

# Margate Middle School

Home of the Spartans

Earnest Toliver, Principal

Leena Itty, Assistant Principal

Cara Coletti, Assistant Principal

Andrew Bronstein, Assistant Principal



500 Challenger Boulevard Margate, Florida 33063 ☉ Phone 754-322-3800 ☉ Fall 2011

## “Together Everyone Achieves More”

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Margate Families:

We are off to another fantastic start to the school year at Margate Middle School. It is amazing to see how quickly the children have settled into their school routines. I have enjoyed seeing them in their classrooms, during lunch and at various activities. Thank you for all that you have done to prepare them for a successful start.

Our staff is dedicated to educational excellence and customer service. We encourage you to become a part of our school by volunteering your time and becoming an energetic member of our PTA. We also need you to keep track of your child's progress on Virtual Counselor, Pinnacle, and teacher websites. When parents are vigorously involved in their child's school and education, it will pay huge dividends later.

### Where are we now with testing and standards?

The new FCAT 2.0 is part of Florida's effort to improve the teaching and learning of higher educational standards. The primary purpose of the assessments is to assess student achievement of the high-order thinking skills represented in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for Reading,

Writing, and Mathematics. The Common Core Standards describe clearly, what a student should achieve at each grade level to be ready to succeed in post-secondary education and the workplace.

Finally, please be mindful of our students walking and biking to and from school and always drive with extra caution where children are present. Kids are not always predictable so please expect the unexpected. On the home front please review safe walking and biking habits and encourage them to cross intersections where a crossing guard is present, if possible. Our children are a precious and irreplaceable part of our community.

As I have said to so many of you already, I look forward to working with you and your children to ensure a very successful year filled with many exciting learning experiences. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions, concerns, or good news to share.

Sincerely,  
Earnest Toliver, Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	Event	Time / Location
October 25	First Priority Club	3:50 PM / Room 277
	Soccer Game vs. Seminole Middle	4:00 PM / Home
October 26	Seminole Team GLIDES Presentation	6:00 PM / Gym & Cafeteria
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Early Release</b>	<b>Dismissal at 1:45 PM</b>
	PTSA Fall Dance	2:00 PM / Gym
October 28	Employee Planning	No School
November 1	First Priority Club	3:50 PM / Room 277
	TSA/Robotics Club	3:50 PM / Room 153
November 2	Florida Future Educators of America	3:50 PM / Room 122
	Papa John's Family Pizza Night	5:00 PM / Margate Store
November 3	Taste of Academic Success - Parent Training Title I Night	6:30 PM / Cafeteria
November 7	Builders Club	3:50 PM / Room 112
November 8	First Priority Club	3:50 PM / Room 277
November 8 - 9	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Hearing Screening	
November 10	National Junior Honor Society	3:50 PM / Media Center
November 11	School Closed - Holiday	No School
November 14	DEFYIT Club	3:50 PM / Room 161
November 15	First Priority Club	3:50 PM / Room 277
	TSA/Robotics Club	3:50 PM / Room 277
November 16	Aspiring Writers Club	3:50 PM / Room 165
	Florida Future Educators of America	3:50 PM / Room 122
	SAC/PTSA Meeting	6:30 PM / Media Center
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Issue Report Cards</b>	
	Winter Dramatic Production - "The Wizard of Oz"	6:30 PM / Cafeteria
November 21 - 25	School Closed	No School
November 28 - 30	District Benchmark Assessment II	
December 8	Interim Reports Issued	
December 19 - 30	Winter Break	No School

## TITLE I INFORMATION

### Ms. Itty, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal

Parent involvement is a critical ingredient in your child's success at Margate Middle. Please participate in all parental involvement efforts whenever possible. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mr. Bronstein at 754-322-3800. Also, listed below find parent involvement resources.

**Broward School District  
Title I Parent Resource Center**  
701 NW 31st Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311  
(754) 321-1425  
[www.broward.k12.fl.us/titleone/](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/titleone/)

### North Parent Resource Center

Fischler School of Education  
Nova Southeastern University  
1750 NE 167th Street  
Technology Building - 1st Floor  
North Miami Beach, FL 33162  
(866) 281-4678  
[www.knowyourchoices.org](http://www.knowyourchoices.org)

### The Florida Partnership For Family Involvement (FL PIRC)

University of South Florida  
3500 E. Fletcher Avenue  
Suite #301  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 396-9923  
[www.partnershipcenter.usf.edu](http://www.partnershipcenter.usf.edu)

Additional Title I and our School Improvement Plan information:

<http://www.margatemiddle.org> School Website  
<http://www.margatemiddle.org/pages/files/SIP%20Plan%20MMS%202010.pdf>  
MMS School Improvement Plan

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

On January 8, 2002, the United States Congress approved the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Broward County Public Schools is committed to following all guidelines as established by NCLB and will provide information regarding classroom teacher qualifications in a timely manner upon request.

