



WESTWOOD GAZETTE

JODI WASHINGTON, PRINCIPAL
LAVINA ROBINSON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

(754) 323-7900

April, 2017

Vol. 1.2

"WHE CAN, WHE WILL, SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS"

<http://westwoodheights.browardschools.com>

<http://twitter.com/WHElementary>

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Greetings WHE Parents & Guardians!

As we move into the 4th quarter of the school year and deep into assessment season, we must be mindful of the well-being of our learners and the impact that high-stakes assessments such as the Florida Standard Assessment and the Primary End of the Year Reading and Math Assessments have on them. As learners prepare for the upcoming assessments, some may feel overwhelmed, stressed, or pressured to perform well.

Suggestions for helping learners perform their best during testing are:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's rest
- Eat a healthy breakfast daily
- Praise and encourage your child

Let's work together to ensure that your child has the most successful testing experience.

Respectfully,

Jodi Washington
Principal

Important Dates

4/3-4/7...Spring Book Fair
4/4.....SAC Meeting, 5:30p.m.
4/4.....Literacy Night 6:00p.m.
4/10-4/14.....No School
4/20.....Report Cards
4/26.....Chorus Performance
6:00pm
4/28.....Brain Brawl (5th Grade)
4/29.....Reading Festival
5/2.....SAC Meeting, 5:30p.m.
5/4.....Interim Reports
5/5.....VPK Application Deadline
5/5.....Health Fair
5/5.....Jump Rope for Heart
Assembly
5/12.....Career Day
5/24.....Jump Rope for Heart
5/29.....No School
6/8.....Last Day of School

Assessment Dates

4/18-4/19.....FSA Math 3rd Grade,
4/25-4/26..... FSA ELA 4th & 5th
5/2-5/3.....Statewide Science
Assessment 5th Grade
5/8-5/12...Primary End of Year
Reading and Math (1st & 2nd
Grades)
5/9-5/10..... FSA Math 4th & 5th

School Hours

PreK & HS: 8:00a.m.-
2:00p.m.
K-5: 8:00 a.m.- 3:00p.m.
Breakfast: 7:15a.m.- 7:45a.m.



Educating Today's Students to
Succeed in Tomorrow's World

A NOTE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Greetings Westwood Heights Family,

The school-based behavior committee has drafted the 2017-2018 School-wide Positive Behavior Plan. The committee decided to include elements of the revised 2016-2017 behavior plan that includes behavior expectations for the classroom, the cafeteria, the hallways, and the front office and school expectations of behavior that include: be respectful, be cooperative, be safe and be responsible. The plan will be presented at the School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting on **April 4, 2017 at 5:30p.m.** At the SAC meeting a forum will be held to gather feedback from parents, community members and stakeholders on the 2017-2018 behavior plan. After the SAC meeting on April, 4th, the School-wide Positive Behavior Plan will be submitted for approval.

In an effort to promote career readiness and exposure to a variety of careers and occupations, I am excited to announce that Westwood Heights' Annual Career Day will be held on Friday, May 12th. We are looking for parents and community members who would like to share their careers and engage with our learners in interactive presentations or question and answer sessions. If you or someone you know is interesting in volunteering to help support career day, please contact Ms. Fernandez at (754)-323-7900.

