

Spring 2014

The Bobcat Bulletin

Boulevard Heights Elementary School

www.blvdheights.com



From the Principal's Office

Dear Bobcats:

State testing is finally over! Our staff, students, and parents have worked really hard preparing students for the tests and have done a wonderful job. We are confident our students did their best.

One of the goals for the remainder of the school year is to help prepare students for the next grade level. Our teachers are working diligently to make sure students learn the skills needed for success for next school year.

Please remember to read aloud with your children. It is a great way to develop reading comprehension, and help your child succeed in school. Please keep these tips in mind:

- ✓ Involve your youngster in the story
- ✓ Allow your child to choose reading material
- ✓ Take your time and don't rush the story
- ✓ Try changing your voice to show the character's feelings
- ✓ Try different types of reading materials, such as comic strips and poetry
- ✓ Above all, try to relax and have fun!

SAFETY FIRST!

Safety is our number one concern here at Boulevard Heights Elementary School. Please adhere to the safety tips below:

- Please exit car on passenger side.
- Pull close to curb to drop off child
- Do not allow children to walk between cars and buses
- Students should always wear bicycle helmet.

Please be watchful as you drive on campus, be patient with other drivers and obey the posted "No Parking" signs. The staff appreciates your cooperation as we try to provide for the safe arrival and departure of students.

ATTENDANCE

Please be sure to have your child at school on time each day. **DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILD OFF BEFORE 7:30 AM.** Please be sure to pick up your child at 2:00 PM each day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1 - Family Night, grades K-5 & Interims Reports Issued
May 8 - Spring Concert
May 16 - Career Day
May 20 - Kindergarten Round-up at 6 PM
May 14 - Family Night – Math Games
May 23 - Employee Planning Day
May 30 - Fifth Grade Fieldtrip

May 01

May 23

May 26

June 5

Interim Reports Issued

School Closed

School Closed

Early Release /Last Day of School

From the Assistant Principal's Office

Dear Parents,

As we prepare to close another school year and embark on our summer vacations please remember how truly crucial summer can be for your child's success in school. Here are some tips for academically enriched summers:

- Take your child on academic "field trips" that enhance learning (zoo, sea aquarium, library, etc.)
- Encourage them to read daily
- Take them to visit local colleges and universities to enhance their interest in the importance of striving towards higher education
- Encourage your child to keep a journal of their summer activities.

Enjoy your summer and we will see you all back in August !!



Head Start Highlights

Our big boys and big girls in Pre-K have grown and learned so much this year, and they are now ready for new challenges and adventures. As the end of the school year approaches, the Pre-K Team will be hosting an informational meeting for parents whose children will be transitioning into Kindergarten next year. The meeting will be on Thursday May 22, 2014 at 8:00am in Resource Room #2. After the meeting parents are welcome to make their way to the cafeteria where students will put on a show. Our students are working hard to prepare a wonderful presentation full of music and dance that you won't want to miss!

Kindergarten News

Wow...this year is flying by! Our Kindergarten students are almost First Graders! We will be having our end of the year Kindergarten Ceremony on May 29th. Look for more information and details to come soon. We just finished our yearly swim program. Our students learned how to be safe in and around the water. It was so much fun and our students say they feel much more confident in the water now.

We will be F.A.I.R. testing most of May. The F.A.I.R. tests students on their Early Literacy Skills. Please remember to keep reading with your child now and through the summer. The summer is a great time to visit your local library to find new and interesting books for you and your child. The library also has regular events and story time for the little ones.

Thank you parents for all that you do and thank you for your continued support!

First Grade News

Summer is almost here! We are winding down the school year and are working hard to keep learning all that we can!

We have had a ton of fun on our field trips during the fourth quarter and thank you, parents, for all of the support that you have given us in making them successful. The end of the year is a busy time for us with award shows, testing, and continuing our learning. Please help us by checking your child's folder each and every day for important flyers, papers, permission slips, and information that we need you to be aware of and returning to us. The more that you are aware of, the more successful we can be for your child.

First graders, don't stop learning during the summer time! Make sure that when there is no school to attend that you are not letting your brain take a break. We want you to do your best and be ready for second grade without losing any knowledge that you have learned. Reading every day, playing educational games on tablets, iPods, and computers, as well as practicing your sight word sheets will help you be ready to do your best in second grade in August.





Second Grade News

Spring has sprung! Our second graders are busy preparing for our end of year assessments as well as practicing third grade readiness skills. The Florida Standards, based on the Common Core Standards, are the focus of our instruction. In Reading, we are focusing on informational text. Students learn to use text features to locate key facts and information in text more effectively and efficiently. Additionally, students learn to use these key facts and information to support specific points. We are integrating our knowledge of informational text cross-curricular into Science and Social Studies. Our second graders are applying these skills to our Arbor Day project of the Plant Cycle. Arbor Day, first introduced by J. Sterling Morton, is a great lesson in environmental protection. In Social Studies, students learn the effects of our urban growth on forestry and wildlife. We are studying trees indigenous to Florida and their valuable role in our existence. In Science, we discuss the life cycle of plants from seed dispersal, seed germination, to seed growth. We are following the Scientific Process of hypothesizing, testing, and analyzing as we compare the growth of two types of seeds: lima bean and corn. Students conduct background research on seed growth. Then they construct a hypothesis of which seed will grow faster. Observations are recorded in students' Science journals. Students learn to analyze data and draw conclusions.

Second Grade News Continued

In Math, we are building automaticity with calculating multiplication. We make correlations to arrays, which is the foundation of multiplication. Arrays represent total sums of equal addends or repeated addition. Multiplication is a prerequisite to division and comparing fractions, which are skills introduced in third grade. This quarter, our second graders are focusing on measurement, data, and geometry. Last, we are learning how to analyze, strategize, and persevere in problem solving. As we enter a new era of Florida Standards, students need to develop problem solving skills both digitally and traditionally.

Third Grade News

FCAT testing is finally over! The 3rd grade teachers would like to thank all of the 3rd grade students for the hard work they put in this entire year. We are all confident all of your hard work will pay off. As a reward for all of their hard work 3rd grade went on a field trip to the Museum of Discovery and Science on April 28th. We all enjoyed the IMAX movie **"Island of Lemurs: Madagascar"** as well as exploring the Discovery Center where we learned cool things about rockets, the Everglades and their special section, "The Science of Fear."

GUIDANCE NEWS

FCAT is now behind us. Congratulations to parents and students who did an excellent job of almost perfect attendance for the whole testing window. A huge thank you to our proctors, Ms. Chaney, Ms. Henrique, Ms. Petito, Ms. Puebla, Ms. Bachmann, Ms. Ponder, Mr. Moscatello, Ms. Fromberg, Mr. Small, Ms. Romero, and Ms. Barrocas. Your time spent at Boulevard Heights is appreciated.

5th grade_

Pines Middle will visit Boulevard Heights on May 9th. Mr. Richburg (Guidance Counselor) and Mr. Williams (Band Director) will speak to the students. Applications will go home on the same day. Completed forms will be picked up by Mr. Richburg on May 16th. It is recommended that students get papers in on May 16th. Also, copies of 2 proofs of address are needed as part of the application for all Middle Schools. As your child is accepted to Magnet, Charter or Private schools, please send in a copy of your acceptance letter to school. If you have moved to a new area, please send in 2 proofs of address so we can change your child's Middle School.

Family Life – 4th and 5th grades

Ms. Satz and Mr. Petersen will be instructors for the Family Life/Human Sexuality Curriculum. The sessions will be taught in May.. You may call Ms. Satz at 754-323-4950 for questions or to view the materials.

Important dates:

May 12 – May 16 – End of the Year Reading and Math Test – Grades 1 and 2

I can't believe that the school year is almost ending.. We had a very busy year accomplishing so many new projects that have involved students. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Fourth Grade News

Our Fabulous 4th graders are working very diligently on sharpening all of their Reading and Math skills. We have been working in small groups, helping each other learn and getting ready for the FCAT. In the afternoon, we are switching and getting a new teacher to help us learn new skills. We are looking forward to our Field Trip to the Discovery Museum of Science in May.



As we wrap up the school year, we would like to express how proud we are of our 4th graders and look forward to them blossoming into 5th graders.

Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade team would like to congratulate our students for all their hard work during the weeks of preparation for the FCAT. We are now looking forward to celebrating our students' effort and achievements in this last quarter of the school year.

It is very important that you check your child's backpack for any important paper as we begin our transition to Middle School. We greatly appreciate your prompt attention to any papers that need your signature. This will help to ensure a smooth transition into the new school year for you and your child. Once again we ask that you do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher for any needed academic information. Additionally, please look for important information for our Award Ceremony to recognize all our students who will be promoted to Middle School. Save the date as this event is planned for Wednesday, June 4th commencing at 6:00 p.m. at BHE.

Congratulation to those students who have earned the privilege and have secured their spot in our end of year field trip to Islands of Adventure on Friday, May 30th. Important information will be sent home with your child of how you can help to make this trip a success.

We also have a fun filled week of activities planned for the last week of school and we are asking to your continued support in reminding you child to continue to display appropriate behavior to ensure their participation in these upcoming fun activities.

We greatly appreciated your support and cooperation throughout the year. Have a safe and happy summer and best wishes for the new school year.

PTA News Update

The PTA has a few activities left as we approach the end of the year...

- **Yearbooks** are still on sale. We encourage Bobcat families to get a copy and preserve memories of this great school year. Yearbooks are \$30 each. Forms are available at the front office.

- We need **BHE parents to serve on next year's PTA board!** Help decide how to spend PTA funds to support school activities. It's very rewarding and only takes a few hours a month. Contact us at bhepta@gmail.com or 754-323-4950, ext. 3.

- **Career Day** is May 16th. Help students learn about different careers, including yours. To help out, please contact ann.rees@browardschools.com.

- The **5th Grade Dance** and other end-of-year activities will be here before we know it! We need parents to help out at the end of May or beginning of June. Contact your 5th grade teacher or the PTA at bhepta@gmail.com.

SAFETY CORNER

Please help us ensure your child's safety. No left hand turns are permitted coming in or out of the school parking lots

SPRING is a time to enjoy the outdoors and for the family to participate in sports and games but with that we have to keep in mind some safety tips:

Be a Good Sport

Spring brings with it a new sports season. Make sure the season is safe.

Wear recommended or required protective gear. For example, wear a **bike helmet** when biking.

Inspect the court or play area for rocks, broken glass or anything else that could cause an injury while playing.

Pay attention whether you're playing in the game or watching from the sidelines – a stray ball could cause injury. Water accidents happen quickly. The most common reason for aquatic mishaps is a lack of safety knowledge. So always follow the rules.

Class Size Reduction 2013-2014**Message to Parents****English****Class Size and Student Placement**

Due to the State Class Size Reduction law, students may need to be moved between teachers **after the start of school** to ensure compliance with the required student limits. These limits are 18 students for Pre-Kindergarten to grade 3; 22 students for grades 4 to 8; and 25 students for grades 9 to 12 in **core** classes. Please know that students' needs will continue to be met through proper instruction and services. Additional information on core classes or anything related to Class Size Reduction is available on the Class Size Reduction website at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/classsize/>.

Spanish**Tamaño de clases y ubicación de los estudiantes**

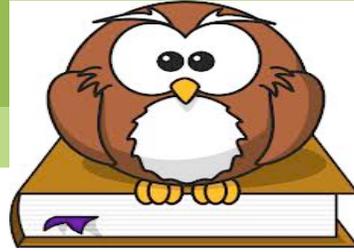
Debido a la ley de reducción en el tamaño de las clases, puede ser necesario hacer movimientos de estudiantes entre los maestros **aun después de haber comenzado el curso escolar** para asegurar el cumplimiento con los límites en el número de estudiantes por sala de clases. Los límites son 18 estudiantes por sala en los niveles de Pre Kindergarten a tercer grado, 22 estudiantes por sala en los grados 4to al 8vo y 25 estudiantes por sala en los grados 9no al 12mo en los **cursos medulares**. Por favor sepa que las necesidades de los estudiantes continuarán siendo satisfechas por medio de la educación y los servicios apropiados. Información adicional acerca de los cursos medulares o sobre cualquier asunto relacionado a la Reducción en los Tamaños de las Clases, la encontrará en la página de Internet <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/classsize/>.

