



# HALLANDALE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

CHALLENGING OURSELVES LEADS TO SUCCESS

## The Galloping Colt

Volume 18 - Issue 7 January 24, 2012

Hallandale Elementary • A Title I School

### *Principal's Message:*

Dear Parents, Community Leaders and Stakeholders,

Please mark your calendars for three wonderful events that our PTO has planned for our children and families. Friday, February 3rd we are having a night at Chuck E. Cheese in Aventura. This night will be for our K-2 children. On Friday, February 24th we will have our intermediate night for children in grades 3-5. The school receives a portion of the proceeds so please help our school and attend one of these nights. We have also scheduled our annual Mardi Gras Night for Friday, March 23rd. Everyone is invited. It's a fun night for all our families and their children. We will send home more information about these events soon. We hope to see you there...

I'd like to thank Ms. Kearney, the sponsor of the "Because I'm Beautiful" Club, for having her club march in the Martin Luther King Parade. The girls looked great and had fun as well.

Our Robotics Team is doing very well. They continue to compete against other schools in different counties. They recently won a beautiful trophy. Way to go "RoboColts"!!

Our fourth graders are working hard to prepare for their FCAT Writing test in February. They have been learning to write five paragraphs in 45 minutes. I have been reading some of their essays and I'm so proud of all their hard work. Last year our fourth graders out scored all the children in both Dade and Palm Beach Counties. We are very fortunate to have such an excellent team of fourth grade teachers who work diligently to prepare the children for their test.

Every three weeks we have Student of the Month Assemblies. Children from all grade levels are honored for being outstanding citizens. One of our fifth graders is chosen to be honored by the City of Hallandale Beach during their Commissioner's Meeting. It's always so heart-warming to have Mayor Cooper read about the fifth grader. She also presents the child with a nice token from the City. Our City supports the schools in Hallandale Beach and we are so fortunate to have such a supportive group of Commissioners.

Parents, please help your child prepare for the FCAT tests that will be given in April by encouraging your child to attend school on time and also encourage him/her to always do their homework. It's so important that they attend school every day. The new FCAT tests are much harder than last year's as the test is written to different standards. We are doing our best to prepare our children but now more than ever, we really need our parents to help us. It's also very important that our children attend our Super Session Program.

Please support this program and send your child. Thanks so much.

*Sharon Ludwig*

**Sharon Ludwig, Principal**

### *Assistant Principal's Message:*

Parents, as you know we are now preparing for the upcoming state assessment. We are in educational CRUNCH TIME. Our students should be encouraged to read at least 30 minutes daily. Please check their Agenda Books daily for additional information from their teachers. Also, too many students are arriving to school too early which presents a supervision problem. Supervision is only provided from 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Please make the necessary arrangements for your child's safety.

*Anthony Dorsett*

Mr. Anthony Dorsett, Assistant Principal

# Classroom News & Notes

# K

Happy New Year!!! Our Kindergarten students have been busy in the new year. Over the past few weeks, the children have been learning about both winter and winter habitats. They have enjoyed stories and activities about polar bears, penguins and snowmen. The children also have learned why it does not snow in Florida.

The students have also been learning about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his dream of equality for all. We are looking forward to discussing and learning more about Dr. King during Black History Month in February.

Parents, thank you for continuing to check and sign your child's Agenda Book each day. Please remember the importance of reading with your child and practicing the letter names and sounds at home. Also, don't forget to log these books in the book log located in the back of the Agenda Book. Again, Thank You for all your help and support, and remember, "You are your child's first teacher."

# 1

Happy New Year to our first grade families! We're excited to be back from our winter break and ready to work extremely hard for the remainder of the school year. Each classroom is working diligently on reading and math skills. We have a strong focus in comprehension and fluency skills in reading. In math, we are continuing to give addition and/or subtraction facts daily. Please remember that your child is required to complete math facts rewrites as part of their daily homework. Our first graders had a wonderful experience learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and all of his remarkable accomplishments. The students completed interactive activities, read books, and wrote stories on this historical figure. Please ensure that your child is reading for at least 30 minutes daily. Don't forget to ask him/her comprehension questions related to the story. As always, we ask you to log the book titles into the agenda book in order for your child to be rewarded through our school-wide "Racing to Read" program. Remember that your child's agenda book is a very important communication tool between home and school. It's imperative that you check and sign the Agenda Book daily.

# 2

Our second graders are doing a marvelous job getting ready for 3rd grade! They came back from the holiday break very refreshed and energized and ready to absorb all the knowledge they will need to have a successful remainder of the year.

We have already started to learn our multiplication facts so make sure they are studying them every night and doing their re-writes as a form of review. However, continue to review addition and subtraction facts as well. We are also learning 2-digit addition and 2-digit subtraction with and without regrouping.

