

# **DANIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Celebrating a Century of Learning (1913-2013)

## **The Dania Dolphin Press**

“A School-wide Title I School”

**Lewis Jackson, Principal**

**Leslie Phillips, Assistant Principal**

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Providing the highest quality education to all students

December 2013



### **Principal News Dear Parents and Community Members:**

The staff and students of Dania Elementary continue to demonstrate why this school is such a wonderful place to learn and work. Our teachers use tried and true teaching strategies and continue to explore new initiatives to help our students reach their fullest potential. We are making every effort to ensure that our students are on track to be college and career ready as they matriculate to middle and high school.

Beginning last year, we have stressed to students that, “To win it, you have to be in it!” This phrase is used to promote school attendance. To receive the full benefit of our teachers’ efforts, students need to be in class on a regular basis when they are healthy. We have set a goal of maintaining a Student Attendance Rate of 97%. This is so important to us that we acknowledge exemplary attendance with a special certificate each grading period. One of our Partners in Education has offered their assistance in reaching this goal: Walgreens has promised monthly incentives for students meeting attendance targets. Our students began the school year attending at a rate above our goal, but as time elapsed the attendance rate has fallen. Presently, 11% of our students have 5 or more unexcused absences. Our 3rd Grade students have the lowest percentage of unexcused absences – GREAT JOB 3rd Grade students and parents! Not including illnesses and/or family emergencies, I encourage parents to make every effort to have their child(ren) in school and on time.

I continue to be a proud principal at Dania Elementary School, and I extend best wishes for a wonderful new year!

Sincerely,  
Lewis Jackson, Ed. D.

### **Pitter Patter from your Assistant Principal**

Leslie Phillips



Our Jingle Jog was a huge success! Thank you to all who participated. The winners were:

#### Kindergarten-First Grade Category

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Liam Reiser (McOwen)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Juan Gonzalez (Lee)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Ja’Zale Walker (Wells)

#### Second -Third Grade Category (3 laps)

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Renee Forbes (Harmer)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Bianca Kleinman (Persac)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Philip (Persac)

#### Second -Third Grade Category (4 laps)

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Xuhare Bereikua (Daley)
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Herman Taylor(Podesta)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Luka Kelava (Daley)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Philip Xakaria (Daley)

#### Fourth -Fifth Grade Category

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Tahj White (Moncrieffe)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Daniel Leach (Dickson)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Sean Sanders (Moncrieffe)

Proceeds will benefit the Dan Marino Foundation and Dania Elementary’s Autism Cluster.

We are very grateful to ExxonMobil gas station, located at 1 South Federal Highway, Dania. Gary H. owner, nominated Dania Elementary to receive a grant from Exxon Mobil in the amount of \$500.00. These funds will be used to booster our math science and technology programs.

Parents, please encourage your child(ren) to talk with their teacher, guidance counselor or administrators if they are having a problem or conflict that needs to be resolved. We provide a safe and orderly environment, one conducive to learning, and we encourage our children to discuss concerns with an adult on campus rather

than to take it upon themselves to solve the issue in a physically aggressive way. This will lead to further conflict.

Please review with your child(ren) the Broward County Public Schools "Code of Student Conduct" handbook found on the Broward Schools home page at [www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com). This booklet outlines the expected behaviors as well as those that are unacceptable such as bullying and harassing others.

Many parents brought in yummy holiday treats for the staff at Dania. We would like to thank you and let you know we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

### **Kindergarten Capers**

Ms. McOwen, Ms. Partain, Ms. Rocha,  
Ms. Wells

Happy holidays to all! We hope you enjoy your winter break. In January, we'll be learning about the winter season and Martin Luther King Jr. We will be testing this month as well. Parents continue to encourage your child to read, read, read. One way to get in some extra reading time is to read the environmental print all around you especially in the car. This activity can be a lot of fun.☺

### **First Grade News Flash**

Ms. Fleming, Ms. Harmer, Ms. Hengge,  
Ms. Lee, Ms. Matter

First grade is in full swing. We are learning about tens and ones. We have learned about using a hundreds chart. In science, we are studying earth science and we are working on informative writing.

