitchell Elementary PTA. Whether you are new to Mitchell Elementary or new to PTA, we want to invite you to become as involved as you would like to be. We always welcome new members to jump right in, including as committee chairs – new people bring new ideas!

In the following pages, you'll find PTA Board contact information, the PTA calendar for this school year, FAQs and committee and event descriptions. We hope these will help you both to understand our events as a new Mitchell family and our committee volunteer opportunities as a PTA member.

We have also included a current PTA Board roster. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us with questions of any kind.

With warmest wishes,

Alisha Stephens

Mitchell Elementary PTA President, 2019-2020

MITCHELL PTA BOARD

2019-2020

President

Alisha Stephens	813-385-2741	amweiss78@gmail.com
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VP Ways & Means

Colleen Dunlop	386-479-6790	colleenmdunlop@gmail.com
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VP Volunteers & Membership

Kelly Verra	813-928-6874	kellyverra08@gmail.com
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VP School & PTA Support

Erin Nitz	863-381-4582	erbnitz@gmail.com
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Treasurer

Andy Warren	630-740-6435	akwarren01@hotmail.com
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Corresponding Secretary

Amber Kuhn	813-362-7529	amberckuhn@gmail.com
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Recording Secretary

Melissa Dempsey	850-933-3373	melissafdempsy@gmail.com
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Committee Chairpersons:

Family Events

Bookaneer Literacy Week	Lara Dickerson Sheila Calistri	813-239-4987 831-841-2000	llkfsu@yahoo.com sheila@buytampaf1.com
Fall Festival	Natassja Prose Merris Pope	813-300-3638 813-431-2005	natassjaprose@gmail.com merris.pope@gmail.com
Family Art Night	Erin Sullivan	813-362-8722	esullivantimes@gmail.com
Heritage Night	Kathryn Swanson Casey Nolan	202-360-6368	khaydon@hotmail.com
Movie Night	Shea Alvarez	917-596-6618	shea@sheaalvarez.com

Fundraising

Box Tops Fun Run	Amber Godsey Wendy Martin Michele Foster Cristina Barthel Amanda McDonald	813-215-9291 619-850-1977 980-254-0063 813-294-2644 813-997-1041	ambergodsey@gmail.com wendy.stahl@gmail.com chelefoster@me.com cristinab710@gmail.com mandacopey@gmail.com
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Hospitality

Meet the Teacher Men's Bobcat Breakfast	Andi Bennett Melissa Dempsey Annie Kubler Phillip Hadley Jonathan Cordeau	813-503-5056 850-933-3373 352-219-6483 205-478-3717 813-843-1468	andi@andiamond.com melissafdempsy@gmail.com bigham13@aol.com phillip.hadleyjr@gmail.com jonathancordeau@gmail.com
Open House/Marketing Tears & Cheers Breakfast	Kathy Hill Stephanie Arnold	813-240-5736 813-313-0522	kathyandtyler@gmail.com stephaniearnold99@gmail.com

