



# Parent Newsletter

## OCTOBER 2020

(August-October)

Hello Magnolia Parents and Families,

With everything that is happening in our country, we were all on pins and needles about how the school year would open, and what the instructional delivery would look like for our students, whether attending face to face, or receiving services via the LaunchEd platform. I am happy to report that we successfully completed our first 9 weeks, and are well underway into what is proving to be a very unique 2020-2021 school year.

The first quarter proved to be extremely eventful, as we hosted two “Sneak Peak” events to showcase our new building (in person and virtually), experienced a partial school shutdown, was forced to say goodbye to our beloved Social Worker, Ms. Cynthia Hughes due to retirement and hello to our new Behavior Analyst, Dr. Jessica Dunn, and our new SAFE Coordinator, Mr. Christopher Jamison, all while working out the logistical kinks involved in moving into a new building. As we begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the faculty and staff of Magnolia would like to assure you that our commitment to excellence in academics, independent functioning, and social/emotional wellness remains the highest priority, as it is at the core of who we are as a school team.

The middle and high school academic programs spent the beginning of the school year gathering baseline data to determine students’ current levels of functioning, and developing action plans to address the areas where students demonstrated the greatest need or regression. Due to the pandemic, we decided to postpone the majority of our “off site” CBVE experiences, in an effort to keep our students and staff safe. While on campus, students in our Bridges program took advantage of our new, state of the art facility, which was tailored to accommodate our existing culinary, agriculture, hospitality, and life skills programs. As we progress further into the school year, we are planning to gradually resume our offsite opportunities, so that students maintain their connections to the community in a safe manner. We are honored that you continue to entrust the education of your student(s) to us, and look forward to our consistent partnership during these inconsistent times.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL



Latonia Green



Greetings parents!

I want to start by saying how grateful I am that we are all alive and well. During these different times, we will continue to work together to give our students the best education possible. Thank you to parents/care givers who have been so patient with LaunchEd while assisting your child in class. Feel free to call on us to aid you with your technology questions, concerns, and needs. We appreciate you and all you do to support education.

*Wendy Lee, Assistant  
Principal  
of Instruction*

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*Dr. Arlene Thomson, Bridges Vocational Program Assistant Principal*

Hello Parents,

BRIDGES –SBE have gotten off on a good start for 2020-2021!!

- Culinary Lab “Bistro” has feted you with a mouth-watering, and sumptuous breakfast last Friday. They can’t wait to begin serving breakfast and lunch. Coming soon is their advertising for sale of breakfast and Lunch!
- Card Shop and then some – (Rm 102) - Go by and check out some beautiful cards! Then order your latest cool Key Ring with a TWIST! Don’t wait too long, these are selling fast!
- Like scented bar soaps?! – Lavender and other scents made by students? Check these out and then examine the eco-friendly, reusable and washable, beautifully handcrafted shopping bags designed and sewn by staff for now but later by students!
- Have a dog as your furry friend? - You have got to see and don’t taste (it’s for your doggie) the dog biscuits that Ms. Harricharan’s class (Rm 114) is making.
- Some of you love to cook with fresh herbs and spices – Go visit Mr. Creath’s and Ms. Tuck’s Agri-center (Rm 109). Your nose will be charmed with the scents of basil, cilantro, parsley etc.
- Need I mention that Mr. Bryan’s class (Rm 112) is getting ready to wash vehicles – better get in line, or take a number, or you will be riding around with a dirty vehicle for the following week. The price cannot be beat for a hand-washed car!!

Our students are learning some awesome lessons for life. Help them continue to explore more and more. Then enjoy the fruits of their labor for a small price ☺

Parents if you would like to order something from any of the above mentioned, please contact Lisa Rodenberry at 407-296-6499 x 627 2247 or you may email her at [lisa.rodenberry@ocps.net](mailto:lisa.rodenberry@ocps.net) or Dr. Thomson at [arlene.thomson@ocps.net](mailto:arlene.thomson@ocps.net). Thank you for your support in educating our students.





