

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Raccoon Review

A Message From the Principal:

All of Riverside is on the final countdown to testing time. We are confident that all of our children are well prepared and will do their very best. Testing for grades 3-5 begins on April 11th. It is important that everyone arrives well rested and on time.

Although our focus continues to remain on student achievement, we are very proud of the many activities scheduled for support and involvement this month. "Donuts for Dad and Muffins for Mom" continues to be very successful. If you haven't joined us yet, we invite you to do so on April 1st. at 7:15 in the media center. We also began a new monthly program called "Coffee/Conversation" for parents on Tuesday, March 8th. at 7:30. This month's topic will be "Parent Conferencing Tips." The first of several celebrations for fifth graders will be on March 25th when we celebrate "GRADE" graduation. Just to give you advance notice, our school carnival will be held on April 30 this year. We look forward to some well deserved "R&R" during our spring break on March 14-18th, and encourage you to incorporate reading and fun math activities into your time off. Riverside Rocks!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

3/11 PNC Banking at Riverside
3/14-18 Spring Break

2011

- 3/23 PTO/ SAC/SAF Meetings 9:30 a.m.
- 3/25 5th grade G.R.A.D.E Graduation
- 4/1 Early Release 12:00
Muffins for Moms, Donnuts for Dads
7:15 a.m.
- 4/4 No School, Teacher Planning
Riverside Round- Up 9:00 a.m.
- 4/5 Begin 4th Quarter
Coffee and Conversation 7:30 a.m.
- 4/11- 21 FCAT Testing



Kindergarten News

Here we are in the midst of March and our days are flying by.

All new incoming students and their families are invited to become acquainted with our school on Monday, April 4th at 9:00 a.m. for the Riverside Round Up.

Our kindergarten students enjoyed a rotation day on March 2nd celebrating Dr. Seuss and all the wonderful books he authored.

We are also learning about the weather, discussing temperature, winds, and of course spring!

We have already begun preparing for our Academic Extravaganza that takes place on April 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! It is a wonderful opportunity for

your family to visit our school and see what each grade level is learning.

Our trip to Safety Town is Wednesday, March 9th for Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Koondel and Ms. Schwartz classes. On Thursday, March 10th Mrs. Divine, Mrs. Herman and Ms. Shuler's classes will go to Safety Town.

Thanks to all the parents who volunteer in our classes, by preparing activities for us at home and by sending in supplies that are needed!

You all are extraordinary!



First Grade News

First grade will be very busy in March. The students are practicing listening skills and following directions. We are working on reading comprehension skills and problem solving in math. Encourage your child to read more AR books to help improve their reading comprehension skills. We also will be learning about different types of weather and seasons.

Important Dates

Spring Break-March 14th -18th

March 31st- Field trip to Flamingo Gardens

**Please pack your child a bag lunch with their name on the bag.

Reminders

Students should be reading 20 minutes each night. Students should also review and practice addition and subtraction math facts.

Thank you for your support and cooperation!



Second Grade News

March is flying by, along with the third quarter! Second graders are continuing to work on comprehension strategies in reading. In math, students are learning to

add and subtract 3 digit numbers with regrouping and then will be introduced to a unit on geometry. Please have your child continue to practice his or her math facts. In science they are studying soil, life cycles and habitats.

Dates to Remember:

March 11 ~ Field trip form and money due

March 14 ~ April 18 ~ Spring Break

March 31 ~ Field trip to Palm Beach Zoo

A Few Reminders:

- Please check Thursday Folders each week. Important information is located inside the folder.
- Please check and sign the planner daily.
- Students should be reading a minimum of 20 minutes each day. Remember, they are required to take and pass AR quizzes each month.
- Water bottles- bring daily, the water may be chilled but not frozen
- Classroom supplies are dwindling especially crayons, pencils, and tissues. We appreciate anything you can send in with your child.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



Third Grade News

As FCAT nears we have kicked into high gear.

Continue to encourage your child to read daily and apply their good reader strategies as practiced in school. Remind them that they may also access digital programs in reading and math for continuous reinforcement. Now that it's "crunch time" make sure your child continues to arrive on time and is well rested.

In science this month our major focus is the Science Fair project. The Scientific Method has been demonstrated and practiced by the students in class. In order to do the individual experiment at home, a packet with instructions was sent as a guideline.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!



fourth grade news

The FCAT season is upon us. 4th graders took the FCAT Writes Assessment on Tuesday, March 1. It normally takes at least 2 months for scores to come back from the state. Student scores will be available on Virtual Counselor.

FCAT Reading and Math will take place the week of April 11. As always, the best way to be prepared for these tests is to be confident, get a good nights rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive at school on time.

