

DANIA ELEMENTARY

Title I School

Lewis Jackson, Principal

Galina Markevich, Assistant Principal

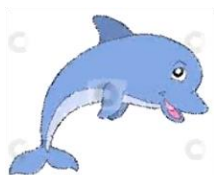
Winter 2018

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 school year is moving along quickly; we are halfway through the year! As we enter the winter holiday season, I hope that you and your family have time to reconnect and enjoy each other's company.

We are proud to have earned an "A" score at Dania Elementary School. We understand that this is a collaborative effort between, school, community, and families. To minimize the holiday "learning slump," I suggest you encourage your child(ren) to read and practice math fluency problems, such as simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. These areas are building blocks for a strong educational foundation. *iReady* is an online tool we purchased so that our students could practice and learn skills while at school AND AT HOME. This program allows students to practice reading and math online. **I strongly encourage our students to use this valuable tool.** Your child can sign-in the same way they do at school:

- Access Broward Schools Single Sign-On
- Click iReady
- Sign-in using their student ID number and P+birthday
 - Login = nine-digit student number
 - Password=P - _ / _ / _ _ _ _

Historically, student attendance has dipped severely immediately after the winter

break. Students are scheduled to return to school January 8th, and I would like to see **every student in school, on time, refreshed and ready to learn at 7:50 AM, Tuesday, January 8th!** As we say to our students, "You have to be in it, to win it." **Attendance is a critical component of effective continuous teaching and learning.**

The Support Team and I have conducted Data Chat meetings with teachers. At these meetings, we discussed every child in the school to determine what the best course of action would be to meet the needs of each student as we enter the second half of the school year. Very soon, I will be setting up Data Chat meetings with all 3rd – 5th-grade students; we will discuss their progress and goals in the core subject areas.

I continue to be a proud principal at Dania Elementary School, and I extend **best wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful beginning to the New 2019 Year!**

Sincerely,

Lewis Jackson, Ed. D.
Principal





Mark Your Calendars!

Dec. 21-Jan. 7	Winter Break
January 8	Classes Resume
January 21	No School
January 30	School Advisory Meeting
January 30	Reading Family Night
February 1	Honor Roll
February 4-15	Pennies for Patients
February 11	Health Screening (grades K, 1, 3)
February 18	No School
March 4-8	Bookfair
March 6	School Advisory Meeting
March 6	Science Family Night



Pre-K and Kindergarten Updates

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

Kindergarten has been very busy these last few months! The students are working hard to identify all the letters and sounds. We are using the sounds to phonetically spell out words while writing. We also continue to practice how to write a sentence correctly using a capital letter at the beginning, spaces between words and punctuation at the end. We are starting to read and learn more sight words each week and continue practicing how to retell a story. We are training our students to be good listeners to identify the characters, name, and setting and sequence the events in a story. Everyone enjoyed the family projects the children brought in and the students loved showing their turkey feathers and gingerbread men to the class!

In math, we can recognize numbers and sets 0 to 10, identify two and three-dimensional shapes and identify how many sides and vertices shapes have. Now we are learning how to compare numbers to identify the same as, greater than, and less than. We will be learning addition and subtraction soon. Our students are practicing counting by 1's, 5's, and 10's to 100 as we prepare for the 100th day of school. In Science, we have enjoyed using our science skills and tools to observe, sort, compare, and measure. We learned about the life cycles of apples and pumpkins. We are currently studying gravity and the day and night sky. In Social Studies we had fun learning about Thanksgiving. We learned how important our veterans are for their service to our country. We are now learning about different versions of "The Gingerbread Man." We continue to look for "Kids of Character," students who exhibit positive character traits such as showing respect, kindness, and good citizenship.

Parents If you would like to volunteer, please contact your child's teacher or the school front office. We will need many volunteers during the Water Safety classes which will be in April and the upcoming field trips.

Remember parents, please read with your child every night and keep practicing the sight words! Take it to the next level and practice writing sentences using the same words!

Reminder: Fill out and return forms we send home for field trips and events. Please check and empty your child's folder each night. Thank you for all your support!!!



