

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Raccoon Review

A Message From the Principal:

Welcome to 2011!! We hope that your vacation left each of you rested and rejuvenated. Riverside teachers have been very involved in analyzing the results of the second Benchmark Assessment for third through fifth graders. We will be meeting with each teacher to review the support systems in place to ensure that children are well prepared for the upcoming tests. We also had conferences with teachers of students in grades kindergarten through second to assess the progress and interventions given to these students. It is a busy time of evaluation and assessment! If you have not yet met with your child's teacher, please call for an appointment to do so. One of Riverside's greatest strengths is our ongoing communication with you-your child's first teacher.

We enjoyed a wonderful morning with over 90 parents and students who joined us for "Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dads" at 7:15 a.m. on January 7. As cold as it was outside, the Media Center was warm with parents enjoying reading with their students and enjoying snacks provided by PNC Bank.

We invite you to join us for "BEEP" night on January 20. We will teach and practice the use of technology to use when helping your student at home as well as enabling you to access information about the new standards which were implemented in math this year.

January 2011

Just so you know, staff development on the Early Release Day will consist of training in strategies to teach writing across the grade levels. On the planning day, our staff will be devising an action plan to revise instruction based on the recent tests mentioned in paragraph one.

As always, thank you to each of you who volunteer in some capacity at Riverside or help us out at home. We are grateful for your support!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

1/10- 14	Book Fair
1/11	Book Fair Family Night
1/17	No School
1/18	PTO Family Night -TBA
1/19	Class Pictures Papa John's Night SAC Meeting, Huntington Learning Center 6:00 p.m.
1/20	BEEP Night 6:00 p.m.
1/21	Early Release 12:00
1/23	Incredible Ice
1/24	No School, Planning Day
1/25	Beginning of 3 rd Quarter
2/4	Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads 7:15 a.m. Valentine Dance 6- 8:00 p.m.
2/9	Report Cards go home
2/14	Volunteer Appreciation Day Class Celebrations



Kindergarten News

Happy New Year 2011 to our community of Riverside families! Kindergarten has an extremely busy month. We will begin learning about changes in weather, the winter season and cold weather animals. Also, a very important topic will be Martin Luther King Jr. and the impact he had on the world.

Our Safety Town field trip dates are set for Wednesday, March 9th or Thursday, March 10th, details to follow. The parent volunteer training morning will be held on January 26, 2011 at Safety Town, 510 Ramblewood Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Once again, we are honored to be your child's teacher and we are thankful for everything you do to bring excellence to our Kindergarten program.



First Grade News

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Wow! We're half way through the school year! Where has the time gone? We're not really sure, but one thing is for certain, it has been busy!

Our classes are busily engaged in learning new reading strategies to help us become better readers, and in practicing higher thinking skills such as analyzing cause and effect relationships. We are learning to write well constructed sentences and to put them together to create wonderful stories. Continue to have your child read with you everyday.

Practice those math facts and spelling words. Encourage your child to practice good study habits by completing his/her homework nightly and bringing it back to school the next day.

We would like to begin our new semester with some new supplies for each child. Any donations of the following items would be helpful for our class: one large glue stick, one box of 16 regular crayons, markers, baby wipes and Xerox paper.

Dates to Remember:

January 17th- No School

January 21st- Early Release

January 24th - Employee Planning Day

We appreciate the help and support you give us while we work with your students.



Second Grade News

Happy New Year to one and all! Can you believe that we are almost half way through this school year? It's going so quickly and so are the students' supplies. If you can, please take some time to replenish them.

Now that the holidays are over, we are back to our normal routines. Please make sure you review the planner daily and the Thursday folder. Sign and return all sheets requiring signatures. It is important for students to remember to refill and bring their water bottle to class daily. The water may be chilled but not frozen.

For this month's science unit, the students will study rocks and soil. In math, we will continue to use different strategies to add and subtract 2-digit numbers. Of course, the students will **read, read, read!** It is important that the students read daily for 20 minutes. Reading is a part of their daily homework.

We're off to a great start in 2011. Thanks for your cooperation and support.



Third Grade News

We are full speed ahead with the new year and loving learning! Let us all make New Year Resolutions to continue to maximize each student's potential. Please continue with the consistency of daily reading, reviewing of math facts, and coming to school on time and prepared to learn. As a reminder, we have an inspiring field trip to the Parker Playhouse to see Math Magic. We thank you for your continued support.



