

Gulfside Elementary:

New student registration is from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday throughout the summer. The school will be offering grade-appropriate summer reading, technology and science camps for students. For information on times and dates of camps, call the school at (727) 774-6000.

Youth library events

Centennial Park branch, 5740 Moog Road, Holiday. (727) 834-3204

- Summer Reading Kickoff Event: The Amazing Magic of Cesar Domico, 11 a.m. Saturday. For all ages.

Hudson Regional, 8012 Library Road. (727) 861-3040; TDD: (727) 861-3024

- The Summer Reading Club Kickoff will feature a performance by the comic Jigglesman, 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday. All ages.

Hugh Embry Branch, 14215 Fourth St., Dade City. (352) 567-3576

- Summer Reading Club Kickoff will feature a free magic show by Erick Olson, 2 p.m. Saturday

Land O'Lakes Branch, 2818 Collier Parkway, Land O'Lakes. (813) 929-1214

- Summer Reading Club Kickoff Event: Medieval Faire, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday behind the library. Come see what life was like in Medieval times. Free for all ages.

New Port Richey Library, 5939 Main St. (727) 853-1264

- End of school year triple feature celebration, Thursday. Featured films are, *Grease* at 2 p.m., *Can't Hardly Wait*, at 4 p.m. and *Orange County*, at 6 p.m. Ages 13 and up.

- Summer Reading Program Open Enrollment starts June 15. The Tampa Taiko Japanese Drummers kick it all off at noon with enrollment immediately after the show. For information, go to www.nprlibrary.org.

New River Branch, 34043 State Road 54, Zephyrhills. (813) 788-6375

- The Children's Summer Reading Club Kickoff Event will feature a performance by the Battersby Duo 2-3 p.m. Saturday. They were recently part of a Grammy win as contributing artists to the album *All About Bullies Big and Small*, which won for Best Children's Album.

Regency Park Branch, 9701 Little Road, New Port Richey. (727) 861-3049

- Tail Waggin' Tutors, 4:30 p.m. Thursday.
- The Summer Reading Club Kickoff will feature a free performance by the comic Jigglesman, 11:15 a.m. Saturday
- South Holiday Library,** 4649 Mile Stretch Drive, Holiday. 727-834-3331
- Summer Reading Club Kickoff Carnival, 4 p.m. Friday Admission is free.
- Teen After-hours Summer Reading Club Kickoff Party, 5 p.m. Saturday. Featured will be music, video games, candy and fun. Free.

Briefly

- **The Recreation & Aquatic Center in New Port Richey,** 6630 Van Buren St., hosts **teen laser tag**, 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday. Staff will be serving hot dogs, chips and beverages. \$10. Ages 9 to 16. Call (727) 841-4560 to sign up.
- Pasco County students will have the opportunity to obtain **nutritionally balanced lunches** throughout the summer through the **USDA Summer Food Service Program**. Starting June 13, free meals will be provided to all children under 18 at selected sites. For information on the Summer Food Service program and selected sites, call (813) 794-2439 or go to www.pasco.k12.fl.us/nutrition/.

Send your school news to Michele Miller, email miller@tampabay.com; fax (813) 909-4611; or 11321 U.S. 19, Port Richey, FL 34668. Miller can be reached at (813) 435-7307 or toll-free at 1-800-333-7505, ext. 7307..

Today is a teacher planning day and first day of summer break for students.

TOP OF THE CLASS



tampabay.com

Wednesday, June 6, 2012 | PSC | 3

Class of 2012 | Gulf High School

Ready to take on the world

International Baccalaureate Valedictorian: Shree Sundaresh

Parents: K.V. Sundaresh and Suma Sundar-esh



GPA: 4.738

Future school: Stanford University

Ideal career: Physician

Most influential/best teacher: I honestly cannot answer this. All of my IB teachers have been amazing and I truly appreciate all of the care and effort they have put into teaching us.

Hardships overcome: The fight against procrastination was rough and I can't say I've emerged completely unscathed.

Favorite book: *Angels & Demons* by Dan Brown

Favorite quote: "Nine-tenths of wisdom is being wise in time." —Theodore Roosevelt

Clubs/Extracurricular: Indian classical dance, piano, Girl Scouts, Spanish Honor Society (president), English Honor Society, Math Honor Society, People to People Student Ambassador, Teen Advisory Board

How has the state of the economy and budget cuts impacted your education and your choices for the future? Though budget cuts are evident, our teachers have done a great job in preventing them from impacting our future.

