



Parent Newsletter

August-October 2021



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The Principal's Desk

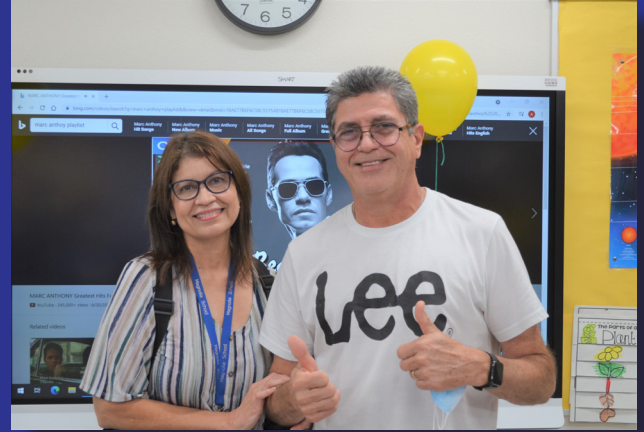
As the very proud principal of Magnolia School, I am honored to lead this community of committed and dedicated professionals towards the ultimate goal of student achievement, student preparedness, and student wellness. Though the last school year presented many uncertainties and transitions for our students, we maintained a high bar of expectations for success, and our students responded by making the necessary adjustments and stepping up to the plate!

Moving forward, our mission continues to include leading students to the highest level of independence regarding their education, employment, and community involvement. We recognize that the key to reaching our goals is grounded in collaborative partnerships between parents, community partners, and school staff, so thank you Magnolia families for entrusting us with the education of your student(s).

Staff Celebrations



Ms. Wanda Estrada
Paraprofessional
Congratulations on your retirement



Ms. Romanita Rivera & Jose Calderon
Paraprofessional & Program Assistant
Congratulations on your retirement



Mr. Jason Beyer
Behavior Technician
Support Person of the Year



Ms. Jennifer MacAllister
MS/HS Teacher
Teacher of the Year



Ms. Sonja Neal
Paraprofessional
Paraprofessional of the Year

September Employee of the Month



Mr. Fredo Herard
Custodian



A+ Teacher



Bridges

August: Arleene Garcia

Ms. Garcia has worked fastidiously to get the Bridges Program up and running for teachers and staff this summer leading into August and the new school year. Just to name a few: she re-wrote lesson plans, re-formatted the instructional focus calendar; co-developed task analysis for the majority of CBVE “on-campus” tasks. A herculean task no less.

Bridges

September: Karen Day

– Effervescent, ebullient, and a perennial ray of sunshine!

Ms. Day comes to work each day and is 99% on point regardless of the personal issues/challenges she faces. The majority of her students are always engaged in the lessons and activities she delivers with such zest and enthusiasm. The synergy in the classroom is contagious!



MS/HS

September: Mary Lange

Mary Lange is rocking and rolling with setting up her students for success. Her classroom has tons of visual support, and communication tools to increase students’ participation in the lesson. Ms. Lange can be observed actively teaching at the instructional level of her students. She is enthusiastic about the content she is presenting and incorporates opportunities for students to engage in hands on learning activities.



Student of the Month

Bridges

August: Sophia Seigel

In her quiet and demure way, Sophia is composed, mature, and performs her duties in class and at the job site with precision. She is also willing to share some 'inside' stories of her travels when you begin to build a relationship with her. A terrific young lady who is really blooming at Magnolia this year!



Bridges

September: Michael Connor Vincent

Who would have thought that Vince would become the super car wash student. He learned so quickly and so well that now Mr. Jamison just supervises him when he washes cars/vehicles. Vince loves this job and somehow looks forward to Tuesdays and Thursdays when it's Car Wash Day. We may have to charge you more when Vince washes your vehicle!

MS/HS

September: Kasanya Acevedo

Kasanya Acevedo is a joy to observe in class. She appears eager to learn and is willing to help her classmates. She is always pleasant and attentive to instruction and enjoys interacting with her peers and adults on campus.



