



PTA Plan-It

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MORIKAMI PARK ELEMENTARY
PTA-NEWSLETTER
By the Parent Teacher Association

6201 Morikami Park Rd.
Delray Beach, FL 33484
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FEBRUARY



A Message From The Principal

Dear Morikami Park Families,

The beginning of February marks an important time as we are a little more than half way through the second trimester and in the homestretch for final preparations for the FCAT Writing test. Our 4th grade students will be taking the FCAT Writes test on February 28th. Teachers and students have worked extremely hard to prepare for this test and we are hopeful that their hard work will payoff with high scores in writing.

During this crucial time, Morikami Park teachers collaboratively review student progress as measured by the district’s diagnostic test and student’s success on a variety of classroom assessments. Based on the information gleaned, the teachers adjust their lessons, providing additional reinforcement for students while ensuring a challenging and enriching environment for all. Our goal is to provide all of our students with an outstanding education, and to accomplish our goal, we will do whatever it takes to support students in their learning.

As we monitor each student’s progress, we are counting on your steady support. Please talk with your children about their homework, projects, and tests. Help them establish daily study times, project timelines, and effective ways to study for tests. Please make sure your children come to school on time each day with all of their necessary supplies and completed homework.

Thank you for your support. We are looking forward to each and every child’s success.

With Morikami Pride,

Mrs. Quiñones
MPES Principal



PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2011-12:

PRESIDENT: Jane Andrews - jfandrews@bellsouth.net, VP FUNDRAISING: Melissa Biggs - melissancid@bellsouth.net, VP MEMBERSHIP: Corinne Levine - cordan1@comcast.net, CO-VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Nicole West - knic1000@gmail.com and Melissa Wigdor - melwigdor@aol.com, TREASURER: Kim Fox - kimberlyfox7@yahoo.com, SECRETARY: Wendy Schner - wschner@hotmail.com

PTA WEBSITE: www.morikamiparkelementarypta.org



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTA PRESIDENT

Happy February Morikami! Spring is on the way!

Wow! What a month we had in January! We came back from a well deserved Winter Break only to head into January at full speed.

FCAT Parent Night was a very informant evening, but not as much fun as.....**CARNIVAL!**

What a day we had! The week prior to Carnival we were sure we would get rained out. "What will we do?" "When can we reschedule?" But, being that we are the Morikami Park PTA and being a "Risk-Taker" is one of our attributes & profiles, we decided to just go for it! The clouds all cleared away and we had one of the nicest days for Carnival ever!

Amazingly, Carnival gets better each and every year. "But how?", you may ask. That's an easy one to answer....**GREAT VOLUNTEERS! SUPER KIDS AND WONDERFUL FAMILIES!** Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make not just Carnival, but the entire month of January FUNTASTIC!

At this time, we have put aside our plans for a Spring Fundraiser. Since we want to be healthy and fitness oriented, we decided to focus on a new and exciting concept called "Boosterthon". We will have more info on this great program in February, but wanted to make sure you held open Friday, March 16th. There will be an opportunity for parents to be involved at school that day.

Here are the highlights of events coming up:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| February 8th – Spring Photos | Grades 3-5 Class Photos – Uniforms |
| February 9th – Spring Photos | Grades K-2 Individual Photos – No Uniforms |
| | Grades K-2 Class Photos – Uniforms |
| | Grades 3-5 Individual Photos – No Uniforms |
| February 13th – 17th | Spring Book Fair |
| February 20th | NO SCHOOL! Teacher Work Day |
| February 21st | FCAT Black Out Days Start |
| February 28th | March 1st – FCAT Writes – Good Luck 4th Graders! |
| | You are going to do great! |

Once we hit the end of February we become a QUIET Campus. Please be sure to check with your teacher about days you can volunteer. And please remember to be flexible and understanding to the teachers, staff and administration over the next few months. FCATs are stressful for students, but our teachers, staff, and administration feel every inch of that same stress (19-22 times over!) Sometimes schedules change, the District imposes new rules and most importantly, our students need change. Morikami does a great job of preparing our students for these tests. Let's do our part as parents and make sure our kids do their homework, get rest and are ready for a day full of learning! Together we can help them do a great job during the FCAT period.

Once again, thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't do it without your help!

Have a great February!

Jane Andrews
MPES PTA President
954-579-6961
PTA@morikamiparkelementarypta.org or jfandrews@bellsouth.net



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It seems like it was just yesterday that we were all bringing in our school supplies at the beginning of the year. But in reality, it was over 4 months ago! Time really does fly. With the start of the new year, please remember to check with your teacher(s) about items they may need. We are just about half way through the school year and all those supplies we brought in at the beginning of the year are starting to diminish (or are already gone!)