First Grade Flash

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

We have officially reached the half-way mark in the 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.

This quarter we had our amazingly fun annual Storybook Parade, a very successful Harvest Drive, a wonderful Scholastic Book Fair, an awesome Jingle Jog, and a spectacular Winterfest! We also began welcoming Latinos in Action into our classrooms! L.I.A. is a program sponsored by South Broward High School that aims at empowering bilingual high school students to be successful community leaders. We will continue welcoming these amazing students into our classrooms until April.

In the classroom, we have been focusing on **ch**, **the**, **sh**, and **wh** sounds, along with new weekly sight words. In math, we have been learning about the relationships between subtraction and addition problems. We've been having a blast learning about different types of matter 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

It's amazing to think we are half-way through the school year! Our 2nd graders have studied addition, subtraction, Native American cultures, the human body, and rocks. Our greatest focus in Language Arts was the main idea and details. Your children have a long winter break during which they can continue reading, and practicing addition and subtraction facts to improve speed and fluency. Our focus after the break is going to be operations with regrouping, so practice that as well. Second grade is also looking forward to continuing main idea and details studies and beginning a unit on weather. Students will also be expected to develop their writing skills with proficiency after the break. We wish all of our families a

joyful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.



Third Grade News!

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

Third grade is excited that we are approaching winter break! We've been working hard on our Keystone standards learning about plant life cycles and landmarks such as Mount Rushmore and the Golden Gate Bridge. We enjoyed watching the Polar Express and applying our reading skills to compare and contrast the book and movie. We also used our sequencing skills to retell the movie. We are using our multiplication facts to help us with dividing numbers. When we return in January, we will be having the Broward Standards Assessment Test starting on January 22. More information will be coming home regarding this important test. Please make sure that your child is well rested and has a healthy breakfast when we take this test. It is a good indicator of how your child will perform on the FSA. It will also help the teachers to see what areas need improvement before the FSA. **Please continue to access iReady reading and TenMarks math over the winter break!** These are great tools to continue the learning process. They can be accessed through the single sign-on the website: <https://broward.identitynow.com/ui/main#launch:pad>.

If your child has signed up for the FSA tutoring camp, the camp will start when we return from the break. Reading will be on Mondays and math will be on Tuesdays. Your child should also continue to read over the break so they can take AR tests on the books that they have read. Thank you for all that you do to help your child succeed! We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you next year!



Fourth Grade Features

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

As the holidays approach, we would like to continue to stress the importance of attendance. It is imperative that your child is at school daily and on time to receive instruction and assistance. Multiple absences or tardies may result in your child falling behind and make it difficult to catch up. It is also important that students attempt homework. The homework allows the students to assess themselves and ask questions before moving on to a new lesson. Please check your child's agenda daily. Many students are not completing homework or incomplete/make-up work. Homework allows your child to practice the skills they have been taught in class to see what they do or do not understand. Incomplete or missing work needs to be finished to receive a grade.

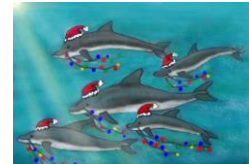
Math Reminder: It is a third-grade fluency standard for students to know their multiplication and division facts, 1-12, for quick recall. Fluency with single-digit multiplication is essential for success in 4th grade. Please ensure you have a daily 10-minute drill to practice these facts. Ten-Marks is a great tool for success and can provide this extra help that your child needs. **Each child should be practicing math on Ten-Marks daily.** Students will receive a math packet over the winter break to keep their skills fresh. Please make sure they are working on the packet throughout the break.

Reading Reminder: Students should be reading a MINIMUM of 60 minutes a week. The routine will help both their reading fluency and their comprehension skills. Over the holiday break, students should continue to read. Many children favor fiction books but need to be reading informational texts as well. They should also be practicing their reading skills by logging

onto their I-Ready account over the break at least three times a week.