PTA Support

After School Enrichment (ASE)	Michele Foster Jennifer Pegler	980-254-0063 813-347-6917	chelefoster@me.com jennifer.pegler@sdhc.k12.fl.us
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Communications			
Blast	Amber Delgado-Kuhn	813-362-7529	amberckuhn@gmail.com
	Jenn Grabill	704-402-5166	jenlcody@yahoo.com
	Christiana Thompson	678-662-5939	christiana.thompson@gmail.com
Facebook	Debra Bellanti	813-361-1798	debra.design@me.com
	Amber Delgado-Kuhn	813-362-7529	amberckuhn@gmail.com
	Christiana Thompson	678-662-5939	christiana.thompson@gmail.com
Online Directory	Alisha Stephens	813-385-2741	amweiss78@gmail.com
PTA Website	Alisha Stephens	813-385-2741	amweiss78@gmail.com
HR Parent Coordinator	Amanda Burke	305-772-7473	amandaaburke@gmail.com
STAC	Wendy Martin	619-850-1977	wendy.stahl@gmail.com
	Kelly Verra	813-928-6874	kellyverra08@gmail.com
Mileage Club	Bill Bland	813-380-2058	blandwilliam@gmail.com
Staff Liaison	Kathy Hill	813-240-5736	kathyandtyler@gmail.com
Spirit Store	Elyse Swigart	757-619-7764	elyse@alumni.clemson.edu
Uniform Exchange	Katie Maddux	813-230-1095	katiemaddux@gmail.com
PTA/Foundation Liaison	Kelly Verra	813-928-6874	kellyverra08@gmail.com
School Wide Events			
Community Outreach	Jen Grabill (Mitchell)	704-402-5166	jenlcody@yahoo.com
	Catie Witherspoon (Mitchell)	813-335-0118	cwitherspoon@tampabay.rr.com
	Laura Zaremba (Dunbar)	312-520-8005	lmzaremba1@aol.com
Teacher Appreciation Week	Jen Cordeau	813-727-4694	jencordeau@gmail.com
Media Center/Book Fair	Heather Nelson	254-368-6867	morethanmighty@gmail.com
Walk to School Wednesdays	Kelly Verra	813-928-6874	kellyverra08@gmail.com
Student Enrichment			
Bobcat Buddies	Harold Quinn	813-244-6263	hquinn@quinnsc.com
	Jennifer Pegler	813-347-6917	jennifer.pegler@sdhc.k12.fl.us
RIF	Allison Shamblin	813-760-4892	shamblins5@verizon.net
Fifth Grade Events			
5 th Grade Events	Nicole Mulrooney	813-625-6830	nicolemund@hotmail.com
	Kelly Taylor	205-919-9220	kellymtaylor@gmail.com
Skate Night	Jenny Hart	813-494-4827	shart87@tampabay.rr.com
Spirit Days	Holly Waldron	609-494-1712	bluehousecards@gmail.com
Spirit Nights	Wendy Lynch	504-722-4366	wendywolflynch@hotmail.com
50/50 Raffle / Bake Sale	Susan Reeves	813-340-2946	sreeves125@gmail.com
Memory Book/Shout Outs	Bright Owens	917-743-2474	brightowens@msn.com
T-shirts	Elyse Swigart	757-619-7764	elyseswigart@gmail.com
5 th Grade Picnic	Deb Sledge	813-503-7500	debsledge@gmail.com
Busch Gardens Trip	Meredith Callahan	813-495-8094	tpagatir@tampabay.rr.com
Clap out / Awards Ceremony	Sarah Stockstad	253-906-0045	sarahstockstad@gmail.com
	Caroline Hensler	917-568-5177	carolinehensler@gmail.com
5 th Grade Breakfast/ Book signing	Kellee Kudzinski	813-505-4881	kelleek2015@gmail.com
Legacy Gift	Kathryn Swanson	202-360-6368	khaydon@hotmail.com
	Sarah Stockstad	253-906-0045	sarahstockstad@gmail.com

PTA Calendar

[insert calendar]