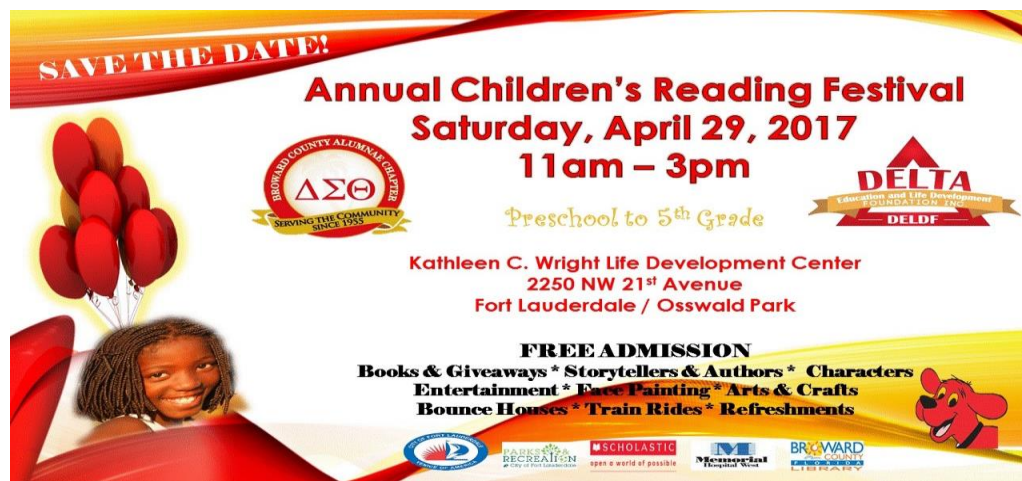
Lastly, I invite everyone to attend the Title I Health and Wellness Fair and Parent Training Academy and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Annual Children's Reading Festival. Please read below for details.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

Where: Parkway Middle School
3600 NW 5th Court, Lauderhill, FL 33311
When: 4/22/2017 @ 9:00 am

PARENT TRAINING ACADEMY

Where: Horizon Elementary
2101 Pine Island Road, Sunrise, FL 33322
When: 5/11/2017 @ 7:00 pm



SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Children's Reading Festival

Saturday, April 29, 2017
11 am – 3 pm
Preschool to 5th Grade

Kathleen C. Wright Life Development Center
2250 NW 21st Avenue
Fort Lauderdale / Osswald Park

FREE ADMISSION
Books & Giveaways * Storytellers & Authors * Characters
Entertainment * Face Painting * Arts & Crafts
Bounce Houses * Train Rides * Refreshments

Logos: BROWARD COUNTY ALUMNAE CHAPTER (Serving the Community Since 1955), DELTA Education and Life Development Center (DELDF), SCHOLASTIC, RECREATION, BROWARD COUNTY, and a cartoon dog.

Respectfully,

Lavina Robinson
Assistant Principal

CLASSROOM NEWS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Lets Celebrate Learning

"First it was a seed below the ground and only with patience it was able to touch the sky above."

It couldn't have worked out better that the Tree Study corresponds with the beginning of Spring. We have gone in depth exploring all there is to know and appreciate about trees; using important social studies and scientific concepts through firsthand investigations. It has reminded us, also, how beautiful our Westwood Heights campus is, with a beautiful garden and an abundance of large and handsome trees all throughout. To finish the Tree Study, we will be taking a field trip to Flamingo Gardens, where our learners will have the unique opportunity to use a hands-on approach of learning in our South Florida environment. We were also able to do hands on activities revolving the changes in weather and the seasonal changes. We incorporated making patterns and comparing different attributes of the world around us.

-The ECE Team

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is in the home stretch! It's hard to believe that we are in the fourth quarter of the school year. We, the Kindergarten team, are so proud of and humbled by the amazing progress our learners make each and every day. As many of our learners are now readers, nightly reading and sight word review are very important to help build and extend knowledge and skills. A copy of the Fry's 100 Sight Words was sent home with each student to review the words we have already learned and to get a jumpstart on the words we will soon be learning. Making flash cards at home is a great way to review the words with your learner and only takes a few minutes to review. In the coming weeks, we will focus on reading with fluency, our weekly sight words, and adding detail to our writing.

In Math, we are studying numbers greater than 20 and will be studying 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes. Our Science topics for the next few weeks will include types of energy and forces of motion. Our learners are busy learning all day long, each day. With this said, it is important that your learner comes to school each day, on time, and prepared for the busy and exciting day ahead. We look forward to the coming weeks and months teaching and working with your learner.

