

WESTWOOD GAZETTE



JODI WASHINGTON, PRINCIPAL
LAVINA ROBINSON, INTERN PRINCIPAL

(754) 323-7900

September, 2018

Vol. 3.2

"Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow"

<http://westwoodheights.browardschools.com>

<http://twitter.com/WHElementary>

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Westwood Heights Elementary School Families,

This month, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) celebrates Attendance Awareness Month. BCPS 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. Additionally, the number of minutes that scholars are tardy can accumulate and be calculated as an absence.

The major issue we face is students arriving to class late. School begins at 8:00 a.m. thus, scholars must be in class and ready to learn at 8:00a.m. There are scholars who arrive at school early but are tardy to class because they are walking siblings to class or wait until it is time to go to class then decide to join the breakfast line. This behavior negatively impacts your child's success in school.

We have too many scholars who 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 and timely attendance. I appreciate your support in this matter and am available if you have any questions or concerns.

Jodi Washington
Principal



Established 1915
BROWARD
County Public Schools

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

Important Dates

9/3.....No School
9/10.....No School
9/17.....Interim Reports
9/17-9/21.....Peace Week
9/26.....Dads Take Your
Child to School Day
9/27.....Title I Parent
Training Orientation 6:00p.m. @
Park Lakes Elem.

Assessment Window Dates

8/15-10/2..... Florida
Kindergarten Readiness
Screening (FLKRS)

4/1-4/12...FSA Writing 4th & 5th
Grades

4/1-4/12...FSA ELA 3rd

5/1-5/14...FSA ELA 4th & 5th

5/1-5/14...FSA Math 3rd- 5th

5/1-5/14...Statewide Science

A NOTE FROM YOUR INTERN PRINCIPAL

Greetings Westwood Heights Family,

School-Wide Positive Behavior Plan

I am pleased to announce that the 2018-2019 School-Wide Positive Behavior Plan (SPBP) has been approved! The SPBP is driven by four school-wide expectations: Cooperation, Respect, Safety and Self-Control. The plan includes definitions of the expectations, a rationale for each expectation, examples and non-examples for each expectation. Copies of the plan can be found in the front office or on our school website.

Florida Standard Assessment Score Reports

Florida Standard Assessment (FSA) score reports were sent home on **Wednesday, August 29th**. If you did not receive your child's FSA score report, please contact Ms. Altieri at (754) 323-7900 or come in to the front office.



Respectfully,

Lavina Robinson
Intern Principal

Classroom Happenings!

Early Childhood Education

Our Pre-K team would like to welcome all parents and scholars to Westwood Heights Elementary. For many of the children, this is their first time being in a school and classroom environment. Our Pre-K team will be helping your child learn and grow all throughout this school year. Currently all of the Pre-K staff are teaching the children the routines and procedures for school (how to walk in a line, how to sit at the carpet for story, how to share with a friend, and more). The teachers have also begun to assess the students on various skills (letter knowledge, counting, fine motor, gross motor, etc.). We look forward to seeing your child everyday here at school. Know that they are safe and loved here at Westwood Heights Elementary.

Kindergarten

Welcome to the beginning of the year in Kindergarten! We are more than excited to start our year and watch our scholars grow and blossom as the year continues. The beginning of the year can be a difficult transition for many of our learners. The school day is extended and there is no longer a nap time! To help our scholars come to school refresh and ready to work, we suggest that our scholars go to bed at appropriate times. As a team, we will assign a homework packet that will be sent home Monday evening and will be due Friday morning. We are beginning our year kicking off ABC bootcamp, learning about sight words, identifying and representing numerals 0-20. If you have not signed up for Class Dojo, please do! This app is a great way to communicate with your scholar's teacher about behaviors and receive updates of pictures/videos of our scholars and what we do daily in our classrooms! We encourage our scholars to be at school and on time every day. ABC bootcamp teaches a letter a day and if your scholar does not make it to school they miss out on explicit instruction on a whole letter. We are excited for a great year and do not forget to ask your scholar about the letter of the day and all the other interesting topics they are learning about!

Thank you,
Ms. Handshoe
Ms. Hodge
Ms. Richards
Ms. Saiz
Ms. Anicet

Classroom Happenings!

