

Apollo Middle School Newsletter

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Ms. Shawn S. Aycock, Principal

Mrs. Lydia Guevara, 6th Grade Assistant Principal

Mr. Damon Martin, 7th Grade Assistant Principal

Mrs. Cindy Eggenberger, 8th Grade Assistant Principal

December 2015



Believe in Magic



Principal's Message

Happy Holidays Apollo Rockets,

Although there are only 3 weeks of school in the month of December, there is still so much to talk about. This month our students are participating in contests, charitable events, basketball games and even taking field trips. FFEA is hosting a toy drive to supply less fortunate families for gifts the little ones and teachers are recognizing students that earned high grades and demonstrated great behavior during the first quarter with "Smarty Parties". Also deserving students will get a pizza party for friendly competitions and events held in Science and Language Arts classes. Our basketball teams had a great season, and a special congratulations goes to our girls' team that went undefeated this year (10-0) and will participate in the playoffs starting Dec. 7th. Sixth graders will visit the Miami Zoo on Dec. 8th and our Title Family Science Night and Science Fair will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10th @ 6pm.

We are definitely going to have a magical December. We wish you and your family a safe and happy winter break. As always, thank you for allowing us the pleasure of educating your child. We will see you back next year on January 4, 2016 for a Magical New Year!

Shawn Aycock,
Principal



Important Dates

SAC Meeting @ 6pm.....	12/3
Title I Science Night	
Thursday December 10 th @6pm in the Kiva	
Winter Break	12/21-1/1
School Resumes	1/4
Early Release.....	1/7
Employee Planning.....	1/8

Shot Outs Up Front!

This month we want to start by giving a shout out to all of the terrific people that make Apollo great:

SHOUT OUT TO MS. REYES & CUSTODIAL STAFF

"Everything has been breaking down lately and they efficiently and expediently get everything fixed and cleaned. All service personnel from the county were impressed with how clean our school is especially the cafeteria after hundreds of students have breakfast." Great job custodial department!"

SHOUT OUT TO MR. SYMONETTE & THE MORNING SUPPORT CREW:

All support staff deserve a great big shout out for standing their ground and manning their posts. Most of the students that enter the cafeteria enjoy a free, nutritious breakfast, adhere to the rules and are supervised, guided and directed to the 4 common area locations. It's a dirty job, and they are doing it well. Thanks for your continued service.

SHOUT OUT TO THE CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES:

Sponsors and Coaches, thank you for the extra time and effort you have given to students that participate in an extra curricular activity, club or sport. We know the events, deadlines, parent notifications, game schedules and competitions are a handful, but you make the educational experience worthwhile, and we thank you!

SHOUT OUT TO OUR CLERICAL AND SECURITY

TEAM: Shout out to Ms. Hollis, Ms. George, Ms. Miller, Ms. Winepol, Ms. Gillis, Ms. Vella, Ms. Welsch and our so-so strong Security team Mr. Lee, Ms. Cole and Ms. Duran. Thank you for tirelessly answering calls, greeting parents, receiving late, early and new students and always doing so with a smile. We know your job is hard, keep up the good work. Also, our security has been stretched to the LIMIT this year, and yet they still manage to handle calls, parents, and critical incidents and maintain a commanding presence. We want to also thank Mr. and Mrs. Oscar and Officer Graziani for always being there to lend a hand when it comes to special needs and circumstances.

Happy Holidays

December is full of days designated for celebration no matter who you are and what you believe...tis the season to celebrate!



National Day of Giving – Dec. 1st

On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. It's a simple idea. Just find a way for your family, your community, your company or your organization to come together to give something more. Then tell everyone you can about how you are giving. Join us and be a part of a global celebration of a new tradition of generosity. This description is taken directly from <http://www.givingtuesday.org/>. Please go to their website for more information.



Hanukkah Begins Dec. 6th

“Also spelled Chanukah, means light over darkness, this is an 8-day festival of light that begins on the eve of the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev. The observance celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, of purity over impurity, of spirituality over materiality (www.chabad.org). It is an honorable time of rededication to service and commemoration of miracles.”