# Announcements



<b>Open House</b>	Virtual, view at any time	<b>PTA/SAC</b>	November 6, 2020
<b>Family STEAM Challenge</b>	November 20, 2020	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	November 23-27, 2020
<b>PTA/SAC</b>	December 4, 2020	<b>Winter Concert</b>	December 16, 2020
<b>Bridges Exit Ceremony</b>	December 18, 2020	<b>Winter Break</b>	December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021



--Photo courtesy of Officer Raul Berrios



# *Teacher of the Year*

## *Karen Day*

Ms. Karen Day went to West Essex High School in northern New Jersey; where she grew up and spent half her life. Ms. Day graduated from Kean University in Union, NJ in 1995 and received a bachelor's degree in Special Education-Varying Exceptionalities.

In 1995, Ms. Day began her teaching career in Orange County Public Schools at the age of 23. She taught at Union Park Middle School for four years; after which, she transferred to Magnolia School. Ms. Day has worked with high school students most of the 21 years at Magnolia School; however, after 17 years of teaching in the academic program, she moved to the Bridges Vocational Program where she has been for the last four years. She works with the vocational students who go off campus to participate in the CBVE's for most of the day, and she loves it!

Ms. Day's hobby is art and she is an artist at heart. She loves to create things and she has always liked to paint and draw. Also, she enjoys upcycling, anything really....jewelry, furniture, artwork, home décor, etc.

Her favorite things are animals and reading books. Ms. Day loves animals. Being around animals is something that has always made her very happy! She is captivated by anything that has to do with animals. She loves to watch them, to play with them, read about them, learn about them, and care for them. Ms. Day also love books. She loves going to the bookstore and perusing the aisles to choose her favorites to bring home. It is a simple pleasure she really enjoys.

Ms. Karen Day's message to the staff who nominated her:

"I am thankful to the staff members who nominated me. I know some people play it cool when they win a prize or an honor.... but I am not one of them. The winner was announced by virtual meeting, and I was so happy that I was cheering out loud with my coworkers...I was so thankful! I loved being able to share with my family and my son that I was named teacher of the year. They are so proud. My dad, in heaven, was ever so proud of me when I became a teacher. My dad was never able to finish high school. He came from a rough area and he worked really hard and long hours to keep me in a safe neighborhood growing up. He cried the first time that he saw me in a classroom as a teacher. I was the first person in my family on both sides to finish college. He was also so proud of me for overcoming the drunk driving car accident that left me paralyzed in high school so many years ago. I am so happy to win this award because I know he would have been so extremely proud of me. It would have meant so much to him. I thank you for nominating me. It means the world to me and it would have meant the world to my dad. I am grateful from the bottom of my heart. Thank you."



# *Support Person of the Year*

## *Karen Small*



Ms. Karen Small graduated high school and completed many trainings that prepared her to acquire the work experience she has obtained over the last 35 years of working with children.

She has always worked with children. First, she worked with her own children and others in her home. Then, she worked in the early childhood department at her church. After a couple of years of working in the church's daycare, Ms. Small became the Babies and Toddlers House Supervisor. In 1991, she started her career with OCPS at Clay Springs Elementary as a Second Grade Paraprofessional. Later, Ms. Small became the Support Services Clerk III responsible for Registration, Attendance and she covered the front office. She worked at Clay Springs Elementary for over 17 years, then she started working at Lake Silver Elementary with the ESE program. Ms. Small ultimately gained employment at Magnolia School where she is truly appreciated for her organizational skills and wonderful disposition.

Ms. Small loves to travel! She also likes to read, cook, needle point and color, but her absolute favorite thing to do is travel. She states, "There are so many places to see in the United States, and a lot of places on my Bucket List are not marked off yet."