For example, copy paper, ink for printers, or whatever else they need to keep the classroom running smoothly, are all useful for your teacher. Not sure what they need? A gift card to Office Depot (or other store) is always the perfect choice!

PTA WEBSITE

Dear Parents, I invite you to visit our PTA website for updated PTA and School information. We are also using a new Email program to keep you informed so don't forget to sign-up through our website.

Nancy Ng
Website Coordinator
nng2079@gmail.com

PTA Website
www.morikamiparkelementarypta.org



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

A huge thank you to all the carnival volunteers. Running carnival games, bounce houses, selling tickets and more helped make this year's Carnival a great day for Morikami families. We couldn't have done it without you! Did your middle or high school student volunteer at the Carnival? If he/she needs a letter stating their volunteer hours and date, please contact Melissa Wigdor at melwigdor@aol.com

Please remember to log in your volunteer hours into the VIPS computer system. Add any time worked (like at Carnival) on to your time when you sign out. Our goal is 17,000 volunteer hours and every hour counts!!!

Volunteer help is needed this month at 2 events:
Spring Book Fair from Monday, February 13 - Friday February 17
Spring Picture Days - February 8 & February 9
Log onto Volunteer Spot to sign up for a shift or email Nicole West at Knic1000@yahoo.com.

Thanks so much!

Nicole West and Melissa Wigdor
Co-Volunteer Coordinators
Knic1000@yahoo.com
Melwigdor@aol.com

MORIKAMI CAFE CATERERS

DID YOU KNOW that the Chocolate Milk offered to the students in Palm Beach Count is **fat-free and Does Not contain any high fructose corn syrup?**

This chocolate milk is low in carbohydrates and calories and is a great way for students to get their daily dose of calcium, protein, potassium, phosphorus, riboflavin and Vitamins A, D, and B12. Chocolate Milk is also a great post-exercise beverage. It provides a good balance of carbohydrates and protein to help re-fuel after strenuous physical activities.

FEBRUARY is AMERICAN HEART MONTH

We will Have **Swee' heart Cherry Italian Ice** as one of the student's fruit choices on Valentine's Day. These can also be purchased A la Carte for 75 cents.

~ "Power Up" with Breakfast. The most important meal of the day!! ~

The cafeteria has breakfast available daily including delicious cheesy grits, fresh fruit, and orange juice. We also have whole wheat toast and cereal.



NURSE'S CORNER

Welcome back, remember that the best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. They are now available from your family doctor or pediatrician as well as medical clinics and pharmacies in the area.

Nurse Diane
Morikami Park Elementary
School
dmorris@hcdpbc.org

STATE AND
NATIONAL PTA
www.floridapta.org
www.pta.org

JOIN THE PTA'S EMAIL LIST

Please join the PTA's mailing list. Just go to www.morikamiparkelementarypta.org and click on the yellow and blue button marked JOIN NOW! It only takes a few minutes to join!

PTA MEMBERSHIP

It's never too late to join the Morikami PTA! Membership Forms are available on the PTA's website and also in the front office.



ADOPT-A-CLASS

It is too late to get on the 2011-2012 Adopt A Class banner, but it is not too late to support our teachers. Our school continues to offer outstanding classroom opportunities for our children because of the generosity of our supporters. Please consider a tax deductible donation to the Adopt A Class program. Your teacher(s) will be most appreciative. For more information, please contact:

Michele Blair

fmichele@bellsouth.net

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, Feb 4th - 10:00 AM - 3:00PM
Scripps Florida is hosting a "Science *Cellebration*" day at The Gardens Mall in Palm Beach Gardens.

Tuesday, Feb 7th - 7:15 AM - Safety Patrol Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 8th - Spring Photos
Grades 3-5 Class Photos - Uniforms
Grades K-2 Individual Photos - No Uniforms

Thursday, Feb 9th - Spring Photos
Grades K-2 ClassPhotos - Uniforms
Grades 3-5 Individual Photos - No Uniforms

Monday, Feb 13th - 17th
Spring Book Fair

Thursday, Feb 16th - 2:00 - 6:00 PM - Late Night Spring Book Fair

Monday, Feb 20th
NO SCHOOL! Teacher Work Day

Tuesday, Feb 21st
FCAT Black Out Days Start

Tuesday, Feb 21st
LOST & FOUND Items will be donated to charity after this date!
PLEASE write your child's name on jackets, books, backpacks, lunchboxes, etc. This is the only way lost items can be returned to your student.

Tuesday, Feb 28th - Thursday, March 1st
FCAT Writers - Good Luck 4th Graders!



UNIFORM EXCHANGE

We now have a uniform request form available on the PTA website. You may download it and send to school with your child. We will do our best to fulfill your request!

Please remember to donate your out grown uniforms! They can be sent in with your child marked "Uniform Exchange" or dropped off at the office.

Christy Holt
Uniform Chairperson
christyh64@aol.com

BOX TOPS & LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Look for Box Tops in every aisle of your grocery store! Just clip the Box Tops and bring them into MORIKAMI PARK ELEMENTARY school, where they'll be submitted and redeemed for cash.

Karen Filoramo
Box Top Coordinator



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BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB

Hello all! Thank you for supporting our Birthday Book Club. Classroom libraries have gotten some terrific books, thanks to our members! FYI: books donated do not have to be brand new. Gently used books are always welcome! Birthday Book Club information has been sent out to children who celebrate their birthdays in November, February, and February but IT'S NEVER TOO LATE! If your child has a birthday between August and February but has not joined our Birthday Book Club, NOW is the perfect time!

You can stop by the Media Center for the info, or easily visit our PTA website at: www.morikamiparkelementarypta.org. Simply click on the Birthday Book Club link and a second time to print the forms. The first outlines the purpose and process, the next is a form that should accompany your book donations.

On behalf of students and teachers I thank you for supporting our wonderful program!



Jamie Monaco

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“the longer a child takes lessons (music), the higher the IQ and the better the performance in school”

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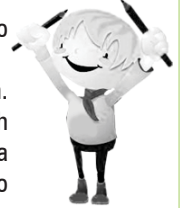


561-479-4379

9825 SW 18 Street, Boca Raton, 33428

GET YOUR AD IN THE PTA PLAN-IT FOR \$15/MONTH

Email your ad in to Kattia Alvarado at katselkie@yahoo.com. Deadline is by the 15th of each month with a check made payable to Morikami Park Elementary PTA. You can drop off the check at the office attention PTA. You can submit your ad in a jpg, pdf, or eps format.



WRAP N MATS ARE BACK!

Order yours today! Make checks payable to MPES PTA

Made in USA, \$8

Cut this out and return with cash/check:

Circle: Boy, Girl or Adult pattern

Child's name _____

Teacher's name _____

Phone number _____



BOOSTERTHON IS COMING! MARCH 16TH! SAVE THE DATE!

Dear Morikami Park Families and Staff,

We are pleased to announce the return of the Walk-A-Thon, only now it's a newer, improved version! We are partnering with Boosterthon, a company whose mission is to "...strengthen schools and impact the next generation through Fitness, Leadership and Character." The Boosterthon motto is "Fitness is Fun" and uses a Character Theme as a way to get students engaged and motivated about fitness. This year's Character Theme is Epic Adventure, which encourages students to be part of a team inside of the classroom. Through the use of the acronym "EPIC", students will learn four ways to become a great teammate:

Encourage: team members build each other up with their words and never tear anyone down.

Play: Teams exercise and play together outside, building friendships on the playground and in the neighborhood.

Invite: Great teams see others on the sidelines and invite them to play!

Celebrate: Celebrate other's victories, team members applaud everyone's accomplishments.

The event will be similar to the Walk-A-Thon, where students will walk for 30 minutes to fun, upbeat music. The Boosterthon team members are very energetic individuals who will lead the children through these walks on a "speedway" they have created. All students are provided with an All-Star jersey. This fun, exciting event is a great way to raise money for our school while staying active and having a great time!

We can't wait until March 16th for this EPIC Boosterthon Adventure!

Stay tuned for more news from your Boosterthon Team,

Wendy Schner, Kim Fox and Jane Andrews

Update on PTA / IB Positions Available 2012-2013

A heart felt **THANK YOU** to all the parents who responded to the call of duty! We had many interested parents come out to our information meeting on January 24th and also many contact us who were unable to attend the meeting. Both the PTA and IB Foundation feel fortunate to have had so many people show their desire to get more involved. Over the next few weeks PTA and IB Foundations will meet with those that are interested to help them find the perfect position. If you are interested in a position in either organization, please email Jane Andrews (PTA) jfandrews@bellsouth.net or Nancy San Filippo (IB Foundation) at flipnanny@comcast.net.

MORIKAMI PARK YEARBOOK

Attention All 5th Grade Parents!

Go online to JostensAdService.com and make your own personal ad for your 5th grader. These are messages that appear in the yearbook along side a photo you submit. What better way to send your 5th grader off to middle school, than with a personalized message from parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends! And remember - you can do as many messages as you like. Visit JostensAdService.com today to get your yearbook ordered right away!



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