We are planning a field trip for January 13<sup>th</sup>, to see *Lady Bug: Action Hero!* at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Make sure that you turn in your permission slip and \$2.00. Please talk with your child's teacher if you are interested in chaperoning. Parents need to go to <http://www.getinvolvedineducation.com> to be cleared to chaperone.

Please check your child's backpack each night and empty out any old or graded papers. To help with your child's comprehension and fluency, be sure to read with your child each night and discuss the story. We will be taking our mid year reading assessment the week of January 27th. Have a great holiday!

### **The Second Grade Scene**

Ms Bohlen, Ms. Delmonte, Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Reveron.

Our second graders are progressing nicely into a highly successful and productive year! Our day is filled with many academic and rewarding activities.

Your child should now be familiar with stating the main idea, plot, and sequence of a story, as well as listing the characters and noting the setting/settings and details. We continue to stress the importance of capitalization and punctuation in order to become future SUPER WRITERS! Your child's homework should *always* reflect these fundamental grammar rules. Remember – Practice Makes Perfect!

Please continue to ensure your child reads every day. Praise him/her for any reading efforts! Engage in conversations about what your child is reading. Also, share with them your reading interests.

We would like to remind you about our A.R. (Accelerated Reader) Challenge. Our school-wide goal is to reach 15,000 points by the end of the school year. The students read a book on their reading level, then take an A.R. Quiz that gives them points. Do you know how many points your child has acquired? Students can bring home an individualized report with their points and grade average.

TOGETHER, we will continue to strive for your child's individual needs and help him/her succeed!



### **Third Grade News**

Ms. Campbell, Mr. Daley,  
Ms. Johnson,  
Ms. Podesta, Ms. Zeitlin

Happy holidays and happy new year! The third grade teachers would like to welcome Mrs. Johnson to our THIRD grade team!

Third grade students enjoyed their first field trip on November 1, 2013, to Parker Playhouse to watch *The Science Of Magic*. The teachers were proud of their students for displaying appropriate theater etiquette.

We will be taking the BAT the second week of January so we will be better prepared for the FCAT in April.

We are asking all parents and guardians to make sure their child is alert and ready for school. We would like to see our students

really focused, utilizing the strategies we teach.

BAT II will be administered the second week of January and your help preparing your children for testing days is greatly appreciated.

Please continue to encourage your child to read for 30 - 40 minutes every night. After each page/chapter have them summarize what they have read. One of the most effective comprehension strategies is the ability to summarize. If students are able to identify main characters, the setting, and what happened in the story (beginning, middle, end, problem, solution), they understand what they are reading. Choosing "good fit" books and reading every night for at least 30 minutes will provide opportunities for students to summarize.

At this time, your child should have memorized all multiplication facts. If not, have them practice daily.



#### **Fourth Grade**

Ms. Little, Ms. Rudnick, Ms. Schweinfurth,

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. Multiple absences or tardies may result in your child falling behind in his/her work and make it difficult to catch up. It is also important that students attempt homework. This allows the students to assess themselves and ask questions of the teacher before moving onto a new lesson.

Over the holiday break your child will be sent home with a list of websites and assignments to complete for extra credit. Please encourage your child to attempt this work so they can pick up where they left off after the break. FCAT 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 should focus on practicing their multiplication and division strategies for math and should be reading and writing daily. 30 minutes a day of reading is ideal and keeping a daily journal is a good way for students to practice their writing skills. Students also need to be working on constantly expanding their vocabulary.

Continue to talk with your child about school and together we can help them to succeed. 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**

Ms. Dickson, Ms. Flynn, Ms. Moncrieffe

Many things are happening in fifth grade. Parents, we need your help. As we are approaching the end of a semester we are noticing a decline in student's school supplies. Please replenish your child's supplies, pencils, erasers, dry-erase markers, highlighters and paper. If folders are torn and falling apart, it may be a good idea to replace those also. We would appreciate any additional donations of hand sanitizer and tissues as we are in the season of illness. Thank you.

