

# Spring Park Elementary School

MRS. PAMELA BRADLEY-PIERCE  
PRINCIPAL



MRS. JENNIFER COPELAND  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

January 14, 2011

John Forrester and The Bright Holidays Board  
Bright Holidays  
24532 Deer Trace Drive  
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

Dear John Forrester and the Bright Holidays Board:

Thank you so much for your support and donation of toys and clothing for our Spring Park Elementary families in need. You assisted five of our families and obviously hundreds more across the county. We appreciate all that you do to help our parents give their children a great holiday that would not have been possible without your organization.

Our parents were so thankful and could not have been any more appreciative when I contacted them to offer this great opportunity. One of our families is a single mom of three who had quickly moved from a bad situation and had nothing left. They were living with another family while trying to make a fresh start in Jacksonville. What a great welcome to Jacksonville from Bright Holidays! Another family with three children were struggling to make ends meet after the father's job hours had been cut back significantly. Two more families are living in a hotel for a few months. These were some deserving families that greatly benefited by the kindness of The Bright Holidays Board and volunteers.

Thank you again for helping our families and allowing our students to have a special holiday. On behalf of Spring Park Elementary, we appreciate all of the hard work and the time commitment that goes into aiding so many families. You have made a difference for our students.

Sincerely,

Pamela Bradley-Pierce  
Principal



# MATTIE V. RUTHERFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

1514 Hubbard Street Jacksonville, FL 32206

Phone: (904) 630-6782 Fax: (904) 630-6789

Dr. Arvin Johnson  
Principal

Mr. Larry Brown  
Assistant Principal

January 3, 2011

John Forrester/Members of Bright Holidays  
24532 Deer Trace Drive  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

On behalf of Mattie V. Rutherford Middle School, I want to earnestly thank you and your organization for the generous items you provided to our underprivileged students and their families. Words cannot express the joy on the faces of our students and their families as we provided the gifts and cards you provided. Many of these families were simply victims of circumstance and experiencing difficult financial times. They were so appreciative that members of Bright Holidays were willing to assistance them in their time of need.

Many of my faculty members were encouraged by the kindness of your organization. As a result, many teachers and other staff members want to volunteer to help next year or in the near future. This is a relationship that I will enthusiastically embrace and support.

Thank you for your work to support students and their families. Your generosity helped many families have a better holiday season. That is something that should make every member of your organization proud. It was truly an honor working with you and your organization. I look forward to continuing our relationship to support children and their families in the Jacksonville community.

Finally, I want to personally thank John Forrester for going above and beyond to assist one of my families who were in dire need.

Godspeed,

Dr. Arvin Johnson  
Principal

*"Above and Beyond"*



# Mandarin Middle School

5100 Hood Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Ph.: 904.292.0555 Fax: 904.260.5415

Joy Recla  
Principal

Responsibility

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January 13, 2011

Bright Holidays  
Mr. John Forrester, CEO  
24532 Deer Trace Drive  
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

Dear Mr. Forrester and Members of Bright Holidays:

On behalf of Mandarin Middle School, I want to express our sincere appreciation to you and your organization for "brightening the holidays" for so many of our families in need during the 2010 holiday season.

Our administration, faculty, and staff submitted over twenty (20) names of MMS families who were in need. Just hearing the joyful, and sometimes tearful, reactions from parents and grandparents when they found out they were being awarded a brighter holiday was priceless. It made the effort and time put into this well worth it.

This has been my first year working with Bright Holidays and I can honestly say that this program is amazing—from the people running it, the caliber of volunteers, the stewardship of the donations, and the incredible number of families positively impacted by it.

Thank you for "paying it forward" and making a major impact on our city!

Sincerely,

*Angela Galyan*

Angela Galyan  
Assistant Principal  
Mandarin Middle School

### **Excerpts from Family Thank-You Notes**

“From myself and on behalf of my sons, I want to thank you for everything you surprised us with for Christmas. I was truly overwhelmed and am extremely grateful for your generosity... The boys and I will certainly have brighter holidays because of you!”

“This is such a blessing. This year has been very hard. We are so appreciative of everything for the boys. They will be so happy... Words can't express how great this is for us.”

“My family has been hit with the unemployment situation for over a year. I'm grateful for everything and everyone God has placed in our lives during this time and you are certainly one of God's angels. Thanks again for making this holiday season a 'Brighter' one!”

“To all the wonderful people who work for and make up Bright Holidays, our family wants to tell you how very much we appreciate your generous gifts to our children.”

“Thank you for making the best Christmas for my kids. Thank you for blessing my family. This Christmas was the best Christmas ever. May God bless you all.”

“In such a trying time in our lives, this has definitely been a blessing. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!”

“What a wonderful surprise to receive the gifts. It really made a difference, especially since their mom and dad are not with them. Thanks so much.”

“I was so surprised and excited... Thank you so much for everything. You made my Christmas.”

“Thank you for making my children's Christmas one they will not forget.”

“You have shown the true spirit of Christmas. I hope each of you have a wonderful holiday season.”