As you can see, we have our hands full and our students' minds should be fresh and ready to take on all the new challenges and exciting new skills they are learning. Parents, please help them stay focused by promoting all the healthy habits they have been learning about such as exercising more, going to bed early in order to get at least 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night, and include more fruits and vegetables in their diets! Oh, and of course, don't forget to read for at least 30 minutes each night. This is the most effective way to increase your child's concept knowledge and vocabulary, which in turn will improve their comprehension. Hope that this new year is full of success and good things for all of us and our families!



## Remember Your ABC's:

- Always do your homework.
- Be on time.
- Come to school every day.

# Classroom News & Notes

## 3

Welcome back Pink Track! We hope Pink Track enjoyed the winter break and their time off. Yellow Track teachers are looking forward to working with students at Super Session to target, review, and reinforce third grade reading strategies and mathematic skills and concepts before FCAT testing.

Third Grade is making wonderful strides! In light of the rapidly approaching FCAT test dates, Third Grade teachers spent the month of January disaggregating data from the Benchmark Assessment Tests and aligning curriculum to meet the needs of all of our third graders. We have been focusing on reading strategies and providing small group and one-on-one instruction to help improve students' reading comprehension. Third Grade teachers have also been incorporating computer programs such as Istation, Riverdeep, and FCAT Explorer. In addition, Mrs. Linares-Colon and Mrs. Blanco did an outstanding job organizing the Third Grade Reading Rotation where students rotated to a different classroom teacher for intensive instruction on a targeted reading strategy. Third graders have also been completing daily timed multiplication and division drills and learning new math vocabulary and clue words to improve computation and problem solving skills.

The entire Third Grade Team would like to thank all of parents for your continued support in helping our students succeed. Please continue to check agendas, assist with homework, and encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes every night.



## 4

Happy New Year and welcome back Pink trackers!

The fantastic fourth graders are back in stride and ready to finish this year with a BLAST! We are focusing on expository and narrative writing passages in preparation for the test. The FCAT writing test is on February 28, 2012 and we are steadily moving forward in hopes of achieving the position of #1 in the district. As a reminder to all our parents, "Reading is Paramount" please make sure your child reads each night for a minimum of thirty minutes. Studies show that children who read daily do better academically in all subject areas. Also, please check and sign your child's Agenda Book daily; monitor it for homework assignments, comments about upcoming events, and for communication purposes between you and your child's teacher. The fourth grade teachers appreciate you and thank you for your continued support! Hey parents, is there something you're doing at home that's helping your child to read better? If so, share this information with your child's teacher and we may post it in our next newsletter. Thanks again!



## 5

Welcome back Pink Track and good-bye to our Yellow Track!

This is the time of year that it is imperative that we begin focusing our efforts on test taking strategies, and preparing for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. Fifth graders will be tested in reading, math, and science. Therefore, this is a crucial time for all students to stay on task, complete all homework assignments, and show maximum effort each and every day. In addition, students should also be reading each night for at least thirty minutes. Parents, please continue to check your child's homework, review their Agenda Book, and sign the Agenda Book daily. FCAT may be challenging, but we are certain that our fifth graders will be prepared and successful!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for your continued support. This is a team effort, and we are so happy to have you on our team!

## SUPER SESSION NEWS

Mr. Joseph Brabham

All tracks have completed the first rotation of Super Session. The second Super Session for Pink Track was held January 9-24, 2012. The students used their time at Super Session to review the concepts and skills that they have been learning throughout the year. Super Session provides an opportunity for continuous learning without interruption. Many thanks to the wonderful Pink Track teachers who taught this session: Ms. Hammond, Ms. Pratt, Ms. Moltmann, Ms. Tucker, Ms. Corbyons, Ms. Zambrano, Ms. Stickler, Ms. Duga, Ms. Kuhn, Ms. Keller and Ms. Horton. The second Yellow Track Super Session will begin on Wednesday, February 1, 2012.



## Guidance News

Ms. Sisso, Guidance Counselor

National School Counseling Week 2012, "School Counselors: Helping Students Be Brilliant," will be celebrated from Feb. 6-10, 2012, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors. Remember that schools counselors' job is to help each student reach to their full potential and be successful.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 24 - Last Day for Yellow Track  
January 25 - Yellow Track Off - Pink Track Returns  
February 1 - Yellow Track Super Session Begins  
February 2 - Early Release  
February 14 - Orange Track Last Day

February 15 - Orange Track Off - Yellow Track Returns  
February 20 - NO SCHOOL  
February 23 - Orange Track Super Session Begins  
March 7 - Green Track Last Day  
March 8 - Green Track Off - Orange Track Returns

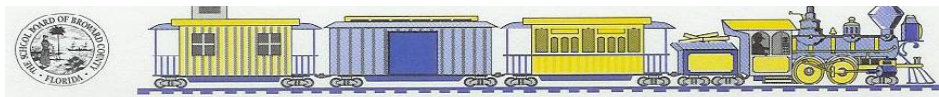
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