

WESTWOOD GAZETTE



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(754) 323-7900

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Vol. 2.2

"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!

Broward County Public Schools celebrated Attendance Awareness Month in September and has pledged to raise awareness about the value of regular school attendance and focus on reducing chronic absenteeism in the new school year. We at Westwood Heights Elementary fully support the district-wide attendance campaign and recognize that good attendance is essential to academic success. A common misunderstanding here at WHE is that attendance is only impacted by absences. Many are not aware that arriving to school late, and signing out of school early also has a negative impact on attendance.

The major issue we face is students arriving to class late. School begins at 8:00A.M. thus, learners must be in class and ready to learn at 8:00A.M. I have recently began noticing that there are learners who arrive at school early but are tardy to class because they are wondering the campus, walking siblings to class, or wait until it is time to go to class then decide to join the breakfast line.

We have too many learners that are at risk academically because of attendance issues. Though we have an attendance plan in place to increase the attendance rate, we must work together to build a culture of regular attendance. I appreciate your support in this matter and am available if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,
Jodi Washington
Principal

Important Dates

10/19.....Parent Business
Partner Organization Meeting
3:30pm
10/20.....No School-Employee
Planning
10/24.....Picture Day
10/30-11/3..Book Fair
11/1.....Family Book Fair
Night 3pm-6pm
11/7.....SAC Meeting 3:30pm
11/10.....No School

Assessment Dates

2/27.....FSAA Begins
3/6.....FSA Writing 4th & 5th
Grades
4/10.....FSA ELA 3rd Grade
Session 1
4/11.....FSA ELA 3rd Grade
Session 2
4/24-4/25..FSA Math 3rd-5th
Grades
5/1-5/2.....Statewide Science
Assessment 5th Grade
5/8-5/9 FSA ELA 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

Ms. Lavina Robinson

School Calendar Changes

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, unanimously approved utilizing two previously scheduled early release days – October 19, 2017, and December 22, 2017 – as makeup days for Hurricane Irma. There are no changes to winter break, spring break or the last day of school.

The School Board's approval follows the recommendation presented by Superintendent Robert W. Runcie during the September 26, 2017, School Board meeting. The makeup days were selected in consideration of students, families and staff commitments for vacation and holidays scheduled around the school year calendar. The Hurricane Irma makeup days also reflect input from employee group representatives, including the Broward Teachers Union and other community stakeholders.

In addition to the makeup days, the School Board approved amending the school calendar to shift the start of the second quarter from Monday, October 23, 2017, to Monday, October 30, 2017, and the start of the third quarter from Tuesday, January 9, 2018, to Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

District schools were closed for seven days in preparation for and cleanup following Hurricane Irma. Florida Education Commissioner Pam Stewart announced school districts could waive two of the closure days. By extending the two early release (October 19 and December 22) days to full instructional days, the District remains in compliance with the state's requirements for instructional hours for the school year without the need for additional makeup days.

To view the revised 2017/18 school year calendar, visit browardschools.com/calendars.

Parent Input into Evaluations

Parents interested in providing input into the performance evaluations of Westwood Heights Elementary School instructional and/or administrative employee evaluations many contact our office at (754) 323-7900 by April 13, 2018.

CLASSROOM NEWS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The ECE Team is so excited to be back for a new school year! We would like to welcome the new families, that are here at Westwood Heights for the first time, and our wonderful returning families! Also, we would like to introduce the new teachers on our team – Ms. Huber in VPK, Ms. Hyppolite in ESE and Ms. Lockhart in Head Start 3's.

The growth that you will witness in your children from the beginning of this school year till the end will be astounding! There are learners that this is their first time away from home, and leaving their parents and caregivers can be a challenge, but every day the transition from home to school becomes easier. Then the next thing you know, they will be singing songs from class at home, they'll be eager to show you what they have learned during the school day, and they will even beg you to bring them back to school!

Do not hesitate to get in contact with us, we are always here for you and your learner. We look forward to an amazing 2017-2018 school year.