Portuguese**Tamanho de Turmas e Colocação de Estudantes**

Devido à lei estadual de Redução de Tamanho de Turmas, os alunos podem precisar mudar de professores **após o início das aulas**, para assegurar a conformidade com a exigência de limite de número de alunos. Estes limites são de 18 alunos do pré-jardim à 3ª série, 22 alunos da 4ª à 8ª série, e 25 alunos da 9ª à 12ª série em disciplinas **básicas**. Estejam certos que as necessidades dos alunos continuarão a ser atendidas através de ensino e serviços adequados. Maiores informações a respeito de disciplinas básicas, ou qualquer outro assunto relacionado à Redução de Tamanho de Turmas, estão disponíveis no website de Redução de Tamanho de Turmas (*Class Size Reduction*) em <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/classsize/>.

Haitian Creole**Efektif saldeklas ak Plasman elèv nan saldeklas**

Akòz lwa Leta sou rediksyon efektif elèv nan saldeklas (*State Class Size Reduction law*), lekòl-la kapab blije deplase elèv epi voye-yo nan klas lot pwofesè **apre kòmansman ane eskolè-a** pou asire li konfòme avèk lwa sou kantite maksimòm elèv nan yon saldeklas. Nan klas kote pwofesè anseye **matyèdebaz**, kantite maksimòm elèv yo kapab asepte se 18 elèv pou klas preskolè rive 3zyèm ane (*grade*), nan klas 4triyèm rive 8tyèm ane (*grade*) se 22 elèv, nan klas 9vyèm rive 12zyèm ane (*grade*) se 25 elèv. Konnen, lekòl-la va kontinye satisfè bezwen edikatif elèv-yo avèk bon enstriksyon epi sèvis apwopriye. Enfòmasyon anplis sou ansèyman matyèdebaz nan saldeklas oswa enfòmasyon sou nenpòt keksyon konsènan rediksyon efektif elèv nan saldeklas, disponnib nan sit Entènèt <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/classsize/>.



News from the Reading Coach

“Readers are Leaders and Leaders are Readers!” We know the importance of being good readers. As parents and educators, we need to provide opportunities for our children to practice their reading skills, especially in the area of nonfiction and informational text. Why is it important to place an emphasis on informational text, such as nonfiction books and articles?

Informational text:

1) Provides the key to success in later schooling As they advance in grade, readers more frequently face content-area textbooks as well as informational passages on tests. Informational text in early schooling puts them in a better position to handle later reading and writing demands.

2) Prepares students to handle real-life reading Adults read a great deal of nonfiction, including informational text. In addition, there is growing reliance upon Web-based material. To prepare students for this world, we need to be serious about teaching them to read and write informational text.

3) Appeals to readers' preferences Exposing children to a variety of informational text may improve attitudes toward reading and even serve as a catalyst for overall literacy development.

4) Addresses students' questions and interests Studies have shown that regardless of readers' text preferences, when the text *topic* interests them, their reading is likely to improve. When we emphasize reading for the purpose of addressing students' real questions we help lead them to higher achievement and motivation.

5) Builds knowledge of the natural and social world Reading and listening to informational text can develop students' knowledge of the world. Overall, the more background knowledge readers have, the stronger their comprehension skills are likely to be.

6) Boosts vocabulary and other kinds of literacy knowledge Informational text is particularly well suited for building word knowledge. Learning to read diagrams, tables, and other graphical devices that are often part of informational text will help to develop visual literacy.

Please provide your children with a lot of informational text in order to practice and improve their reading skills!



SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

PATRICIA GOOD, *Chairperson*
DONNA P. KORN, *Vice Chairperson*

ROBIN BARTLEMAN
HEATHER P. BRINKWORTH
ABBY M. FREEDMAN
LAURIE RICH LEVINSON
ANN MURRAY
DR. ROSALIND OSGOOD
NORA RUPERT

ROBERT W. RUNCIE
Superintendent of Schools

Boulevard Heights Elementary

Juan Alejo, Principal
Kristi Burdick-Rippo, Assistant Principal
Margareth Garcia, SAC Chairperson
Janet Bravo, SAF Chairperson
Barbara Chaney, PTA President

Transforming Education: One Student At A Time
Broward County Schools Is An Equal Opportunity /
Equal Access Employer



HAVE YOU VISITED THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE??

If you haven't, you and your children are missing a lot. Go to www.blvdheights.com learn about all we do, and have your child go to the links that we have for at-home studying/practice. We work very hard on having this wonderful resource updated for you daily.

This newsletter and up-to-date announcements are available on our website www.blvdheights.com. Our website also has grade level web pages, important links, and email addresses for the principal and staff.