

DANIA ELEMENTARY

Title I School

Lewis Jackson, Principal

Galina Markevich, Assistant Principal

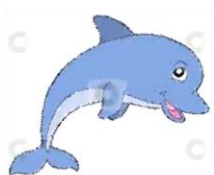
Fall 2018

Main Office: (754) 323-5350

Attendance Hotline (754) 323-5352

ASP (754) 323-5393

Website: <http://dania.browardschools.com>



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Community Members:

The beginning of the school year has brought accolades to our school community. We are proud to announce that **Dania Elementary received an "A" school rating!** The success can be contributed to the hard work demonstrated by our staff and students. Collaboration between parents, community partners, and school staff is also a key component of our rich history of success. Although we are only ten weeks into the school year, many classes have already participated in educational field trips (examples include Broward Performing Arts, BizTown, Olsen Middle School, and Parker Playhouse) as well as engaging in civic activities such as our Walk Out on Cancer and Harvest Drive. We constantly seek ways to teach the "whole child."

We have also had challenges. Maintaining a safe campus is our priority at Dania. New guidelines and policies are being implemented districtwide to better secure our campuses. The District has mandated that **once the school day begins, all perimeter gates must be locked. One gate will be used to allow parent and visitor access to the school. The gate must remain locked, and visitors to the campus must call the school's office to gain entry to the campus.** Please help us to keep our campus safe by adhering to the following expectations for arrival, dismissal, and access to the campus.

- The parking lot that accesses the front of the school (south lot) will be open for drop off beginning at 7:10, for students going to breakfast, and will remain open **until 8:00 AM.**
- **The students should not be on the school campus until 7:10 AM.** There is no supervision!!!

- The South Gate (3rd Terrace) will be used for guest entrance and exit. If you need to access the campus, **you will need to call the school** at (754) 323-5350. We will then send someone to open the gate. Please understand that this may take some time, so please plan accordingly. We recognize that these safety procedures may be inconvenient. At times, due to inclement weather or staff availability, there may be longer than usual wait times. We kindly appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work together to keep our children safe.
- The arrival/dismissal gates will be **re-opened, and entry will be monitored beginning at 1:40 PM. ASP staff will monitor the main gate until 6:00 PM.**
- When entering the campus, please **be prepared to present photo identification and share your purpose or need for entry** to the campus. Our staff appreciates receiving a positive attitude during these procedures and will reciprocate with the same!
- Help build your child's independence by ensuring they come to school prepared with their homework, lunch, laptops, etc.

Dania continues to be a wonderful place to work and learn.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lewis Jackson, Principal

Reduced/Free Lunch

All students receive free breakfast daily but do not automatically receive free/reduced lunch. A free/reduced lunch application must be filled out and approved. To fill out a new application or to renew your eligibility for 2018-2019 school year goes to www.myschoolapps.com. If you are not sure if your

family is eligible, fill out the application anyway. As a Title 1 school, some of our funding is directly tied to the number of free and reduced lunches served so when you are approved, it will help the school too!



Mark Your Calendars!

October 19	Teacher Planning Day
November 6	Teacher Planning Day
November 7	School Advisory Meeting
November 8	Pictures Retake
November 13	Conference Night
November 14	Report Cards Issued
November 16	Academic Honor Roll
November 20-22	No School
December 12	School Advisory Meeting

Rainy Days

Parents, we appreciate your patience and consideration during inclement weather. It is suggested that you provide a small umbrella, raincoat or poncho daily for our unpredictable weather. Thank you.



Pre-K and Kindergarten Capers

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

We are off to a great start in Pre-K and kindergarten this year! It has been very busy as children learned classroom routines and curriculum material. The first few weeks of school are always tiring and challenging for kindergarten students.