KINDERGARTEN

Oh my! Where did September go? Kindergarten is moving right along. Our little ones are busy each and every day: learning, growing, singing, dancing, and some are even reading! Our days are filled with lots of fun and exciting activities. It is extremely important that your learner gets a good night's rest and comes to school refreshed and ready to work each day. This month in Math class, we continue our focus on identifying, counting, and showing numbers 0-5. We are also comparing numbers 0-5 using greater, less, and same. In English Language Arts we are working on identifying the parts of a book and showing how we use a book to read. In addition, we are also working on sight words and the letter of the week. Our Science time has us exploring science tools like magnifying glasses, measuring cups, rulers, and balances.

[If your learner will be eating breakfast here at school, please have them in the breakfast line by 7:30 am to ensure that they will have a hot and nutritious meal.](#)

[As a team, we assign a homework packet that will be sent home on Monday afternoon and will be due Friday morning.](#)

Finally, we would like to welcome the two newest members of the Kindergarten team: Ms. Campbell and Ms. Hodge. We are so happy to have them aboard!

-The Kindergarten Team

CLASSROOM NEWS

1st Grade

We've had such an amazing start so far in first grade! Our students have begun the process of learning addition facts and strategies, such as the commutative property of addition. In reading, we have covered main idea and story structure as well. The students participated in Peace Week and learned about all the ways they could keep the peace within their home, school, community, and world.

This month, we will tackle the differences between fiction and non-fiction, we will learn how to determine the meaning of unknown words in a text, and compare/contrast people, events, ideas in a text. In math, we will dive a little deeper into the strategies for adding, such as adding doubles and counting on. Stayed tuned for more exciting activities as we journey through the exciting world of first grade!



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2nd Grade

Happy October! The Second-grade team wishes everyone another month of success. For the second quarter of the school year, the staff along with the support from our community, will continue to embark on encouraging all learners to "be"-lieve in themselves. In doing so, the expectations remain;

Be Focus,
Be willing
Be consistent

For the month of October, we decided to reward our star learner of the week with a decorative belt.

Assessments are given every Friday in the areas of Reading, Math, and Science to provide teachers with data to drive instruction. Academically, they will be developing comprehension skills through main idea, key details, opinion writing, and character response. In math, learners are working on place value and identifying different ways to write a number. For science this month, we will focus on the states of matter.

We encourage our parents to contact us with questions, for resources, and suggestions to optimize their child's learning.

-Second Grade Team

Math Corner Grades K-2

It is so important to engage children in mathematical thinking in school and outside of school hours. We are encouraging parents to engage their children in math activities or conversations as often as possible. Students can be engaged during drives to and from different locations while in the car. Also, during visits to stores and fast food restaurants. Simple mathematical questions can be asked to get them thinking.

Kindergarten

Presently the learners in kindergarten are focused on learning to represent, count, and compare numbers 0-10. They are learning also how to compare numbers.

1st Grade

Mathematics learning in 1st grade for October essentially focuses on learning different strategies to use when adding and subtracting.

2nd Grade

2nd graders are developing fluency in adding and subtracting 10 or 100 to numbers 100 – 900. They are also learning how to read and write numbers up to 1,000.

Classroom News

3rd Grade

We are off to a great start in 3rd grade this year. It was so nice seeing both new and familiar faces Things are really Rockin & Rollin in the third grade. We are happy to report that our learners are already showing so much progression and understanding of their studies. We have been working vigorously each week to understand and master our Florida State Standards...it's never too early to be FSA ready! Remember, you are always welcome to contact your learners' teacher for extra at home practice material.

Reminders

I am excited to announce that on Friday, October 31st the 3rd grade will be headed to our very first fieldtrip. We will be attending the play, Little Monster Tales at the Parker Playhouse. Please remember to be on the look out for fieldtrip forms in your learners' communication folders. If a learner does not submit the necessary forms within the designated timeframe, they will unfortunately not be able to attend the fieldtrip.

