

Morrow Elementary

Patriot Press

Volume 1 – September 27, 2017

Principal Crowle's Corner.....

Dear Morrow Families,

Welcome to our first Patriot Press for the 2017-2018 school year! Newsletters will be shared on our website every two months to keep you updated on all the wonderful things happening at Morrow.

Our first few weeks in school have been exceptional! We started the year very strong and were thrilled to see our eager learners arrive on August 21st. Hurricane Irma impacted our communities and our calendar but our students came back ready to jump in and forge ahead! We are thrilled to see our students in school and ready to learn each day. Please be sure they arrive on time and are in class before the late bell rings at 8:00am. On time and regular attendance is an integral component to student success! Your support and diligence with ensuring good attendance habits will help our learners achieve Beyond Expected Student Targets.....B.E.S.T!

Please make a note of our important dates and plan to attend as many events as possible, as your involvement is critical to our learners' academic achievement and social development. We also welcome as many parents as possible to register as volunteers so you can attend field trips and/or assist with school events. Volunteer registration information is available on our website, <http://morrow.browardschools.com>.

Parents interested in providing input into the performance evaluations of Morrow Elementary instructional and/or administrative employee evaluations many contact our office at (754) 322-7150 by April 13, 2018.

Remember to have learners read every day to increase reading proficiency and reinforce literacy skills taught at school. Our partnership between home and school will increase our learners' success.

We look forward to seeing you October 30th for our Parent Technology Night and Pumpkin Patch Display. Join us to learn about new technology resources that connect you to student learning.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Laurel Crowle

IMPORTANT DATES



October 10th - 2pm
SAC/SAF/PTA Meetings

October 19th
Read for the Record

October 20th
School Closed - Teacher Planning

October 27th
Fall Pictures Re-Take

October 30th – 5:45pm – 7:00pm
Parent Technology/Pumpkin Patch

November 16th
Report Cards Issued

November 17th - 7:30am
SAC/SAF/PTA Meetings

November 17th - 8:10am
Student Led Conferences

November 20th – Career Day

November 21st - Field Day

November 22,23& 24 - **School Closed** – Thanksgiving Holiday



Here are some updates from the Guidance department. We started Peace Week (September 20-September 28) with our 4th and 5th graders decorating Starbucks coffee sleeves with peace messages that were given to the community by our local Starbucks shops. In addition, as a school, all students pledge by signing a “Planting the seeds of Peace” to state that Peace starts within oneself. We are spreading Peace messages as a school and community. Please check out our Peace Tree when you visit the front office, starting Monday, October 2nd.

The responses for small group counseling have been great, and now that I have most of the forms back, groups based on your requests will be starting mid to late October.

Check out our Student of the Month bulletin board located across from the teacher’s lounge. We started with celebrating those students who displayed the trait of Cooperation for the month of September, and Responsibility for October. Congratulations students!

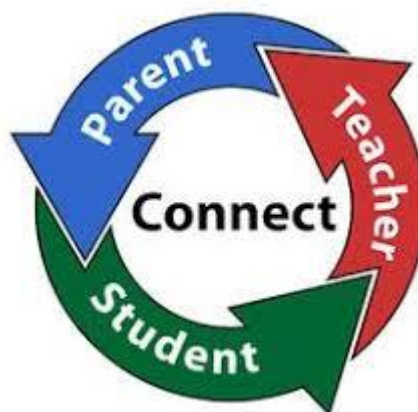
I am the new manager at Morrow Elementary. I am proud to offer you and your students delicious and healthy breakfast and lunch options. Come in and check out our meals and some of our new options such as Hummus meals and Mandarin Chicken Kale Salad. Remember, we always have fresh fruit at lunch.



Each month, the Preschool/ESE team will be sending home tips for parents to ease the transition from home or home care to "big school." We welcome tips from parents too! Please send your tips to your child's teacher and we will gladly include them in our column.

As we know, nutrition is very important for health and well-being. Children, like adults, have food habits and preferences. Unfortunately, some of the foods on the school menu are either unfamiliar or unwanted by our students. Food from home makes lunch time more relaxing, and we can concentrate on skills like using utensils, cleaning up, and remaining seated. Equally important is that a full tummy makes for a happier child! Please consider sending in last night's leftovers or simple snacks that your child likes, such as cheese, crackers, apple slices, or yogurt.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. We are looking forward to a great year!



LITERACY TIPS – MS. MASON

Back to School means starting your child off with the right Literacy habits. Here are three ways to spend time with your children and build reading skills

Read Regularly - Try to read with your child or have your child read to you every day. Children should read for at least 20 minutes each day to build stamina. You might aim for a bed time reading for a peaceful end of the day. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

Ask Questions – Pick a book and read a few sentences or pages to or with your child. Ask them about what is happening or what they think will happen next. Having your child think about the story or topic will deepen their understanding.

Digital Reading Resources- Morrow Elementary offers a variety of Home-School Connection Resources. Every student has access to MyON digital books as well as iReady Learning in Reading and Math. These are great ways for students to bring the classroom home. Talk with your student about MyOn Lexile goals and increasing their scale score on iReady. Please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Mason, Literacy Coach, if you have any questions about any of these programs.

