







# GATOR GAZETTE

October Edition 2024

## SPIRIT WEEK BY: JACQUELINE RIVERA

Spirit week is a period of time when people come together to show their school or work spirit and unity. Spirit week here at Glades Middle is usually held during the fall. This year, spirit week will be from October 28-31 and can include themes for students to dress up each day. Spirit week can help boost self-esteem and create a sense of community. We create fun memories that will stay with us for a lifetime. Spirit week is also a time where we raise money for the United Way. United Way is a global organization that works to build stronger communities by bringing people together to address challenges and improve lives.

Activity:	Date:	Cost:
Pink Out 	Monday, October 28	\$2
Sports Jersey Day/ Superhero Day 	Tuesday, October 29	\$2
Pajama Day 	Wednesday, October 30	\$2
Costume Day 	Thursday, October 31	\$2

\*Students **ARE NOT** allowed to be wearing clown costumes or face paint (covering the entire face). Any students wearing inappropriate costumes believed by an Administrator will be asked to call home and change.



## UNITED WAY IS THE WAY BY: OSCAR FUENTES



The United Way organization is very authentic. The organization does a lot to make sure everyone in the community gets the help they need. They help children and youth achieve their education. They also help with financial stability and health. Therefore, Glades Middle School prides itself in raising money for the United Way. It is especially important to Glades Middle that everyone is taken care of, and United Way makes that happen. Miami-Dade Public Schools work hand in hand with United Way to insure a fighting chance against the community's most complex problems. During Spirit Week, we raise awareness of the United Way beliefs and raise money to support the United Way.



## Celebrated Sept. 16-20 By: Karly Padua

After the 2012 school shooting that took the lives of twenty-six souls, Sandy Hook Elementary created the "Start with Hello" initiative. The Start with Hello initiative inspire students to reach out to peers who seem lonely to prevent isolation and urge for friendship. "Start with Hello" week here at Glades Middle School is held from September 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. Students wore green on September 18<sup>th</sup> in support of "Start With Hello." Glades students were strongly encouraged to participate in homeroom activities in "Start with Hello" celebration! A positive note to make someone's day, spark new friendships in conversations, and any acts of kindness to your peers are what "Start will Hello" week encourages and represents. Glades Middle School wants every student in this school to feel special and prevent anyone from feeling lonely. Small actions of kindness go a long way.



## Halloween Dance

By: Danosly Hernandez

The Halloween Dance of 2024 is happening on October 30<sup>th</sup>! The day of the dance is pajama day, so students will be able to wear their pajamas. The dance will be a wonderful opportunity for students to relax after a stressful school day. The students need to purchase pre-sale tickets during the morning or at lunch for \$7 to attend. Several snacks and drinks like pizza and soda will be sold at the dance for a minimum of \$1. We hope you enjoy our Spooky Hallows Eve dance!

## SPORTS AT GLADES BY: ANAEL GOMEZ

An all-new school year brings amazing athletic opportunities for students of all grade levels to enjoy! Soccer season has begun with tryouts in September giving us two great teams to bring victory to Glades! As for our soccer coaches, we have Ms. Rodriguez for boys' soccer team, and Mrs. Garcia for the girls' soccer team! The Cross-Country season, coached by Mr. Stephens and Ms. Jarrett, along with Girls' Volleyball, coached by Ms. Ortiz, has also started with many new students taking part in practices and meets. For now, we hope you enjoy these sports and have a exhilarating time out on the field. Support our Gators!



## Events by: Edier Chiong

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, there was a mandatory 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting where Mrs. Izquierdo-Nunez spoke about all the 8<sup>th</sup> grade events. She spoke about the Gradventure, which will take place on May 9, 2025, and about the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance, which will be on May 31, 2025. The Gradventure \$100 deposit opened on September 20<sup>th</sup> at midnight, and the tickets sold out in nine minutes! About 100 students will attend the trip to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida. There is a waiting list of students who would like to attend. The trip is paid in three payments. The first payment was \$100.00 on September 20. The second payment of \$75.00 is due Nov. 4-18. The third payment of \$75.00 is due Jan. 13-27. There are four 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance payments of \$25.00. The payments are on Oct 7-21, Dec. 2-16, Feb. 10-24, Apr. 14-28. Eighth graders are ecstatic for the events!



## Welcome Dance

by: Joseph Rodriguez

On September 19

we had our first dance of the year. Students were very excited to go and had a lot of fun dancing and eating with their friends.



By: Angel Boteo

Open House was held on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

The parents were invited to visit all their children's teachers at Glades Middle School. The teachers spoke about their class curriculum and procedures.



## Join a Club!

By: Dayana Dajui

All the clubs at Glades have had their first and second meetings. It's never too late to get involved. There is a plethora of clubs at Glades that welcome all students. Here is the list of Clubs open to all students: Art Club, Pickleball Club, Future Educators of America Club, The Gator Safe Alliance Club, Student Council, SECME Club, Future Problem Solvers, Anime Club, Campus Life, and Wellness Club. Listen to the announcements for meeting dates.

## Busy October

By: Amy Cabeda

Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Hispanic Heritage Month are celebrated in October. The students will wear pink on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The teachers will have a luncheon to celebrate Hispanic Heritage.