PTA FAQs

- **How do I join the PTA?** It's easy to join. Simply go to the PTA website (www.mitchellelementarypta.org) and click on the "PTA Forms" box in the right-hand side of the page. Complete the entire online form.
- **How much does it cost to join PTA and why do we have to pay dues?** The cost to join is \$6 per member. We are required to collect dues by the National PTA which we pass directly onto them (we do not keep any of the dues).
- **If I joined the PTA in past years, do I need to join again this year or is the membership ongoing?** You **do** need to join PTA each year that you want to be a member, including to receive the Bobcat Blast weekly newsletters. Just complete the online forms at the beginning of each school year and you'll be good to go.
- **Does signing up for a committee commit me to work on that committee?** No! Signing up for a committee when you complete the online PTA forms simply adds your name to a list to receive information and volunteer opportunities for that committee. If you have any interest at all in a committee or are unsure how you may be able to help with various committees, go ahead and select those committees when you fill out the volunteer section of the online PTA forms. Again, this will only sign you up to receive information about opportunities and commits you to nothing.
- **How do I know when PTA and school events are?** Download the Mitchell calendar from the PTA website by clicking on the +Google button beneath the calendar. You only need to download it one time and it will automatically update your calendar with date changes and each school year. You may also access the PTA calendar in the Mitchell online directory (see below).
- **What is the Bobcat Blast and how do I sign up for it?** The Bobcat Blast is the PTA weekly email newsletter. It contains details about all PTA events, important messages from administration and other school information. There are two ways to sign up to receive the Bobcat Blast:
 - Elect to receive the Bobcat Blast when you complete the online PTA forms
 - Complete the "Sign up for the Bobcat Blast" section on the PTA home page
- **Is there a Mitchell family directory?** Yes! We have a terrific online directory that contains student and family contact information as well as teacher and class lists. To be included in and access the online directory, opt into the directory when you complete the PTA online forms. You will receive an email with instructions for accessing the directory via the Directory Spot app and website.
- **Do I have to be on the PTA Board to attend the monthly PTA Board meetings?** Nope. We welcome all PTA members at our Board meetings. These meetings are a great way to learn about current PTA events, hear school information directly from the Mitchell Principal and Assistant Principal and to share any questions or ideas you may have.

MITCHELL ELEMENTARY PTA

Committee & Event Descriptions

FAMILY EVENTS

Bookaneer Literacy Week

Chair: Lara Dickerson, 813-239-4987, llkfsu@yahoo.com

Co-Chair: Sheila Calistri, 813-841-2000, sheila@buytampafi.com

Description: Literacy Week is an annual multi-day event that benefits the Mitchell Media Center's literacy needs. During Literacy Week, Mitchell earns a percentage of sales made at Barnes & Noble in stores or online. During three evenings at Barnes & Noble, families enjoy teacher story times, cookie decorating, art projects with Mrs. Hobby, student readings and bedtime stories with Ms. Best. Literacy Week is typically held the first week of December.

Volunteer Opportunities: Work with the chair to set up the events and help at the registration and activity tables.

Fall Festival

Chair: Natassja Prose, 813-300-3638, natassjaprose@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Merris Pope, 813-431-2005, merris.pope@gmail.com

Description: The Fall Festival is a family-friendly evening of fun, music, food, carnival-esque games and prizes. Picture a small-town festival on a Friday night that is hosted at the local school. Friendships are forged. Sacks are raced. Bean bags are tossed. Free admission includes face painting, crazy hair, bean bag toss, sack races, basketball throw, lots of prizes & tons of fun with friends. Pizza, snow cones and baked goods are available for purchase. The Fall Festival usually occurs in late October or early November.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist the chair to set up and run event booths.

Family Art Night

Chair: Erin Sullivan, 813-362-8722, esullivantimes@gmail.com

Description: This is a very special evening hosted by the PTA and our art teacher, Mrs. Hobby. All of Mitchell's students will have one work of art framed and on display in the "Bobcat Gallery" located on the covered court. Families are invited to purchase their student's artwork to take home. Art Night is usually in March.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist the chair to set up art displays and check families out with art purchases.

Heritage Night

Chair: Kathryn Swanson, 202-360-6368, khaydon@hotmail.com

Co-Chair: Casey Nolan

Description: In the spring, teachers, together with the PTA, turn the Cafeteria into an exhibit hall with lively tastings of food and treats representing the multiple cultures at Mitchell. Look for information about Heritage Night around February or March.

Volunteer Opportunities: Prepare and serve food representing your culture. Assist the chair to organize and produce displays, presenters, set-up, and clean up for this one-of-a-kind event.

Movie Night

Chair: Shea Alvarez, 917-596-6618, sheaalvarez@gmail.com

Description: Students and their families enjoy a movie on the covered court. Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner, blankets, pillows, etc. Lawn chairs are welcome on the perimeter of the court. This is a free event with some concessions for sale to benefit 5th grade events. Movie Night usually occurs in late November or early December.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist the chair to set up the event.

FUNDRAISING

Box Tops

Chair: Amber Godsey, 813-215-9291, ambergodsey@gmail.com

Description: Twice a year, the PTA collects Box Top clippings from Mitchell families.

