



# Port Charlotte Middle School

September/October 2011-2012 Issue

## TERRIER TIMES

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the month of September. By now, most of the “Terrier Family” has settled in to a regular school routine. With established routines, come high, but reasonable expectations for all of us! Most students are attending school and showing up to their classes on time with a positive and hardworking attitude. Definitely, our early school year data (see inside this newsletter) indicates that most of us are starting the school year off on an excellent note! To keep that positive momentum going, I am asking us to please remember to utilize our communication devices and stay involve in our children’s academics and the many other activities that are available at our school.

Port Charlotte Middle School has several methods where there is on-going communication with the family and the school. At least two automated calls go out each month notifying our families of updated news. In addition, bi-monthly electronic newsletters are placed on our school’s web page, and this resource is updated on a regular basis. Parent Portal is also available to our parents, and they can track their child’s academic grades, attendance, and discipline patterns throughout the year. The traditional approach is still available for you. Call our school to set up appointments if you have any specific questions that need to be answered.

In the weeks ahead, academic contests and some after-school activities will be available for your child. Please support and encourage your son or daughter to get involved and stay involved with these opportunities. In addition, within our curriculum and school projects that will take place over the next several months, we will offer activities for our students to participate as school leaders within our “community.” You will be able to view these leadership opportunities throughout the year on our web page! This year marks the second year that PCMS is utilizing the “7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens (Terriers).” This will also be incorporated in the daily lives of our students. To learn more about this program and for on-going updates, you may refer to the link that is located on our web page.

In closing, I am asking each child’s parent to become directly involved in one way or another in supporting their son or daughter and Port Charlotte Middle School. We have a number of activities that need your support. Periodically, we have school fundraisers for student activities. If you can not assist financially, please consider volunteering as a tutor, a chaperone on a field trip, working at our school’s check-in counter, or being a member of our School Advisory Council (SAC) or Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Perhaps, you may be interested in assisting in celebrating this year’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at PCMS. In any event, your presence and contribution would be greatly appreciated.

The teamwork approach within any school community is a necessary catalyst for a successful school year. I am confident that with all of us assisting in one way or another, your child’s experience for the 2011-12 school year will be an exciting and positive one.

Sincerely,

Demetrius G. Revelas  
Principal

### Board Members

Andrea Messina, Chairperson  
Lee Swift, Vice Chairperson  
Alleen Miller  
Ian Vincent  
Barbara Rendell

The School Board of Charlotte County, Florida, does not discriminate in education programs, activities or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status or handicap. S.B.C.C.R

4.30(1)

*Dr. Douglas Whittaker, Superintendent of Schools*



# TERRIER HISTORY PAGE

## 1971-2011 CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

This is the school dedication program that took place on October 24, 1971. So far, this is the earliest physical document of our school that we have on our campus.

SCHOOL BOARD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

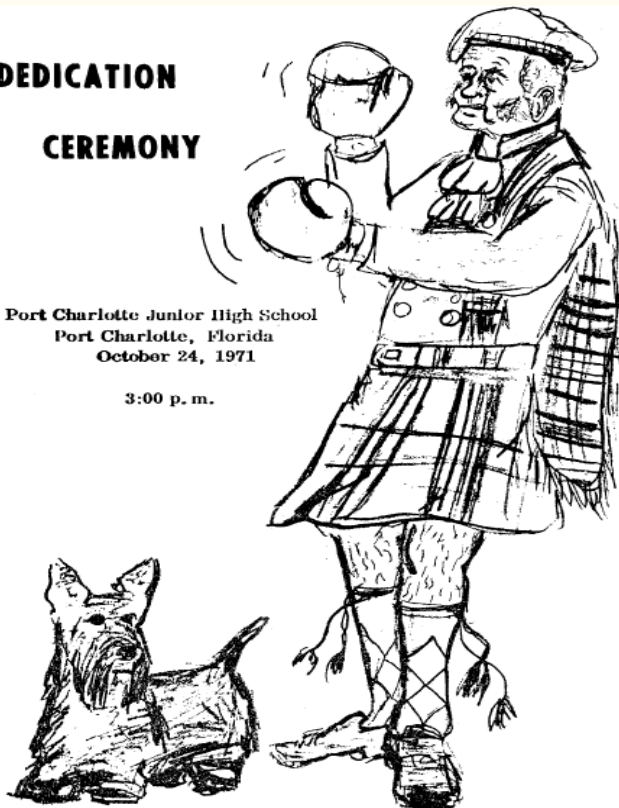
- Mr. Donald Birrell, Chairman  
 Mrs. Claire Reilly, Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Paul Groux  
 Mr. Donald Harris  
 Col. Floyd L. Pfeiffer