Merry Christmas

The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336AD, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (he was the first Christian Roman Emperor). A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th of December (www.whychristmas.com). This longstanding holiday is a special time of year where sharing gifts, traditions loving, and quality time with friends and family is highly anticipated and universally celebrated.



Kwanzaa Begins Dec. 26th

This week-long celebration held in the US and other nations of West Africa honors African Heritage and life that culminates in to a feast and lots of gift-giving – all are meant to symbolize the hope and progress for ALL families and communities. The seven principals of Kwanzaa all honor the tradition of good will and peace for all mankind (www.americanthinker.com/kwanzaa/).

This holiday season, it is important to remember that gifts of kindness of food and other necessities to those in need are the greatest gifts of all. To some, the holidays are a part of the year that mostly reminds them of what they don't have, can't afford to buy or will never get.

In response to the homeless, displaced, undersupplied and truly disadvantaged, we want to let you know that Apollo wishes you “Happy Holidays” by providing services and assistance. This Thanksgiving, the *Pool of Bethesda Christian Church* (housed here at Apollo) and Ms. Reyes' church *Camino Aje Jerusalem Church* (6339 Johnson St. Hollywood, FL) and Ms. Aycock donated food for over 25 families, including a box full of Thanksgiving dinner favorites with a turkey! Local business, *Fresh-N-Clean Store Service, Inc.* provided Winn Dixie gift cards to Apollo's needy families. To show appreciation, Apollo Administrators also presented gift cards for groceries towards a turkey dinner to designated teachers. In the spirit of giving and to celebrate our own thankfulness, Apollo wants to remind everyone of the true reason for this season. Spread love and joy. Spend time this holiday season making a difference. Volunteer at a soup kitchen, homeless shelter, and charity or church. It is a great way to start a new tradition of giving for years to come – people need your help year-round.



Broward County Public Schools



In conjunction with the Broward County Public Schools Student Services Department, a newly branded department servicing students and families in need is now called **H.E.A.R.T (Homeless Education Assistance Resource Team)** and the **Kids in Need Foundation** are making strides to assist our communities with adequate support to maintain and improve students' educational experiences and ensure success.

The department provides school supplies and uniforms, coordination with transportation, referrals to community services, free breakfast and lunch, free after school care services, summer camp opportunities and provisions for cap and gown rental at no cost as well as verification letters for FASFA applications.

The main goal is to remove barriers that might prevent students living in “transition” from enrolling, attending and succeeding in school. For more information please call the Student Services Department 754-321-1556.

SCIENCE ROCKS!

**TITLE I SCIENCE NIGHT
THURSDAY DECEMBER 10TH
IN THE KIVA @ 6PM**

“Magic is Science Unexplained”

Our Principal, Ms. Aycock, Mr. Rodriguez, the Science Department Chair and our team of talented Science Teachers, invite the entire family to our “Title I Family Science Night and Science Fair” Join us to view student projects that will be on display and observe experiments that illustrate how the world of science is really all around us in our daily lives. Come experience the magic of science and see experiments come to life.



Ms. Dworzan and her students participated in the 4-H National Youth Science Day, which is one of the nation’s largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organizations, empowering six million young people in the U.S. In partnership with 110 universities, 4-H’s life changing programs are research-based & available through 4-H clubs, camps, afterschool & school enrichment programs in every county & parish in the U.S. We want to recognize the students that participated using experiments to make learning science fun! Way to go Rockets!



A message from the Mathematics Dept. Chair & Coach, Ms. Hogan:

Parents, thank you for your participation in last month’s Title I night. During the presentation, I supplied participants with a list of resources that Apollo students are asked to use in and out of the classroom. Parents are expected to encourage students to use all of the online resources while in class, before and after school in the Media Center and, if necessary, sign up for tutoring. Also, we are currently offering math tutoring on Mondays - Room 144 and 145 from 4 - 5 (this day is for everyone and Geometry) and Tuesdays - Room 132 from 4 - 5 Algebra. Apollo Middle School will be participating in the **Hour of Code** on December 11, 2015 through the math classes. This will be Apollo’s 3rd year participating in the global-wide initiative bringing computer programming into the classrooms. Students will have at least one day to participate in the event utilizing computer programming skills manually or with technology. Even though the initiative is called “Hour of Code”, it is available constantly. We would like to encourage you to also support this initiative at home.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts department is currently running an Achieve 3000 contest. Achieve 3000 is an online enrichment program that provides students with reading and writing activities on informational texts. The program is a vital part of the Language Arts curriculum and is a resource for most supplement texts and enrichment activities. Each L.A. class has been challenged to earn the most points while completing rigorous writing assignments as responses to articles that are presented to students online at their own individual Lexile levels. Once students completed a diagnostic exam in September, they were tasked with completing 2-5 activities on at least 2 articles weekly. Although new and challenging due to time restraints, I am proud to announce that students are excelling by using the program. There are several classes in the running to win the pizza party reward for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Keep up the good work; you’re on your way to a “pizza-tastic” prize. The winners will be announced on Friday, Dec. 11th.



