

# DANIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“A School-wide Title I School”

Lewis Jackson, Principal

Leslie Phillips, Assistant Principal

## Spring 2017 Issue

Dania Office: (754) 323-5350

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### Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Community Members:

As we move into the final quarter of the 2016-2017 school year it is important that we remind our students/children to “**Finish Strong**”. This is not the time to falter, waiver, and/or become unfocused. Teachers continue to plan lessons to challenge and stimulate your child’s learning. Our Intermediate (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades) students have been preparing for upcoming Florida Standards Assessments (FSAs). The students and teachers have been working hard and now it’s time for them to shine!

Many teachers will use the final quarter of this school year to implement projects that may take several days or weeks to complete. Some of these projects include dynamic educational field trips. We will also continue to provide remedial and/or enrichment activities to continuously promote student achievement. **It is important that students continue to arrive on time and prepared to learn each and every day!**

Several wonderful activities are planned for our Dania students. We have tentatively planned an Earth Day celebration, FSA Pep Rallies, Swim Central activities (Pre-K and Kindergarten students), Career Day activities, Field Day activities, various grade level field trips, Accelerated Reader Awards Ceremony, Kickball Competition, and our annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up ceremony. **This is an exciting place to work and learn!**

### CHARACTER EDUCATION

As part of our Character Education curriculum elementary students will be studying *Self Control* in March, and *Tolerance* during the month of April. Have a brief discussion with your child(ren) about the different kinds of people in the world. It is important to understand that there are many different kinds of people in the world with many different values. Newspapers are filled with stories of struggles around the United States, and the world, that can be traced to cultural disagreements. It is vital that we all attempt to understand and respect other people’s beliefs and cultures. Visit the site [www.goodcharacter.com](http://www.goodcharacter.com) to

get ideas to enhance lessons at home dealing with tolerance and other important character traits.

Sincerely,

Lewis Jackson, Ed. D.  
Principal

### SOUTH BROWARD I-ZONE COUNSELING

The South Broward Zone Family Counseling Center has appointments available day and evening with a licensed therapist for your child and family. All services are free and confidential. We can help your child overcome barriers to school, success and happiness. Call (754) 323-1820 to schedule an appointment.



### Kindergarten Capers

Ms. Rocha, Ms. Hall,  
Ms. Harmer, Ms. Partain,  
Ms. Fishkin, Ms. Johnson,  
Ms. Horner, Ms. Marigold

Spring is here and our Kindergarteners are very excited about reading. Our students receive weekly homework packets that need to be completed and returned on Fridays. Sentence writing continues to be a challenge for many, so extra practice at home is very important to their success. Also, continue to work on sight words, decoding two and three letter words, blending sounds, sentence structure, and punctuation.

In math, students are learning numbers to 20 and beyond and skip counting by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s. Please continue to review word problems and addition and subtraction equations with your students.

Your children had fun learning about Famous Americans and American Symbols in Social Studies and we are currently moving on to learn about the similarities and differences between animals, their body coverings, movement, habitats, life cycles and needs.

Our field trip to Flamingo Gardens is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>. We are excited about all we will see and learn to enhance our learning about plants and animals.

Spring break is right around the corner, the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup>. Please enjoy this time with your family, but also take time to read and journal about a special moment!

Water Safety lessons will be held from May 1, 2017 through May 12, 2017. We will need parent volunteers to assist in each class. If you will be available to help out any of these days, please discuss this with your child's teacher. All chaperones must be pre-approved and that information is needed as soon as possible. More information about Swim Central will be sent home when we return from spring break.

Finally, we want to thank all our parents for your continued support, and remember – READ, READ, READ!



### First Grade News Flash

Ms. Brown, Ms. Garcia,  
Mr. Tomlinson, Ms. Avalos  
Ms. Lawrence, Ms. Shvank  
Ms. Hengge, Mr. Thomas,  
Ms. Edery, Ms. Zotter

First graders have been getting ready to bloom into second graders. In math, we have learned about place value and adding and subtracting numbers. We will be learning about measurement, including time. In science, we are learning about motion and gravity. Soon your child will be assessed a final time with the Broward Assessment System, (BAS). These results will be used as one criteria for promotion. Your child should be reading at an instructional level "I" in order to be promoted to second grade. Be sure to read with your child each night and discuss the story. This will help with your child's comprehension and fluency. If you have internet access at home, i-Ready is a great tool to use to enhance your child's learning.

Please check your child's backpack each night and empty out any old or graded papers. Ask questions about graded work.

### Second Grade Capers

Ms. Bohlen, Ms. Delmonte,  
Ms. Fleming, Ms. Rudnick,  
Ms. Tersigni, Ms. Machin



Happy Spring, everyone! It's hard to believe we will soon be in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this school year! Our second graders will soon be third graders. We are working very hard to bring all students up to and beyond grade level. Please be sure your child is reading at home 20-30 minutes each day to strengthen reading fluency and skills.

We are studying our favorite Science topic: Life Science. Students learning about the life cycles, needs, and habitats of plants and animals. When walking around your neighborhood, have your child identify plant parts, and look for plants and weeds which have gone to seed. Educational TV has many programs about animals which will help your child understand animal life cycles, when we can't study real animals. Students are very excited when learning about animals. Of course, we all love animal babies.

Please remind your child that homework counts. In second grade, students have 20-30 minutes of homework. The practice and review of skills taught in the classroom really helps students to be ready for the next lesson.

Parents, please give us 24-hour notice when you would like to have a conference. It is very difficult for us to do last minute conferences on the spot. We may be otherwise occupied, or in a previously scheduled conference with another parent. You may schedule a conference by giving us a call, or writing a note in your child's homework agenda. We do want to meet with you, and give you the necessary time for a complete and uninterrupted meeting. Thank you for understanding.

### Terrific Third Grade News!

Ms. Fortoul, Mr. Daley, Ms. Vives  
Ms. Persac, Ms. O'Sullivan,  
Mr. Ricketts, Ms. Zeitlin,



Third graders have been working hard preparing for our upcoming Reading and Mathematics Florida Standards Assessment, (FSA). The reading portion of the test will be on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and the math portion is in April.

Students have been learning reading and math strategies and have become proficient with the many benchmarks for third grade. We highly encourage that students have a quiet place to read at home for at least 30 minutes on a daily basis. Let them read aloud to you and hear the progress they are making with their fluency. Also, ask your child questions about what they read (i.e. state the problem, give an example of cause & effect, who is the main character, can you describe him/her?). Having them read and monitor their reading time, exposes them to new vocabulary and gives them the necessary stamina to complete tasks with maximum effort and focus.

Parents play a critical role in their children's learning. Being involved in their education shows students the importance of school, and how it will affect their future. It is very

important that on test days, students get a good night's rest, have a healthy breakfast, and feel ready for school. We suggest encouraging your child by letting them know that they "got this," or not to worry, and to do their best. Positive and loving interactions allow students to enter their testing class with a positive attitude and a smile on their faces. Please continue to look for important papers that go home. They contain valuable information.

If you have not had a chance to fill out the parent survey, please take the time to complete the form and return it to school as soon as possible.

We appreciate the time you take to help make your child successful in school.



### Fourth Grade Features

Ms. Little, Ms. Hirsch,  
Ms. Podesta, Ms. Schweinfurth,  
Mr. Reveron,, Mr. Tomlinson  
Ms. Weinstock,  
Ms. Katz-DiGiacomo (KD)

Wow! We are already three months into 2017, and time is flying by. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders just recently took their Florida Standards Assessment, (FSA) Writing section and we are very proud of the effort they put into their writing; they should be very proud of themselves! Although one FSA, is done, we still have two more to continue preparing for.

Please check your child's agenda daily and make sure they are completing all homework, including their i-Ready workbook; these lessons are very important for the upcoming FSA. The Reading FSA will take place after Spring Break (April 24-25) and the Math FSA will be given May (May 4-5). Please check to see if your child has been given a study packet to complete over Spring Break and make sure they are working on it each day to keep the material from being forgotten. It is essential that your child is practicing the skills they have been taught over Spring Break because they are being assessed soon after they return. Encourage your child to log onto the i-Ready reading and math computer programs and ten marks. These programs are excellent in preparing for the FSA. Please continue to have your child read 30 minutes or more a night to help build their reading stamina in preparation for the FSA. **Reminder: Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade need to pass the math and reading FSA to be promoted.**

Now that the year is more than half over, please replenish your child's supplies. Fourth graders need a package of #2 pencils, pink eraser, a new homework folder if it is ripped or lost and a package of notebook paper to complete the year,

along with new notebooks if their previous notebooks have been filled.

It is also essential that your child is coming to school **daily** and **on time**. As always, donations of school supplies and motivational treats are truly appreciated! Let's continue working together to help support our students to finish out testing and the school year on a positive note! Thanks for all you've done and continue to do to help these students to succeed.



### Fifth Grade News

Ms. Flynn, Ms. Moncrieffe,  
Ms. Juman, Ms. Magliocca  
Mr. Dix, Ms. Cardova

In Fifth Grade, we are diligently preparing your child for the FSA/SSA, which is quickly approaching! Our students have been working hard and are eager to show how much they have learned throughout this school year.

The final days before FSA/SSA are crucial for students. This is the time when we quickly review everything we have taught this year including those lessons way back in September and those your child may have missed due to absences and or illnesses. **Attendance is imperative at this time!**

We continue to work on test taking strategies and skills taught in class with your child to help them achieve their goals. If you haven't already done so, please help your child set up a daily study routine. Don't forget to check your child's planner daily and sign the planner. Help your child stay on track by reminding them to complete and turn in missing work or homework in a timely manner.

Remember, a goodnight rest and a hearty breakfast is important for your child during this time. We want your child alert and attentive at all times.

If you haven't already met with the teachers, please schedule a time to brainstorm ways to assist your child in and out of the classroom and ways to better prepare them for their upcoming assessments.

Some online programs that will give support in reading, math and science are as follows:

[www.i-ready.com](http://www.i-ready.com)

[www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)

[www.tenmarks.com](http://www.tenmarks.com)

Please check your child's supplies and replenish those that are low. Mainly pencils and

paper. We would also appreciate donations of tissues and hand sanitizer for the classroom.

As a team we can help your child succeed.



### S.T.E.M.

Ms. Machin

Thank you to all who participated in this year's STEM Olympics. It was exciting to see future engineers and their families at work! If you enjoyed building a catapult, racing to build the tallest structure, or building sculptures from cardboard, try the Egg Drop Project. The egg drop is a classic science project that students will love. The purpose is to design a system that will protect an egg from a fall. Give it a try and find out! For more family STEM ideas, visit:

<http://www.teachjunkie.com/sciences/stem-challenges/>

This year, seven 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Dania Elementary's STEM Club will be competing in the BCCTM Elementary Math Competition on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The competition will be held at Pines Middle School beginning at 9:00 AM. These students have worked hard to prepare for this competition and we wish them luck!



### PTO NEWS

Ms. Onna

**Dania Elementary PTO is hosting their 1st Annual Community Yard Sale on**

**Saturday, April 1st!** The yard sale will take place in the school parking lot, 9am-2pm, setup begins at 8am. Parking spaces are available for rent for \$10 for individuals, \$25 for businesses. Deadline to sign up for a space is March 27th. Come sell or shop! Find a treasure and support our school! What you make is what you keep, so clean out your closets and join us!!

### Title 1 News

Mrs. Marigold

We value parent participation! Did you know that as a parent, you have a voice in how Title 1 funds are spent? Additionally, providing input into our annual Parent Involvement Plan (PIP) is highly encouraged. Please join us at the next two School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings (April 19 & May 17, 2017), at 2:05 PM to assist in the development and review of the PIP and School-Parent Compact, as well as Title 1 funding discussions for the 2017-2018 school year.



Also happening in Title 1 News, the 2016-2017 Annual Title 1 School Parent Engagement Survey is now open! If you have an email address registered with Broward Schools, then you should have received an email link to the online survey. Just click the link and take the survey with no messy paper work. You can complete the survey in other ways as well.

- Ask for a paper copy at the front office.
- Use the web link on our school website.
- Or simply request assistance to complete the survey on one of our school laptops.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey if you have not already. Results of the 2016-2017 Annual parental engagement Survey will be shared and discussed at the May SAC meeting. See you there!

### Art Class

Ms. Dugas



This quarter students finished some colorful winter inspired projects and worked on National Women's Month during March. Second grade students worked on a very special project on Abraham Lincoln which was displayed during the month of February in the main hallway. Fourth and Fifth grades are learning about Pop Art and Pop Culture. Currently, for March and celebrating Women's Month these are the projects we are working on:

Kindergarten- Animal Dot Painting inspired by aboriginal artist Gracie Ward

1st Grade -Watercolor bunny inspired by the art of illustrator Beatrix Potter

2nd Grade- African women collage inspired by the Masai Women of Kenya

3rd Grade- Colorful dogs inspired by American artist Heather Galler

4th Grade- Comic Girl (Pop Art) inspired by the ladies comic style created by Roy Lichtenstein

5th Grade – NYC skyscrapers inspired by the project: All the Buildings in New York by James Gulliver.

The art club suffered a small setback due to the kiln breaking, but I am happy to announce it has been fixed! During the time it was broken, I taught students how to make paper maché. We are currently making large letters using recycled materials and they are fabulous.

I also attended a workshop on new and advanced clay glazing techniques and some of these ideas and knowledge will be infused in the art room.

I have an excess of egg cartons right now, so please don't send anymore! I am running out of storage. Thank you to all the parents who constantly support the art room and art program with their donations.

Lastly, but most importantly two of our students Serenity Cordero in 4th grade and Kamila Gonzalez Saavedra, will represent our school in the Youth Arts Month Exhibition; "The Power of the Arts". This is a juried exhibition and if selected they will participate in the Superintendents Private gallery event for an entire year. I wish them both good luck and I am very proud to have such talented artists!

### Music Melodies

Mr. Dix



Well Parents, we are almost there, nearing the end of another successful musical year. Currently, we are exploring the

String Family. The ukulele is the instrument we are reviewing now. Our kindergartners through 3rd graders are enjoying learning the basic chords and songs from the Island of Hawaii.

Our 4th and 5th grade students, are presently working on their end of the year performances. The 4th graders are the first at Dania to be a part of a Bucket Band, whereas the 5th graders are returning to the Music and Dances of the 70's. Our end of the year performance will take place in May. We hope to see you there.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

### Reading Corner

Mr. Ricketts

**Thank you!** Our Dr. Seuss Birthday/Read Across America Day was a big success. Our students took the day to celebrate the life of Dr. Seuss through cooperative reading activities.



### Test Prep and Study Skills for parents

- Map out a study schedule, 15 to 30 minutes a night depending on the child's age, how much material there is to cover, and how much homework needs to be done.
- Find out if the teacher has explained whether the test is short-answer, multiple-choice, essay, or a combination of the three. For the first two kinds of tests, kids will need to know lots of facts and details; thinking about the big picture is more important.

- Review class notes, textbook chapters, study questions, and other materials together, and ask your child what she thinks is the most important info.
- Help your child write down answers and key pieces of information so she can review them later
- Review the basics, like who, what, when, where, and why.
- On test day, remind your child to read the questions and answer choices all the way through.
- Do provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home and make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially on the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.

### Reminders!

Please continue to encourage your child read and take AR quizzes.

Each child has access to i-ready.com, there they can practice all the reading and math skills covered in class.

### Counselor's Corner

Ms. Zotter



Hello Parents and Guardians!

It's hard to believe that Spring is here and we are beginning our fourth and final quarter of the school year! Your children have been busy working on the character traits of Honesty (February) and Self-Control (March). We also wrapped up our Pennies for Patients Campaign, which raised money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Our families helped raise over \$700, which will help fund research for life-saving blood cancer research.

Our second graders had a special visit from the "I'm Thumbbody" program, who worked with our students on self-esteem and standing up to bullying. Second grade also recently participated in our Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), which will inform us of your child's individual learning style, predict achievement on standardized tests, and screen for gifted ability.

For those of you with students in the intermediate grades, we will be administering the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in the areas of ELA Reading and Mathematics, as well the FCAT 2.0 Science for our fifth graders only. These assessments will take place immediately

following our April Spring Break. Please remember that you play an important role in your student's academic success! You can help your child perform at his/ her best by ensuring that your s/he gets a good night's sleep prior to testing, is present and on-time for school, and also that s/he eats a healthy breakfast before coming to school (Note: Free Universal Breakfast is provided in the cafeteria everyday beginning at 7:05am until 7:35am).

You may also assist your child in preparing for the FSA by ensuring that your child attends after-school camps, completes all necessary homework and classwork, and by accessing practice test questions online at: <http://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/>.

A letter will be sent home with your child prior to assessments, but please find the testing dates below and mark your calendars! (\*Note: most assessments are computer-based, except for Grade 3 ELA, Grade 5 Science and/ or if your child receives accommodations for testing). All students taking a computer-based test will need headphones. We are able to provide headphones for students, but if you would like to send in personal headphones for your student to use you are able to do so. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

**FSA SCHEDULE**

| <i>Dates</i> | <i>FSA</i>           | <i>Grade</i> |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| March 28-29  | ELA Reading (PBT)    | 3            |
| April 18-19  | Math (PBT)           | 4            |
| April 18-19  | ELA Reading (PBT)    | 5            |
| April 20-21  | Math (PBT)           | 3            |
| April 24-25  | ELA (CBT/ PBT)       | 4            |
| April 26-27  | ELA (CBT) Math (PBT) | 5            |
| May 2-3      | NGSS Science (PBT)   | 5            |
| May 4-5      | Math (CBT)           | 4            |
| May 9-10     | Math (CBT)           | 3/5          |



April 10-14 Spring Break  
 April 20 Report Cards Issued  
 May 4 Interims Issued  
 May 29 Holiday  
 June 8 Early Release  
 Last Day of School

**Tibits From Your Assistant Principal**

Ms. Leslie Phillips

Please continue to collect the **BoxTops for Education** emblem on the packaging of foods and paper products you purchase. Each little box Top is worth 10 cents, and you would be surprised how those dimes add up. Twice a year we send the box tops in and receive a check. These funds are returned to your children in various incentives.



Parents interested in providing input into the performance evaluations of Dania Elementary School's instructional and/or administrative employee evaluations may contact our office at 754-323-5375 by April 2017.

Remember to empty your child's backpack and homework folder regularly and discuss the papers you find. This serves as a good review for your child.

We were the lucky recipients of a \$500.00 grant from ExxonMobil; 1 South Federal Highway, Dania Beach. When this gas station remember to thank them as they have always been a friend and partner to Dania Elementary. ExxonMobil has a long history of supporting educational programs in math and science. We thank them for this generous gift.

Our Kindergarten Round Up was successful. We had many incoming kindergarten families join us for information and tours. If you know someone who has a child turning 5 years old on or before September 1, 2017, let them know registration is in progress. Waiting until the day school opens is a much more tedious process.

If you haven't already completed the Annual Parent Survey either online or paper-based, please take a few minutes now. The online website is:

<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/0413263>

We really do take to heart your comments and answers and try to tailor initiatives and policies in response.

**Wellness Tips**

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Eat breakfast to give brains and muscles the energy they need so children can learn and play at their best. Remember Dania Elementary has free Universal Breakfast for all students from 7:05am -7:35am.

Here's a fun tip to eat more veggies in the morning: add some broccoli or spinach and ham to your eggs and you have a breakfast Dr. Seuss would approve of-green eggs and ham!



