

# Mitchell Elementary



## **PTA Welcome Packet with Committee & Event Descriptions**



Alisha Stephens, President  
Kelly Verra, VP Volunteers & Membership  
Melissa Dempsey, Recording Secretary  
Erin Nitz, VP PTA Support

Andy Warren, Treasurer  
Colleen Dunlop, VP Ways & Means  
Amber Delgado-Kuhn, Corresponding Secretary

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Dear Mitchell Families,

I am truly delighted and honored to serve as your PTA President this school year. I'd first like to welcome back all of our incredible returning families. To our new families, we welcome you to the Mitchell Community and your new home away from home 😊

We are ready for an exciting year with our new Principal, Ms. Renee Best. I have had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Best and was immediately touched by her warmth. She is committed to carrying on our school culture as well as to bringing some fun and energizing ideas. Of course, we are all thrilled to have Mr. Moon's continued leadership as our Assistant Principal. After three years at Mitchell, it still amazes me how Mr. Moon greets every child by name and is genuinely invested in their success.

Mitchell Elementary is an exceptional school. We are extremely lucky to have administration and faculty that are devoted to and passionate about the academic and emotional well being of our children. I believe it is because of them that we have such a strong PTA with so many families eager to support their mission. Families, staff and community members partner together to accomplish PTA programs such as the Fall Festival, RIF, and Heritage Night as well as raise funds to provide teacher reimbursements, mini grants and professional development opportunities.

Whether you are new to Mitchell Elementary or new to PTA, we invite you to become as involved as you would like to be. By joining the PTA, you are **not** committing to any sort of time requirement – we benefit from your ideas and any amount of volunteer hours. We always welcome new members to jump right in – new people bring new ideas! To all of our wonderful returning members, thank you for your continued support of our school. We thrive because of each of you!

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 or returning 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

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**President**

Alisha Stephens 813-385-2741 amweiss78@gmail.com

**VP Ways & Means**

Colleen Dunlop 386-479-6790 colleenmdunlop@gmail.com

**VP Volunteers & Membership**

Kelly Verra 813-928-6874 kellyverra08@gmail.com

**VP School & PTA Support**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Corresponding Secretary**

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

**Recording Secretary**

Melissa Dempsey 850-933-3373 melissafdempsy@gmail.com

**Committee Chairpersons:**

***Family Events***

Bookaneer Literacy Week Lara Dickerson 813-239-4987 llkfsu@yahoo.com  
Sheila Calistri 831-841-2000 sheila@buytampaf1.com

Fall Festival Natassja Prose 813-300-3638 natassjaprose@gmail.com  
Merris Pope 813-431-2005 merris.pope@gmail.com

Family Art Night Erin Daniels 813-362-8722 esullivantimes@gmail.com

Heritage Night Kathryn Swanson 202-360-6368 khaydon@hotmail.com  
Casey Nolan

Movie Night Shea Alvarez 917-596-6618 shea@sheaalvarez.com

***Fundraising***

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

***Hospitality***

Meet the Teacher Andi Bennett 813-503-5056 andi@andiamond.com  
Men's Bobcat Breakfast Melissa Dempsey 850-933-3373 melissafdempsy@gmail.com  
Annie Kubler 352-219-6483 bigham13@aol.com  
Women's Bobcat Breakfast Phillip Hadley 205-478-3717 phillip.hadleyjr@gmail.com  
Jonathan Cordeau 813-843-1468 jonathancordeau@gmail.com

Open House/Marketing Kathy Hill 813-240-5736 kathyandtyler@gmail.com  
Tears & Cheers Breakfast Stephanie Arnold 813-313-0522 stephaniearnold99@gmail.com

***PTA Support***

After School Enrichment (ASE) Michele Foster 980-254-0063 chelefoster@me.com  
Jennifer Pegler 813-347-6917 jennifer.pegler@sdhc.k12.fl.us

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 - Mitchell	Jen Grabill (Mitchell)	704-402-5166	jenlcody@yahoo.com
	Catie Witherspoon (Mitchell)	813-335-0118	cwitherspoon@tampabay.rr.com
Community Outreach – Dunbar	Laura Zaremba (Dunbar)	312-520-8005	lmzaremba1@aol.com
	Lauren Pecora	813-727-4694	laurendiessel@gmail.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 <sup>th</sup> 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	Debra Bellanti	813-361-1798	debra.design@me.com
T-shirts	Elyse Swigart	757-619-7764	elyseswigart@gmail.com
5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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

