

Pride News



Week of December 7th

Staff Newsletter

Our mission at Margate Elementary School is to create a nurturing environment so that our students will become independent life-long learners, by providing a high quality, differentiated, and innovative curriculum based on the Florida State Standards.

Inspirational Message: "I love working with the kids, and I love being here at Margate!"

Lucas Hameister



Message from Mr. Schroeder

Happy Sunday! What a wet week we had last week, let's hope we are able to dry out a bit this upcoming week. With only 10 days left until our Winter Vacation, there is much left to accomplish to ensure that our panthers

are meeting their targets and objectives.

This upcoming week is the Hour of Code Week. All of our students will be participating in the Hour of Code through the STEM labs. You may also check out additional activities and resources to support in your classroom at the following <https://hourofcode.com/browardschools>. Broward County has enjoyed the largest rate of any district in the Hour of Code initiatives.

Tomorrow, we will have our faculty meeting with an emphasis on the growth mind set. The Growth mindset is based on the work by Carol Dweck and it has daily implications into how we praise and instruct our students. This book truly opened up my mind regarding the type of praise I was giving our students and how I viewed my own failures along with my desire for challenges. It is my sincere hope that this work will have the profound effect on you that it had on me.

With only three weeks left of the second quarter, it is important that we are working towards updating our running records. Please make sure that all running records are updated prior to Winter Break. As a reminder, all of our struggling primary

students should have an updated running record given each quarter. You will need to find all three levels again per our district mandate. For all of our struggling primary students, there should be a monthly running record administered to determine instructional level and placed in the appropriate month on the struggling running record layout. Finally, all of our fourth/fifth grade students who are struggling should have a quarterly running record. The running records should be administered by both the intervention teacher and classroom teacher. Remember, the purpose of a running record is to help drive instruction. The individual who administers the assessment is the one who has the most critical information regarding a students' individual needs and targets. These running records should be then incorporated into student goals and targets reflected in the SWAG folders. IF you have any questions regarding Running Records, please see Patti.

Finally, our Toys for Tots program is coming to close this Wednesday, December 9th. Please remind your students to bring in a new unwrapped toy for the program. I want to thank Linda Moen for her commitment to help others and her willingness to coordinate the program along with bringing all of the toys to the Marines Headquarters. This truly embodies the motto of our school, "excellence through caring." Please save the date for our upcoming Holiday Celebration presented by Ms. Flournoy and I on Wednesday, December 16th. An invitation will be coming out this week. There will be no PLC meetings next Monday, December 14th in the spirit of the holidays.

May this week be a blessed, exciting and productive week for all. Have a fantastic one!

Heather's Story



Like most teachers, I always wanted to be a teacher, but not a school teacher. I wanted to grow up and be a dance teacher like my dance teacher Miss Shannon (sorry to make you feel old Shannon Mills). I started my first school experience as a student here at Margate Elementary. I then continued on to attend a charter school for middle and high school. I finally reached my dream of teaching dance towards the end of high school. It is a hobby I still enjoy to this day. I graduated high school in the top of my class and decided on a career path based on salary. I started FAU as a Pre-Med major with hopes of becoming a pharmacist.

After my first 2 semesters, I was successful in my courses, but it was clear that I was not passionate about the path I had chosen. I came home stressed and was not a very happy person to be around. My parents gave me a wakeup call during dinner one night and asked why I wasn't following my dreams. My mom reminded me that every Tuesday, I would come home from my special needs dance class raving about how proud I was of my student who learned a simple task of bending over and touching her toes. I would talk for hours about what I was teaching and how happy I was to be working with those students. I think I always knew deep inside that I was a teacher, but I had my priorities very mixed up. The next day, I decided to follow my heart and not the dollar signs. I met with my advisor and changed my major to Elementary Education. I also began to look up to two of the teachers I worked with through the dance studio. Those M & M girls were a great resource and always willing to give me advice and support on my path to become an educator. I still seek their advice and support to this day. I hope they know how thankful I am to them for helping to guide me on the path I am on today!

Shortly after changing my major, I became a substitute seeking to get as much experience in a classroom as I could. I began subbing at Margate Elementary and other neighboring schools. I also completed some observation classes with teachers at Margate including Wendy Schaal and Carrie Pagley. They both made me feel welcomed and helped me to see that teachers truly make a difference in the lives of their students. I completed my student teaching at Broadview Elementary in a 3rd grade retention class.

In spring of 2010, I graduated from FAU and later in the fall, was offered a position at Margate Elementary. I began my teaching career as a push in math and reading support teacher with Carrie Pagley (3rd grade) and Kelley Austen (2nd grade). I could not have asked for a better first year teaching. Kelly and Carrie were AWESOME to work with and modeled how to be an effective teacher daily. Due to county budget cuts, I had to leave Margate, but thankfully, I had the opportunity to follow Margate's former Principal Mrs. Schmidt to Imagine Weston Charter School. There I taught 4th grade for 3 years and gained an abundance of resources and knowledge. During those three years, I also got married to my husband, Jeff, and had my daughter, Mackenzie.

In 2014, I decided it was safe to return to teaching in the county. I hoped to return to Margate, however, Liberty Elementary was able to offer me a 4th grade position first. I accepted the position at Liberty and was excited to experience working at a school with a STEM Magnet program. I soon realized, that though Liberty is in close proximity to Margate, Liberty was not Margate. I made sure Mr. Schroeder knew I still wanted to return to Margate, and a few months into 2015, I received the call telling me to let Liberty know I would be transferring back to Margate for the following school year. I was very excited to return to Margate after a 4 year detour. Margate has always felt like home to me. Though I did not like having to leave in the first place, I realized my time away from Margate was a blessing. I was able to meet a variety of educators and learn new teaching methods and models. I was thrown out of my comfort zone and into 4th grade, and learned how much I truly loved being a 4th grade teacher.

I am very happy to be back at Margate and look forward to Mackenzie following in my foot steps as a Margate panther!

I nominate Phillip Santo to tell his story!

{ CALENDAR OF EVENTS }

Monday, December 7th—Room W Visits; Faculty Meeting @2:20 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8th—Team Leader Meeting; Chess, Drama, Chorus, Sign Language, Soccer, Art, Math. Faculty Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 9th—RTI/CPST Meeting; Evening Holiday Gift Shop Hours from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 10th—Team Meetings

Friday, December 11th—Room W Visits; Chorus and Drama Club Afterschool



Lauren Jedwab 12/7

Heather Williams 12/7

Dina Newland 12/8

Tara Bazinsky 12/10

Phyllis Tolmach 12/10