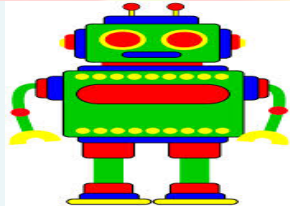
The good news is Apollo began crunch-time test preparation by implementing standard-centered instruction on the first day of school. The bad news is, FSA’s, EOC’s and other standardized assessments are coming up fast! Below is an abbreviated testing schedule for Broward County Public Schools. For more information go to <http://www.fsassessments.org/>:

Date	Assessment
Jan. 19-29, 2016 (Computer Based)	BSA (replaces BAFS) District Interim Assess. (ELA grades 3-10, Math grades 3-8, Alg. Geo. Science 5& 8m Bio., U.S Hist., Civics
Feb. 8-March 17 (Paper Based)	ACCESS for ELLs (replaces CELLA)
Feb. 8-June 3 (Computer Based)	(FAIRS) Florida Asses. For Instruction in Reading
Feb. 29-March 11 (Paper/ Computer Based, Accommodations)	FSA ELA-Write Florida Standards Assessment English Language Arts Writing Component
April 11-May 6 (Paper/ Computer Based, Accommodations)	FSA ELA – Florida Standards Assessment Language Arts, FSA Math – Florida Standards Assessments Math
April 11- May 6 (Paper-Based)	FCAT 2.0 Science
April 18-May 13 (Paper/ Computer Based, Accommodations)	Spring End of Course Exams: Florida Standards Assessments Algebra 1 Geometry, Algebra 2 (FSA EOC)
April 18-May 13 (Paper/ Computer Based, Accommodations)	Spring End of Course Exams: Bio 1, Civics, US History EOC Assessments (NGSSS EOC)



Title I News & Events:

The Title I Department is pleased to announce that 147 parents and students attended this year's Math Family Night, that took place on Thursday, November 12th. Nineteen faculty and staff members supported, facilitated instruction or volunteered at the family night and we want to thank everyone that participated. **School Improvement Plan (SIP) for 2015-2016 and Title I Addendum:** School staff and parents jointly develop the SIP, which includes yearly objectives and activities that we will implement into our curriculum at all grade levels. The Title I Addendum is a Comprehensive Needs Assessment with information about the academic achievement of students in relation to the state academic content standards. Broward County Public Schools has changed the website where this information can be accessed. Currently, the Office of School Performance and Accountability (OSPA) implements initiatives such as the SIP to ensure curriculum and standardized assessments are centered on each school providing a high quality education. OSPA also funds the A+ Rewards School Recognition Program that qualifies many Florida public schools' financial rewards. The reward is for schools that demonstrate sustained or significantly improved student performance, receive an A grade or schools that improve at least one performance grade category.



Great News from Ms. Dworzan and our Lego League Team!

In October, Ms. Dworzan announced that she was in the process of preparing Apollo's Lego League Team to compete in various competitions centered on S.T.E.M. education. They are properly named *VanRan Robotics* because they are sponsored by a communications services and technology distribution company, *VanRan Communications* (2939 Pacific Dr. Norcross, GA).

It is important that we give special thanks and recognition for their sponsorship which includes: **Lego League Team Registration Fees, Lego Field Setup Kits, and miscellaneous items** Ms. Dworzan feels the team needs to compete at the highest level. The competition takes place in January and we, as well as *VanRan Communications* look forward to seeing the pictures and winning smiles of our team.