In language arts kindergarten just completed ABC Bootcamp. We worked on a letter each day – focusing on the name, sound and printing the letter. Pre-K students are also learning letters and sounds. Some of our students are starting to read and write sentences. It is important to practice sounding out and spelling words using the sounds we hear. (For example, if your child spells was as wuz, this is phonetically correct.) We are learning about nouns and will soon be learning about verbs and adjectives. In math we are working on how to read and write numbers and number words, one-to-one correspondence, greater than and fewer than, as well

as different ways to make numbers 0-10. (For example, 5+0, 4+1, and 3+2 are ways to make 5.) We are learning to describe shapes and spell the shape words.

In science, both Pre-K and kindergarten students are engaging in many hands-on experiments and exploring the world around them as they learn about apples and pumpkins using their five senses.

In social studies, students have been participating in and understanding how to be safe in school, at home, and in the community. PLEASE have fire drills with your family at home, identifying your family safe spot. It is crucial that your child knows your full name in a situation when they have to call 911.

Thank you to all of you who sent in healthy snacks for our classes. If you haven't had the opportunity, please feel free to send in animal crackers, pretzels, goldfish, cereal, fruit or any healthy snacks.

Please read with your child every day and discuss what you are reading, this will help with comprehension. Please work on the high-frequency words. It is crucial to their reading growth and success in school. In last week's homework packet, kindergarten provided each student with a list of our high-frequency words. Please keep this list handy, so you can go over the words with your child and reward them as they show progress. Make flashcards and make it fun! This is crucial to their reading growth and overall success in school.

We are amazed at the progress each child has made as they transitioned from the summer months to full and rigorous days of school. We look forward to working with you and your child during this exciting school year.

First Grade Flash

Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Smith, Ms. Quinn,
Ms. Garcia, Ms. Miles



Dear parents/guardians,

Thank you for a successful start to our school year! We have been working hard in and out of our classrooms this quarter and would like to share some of the awesome things we have been working on. We have seen TWO awesome and educational in-house presentations. In September, we learned about ways to conserve energy, and in October, we learned about fire safety. We even got to see a real fire truck up close! In reading, we have been

focusing on short vowel sounds and reading sight words. In math, we have been learning addition and subtraction strategies with numbers up to 10. We will be moving on to working with numbers up to 20 soon! We've been having a blast learning about the needs of living things and the parts of plants in science. As the year progresses, please continue reading nightly with your student. Thank you for all that you do!



Hungry Second Grade Capers

Ms. Bohlen, Ms. Harmer,
Ms. Fleming, Ms. Tersigni

2nd grade is off to a great start. We have spent a lot of time working on rules and procedures. In science, we learned about matter. Please allow your child to read, practice Math skills and engage in daily writing activities such as writing shopping lists, notes to you, and a list of things they want to do or things they have enjoyed. Please check your child's book bag daily for homework and notices/communication.



Third Grade News!

Mr. Daley, Ms. Edwards,
Ms. Hengge, Ms. Persac,
Ms. Rudnick, Ms. Shvank

What a wonderful beginning of the school year for our third graders! We have started to practice reading skills that will get us ready for FSA. We have learned about the main idea, key ideas, and details, as well as cause and effect. Please read at home each night to practice these skills. In math, we have learned about rounding, graphs, and we are starting our multiplication. Please practice multiplication facts so your child can become more fluent with them. In science, we are focusing on animal groups and their characteristics. We had a great time on our field trip to see Madagascar. We will have another trip in January. Parents, please make sure to regularly check your child's backpack and homework folder and take out any old papers. We highly recommend that you log onto I-Ready at home to enhance your child's learning.



Fourth Grade Features

Mr. Reveron, Ms. Little,
Ms. Schweinfurth, Ms. Podesta,
Mr. Tomlinson, Ms. Fortoul,
Ms. Magliocca

Welcome to a new school year parents and students! This year the 4th grade will be rotating for math/science and reading, writing and social studies. Ms. Schweinfurth (math/science) will be team teaching with Mr. Reveron (reading, writing, social studies) and Mrs. Little (math/science) will be team teaching with Mrs. Podesta (reading, writing, social studies). As 4th graders, they will be expected to take 3 FSA tests this year: Writing, Reading and Math and will be required to pass the Reading and Math FSA to be promoted to the 5th grade. This is a crucial year in your child's education and we, as teachers, have high expectations.

