



Tiger-rific News

We're an "A" School

North Grade K - 8 School Newsletter

824 North "K" Street

Lake Worth, FL 33460

Nicole Patterson

Principal

Sarah Larralde

Assistant Principal

Volume 17, Issue 6

March, 2024

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

We are heading into the final stretch of the school year. Elementary school is in the third and final trimester; middle school begins the fourth quarter this month. With that being said, teachers, parents, and students must remain vigilant with academics.

Since the pandemic, chronic student absenteeism has become a national problem. We have an article in this newsletter talking about this issue. One of the most effective and easiest way to help your child succeed academically is to make sure they attend school every day and for the entire day. Our theme is "Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow". In addition, punctuality matters – lost minutes = lost learning.

For our 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, standardized testing (FSA) will begin at the end of April and will continue all through the month of May. It is very important that students do not miss any instructional time. Please try to schedule any appointments after the school day so instructional time is not missed.

March brings some seasonal and time changes for us all. One is daylight savings time begins on March 10th. You will need to move your clocks ahead one hour. Spring break begins March 18th for our students. They return to school on March 26th. There is no school again on March 29th.

Safety Patrols will be heading to Washington D.C. on March 13th through March 15th. This is an annual tradition that began in 1948. For many years, the safety patrols travelled by Amtrak train to D.C. Now the patrols travel by plane. For some patrols they will be going on a plane for the first time. What an exciting opportunity!!!

We wish you a great spring break.

Nicole Patterson
Principal

Sarah Larralde
Assistant Principal



Calendar of Events ~ March

1	Dr. Seuss Day ~ Read Across America
4	SAC Meeting ~8:15 am in Cafeteria
5	Honor Roll Grade 4 @ 8:15am
	Honor Roll Grade 3 @ 9:15 am
7	Honor Roll Grade 2 @ 8:15 am
	Honor Roll Grade 5 @ 9:15 am
10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
13-15	Safety Patrol Trip to Washington, D.C.
15	Middle School ~ 3 rd quarter ends
18-22	Spring Break
20	First Day of Spring
25	No School
26	Middle School ~ 4 th quarter begins
29	No School



Calendar of Events ~ April

1	April Fool's Day
1	SAC Meeting ~8:15 am in Cafeteria
1	Middle School report card portal opens
10	Spring Holiday ~ No School
22	Earth Day



NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Our Kindergarteners continue practicing reading and writing CVC words as well as reading high frequency words with fluency. We have been writing opinion or argumentative texts which means we state our opinion and tell one reason we feel that way. We are continuing to work on the writing process of planning, drafting, editing or revising, and publishing. Expectations are still growing! We are writing a complete sentence that starts with a capital letter and ends with a period. In English we streeetch out our words and write down the sounds we hear. In Spanish we break words into their syllables and write the sounds we hear within each syllable. We are still working our way to 100 in Math by counting and representing numbers!

FIRST GRADE NEWS

This month, we will close out our unit about stories that teach lessons, and begin our new unit which focuses on the past, present, and future. In math, we will begin learning all about coins and bills. We will learn to identify the value of coins and how to make \$1 using collections of like coins. In science, we are continuing to learn about matter with a focus on matter in motion (how force can change an object's motion). Towards the end of the month, we will begin learning about natural resources, and different natural resources we can find on earth.

SECOND GRADE NEWS

We are well on our way into Trimester 3 and the 2nd Graders are working so hard! In ELA we are finishing up Unit 6 and will soon be working in Unit 7 where we will learn all about Investigating the Past! We are still continuing to build up our reading stamina and are diving deeper into our interests through researching and writing! In Science, we are finishing up Unit 7 and will soon be working in Unit 8 where we will explore and learn about Rocks Becoming Soil! In Math, we are working in unit 11 where we are practicing Adding and Subtracting with Numbers within 1,000! We hope that you have a relaxing Spring Break! Please continue to monitor your child's backpack and stay in constant communication with your child's teacher! We can't wait for even more learning and adventures in 2nd Grade!

THIRD GRADE NEWS

We are wrapping up the fiction unit in our reading classes. Please review what a theme is and some character traits. We are writing argumentatively in class using literature and

deciding whether we agree with some decisions in the text. In Math we are reviewing how to add and subtract with regrouping strategies. Please help with the concepts. In addition, we just returned from a field trip learning about the different animals that we have in the ocean and Florida environments. The students enjoyed it. Thank you for your cooperation.

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

Fourth grade is looking forward to a much-earned Spring Break. However, before our break we still have a lot to do. We are busy writing five paragraph opinion and informative essays. Students need to use correct capitalization and punctuation in addition to answering the prompt, citing evidence from the articles and elaborating. They are working very hard to improve their writing skills. In math we have already learned how to add and subtract fractions and we are now learning how to multiply a fraction by a whole number. Soon we will be learning to add and subtract decimals. We are finishing up a Fiction unit which included mythology, legends and folktales. We are also learning how to annotate properly and summarize our reading. Soon we will begin an informational unit where we will be learning about the transcontinental railroad. Students must continue to complete their homework nightly and should also be reading every night. Students may also practice their math skills; including addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions and decimals. In science we have been learning about the rotation of Earth and are about to begin learning about the different phases of the moon.