Karen Small's message to those who nominated her:

"I'd like to Thank You for nominating me for Support Person of the Year! There are so many people that do so much here and I am just doing my small part in making Magnolia special. For you to think of me, and nominate me, is very special...I am very appreciative. We, as a Team and Family, working together makes Magnolia great. So, Thank You to All of You!!"





## Farewell

*To my Magnolia Family,*

*You have allowed me to experience indescribable dedication. The parents demonstrated the unconditional love that the world needs. Our students teach us that joy, love, peace, and success can be achieved in adversity. Thank you all for these lessons that I will continue to apply during my successful retirement.*

*Love and Blessings,*

*Cynthia Hughes, MSW*

*September 30, 2020*

## Welcome New Mustangs



Michael Bonneville



Kaylise Hughes



Shoreley Gibbs



Analie Moisant



Lourdes Perez



Caranda Moore



Christopher Jamison





# Science Rocks!

UF/IFAS is with the Middle & High School Program again the year!



Parents, our relationship with UF/IFAS is growing. The Health & Nutrition Classes will continue with Ms. Janice (pictured on the top left) and the 4-H Club with Ms. Melinda Souers (pictured on the top right).



With us for the second year is Mr. JK (pictured on the bottom right) who has been serving as a consultant on the embryology (study of embryos and their development) project our students started last school year with chickens. Students learned what happens each day in fertilized chicken eggs, they placed the eggs in an incubator and watched the chicks hatch. Our students will remain involved with this project as an economics activity as the eggs will be sold at a farmer's market. The monies raised in egg sales will be deposited into the students' account to fund the ongoing indoor gardening lessons on aquaponics, aeroponics and hydroponics with Ms. Hannah (pictured on the bottom left).



Middle and High School students have enjoyed learning with our friends from UF/IFAS. Hopefully they will continue to do so with the new teaching format...virtually. Thanks UF/IFAS!





# The Bistro!

Meet the Terrific Trio in the Bistro: Analie Moisant, Teacher, graduated from University of San Jose-Recoletos with a bachelor's in Elementary Education and diploma in Special Education. She comes to Magnolia with over 20 years teaching experience, both in the states and abroad. Ms. Analie enjoys cooking, working out, dancing, walking, and playing disc golf. Mary Harris, Paraprofessional, has over 20 years experience working with and caring for the students at Magnolia. She is a hard worker who loves to help others. Abigail Maldonado-Dones, Job Coach, graduated with an Associate degree from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. She has been working with students with disabilities since 1983 and enjoys working out, reading and baking. With their background and experience, there is no wonder the Bistro is off to a magnificent start.



These ladies, and their students, have provided breakfast deliciousness, a Latin Tasting and Fried Rice! We appreciate their enthusiasm and the care they have put into each dish. Thanks ladies and students! Keep up the good work.



# Car Wash



Your Support is needed:

Be an Exclusive Sponsor: \$428.00 or Sponsor and/or Donor of car wash supplies (see below for items needed)

Armor All Tire Foam Protectant, 20oz. Tire Cleaning \$3.57 each; 4 are needed/Deluxe Microfiber Chenille Wash Mop w/48" Extension Pole, \$23.22 each; 2 are needed/Mothers Long Handed Wheel Well Brush \$13.63; 2 are needed/Meguiar's G7148 Gold Class Car Wash Shampoo and Conditioner, 48oz. \$6.97 each; 4 are needed/Carrand 92230 Suds-N-Spray Foaming Car Wash System \$31.23each; 1 is needed/3 Gallon (12 qt.) Car Wash Bucket \$6.66 each; 4 are needed/Clean Tools 51149 Original Car Cloth 17"x27", \$10.47 each; 2 are needed/Zwipes Extra Large Plush Pocketed Microfiber Drying Towel, \$12.00; 4 are needed/Viking Premium Chenille Car Wash Mitt, \$9.99 each; 4 are needed/Viking Microfiber Auto Cleaning Cloth, 12pk towels, \$11.67, 2 are needed/Top Source 2020 Expandable Garden Hose 75ft Upgraded, Flexible Lightweight Water Hose w/8 function metal nozzle, \$84.99