MS/HS

September: Jason Thompson

Jason is happy and excited to be back in school. He maintains a positive attitude when faced with new academic challenges and is always eager to let staff know when he has done well on his assignments. Jason is kind & respectful to his peers and does a great job of interacting appropriately with other students and staff.

New to Magnolia



Ms. Vanessa Bois, HS Teacher

Ms. Bois was born in Miami, Florida and attended Florida Memorial University where she earned both a B.A. & M.S. degree. After moving to Alaska where she spent 6 years, Ms. Bois also earned a M.Ed from the University of Alaska. Currently, in addition to her work with our students, she is pursuing an Ed. D. from Grand Canyon University.



Ms. Lecear Canton, Job Coach

Ms. Canton has been working with Orange County Public Schools since 2005. Ms. Canton has experience with students with a variety of disabilities, including IND, EBD and ASD. It has always been her goal to work at Magnolia, and to be able to give someone else's child the opportunity that the Magnolia Bridges Program gave to her son.



Mr. Everett Pruitt, Job Coach

Mr. Pruitt has been working for OCPS for 6 years and joins Magnolia from Millennia Gardens Elementary School. In addition to working at Magnolia, Mr. Pruitt is an assistant football coach at Jones High School.

Spotlight on Specials



Mr. Louis Mitchell
Music

Using technology in music classrooms allows teachers to differentiate, or make learning meaningful to all students. Technology also allows students to work at their own pace.



Stroll & Roll



Magnolia Event Highlight

Magnolia's annual Stroll and Roll & Bizzar event held on Wednesday, October 20 was a great success. Students were able to walk or roll along our new track to raise money for our PTA. In addition t the Stroll and Roll our Bridges classes were able to show off and sell the products that they produce on campus. What a wonderful way for Magnolia to interact with our families and community!

Focus on MS/HS



Magnolia's MS/HS students are working on their academic goals with Access Points. The access points taught reflect the core intent of the Florida State Standards, but at reduced levels of complexity. Students are using a variety of modalities (Visual, Auditory, Reading/Writing, and Kinesthetic) to learn with a combination of digital and traditional tools. Throughout the course of the school year, the level of rigor in each course will increase allowing our students to improve their proficiency in all subject areas.



In English Language Arts (ELA) students are focused on learning about identifying the main idea and making inferences. During the math period our students are learning everyday math skills that can be generalized in their homes and community. A unique enrichment activity available to our students is the Science Lab overseen by Dr. Hogan. Through this program students expand their science learning through hands-on activities while using all of their senses.



Focus on Bridges



Our Bridges students have started off the school year with a bang! Students in this program focus on the daily living and career skills that will allow them to be as independent as possible when they exit the program.

Culinary Arts at The Bistro

Students in the Bistro are learning the culinary arts skills that may allow them to gain a job in the food service industry. Once a week the students take orders and prepare a tasty lunch for our staff members to purchase. The funds are reinvested in the program.



Agriculture & Animal Husbandry

Our students are provided with learning opportunities for a myriad of skills in the landscaping and gardening industry. For example, some of our students grow and dry herbs, which are available for purchase to families and staff in the main office. Some students are also learning to care for animals at a local farm.



The Gift Shop

In The Gift Shop, our students design and construct greeting cards and small gift items. Currently, students are working to complete a Christmas card order for a local business.



Recycling & Custodial Services

Custodial services provides students with experiences to support our school campus. Students will assist the staff in making sure our school always has its "best foot forward" in appearance and cleanliness.

OCPS Initiatives



Start With Hello Week

The week of September 20-24th Magnolia School, with the leadership of Ms. Shelly Seabrook and Ms. Whitney Allen, participated in Start with Hello Week. OCPS partnered with Sandy Hook Promise to celebrate Start with Hello Week.

This program teaches students in grades K – 12 to help their peers in a fun and meaningful way. They take small but powerful actions to promote inclusion and to support students who are showing signs of loneliness or social isolation.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 to October 15 is a time for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. In recognition of these contributions all lessons in the Media Center have focused on books with lead characters of hispanic origin, while the morning announcements featured a profile of various hispanic politicians and entertainers. In addition a few of our students were able to participate in the OCPS Virtual Hispanic Heritage Art show on October 1st.



