

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, originally a wood frame structure built in Tampa, Florida in 1889, and known as Hyde Park Elementary School, historic **John B. Gorrie Elementary School** is believed to be the oldest operating school in the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, as the neighborhood and school grew, a new brick building was constructed in 1903, with an additional building built on the property nine years later, and in 1915, the name was changed to John B. Gorrie Elementary School in honor of Dr. John B. Gorrie, a respected Florida Physician and Inventor who created the first ice-making machine and is credited as the father of modern day refrigeration and air-conditioning, and a Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Inductee; and

WHEREAS, with its vision statement “to create and engage life-long learners from classroom to community and back,” John B. Gorrie Elementary School has been committed to academic excellence from the early years, and it has outstanding academic programs, students are exposed to state-of-the-art technologies, innovative after-school clubs, music and art instructions and programs, and it has been recognized numerous times including receiving the Florida School Recognition Award for sustained and improved academic performance, Florida Five Star School Award, Golden School Award, and is a National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Certified Kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, through its mission of caring through Cooperation, Acceptance, Responsibility and Effort (CARE), John B. Gorrie Elementary School has made an impact in the Tampa community for 125 years by educating, enriching, and preparing children for life’s challenges, and many of the Gorrie Elementary School Jaguars graduates have gone on to be great leaders in the Tampa community, state of Florida, our nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of John B. Gorrie Elementary School’s 125th Anniversary, the celebration on Friday, January 23, 2015 includes a reception, pep rally and pupil-led tours for alumni, community leaders and school board members, and with the theme ***Bridging our Past to our Future through Education***, all attendees will have the opportunity to reflect on all that has been accomplished.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, January 23, 2015 as

“GORRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to offer their congratulations to this beautiful historical school and thank Principal Marjorie Sandler, the teachers, staff, and students of John B. Gorrie Elementary for their commitment to educational excellence.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 23rd day of January, 2015.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor