

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## Raccoon Review

### A Message From the Principal:

It has been an honor and a privilege to complete my second year at Riverside. This year's special activities have enhanced the educational process. It was quite apparent at the Academic Extravaganza that not only are students learning at a high level, but that staff, students, and community are all proud of their school. I know that I certainly am!

We continue to face budgetary challenges, but we face them together! At this writing, our budget was decreased by \$217,170. The original cut was even larger, but I did receive notification that we would be funded for a teacher who would have been surplused in order to reduce class size. I know that there are very strong feelings regarding the value of our special area teachers. To date, Riverside is fortunate to have retained all specials for part of the year. You are a voice in the political process and are encouraged to be active in writing your legislators to make your wishes known.

A huge "Thank You" goes out to everyone who has volunteered during this school year. Your participation and partnership in the learning process is greatly appreciated!

I wish for each of you a relaxing summer, and invite each of you to return in the fall refreshed for another great year. Whale Done, Riverside!

## May/June 2010



### Calendar of Upcoming Events

5/18	Chic Fil A Night
5/19	PTO/SAC/SAF 9:30 a.m.
5/26	PNC School Banking 8:30 a.m.
5/28	No School
5/31	No School
6/2	Papa John's Night
6/4	Grades 3 and 4 Awards Ceremonies
6/7	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Awards Ceremony
6/8	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Luncheon Class Celebrations K-4
6/9	No Backpacks Report Cards go home Last Day of School at noon HAVE WONDERFUL, SAFE SUMMER!



### Kindergarten News

The Academic Extravaganza was a huge success. Seeing all our Riverside Families enjoy this wonderful evening was extraordinary!

As the year winds down kindergarten is up to many exciting learning experiences. The students are exploring under the sea, and learning facts about different sea animals.

We are gearing up for our swimming lessons that begin Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup> at Cypress Park. Please read the

information carefully that we will be sending home to you.

Our end of the year celebration will be Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be celebrating a fantastic kindergarten year! Thanks to all our families for participating in our classrooms and assisting us in making this year one we will always remember.



### **First Grade News**

As the year comes to an end a REMINDER to all parents to continue reinforcing reading, writing, and math skills with your child. Studies have shown that the transition into second grade is more effective when children continue to practice academic skills over the summer.

We would like to thank you all for sharing your children with us and for all your support and cooperation throughout the year. Have a wonderful safe and restful summer vacation!

End of the year conferences will be starting soon.

### **Important Dates to Remember**

May 28<sup>th</sup> - Employee Planning Day - No School

May 31<sup>st</sup> - Memorial Day - No School

June 8<sup>th</sup> - End of the Year Class Celebrations

June 9<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of School, Early Release at noon, no backpacks



### **Second Grade News**

As we begin to wrap up the school year, students will continue to learn and make discoveries. In math, students will learn multiplication patterns, place value to the hundreds and thousands place, and review other math concepts. And of course, they will continue to read, read, read and write.

In science, they will discover the life cycles and food chains by observing ladybugs, aphids and butterflies. Students will also learn about reptiles when the Museum of Science and Discovery visits Riverside to present Cold Blooded Critters. This on-campus field trip is always a great experience for them so please sign and return your child's field trip form so he or she may participate. This on-campus field trip is free to all second grade students.

The Second Grade Teachers would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and students for the wonderful cards and gifts received during Teacher Appreciation Week. We would also like to thank you for your generosity and cooperation throughout the year. It has been a wonderful year and we appreciate your support!

### **Dates to Remember:**

May 25 ~ On Campus Field Trip "Cold Blooded Critters"

May 27- Last day to take Accelerated Reading tests

May 28 and May 31~ No School

June 8 ~ Classroom Celebrations

### **A Few Reminders:**

- Please continue to check Thursday Folders each week. Important information is in there.
- Please check and sign planner daily.
- Students should be reading a minimum of 20 minutes each day. Students are also required to take and pass at least two AR quizzes per month.
- Water bottles- bring daily, the water may be chilled but not frozen.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. Have a safe and fantastic summer.



### Third Grade News

Third grade recently experienced a wonderful field trip with Science Eye. The students were able to conduct hands on activities that focused on nature. We then had an excursion to Taravella High School to see the play, Law and Order Fairy Tale Intent. Students were able to view high school students perform a parody that weaved several fairy tales to a contemporary theme. To culminate the month of April, third grade had a chance to not only demonstrate their athleticism, but also more importantly work as a team and have fun at Field Day. It was great having parents there as they assisted with the different stations, cheered our students on, and refreshed us with frosty water and chilled orange slices. We know many are counting down the days; however, we would like to thank you for reinforcing with your child that school is still in session.



### Fourth Grade News

Congratulations on a wonderful school year! The 4<sup>th</sup> grade team is very proud of all of our students and we would like to say "Whale Done" on your hard work and effort in all academic areas. We are anticipating FCAT Reading, Math and Florida Writes results to arrive toward the end of May. Assessment results will be available on Virtual Counselor, which can be accessed through B.E.E.P. You will need your child's school identification number in order to log in. Please encourage your child to read over the summer. The Broward County Library is open during weekdays and offers a wide selection of genres and student favorites. Have a restful and safe summer! See you in August!



### Fifth Grade News

Fifth Grade is very busy this time of year ! Although we are continuing with our academic studies, many classes are working on projects, performing plays, and preparing for matriculation to middle school.

Most importantly, the annual Riverside Fifth Grade Luncheon is fast approaching. This celebration has been anticipated all year long, and the "buzz" is that this will be the best luncheon ever! Students have been given a dress code and have reviewed the "expectations" with classroom teachers.

As we wind down our year, all of the Fifth Grade teachers would like to thank parents, students, and the entire Riverside Community for another great semester!



### Curriculum News

What Families Can Do to Keep Children Reading During the Summer?

Families have a major role to play in motivating children to read during the summer months. Research shows that children who do not read during the summer will show learning losses whereas children who continue reading everyday throughout the summer will demonstrate gains in vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Below are some activities/tips that families might employ to encourage summertime reading.

**Combine activities with books.** Summer leaves lots of time for kids to enjoy fun activities such as going to the park, seeing a movie, or going to the beach. Why not also encourage them to read a book about the activity? If you're going to a baseball game, suggest your child read a book about his or her favorite player

beforehand. In the car you'll have lots of time to talk about the book and the game.

- **Visit the library.** If your child doesn't have a library card, summer is a great time to sign up. In addition to a wide selection of books to borrow, many libraries have fun, child-friendly summer reading programs.
- **Lead by example.** Read the newspaper at breakfast, pick up a magazine at the doctor's office, and stuff a paperback in your beach bag. If kids see the adults around them reading often, they will understand that literature can be a fun and important part of their summer days.
- **Talk it up.** Talking with your kids about what you have read also lets them know that reading is an important part of your life. Tell them why you liked a book, what you learned from it, or how it helped you. Soon they might start doing the same.
- **Help kids find time to read.** Summer camp, music lessons, baseball games, and videos are all fun things kids like to do during the summer. However, by the end of the day, children may be too tired to pick up a book. When planning summer activities with children, remember to leave some time in their schedules for reading. Some convenient times may be before bedtime or over breakfast.
- **Relax the rules for summer.** During the school year, children have busy schedules and often have required reading for classes. Summer is a time when children can read what, when, and how they please. Don't set daily minute requirements or determine the number of pages they should read. Instead, make sure they pick up books for fun and help find ways for them to choose to read on their own. You may even want to make bedtime a little bit later if you find that your child can't put down a book.
- **Have plenty of reading material around.** Storybooks aren't the only

thing that kids can read for fun. Be sure to have newspapers, magazines, and informational material on hand that might spark the interest of a young reader.

- **Use books to break the boredom.** Without the regular school regimen, adults and kids need more activities to fill the hours. Books that teach kids how to make or do something are a great way to get kids reading and keep them occupied. Don't forget to take your kids' favorite reading series along on long road trips.
- **Read aloud with kids.** Take your children to see a local storyteller or be one yourself. The summer months leave extra time for enthusiastic read-alouds with children no matter what their age. Don't forget to improvise different voices or wear a silly hat to make the story that much more interesting.
- **Summer packet of activities.** Take some time each day to work on the activities provided in your child's summer packet.

Remember, there's only one thing that will help your child to be a better reader.....**READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ! READ!**

Have a safe and relaxing summer!