Fourth Grade News

Happy New Year! While the calendar may state it's a new year, the school year in 4th grade has been productive and active for several months. Here are some important reminders for parents:

- The permission slips for the trip to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park are going home on Thursday January 7. This trip has commonly been called the "Canoe Trip", but is actually much more. Coach buses will transport the students, teachers and selected parent chaperones from Riverside to the park in Ft. Lauderdale. Students will spend the full day hiking through a hardwood hammock, water testing, participating in a beach scavenger hunt, and of course, navigating a canoe down a river. The cost of the trip is \$40, which includes 2 trained guides. If a parent wishes to chaperone, they MUST inform their child's teacher of their interest (many have already responded to the form we sent home several weeks ago). Chaperones must be fully cleared through the STAR system and approved, and have their badge from the Riverside front office. The amount of chaperones we need will be based upon how many students are going on the trip. Remember, only 2 classes go each day on this all day trip. (8a.m.-1:50p.m.) The schedule is as follows:

February 7- Clements/Policastro and Rudanovich

February 8- Hariton/Johnson

February 9- Dexter/Mongone

It is also VERY important that students have BOTH permission slips completed (the permission form from our school and the form from the company organizing this trip). Parents who are selected to chaperone will also have to fill out a form (to be sent home once chaperones are determined). A parent who wishes to chaperone must take part in the canoe activity, as you will be taking 3 students with you in a canoe.

- This is a great point in the school year in which to replenish supplies, organize backpacks, and clean desks. Talk to your child about any supplies they may be lacking.

- The new year also means the FCAT season is fast approaching. 4th graders will take the FCAT Writes in early March, and FCAT Math and Reading in April.

- Please continue to encourage your child to read independently at least 20 minutes per day, and to master their multiplication facts with quick and accurate recall.



Fifth Grade News

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the chaperones who helped supervise the students on our field trip to the Science Museum and IMAX Theatre. The students were well behaved on this excursion and had many concepts they have been learning in the science curriculum reinforced in an enjoyable and educational manner.

We have another field trip coming up soon. We will be attending a live theatre performance at the Performing Arts Center in Coral Springs. If you are hoping to chaperone this trip or participate in any other activity, please make sure you are registered to be a volunteer at

www.getinvolvedineducation.com. in order to assist.

With the cold weather upon us, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately. With cold mornings and warm afternoons, wearing layers can be helpful. Also please put names on your child's clothing so if something is lost, we can return it to the rightful owner.

As the year is progressing, your children have begun to develop into young ladies and gentlemen. With that in mind, please review the dress code with your child to make sure the clothes he/she is wearing are appropriate for school. Whether your child wears a uniform or has a waiver, this includes, but is not limited to, skirt and shorts lengths. Also remind them to wear sneakers on the day they have P.E..

5th Grade will also begin the G.R.A.D.E program with Officer Weber. Please check your child's folder for a permission slip that will need to be signed in order for them to participate.

We hope you have a happy and healthy new year.



Interested in attending a Magnet School for 2011-2012?

Admission to Magnet Schools is by application only. You may get an application from Ms. Magill, our Guidance Counselor, or go online to www.browardschoolsmagnetprograms.com

The application deadline is February 16, 2011. Applications received, postmarked or electronically submitted after February 16, 2011 will be processed at a later date.

Pompano Beach Middle Communication Broadcast Arts Magnet School 2011 Open House is on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

If you are interested in the **William Dandy Middle Pre-Medical and Pre-Law/Public Affairs Magnet Program**, call 754-322-3200.

Crystal Lake Middle School in Pompano Beach offers 3 nationally recognized, academically challenging, award winning Magnet Programs. Qualified students may apply for Science/Pre-Engineering, International Affairs & Business or T.E.E.N.S Please contact Ms. Lenecia McCrary, Magnet Programs Coordinator, at Crystal Lake Middle for more information at 754-322-3150.

5th GRADE MAGNET OPEN HOUSE **Parkway Middle School of the Arts**

Parkway Middle School of the Arts will be hosting its Magnet Open House for anyone interested in attending the school next year. The program will be held Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The school is located at 3600 NW 5th Court, Lauderhill, Florida.

The school's magnet theme addresses all areas of the performing and visual arts: dance, band, vocal, piano, percussion, strings, guitar, drama and the visual arts. They are a county-wide magnet program and transportation is provided. Students will have unique experiences in the arts, including the opportunity to work alongside professionals in the entertainment industry. If your children are interested in pursuing their talents, they owe it to themselves to come and see exactly what makes Parkway School of the Arts so different.

Students interested in the magnet program must meet eligibility requirements, which are a 2.0 GPA and Level 3 or greater FCAT score in both math and reading. Applications for the magnet programs will be available that evening.

Tours will be available during the school day by appointment. For more information please call the school at 754-322-4060. They look forward to showing you everything we have to offer.



News from our Reading Coach

Let's Start the New Year off Right by... Creating a Home Library!

To show your child how important books are start a home library. Having books of his/her own in a special place boosts the chance that your child will want to read even more. Here are some ideas for creating your own library at home.