4th graders loved the trip to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in February. Students had the opportunity to hike through a hardwood habitat, test water samples, participate in a scavenger hunt on Ft. Lauderdale Beach, and of course the highlight...taking a canoe down the river. Students and chaperones were given an instructional and safety lesson and then had to navigate their canoe down a river, and safely back to dock. On the way many experienced the difficulty of paddling through lily pads, but all enjoyed their full day adventure.

Please remember to continue reading at least 20 minutes per day. Students should also be demonstrating an ability to complete all homework assignments, maintain their own planner book, and keep their desk and backpack organized. 5th grade and middle school are not that far away, and good habits now, translate into great habits later.



Fifth Grade News

The 5th grade team has been keeping busy with our G.R.A.D.E program with Officer Weber and the last rotation of science. As FCAT testing grows closer, please help to remind students to review their math, reading, and science notes and assignments from the beginning of the year. Another

great resource for testing practice is utilizing the online program FCAT Explorer. Please check with your child to be sure they have classroom supplies such as pencils, paper, and tissues.

The 5th grade team would like to wish you a safe and fun Spring Break.



Very Important Reminders!

Parents of Students in Grades K-4-Recommitment letters will be going home on March 24th. Please return your child's letter promptly indicating whether or not your child will be returning to Riverside for the 2011-12 school year. It is important for everyone to return this letter in order for us to project and plan accurately.

Volunteers- We love you! Please remember when you scan in at the front office to volunteer in a classroom, too be sure that the teacher is expecting you. This communication is important for the teacher too be prepared for your assistance. If you need too cancel a scheduled time, you can call the front office and the message will be sent.

Volunteers- We are currently applying for the 200 hour pin awards and need your assistance. Please give Mrs. Berger, in the front office, a list of your hours worked outside of school. She will give you a form to fill out so you as well as Riverside get credit where credit is due. All 200 hour pin applications are due by the end of the month!

Parents- The Customer Surveys for parents has been delayed and will be sent home the week of March 21st. If you receive a survey, please return it completed by April 21, 2011.

Everyone- Riverside Round- Up is April 4th at 9:00 a.m. Please invite your friends and neighbors that have a child that will be new to Riverside for the 2011-12 school year to attend!

Students- Please ask your parents if they have any extra school supplies that they

could donate to Riverside. There is a box in the front office to collect supplies that are then used for a raffle for our teachers. Teachers need supplies for you! Please bring them in at any time!

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are needed to see this picture.

News from our Reading Coach

Did you know that reading with your child will lead to better school performance? Studies show that when adults participate in learning, children receive higher grades, enjoy school more, and love to read. Reading time creates a bond between you and your child that will stay with you both forever.

How should I start?

Stop by the children's area at your local library. Children should select books that interest them - read about famous athletes, historical events, or how things work. You can read chapter books with older children, reading a little bit each day. Be patient! If you haven't read with your child before, he or she may need time to get accustomed to this activity.

What if I'm not with my child every day?

If you don't see your child each day, try arranging a regular time to read books over the phone or create your own podcast! Your child will look forward to this individual time with you, and you will also be modeling behavior that will keep your child on a path toward literacy learning.

What if I don't like reading?

Even if you're not a reader yourself, your participation in literacy activities at home can have an impact on your child's academic achievement. You just have to send the message that reading is important!

- Tell stories about your own life or when you were young.
- Talk about the print that is in our environment. For example, read and talk about road signs or brand names on food containers.
- Check out books of photography or art and talk about the pictures.

- Involve your child in everyday writing tasks like shopping lists, thank you notes, and journaling.
- When you are doing household projects, describe what you are doing. Use interesting words!
- Ask your child about his or her day. Engage in interesting conversations.

Conversation with adults helps children to learn new words. In addition, practicing telling a story is linked to better reading skills.

Walk the walk

Your child learns from what you do. Make sure the messages you are sending about reading tell your child that knowledge and literacy are valuable, achievable, and powerful.

Happy Reading!



Guidance News

What parents can do to maximize the testing experience

On the day of the test, discuss what the test means. Reassure your child. Advise him/her to listen carefully to the teacher's direction and try their best. Remind your child to read directions carefully and be on the lookout for directions that have more than one step.

Discourage cramming. It won't help. Standardized achievement tests cover much more schoolwork that can be learned in a few hours.

Urge your child to take all tests seriously and to keep working (and not give up) on difficult tasks.

Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep.

Be sure your child is physically prepared the day of testing. Test taking is hard work. It takes physical and mental energy. See to it that your child receives a nutritious breakfast and lunch.

Make every effort to have your child arrive at school promptly every day, but

especially on the day(s) of testing. Though make-up testing is given to absent students, children usually feel more comfortable testing in their own environment with their peers.