### DEDICATION CEREMONY

Port Charlotte Junior High School  
 Port Charlotte, Florida  
 October 24, 1971

3:00 p. m.



**PORT CHARLOTTE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

James T. Reardon, Principal  
 Max L. Outland, Dean

**GUIDANCE:**

Earl Borlace, Counselor

**FACULTY:**

- Charles Rhodes  
 Tommie Johnson  
 Patricia Doby  
 Tony Marchio  
 Walter Schmidt  
 Glenn Sloan  
 Bettie Irwin  
 Terry Irwin  
 Carol Baker  
 Mae Bach  
 Richard Ernst  
 Mary Frances Sullivan  
 Eleanor Beisner  
 Brad Duckworth  
 Kenneth Earl Newton  
 Sally Baldwin  
 Jim Thomas  
 James Robert Waldrop  
 Nancy McKiernan  
 Elizabeth Ross  
 Marvin Beisner  
 Jean Johnstone  
 Dorothy Vrablic  
 Margaret Courtney  
 Frank Roberts  
 Gerald Rothermel  
 Catherine Tovey  
 Harold Hill

**PROGRAM**

- Introduction . . . . . James T. Reardon, Principal  
 Port Charlotte Junior High School
- Presentation of Colors . . . . . John Stasney  
 Commander of the American Veterans
- "The Star Spangled Banner" . . . . . Kenneth Newton, Director  
 Port Charlotte Junior High School Band
- Devotional . . . . . James T. Reardon, Principal  
 Port Charlotte Junior High School
- Introduction of Stage Guests . . . James T. Reardon, Principal  
 Port Charlotte Junior High School
- Greetings from School Board . . . Donald Birrell, Chairman  
 School Board of Charlotte County
- Musical Presentation . . . . . Kenneth Newton, Director  
 Port Charlotte Junior High School Band
- Introduction of Guest Speaker . . . Dr. James W. Longstreth  
 Superintendent, School Board of Charlotte County
- Dedication Speaker . . . . . Dr. David G. Robinson  
 President of Edison Junior College
- Invitation to Open House . . . . James T. Reardon, Principal  
 Port Charlotte Junior High School

Cover drawn by Gerry Paturean, an 8th grade student, depicts the school's mascot, a Scotch terrier.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

It has been a smooth start for the 2011-2012 year. September is a busy month in social studies as we celebrate the freedoms of our nations. Classes will commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy by taking time out of their regular curriculum to discuss the impact of that day and remember the bravery of emergency service workers and ordinary citizens who answered the call of duty. September is also the anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution and the end of the month is Florida's Celebrate Freedom week. Activities are varied across the all grade levels.

Sixth grade students have been introduced to geography, learning its specialized vocabulary, the various parts of a map, and the use of latitude and longitude. TAG students are participating in the Caravans simulation where they earn travel dots by mastering geography skills and completing various assignments.

Grade 7 students are reviewing the concepts of geography learned in grade 6. In this marking period students will complete projects focusing on the various land forms that shape the earth's geography.

Eighth grade students have been introduced to the study of history. Beginning with an examination of historical research methods students examined various types of primary sources. The study of US history started with evaluating archaeological theories of the Great Migration. This was followed by looking at various pre-Columbian cultures and the Age of Exploration. In subsequent weeks students will explore colonization, and the 13 colonies.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Amanda Schwartz, and I am the new L-Z 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor. I have lived in Florida for almost 4 years and absolutely love it here! I am from Illinois and spent 6 years as a high school guidance counselor and one year at the elementary level. This is my second year in the Charlotte District; last year I was a counselor at Port Charlotte High School (go Pirates).

I enjoy spending time with my family, going to the beach, and reading.

