

The School Board of Broward County, Florida

Abby M. Freedman, Chair  
Nora Rupert, Vice Chair

Robin Bartleman  
Heather P. Brinkworth  
Patricia Good  
Donna P. Korn  
Laurie Rich Levinson  
Ann Murray  
Dr. Rosalind Osgood  
Robert W. Runcie  
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Lynn Burgess  
Principal

Mrs. Suzanne Nelson  
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Jennifer McGreevy  
Assistant Principal

# Trailblazer

## FOX TRAIL ELEMENTARY

Volume 19 Number 6

**"Learn Today~Lead Tomorrow"**

**February 2011**

<http://foxtrail.browardschools.com>

Visit our PTSA on-line at  
[www.foxtrailelementaryschool.my-pta.org](http://www.foxtrailelementaryschool.my-pta.org)

Dear Parents,

February is the month of love and here at Fox Trail, we have so many things to love. Our wonderful students have been immersed in our Leader in Me theme and practicing Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand and Then to Be Understood. This habit involves listening to others and respecting their feelings and ideas. Sometimes it is difficult to see things from a different point of view, but we are beginning to understand that we can learn from others as well as be confident in our own ideas. We hope that they are practicing this habit at home too!

We love our health and in order to make an effort to live a healthy lifestyle, we will be participating in the annual Jump Rope for Heart program. Students will raise their awareness of heart health, raise their heart rate with exercise and raise money for the American Heart Association. This program, which has been in operation for 35 years, teaches our students how to take care of their hearts and also gives them the experience and joy of giving back to their community. We will also be exercising, competing and having fun at our field day events this month. Coach has planned a variety of activities to keep our students moving and help foster lifelong healthy habits.

Another one of our loves at Fox Trail is reading! We had a terrific book fair and are very thankful to all the volunteers that helped it run so smoothly. We look forward to our book exchange this month on February 23, Early Release Day. Students should bring in their gently used book and exchange it for a new one. We want to encourage our children to read for pleasure and teach them a love of reading. Studies have concluded that children that read at home for just 20 minutes per day achieved higher test scores. So take some time and share a book with someone you love.

Our students love to show their knowledge and they will have that opportunity soon as we prepare for FSA testing. Our teachers are busy looking at their data and providing rigorous and creative lessons that meet the needs of all our students. The effort teachers are putting into their lessons is commendable

I also must acknowledge the extra effort and hard work our students demonstrate every day through their assignments, projects and assessment results. The work habits they are developing will prepare them for future success. We encourage our students to take advantage of all the programs we have available to practice and strengthen their skills. The i-Ready program is being used in the classrooms, but we encourage our students to use this at home too. Research shows that just 45 minutes of i-Ready per week makes a significant impact on the student's progress. Our students have also been competing in math as they collect computer-generated stickers in the First in Math program. Practice on these programs will help to build confidence, prepare our students for testing and make them stronger students.

National School Counselors Week is celebrated this month and we have two fantastic guidance counselors that do a terrific job counseling and encouraging our children to always be the best they can be through their Character Education lessons and activities. We love Ms. Molinelli and Ms. Szima, our Fox Trail Counselors.

We would love for you to join us for all the upcoming events. Don't miss the Bingo and Baskets on February 10, sponsored by our incredible PTSA. You are also invited to attend the School Advisory Council Meeting on February 13 at 2:15 pm in the media center. This informative meeting is open to all parents and community members. Topics this month include the School Improvement Plan, Leader in Me, FSA testing and other issues that impact our school. We hope to see you there.

We love that you are all part of our Fox Trail Family! We are so fortunate to have tremendous parent support, motivated students and dedicated teachers. It takes all of us to make Fox Trail Elementary a fantastic place to learn.

Your Lead Learners,

Ms. Burgess Principal, Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. McGreevy-Assistant Principals

### Early Sign Out

Parents please refrain from picking up your student early from school unless it is an emergency. Teachers teach until 2:00 and it disrupts the flow in the classroom with the other students. Your child is losing valuable learning time by coming in late and leaving.

### Morning Breakfast-7:30am

Breakfast is available to all students, **free of charge**. Because of the large number of students having breakfast, parents are not invited to eat with their child.

Prices for breakfast and lunch are as follows:

Breakfast: Free Universal Breakfast, Lunch: \$2.00, Reduced: \$.40, Adults: \$2.75. ApplyforLunch.com is an easy and convenient way for parents and guardians to submit applications online. There is no fee for using the ApplyforLunch website to submit your application for benefits and the service is provided free of charge by your District. Remember that you have to reapply annually for Free and Reduced Lunch rates. [Visit the website \(http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/foodservice/freereduced.htm\)](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/foodservice/freereduced.htm).

Parents may join their child occasionally during lunch on *Tuesdays only*. In order to promote wellness. Fast food is discouraged during lunch.



## Looking ahead

### FEBRUARY

Fri., 10 PTSA Bingo & Baskets  
Mon., 13 Field Day-Kdg-  
Class Group Pictures  
SAC Mtg.-2:15pm  
Tues., 14 Field Day-1<sup>st</sup> gr.  
Wed., 15 Jump Rope for Heart  
Thurs., 16 Field Day-2<sup>nd</sup> gr.  
Interim Reports Issued  
Fri., 17 Field Day-3<sup>rd</sup> gr.  
Mon., 20 No School-Holiday  
Wed., 22 Book Exchange Collection  
Thurs., 23 Book Exchange-7:30-8:00am  
Early Release-12:00pm  
Tues., 28 Writing Test 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>

### MARCH

Fri., 3 Field Day 4<sup>th</sup> gr.  
Thurs., 9 Spring Pictures  
PTSA Mtg.-6:30pm  
Mon., 13 SAC Mtg.-2:15pm  
Mon., 13-  
Wed., 15 CogAT Testing-2<sup>nd</sup> gr.  
Thurs., 23 Early Release-12:00pm  
Fri., 24 No School-Employee Planning  
Tues., 28 &  
Wed., 29 FSA ELA Testing-3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

### A Message from the Literacy Coach Megan Chase

Hi parents. My name is Megan Chase and I'm the new Literacy Coach for Fox Trail Elementary. I look forward to working with everyone to help add to your child's success in reading.

As a school, we are currently working on increasing student's language skills and their ability to have a conversation about what they are learning. Our new county reading assessment, the BAS (Benchmark Assessment System), relies on these conversations in order to assess the student's comprehension. The teachers have been working on increasing these meaningful conversations within their instruction.

But, who is your child's first teacher? You are, of course! Did you know that you increase your child's listening vocabulary every time you speak to them? Children learn the sounds of our language, how people talk to each other, ask questions, learn the meanings of words, and find out about the important things around them from you. These experiences of listening and talking prepare children to be successful readers. We call this background knowledge.

Here are some things you can do at home:

- \* Talk, sing, and read frequently with your children. Even older children benefits from these interactions.
- \* Use expanded sentences instead of just a few words. For example, rather than saying, "Come to the table." you might say, "Please come to the table for dinner. It's hot and ready for everyone to enjoy."
- \* Ask questions that require more than a yes or no answer.
  - o A great three letter word is "WHY??" This prompt requires more than a one word response.
- \* Books provide great opportunities for conversation.
  - o Why do you think that happened?
  - o How does the character feel? What made you think that?
  - o Did something like that ever happen to you? Tell me about it.

**Bottom line, TALK IT UP! Together we can build stronger readers. Just remember, you're creating memories your child will never forget.**

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Executive Director, Benefits & EEO Compliance at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine TTY 754-321-2158. Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities (EEO) at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) at 754-321-2158.