Start the day with a smooth take-off and end it with a smooth landing. Try to maintain a relaxed atmosphere at home in the morning. How a child begins the day greatly influences the events and outcome of that day.

Don't forget the glasses! If your child requires eyewear for reading, please make sure they have them for testing.

Pass along any information about unusual circumstances on test day, such as illness or other relevant information.

Keep sick children at home. If your child has a high temperature or is ill, give them time to rest and recuperate so they can get back to school as soon as they are well.

Four things parents can control that account for 88 percent of the difference in student mathematics scores and 91 percent of the difference in reading scores:

- *Student attendance at school
- *The variety of available reading materials at home
- *The amount of television children watch
- *The amount of time parents read with their children

(Source: Strong Families, Strong Schools – U.S. Department of Education, 1995.)

What the student can do to maximize testing:

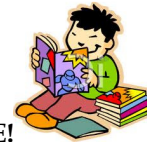
Rest- The athlete and the student benefit from proper rest prior to an important event. Reviewing the test material and eight hours of sleep the night before the test are important factors in improving test performance. Remember, don't cram for achievement tests.

Diet- Proper nourishment is helpful for good performance. Protein and carbohydrates are needed for endurance and energy. Eating a balanced breakfast is important before a morning exam.

Dress- Select comfortable clothing

appropriate for the test environment. Remember the school's dress code. Avoid noisy, distracting jewelry. Hair should be clipped back out of the eyes. Bring a sweater as the climate may vary from room to room.

Attitude- A positive attitude tends to decrease anxiety and tension. Instead of thinking about how much work it is to take a test, think of testing as an opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned



Donations! PLEASE!

Riverside is looking for children's books of all different genres and reading levels along with magazines that are in good condition for our "Begin With A Book" program. If you have Zoobooks, Highlights, 321 Contact and any other children's magazines to donate, we would appreciate it! Please look through your books and magazines and donate to us!

We are also looking for plastic tubs to house literature books. Please send items into Mrs. Klareich as soon as you can Thank you



ESE News

Attention Parents of Students with Disabilities

The annual Parent Survey for Parents of Students with Disabilities indicating how well schools are supporting parents' involvement in their child's education, can be accessed online beginning February 1, 2011. To access and complete the survey, log on to www.ESESurvey.com. If you are unable to complete an online survey, please request a paper survey from Mrs. Boylan.

The parent survey allows you to provide meaningful feedback to the Florida Department of Education concerning educational services your child is receiving. Remember the parent survey is only for

parents of students with disabilities in grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.



Every Child can Help Feed a Hungry Child

Our school is participating in the annual Ruth W. Shapiro March for the Hungry Food Drive. One can CAN make a difference. Please place canned foods and other non-perishable food items in your child's backpack during the week of March 3-10, 2011. Our school has a collection box in the front office.

All students and families who donate are invited to come to our collection night on Thursday, March 10th from 6:00-8:00 pm at Sawgrass Springs Middle School in Coral Springs, 12500 W. Sample Road. Please join us for food and to help load the trucks and create summer food boxes for needy children.

All food collected will be donated to the following food pantries: WECARE, Cooperative Feeding Program, and the Family Resource Center in Coral Springs. Please check out our brand new website: www.ncjwnwbrowardsection.com. If you would like to sponsor a summer food box for a needy family you can find out how on the website.

The NCJW Northwest Broward Section is sponsoring this food drive.

Thank you for helping to feed the hungry in our community!

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SAC/SAF News

The next SAC/SAF meeting is scheduled for March 23 at 10:00 a.m. We will discuss the

SACS/CASI Accreditation process. This process will begin in October for Broward County Schools. In addition, Mrs. Klareich will also conduct a presentation to help support reading. We hope to see you there!

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Coffee and Conversation

All current and prospective Riverside parents were invited to attend our **first** Parent Learning Community (PLC). The PLC was held on March 8th from 7:30-8:15 a.m. in the media center. RSE Administration provided strategies and tips to assist parents when participating in parent/teacher conferences.

Whale Done! Yo'uve 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. King, Mrs. LaCau, and Mrs. Berger.

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!



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.

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.

We would like to thank MedExpress for donating ice pops, PNC Bank for sponsoring our Muffins for Moms/Donuts for Dads and Huntington Learning Center for collecting school supplies. Thank you for your support!

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Win a Papa John's Pizza!

Students, you can win a pizza by proofreading this newsletter with a family member and looking for 5 grammatical errors. Good writers and good readers always review their work, looking for ways to make it better. This is your opportunity to review your school newsletter and make it better. Fill in the form below and give it to your teacher by Monday, March 21, 2010. Your teacher will put the entries in a box in the mailroom and there will be a drawing on the morning announcements! Good luck and happy reading!

Name:

Teacher:

Corrected Errors:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____