



**Dragon Tales Newsletter**  
**Driftwood Elementary School**  
**Contact Number 754-323-5450**  
**FEBRUARY 2019 - MARCH 2019**



**Principal's Message – Mrs. Marina S. Rashid**

I hope that you had a wonderful Winter Break and wish you a happy, healthy, and successful New Year 2019!

We continue to work very hard at Driftwood Elementary to make sure that our students are safe and that they are learning and their optimum.

FSA testing is right around the corner. We need your help. This year the FSA will be paper-based. In addition, we will be testing several grade levels at the same time. We are in desperate need of proctors. Proctors are volunteers who help our teachers monitor test security in each third, fourth, and fifth grade classroom. Volunteers must go through the District's clearance process before reporting to school. Please call us at 754-323-5450 if you are able to help us. **Our FSA testing dates are as follows: Grade 3: April 2-3 ELA Sessions 1 and 2. Grade 4: April 2 – Writing; May 1-2 ELA Sessions 1 and 2. May 7-8 Math Sessions 1 and 2. Grade 5: April 2 – Writing; May 1-2 ELA Sessions 1 and 2; May 3 and 6 – Science Sessions 1 and 2; May 7-8 Math Sessions 1 and 2.** We appreciate your support. Thank you.

Have a wonderful month. See you soon!

Marina S. Rashid, Proud Principal

**Math Corner – By Ms. Pomaes, Math Coach**

Hello Families!

We are off to a busy time of the school year. Students and teachers are working extra hard preparing for the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). We have been diligently analyzing student data from the iReady Standard Mastery Test and the Benchmark Standards Assessment to deepen instruction and target areas of need. In addition, I'm working closely with the teachers and students in providing additional support during small group instruction as another opportunity to practice important math skills. Lastly, teachers are incorporating other important skills needed for success such as test taking strategies and tips during math instruction.

Continue to practice math fluency skills at home and

provide time for your child to work on iReady daily.

Math websites for additional math practice and homework:

<https://mathseeds.com/> (Primary K-2)

<https://xtramath.org/#/home/index> (Intermediate 3 - 5)

**Guidance Corner – By Mrs. Carlo, Guidance Counselor**

This month's character trait is respect. Respect is a critical element in all healthy relationships. When children respect others, they treat people with consideration and courtesy and do not violate them physically or verbally. Respect for others should be woven into the fabric of each student's life and characterize all of their relationships. It is a fundamental character quality that prepares children to live productive lives as they relate to and work with others. Respect for others is based on self-respect and self-respect in children comes from being treated with respect by their parents and other adult role models. Teaching children self-respect does not mean complimenting everything they do. They also need honest criticism. When we do criticize, we should focus on things they have done, not on them personally.

**What You Can Do:**

- Encourage your child to build a positive identity that focuses on his/her integrity and talents.
- Emphasize that character is built upon the decisions and actions a person takes.
- Help your child reach his/her full potential by encouraging him/her to develop their talents, set reachable goals and honor themselves as a unique person.
- Teach your child how to choose good values.

**Reading Corner- By Mrs. Moran, Literacy Coach**

Hello Driftwood families!

As the temperature continues to cool off, what better time to have our students read at home! The more reading your child does, the better equipped he/she

will be to master grade level proficiency by the end of the school year.

With that said, we will be hosting a Vocabulary Parade on February 25-28. A flyer will be going home soon regarding times so please be on the lookout!

We will also be celebrating Literacy Week during those same dates; please ask your child about it!

Additionally, our teachers are in the process of reassessing our students with the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS). We expect to see growth from the beginning of the year to this assessment. Your child's teacher will share that information with you during a conference.

Lastly, we are busy goal setting with our students. Please ask them what their goals are for the year in their subject areas, and what the plan is to achieve them.

### **Mrs. Leff – ESE Specialist and Mrs. Rodriguez, ASD**

#### **Coach**

Hello Families,

Hat off to our third grade students and teachers! They did awesome on their first BAS assessment, and we are hopeful for similar results on their FSA in the spring. All students received their accommodations and were comfortable in the small group settings. February 13<sup>th</sup> is the next field trip to the Miami Children's Art Museum. Students and staff are looking forward to the VIP treatment provided by the Museum. They will be viewing a new performance and seeing new exhibits. We are still waiting for information regarding the Dan Marino Walk for Autism. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Our doors are always open for you!

### **Assistant Principal's Message – Mrs. Cruz**

Happy New Year! This month I would like to review Broward's Truancy Intervention Program with you and the importance of regular attendance at school by all children. Florida Statute 1003.21 states that all children between the ages of 6 and 16 are required to attend school regularly during the entire school year. Statute 1003.24 states that parents are responsible for the school attendance of their children. In addition School Board Policy 5.5 states that sanctions may be imposed when students have developed a pattern of non-attendance. Non-attendance for instructional activities is established by tardiness, early sign-outs or absences for any part of the school day. Please remember that if your child is absent you MUST either call the school, send a note or submit a Doctor's note if your child has more than 5 unexcused absences in order to excuse an

absence. We need your children to be in school every day so that we can positively impact their education. As always if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's attendance, please feel free to reach out to me.

### **FEBRUARY AND MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Friday, Feb. 1** – Take Your Child to Work Day

**Monday, Feb. 4** – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Assemblies

**Wednesday, Feb. 6** – Debate Competition – Everglades H. S.

**Thursday, Feb. 7** – PTO Italian Night

**Tuesday, Feb. 12** – Coffee with the Principal /SAC/SAF Meetings – 7:30 a.m. – Media Center

**Monday, Feb. 18** – No School – President's Day

**Wednesday, Feb. 20** – First Grade Field Trip to the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds

South Area Parent Advisory – McArthur H.S. – 8:30 a.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 21** – Early Release Day – 12:00 p.m.

Dismissal – PTO Hat Day – BPIE Meeting

**Friday, Feb. 22** – Second Grade Field Trip to the Museum

**Monday, Feb. 25** – Vocabulary Parade – K presents to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade at 8:30 a.m.; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade presents to K at 1:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27** – Vocabulary Parade – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade presents to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at 8:30 a.m.; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade presents to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at 1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 28** – Vocabulary Parade – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade presents to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at 8:30 a.m.; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade presents to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade at 1:00 p.m.

**Monday, March 4 through Friday, March 15** – Kindergarten Swimming

**Tuesday, March 12** – Coffee with the Principal/SAC/SAF meetings – 7:30 a.m. – Media Center

**Wednesday, March 13** – Spring Pictures

**Thursday, March 14** – Head Start Parents Event

**Wednesday, March 20** – South Area Parent Advisory – McArthur H.S. – 8:30 a.m.

**Thursday, March 21** – Early Release Day – Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 22** – Teacher Planning Day – No School  
Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29 – Spring Break – No School

**Monday, April 1** – Welcome Back!

**Please log on to our school website at:**

**<https://www.browardschools.com/driftwoodelem>**