### Summer Ideas for Grades K-2

#### Websites:

- [www.kizclub.com](http://www.kizclub.com)
- [www.makinglearningfun.com](http://www.makinglearningfun.com)
- [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)
- [www.littlefingers.com](http://www.littlefingers.com)
- [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)
- [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)
- [www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)
- [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com)

#### Activities:

- Challenge your child to find letters of the alphabet on everyday items like street signs, cereal boxes, or newspapers. By asking "How many

- A's can you find?" you also exercise counting skills.
- Look out a window and tell a story of what you see.
  - If available, have your child watch close caption TV with the sound off. This will enhance your child's reading and build fluency.
  - Record your child reading a book and replay it so that he or she can listen to the reading. Repeat this activity and have you and your child listen to the improvement.
  - Make an alphabet poster with your child. Print the letters in large type and let your child draw pictures. Capital letters are usually easier for young children to learn first.
  - Write letters on cards. Hold up the cards one at a time and have your children say the sound. Have your child draw a picture on the back that begins with that letter.
  - Play reading tag by choosing a book with many words that your child knows. Each time you want your child to read a word, tap him on the shoulder.
  - Teach your child songs and poems that are fun to sing and say (for example, songs like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and poems like "Little Miss Muffet").
  - Play games such as "Red-Light, Green-Light," and "Simon Says" that require talking, listening, following directions, and giving directions.
  - Cut a set of pictures of objects from magazines that are familiar to your child and have names that are easy to spell (man, dog, cat, fan, rug). Put the pictures face down on a table. Have the child turn the picture over and spell it. If spelled correctly, the child keeps the picture. Use the pictures to make a poster of words that your child can "read."
  - Lie on the ground and describe the shapes of the clouds.
  - Have kids "paint" their names with water on a hot sidewalk, then watch the letters disappear! To sneak in some science, have kids guess how

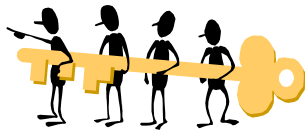
- long it takes for wet footprints to evaporate, then time it. Challenge them to guess the melting time of ice cubes.
- Drop items in a pail of water to see if they sink or float. Have children record all guesses and results, and reward the "players" with frozen treats.
  - Use Sidewalk Chalk to write messages to passers-by such as "Have a nice day."
  - If you go to the beach, children can make letters in the sand. Pretend you are writing messages to airplanes that might pass by.
  - Pictures fascinate children. Clip pictures in the newspaper or magazine. Ask your child to tell you about the picture or list adjectives to describe the picture.
  - Make a "deck" of cards using index cards and simple words such as the, said, are, don't, have, one, two, love, you. Make two cards with each word on it. Play "Go Fish" with the word cards. As your child learns the words, add new ones. For younger children, use the letters of the alphabet to make the deck of cards.
  - Practice telling time to the hour and half hour.
  - Practice counting items and write how many.
  - Empty your pockets of change and have your child name the coin, tell the value, and count it up!
  - Count up your shirts and your socks. Add them together. Find other items in the house to practice counting and adding. Do the same activity for subtraction.
  - **Read** every night to your child and with your child. Fill out the summer log. Bring it back to school next year and give it to your new teacher!



### Muffins for Mom's and Donuts for Dad's

On Friday, April 16 we held our first Muffins for Mom's and Donuts for Dad's reading program. Parents and children were invited to the media center at 7:15 a.m. to read together and snack on delicious treats provided by our Partners in Education. We had over 50 families attend this exciting literacy event! Immediately following the program, PNC Bank provided an opportunity for parents and students to open student banking accounts.

We plan to make this event a monthly occurrence next school year. We are looking for monthly sponsors for the treats. If you are interested, see Mrs. Rosen. Thank you to Crème Brulee, Dunkin Donuts, Take Out And More and PNC Bank for sponsoring this first event and promoting literacy in our school.



### SAC News

The final SAC/SAF meeting for the 2009-10 school year will be held on May 19 at 10:00 a.m. in room 801. During this meeting we will be discussing the School Improvement Plan and membership for next year. All members of the Riverside community are welcomed!



### Congratulations Riverside!

We have been named as a **Broward County Prevention School of Excellence!** Only ten schools in Broward County have received this prestigious honor! Riverside is proud of their proactive Anti Bullying initiatives. The following programs have been active at Riverside for the 2009-10 school year:

- Get Real About Violence- grades 3-5
- Hands are for Helping- grades K-2
- Internet Safety- grades 3-5
- Thumbody Too- Kindergarten
- I'm Thumbody 2- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

- Riverside school developed Anti Bullying Video- grades K-5
- Stop Bullying Now video- grades K-5
- Humane Society Anti Bullying Presentation- grades 3-5
- Listen to Children- grades K-5
- G.R.A.D.E. with Officer Weber- 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?- grades K-2
- No Name Calling Week Activities- Grades K-5

Thank you to Ms. Magill and the classroom teachers for providing these wonderful programs for our children.