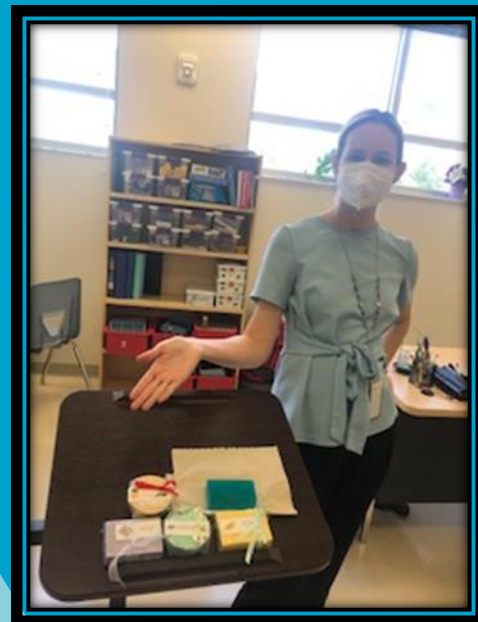






Magnets

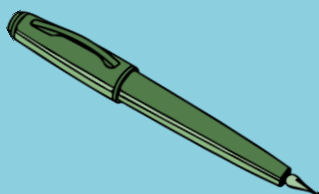
*Ms. Braun's Class  
is waiting for your orders!*



Handmade Soaps



MR. CASTELLANOS' CLASS HAS ALL OF  
YOUR PEN NEEDS COVERED!







Ms. Harricharan's Class has your pet's treats ready!



Ms. Karen Day has a card for every occasion. Place your order today!





**For Sale: Herb and Vegetable Plants**  
**Interested? Please contact either Cindy Tuck**  
**or David Creath at:**  
**[cynthia.tuck@ocps.net](mailto:cynthia.tuck@ocps.net)**  
**[david.creath@ocps.net](mailto:david.creath@ocps.net)**

**Thank you for your support!**





# Great News!

## A+ Teacher Award Winners

Kathleen Conry  
Rickey Itwaru  
Catherine Driscoll  
Peter Taylor  
Adaliris Ocasio  
Mary Douberley  
Debra Gordon  
Jennifer MacAllister  
David Creath  
Shelley Braun  
Randi Kaufman-Long  
Analie Moisant



## Teacher's Choice Award Winners

Sonja Neal  
Tina Waters  
Ermine Hagley  
Wendy Smith  
Pauline Baxter  
Marie Smith  
Beryl Nathan  
Kenneth Atkins  
Cricket Rodriguez  
Patricia Appaneal



Hello LaunchEd Parents! Below you will find resources available to help you navigate through distance learning. Of course you may contact your child's teacher for assistance, but Magnolia School's Technology Integration Team is here to as well.

### District Resource:

<https://www.ocps.net/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=88545>

### Magnolia School's Technology Team:

[debra.gordon@ocps.net](mailto:debra.gordon@ocps.net)

[mary.doublerley@ocps.net](mailto:mary.doublerley@ocps.net)

[jennifer.macallister@ocps.net](mailto:jennifer.macallister@ocps.net)





Mustang Mentoring Program  
coming soon with Mr. Jamison!

*Congratulations goes to Tina Waters for winning the  
2020 Leanne Grotke Award!*



Curbside Snack & Supper Program

---Brenda Milligan



## *Superstar Students*

Anagelli

Fratlicelli

Robles



Jaime Smith

(not pictured)




More Great News!

Here's how you can help the Middle & High School students working on academics. Thanks in advance for your support!

*Donations are now being accepted for*

*STEAM activities:*

*Your \$3.00 donation will go towards chicken feed, seeds, and gardening supplies for our indoor garden and hoop house.*

 *See our chickens from the embryology project below. We're learning and we love it!*