I have been so impressed by our PCM students and look forward to getting to know them better. We have a big year ahead of us, and I hope to help make it a wonderful experience for your child.

## OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS 2011-2012

Florida law requires notification of parents when a teacher in the District school system is assigned duties in a class dealing with a subject that is outside the field in which the teacher is certified.

The following teachers are currently teaching class out of field:

Graham Marshall-Gifted, Elaine Richmond-ELL  
Magdalena Young-ELL, MaryAnn Colone-Science  
Zoe Bunnens-PE

In reviewing our teachers' educational background, we believe our staff is qualified to deliver quality instruction to your child. If you have any questions or concerns regarding out-of-field teachers, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

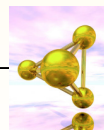
## SCIENCE NEWS

Welcome to the PCMS World of Science! There is a whole new look to each of our new programs. For our regular classes we have elected to utilize a new form of consumable textbooks from Holt MacDougal/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Parents and Guardians will not be seeing the traditional textbook coming home, but rather students will have the pages from the books torn out and worked on in their binders. Please take a minute to and have your student show you their binders and all the available resources on [www.thinkcentral.com](http://www.thinkcentral.com).

Our Honors Physics classrooms also have new textbooks authored by Hewitt. We will be utilizing the electronic additions at home with amazing peripherals to enhance this rigorous program. Honors students will avail themselves of [www.physicsplace.com](http://www.physicsplace.com) to complete assignments and research.

All eighth graders are required to participate in this year's Science Fair. Students have been working diligently on their topic selection and their research plans. Experimenting will be done at home during the month of September, and the school fair will take place mid-October.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year of inquiry, investigation, and research!



# MATH

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade-Mr. Kunder

Students will be entering the world of 6<sup>th</sup> grade math through the Big Ideas Math Textbook. In the opening month of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students have been getting acclimated to the numerous features of the online textbook. In addition, students will be completing their math Baseline 1 testing in the month of August. In the upcoming month's students will be learning about expressions and number properties as well as multiplying and dividing fractions.

## 7th Grade-Mrs. Schmitt

I am very happy to be teaching your seventh grade students in math.

Check their Planners—Please check their planners to see their homework assignments. This is also a good way to communicate with the teacher.

Work Habits—Math concepts build on other math concepts learned previously. Homework is the key to succeeding in math and is assigned almost every night.

- a. Students should read over the textbook section that was covered in class that day.
- b. Then, they should look over their notes in their math notebook
- c. Only now are they truly ready to start their written homework.

Course Content—During the first marking period in Course 2, we covered Chapter 1 Integers, during the month of August. September and October will see us working on Chapter 2 on rational numbers and equations, and Chapter 3 on proportions and variation.

On-line Resources—[www.bigideasmath.com](http://www.bigideasmath.com) Go to the Student Tab and you can find a copy of the textbook, tutorial helps on each section, and other on-line features that will help you and your students to be successful in math.

## 8th Grade-Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Pyle

Eighth grade math students will begin the year with an in depth look at solving equations. We will explore everything from simple equations to equations containing variables on both sides. As we progress into September and October, we will expand on our equation skills by learning to graph linear equations and linear systems.

With the implementation of our new textbook, students will have more hands-on opportunities to increase their math skills. If you have access to a computer you can visit the website at [Big Ideas Learning - BIG IDEAS MATH](http://BigIdeasLearning-BIGIDEASMATH). There is no password needed, just click on the “student” tab, and you will find some fun and exciting tools to assist you in and out of the classroom. There are many resources to assist students and parents alike with the subject matter that his/her teacher is currently covering.

## *TAG Mathematics Newsletter Article September-October*

As the TAG mathematics program starts off the school year, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be starting work in the Pearson's Connected Math textbooks. Online textbook access is available but not required. If you need the access code for student registration, please have your student get it from me in class.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade TAG math students will begin with the investigations of Bits and Pieces I and II which involves work with fractions decimals and percents.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade TAG math students start the year with a unit on dimensional analysis in the investigation of Stretching and Shrinking.

Honors Algebra students will begin the year with a review of basic algebraic procedures of solving equations and problem-solving strategies. Each student will be instructed on the TI-Nspire handheld calculators which will be used throughout the year. Algebra Tiles will also be introduced for students interested in hands-on manipulative use in the classroom.