Finding books

- Become a treasure hunter! Browse bookstore sales, garage sales, flea markets, used bookstores, and sales at your local stores.
- Organize a children's book swap with friends or at school.
- Encourage family and friends to give books as gifts for birthdays, holidays, and other celebrations.
- Purchase a subscription for a children's magazine! Children love to read non-fiction.

Building your library

- A cardboard box or small wooden/plastic packing crate that you can decorate together might make a good bookcase. Even easier, clear off one of the family bookshelves.
- Pick a special place for your child's books so that he/she knows where to look for them (in a cozy corner of your child's bedroom or close to where the rest of the family gathers and reads).
- Help your child to arrange the books in a specific order such as favorite books, books about animals, non-fiction, space, or holiday books. Use whatever method will assist your child in finding the book.
- "*This book belongs to...*" Bookplates give your child a sense of ownership and can add "newness" to a used book. You can make your own or download some colorful bookplates off the Internet.
- If you and your child make your own books together, you can add those to your home library.

- Borrow books from your local library. Go to the children's section and spend time with your child reading and selecting books to take home and put in a special spot. You might even have a box or space just for library books, so that they don't get mixed up with your child's own books.

When families collect and read books together, you send your child a message that books are important, enjoyable, and full of new things to learn!

Happy New Year and Happy Reading!



BEEP Night is coming! Mark your calendars!

On Thursday, January 20th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Riverside is having a BEEP Night for parents and students! B.E.E.P. stands for Broward Enterprise Educational Portal. The Broward Enterprise Education Portal (BEEP) gives access to digital resources for teaching and learning. This portal allows teachers, students, administrators and parents of Broward County Public Schools to access current and relevant resources and information focused on student achievement, academic performance, and instructional best practices. Parents and students will be using computers to access B.E.E.P. and learn about online textbooks such as Go Math, Treasures Reading Series, Net Trekker, FCAT Explorer, Virtual Counselor, Tumblebooks, and more! Come have a fun night of hands-on learning!



SAC/SAF News

Happy New Year! We have a location and time change for the January 19, 2011 SAC/SAF meeting. The January meeting is scheduled for **6:00 p.m.** at Huntington Learning Center. Light refreshments will be served. The agenda for this meeting includes an update of the School Improvement Plan and a review of BAT 2 data.

Huntington Learning Center Address:
1750 N University Dr # 234
Coral Springs, FL 33071



Whale Done!

You've Been Caught Being Good

At Riverside we are always looking for ways to praise good behaviors. Each week, one class is recognized as "Caught Being Good" on the morning announcements. Last month's winners were from the following classes: Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Sloan, and Mrs. Tamayo.

Each class was complimented for their good behaviors and given a "Caught Being Good" pencil. Let's see who is CAUGHT this month! Whale Done Riverside!



Spanish News

Happy New Year! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Just a little note to make sure you look in your child's Spanish folder to monitor your child's progress. We will be learning about plurals and gender in our grammar lessons in the weeks to come. Please have your child study about 5 to 7 minutes per night to reinforce the material that was taught in class. You can find this material on Mr. Hollis' website.

Thank you and have a wonderful New Year!



Music/Art News

During the month of January, we will be finishing up this year's music curriculum, then your children will have Art for their second semester special.

Our 5th graders are improving their music reading skills by playing recorders, preparing them for middle school band, orchestra, or chorus. Our 4th graders are trying to earn as many colored strings as possible for their recorders before the end of the semester by playing increasingly challenging music. Our 2nd and 3rd graders are expanding their range of tonal patterns so they are able to sight sing. They are also learning about music from various countries. K and 1st graders are expanding their rhythm reading skills, playing rhythmic accompaniments on instruments, and singing in harmony!

Mrs. Papit will miss you all during second semester, but is already looking forward to working with your children again in August!



Volunteers Appreciated

We appreciate ALL of our volunteers, whether they are helping in school or at home! Everyone is encouraged to sign up to be one of Riverside's volunteers at www.getinvolvedineducation.com. If you are unable to sign up at home, come to Riverside and we will assist you!



Riverside Partners in Education

Riverside, as part of the Taravella Zone, has more than one hundred Partners in Education. We are thrilled to have all of these partners and are especially pleased

when we are able to have an event with their participation. In return, we ask for you, as parents, to patronize our partners.

Thank you to PNC Bank for sponsoring our monthly Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dads reading program. PNC Bank donates our wonderful refreshments for this event. PNC also provides an opportunity for students to sign up for the PNC Student Banking Program immediately following the event.

Another thank you goes out to MedExpress for donating a Visa Gift Card for a SAC raffle. We appreciate their partnership!

We would also like to thank Papa John's Pizza for their continuous support and generous donations from the monthly Family Nights! The winning classes each month always enjoy their donated pizza parties!

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call Equal Educational Opportunities at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine TTY 754-321-2158.