Not often enough do the people with the means sponsor students to participate in events and projects.

In a letter, VanRan Communications states that the company "is very proud to sponsor the future of our industry, your STEM students." We are very proud of our Rockets too. Thanks to *VanRan* and Ms. Dworzan!



Rockets Love a CHALLENGE!



Apollo Middle School is proud to present the various contests, competitions and awards that we will sponsor, facilitate and encourage everyone to enter to win.

Wells Fargo S.T.E.M. Grant (Deadline: 12/1/15)

Apollo Middle submitted this grant in order to support hands-on strategies and activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Magnet Coordinator, Ms. Acher, has suggested using the funds to buy supplies for Apollo's Boat Engineering and Racing event that occurs at the end of every school year.

Week of Ocean Conservation Contest

From the www.Bowsbeat.org

Congratulations issued to former Students Melany Quintero & Tatyana Garcia winners of a poetry contest with their entry last May of a poem called, "*It Doesn't Have to Be a Travesty.*" They won honorable mention and \$100.00 for their poem. I want to apologize for this oversight; the announcement should have been made in September.



PEEA TOY DRIVE

This TOY DRIVE supports less fortunate families with children. Ms. Vlad and her team of Florida Future Educators of America ask that in the spirit of giving, as we celebrate what we are thankful for with our families, to please bless others in any way we can. These toys need to be new in the original package for children from ages 0-18. Please turn in your contribution to your 1st period teacher to win a Pizza/ Movie party. Bring in those toys!



Ladies of Style and Elegance will be participating in the annual holiday service project for the less fortunate. Prior holiday projects include "Christmas stocking for children at the homeless shelter." They will also serve as peer mentors for the *Every Student, Every Day* district attendance initiative.

GUIDANCE

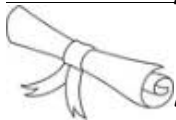
Ms. Desmond and our Guidance department spent November participating in several initiatives that promote good habits, citizenship, and great health and topped the month off with a week of awards:



"In observance of The Great American Smoke-out we hosted an info session with a display of smoker's lungs, smoker's phlegm (authentic) and a smoker's mouth. We had Nova Southeastern medical students come and present anti-smoking materials to all 6th graders science classes. We also had a guest speaker speak to 8th graders about alcohol abuse."



"We participated in the City of Hollywood Beach Clean-up, which is one of many Department of public works programs to keep Hollywood Beautiful." If you are interested in volunteering to keep our city clean, contact bwalker@hollywoodfl.org.



"We hosted all of the honor rolls awards ceremonies. Quarter 1 acknowledge over 200 students for earning a 3.5 - 4.0 grade point average during the first marking period."



I am pleased to announce that Apollo's debate team will compete in their first Middle School Debate Tournament on December 10th at Attucks Middle School. There are 13 students signed up for the tournament and Ms. Soler, the debate teacher says they are "ready to go!" Wish them luck and happy arguing.
Go Rockets!



The 100 Days achievement is designated as follows:

- Traditional Calendar: 2/5/16
- *Burgundy/Modified Calendar: 1/25/16
- **Orange/Yellow Track: 1/15/16
- **Pink/Blue/Green Track: 2/8/16

Broward County Public Schools



Important Telephone Numbers

New Attendance Line 754-323-2902

Main Office	754-323-2900
ESE	754-323-2923
Registrar	754-323-2904
Media Center	754-323-2925
Title I	754-323-2939
Magnet Coordinator	754-323-2921
Guidance	754-323-2931
6th Admin	754-323-2907
7th Admin	754-323-2908
8th Admin	754-323-2909

APOLLO ATHLETICS



"Basketball season is winding down. Congratulations to the girls' basketball team for finishing the regular season UNDEFEATED, (10-0) and becoming division champions! They are on to the playoffs. We will be hosting a playoff game on Wednesday, December 9th at 4:30PM against Walter C. Young. Please come out and support the ladies as they begin their playoff march. Admission is \$2 for students and Apollo Teachers are admitted free!"

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 the Executive Director, Benefits and EEO Compliance at (754) 321-2150 or Teletype Machine TTY (754) 321-2158. Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities (EEO) at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine TTY (754) 321-2158