For more information on any of the TAG mathematics curriculum, please contact Mr. Christopher Byrne.

**Q: WHY DIDN'T THE QUARTER ROLL DOWN THE HILL WITH THE NICKEL?**  
**A: BECAUSE IT HAD MORE CENTS.**



# LANGUAGE ARTS

## Sixth Grade Language Arts

WOW! What a great start to the 2011-2012 academic school year at Port Charlotte Middle School. The language arts department welcomes all of our new sixth grade students. We know you are going to have a terrific year, and we are happy to have you as a member of the Terrier Family.

The year has started out on a very busy note. Students have taken their first Charlotte Writes Test. This test will be used to identify areas of need for improvement in writing essays. Sixth grade students will be busy writing essays throughout this school year. This writing preparation is the foundational block they will need for the eighth grade FCAT Writes Test.

Many classes have had an orientation class in the media center and have begun checking-out books. Students may check-out two books at a time for two weeks at a time. Students may also go to the media center prior to school, during lunch, and after school. Please encourage your child to have a personal reading book at all times. Students should also be reading at least fifteen minutes everyday at home. A family reading time is a great way to promote and encourage your child to read.

Sixth grade students will also be working on grammar skills and literature skills throughout the year. Please check your child's planner everyday for any assignments due in these areas.

## Seventh Grade Language Arts

Seventh grade language arts students started the year reading literature. So far they have focused on fiction and the study of the story's structure, its vocabulary, cause and effect, comparison and contrast, similes and metaphors, as well as character development. Other genres will be explored later. Students are also learning about decoding words by their prefixes, root words, and suffixes. Throughout August and September they will be writing to respond to literature and writing to build paragraphs that create well organized compositions. The study of capitalization and punctuation will be incorporated into their writing to add clarity and fluency. Much of what our seventh graders learn will be introduced and blended into their communication skills. Please check your child's planner and the teachers' web pages for assignments, test dates, and any other information. Parents are always welcome to call or email your children's teachers. Working together will be key in student success.

## Eighth Grade Language Arts

Students are starting off this school year by being Proactive. We have already challenged students with our first Charlotte Writes Test and will soon be practicing strategies to use to improve upon our abilities. The study of grammar, sentence structure, and root-based vocabulary will help us to perfect our skills. Students are also exploring a variety of fiction and non-fiction in short stories, and exploring literary elements such as plot, theme, and main idea, just to name a few. We look forward to continued support from parents and students in our exciting adventure through learning.

We are looking forward to working with all of our students and anticipate a great year!

## MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is open for another great year for all Terriers at Port Charlotte Middle School. There are many good books for your children, as well as magazines and newspapers. There are also 25 computers, and access to many electronic references. Please encourage your students to come in and check out some good books for their reading pleasure. Many students have already been in the Media Center with their teachers to check out books for research and for book reports, so the year is off to a busy start. All Terriers will be participating in the Science Fair this year, and many students have been using science fair websites to help them make a decision about what they might choose for their project. As the year unfolds, there will be many assignments and research projects that require the use of the Media Center. Please encourage your student to spend time in the Media Center, and to become familiar with all it has to offer. And remember, read, read, read!



## TERRIER PRIDE!

"Referral free is the way to be!" Terrier Pride is back in full swing as the school year gets off to a great start here at PCMS! Six lucky students won free 40th Anniversary T-shirts in the first of many events the Terrier Pride is hosting for students who choose to do the right thing. This year students are eligible for events based on their referral-free status. Events will be held periodically throughout the school year and will incorporate different time frames so students always have a chance to "Do the Right Thing" and be recognized. Kicking off the big events for the year will be the annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament held in mid-October. Students who remain referral-free the entire school year will get to attend an exciting end-of-the-year event in May as well! So Terriers, remember to be Prepared, Considerate, Motivated and Safe each day.

## A NOTE FROM BAND

What a fantastic first few weeks we've had! The band musicians are already getting back to business and shaking off the cobwebs from summer. It's so refreshing to hear music filling up the band room again.

