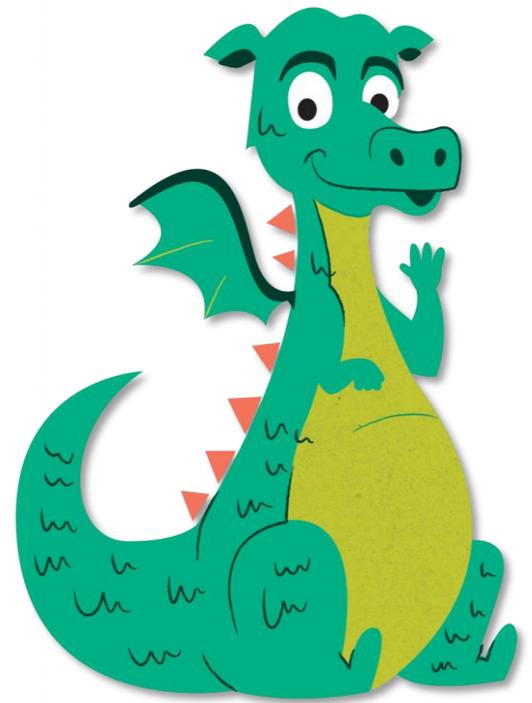


# DRIFTWOOD ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

October 2020



## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



## IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>

No School (Teacher Planning)

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>

K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> grades and ESE (self-contained) first day back to school (if opted to return)

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>

Early Release (8:00 am- 12:00 pm)

Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades first day back to school (if opted to return)

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>

Early Release (8:00 am- 12:00 pm)

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>

Early Release (8:00 am- 12:00 pm)

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>

No School (Teacher Planning)

Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>

SAC Meeting  
(3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams)

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>

Virtual Read for the Record

# PRINCIPAL'S NEWS



It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the first quarter. Our teachers, staff, students, and families all stepped up to the challenge of online learning, and I am truly impressed with what we have accomplished as a team. Students have participated in live reading and math instruction each day with our amazing teachers "live" on TEAMS. Our special area teachers have created engaging lessons in Music, Science, and PE. Our paraprofessionals have supported teachers and students in their learning. Students have been maneuvering through Canvas to complete assignments. It may not have been the traditional start of a school year, but we did it as a team. We are so proud of our students and teachers for all their hard work!

Now, as we are entering phase 2 of E-learning, we have been busy getting the school ready to welcome students who wish to physically return to the building. If you have completed the district survey for your children to return physically to school, Grades Pre-K – Grade 2 and students in self-contained ESE classrooms will start on Friday, October 9th and Grades 3 -5 will return on Tuesday, October 13th. All other students will continue with E-Learning at home unless, you have contacted the school to change your response. If you did not respond to the survey, the response was defaulted to continue e-learning from home. Please note that any student wanting to now physically return to school will be placed on our "wait list". All situations will be considered on a case by case basis to maintain social distancing guidelines within each classroom. During Phase 2 of E-learning, instruction for all students (those physically at school and those at home) will continue through Microsoft Teams and Canvas.

As students enter the campus, they will see various signage such as directional arrows, social distancing posters, and face mask required posters to remind students to follow CDC guidelines. Circles are painted outside each classroom for students to sit six feet apart in the morning as they wait for the teacher to welcome them into the classroom. Teachers will have their classrooms set up with desks and/or tables six feet apart. Our custodians will frequently disinfect high touch areas, and teachers will have hand washing and bathroom procedures for their classrooms. We are asking parents to conduct daily health screenings of their children at home prior to coming to school.

**If you can answer "NO" to ALL these questions, your child may proceed to school.**

- Does my child feel warm, have a fever (elevated temperature 100.4), or have the chills?
- Does my child have a persistent cough, runny nose, or sore throat?
- Has my child recently experienced a loss of taste or smell?
- Has anyone in my household tested positive for COVID-19?
- Has my child been in close and unprotected contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
- Is my child feeling otherwise sick or ill today?
- Am I awaiting test results for COVID-19 for my child?
- Has my child tested positive for COVID-19?
- Has my child been told to self-quarantine or self-isolate by a doctor or District Administrator?

Thank you again for your continued support! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 754-323-5450 or via email at [christine.ringler@browardschools.com](mailto:christine.ringler@browardschools.com).

# ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



WELCOME DRIFTWOOD FAMILIES!

As we self-reflect on the closing of schools in March, online learning instruction and the pandemic highs and lows, I must say we have been through a major paradigm shift over the past few months. As a community, I would like to commend you for all that you have done to remain safe and to keep the educational environment moving along within your homes.

As we shift to brick and mortar instruction, it is important that we all understand guidelines that have been put in place for the safety of our students and staff. It is essential that we adhere to the following:

- ***Keeping Face Covering Over Nose and Mouth AT ALL TIMES***
- ***Practicing PHYSICAL DISTANCING (6ft apart)***
- ***Follow directional arrows and signs when enter school grounds***
- ***Listen for direction from staff in the cafeteria for retrieving breakfast/lunch and seating accommodations***
- ***Listen to teachers and staff when moving throughout the school***
- ***Remember that we are in this together and that our goal is to have a safe learning environment for ALL!***

Again, Welcome Back to School and we look forward to a great start with new challenges and adventure for the 2020-2021 school Year!