Title I Updates - Ms. Mason

School Improvement Plan: School Staff and parents jointly develop the plan. It includes yearly objectives and activities that will be implemented at the school level. You can access this plan at <http://www.browardschools1.com/morrow>. If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact the school at 754-321-7150

District Parent Involvement Plan: District staff and parents jointly develop the plan. The plan includes the parent activities to be implemented through the school year and an evaluation of last year's district parent program. You can access this plan at <http://title1.browardschools.com>. If you would like to review a hard copy or translation is needed please contact Linda Howard Title 1 Program Specialist at 754-321-1410.

School Public Accountability Report (SPAR): The school Public Accountability Report contains several types of data (indicators) designed to inform parents and the general public about the progress of Florida's public schools. This report meets the public reporting requirements of the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and certain additional information of interest on the status of Florida's schools. In addition, the Florida Department of Education publishes school grades and the results of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). You can access this plan at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/schoolimprove/DOEreports.htm>. If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact the school at 754-322-7150.

Kindergarten

The beginning of kindergarten has been a success! All our students have adjusted well to learning standard classroom procedures and school rules. During our English language arts block, we have been working on letter and sound recognition and sight words. We also began centers, where students work independently or in a group on phonics and phonemic awareness. Please continue working with your children at home with letter and sound recognition. Students are now placed in a reading group based on their current reading level where we will challenge them to become the best readers possible. On Friday, September 29, homework and book bags will be sent home to all kindergarteners. Please follow the calendar and return homework every Friday back to your teacher. Book bags with leveled reading books are expected to be returned every Friday as well. In science, we have learned about the five senses and now we are learning about living and nonliving animals. In math, we have been working on writing, recognizing, and modeling numbers 1-5. We have had a wonderful start to the school year and are excited to see the progress everyone will make.

Grade Level Happenings

First Grade

Our first graders have been off to a great start this year! In reading we have been practicing our fluency and comprehension strategies. In math we have been working on different addition concepts, such as using models and manipulatives. Science has us using our five senses to observe the world around us. We are learning about citizenship and community helpers in social studies. Please remember to check your child's planner and blue take home folder daily for any pertinent information.

Second Grade

Parents! Welcome back to a new school year full of learning and discovery. We are so happy to have your children in our classes. This year our focus is on reading with fluency and accuracy. We will be discussing sequence of events, cause and effect, main ideas and details, and many other areas of instruction. Throughout the year we will be working on writing narrative, informational, and opinion texts. Students are currently testing to find their reading levels. Activities will be assigned at their reading levels. Science and social studies will be integrated into the reading block.

Students will be using technology throughout the day by utilizing several reading programs that can be accessed from home. Students are enrolled in i-Ready for both reading and math, MyON, Reflex Math, and Science4us. Please see your child's teacher for log-in information.

Conferences will begin soon. Please try to return your appointment request and attend your scheduled conference. We look forward to seeing you and speaking with you about your child's progress.

Grade Level Happenings

Third Grade

The fantastic third grade team has plenty of educational and enriching activities planned for this upcoming year. Expect your child to come home with daily homework Monday – Thursday. All homework assignments will be written daily in their planner by your child. Please read and sign the planner daily, along with their reading log. Students will be able to utilize different computer programs at home and at school that will assist them with both reading and math. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns. We are here to help your child (children) have a wonderful and successful year.

Fourth Grade

We just started a great new school year in 4th grade. In reading, we are discovering the state of Florida through great texts and activities. In math, every day is a new adventure into the number world. We just finished place value and estimating, and already we are multiplying through thousands! Wow! 4th grade is going to be amazing. To be successful, each student needs to read daily and memorize their multiplication facts. Parents, please share the excitement of learning when talking to your child about school. We look forward to working with you for the achievement of your child.

Fifth Grade

The 5th grade team would like to welcome all new and returning students to Morrow Elementary. Our first quarter has been packed with learning. During our ELA block, students have been using their vocabulary knowledge, using graphic organizers to tackle Main Idea and Details as well as learning about Valley Forge with our social studies curriculum. Learning about the water cycle and weather in Science came in handy during our hurricane experience. Math has been exciting with number sense and operations including place value, exponents, expressions and multiplication. Right around the corner is division! To get those math facts flowing try out our online program Reflex Math at home. Other helpful websites to continue learning outside of school include IReady and MyOn. Students are familiar with these sites as they use them often during school. We look forward to the rest of the first quarter as our learners gain knowledge through reading, social studies, math, science and so much more!

Science Corner - Ms. Small-Williams

Greetings Super Scientists!

We are off to a fantastic 2017 – 2018 school year. I truly believe that we are going to have an exciting time. From observing the solar eclipse on the very first day of school to tracking the busy tropics with many hurricanes, our learners are ready to explore. I am excited to work diligently with all grade levels. Classes will have the opportunity to attend science lab for specials. All of our learners will engage in structured lessons during STEM Science instruction. Students will have the opportunity to investigate, explore and participate in standard-based learning activities while experiencing hands-on science experiments.