3rd Grade

Welcome to Third Grade! This year is sure to be full of excitement and learning. The goal of the third-grade team is to make sure you scholar is fully prepared for success. This month in ELA we will focus on determining the central message, identifying main idea and details, and analyzing characters. In math, scholars will tackle multiplying and dividing, applying properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide and using multiplication and division solve words. We encourage our parents to contact us with questions, for resources and suggestions to optimize their child's learning.



4th Grade

Greetings and welcome to the 4th grade! We (Mrs. Alcineus, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Alvarado, and Ms. McClary) are excited to be working with you and your scholar(s). This year in Reading students will be doing novel studies, writing from a prompt, and exploring a variety of social studies topics. In Mathematics students will dive deeper in understanding fractions, place value, decimals, multiplication, division and more. For Science, we are happy to announce the integration of STEMScopes/Hands-on experiments! Get ready for the stories of how Science relates to our world! This year your scholars will be taking the Reading, Math and Writing FSA. This will require each scholar to read at least 20-30 minutes per day, practice their multiplication and division fluency skills through Reflex Math daily, and write to a prompt using details. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your teacher via ClassDojo. Here's to a great 4th grade school year!



Classroom Happenings!

5th Grade

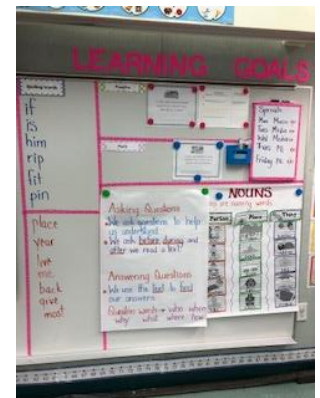
Welcome to fifth grade! We (Ms. Samson, Ms. Heck, Ms. Kujawa and Mr. D.) are so excited to educate your child(ren) this year! This school year, our 5th graders will participate in novel study during their Reading block. They will also continue to foster and build their math skills as we work on fractions, decimals, geometry, and measurement during their Mathematics block. Lastly, our 5th graders will create and conduct engaging science experiments during their Science period. In addition to our academic studies, our 5th graders will have the chance to participate in different extracurricular activities this years. (i.e. the Morning Announcements Team, Crime Watch Team, Safety Patrol Team, or Technology Club) Lastly, we have tentatively scheduled a few fieldtrips this year; including our famous End Of The Year field trip to St. Augustine. Please look out for further information.

Parents we ask you to remind your child(ren) that as a 5th grader, excellent behavior is expected. They are leaders of our school and act as a role model for all the younger students.



1st Grade

Welcome to our first grade corner! The first grade team is so excited to start off a new year with our scholars. We have begun working with addition concepts in math and asking and answering in English Language Arts. This month in English Language Arts, we will be working on retelling fictional stories and demonstrating understanding of the central message and finding the main idea and key details with nonfictional text. In math, we will be focusing on subtraction concepts and the relationship between addition and subtraction. Please continue to have your scholar read every night, complete daily home practice, and practice sight and spelling words. Looking forward to a fantastic year!



Primary Mathematics

Welcome to the beginning of another productive school year. In the primary grades we will be building on the skills that were taught in the previous grades. Remember to continue to engage your scholars in mathematics conversations whenever appropriate.

KINDERGARTEN

Math instructions in kindergarten is focused on scholars representing, counting and writing numbers 0-5. Activities requiring students to perform these tasks can be done at home to assist in developing these math skills.



1ST GRADE

The scholars on this grade level are developing their addition and subtraction skills. The scholars are using concrete objects when adding and subtracting to assist in developing these concepts.



2ND GRADE

Instructional focus is on addition and subtraction within 100 to solve one and two-step word problems, addition of objects arranged in rectangular arrays, and using strategies to determine if groups of objects are odd or even, also write equations to express even numbers as sum of two equal addends. Also, scholars are using mental strategies to fluently add and subtract within 20.



Core Lesson

$23 + 45$

20 + 40 = 60 3 + 5 = 8

First add the tens together and then add the ones together.

60 and 8 are partial sums.

LEARN ZILLION

Special Programs

Westwood Heights welcomes back all special program learners with open arms! Last year it was bitter sweet to watch such a large class of 5th graders graduate and move on to middle school. Fortunately, we have a large incoming class of new kindergarteners. We continue to have four special program units and two specialized pre-k units. We have a new team on board this year. We are pleased to welcome new teachers Ms. McKenzie, Mr. Mayweather, Ms. Fairclough, Ms. Shamp, and Ms. Powell to the ESE team. Seasoned teacher, Ms. Pellegrino has also joined the team in a new role as the support facilitator of the school. Returning to the department is veteran teacher Ms. Gammage and ESE specialist Ms. Childers.

Right to Left: Powell, Mayweather, Shamp, McKenzie, Pellegrino, Fairclough, Childers, Gammage



This year the department plans to continue to have a Best Buddies program. We also have our sights set on being the county CHAMPS again at the Special Olympics. Both programs will begin in September. We look forward to being one of the elite programs in the county once again!

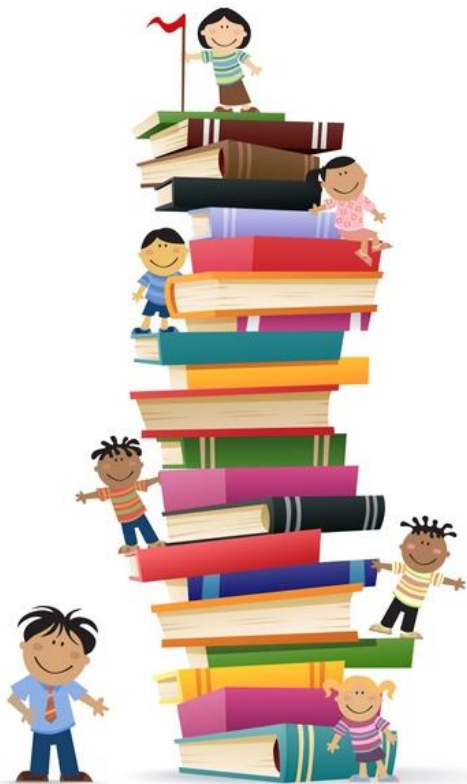
LITERACY CORNER

Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year! As we embark on this new journey, I extend a heartfelt welcome to our new and returning scholars to Westwood Heights Elementary School. For many of our scholars, the beginning of a new school year is a time filled with eagerness and anticipation as they enter the next grade of their education.



As we look ahead to another school year of assisting students to narrow their reading achievement gap, we are profoundly aware of the significance of children reading with their parent or guardian at home. Reading at home with your child is instrumental to their academic development. Research has shown that one-on-one reading time and access to books are key predictors of future literacy skills and future educational outcomes.

Here are some easy ways that parents or guardians can support their children in becoming stronger and proficient readers:



- ✓ **READ AT HOME**
Reading regularly at home provides children with the practice they need to become great readers.
- ✓ **MAKE A SPECIAL READING SPOT**
Designating a special reading spot at home for children to read with you is not only exciting, but this is also a great way of creating a spot where children can concentrate.
- ✓ **BECOME A GREAT READING PARTNER FOR YOUR CHILD**
As children it is no fun to read when you are mandated to read. Building trust and supporting your children reading habits is crucial. Show your children that reading is entertaining by reading with them.
- ✓ **SURROUND YOUR CHILD WITH BOOKS**
When children have access to books at home, they become acquainted with books and the act of reading daily, successfully giving them a head start in learning.
- ✓ **BRING BOOKS EVERYWHERE**
Incorporating books into everyday activities will continue to assist children in becoming better readers. Place books everywhere in your home and even in the car.
- ✓ **COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER AND GET INVOLVED AT WESTWOOD HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY**
Communicating with the teacher also informs parents and guardians in what areas of reading they are succeeding in and what areas they may need additional help with. You can also

Science Corner

Mr. Mennecke – Science Coach



Welcome back to school for what promises to be another exciting year at Westwood Heights! This year in the Science Department we have NEW resources! We are utilizing STEMScopes, Science A-Z, Scholastic Science Readers, and we will continue the use of Science Bootcamp for grades four and five. This means that all of our scholars have the opportunity to complete more hands-on activities!



September's Educational Focus

During the month of September our primary scholars will be learning about the Sun and its properties. Below are some facts about the sun that you can read with your child to give them a further understanding and prepare them for this month's lessons. It's going to be a **"HOT"** one!

Facts About the Sun

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is between the Sun and the Earth.

The Sun's core is around 13,600,000 degrees Celsius!

At around 1,392,000 kilometres (865,000 miles) wide, the Sun's diameter is about 110 times wider than Earth's.

The Sun generates huge amounts of energy by combining hydrogen nuclei into helium. This process is called nuclear fusion.

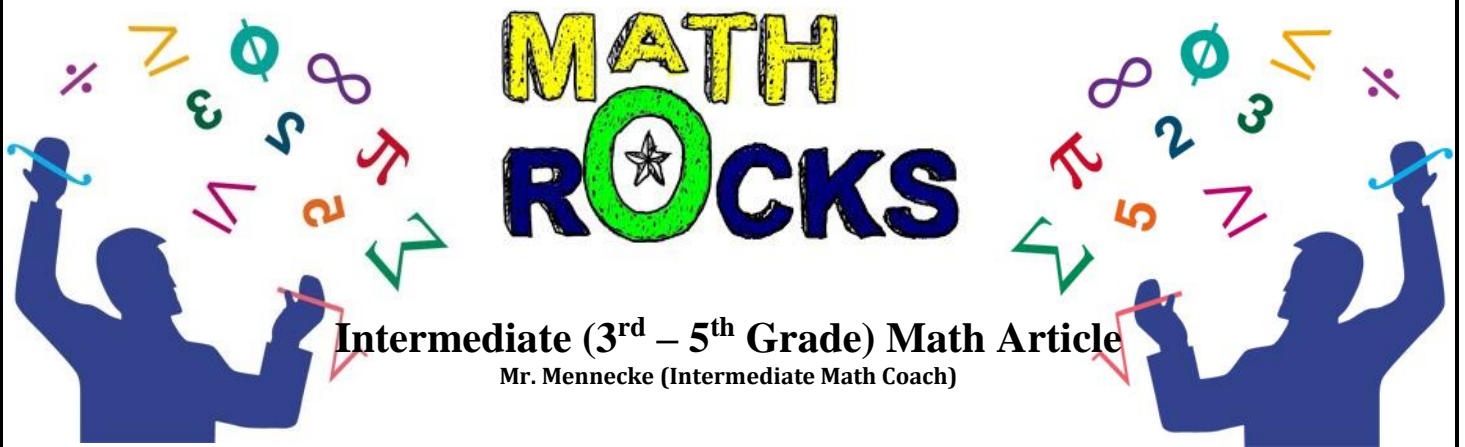
The Sun is a star found at the center of the Solar System.

Over 1,000,000 Earth's could fit inside the Sun.

The Sun's surface temperature is around 5500 degrees Celsius (9941 degrees Fahrenheit),

Light from the Sun reaches Earth in around 8 minutes.

The Sun produces a solar wind which contains charged particles such as electrons and protons.



Intermediate (3rd – 5th Grade) Math Article
Mr. Mennecke (Intermediate Math Coach)

The beginning of the school year brings with it new content to be taught in our intermediate math classes! This year grades 3-5 will focus on 1 standard a week to ensure an extensive amount of time is given for each standard and opportunities for success grow. During the month of September, the name of the “game” is FLUENCY! All scholars in grades 3-5 should be working on their fact fluency. Research shows that the ability to recall math facts fluently is essential for students to gain higher-order math skills and is a predictor of strong performance on mathematics achievement tests.

One of the most important skills for math success in grades 1-5 is the memorization of addition and subtraction facts (1st and 2nd grades) multiplication and division (3rd – 5th grades). Please encourage your children to learn and practice them throughout this year. Math facts should be practiced daily. Facts can be reviewed through simple old-fashioned flashcards, games, websites, and many apps. Some parents have apps on their smartphones for a portable way to have children practice, however, quizzing children orally, even as dinner is being prepared, during commercial breaks on the television, and anytime you are in the car is a great way to quiz your child as well. Just get creative! All scholars in 2nd grade – 5th grade have access to Reflex Math and they can access this site anywhere there is internet. Please promote the practice of fact fluency with your child at home. I have included some extra sites below that can also help.

Websites to Practice Fact Fluency:

<http://www.reflexmath.com>

<http://www.fun4thebrain.com/>

<https://www.xtramath.org/>

<http://www.multiplication.com/>

SAC/SAF & PTO

SAC begins at 3:30p.m.

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

Tuesday, September 5, 2018

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Tuesday, December 5, 2018

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Tuesday March 5, 2019

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Tuesday, May 7, 2019