Volunteer Opportunities: Work with the chair to count and submit the collected Box Tops. Volunteers also help deliver prizes to winning classes.

Fun Run

Chair: Wendy Martin, 619-850-1977, wendy.stahl@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Michele Foster, 980-254-0063, chelefoster@me.com

Co-Chair: Cristina Barthel, 813-294-2644, cristinab710@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Amanda McDonald, 813-997-1041, mandacopey@gmail.com

Description: This is PTA's biggest fundraiser that promotes fitness and fun. Each year, the Fun Run is kicked off with a pep rally for the students. On the day of the Fun Run, families are welcome to cheer on their students as they walk or run laps around the track. Schedules by grade will be sent home before the event. Families and friends are invited to sponsor their Mitchell Bobcats for the Fun Run with flat donations (**not** tied to the number of laps their student walks/runs). The Fun Run is typically held in September.

Volunteer Opportunities: This committee needs assistance primarily the day before, day of and day after the Fun Run with event set up and clean up. Also, each year we ask one lucky person to volunteer as the Bobcat mascot during the event.

HOSPITALITY

Meet the Teacher

Chair: Andi Diamond Bennett, 813-503-5056, andi@andiamond.com

Description: This open house is held a few days before each school year begins and is an opportunity for you and your student to meet your student's new teacher and visit the classroom. We also have a PTA informational fair in the cafeteria during the event.

Volunteer Opportunities: This committee will help the chair person set up the event and organize all of the groups/clubs who will display at the event and volunteering to staff the event.

Men's Bobcat Breakfast & Great American Teach-In

Chair: Melissa Dempsey, 850-933-3373, melissafdempsey@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Annie Kubler, 352-219-6483, bigham13@aol.com

Description: The PTA honors the special male role models in our Bobcats' lives at the Men's Bobcat Breakfast. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles and male friends are invited to enjoy breakfast with your student on the covered court then join your Bobcats in their classrooms. This event coincides with the **Great American Teach-In**, a school-wide event where parents/grandparents, etc. of the students and staff visit classrooms to discuss their careers. This breakfast usually occurs in November.

Volunteer Opportunities: Help the chair organize food and beverages for the event, as well as set up and clean up on the day of the event.

Women's Bobcat Breakfast

Chair: Phillip Hadley, 205-478-3717, phillip.hadleyjr@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Jonathan Cordeau, 813-843-1468, jonathancordeau@gmail.com

Description: The PTA honors the special female role models in our Bobcats' lives at the Women's Bobcat Breakfast. Mothers, grandmothers, aunts and female friends are invited to enjoy breakfast with your student on the covered court then join your Bobcats in their classrooms. This breakfast is typically near Mother's Day in May.

Volunteer Opportunities: Help the chair organize food and beverages for the event, as well as set up and clean up on the day of the event.

Tears & Cheers Breakfast

Chair: Stephanie Arnold, 813-313-0522, stephaniearnold99@gmail.com

Description: The Tears and Cheers breakfast is a great way for new and returning Mitchell families to meet each other and get support on the first day of school. It's also an opportunity to hear from school administrators and learn more about the PTA.

Volunteer Opportunities: The committee is responsible for marketing the event (fliers before Meet the Teacher, information in the blast, etc.) as well as the event planning, including purchasing the food and drinks, set up the day of or day before, and working with administration to give a short presentation. This is the perfect position for anyone who wants to get involved in the PTA without a long-term commitment - it begins near the end of summer and wraps up the first day of school.

PTA SUPPORT

After School Enrichment (ASE)

Chair: Michele Foster, 980-254-0063, chelefooster@me.com

Co-Chair: Jennifer Pegler, 813-347-6917, jennifer.pegler@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Description: The PTA partners with local organizations to offer after school enrichments to provide a convenient and affordable way for students to try out a variety of activities. The classes are offered a few days a week after school with different options in the Fall and Spring. Schedule information is made available prior to registration.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist the chair primarily with dismissing students.