Sage advice: Let new goals drive you forward when old expectations threaten to hold you back.

Name one thing you wish you had done in high school: I am happy with my overall high school experience. There is little I would change.

Valedictorian: Brittany Adams

Parents: William Stickles, Machele Cates
GPA: 4.35



Future school: University of Wisconsin

Ideal career: Surgeon or biochemical engineering

Most influential/best teacher: Mr. Daniel Uchacz. I would never have decided to major in science unless I took his class.

Hardships overcome: I moved to Florida after my mom died in 2009 and went from homeschool to high school within three months.

Favorite book: *Interview With the Vampire* by Anne Rice

Favorite quote: "You have the strength to move mountains. Do it." —Aikido and the Harmony of Nature

Clubs/Extracurricular: Mixed martial arts (junior instructor), first aid provider, deputy black belt

How has the state of the economy and budget cuts impacted your education and your choices for the future? Downturns in the economy always make high achievement marginally more difficult, but I have never and will never let it stand in the way of my dreams.

Sage advice: Hard work and humility really

can take you anywhere you want to go and to some places you never thought you would.

Name one thing you wish you had done in high school. I wish I had made time for more extracurriculars because I missed out on a lot between studying and practicing martial arts — not that I would ever change either of those, of course.

Co-Salutatorian IB: Corey Alexander Palermo

Parents: Louis Palermo, Leah Palermo
GPA: 4.71



Future school: Rice University

Ideal career: Physician, then politician

Most influential/best teacher: Margaret Peek, chemistry teacher (retired)

Hardships overcome:

Honestly, I've had to overcome hardships, but who hasn't had to do so? True success comes after a period of hardship.

Favorite book: *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami.

Favorite quote: "When you're in a ditch, get out of it." —Louis Palermo

Clubs/Extracurricular: Varsity weight lifting, Spanish Honor Society, Interact club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Thespians Society, School Advisory Council, Math Honor Society, National English Honor Society, private tutor

How has the state of the economy and budget cuts impacted your education and your choices for the future? Negatively — I wish more emphasis was placed on investment in the human capital (students). I would prefer not to stay in Florida for college, largely because I expect my financial aid would be cut. I feel obligated to help repair the economy.

Sage advice: Short-term gratification is not the way to go. If we are to improve the future, we must improve our knowledge, wisdom and consciousness, and be rewarded by a generation which is not obligated to fix/clean up the mess of its predecessor.

One thing you wish you did in high school: I wish I hadn't tried so hard to be liked or admired. Had I simply focused on studies and been me, all would have been easier.

Co-Salutatorian IB: Aishwarya Subramanian

Parents: T.A. Subramanian and Indira Umamamheswaran

GPA: 4.71

Future school: University of Florida

Ideal career: Orthodontist

Most influential/best teacher: All of my IB teachers have left such a significant impact on my life that it is literally impossible to choose. I love them all!

Hardships overcome: Having to transition from Kuwait to America and moving to schools continuously and adapting.

Favorite book: *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami.

Favorite quote: "Be the change you want to see in the world." —Mahatma Gandhi.

Clubs/Extracurricular: Indian classical dance, Indian classical music, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Spanish Honor Society (vice president), Math Honor Society (secretary/treasurer), English Honor Society, National Honor Society, Teen Advisory Board, Speech/Debate Club, People to People Student Ambassador

How has the state of the economy and budget cuts impacted your education and your choices for the future? Budget cuts have made it difficult to expand class choices, and for potential college students, have made it difficult to receive enough financial aid to attend Florida schools. Because of cutbacks on Bright Futures, I have had to pay more for college. But this has not hindered my success in school. If anything, it has driven me harder to achieve Bright Futures.

Sage advice: Keep pushing forward despite the numerous obstacles that may appear, because it will be worth it in the end.

Name one thing you wish you had done in high school: Attend more football games.

Salutatorian: JessiKa Eglin

Parents: Edward and Patricia Pryll
GPA: 4.07



Future school: George Washington University

Ideal career: Politician

Most influential/best teacher: My mom, God

Hardships overcome: We all experience hardships and tough days, but they only make me stronger so I have nothing to say.