Your child should be reading daily, at least 60 minutes a week. It is crucial for your child's success that they make reading a habit and complete their homework every night in reading, math, and writing/social studies homework. The students are tracking the books they are reading in a log. Please look at and sign your child's agenda every day to ensure their work is being completed and checked for proper use of capital letters and punctuation. Students need to work on place value skills, such as writing numbers in expanded form, standard form, and word form. Students also need to master their multiplication facts for quick recall. Please have them review these facts daily. Students have a login and should be going on to I-Ready to practice their reading and math skills as well. This can be accessed from home so students should be practicing every day.

Please check your child's agenda every day for any notes that need to be read and to make sure that homework is getting completed. There will be upcoming information in November on the 4th/5th-grade end of the year field trip. We look forward to having a wonderful year with you and your children!





Fifth Grade News

Ms. Deegan, Ms. Gershon
Mr. Palenchar,
Ms. Moncrieffe

Many things are happening in fifth grade! We are excited about this year and all of the wonderful activities we are going to participate in. We recently participated in our Junior Achievement BizTown Field Trip. Weeks of classroom learning culminates in a day-long visit to this fully-interactive simulated free market lab where students become adults for a day. By working in one of 18 JA BizTown shops, students learn what it takes to run a successful business, manage a checking account and work as a team. Through daily lessons, hands-on activities, and active participation in this simulated community, students develop a strong understanding of the relationship between what they learn in school and their successful participation in a global economy.

We also participated in Olsen Middle School Multicultural Explosion. It was exciting to see the kids performing on their instruments and sharing their dance moves. Their practice paid off with a wonderful job performing on the drums, with the castanets and other instruments. It was a wonderful trip for all.

While field trips are exciting and offer the students another way to learn about life, the day to day academics taking place in the classroom and at home are crucial to your student's success. The reading and math FSA (Florida Standards Assessment) and Science that the students will take at the end of the year are rigorous. Our curriculum, therefore, must remain rigorous to make sure that they are best prepared to succeed on those tests. The work requires more thought and more challenging performance tasks from students. The tests the students will be taking in class throughout the year will align to the questioning they will see on the FSA's and therefore requires that students complete their work to the best of their ability to navigate successfully through class. Parents, please talk with your child about the importance of homework and studying and check that it has been completed with care. Please encourage your child to adhere to due dates and complete work promptly, so they are not overwhelmed by make-up work. Have your child read 30 minutes nightly, and share their thoughts about their reading in their journal. Automaticity

with multiplication facts will make 5th grade math much more manageable; please have your students practice a few each night. It is crucial that we all work as a team to have a great 2018-2019 year.

We have some programs available for helping your child succeed. Please encourage your child to use the available web-based programs. Textbooks are also available online through the Broward County Single Sign-On, website: <http://browardschools.com/sso> and click on Login. Students should be able to log in using their student numbers and birthdays as a password, just as they have done in school. On the site, they will have access to the programs we use in school, such as i-ready.com, vocabulary.com, MobyMax.com as well as others. Students should be working on these sites to supplement their homework and maximize learning gains. These programs help to build confidence, encourage productive practice and encourages self-monitoring. The programs are prescriptive and adjust to the child's individual academic needs.

Lastly, please encourage your child to maintain good behavior and make good choices. There is an incentive program in place for good behavior and improving academics. Part of making good choices is coming to school with all the materials necessary to focus on learning and leaving any unnecessary items at home such as toys and other items that may be a distraction from the learning process.

By working together, your support from home and our teamwork in school, we can help all the children achieve success. ☺

Reading Corner

Mr. Ricketts

This year Dania Elementary will be focused on increasing our students' ability to comprehend a variety of literature through a Balanced Literacy approach. Balanced Literacy is an instructional method where teachers engaged students in activities involving guided and shared reading, Interactive writing, word study, read alouds and independent reading. As reading and writing are interdependent, instruction in one supports learning in the other. As you work with your child at home, encourage them to write about what they have read. This action will help to strengthen their ability to comprehend text.