## 2019-2020

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August	6	First Day Packet Stuffing 9:00am, Cafeteria
	6	Back to School Lunch, 11:30 – 12:30 – <b>Teachers Only</b> , Media Center
	9	Meet the Teacher/Open House, 11:00 – 2:00pm, Kindergarten – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Parents & Students
	12	<b>First Day of School</b>
	12	Tears & Cheers Breakfast, 8:30-9:30am, New Families & Kindergarten Parents, Media Center
	14	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45am, Media Center ( <b>pls note this first meeting is a Wednesday – all others will be Tuesdays</b> )
	15	Kindergarten Open House – <b>Kindergarten PARENTS ONLY</b>
	20	<b>PTA General Membership Meeting followed by a Meet &amp; Greet with Ms. Best, 6:00 pm, Cafeteria</b>
	27	Spirit Night – Yogurtology, 4pm – 8pm
September	2	<b>No School – Labor Day</b>
	3	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45am, Media Center
	6	Fun Run 2019 Pep Rally
	11	Walk-to-School Wednesdays Kick Off
	20	Fun Run 2019
	26-10/4	Fall Book Fair
	30-10/4	Box Top Collection Week
October	1	PTA Board Meeting 8:45am, Cafeteria
	2	National Walk to School Day
	3	Fall Conference Night, <b>PARENTS ONLY</b>
	10	Family Skate Night, 6:00-8:00 pm, United Skates of America
	11	School Picture Day! Individual. SMILE
	15	Spirit Night – Green Lemon, 5pm – 8pm
	16-17	RIF Distribution #1
	16-18	Community Outreach Costume Collection
	25	Spirit Day – <i>wear favorite spooky shirt</i>
	25	Mitchell Fall Festival
	29	<b>PTA General Membership Meeting followed by 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Concert, 6:00pm, Cafeteria</b>
November	5	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45am, Media Center
	8	Clays for Kids
	8	Veteran’s Day Program, 8:30am
	11	<b>No School – Veteran’s Day</b>
	19-21	ThanksGIVING Community Outreach Drive
	20	School Picture Day – RETAKES!
	21	Great American Teach-In
	25-29	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday – No School</b>
December	3	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45am, Media Center
	6	Movie Night *** Movie TBA ***, 5:00pm
	10	Kendra Scott Spirit Night, 6pm – 8pm – <b>RSVP REQUIRED!</b>
	11	Club Pictures
	12	Winter Concert, 6:00pm, Cafeteria
	13	Spirit Day – <i>wear favorite holiday shirt</i>
	23 – 1/3	<b>Winter Break – No School</b>

January	6	<b>No School – Non Student Day</b>
	7	<b>School Resumes</b>
	14	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45am, Media Center
	16	Family Skate Night, 6:00-8:00 pm, United Skates of America
	17	Class Pictures/Group Pictures
	20	<b>No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
	24	Spirit Day – <i>favorite Gasparilla shirt</i>
29-30	RIF Distribution #2	
February	4	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45 am, Media Center
	7	<b>No School – Fair Day</b>
	10-14	Teacher Appreciation Week
	17	<b>No School – Non Student Day</b>
	18	<b>PTA General Membership Meeting followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Concert, 6:00pm, Cafeteria</b>
	21	Kindergarten/New Family Open House 8:00 am, Cafeteria
	21	Mitchell Foundation – Mitchell Bobcat Bash 2020
March	2	<b>No school – Strawberry Festival Day</b>
	3	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45 am, Media Center
	5	Spring Conference Night
	6	Spirit Night – Yogurtology, 4pm – 8pm
	12	<b>Heritage Night, 5:30 – 7:30pm, Cafeteria</b>
	14	Spirit Night – Location TBD
	16-20	<b>Spring Break – No School</b>
	26	Art Night
27	Spirit Day – <i>favorite shirt</i>	
April	2	<b>PTA General Membership Meeting, 6pm, Followed 80's Student Concert</b>
	3	Individual Picture Day! SMILE (no uniform)
	7	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45 am, <i>Location TBD based on testing schedule</i>
	6-9	BOGO Book Fair and Literacy Week
	10	<b>No School – Non Student Day</b>
	17	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic
	20	<b>No School</b>
24	Field Day	
May	5	PTA Board Meeting, 8:45 am, <b>Blind Tiger</b>
	19	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Trip – Busch Gardens
	25	<b>Memorial Day – No School</b>
	27	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Ceremony
	28	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Memory Book Signing & Breakfast
	29	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Clap Out – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents
	29	<b>Last Day of school – 12:15 pm Dismissal</b>