OCPS Initiatives

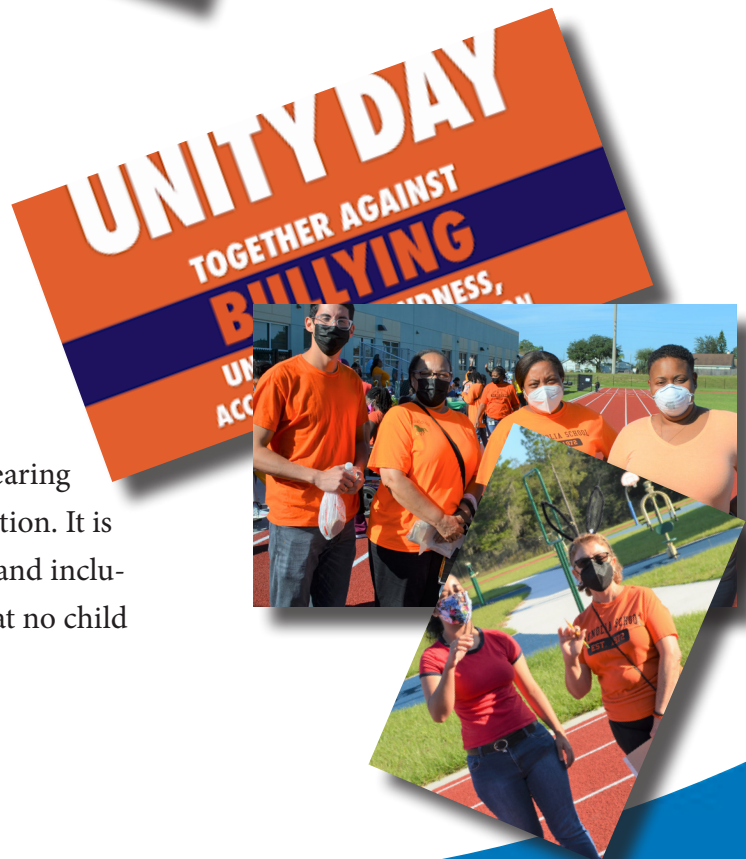


Pink-Out Day

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. The “pink ribbon” has become an international symbol of Breast Cancer Awareness. To show our support for all who have fought and are still fighting breast cancer, all students and staff participated in a school-wide Pink-Out Day! The event was a great success.

Unity Day 2021

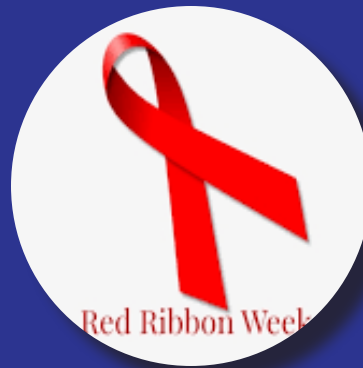
Magnolia celebrated Unity day by wearing orange in support of bullying prevention. It is a day to show kindness, acceptance, and inclusion and to send a visual message that no child should ever experience bullying.



Upcoming Events

Red Ribbon Week

Each year The Red Ribbon Week Campaign promotes individual responsibilities for making positive life choices and avoiding the temptation to use drugs and alcohol. Magnolia will celebrate with a variety of activities starting October 24th.



Teach-In

Each November, in celebration of American Education Week, OCPS celebrates Teach-in and invites local business and civic leaders into the classrooms, in a fun and engaging way, to talk with students about academics, careers, and the future. Join us for Teach-In on Wednesday, November 17th.



Pine Hills Parade

Help Magnolia School showcase our pride in being a part of this community as we participate in the Pine Hills Parade which commemorates the establishment of the Pine Hills Community. Join the parade on Saturday, December 8th starting at Mollie Ray Elementary.