Academics are very important. FCAT is around the corner and BAT II will be in January. Parents, please help your child practice multiplication facts and talk with your child about the importance of homework and studying. Have your child read 30 minutes nightly, log his/her reading in the agenda and sign the agenda. Science Fair will be in March. We will be sending home more information soon. The Magnet and STEM application window is December 2nd- February 12th. Report Cards go home on January 22, 2014.

We have several programs available to help your child succeed. Please encourage your child to use the available web-based programs.

[www.FCATexplorer.com](http://www.FCATexplorer.com) Students can access Reading, Math and Science. FCAT Explorer is a set of free, web-based practice programs. The content is built from the Sunshine State Standards that are tested on the FCAT. Kids can practice by themselves because the programs give corrective feedback and learning guidance.

[www.i-ready.com](http://www.i-ready.com) Students should be completing 90 minutes of Reading and Math weekly to maximize learning gains. This program helps to build confidence, encourage productive practice and self-monitoring. The program is prescriptive and adjusts to the child's individual academic needs.

The computer lab is open and available for I-ready in the mornings from 7:30-7:50 on a first come, first serve basis. Please encourage your child to take advantage of this opportunity.

FCAT camps began Wednesday, December 4th. If your child has been invited, attendance is necessary for success. This is a free and fabulous opportunity to strengthen your child's academics in reading, math and/or science.

Please encourage your child to maintain good behavior and make wise choices. There is an incentive program in place for good behavior and improving academics. Part of making good choices is leaving any unnecessary items at home such as toys, tech decks and other items that may be a distraction from the learning process.

Finally, we have started collecting payments for the end of the year field trip to Islands of Adventure.

Together we can help our children achieve success. ☺

### **Primary ESE Cluster**

The holiday season is a joyful time, but as we all know, it can also be incredibly stressful. Nobody appreciates this more than the parents and families of children with autism, who already face unique challenges.



Routines and structure are more difficult to maintain during the chaos of the holidays, and kids with autism must deal with new faces, places and a disruption of their schedules. And, since many children with autism are also sensitive to noise, touch and light, the din of the holidays can become disorienting and overwhelming. This can mean a new level of stress and anxiety.

Below are some tips to help you through the unique challenges of the holiday season. Plan ahead whenever possible. Compile a list of activities that can help your child fill his or her time wherever you go.

Use rehearsal and role-play to give children practice ahead of time in dealing with new social situations, or work together to write a "social story" that incorporates all the elements of an upcoming event or visit to better prepare them for that situation.

If you are going to visit family or friends, make sure there is a quiet, calm place for retreat.

Keep an eye out for signs of anxiety or distress, including an increase in behaviors such as humming or rocking- they may indicate it's time for a break.

Engage kids in repetitive activities such as stringing popcorn for trimming the tree.

Practice unwrapping gifts ahead of time, which will help a child with autism learn the understanding and the meaning of gifts.

Take toys and other gifts out of the box before wrapping them. It is more fun and less frustrating if a child with autism can open the gift and play with it immediately.

Try to relax and have a good time. If you are tense your child may sense that something isn't right.

Get a list of gift ideas for relatives from your child's teacher and therapists.

Take pictures when you and your child trim the tree, visit relatives, open gifts, etc.

Don't shield your child from the extended family. Family members need to understand the challenges you face.

Make a book about your holiday by gluing the pictures onto construction paper, writing a short sentence under each picture, and stapling the pages together. When someone asks your child a question regarding the holidays your child can use the book as a visual cue to help tell about the things he or she did.

### **News from the Art Room**

Ms. Dugas

The art room has been very busy discovering, studying and creating projects inspired by our Native American heritage. Each grade level explored a tribe and an art form.

Kindergarten and 3rd grade are doing 3D tipis from the tribes of the Great Plains.

1st grade is making dream catchers from the Ojibway tribe, 2nd grade is making buffalo hides from the Lakota Sioux tribe, 4th grade is making war bonnets from the Cheyenne Tribe and 5th grade is making totem poles from the tribes of the Pacific Northwest

Most of the projects are making good use of recycled materials in my effort to go green and also to create projects for the grant I received: "*Peace, Love, Recycle, and Create*". We still need more hard plastic bottles and hard cardboard containers, so please continue to recycle and send them to school.