Educationally yours,

Kimberly L. Greer, Assistant Principal

WELCOME  
BACK  
to  
School

Hello Driftwood Families,

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year. Although the virtual start of the school year has changed to be the “new normal”, the dedication and hard work of our teachers and staff continues to be the priority for our students. Currently our students are completing beginning of the year testing which includes the GoMath Prerequisite and the iReady diagnostic. These assessment tools provide valuable data for teachers when planning instruction for their students in the classroom. The iReady Math Diagnostic Assessment, measures the student’s current level of performance in four critical math domain areas: Number and Operations, Algebra and Algebraic Thinking, Measurement/Data and Geometry.

During these times of instruction, the students will continue to use CANVAS as the main platform of learning combined with virtual live teacher instruction and other virtual platforms that include Reflex Math for fluency practice and GoMath Personal Math Trainer for individualized instruction. There will continue to be a strong emphasis on procedural fluency this school year in grades K – 5. Becoming fluent in math is the foundation needed to solve math problems appropriately, efficiently, accurately and with flexibility. Understanding the answers to basic addition/multiplication facts is not a skill based on memorization, rather than a skill that is based on procedural fluency.

I look forward to a fun and exciting new school year and assisting our students and parents in any way.

**Monthly Math Tip:** When solving computational math problems, using manipulatives increases conceptual knowledge and a better understanding of numbers. Examples of manipulatives found at home include the following: buttons, dried beans, toothpicks, cotton balls, measuring cups and spoons, straws, deck of cards, index cards, Legos, empty egg carton, dice, ruler, rubber bands and different color of construction paper.

Ms. Pomaes  
Math Coach



Dear AMAZING Driftwood Families,

I wanted to welcome you back to an unusual, exciting, and most importantly productive school year! My name is Coral Saban and I am the new literacy coach at Driftwood Elementary. I am so excited about all the great things your child will be learning this year!

My goal as a literacy coach is for your child to improve their reading levels as well as their grade level goals. It is imperative to me that your child acquires the necessary reading skills to become a proficient reader. To accomplish this, our wonderful teachers must first collect specific data. You might have seen your child take the iReady Reading Diagnostic Assessments on the computer, which measures your child’s current grade level performance in the following six reading domains: Phonological Awareness, Phonics, High-Frequency Words, Vocabulary, Comprehension: Literature, and Comprehension: Informational. Additionally, your child’s teacher will be administrating a running record assessment which assists with identifying the selection of texts that will be productive for your child’s whole group, small group, personalized instruction, and independent reading, creating individual benchmarks for planning efficient and effective instruction, and identifying if your child requires intervention and extra assistance.

I highly encourage your child to complete iReady lessons at home for at least 20 minutes each day as well as read for at least 20 minutes daily to or with someone. This will be extremely beneficial for your child and assist with building those essential skills to become a proficient reader.

I am looking forward to a great school year!

**Monthly Reading Tip:** How can you make sure that your child is comprehending what they are reading?

Talk with your child about what they are reading. Discuss all kinds of things, such as characters, plot, and word definitions. Link reading to their personal life. Can they relate to characters or situations? What would they have done if they were the character?

Ms. Saban  
Literacy Coach



Hello Driftwood Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the new families joining Driftwood Elementary School this year and a big welcome back to our returning families. My name is Ronnie Leff, and I am proud to be your ESE Specialist. I encourage each of you to please keep the Team informed of the events in your child's life, including any questions you may have regarding their progress.

We are so excited to share the journey of this upcoming school year with you. This year brings us so many unique opportunities to grow and learn. For us to be successful, we need to make mistakes and learn from them. Easy is boring. Effort is what makes us great.

Let's do it!

Ms. Leff  
ESE Specialist



Hello Driftwood Family!

For the October update I would like to let you know about an exciting new program we will be implementing school wide. Happiness Studies Academy (HSA) is a well-researched model of social emotional learning that incorporates the whole child. It focuses on addressing five areas of self-represented by the term SPIRE (Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Relational and Emotional). HSA is a program that is based on the principle that children are best served by an education that equips them not only academically but to live meaningful, healthy lives resulting in genuine happiness. The program addresses nutrition, mindfulness, relationships, motivation, dealing with stress and many other much needed topics for our children today.

To successfully implement HSA as a school we have asked a group of volunteer teachers to engage in professional development training through Harvard University's Happiness Studies Academy. Having completed the training, our team of teachers are now working together to plan school projects and curriculum that can be incorporated school wide. This is a building year for us but we anticipate growing momentum as word spreads about the program.

We look forward to sharing more updates with our community in the near future!

Kindly,  
Mrs. Carlo  
School Counselor