Reading through technology:

Accelerated Reader

I-Ready

Please encourage your child to complete their Accelerated Reader quizzes and I-Ready assignments.

Ways Parents Can Promote Reading at Home

- Establish a quiet, comfortable place to read.
- Keep reading time enjoyable and relaxed. Be enthusiastic when approaching reading.
- Read aloud to your child daily.
- Read your child's book over and over.
- Select a high-interest book or magazine at your child's independent reading level and read with him/her in the evenings.
- To increase interest in reading activities, play computer games that require reading to progress from one stage to another.
- Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.
- Listen to your child read daily.
- Be a "reading model" for your child. Let your child see you reading magazines, newspapers, and books.
- Schedule regular trips to the library.
- Talk with your child frequently so that he/she will connect the spoken with the written word.

South Broward I-Zone Counseling

Free 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.



Music News

Mr. Dix

Welcome back, parents and students. This year promises to be a most interesting one.

For the beginning of the year, all grade levels have begun working on the Percussion and the

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strings instruments. Because the 5th graders had a recurring annual outing at Olsen Middle school's Multicultural Explosion, they spent an unusually extended time on the World Drums.

The 3rd and 4th graders spent time on the guitars and Drums. Also, the 3rd graders have begun learning to play their recorders as well.

The primary grades are just as busy. The Second graders are about to begin working on a new play for the upcoming Winterfest. While the Pre-K, Kindergartners and 1st graders learn different rhythms and songs. Our Winterfest is coming up soon. Hope to see you there!



Physical Education Update

Coach Selvitella

The beginning of the school year is crucial for building student-teacher relationships, which are most important for successful learning and safety.

As the Physical Educational Teacher modeling and teaching compassion, understanding, boundaries, patience, a non-judging environment, and acceptance are vital. Students will learn to communicate, actively listen and will include their preferences in what they are learning. Unconditional acceptance, respect and most of all recognizing student success and interests will create a positive learning environment while having fun!

I look forward to an awesome year reinforcing skills already learned and introducing new skills and activities into my curriculum to enhance student performance and learning.



Artist Corner

Ms. Laden

Happy October...

This month is National School Lunch Awareness. The students created School Lunch Posters with the theme "Lots to Love." We studied the Five Food Groups: Protein, Dairy, Vegetables, Fruits, and Grains.

Here are our First Place Winners:

- Kent Waldman (K)
- Luz Balestrini (1)
- Naliah Negron (2)
- Mia Sieber (3)
- Maya Lugo (4)

Noah Dirosier (5)

Second Place Winners:

Caden Agras (K)
Zyanna Ruiz (1)
Axel Monge (2)
Allianah Pulido (3)
Jillian Diers (4)
Christopher Funes (5)

Third Place Winners

Matthew Toxqui (K)
Ivette Campos (1)
Jonathan Ramos (2)
Azaria Torres (3)
Quavon Stubbs (4)
Angelina Arroyo (5)

We continue to incorporate The Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Color, Form, and Space in our artwork.



Counselor's Corner

Ms. Zotter

Hello Parents and Guardians! We are starting on another great year here at Dania! Your students have been busy practicing their monthly character traits of Cooperation (September) and Responsibility (October) through many classroom and school-wide activities. Last month students showcased their creative artwork and wrote positive messages for peace which were displayed on our IMAGINE PEACE WISH TREE (located in the Media Center) and under our Peace Pavilion for Choose Peace Stop Violence Week. We also held our first Bi-Annual Yoga Day of Mindfulness and Movement. Yoga sessions were led by professional yoga instructors and introduced students to movement, music and breathing techniques to effectively manage stress, self-regulate and focus their attention. We will hold another Yoga Day during the Spring, before our end of year assessments.