-The Kindergarten Team

CLASSROOM NEWS

1st Grade

Life is Great in First Grade!



and every one of you for all of the time and support you have given your child thus far this school year. The students have been extremely busy here in First Grade soaking up

knowledge! First grade is such an astonishing year to witness your child blossom into a reader!

As we enter the fourth quarter, it is imperative that the students continue practicing reading not only at school, but also home. In preparation for the Primary Reading Assessment, please practice the FRY words with your child daily. Your child has worked very hard to get this far! Please continue to **READ, READ, and READ!**

We are so proud of the growth all the students have made so far. Let's continue to work hard and end the school year **STRONG!**

-Ms. Drovil
Mrs. Brodsky
Ms. Nickerson
Ms. Kraszewski

2nd Grade

Can you believe it is already the 4th quarter?

The school year is flying by and before we know it, it will be time for Third Grade. In the following weeks, we will continue to enhance our reading skills and math skills in order to be prepared for the next school year. In Math, we will learn all about telling time, data and measurement, and geometry. Coming up in May, all second grade learners will be taking the Primary Reading Assessment. In order for our students to be best prepared, it is imperative that the students continue to practice reading not only at school but also home. As we finish off the school year, please discuss the importance of behaving appropriately and focusing in class. Let's finish this school year off on a high note!

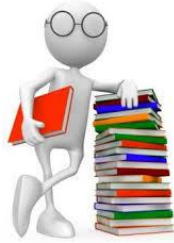


-Ms. Waldorf
Mr. Campo
Ms. Samson
Ms. Snow

CLASSROOM NEWS

3rd Grade

Reading/ELA Standards



Spiral: Reviewing all 17 third grade standards taught throughout the year.

-Paragraph and Essay Writing: (LAFS.3.W.1.1, LAFS.3.W.2.4) Learners will produce organized writing to form paragraphs. They will also produce expository and opinion writing.

-Cursive: (LAFS.3.VI.1.4) Learners will practice writing in cursive.

-Introducing 4th Grade Skills: Preparing learners for the next grade level.



Math Standards

Spiral: Reviewing the domains of standards taught throughout the year;

Geometry, Measurement & Data, Number and Operations in Base Ten, Fractions, Operations and Algebraic Thinking,

-Introducing 4th Grade Skills: Learners will complete the "Getting Ready for Fourth Grade" in GO Math.

Technology

Resources are available for learners in school and at home.



- ✓ www.ReflexMath.com
- ✓ www.login.i-ready.com
- ✓ www.kahnsacademy.com
- ✓ www.tenmarks.com

Rock Your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day!



Upcoming Peeks in the Weeks

- Math FSA Dates: April 18th & April 19th
- Weekly Portfolios
- BAS Assessments (Dates TBA)
- End of Year Celebration (Date TBA)



Research Projects

- Animal Project
- Exploring Careers

Friendly Reminders

Please ensure your child is completing their homework on a daily basis and encourage him/her to read daily for 30 minutes. Online resources are also available for remediation/extra practices. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact your child's teacher.



Thank You,
Ms. Fane
Ms. Heck
Ms. Montgomery
Mrs. Rodriguez
Ms. Rogers

CLASSROOM NEWS

4th Grade

Instructional Focus Reading/ELA

LAFS.4.RL.2.5 Explain the major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm, meter) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) when writing or speaking about a text. LAFS.4.RI.2.5 Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, and problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

Mathematics

1. 100% Fluency in Reflex Math!

Almost 50% of our 4th graders are 100% Fluent on Reflex Multiplication and Division. We give a shout out to all of our learners that are fluent in their multiplication facts!

2. Math and Movement in March

Students are moving more in math classes as they engage in math lessons through motion. Research indicates that movement increases synaptic connections in the brain that enhances memory and comprehension.