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Fifth grade is working hard and it shows! We just finished up our unit on multiplying and dividing fractions. We are now working on finding the volume of shapes. In ELA, we are working on a fiction unit, focusing on the theme of survival and how the characters face their challenges. In Science we have been learning about Forces. Fifth Grade is going to continue selling popcorn on Fridays for the entire month of March. We will be looking for parent volunteers to help with that. We are looking forward to our field trip to Universal Studios on March 8th.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

(Find middle school news on page 3)

SCHOOL INFORMATION



ART NEWS

The North Grade Art Club did a fabulous job of recreating Henri Matisse's famous artwork, "The Cat with Red Fish." at the Street Painting festival this year. See photo below. A big thank you to Ms. Stevenson and Ms. Hurtak for coordinating the art club at the festival.



CHARACTER COUNTS

Welcome to February's Character Counts! These students have been nominated by their teachers for being caring the month of February.

Caring is defined as being kind to others, showing compassion, forgiving others, helping any people and/or animal in need, expressing gratitude for things that happen to them.

Please join us in congratulating our Character Counts Winners for February.

Here are the teachers who won:

Ms. Bailey, Ms. Hurtak, Ms. Ritchie, Ms. Martz, and Ms. Gonazalez

Here are the student winners:

Morgan Grayson, Danyal Bektas, Zaiya Henry – 1st Grade
Ms. Campisi

Anaiah Camargo – 1st Grade Ms. R. Rodriguez

Danyal Bektas is the winner of a bicycle.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

I'd like to commend our North Grade K-8 students, parents and staff for the tremendous efforts they've put forth so far this school year. Please take the time to acknowledge the hard work students have put in so far and keep encouraging them to give their best efforts through the final quarter. Our North Grade Middle School staff and students have been working diligently this winter with high-quality lessons and relevant learning paired with academic intervention and enrichment.

We have been preparing our 8th grade students for their transition to High School next year. Many of our 8th grade students recently participated in an 8th grade open house at Lake Worth High School, but students have also participated in open houses to other High Schools of their interest. As students transition events will continue into August to assure the best possible transition from middle school to high school.

Spring break will run from March 15-25 this year, students will return on March 26th. I am hopeful that families will have the opportunity to use some of this time to be together. Don't underestimate the power that you have as parents/guardian to influence your student's decision making and values.

Upcoming Events

March 8: Universal Islands of Adventure Theme Park Field Trip

March 15-25: Spring Break

March 28: Middle School Goofy Games

State testing will begin next month, a schedule is included in this newsletter.

Thank you for supporting your children in their academic, and social growth! Continuing their development at home reinforces and builds upon all we do here at North Grade K-8. With the students, parents and school staff working together the North Grade K-8 School will continue to be a positive and caring learning community.

Sincerely,
Sonia McGowan (TOSA)



FROM THE DESK OF YOUR HEALTH CARE DISTRICT SCHOOL NURSE:

Your smile is one of the first things people notice about you. It is important to take care of it right from the start. The American Dental Association (ADA) recommends that children visit the dentist within six months of their first tooth and before their first birthday for a "Well Baby Check Up." February is Dental Health Month.

Recommendations for good dental health include:

- Brushing your teeth for two minutes, twice a day with fluoride toothpaste
- Flossing daily
- Avoiding sugary and starchy snacks
- Wearing a mouth guard when you're active
- Not smoking
- Not piercing your lips or any part of your mouth
- Getting dental sealants
- Considering a fluoride program if your water is not fluoridated
- Visiting your dentist regularly for check-ups and cleaning

Children with good oral health have better attendance and fewer problems in school.

For information about the School Health Program visit www.hcdpbc.org/schoolhealth



North Grade K-8

Educate. Affirm. Inspire.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website is the one-stop place for information about the school. You also can find the email address for any staff member here too. The web address to our web page is:

<https://www.palmbeachschools.org/NorthGradeK8>

Check out this page for information about the school and information from the District.



MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Thank you to everyone who attended For the Love of Literacy: Literacy Night and to all who shopped at the book fair. All purchases provide books for our school library media center. This year, between donations, budget funds, and book fair proceeds, we have been able to add over 800 brand new books (mostly student requests) to our collection. This school library specialist is forever grateful!



Please take a look around your home for library books. We want our students to be able to borrow as many new books as possible before the end of the school year. We are always reminding students to keep library books in their backpacks so they have them on media day.

Reading the library book or some other book nightly reinforces what students are learning in the classroom. Research shows that students who are read to from a young age pick up reading skills more easily and more often go on to become lifelong readers.



FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. Click on the link below.

<https://getfortifyfl.com/>



Your student's academic success is paramount to the teachers and staff at North Grade K -8. Parents also have a part in facilitating their child's academic success. One of the easiest and most effective ways of ensuring your child reaches their true academic potential is by making sure your child attends school every day and for the full day.

Chronic absenteeism is a nation-wide problem. Since the pandemic, chronic absenteeism has almost tripled. The school district has made reducing absenteeism a priority. Students with too many absences, excused or unexcused, or students with too many tardies have been receiving letters from the school notifying parents of the problem. North Grade K – 8 is here to offer support to parents who are having an issue with their child's attendance.

Regular school attendance has a profound impact on a student's academic success. Research shows chronic absences in kindergarten – missing 15 or more days in an academic year- can have a lifetime negative affect on a child's academic success. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten and first grade can leave a third grader unable to read proficiently. It can cause a 6th grader to struggle with coursework. Studies have shown that irregular school attendance can be a better predictor of if a student drops out of school before graduation than test scores.

Bringing your child to school daily can offer a child a lifetime of success in reaching their academic potential.

Punctuality Matters!

Lost Minutes = Lost Learning