Learning Focus

Reading - How does the author's choice and use of words affect the meaning of a text? - How does the author's use of words help me understand their meaning? - How does language in informational texts signal particular kinds of relationships. - How can I learn to use academic vocabulary appropriately? - How can I learn and use domain-specific vocabulary appropriately?

Math - Fluently multiplying within 100. - Fluently dividing within 100. - Applying properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide. - Use multiplication and division within 100 to solve words problems in situation involving equal groups, arrays, and measurement quantities. Science - Animal Adaptations: Understanding similarities and differences between vertebrates and invertebrates.

Classroom News

4th Grade

Ms. Satine, Dr. Moore, Ms. McClary



Dear Parents,

As we all have encountered this devastating natural disaster in our state, the 4th grade team understands the impact this experience could have on our students. We hope your home and family have recovered from all or most of the hurricane related issues. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, our open house was rescheduled to September 27th. We would like to thank all parents who attend this event. We apologize for any inconvenience and we thank you for your patience. Going forward, WHE still expect students to remain focused on excelling in all subjects-areas and continue to display positive behavior. In the chart below, you will find content related information to help your students excel in school and at home.

Reading Overview	Math Overview
<p>LAFS.4.RL.1.3 – Describing in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama.</p> <p>LAFS.4.RL.2.4 – Figuring out the meaning of words and phrases as it is used in a text.</p>	<p>NF.1.1/1.2- Fraction Equivalence and Comparison (Lessons 6.1 – 6.8)</p> <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Benchmark- Common Denominator- Equivalent Fractions- Simplest Form

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 12th- Math Test

(Lesson 6.1 – 6.8)

October 20th- Teacher

Planning

October 24th- Picture Day

October 20th - ELA

Checkpoint

**EVERYDAY MAY NOT
BE GOOD, BUT
THERE IS
SOMETHING GOOD
IN EVERY DAY.**

AUTHOR

UNKNOWN

Classroom News

5th Grade

Welcome Parents and Guardians,

5th grade is proud to announce that our first field trip is on October 12, 2017. On this field trip, our fifth graders will venture out into a mock workforce at J.A. Biz Town. Mock careers at J.A. Biz town range from District Attorneys to City Art Curators. Please be sure to return your child's fieldtrip form back in a timely manner. On another note, if your child is struggling with their reading homework. Homework Club for Reading is the solution. Homework Club for Reading is held in Rm. 751. It begins at 3:25p.m.and ends at 4:00p.m. It is free of charge. If you have any questions regarding the schematics of Homework Club for Reading, please contact Mr. Duren for further information. The fifth grade team is also excited to announce that Homework Club for Science will soon get started. For further information regarding Homework Club for Science, please contact Mrs. Quinn. Lastly, we ask that you please check over your child's homework daily, to ensure that they have completed it correctly. **TOGETHER, WE WILL GET THEM OVER THE FINISH LINE!** We sincerely thank you for all of your assistance.



Reading- In our ELA Block, we have just finished our Theme, Main Idea, and Supporting Details unit. We are currently learning about how to Compare and Contrast multiple sources from print or digital resources.

Math- In our Mathematics Block, we are currently working on decimals. Students are currently learning how to distinguish the place value of a number that has a decimal embedded within it.

Science- In our Science Block, we just completed the Scientific Method chapter. We are currently learning how to properly conduct Scientific Investigations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Let's get unified!!! In honor of our fabulous special programs students all Westwood Heights Staff rocks the new "Don't Dis My Abilities" T-Shirt. Now the shirt is available to parents and to students. Proceeds from the shirt will go towards our Best Buddies Program here at Westwood Heights.



Best Buddies Is Back

Best Buddies is back. Mrs. Childers and Ms. Searl are now accepting applications for the program. The program is designed to combine our general education students and special needs students for fun interactive programs. If a student is interested, please grab an application from Mrs. Childers or Ms. Searl. The first Best Buddies activity will be a Halloween Ice Cream Social.