Writing Reminder: The Writing FSA is right around the corner, and some children still struggle with capital letters and punctuation. Students are encouraged to keep a writing journal over the break to practice these skills along with writing complete sentences and staying on a single topic. Students will be given different prompts to practice their writing over the break. Please make sure they are using RACE to write; your child should be able to explain it to you! (It is also in their notebook) FSA testing is quickly approaching, and we want our students to be as prepared as possible. The holiday break is a time for your child to brush up on skills they need to work on and come back in the New Year ready to learn. Students also need to be working on constantly expanding their vocabulary.

We want to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and look forward to hitting the ground running when we return!



Fifth Grade News

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

Holiday Greeting to you all,

It's hard to believe that we are finishing up half the school year already, but we have been very busy this year with many wonderful activities. Most recently was a fantastic Holiday performance. It was great getting into the holiday spirit with the kids performing on their instruments. Their practice paid off, and we will all go into the holiday with a cheerful start. I was happy to see many parents in the audience to share in the fun.

We realize that teaching your children is a privilege, as well as a tremendous responsibility. We also realize we cannot do this alone; we need our parents to be partners in our students, learning process. Our team of fifth-

grade teachers is working diligently teaching our children during the instructional day, and we need our students to continue this in the evenings. Completing their daily assignments supports our children in mastering the concepts taught in the classroom. The day to day academics taking place in the classroom and at home is crucial to your students' success. After the holidays, the students will be taking a BSA. This test will provide valuable information into the students' current level of progress toward the 5th grade standards. It is important that students continue to work toward this progress during the long winter break. These tests in January, as well as the reading and math FSA (Florida Standards Assessment) and FCAT 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.

Students who continue to work during the break will avoid the backward slide that can occur. Along with reading each day and practicing Math skills, there are free computer programs available. Please encourage your child to use the available web-based programs. Students can use their SSO at home to access programs we use in school, such as STEMS scopes, Ten Marks, [I ready](#), [vocabulary.com](#), as well as others. Also, Go Math interactive and MobyMax.com websites are available and offer extra support in all academic areas. Students should be working on these sites to supplement their homework to maximize learning gains. These programs help to build confidence, encourage productive practice and encourages self-monitoring. Most of the programs are prescriptive and adjust to the child's individual academic needs.

As always, attendance and behavior are crucial to academic success. As the children transition back into the school day, please be sure that they are getting plenty of sleep and coming to school with all the materials necessary to focus on learning. It is also important that they leave any unnecessary items at home; such as toys and other items that may be a distraction from the learning process. **If you haven't already done so, please sign up for Remind, an app that allows you to**

communicate with your child's teachers easily.

Also, please remember that the *winter packet* and *Biz-Town Projects* are due in January upon student return to school. Please do not wait until the last minute to work on them.

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

Reading Corner

Mr. Ricketts

Teaching Tip



Inferencing is an important skill good reader will use as they interact with the text. Inferencing in reading is the act of using evidence from the text, along with prior knowledge to conclude. As a parent, it may be difficult to keep track of all the skills your child needs to know and understand to be a successful reader. The good news is that research shows that the amount of independent reading done by students both at school and at home is one of the most important predictors of school success. Independent reading refers to the reading students choose to do on their own. This reading is done for pleasure or to learn more information on a self-selected topic. As your child reads, help them understand inferencing by asking guiding questions. A few samples are listed below.

A love for independent reading is fostered by providing students with opportunities to select a wide variety of texts at their current reading level. Over the holiday break, it is important that our students continue to read not only independently, but also with guidance. Students should continue to sharpen their reading comprehension skills; please allow them to use **I-Ready** and **A.R** over the break.

Inferencing Question stems

- Why do you think _____?
- How did you know _____?
- What probably caused _____?

- Can you infer _____?
- What clues led you to believe _____?
- How might _____ feel _____?
- I predict _____.
- I think that _____.
- My guess is _____.

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

We've made it through the 1st half of the School year. Musically the 4th and 5th graders covered the percussion family, primarily the Tubanos, Congas, shekeres, and maracas. The 3rd graders spent most of their time this marking period on the Recorder. The 2nd graders spent the majority of their time on a new play that will be put on display at this year's Winterfest. The Prek, k and 1st-grade classes spent time on a multitude of things from the introduction to new instruments to Ribbon Dancing.

