



PTA Plan-It

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 11 YEAR 2012

MORIKAMI PARK ELEMENTARY
PTA-NEWSLETTER
By the Parent Teacher Association

6201 Morikami Park Rd.
Delray Beach, FL 33484
561-894-7300

Principal
Mrs. Stacey Quiñones

Assistant Principal
Stephanie Coletto

MPES PTA President
Jane Andrews

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Kattia Alvarado

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A Message From The Principal



Dear Morikami Park Families,

Welcome back! I hope that your family had a wonderful winter break! I had a great time enjoying my family and relaxing.

The New Year is a great opportunity to look toward the future and set goals for the coming year. The staff and I are committed to continuing our goal of reaching each and every child and providing a quality learning experience that allows each child to reach their academic potential. We will continue our own professional development in order to ensure that we are providing the best education possible to the children at Morikami Park. As you reflect on 2011 and begin to set goals for 2012, we hope that you will include goals for reading to or with your child each day. Just 20 minutes a day will help your child in all academic areas. Research indicates that children who read with their parents have a strong reading foundation, a higher intelligence and reading ability; and have better success in school. We hope you will set aside some time for this valuable family activity.

School safety is always at the top of our list and since we had a few weeks off, I wanted to remind everyone of the student drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please do not drop off students until 7:30 a.m. We do not provide supervision for children until that time. In the afternoon, parents waiting for their children should park by the Civic center and wait outside the main entrance of the school. If you are using the parent pick up line, please stay in your car and post your child's last name and grade level on the parent pick up sign (more are available in the front office).

Best wishes for a new year filled with health and happiness for you and your family.

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 New Year Morikami Park Families! Welcome 2012!

I hope you all enjoyed your winter holidays. I know I did! Wasn't it nice having a few weeks off to rest, recoup and regroup? So now that the break is over, we head into January running at full speed.

So down to business...

The second round of Morikami Spirit T-Shirts will be delivered the first week of January. Don't forget to show your Morikami Spirit every Friday by wearing your Morikami Spirit T-Shirt.

School Supplies. I am sure that just about each and every teacher needs something for their classroom. Whether it is copy paper, ink for printers or post-it notes, our teachers need something. Please check with your teacher when you return to school to see what needs your classroom has.

Our next **PTA General Assembly** is scheduled for **Thursday evening, January 19th at 6:15 p.m.** in the cafeteria. This will be a brief meeting, but with a lot of information to cover. One of the most important topics that will be covered is new positions available on the PTA and IB Foundation Boards. There will be many positions available for the upcoming school year, so please come out and learn more about these organizations.

Following our brief PTA General Assembly on **Thursday, January 19th at 6:15 p.m. is the FCAT Parent Night.** This is an evening you won't want to miss. Parents, you will be provided with lots of useful information about the FCAT test, test taking strategies, types of questions and much more. Please make arrangements to attend this very informative meeting and if possible, try to attend without your children. If you can make other arrangements for your children, it will allow you to focus even more on the information, ideas, recommendations and suggestions the administration and teachers will provide.

Rounding out January 2012 is our **Annual Morikami Park PTA Carnival, Saturday, January 28th 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** This year's carnival promises to be even more exciting than ever before! We are adding new activities such as a petting zoo and Velcro wall. But before we go any further and give more details about this year's carnival, we need to remind you that the only way the carnival is successful is with YOUR help. We need you! Flyers for wristband sales have already gone out, so please make sure you take advantage of the pre-sale price of \$10! Flyers for volunteer shifts have also already been distributed. Please take the time to respond and let us know how and when you can volunteer at this year's carnival. We need you! Don't forget! Middle School and High School Students can earn volunteer hours working at the carnival. Contact Melissa Wigdor today for details. melwigdor@aol.com

So as you can see, the month of January is packed! We are happy to be back in school (or are we just happy to have our kids back in school?). FCAT is just around the corner. The sooner it is here, the sooner it is over.

Welcome Back Morikami Families! 2012 is going to be the best year ever!

Jane Andrews
MPES PTA President

954-579-6961

PTA@morikamiparkelementarypta.org or jfandrews@bellsouth.net

PTA FUNDRAISING



Welcome back Morikami Park Families and Happy New Year! In December we had

our exciting limo ride to lunch for students who sold 20 or more items for the Fall Fundraiser. The children thoroughly enjoyed riding in a Zebra striped hummer limo and having lunch at Sal's Italian Restaurant! It was a great way to end the year!

Thank you again to all of the students, teachers, families and businesses who supported our Fall Fundraiser.

Melissa Biggs
2nd VP Fundraising
melissacid@gmail.com

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



HAVE A "GREEN" NEW YEAR!

With the New Year, we offer some "green" resolutions that will not only help the planet, but will also save you money and improve your health!

Pack a waste free lunch! Wrap n Mats are a fun alternative to wasteful Ziplocs! These cloth wraps have a BPA free, easy wash plastic liner, unfold into a placemat and come in many cool designs to choose from. On sale now by the Green Team for \$8 (Made in the USA), all proceeds will benefit our Green School Program. Simply send in a note with including your child's name, teacher and request a boy, girl or adult pattern along with check/cash in an envelope addressed to "Green Team".

Just say "no" to disposable water bottles! Now is the time to make a resolution with HUGE impact to the environment – use refillable water bottles daily! Americans use 17 million barrels of oil annually to produce plastic water bottles - enough to fuel 1 million cars for a year. Also, an incredible amount of energy & chemicals are used to make these bottles. Then they are shipped many miles away from the source, resulting in more fuel consumption. In the U.S., 8 out of 10 bottles end up in a landfill (billions per year). Worried about spending \$10-\$20 on a bottle? You'll actually save hundreds of dollars a year because you won't need disposable ones!