3. 4th Grade Dance Team

More movement for 4th grade girls as they learn ballet, African, and liturgical dance. Fridays 3:15-4:15pm. Congratulations to the dance team for an excellent first performance at our Black History Month in February 2017.

Writing

Congratulations! Way to Go! 4th graders took their state writing opinion prompt in February. We are encouraging students to continue writing so they may be able to elaborate on FSA reading test questions requiring written response.

Science

Students are becoming more proficient in their use of technology as we use websites to explore exciting science topics. The students are creating group projects on The Life Cycle of a Butterfly, Germination, Pollination, and Fertilization of Plants and Animals. We have also been discussing important environmental issues such as Pollution. We look forward to the upcoming field trip in May that introduces and supports the science students have been learning about in school. It will address Ecology and the importance of protecting our environment.

Helpful Resources



Iready(Math & Reading) - <https://login.i-ready.com/>

Reflex Math(Multiplication & Division Fluency)-

<https://www.reflexmath.com/>

Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Textbooks – BEEP - www.broward.k12.fl.us/beep/students/

Upcoming Events

- Spring Break (April 10th-14th)
- FSA ELA (April 25th & 26th)
- FSA Math (May 9th & 10th)
- Literacy Night (April 4th)
- 4th Grade Dance Team – every Friday 3:15-4:15

Parents please continue to encourage your child/children to read at least 20 minutes per day. Also, ensure that they complete homework daily.

Mrs. L. Cappello
Mrs. K. Miller
Mrs. P. Satine

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

First Elementary Best Buddies Program

We are proud to announce that Westwood Heights Elementary is the first Best Buddies elementary program. Best Buddies is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Here at Westwood Heights we have a total of 34 students who are registered and signed up for the program.



BEST BUDDIES
CHALLENGE



A Very SPECIAL March!!!!

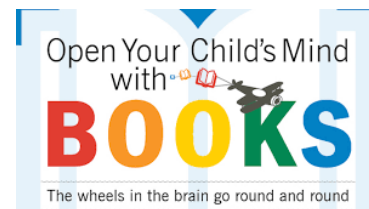
March is a very important month for our special programs students. March 21st is National Down Syndrome Day (3.21). During the month of March, students at Westwood Heights came together to promote unity for special needs students. *“End The Word To Spread The Word”* is a national slogan to promote equality for the special needs students. It represents the stand against discrimination and bullying of special needs students.



On 3.21 all students and staff participated in *“Rock Your Socks”*, a nationwide tradition for 3.21 that symbolizes personality in support of students with Down Syndrome. The Best Buddies program also created a short music video in support of their peers that are tied to the Down syndrome family.

Literacy Corner

A child's success as a reader initiates much earlier than the first day they walk into their teacher's classroom. The love for reading starts at home. As parents it is vital to talk to your child every day. You have the power to increase your children's learning potential just by making books and reading an important part of their lives. Ask your child to talk about their day at school and encourage them to explain something they did in class, or a game they played during organized P.E.



10 Great Reasons to Read Aloud to Your Children

1. When you give them this attention they know you love them.
2. Reading to them will encourage them to become readers.
3. Develop sentence sense and an ear for rhythm.
4. Illustrations in children's books rank with the best, giving children a life-long feeling for good art.
5. Books are a good way of passing on your values.
6. Learn about a variety of writing genres.
7. Books will enable your student's imagination to soar.
8. Gain new knowledge and understanding.
9. When you give them this gift you will create memories that last a lifetime.
10. Expands their vocabulary by learning new words.



Informational and Literary Texts

Informational Text



Informational text is a type of nonfiction writing, written with the purpose of informing the reader about a particular topic. This type of text is typically found in magazines articles, science or history books, autobiographies, newspaper, digital information to nonfiction trade books, textbook, reference materials, and instruction manuals. Informational texts are written using special text features that allow the reader to

simply find key information and understand the main topic.