## PICKLEBALL CLUB!

By: Anael Gomez-Avila

Mrs. Izquierdo, one of the teachers at Glades Middle School, has kicked off the school year with an exciting pickleball club for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year! This is a great opportunity for students to explore unique sports, and see what Glades has to offer! Meetings are either Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 4-5 PM on the tennis court. The club dates are split into 6/7<sup>th</sup> graders one week and 8<sup>th</sup> graders another week. This club is open to anyone who would like to join, so make sure to stay after school and give it a shot! Thank you to the owners of Dinking Time, David and Idis Garcia, and the owner of Hollbrook Pickleball, Breygan Hollbrook, who donated ten Hollbrook Mav-Pro E paddles and 12 Franklin X-40 balls. We appreciate Bryan Rodriguez who made the connections to make it happen.



## Testing, Testing 1, 2, 3

By: Melanie Ruiz- Calderon

All students took the FAST PM1 in September for both Reading and Math. The students started taking their I-Ready Diagnostic on September 30<sup>th</sup> and will finish in October for both Reading and Math. Teachers have had data chats with their students to inform students how they performed, so they know their strengths and weaknesses. These data chats hold the students accountable for the way they perform, and students set their goals to achieve higher scores.

## Home Ec Table Setting Contest Winners

By: Zara Alvarez



**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Emely Suarez & Andrea Delgado with Fall Dining. **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Eric Villalobos with Fancy Dining. **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Victoria Barrios with Easter Dinner.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**By: Kamila Duran**

Glades has Values Matter activities completed every month through advisement. In August, the students completed the “Key” to my success. In September, the students completed an activity that required them to write what respect feels like, sounds like, and looks like. In October, the students will write how they can be responsible at home and in school on a fall leaf. These leaves will be displayed on the “Values Matter” tree that was created by the Creative Writing Class. It is located by the “Values Matter” Board.



## Student Council Elections

**By: Zara Alvarez**

As September rolls out, Student Council rolls in. In student council, anybody can run for president or vice president (any grade level as well). In order to join the elections, you need to pair up with someone and decide who will be president or vice president in your group. Your goal is to get elected, so you can make Glades Middle have an awesome school year! The most important part is getting those votes. For example, this school year many people have brought in items to give away such as food, necklaces, glasses, and sometimes the students even bring in photo frames so their voters can strike a pose.



## The Turkey Olympics **By: Madison Maldonado**

The Turkey Olympics will be held November 15, 2024. Many students will be participating in sports of all kinds and will be having a blast with friends. The water balloon challenge, kickball, and many other sports will be featured and open for participation. Students have a day to relax with friends and eat delicious snacks to prepare for the Thanksgiving break following.

## High School in Mind **By: Zara Alvarez**



The 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited Killian on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Magnet school applications opened on October 1<sup>st</sup>. With all these programs for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to choose where they want to go to high school, it can become overwhelming. Maybe you want to be in a Magnet program, but you want to be with your friends. Sometime life gives us tough decisions in life, yet we must push through and choose the best option that will benefit us in the future. One key factor is to look for what you would want to study in. With what you want to study in mind, you can narrow down your options to just a couple of schools with the right thing for you. For instance, if you are interested in pursuing into the medical field, Coral Reef Senior High School is a great option! Remember do not let anyone pressure you into going to the wrong high school that is not made for you.

## Gator Garden Expansion **By: Karly Padua**

The Gator Garden will be expanded on October 16<sup>th</sup> with the help of the Creative Writing Global Perspectives class and the Top Gs. This is part of the Fairchild Challenge Native Plant Garden Network. Students will care for the plants throughout the year, but parents are invited to prepare the grounds for planting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Heads Up, Phone Down Initiative **By: Nicole Garcia**

There is a new MDCPS School Board Policy 7540.03 called Students Responsible Use of Technology, Social Media, and District Network Systems & Internet Safety. This policy states that a students may possess a wireless communications device while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function; however, a student may not use a wireless communications device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. This initiative was done to prevent mental health concerns, poor posture/eye strain, reduced attention span, reduced physical activity, social isolation, distraction, delayed response to emergency situations, privacy concerns, overuse, and overstimulation. Research has led to creating this policy to ensure the students spend less time on their phones and spend more time learning and socializing face to face.



**Gator Gazette Staff:**  
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Bryan Mauri,  
Madison Maldonado,  
Joseph Rodriguez,  
Zara Alvarez,  
Melanie Ruiz Calderon,  
Edier Chiong,  
Amy Cabeda,  
Angel Boteo,  
Kamila Duran



**Theme of the Year: Learning Gives you Wings!**  
Mrs. Valdes-Garcia, Principal



## **Be informed for upcoming events!**

1. **Join the Schoology Group** for your grade level:  
Access Group Code for 6<sup>th</sup> graders 2024-25:2S8D-QBB2-MJDKS  
Access Group Code for 7<sup>th</sup> graders 2024-25:36ZF-DQ6J-K2G2W  
Access Group Code for 8<sup>th</sup> graders 2024-25: 8M9Q-HJV9-2JCVQ
2. **Follow the Glades Middle School Instagram:**  
[glades\\_gators](#)
3. **Listen to daily announcements at school.**

**Contact the Activities and Athletics Coordinator, Mrs. Izquierdo-Nunez, if you have any questions or concerns.**  
**E-mail: [tessiein@dadeschools.net](mailto:tessiein@dadeschools.net)**