Communications – Bobcat Blast

Chair: Christiana Thompson, 678-662-5939, christiana.thompson@gmail.com

Description: The Bobcat Blast is a weekly email newsletter and the PTA's primary means of communication. It includes PTA and school event information as well as messages from administration. Sign up to receive the weekly Blast on the PTA homepage.

Volunteer Opportunities: This committee rotates monthly turns collecting Blast submissions from PTA and administration then assembling and distributing the newsletter using online software.

 **Communications – Facebook**

Chair: Debra Bellanti, 813-361-1798, debra.design@me.com

Description: The PTA has its own Facebook page to post information about events and other education information.

Volunteer Opportunities: This committee administers the PTA Facebook page with frequent posts.

 **Communications – Online Directory**

Chair: Alisha Stephens, 813-385-2741, amweiss78@gmail.com

Description: The PTA provides a free school directory accessible via mobile apps or website. The directory includes student, family and teacher contact information. It also provides an easy way to see a list of students in your child's class.

Volunteer Opportunities: This committee administers the online directory database, including monthly imports of data.

 **Communications – PTA Website**

Chair: Alisha Stephens, 813-385-2741, amweiss78@gmail.com

Description: The PTA has its own website to provide Mitchell families with information about events, programs, volunteer opportunities and other important school information.

Volunteer Opportunities: This committee maintains the PTA website by updating current and ongoing information on a timely basis.

 **Communications – Homeroom Parent Coordinator**

Chair: Amanda Burke, 305-772-7473, amandaaburke@gmail.com

Description: Homeroom parents assist teachers throughout the year with classroom activities and events by organizing volunteer sign-ups and supply collections. They also serve as liaisons between the PTA and class families by emailing information received from the PTA. Finally, homeroom parents coordinate annual gift collections for teachers. The HR Parent Coordinator distributes emails to each HR Parent to forward onto their classroom parents.

Volunteer Opportunities: This committee hosts an annual homeroom parent orientation at the beginning of the school year. Throughout the year, the committee emails the homeroom parents with information received from PTA members for distribution to class families.

 **Student & Teacher Advocacy Committee (STAC)**

Chair: Wendy Martin, 619-850-1977, wendy.stahl@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Kelly Verra, 813-928-6874, kellyverra08@gmail.com

Description: The Mitchell PTA created the STAC committee in response to the lack of state funding for our public schools. The goal has been to gain a strong understanding of the issues and to share that information with you, our Mitchell families.

Volunteer Opportunities: By joining this committee, you make no commitments other than to share information affecting our public school funding and policies, and to brainstorm ways we can better support our schools.

 **Mileage Club**

Chair: Bill Bland, 813-380-2058, blandwilliam@gmail.com

Description: PTA partners with our Physical Education Coach to encourage physical activity while students wait for class to begin before school. Students are allowed to run laps around the track and fill mileage club cards to receive small prizes.

Students do not sign up for this club – they simply walk or run on the track any morning they feel up for it. Mileage Club meets every school morning *except* Wednesdays.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers may sign up to mark student cards before school for each lap they run.

 **Spirit Store**

Chair: Elyse Swigart, 757-619-7764, elyseswigart@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Amber Godsey, 813-215-9291, ambergodsey@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Rimma Castaldi, rimma@cucinaflorida.com

Description: This committee oversees the design of the annual Mitchell spirit shirt. They also order and sell the Mitchell shirts at various school events (such as Meet the Teacher) and on our PTA website.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist with selling shirts.

 **Uniform Exchange**

Chair: Katie Maddux, 813-230-1095, katiemaddux@gmail.com

Description: Coordinates annual donations of uniforms for students in need. Families are able to donate gently used uniforms at the end and beginning of each school year. Collections are taken during drop off by the gates on Gomez. Dates will be provided in the Bobcat Blast.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers help hold signs in car line as well as collect, organize and distribute the donated uniforms.