Happy Exploring!

Math Magic – Ms. Tucker

Think of any number. Double the number. Add 9. Subtract 3. Divide your answer by 2. Subtract the answer with the number you started with... Presto! Your answer is 3. Try this “math magic” with your friends and families to show how fun and entertaining Math could be. Math is everywhere and prepares you for life. It helps to develop and sharpen your problem - solving skills. You learn the value of time and money using numbers. Math facts help the muscles in your brain to stretch to unknown heights. The magic of math allows you to organize your thoughts, rearrange information and it increases your ability to explain your thinking. Math Magic allows you to understand numbers based on place values ranging from least to greatest. The magic of math is everywhere!

So “MATHgicians” let’s get started with REFLEX MATH! Go to www.reflexmath.com. Your username is your teachers’ name and your password is your student ID#. For 10-20 minutes three times a week you could learn “Crabby Facts” while having fun on Treasure Island! Win prizes and special treats! The more you learn, the more you earn.

Why is a circle always so hot? Well, that because they are 360 degrees!

Computer Science Creativity & Media Updates - Ms. Howe

Media News - Students will begin to bring home library books to enjoy at home. Check-out day is Monday and return day is Friday. Please help ensure the quality of books by keeping the book in your child’s backpack when not using it. This is a simple way to show responsibility. If your student has lost a book, you are responsible for its replacement. Notices about missing books will be given to your student and they must ensure the books are returned to avoid an obligation being placed on their account. If you have any questions/concerns please let me know.

Computer Science Update - Welcome to the 2017-2018 Computer Science class! Computer Science class is where students will learn how to use the keyboard on a computer effectivity, utilize the internet as a tool for learning, and learn how to “code” to create games/websites. Computer Science classes are necessary for your child to be successful in this technology-based world. If you have any questions/concerns please let me know.

Morrow Connections.....Get Involved – Get Engaged – Make an Impact!!



Many parents often ask what they can do to get more involved with their child's school. Here are some easy ways you can get involved, stay engaged and get connected:

- Check your child's book bag and home folder every night for information from the teacher & school
- Contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference
- Check the school website at <https://www.browardschools1.com/morrow> for updates & upcoming events
- Attend monthly SAC/SAF/PTA meetings to give input
- Attend school events, field trips or district events
- Volunteer in the school

PTA Progress – Mrs. Tyghter

The Morrow PTA needs parent volunteers committed to making Morrow the BEST school in Broward County! We need you to get involved, share your voice, give your time and support the great things happening at Morrow. Any time you are able to give is appreciated. One of the easiest ways to get involved is to join the PTA for only \$6 per person. Your membership in PTA helps us provide supplies, treats, resources and events to students and parents. For only \$6, you can support all that Morrow offers to enrich our community. PTA meetings are held on the same day as SAC & SAF meetings. Please join us at the next PTA meeting on October 10th at 2pm.



Helping ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) Develop Reading Skills:

Recommendations for Parents

Reading is critical to success in school. Development of the skills needed to read starts even before a child begins school. Through spoken language at home, children learn sounds and how they go together to make words. English Language Learner (ELL) students face the additional challenge of learning to read in a second language that they may not fully understand or speak.

Parents can actively participate in helping their children improve their reading skills. Research has identified five main areas of instruction that are essential to success in reading in English. These areas are phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

En Español

La lectura es muy importante para el éxito en la escuela. El desarrollo de las destrezas necesarias para la lectura empieza aún antes de que un(a) niño(a) empiece la escuela. A través del idioma hablado en el hogar, los niños aprenden los sonidos y cómo estos se unen para formar palabras. Estudiantes que aprenden inglés como segundo idioma enfrentan el desafío adicional de aprender a leer en un segundo idioma que quizá no hablen o entiendan completamente. Los padres pueden participar de manera activa en ayudar a sus hijos a mejorar sus destrezas de lectura. Las investigaciones han identificado cinco áreas de instrucción que son esenciales para el éxito en la lectura en inglés.

En Kreyol

Konn fè lekti esansyèl pou reyisit lekòl. Devlopman abilte nesesè pou fè lekti kòmanse anvan m enm yon timoun rantrè lekòl. Granmès langaj pale lakay, timoun aprann son epi kouman yo konbinen ansanm pou fè mo. Elèv ki gen konpetans limite nan angle kontre yon defi anplis. Li dwe aprann fè lekti nan yon dezyèm lang li pa ka fin konprann oswa pale. Fanmi kapab patisipe nan aktivite pou ede pitit- yo amelyore abilte fè lekti. Rechèch idantifye senk sektè nan enstriksyon ki esansyèl pou reyisi fè lekti nan angle. Sektè- yo se: evèy fonnemik, fonnik, konpetans, vokabilè ak konpreyansyon. Estas áreas son conocimien to de la fonémica, fonética, fluidez, vocabulario y comprensión.

To be continued in the next newsletter.....

Que se continuará en el próximo boletín.....

Nap kontinye atik sa nan pwochen bilten an.....

Mr. Vilus