Literacy Corner



Dear Parents,

I am very excited to announce that we are ready to read our hearts out! The only way to get better at reading is to *do* it. Beginning on October 2, 2017 and continuing through March 30, 2018, Westwood Heights Elementary will be participating in the BOOK IT Reading Incentive Program. The BOOK IT Program motivates learners to read because they **WANT** to. Sponsored by Pizza Hut, the program encourages reading through pizza, praise, and recognition.

The monthly reading goal is reading a book for at least 20 minutes a day at home or in school. The students will document the minutes they read on their monthly reading log. A parent signature is required before the reading log is turned in. When a student meets the monthly reading goal, the teacher will present him/her with a pizza award certificate good for a free, one topping Personal Pan Pizza from participating Pizza Hut locations. There is no purchase required and the pizza can be taken to go. Please help your child meet their reading goal each month by reading. Please remind them to read for at least 20 minutes each day.

Student Pledge:

- ✓ I pledge to establish a daily reading routine at home,
- ✓ Fuel the desire to read through great books, and
- ✓ "Read my heart out" and celebrate reading achievement



Recognition at H



When your child brings home their BOOK IT certificate, you know what it means. They have been reading their hearts out, and it's time to celebrate with pizza! Here are a few tips to make the experience even more memorable for your kids.

Family Night In

Plan a family night to celebrate your young readers. Pull out all the board games and enjoy some friendly competition.

Remote Control

Let your super reader pick out a movie for the family to watch. There are many great film adaptations of books, and this is the perfect opportunity to get to know what your child is reading.



Science Corner

The school year is in full swing! Irma came and went but with her she left many learning opportunities in science to talk about weather patterns, storm systems, and climate! As we move forward in our school year, your child will be learning the following in each grade level:

Kindergarten Learning Target

Collaborate with a partner to collect information, making observations of the natural world using the five senses and keeping records of evidence, including observations.

1st Grade Learning Targets

Recognize that water, rocks, soil, and living organisms are found on Earth's surface.

Describe the need for water and how to be safe around water.

2nd Grade Learning Target

Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them, make observations, generate appropriate explanations, compare observations made by different groups, ask reasonable questions in appropriate situations, attempt reasonable answers, and distinguish between empirical observation, ideas, or inferences.

3rd Grade Learning Target

Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them individual and in teams through free exploration and systematic investigations, and generate appropriate explanations and inferences

Math Corner Grades 3-5

We are off to a fantastic Mathematical start to our school year! Many great things are happening in math from hands-on activities, to individual centers for each learner in another class. Additionally, we have received our first round of scores for 3rd and 4th grade math. The school goal in Math for the 2018 FSA is to have 41% proficiency. 41.8% of our 3rd Grade learners scored 60% and above on the first school-based assessment. 25.7% of our 4th Grade learners scored 60% and above on their first school-based assessment. Although we are not at our goal as a school, we are well on our way!

What will your child be learning this month? Check it out below!

3rd Grade Content

Properties of Multiplication and Division (MAFS.3.OA.2.5)

Solving Real-World Multiplication and Division Problems (MAFS.3.OA.1.3)

Relating Multiplication to Division (MAFS.3.OA.1.4, MAFS.3.OA.2.6, & MAFS.3.OA.1.4)

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4th Grade Standards

Finding Equivalent Fractions: Multiplication and Models (MAFS.4.NF.1.1)

Strategies for Comparing Fractions (MAFS.4.NF.1.2)

Factors and Multiples (MAFS.4.OA.2.4a, MAFS.4.OA.2.4b, & MAFS.4.OA.2.4c)

5th Grade Standards

Rounding Decimals (MAFS.5.NBT.1.4)

Using the Standard Algorithm for Multiplication (MAFS.5.NBT.2.5)

Dividing by a 2-Digit Number (MAFS.5.NBT.2.6)

Understanding Fractions as Division (MAFS.NF.2.3)

SAC/SAF & PTO

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

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Tuesday, October 3, 2017 5:30p.m.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 3:30p.m.

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 5:30p.m.

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 3:30p.m.

Tuesday March 6, 2018 5:30p.m.

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 3:30p.m.

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:30p.m.