School Wide Events



Community Outreach

Mitchell Chair: Jen Grabill, 704-402-5166, jenlcody@yahoo.com

Mitchell Co-Chair: Catie Witherspoon, 813-335-0118, cwitherspoon@tampabay.rr.com

Dunbar Chair: Laura Zaremba, 312-307-2829, lmzaremba1@aol.com

Description: This very rewarding committee works throughout the year in support of our Mitchell and Tampa communities in need. The committee organizes monetary and clothing donations throughout the year. They also work with the Guidance Counselor to determine a group in the Tampa community who will benefit from Mitchell Bobcat efforts and donations. Community Outreach also provides support for our sister school, Dunbar Elementary.

Volunteer Opportunities: On this committee, you will help the chair person who is responsible for soliciting donations throughout the year to support Mitchell families in need. You will also support Bobcat activities such as Halloween costume collections and Holiday collections.



Teacher Appreciation Committee

Chair: Jen Cordeau, 813-727-4694, jencordeau@gmail.com

Description: This committee works to show our teachers how much we appreciate them all year long through monthly treats, gift card drawings and event meals. They show Mitchell staff extra love during Teacher Appreciation Week in February.

Volunteer Opportunities: This team assists the Chair to coordinate, set up and deliver Teacher Appreciation activities through the year and during Teacher Appreciation Week.



Media Center / Book Fair

Chair: Heather Nelson, 254-368-6867, morethanmighty@gmail.com

Description: This committee recruits and organizes weekly Media Center volunteers as well as for Mitchell's two annual book fairs.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist the Media Specialist by volunteering weekly (or as frequently as you would like) in the Media Center, checking books in and out and re-shelving them. Volunteers may sign up to run the cash registers during our two annual Book Fairs.



Walk to School Wednesdays

Chair: Kelly Verra, 813-928-6874, kellyverra08@gmail.com

Description: The PTA has partnered with Sidewalk Stompers to encourage students to walk or bike to school. The committee will organize Walk to School Wednesday meet up locations and student incentives.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist the chair with scouting meet up locations, soliciting community support and organizing student incentives.

Student Enrichment



Bobcat Buddies

Chair: Harold Quinn, 813-244-6263, hquinn@quinnsc.com

Co-Chair: Jennifer Pegler, 813-347-6917, jennifer.pegler@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Description: Bobcat Buddies are adults who partner with students that are identified by their teachers that could use some extra support.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers visit their partner students weekly during lunch to chat, play a small game, and provide student support.



Reading is Fundamental (RIF)

Chair: Allison Shamblin, 813-760-4892, shamblins5@verizon.net

Description: The PTA provides each student a free book to take home and keep twice a year. Each class visits the Media Center to choose a book from designated tables. RIF occurs in the Fall (around October) and Spring (around February)

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist the chair with set up and book distributions. This is a fun way to see lots of different students excited about reading.



5th Grade Events

Chair: Nicole Mulrooney, 813-625-6830, nicolemund@hotmail.com

Co-Chair: Kelly Taylor, 205-919-9220, kellymtaylor@gmail.com

Description: This committee oversees the various 5th grade events such as Busch Gardens day, the 5th grade picnic and the 5th grade awards ceremony. They also organize 5th grade fundraisers including skate and spirit nights.

Volunteer Opportunities: There are many sub-committees that parents of 5th graders may join to assist the Chairs with the various 5th grade events, fundraisers, memory books and legacy gifts.

Other Events (not sponsored by PTA)

 Field Day

Our amazing Coach J hosts a fabulous day for all grades. Students are able to compete with their classes in various outdoor games on the Court, playground and front lawn. Kindergarten – 2nd grades usually participate in the morning and 3rd – 5th grades in the afternoon. Parents may sign up to volunteer to run a game. All parents are invited to join their students for lunch (provided by the parents). Volunteer sign up links and Field Day schedules are released in the Bobcat Blast a few weeks ahead of the event which occurs in May.

 Bobcat Bash

This is a fun-filled, adults-only evening hosted by the Mitchell Foundation. The event, held at different local venues, includes live music, light bites and adult beverages. The Bash hosts online and silent auctions that raise significant funds for our school. The Bash is usually in February at different local venues. Families will receive a physical invitation in student folders and information will also be included in the Bobcat Bash.