### Prevention is the Key

In Broward County Schools our goal is to ensure a safe learning environment. Implementing programs that address bullying, making personal connections with each student, and providing an anonymous system for reporting potentially dangerous situations are some of the ways we meet this goal. Our schools provide a variety of prevention programs, resources, and activities for our students, teachers, staff, and community members. Below you will find some of the prevention and intervention strategies.

1. Tell: find an adult and tell them what is going on... or if you wish to remain anonymous...
2. Telephone: Emergency/ Silence Hurts Tip- Line at 754-321-0911 which is answered 24/7
3. Website- <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/siu/tips/>- there is a section for students, parents, and faculty. This is checked on a daily basis.
4. E-Mail: [school911@browardschools.com](mailto:school911@browardschools.com) , also checked daily
5. Reporting Box- located in the front office
6. Call 211, where students can anonymously report a situation.
7. Text Message- SBBC plus the text message to CRIMES ( 274637)



### **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. King, Mrs. Berger, Mrs. Divine, Mrs. Luca, Ms. Strach, Mrs. Tamayo, and Mrs. Ryan.

Each class was complimented for their good behaviors and given a "Caught Being Good" pencil. Whale Done Riverside!



### **Café News**

In accordance with year-end procedures, and to ensure that all checks received by the School District have adequate time to be processed by the bank prior to the end of the 2009-10 school year, checks will no longer be accepted as payment for meal services as of Friday, May 7, 2010. Weekly payments will be accepted, in cash only.



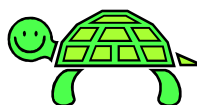
### **Spanish and Technology News**

This year is coming to an end and we hope that the students are gaining knowledge in Spanish, (grades 3-5). Remember, Spanish is very important in South Florida and we are very fortunate to have it as a special in our school. Students should take advantage of this by studying their Spanish vocabulary at least ten minutes a day to ensure better retention. Also remember that all of your child's papers should be in their binders and their binders should be in their backpacks

everyday. Class work is given to reinforce items that were discussed in class.

As for technology, (k-2), the children are moving along building important skills daily. Some are having difficulty because of hand size and not being able to reach the "home keys". At this early age that is not a problem because at least they will know where to find the letters and learn the function of other keys on the laptops. Students should also be working on computers at home or at the public library to reinforce what is taught in school.

Thank you for your help at home and enjoy the remainder of the school year.



### **A Special Thank You**

Thank you to Riverside parent, Michelle Weinstein from First Data Foundation for a gift of \$500 for technology at Riverside. Her company has a program in which she takes the time to volunteer at Riverside and then gives us a gift! What a wonderful concept, and thank you to Michele for completing your task so we received this special gift!



### **Volunteers Appreciated**

We appreciate ALL of our volunteers, whether they are helping in school or at home! Riverside logged in over 6000 volunteer hours for the 2009-10 school year. We were awarded the Golden School award for our hours of volunteers, thanks to each and every one of you!

We were also able to honor our volunteers who logged in 200+ hours at a special breakfast. It is our pleasure to say thank you for all that you do for Riverside. Without your assistance, we could never have all of the wonderful programs you support. Whale Done volunteers!



### **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.

We would like to thank:

- Over 30 partners who donated for Staff Appreciation (see the list at the end of this newsletter).
- The following partners who participated in our Academic Extravaganza- MedExpress, PNC Bank, Cruises One, Build A Bear, Mary Kay, Huntington Learning, Papa John's, Sparez Bowling, College Funding Solutions, Dr. Cohen, and Score at the Top
- MedExpress for their donations for field day



### **C.S.P.D. Info**

The Coral Springs Police will offer a free prescription drug drop off point to help properly dispose of old and unused medications at City Hall on Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 9 a.m. to noon. This to help combat misusing, abuse and self-medicating issues with prescription drugs. Each participant will be rewarded with a five dollar gift card to a local business while supplies last. For more information call 954-344-1833.



### **Music Makers**

The City of Coral Springs Parks and Recreation Department is delighted to

announce the thirteenth season of Music Makers summer camp. For more information contact Nicole Greggs at 954-868-5515 or [www.musicmakerscamo.com](http://www.musicmakerscamo.com).

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