# PTA FAQs

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- **How do I join the PTA?** It's easy to join. Simply go to the PTA website ([www.mitchellelementarypta.org](http://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.
- **When and how do I find out who my child's teacher will be for the new school year?** The school will mail post cards to each family with teacher assignments usually about a week before the new school year begins.
- **When and how do I find our school supply list?** Each teacher creates his/her own school supply list. When you receive your child's teacher assignment, you will be able to access the school supply list for your child's class.

# MITCHELL ELEMENTARY PTA

## Committee & Event Descriptions

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### FAMILY EVENTS



#### Bookaneer Literacy Week

**Chair:** Lara Dickerson, 813-239-4987, [llkfsu@yahoo.com](mailto:llkfsu@yahoo.com)

**Co-Chair:** Sheila Calistri, 813-841-2000, [sheila@buytampafi.com](mailto:sheila@buytampafi.com)

**Description:** Literacy Week is an annual event that benefits the Mitchell Media Center's literacy needs. We are working on changes to the format this year, including hosting the event during our Spring Book Fair in the Media Center. Stay tuned to the Blast, Facebook and website for the most current information for this year's event.

**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](mailto:natassjaprose@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Merris Pope, 813-431-2005, [merris.pope@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:wendy.stahl@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Michele Foster, 980-254-0063, [cheleffoster@me.com](mailto:cheleffoster@me.com)

**Co-Chair:** Cristina Barthel, 813-294-2644, [cristinab710@gmail.com](mailto:cristinab710@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Amanda McDonald, 813-997-1041, [mandacopey@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:melissafdempsey@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Annie Kubler, 352-219-6483, [bigham13@aol.com](mailto: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. *Be on the lookout for possible changes to this event this year. More info to come.*

**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](mailto:phillip.hadleyjr@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Jonathan Cordeau, 813-843-1468, [jonathancordeau@gmail.com](mailto: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. *Be on the lookout for possible changes to this event this year. More info to come.*

**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](mailto: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, [cheleffoster@me.com](mailto:cheleffoster@me.com)

**Co-Chair:** Jennifer Pegler, 813-347-6917, [jennifer.pegler@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wendy.stahl@gmail.com)  
**Co-Chair:** Kelly Verra, 813-928-6874, [kellyverra08@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:elyseswigart@gmail.com)  
**Co-Chair:** Amber Godsey, 813-215-9291, [ambergodsey@gmail.com](mailto:ambergodsey@gmail.com)  
**Co-Chair:** Rimma Castaldi, [rimma@cucinaflorida.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jenlcody@yahoo.com)

**Mitchell Co-Chair:** Catie Witherspoon, 813-335-0118, [cwitherspoon@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cwitherspoon@tampabay.rr.com)

**Dunbar Chair:** Laura Zaremba, 312-307-2829, [lmzaremba1@aol.com](mailto:lmzaremba1@aol.com)

**Dunbar Co-Chair:** Lauren Pecora, 813-952-8531, [laurendiessel@gmail.com](mailto:laurendiessel@gmail.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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



### **Wal- to-School Wednesdays**

**Chair:** Kelly Verra, 813-928-6874, [kellyverra08@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:hquinn@quinnsc.com)

**Co-Chair:** Jennifer Pegler, 813-347-6917, [jennifer.pegler@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Events**

**Chair:** Nicole Mulrooney, 813-625-6830, [nicolemund@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolemund@hotmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Kelly Taylor, 205-919-9220, [kellymtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:kellymtaylor@gmail.com)

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

**Volunteer Opportunities:** There are many sub-committees that parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders may join to assist the Chairs with the various 5<sup>th</sup> 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> grades usually participate in the morning and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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.