This year the younger students have been introduced to Classic Masters such as Monet and Kandinsky and classic art forms such as the Australian Aboriginal dot art. It tickles me pink when I hear an older students ask: "how did they do that?" referring to the artwork of the younger students.

The fourth and fifth grade students have been exposed to contemporary artists such as Marz Jr. and Reggie Laurent. The work of contemporary artists provides not only ideas but also new approaches for making visual art. It relates to the world the students are living in and supports learning in the classroom and across other subject areas.

The fifth graders worked on a project inspired by Marz Jr. in which they drew their own New York skyscraper and included their favorite super hero or comic book character. Their work turned out to be more than phenomenal! Fourth graders created a disk in the style of Reggie Laurent using scraps of construction paper and oil pastels. The circles displayed on the wall elicited many oohs! and aaahs! from students, teachers and visitors alike.

Contemporary art motivates students to generate questions, to consider other ways of looking at things, to create differently, and to explore materials they haven't thought of using before. It sets up opportunities for the students to be creative in a less intimidating manner than trying to emulate a classic master. Living artists help as examples of positive role models, people who can inspire them to attain their own dreams.

Thank you for encouraging your students to actively participate in their art education. They seem excited and eager to learn but most importantly they are acquiring a sense of accomplishment by the results of their beautiful creations!



### Reading Corner

Ms. Gunn

Thank you to all the students, parents, and staff that made our Family Literacy

Night a great success. The Vocabulary Costume Contest was the highlight of our evening. Students came dressed as a word or idiom and presented their costume on stage. It was very hard for our judges to decide on the top winners with so many great entries.

Understanding the words and their meaning in a passage is essential to being able to comprehend a passage or message of a book.

Nell K. Duke and Annie M. Moses suggest these 10 Research-Tested Ways to Build Children's Vocabulary:

1. Read to Them
2. Get them Reading
3. Engage Children in Rich Oral Language
4. Encourage Reading and Talk at Home

5. Raise Word Consciousness
6. Teach Important Words
7. Teach Conceptually –Related Words
8. Relate New Words to Known Words
9. Expose Children to Words Multiple times in Multiple Meaning Contexts
10. Enjoy Words

Our Accelerated Reading Challenge continues. we have 3,500 points towards our goal of 15,000 points. Please encourage your child to read at home, every point is important in reaching our goal.

Please encourage your child to use our new reading and math computer program i-ready. The program is web based and is accessible at home. To access the program: [www.i-ready.com](http://www.i-ready.com). User name: students ID# and the password is the student's birthdate: mmddyyyy (no slash marks) We are using the programs during the day and are strongly urging students to use the program at home every night if a computer is accessible.

### Speech Sprout

Ms. Smith-Engelin

There is a story about a lonely whale that scientists discovered in 1989 by listening to the hydrophone network of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They have used this method to track this particular whale for two decades. The data supports that the calls of this one whale have never been answered by other whales; making this whale very lonely indeed. The frequency of this whale's calls are too high for other whales to hear. Children with communication disorders are like lonely whales because, while they are communicating their own way, others are not hearing the message. I became a Speech-Language Pathologist to help the lonely whales communicate in this ocean.

### Activities to Encourage Communication at Home

- Play board games. Encourage social skills like turn taking, being a good sport, and topic maintenance when playing as a family.
- Play "Mad Libs" with vocabulary or spelling words to encourage learning parts of speech and makes studying fun.
- Play describing games like "Head Bandz" or "I Spy". Pictures can be cut from magazines and pasted to index cards as inspiration or the players can use items in the environment they are in. Each player would describe their item for others to guess. (It has icing you can eat and candles that tell how old you are—a cake)

- o Chores can facilitate counting, matching and sorting such as cooking in the kitchen or doing laundry.

## Walkabout for Autism

We are excited to be able to participate in The Dan Marino Foundation WalkAbout Autism this year and hope you can join us. The Dan Marino Foundation WalkAbout Autism will be held **Saturday January 26, 2014** at Sun Life Stadium in Miami, Florida. Be the first one to join our Walkabout Autism Team called Dania Dolphins :-). It is FREE to join and walk.