Gold band has begun preparing for its first performance at the annual PCMS Veterans' Day Assembly. Solo auditions for the "Star Spangled Banner" will take place, as well as the full band preparing to play "Marches of the Armed Forces" to honor our military anthems. Garnet band is back at work learning scales, digging into their band book and beginning concert music.

I am so proud to announce that we have 41 brand new band students this year. These new Terrier band musicians have selected their instruments, learned how to assemble/disassemble and maintain their "ax" of choice. Terrier band is a very energetic group this year, and I'm expecting to hear wonderful things from them.

Upcoming performances will be published in the next newsletter, but don't forget to check us out on our school website! We've got lots of info and tons of updates for friends, family and current musicians.

We hope to see everyone at our concerts.

## CHORUS NOTES AND MUSIC APPRECIATION

All 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Chorus students will be wearing the new PCMS formal wear at the Winter Concert. Please sign and return the formal wear contract. Our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Chorus will sing in eight or nine performances this year. This group represents our school to the community, and it is important for all students to attend the concerts.

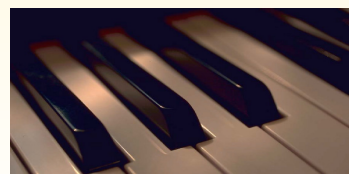
Our focus during the first nine weeks of school will be to learn and practice the basics of music theory and vocal performance. We will have a skills benchmark test every two weeks to measure the skills that we practice every day. Students can use [musictheory.net](http://musictheory.net) to help them study and practice the skills that they are acquiring daily in class.

### Music Appreciation

All students in Music Appreciation have now been given a Keyboard Lab Practice Sheet to keep track of their practice in the Keyboard Lab. Because of the large number of students taking the class this year, we will typically rotate between the girls and the boys in the lab. All students have completed their first project and will begin their next project which is their Rhythm Tree Project. I will explain, demonstrate, ask them to take notes, and show them on [musictheory.net](http://musictheory.net) how to find the material and practice. The project will be completed before they take a Benchmark Skills test.

### Advanced Keyboard Class

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students taking this class have already taken a Music Appreciation class, Chorus, or Band. Every student has selected their Baroque keyboard piece and their "fun" piece. This class is also responsible for learning to play their major scales this semester. We drill pitch, practice rhythms, and learn scale fingerings in a large group setting before entering the Keyboard Lab to practice individually. I am very excited to teach this class and to help each student reach their potential this year.



## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR MAKE-UP WORK FOR ABSENCES BEYOND NINE DAYS

**At the secondary level, more than nine (9) absences in a semester (18 weeks) is considered excessive with the result that subsequent absences will automatically be considered unexcused unless they are in one of the following categories and are accompanied by documentation.\*\***

Illness of student

\*\*Documentation – Doctor’s note or proof of hospitalization

Serious illness or death in student’s immediate family including significant other.

\*\*Documentation – Obituary, death certificate. Etc.

Students excluded from school for head lice or nits

\*\*Documentation – Note from school nurse

Doctor or dental appointments. Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments after school hours.

\*\*Documentation - Appointment card from the doctor or dentist

Health issues as they relate to pregnant teens, teenage mothers and/or their children.

\*\*Documentation – Note from doctor

Legal matters

\*\*Documentation - Subpoenas, letter from a judge/ attorney

Religious holidays/training of the student’s specific faith or religious instruction, Students shall be excused from any examination, study, or work assignment for observance of a religious holiday or because the tenets of his/her religion forbid secular activity at such time.

\*\*Documentation – Letter from minister, rabbi or priest

Special honors and/or awards

\*\*Documentation – Official letter citing the invitation

***Information above is taken from the district Code of Student Conduct which is School Board Policy.***

**\*\*\* Family vacations/trips are not considered valid reasons for a student to be absent and will count as unexcused.\*\*\***

**If a student exceeds 9 absences, EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED in a semester, the student must earn a “C” on the semester exam to earn credit for the semester.**

## School Board of Charlotte County Bylaws & Policies

### ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE STUDENTS: **LATE ARRIVALS (TARDY) AND EARLY DISMISSALS**

The parent/guardian/caretaker of each student of compulsory age who has been tardy or released from school for any reason, shall provide documentation to verify the cause for such tardiness or partial absences from school. The School Board reserves the right to verify such documentation and to investigate the cause of any tardiness or early dismissal.