October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. Dania Elementary, in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise, a national, nonprofit organization led by several family members whose loved ones were killed in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School is taking part in Start with Hello. Start with Hello teaches students the skills they need to reach out to and include those

who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization. We also have kicked-off our annual Harvest Drive, which will run from October 15 – November 2. This event provides a Thanksgiving Dinner for families in need at our school. We are partnering with local area schools, such as Olsen, Collins and South Broward so we have been assigned specific items for the collection. These items include stuffing, cookies, canned vegetables, canned tuna or other meat, and jelly. Dania will also celebrate Red Ribbon Week from October 23 - October 27, designed to highlight the benefits of a drug-free lifestyle, making healthy choices and avoiding peer pressure. This year's theme is "Life is your Journey, Travel Drug-Free."

We are pleased to be offering the Dania Elementary Lighthouse Youth Mentoring Program in partnership with Lighthouse Community Church. This program will connect students in grades 3-5 with a caring adult mentor to work on academic and social-emotional skill development. If you are interested in this program for your child, please contact the school.

Upcoming testing dates include the Broward Standards Assessment (BSA), which targets Reading and Math in grades 3-5, and Science only in grade 5, will take place immediately following Winter Break, from January 8 - February 8, 2019.

I am looking forward to another great year with your students!

Title 1 News

Ms. Schwartz

Hello! I am hoping that this 2018-19 School Year is off to a "Swimming" start. We would like to thank you for a great turn out to our Annual Title 1 Meeting held on Wednesday, September 5th in conjunction with Open House. We hope you found it insightful and informative. In your child's FIRST DAY PACKET, the Title I School-Parent Compact was sent home for you to review, discuss, and sign with your child. The School-Parent Compact outlines how parents/guardians, schools, and students agree to share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It is one of the means by which the school and parents/guardians develop a partnership that helps the students to achieve the state's high standards. We wish to thank you if have returned the completed Title I School-Parent Compact form to your child's teacher. If you have not done so yet, please do. If you need another

copy of this form, please call the Front Office at 754-323-5350. Below is Title I Parent Information items that you should be aware of:

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 on our school's website: <https://www.browardschools.com/dania>. If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact the Front Office at 754-323-5350.

School Parent and Family Engagement Plan: School staff and parents jointly develop the plan as part of the School Improvement Plan. The plan includes the parent activities to be implemented throughout the school year and an evaluation of last year's parent engagement program. You can access this plan on our school's website: <https://www.browardschools.com/dania>. If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact the Front Office at 754-323-5350.

District Parent and Family Engagement Plan: District staff and parents jointly develop the plan. The plan includes the parent activities to be implemented throughout the school year and an evaluation of last year's district parent engagement program. You can access this plan at https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13545/Parent%20Engagement/LEA_PARENT_FAMILY%20PLAN_18-19.pdf. If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact Linda Howard, Title I Program Specialist at 754-321-1410.

School Public Accountability Report (SPAR), school grades, state assessment reports: 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. Also, the Florida Department of Education publishes school grades, the results of the state assessment of Florida schools. You can access these reports at <http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbpar/index.cfm>. If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact the Front Office at 754-323-5350. Research shows that parent involvement at school has a positive, measurable impact on student performance and is correlated to

improved student behavior in school as well as better attitudes about schoolwork. We welcome you to be an active stakeholder in your child's education. Happy New School Year!

A Message from our Assistant Principal

It has been a great beginning of the school year. Students are learning their S.W.I.M. behavior and learning many new skills across all grade levels.

Thanks to all Dads and guardians that attended our Donuts with Dads event. We had more than 100 students that had breakfast with their male role model. Ongoing research shows that family engagement in schools improves student achievement, reduces absenteeism, and restores parents' confidence in their children's education. Students with involved parents or other caregivers earn higher grades and test scores, have better social skills, and show improved behavior.

Parental involvement refers to the amount of participation a parent has when it comes to schooling and her/his child's life. Dania ES fosters healthy parental involvement through events and volunteer opportunities. There are many opportunities for parents to get involved. Please contact Ms. Williams at (754) 3323-5350, our school-based Volunteer Coordinator for additional information and volunteer opportunities.

Hope to see many families at our upcoming Conference Night on November 13th!

Ms. Galina Markevich, Assistant Principal

Dania Dolphins
Safety First
Work it Out
Impress with Respect
Make it count
To Success!!!