Plant a Vegetable Garden! Save money at the grocery store and watch the kids gobble up the healthy vegetables they grow in your own backyard garden. Not sure where to start? Try a local gardening class, such as the one to be hosted by the Green Living Alliance on Wed, Jan. 18th from 7-8pm at Ellenville Garden Center. Farmer Jay will share information in his workshop entitled "Beyond Organics – Sustainable Gardening" and all are invited to attend. Ellenville is located at 220 NE 11th St, just south of Glades off of Federal Hwy behind the Bank of America Building. Farmer Jay is also involved at MPES, helping kids in Aftercare to learn composting.

Have a Happy New Year!

Cindy Papadoyianis
PTA Green Chairperson
Mpes.green@gmail.com



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!

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

MORIKAMI CAFE CATERERS

Now Appearing at the Cafe: "The Organwise Guys." Come meet this month's members.

Parents, Let the Cafe Caterers give you one less thing to think about in the morning by providing breakfast for your child. We have hot breakfast daily, including delicious cheesy grits, fresh fruit and Orange Juice. We also have whole wheat toast and a variety of cereal.

Let us cater your child's lunch as well. We offer many nutritious entrees and have sides which include, Fresh from the Farm vegetables, fresh fruit, fruit cups, salad, carrot and celery sticks and juice. Milk is available with every meal. We offer chocolate, low-fat and Skim.

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

Jeanine M. Swick
School Food Service Manager
Morikami Park Elementary #1951
Px 87310 (561) 894-7310



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Carnival is a big event on Saturday January 28th and we will definitely need a lot of help ALL day long - running booths, bounce houses, food, tickets and more!! Mark your calendars and email melwigdor@aol.com to help carnival be a great day for Morikami families.

Thanks,

Nicole West and Melissa Wigdor
Knic1000@yahoo.com
Melwigdor@aol.com



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

Our next Boxtop submission will be close to 2500 Boxtops, we're still counting them! Last month we received an envelope filled with Boxtops from a past Morikami parent. Her child is now in college and she said she will continue to send the Boxtops to our school! I guess that shows how parents, past and present, feel about Morikami!

Karen Filoramo
Box Top Coordinator





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, January, and January but IT'S NEVER TOO LATE! If your child has a birthday between August and January 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”

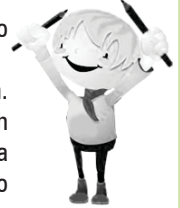
- GROUP Lessons
- Rock Band Classes
- Violin Ensembles
- Private Lessons



561-479-4379
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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 _____



TREASURER'S CORNER

Dear Morikami Park Family,

Welcome back from the Winter Break! I hope everyone enjoyed their time off.

From the treasurer's corner, I'm pleased to report we've made a few technology purchases to make life at Morikami Park Elementary a little more easier.

We have purchased a color copier for the students and teachers to use. The copier will come in handy for printing materials for the fifth grade exhibition project, or for any other color copier needs. In addition, we purchased flip cameras for each of the team leaders. Again, these come in handy for the exhibition projects as well as any other projects the students are working on.

We have also purchased digital cameras and memory cards for the team leaders in each grade. Teachers will now have cameras available to capture special events such as field trips, Field Days, and other memorable classroom moments.

Our last technology purchase in December was for the ESE team. The PTA has supplied them with four Nooks (electronic book readers) to help with student learning.

We also continue to support the everyday programs at Morikami Park Elementary that make our school so special.

We are very excited by these additions that will have a direct impact to the students and our staff. As always, our goal is to support the programs at MPES that make it a great environment for our children to learn and grow.

Kim Fox
Treasurer

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, Jan 11th - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
SAC Meeting

Monday, Jan 16th
Martin Luther King's Birthday

Thursday, Jan 19th - 6:15 PM
PTA General Assembly

Saturday, Jan 28th - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Annual Morikami Park PTA Carnival



CARNIVAL VENDORS

- Premier Design Jewelry**
- Stella and Dot Jewelry**
- Silpada Jewelry**
- NK Threads**
- Krumholtz Orthodontics**
- Chappys**
- Green Gourmet**



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

PTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY / FCAT PARENT NIGHT

January 19th at 6:15 pm in the Cafeteria

Parents, please mark your calendars and plan to join us at this informative event. At this meeting, we will briefly discuss the future of the PTA before handing off the evening to Mrs. Quinones and Mrs. Coletto. We will be announcing the open positions for both the PTA and IB Foundation organizations. Please consider stepping up to take over one of the many roles that will be available in both of these organizations.

If you are interested in any of the open positions on either the PTA or IB Foundation boards or chairperson positions, please email Jane Andrews pta@morikamiparkelementarypta.org.


We will hold an information meeting the following week (Tuesday, January 24th) at 8:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. This meeting will allow you a chance to ask questions about the positions to the current board and chairpeople of both organizations in an informal setting.

The FCAT Parent Night is one of the most informative nights of the school year. Learn about the new FCAT 2.0, how the test has changed, what new standards are being tested and how to best help your child to succeed during the FCAT testing period. FCAT's aren't going anywhere anytime soon - so come out and learn more about the test and what to expect. This meeting is recommended not only for parents of students in grades 3-5, but also earlier grades so that you as a parent can be more aware of the FCAT.

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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