Failure to document and explain the cause for the late arrival or early dismissal may result in an unexcused tardy or unexcused early dismissal. Every three (3) unexcused tardies or early dismissals, or a combination thereof, will result in one (1) unexcused absence for the purpose of determining whether a pattern of non-attendance exists.

**Notwithstanding the foregoing, this policy shall not effect the calculation of absences for the purpose of determining successful course completion.**

F.S. 1003.24 (4), 1003 02 (1) (b), 1003.26 (1) (6)    Adopted 7/21/09    **Revised 7/20/10**

## STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN

### **Semester Grades**

Semester grades will be determined in the following way:

- Letter grades are averaged to determine semester final grades as follows:
  - ⇒ First nine weeks                      40%
  - ⇒ Second nine weeks                    40%
  - ⇒ Semester exam                         20%

The process is repeated for the second semester.

### **Honor High School Credit Courses**

Algebra I	35%
Physical Honor Science	35%
Science I	30%

**Due to the Labor Day holiday paralleling the final day of the Quarter 1 progress reporting window, progress reports will be distributed to the students 7th period on Wednesday, September 14th.**

**We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and your families who may have expected the earlier timeline.**

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**A huge** thank you to Chisty Smith and Sunrise Kiwanis!

The Sunrise Kiwanis *Shoes for Kids* Project benefits the children in the Charlotte County Public School System. The focus of this project is to ensure that all school-age children in the Charlotte County System begin the school year with a new pair of shoes. Anyone interested in taking advantage of the program should see our social worker, Pat Masters, in the front office. Thank you Charlotte County!!

## INTERESTING PCMS FACTS!

**79%** of our Terrier Family showed up to the August Back to School Night!

PCMS has **833** students, **97%** of students have attended school daily so far this year!

In the month of August **97%** of Terriers did the right thing and were referral free! Those students were entered in to a drawing, and several won a \$10 Walmart gift card!

**90%** of our students have shown up to all of their classes on time in the month of August!

## Box Tops for Education



Send in your Box Tops to help support various school activities. You can also visit [btfe.com](http://btfe.com) for more great ideas to earn cash for our school, and for a complete list of products. Thank you for your support.

## NEW TO OUR TERRIER FAMILY!

Please welcome *Mrs. Schwartz*, our new 8th grade counselor.

*Ms. Bunnens*, 6th grade math, *Mrs. Johnson*, ESE teacher, *Ms. Newhouse*, ESE Liaison, *Ann Young*, Aide

**KEEP CONNECTED  
WITH PARENT PORTAL**

**[WWW.YOURCHARLOTTECHOOLS.NET](http://WWW.YOURCHARLOTTECHOOLS.NET)**

**SAC MEETINGS  
SEPTEMBER 26th, 6:00 P.M.  
OCTOBER 24th, 6:00 P.M.  
MEDIA CENTER**

THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US. PLEASE REMEMBER THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL IS THE **ONLY** AREA FOR STUDENT PICKUP OR DROPOFF. ALSO, NO STUDENTS SHOULD WALK HOME DURING SCHOOL HOURS. STUDENTS WHO BECOME ILL OR HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, THE PARENT/GUARDIAN SHOULD COME IN WITH I.D. AND SIGN OUT THAT STUDENT ASSURING THAT THE STUDENT ARRIVES SAFELY TO THEIR DESTINATION.



Anyone raising a teenager understands why some mammals eat their young! (LOL)

With no manual—every day is an adventure

Parent Boot Camp is a one hour information session for parents that addresses the up-to-date "411" on alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs, as well as the latest research on teen brain development, body image and social media.

Get up to speed with other parents, in just one hour!

Come to Boot Camp!

Murdock Middle School  
Wed 8/31/11 @ 5 p.m.

Punta Gorda Middle School  
Tues 8/23/11 @ 5 p.m.

Port Charlotte Middle School  
Tues 9/13/11 @ 5 p.m.

L.A. Ainger Middle School

Presented by Drug Free Charlotte County, 1445 Education Way, Port Charlotte—Info: 941-815-7742

