

# What's New at Chi Chi's

September/October 2013

**Chi Chi Team Spotlight: Garth Boline, who has served as Chi Chi's only** Golf Course Superintendent was honored in retirement at a Rumba's luncheon for his 25 years of dedicated service. Board members and the West Coast Superintendents Association recognized Garth for helping shape the course and driving range as an outstanding public golf course and green space for Pinellas County. Academy students have been fortunate as well to have Garth's beloved 140 acres as a living classroom enhancing their school lessons. We wish Garth well in his retirement and owe him much for his extraordinary efforts on the community's and Academy's behalf.



**Garth Boline chats about the course with his long time friend, Chi Chi.**

**Garth was honored to have the number six junior golf hole on the course named in his honor.**

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**School began Monday, August 19th at Chi Chi's with a full bus schedule.**

**Academy News: The 2013-2014 school year** kicked off as 89 new and returning students joined teachers on August 19th. New teachers Jim Benton, teaching Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies, and Nichole Wright, instructing in Music for 4th through 8th grades were welcomed. Florida Comprehensive Assessment Tests (FCAT) scores reflected that our students made significant growth in reading during the last school year.

**"I'm excited to be starting my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year at Chi Chi's. This school is really helping me get ready for High School." Julian, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student**

**Lori Vanderklok, 4th Grade teacher, "This year brings me the most inquisitive students ever; they are not only interested, but considerate, too!"**

## Upcoming Events: Chi Chi Charity Classic – November 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

The 33-year old two day event is co-chaired by Jessica Majeski, Katie Majeski and Sean Tobe. Host Chi Chi Rodriguez both entertains and thanks guests as they enjoy two days of golf at the Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club with lunch and awards. Sunday night is the Best of the Bay Reception with full sit down dinner and program sponsored by Lee Roy Selmon's restaurant of Palm Harbor and Nielsen. Proceeds support the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy, a non-profit dropout prevention school serving students in grades four through eight who struggle with both their academics and personal life skills.

**"I decided to become involved as a co-chair for the Charity Classic event this year as an opportunity to have an impact in the local community. I am looking forward to seeing it all come together this November!" Katie Majeski, Event Co-Chair**



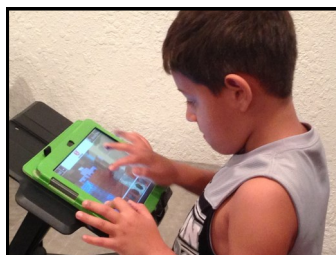
**Left to right: Bill and Sheila Braddock, Chi Chi, Bob and Carolyn Braddock**

**Boys & Girls Club "Tab Lab":** Students are learning and having fun at the same time on ten Samsung Galaxy Tablets purchased with a \$3,000 IBM grant for the after school and summer camp programs. The new tablets are used for the Boys & Girls Club *iReady* educational programs that focus on assisting students with improving math and reading skills.



A big thanks to Don Russell, retired IBM employee, who volunteered over 480 hours during the year making our Foundation eligible for this grant.

**"I love being able to play games on the tablets after school." Nicolas, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**Carol Di Landro  
1944-2013**

**Carol Di Landro** passed away suddenly in late August and Chi Chi's team was tremendously saddened by her loss. Over Carol's 16 years at Chi Chi's she served in many roles from Administration to Special Events. She was the go to person for our team and everyone could always count on her to be there and have the right answer needed. For the past seven years she helped restructure our accounting systems to keep them running smoothly. Our deepest sympathy go out to her family and friends as we all try to accept the loss of this incredibly talented and dedicated woman. She will be greatly missed.

**"Carol was always kind and helpful to me...we had many laughs over different situations...I considered her a dear friend as she was to so many people whose lives she touched." Betty Ciancino, past President of Chi Chi's Ladies Golf League**

**Event Spotlight: Future LPGA star Jean Chua** fielded a plethora of questions from a group of over 50 campers and junior golfers last month at the Chi Chi Sports Complex. Jean was in town for the inaugural IOA Classic at Innisbrook and took time out of her hectic schedule to speak with the students. She explained how important stretching is for your game and gave interesting golfing tips. The 10-week Summer Camp was a overwhelming success, serving over 375 children.



**"Make playing golf in college a goal for you!" LPGA player Jean Chua told junior golfers enthusiastically. She tweeted after the event, "A great time with great kids!!"**

**Youth tees were created on the front nine for future playing, like the upcoming Junior Golf Clinics and Fall Programs, now available to register online at [www.thefirstteeclearwater.org](http://www.thefirstteeclearwater.org).**



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Pete Morell  
Josh Rawlings  
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Timothy Salzsieder  
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Sean Tobe  
Jim York

### Academy Mission

To assist at risk children by improving their self-esteem, character, work ethic, social adjustment, and academic performance using the golf course business as a living classroom.

### Contact Information

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or call Cary Stiff at  
(727) 726-8829 x 202  
email: [cary@chichi.org](mailto:cary@chichi.org)

### Upcoming Events—2013

Chi Chi Charity Classic  
November 10th and 11th

### Did you know?

We have new board members:

**Claude J. Macari**

Partner, KPMG  
and

**Bill Wickett**

Executive VP Communications,  
Tampa Bay Lightning

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Chi Chi was interviewed last month in Puerto Rico by Fox News for their fall Hispanic Heritage special. Look for his closing story to the month-long segment to be aired on Fox & Friends, October 11th!