Favorite book: *The Stand* by Stephen King.

Favorite quote: "What I've experienced is that I can't know the future. I can't know if anything I do will change what happens tomorrow. I can't know with certainty but what I do know, is that if I do nothing, nothing will change." —James Orbinski

Clubs/Extracurricular: National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, National English Honor Society (historian), Band (clarinet, oboe), intern in Washington, D.C., at the International Women's Democracy Center

How has the state of the economy and budget cuts impacted your education and your choices for the future? It affected me in that I'm going to end up paying for most of my college expenses, but I have to do it to better my future. As well, during school there was talk of cutting the arts program which should never be done because it is important to have them.

Sage advice: Start now on anything. Don't wait and get lazy. Join every club, get an officer position, take AP classes. Start college applications early and take the ACT/SAT early. It's all worth it. Don't wait until senior year or you won't get into a good school. And take mental health days. They're needed.

Name one thing you wish you had done in high school: I wish I spent more time with friends and slept more.

Newsmakers

- At the Florida State Science Fair, Bishop Larkin Catholic School eighth-grader **Mark Detlor** received third place in Junior Chemistry and sixth-grader **Luke Detlor** received recognition in Junior Engineering.
- These students from Hudson Elementary were selected to represent their school in the west side Book Battle held in May: **Eric Kunzing** (captain), **Leilia Tirone** (alternate captain), **Chayan Ahuja**, **Vinnie Gaines**, **Andres Pelayt**, **William Sadr** and **Kenny Wheeler**.
- The Florida Council on Economic Education and Publix Super Markets Charities recently announced the winners of the 33rd annual **Governor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Economics**. The event was held May 11 at the House of Blues in Orlando.

Winners from Pasco County include: first place in project based categories: **Eric Johnson**, **Carmen Johnson**, **Lex Ledford** and **Royce Simonds**, **Fivay High School**. Second place in project based categories: **Maryanne Meyer**, **River Ridge High School**. Third place in project based categories: **Mathew Kirouac**, **Wesley Chapel High School**.

Students of the Month

- Gulf Middle: **Bryan Horn**, **Kayla Lacerte**, **Samantha Gillis**, **Punthamit Saengnarm**, **Brittany Ruth-erford**, **Josh Wojtas**, **Chandler Sheldon**, **Veronica Castillo-Martinez**, **Tommy Martin**, **Amber St. Laurent**, **Jessica Bryant**, **Van Uk**, **Kaleigh Quinn**, **Jakub Pawelec**, **Christopher Hamilton** and **Alec**

Muir.

- Hudson Elementary: **Christian Beckwith**, **Isabella Navarra**, **Magdalena Zygmunt**, **Ava Grenke**, **Hannah Britton**, **Chloe Groves**, **Alexis Tackett**, **Michael Ortiz**, **Madelynn Harper**, **Sammantha Platt**, **Jayden Thornton**, **Kierra Eich**, **Zachary Williams**, **Damien Hunter**, **Jasmin Blossfield**, **Jocelyn Whitesel**, **Nathan Flowers**, **Zachary Hewitt**, **Alannha Aretino**, **Elizabeth Edwards**, **Malorie Phillips**, **Zjaya Nelson**, **Mia Shellem**, **Annika Sly**, **Abigail Mitchelson**, **Joseph Teresi**, **Nicholas Manzi**, **Keely Fisher**, **Harmony Henderson**, **Chrissy Mulyck**, **Donavin Smith**, **Breezie Tussing**, **Devin Hutchins**, **Andrew Solis**, **Sierra Grzyb** and **Cheyenne DiFabio**.

Camp aims to help teens cope with loss

Times staff

Gulfside Regional Hospice's fifth annual "Rhythm of the Spirit" Teen Camp is scheduled for Friday and Saturday at Lakewood Retreat in Brooksville.

Planned activities help teens cope with the death of a loved one.

There will be a drum circle and Rhythm of the Spirit Memorial.

Other activities include roasting marshmallows, outdoor games, arts and crafts and exercises in team-building, plus a round of ice cream sundaes to complete the day.

For information on Gulfside Regional Hospice bereavement services or the camp, call (727) 844-3946 or visit www.grhospice.org.