In January we are going to spend 1-to-2 months on the Piano Keyboard.

I hope you have a peaceful Winter break.



Physical Education Update

Coach Selvitella

Our students have had an amazing school year so far practicing learned skills and introducing new activities and skills. I just

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returned from participating at my Physical Education State Conference in Orlando learning new activities that I will continue teaching my students.

Please continue to exercise with your family and friends during this long holiday break, eating healthy, resting and having lots of fun. Have a safe and joyous holiday break, and I look forward to seeing you in 2019 when we return to school.



Artist Corner

Ms. Laden

The Creative Arts experiences build self-confidence and exploration. The students continue to learn about the concepts of the Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Color, Value, Form, Texture, and Space. And the Principles of Design: Balance, Contrast, Emphasis, Movement, Pattern, Rhythm, and Unity.

The students have explored using tempera paint and mixing several combinations of colors.

Primary Colors: Red, Yellow, and Blue

Secondary Colors: Green, Purple, and Orange

Tint: White added to a color

Shade: Black added to a color

Warm Colors: Red, Orange, and Yellow

Cool Colors: Blue, Green, and Purple

Complementary Colors: Red and Green, Yellow and Purple, and Blue and Orange

We studied Winter Holidays Around the World... Hanukkah, Christmas, Las Posadas, Kwanzaa, and the Winter Solstice.

The students continue to draw, paint, collage and create 3-D sculptures.

I am wishing our Dania Elementary Families ... Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Counselor's Corner

Ms. Zotter



It's hard to believe it is almost Winter Break! Your students have been learning about and practicing the character traits of Citizenship (November) and Kindness (December), and I want to thank you for supporting our many drives during this holiday season. With the help of our hardworking families and staff here at Dania Elementary, as well as assistance through many community partners, we were able to arrange for twenty-five local families to receive meals over the Thanksgiving Holiday! Similarly, we were able to provide many families with assistance in receiving meals and gifts for the upcoming Winter Break holidays. I encourage all students and families to enjoy quality time together over vacation.

Please be advised that immediately following Winter Break, students in third, fourth and fifth grade will be administered the **Broward Standards Assessment (BSA)**, an interim, computer-based assessment offered by our District. Test results from the BSA will be helpful in determining your student's level of proficiency in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. It will also inform instruction and support for our students before the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). The testing window is scheduled between **January 8 – February 8, 2019**. Grade-level specific dates will be communicated to you via a letter that is sent home with your students – be on the lookout for that information!

Please remember that you play an important role in your student's academic success! You can help your student perform at his/ her best by ensuring that your student gets a good night's sleep prior to testing, is present and on time for school, and that he/she eats a healthy breakfast before coming to school (Note: Free Universal Breakfast is provided in the cafeteria every day beginning at 7:15 AM until 7:45 AM).

This quarter, our fifth-grade students enjoyed in-school presentations from many area middle schools with magnet programs, as well

as a field trip to Olsen Middle School. I encourage you to hold a family meeting to discuss potential options for your student's future. If you are interested in obtaining more information about available programs, please look online, or visit the front office for brochures and informational cards.

Title 1 News

Ms. Schwartz

Dania Elementary School appreciates parents as partners and encourages active parent involvement. Developing a supportive partnership with parents leads to our student's making academic and social-emotional behavioral growth and improvements. Research has shown that students do better when their parents are actively involved in the education process. You are key to your child's success at school.

We are also requesting that parents complete 2018-2019 Title 1 School Parent and Family Engagement Survey. Please help our school find out how well we are working with you. You can access the survey via a link that has been placed on our website <https://www.browardschools.com/dania> By looking under the School News section or you can copy the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesVX-VPtoFIkr4d8S4AuG-43jI6Y01_EJYeMVb-UcmwmiyA/viewform

Dania Dolphins
S*afety First*
W*ork it Out*
I*mpress with Respect*
M*ake it count*
To Success!!!