To visit and/or register use this website:  
[http://support.danmarinofoundation.org/site/TR?team\\_id=5722&pg=team&fr\\_id=1080&et=chfVe25MRjpYc4dCW5w1pA&s\\_tafId=3130](http://support.danmarinofoundation.org/site/TR?team_id=5722&pg=team&fr_id=1080&et=chfVe25MRjpYc4dCW5w1pA&s_tafId=3130)

Click: registration

Click: Join Existing Team

Type: Dania Dolphins

Click: Join

Fill in registration information

You don't have to give any money to register to walk, but you can send e-mails to friends and families to sponsor you. If you want to use your credit card to donate to our team online you can give as little as \$5.00.

After the walk, Dania Elementary will receive 20% of all money raised by our team. The funds will be used on classroom materials for students with Autism and other disabilities.

Thanks for your support.

Petra Cardova M.S., NBCT  
 Autism Coach  
 Dania Elementary School  
 754-323-5350

### Intermediate ESE Cluster

Mrs. Magliocca, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Williams

Happy Holidays! We can't believe it's already the holiday season. The students have worked so hard these past few months and we are very proud of their progress. Please continue to check their agendas daily. Your continued support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. This month has been filled with many wonderful activities. The students participated in the winter music presentation on December 13<sup>th</sup> and the Jingle Jog on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we want to wish you very happy

The School Board of Broward County, Florida prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color,

holidays.



## Physical Education

Coach Selvitella

A very important benefit of exercise for everyone is a healthy, growing brain. Exercise increases the activity of a protein that is vital to brain health, learning, and memory function. An active lifestyle is a very good goal to make, if it isn't part of your routine already.

I wish all my students and their families a very safe, happy, and active holiday and Happy New Year! I look forward to your return in 2014 to continue moving and learning.



## Music Melodies

Mr. Dix

A big thank you for all the support given in 2013 for our Music Program. I can't tell you how much I enjoy working with your children, our students. We are planning even bigger and better programs to come. Have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

## Teachers Updating Skills

Our Professional teachers are continuously working on professional development to develop their teaching skills and to increase their level of content expertise.

We are recognizing teachers at Dania Elementary who are expanding their expertise beyond their current certification by pursuing college coursework and/or training sessions to become certified or endorsed in another/other subject(s).

In order to remain in this/these assignment(s), the teacher will successfully complete required training within 12 months of the assignment or, if teaching primary English or Reading class to identified limited English proficient students, in accordance with the Multicultural Education Training Advocacy (META) timeline.

These teachers are: Cheryl Burton, Michele Harmer, Patricia Magliocca, Margaret Marigold, Beth Matter, Mateland Thomas, Joyce Williams and Halyna Shvank.

## Counseling Corral

Ms. Jones

Tis' the season to be kind! December marked a new character trait: Kindness. I am encouraging everyone to do something nice for another person without expecting something in return! The Harvest Drive was a wonderful example of kindness with the abundance of food, cleaning, and personal supplies that were donated. I witnessed lots of students dragging in bags of supplies and even bringing in items after the deadline passed. I hope to continue seeing great deeds for one another even after the holiday season is over!

January 13-January 31<sup>st</sup>, mark these dates for Pasta for Pennies! We are partnering with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to collect money to help fund cancer research.

I challenge everyone to please donate whatever you can to this worthy cause. There will be collection boxes in the main office and in the guidance department. More details about this service-learning program to come! Have a happy and safe winter break and see you in the New Year!

### **Dates to Remember**

January 6	School resumes
January 15	SAC meeting 5:30
January 20	Holiday-No School
January 22	Report Cards Issued
January 25	Autism WalkAbout
February 6	Early Release
February 11	Interims Issued
February 17	Holiday- No School
February 19	SAC meeting 2:15
March 19	SAC 5:30
March 19	Science Fair 6:00
March 20	Early Release
March 21	Teacher Planning
April 3	Kindergarten Roundup