- **Informational (Nonfiction) Text:** A book that gives information or facts about real people, things, or events.
- **Text Features:** Any visual clues on a page of text that offer additional information to guide the reader's understanding.
- **Captions:** Words or sentences that give information about a photograph.
- **Table of Contents:** A list of chapter titles and the page numbers on which they begin. A table of contents is located at the beginning of a book.
- **Glossary:** List of words in a book and their meanings.
- **Bold Print:** Heavy, dark print.
- **Italics:** Slanted print.

Math Corner

Intermediate: Grades 3 - 5

This quarter intermediate grades will be working on geometry standards including learning about the measurement of objects.

Below is a list of some great books about fractions:

- **The Hershey's Fraction Book* by Jerry Pallotta
- **Fractions in Disguise* by Edward Einhorn
- **My Half Day* by Doris Fisher
- **Fraction Action* by Loreen Leedy
- **Whol-y Cow! Fractions are Fun!* By Taryn Souder
- **Polar Bear Math* by Ann Nagda

Try these cool math websites at home so your children can practice fraction games and concepts:

- <http://www.math-play.com/math-fractions-games.html>
- <https://www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/menus/fractions.htm>
- https://www.mathplayground.com/index_fractions.html

Primary: Grades Kindergarten - 2

Primary grades will also learn geometry and measurement but their lessons will also include time and money in 1st and 2nd grade.

Below is a list of some great books about addition and subtraction:

- **Quack and Count* by Keith Baker
- **Mission: Addition* by Loreen Leedy
- **Elevator Magic* by Stuart Murphy
- **Hershey's Kisses Subtraction Book* by Jerry Pallotta
- **Animals on Board* by Stuart Murphy

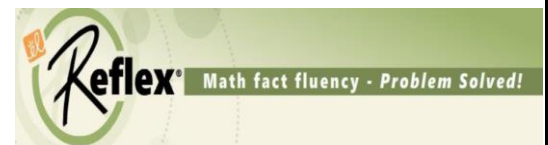
The following websites are fun ways to help build your child's number sense:

- http://www.mathplayground.com/index_addition_subtraction.html
- http://www.abcya.com/math_match.htm
- <http://www.coolmath-games.com/1-number-games>
- <https://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

Fluency Frenzy at Westwood Heights!

MARCH Summary - Top 5 Overall: Greatest Gain in Current Fluency:

Ms. Rogers, Ms. Heck & Ms. Samson, Ms. Rodriguez & Ms. Brodsky



Top 5 Green Light Rock Stars:

Ms. Dorvil, Ms. Snow, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Heck, & Mr. Duren
www.reflexmath.com.

Science Corner



On **April 21st** in 5th science classes, teachers will conduct a Science Bee to select the top 20 learners in science.

On **April 27th** we will have the school based competition in the afternoon from 1:30 – 2:30 in the Cafeteria with the top 20 learners. The Winner and Runner-Up will both receive a paid end of the year filed trip and a trophy. The top 10 learners will advance to the Science Brain Brawl Championship VS Dillard Elementary the following day.

On **April 27th**, the audience participation will consist of teams of 2 learners, who will answer the questions on the ipads. The top audience team will receive a paid end of the year field trip.

On **April 28th**, the top scoring team will then go head to head with Dillard Elementary School, This competition will be team based where each team will send a representative to the buzzer table.

Learners can access the quizziz any time from now until April, 9 2017 ONLINE by following these instructions:

1. Open <https://join.quizziz.com> in your browser
2. Enter the 6-digit game code 226574 , and click "Proceed"
3. Now enter your name and click "Join Game!"
4. You will get an avatar, and then see a "Start Game" button. Click it to begin!

This should be a wonderful experience for our school and our friends at Dillard Elementary!

PTO, SAC & SAF Meeting Dates

PTO begins at 4:30p.m. SAF begins immediately after PTO.

April 4, 2017 5:30p.m.

May 2, 2017 5:30p.m.