You have the right to request the following information:  
Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualifications of licensing criteria have been waived.

The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

You will be notified in writing if your child has been assigned or has been taught for more than four consecutive weeks by a teacher who has not met the NCLB highly qualified criteria.

Please be assured that Broward County Public Schools is dedicated to providing the students of Broward County with a quality education. The information regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher and/or the classroom paraprofessional may be obtained from Mrs. Itty, Assistant Principal at 754-322-3800.

## GET INVOLVED IN EDUCATION

### Mr. Bronstein, Volunteer Coordinator

Many thanks to all who have taken the time to register on-line for clearance with the Star Volunteer Program. We appreciate your desire to volunteer and also appreciate your willingness to be part of the process to maintain a safe and secure school environment.

Online registration at [www.getinvolvedineducation.com](http://www.getinvolvedineducation.com) to volunteer. This on-line adult registration provides clearance for Level 1 volunteers who are general, supervised volunteers.

Level 2 clearance is required for trip chaperones, volunteer coaches and mentors. Clearance Procedure for Level 2. Volunteer registers on-line. Volunteer then obtains a Security Check Request form signed by the principal. This form and ID must be taken to the Security Clearance Office in the KC Wright Building. Volunteer is then fingerprinted at KC Wright. There is NO fee for fingerprinting.

KCW Fingerprint Facility, 754-321-2374  
600 SE 3rd Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale  
Monday 8 AM - 5 PM and Tuesday-Friday 8 AM - 3 PM

If you are interested in filling any requests for volunteers, we welcome you! Contact the teacher by calling the school at 754-322-3800. When you come into school, obtain your STAR system ID badge by checking in with Ms. Estrella at the front sign in desk. Go to the main office and sign into the volunteer binder. Proceed to your assignment and ENJOY your time here at Margate Middle School!

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE INFORMATION

### Mr. Bronstein, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal

After starting the school year with just three teams - The Seahawks, The Sharks, and The Owls, we have recently developed a fourth team. We welcome THE BUCCANEERS to the Spartan family!!! This team was developed to help bring down the large class sizes in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Students were selected from their previous teams and were hand delivered to the appropriate classes, which will challenge them best!

We would like to take the time to recognize our wonderful and amazing new team of teachers. Ms. Stacey Arbogast comes to us from Atlantic West Elementary and will be driving instruction with rigor as our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher. Ms. Kelly Price comes to us from within the district and will do an amazing job reliving historic events as our Social Studies Teacher. Ms. Felton, formerly of the Seahawks will now be the science teacher who will be leading our students through exploratory labs and scientific experiences. Ms. Williams is coming back to us from last year and will be driving instruction by showing students the details of Language Arts. Also making a return from last year is Ms. Joseph who will be making our Buccaneers the best type of reader they can be and improving upon their reading comprehension.

The Buccaneers are proving to be a fantastic team who have acclimated well to change. They are proving that they can come together as a team to compete against other teams for success and work with other teams as a valuable part of the Spartan community.

We would like to welcome another great teacher to our Margate Middle School Family as well. Ms. Marks will be taking over as our science teacher on the Seahawks. Speaking of the Seahawks, they are currently in preparation for their upcoming field trip to Museum of Discovery and Science.

## SAFETY & SECURITY

### Mr. Bronstein, Assistant Principal

Now that the school year is in full swing and we are moving toward the end of the first quarter, it is time to report where we have been and where we still need to be. Duty posts have been assigned to our elective teachers and members of our safety team for the morning, during class change, and after school. IN the morning as students arrive on campus (after 8:20) they should see teachers positioned all around the building to help keep our school (and students) safe! With this said, students are expected to wait in the appropriate areas before the start of school: 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the gym, while 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are expected to be on the blacktop behind the school. Often we find students in the building prior to 9:15am. Students should know by now that if they are found in the building prior to 9:15 without a pass, they could receive a referral for being "out of area".

During school, students transition from class to class without many issues. Some of the issues the safety team is working on within the halls are: students walking (not running, not loitering) with their pants up, hoods down, and being respectful to each other. All staff members are either at their door or posted on hall duty in between classes which is really helping to keep control in between classes.

Finally, we have begun and continue to prepare for emergency situations. We have been conducting our monthly fire drills, have had a tornado drill and are preparing for evacuation drills without any issues forthcoming. As a team, our Safety Team works hard to keep Margate Middle a safe place for learning.

#### **RAINY DAY PROCEDURES**

Reminder to all parents! When dropping off your child to school on a rainy day, please pull forward to the handicapped ramp. Your child will enter the building from the door facing Atlantic Boulevard. There will be a sign in the car loop area directing you to pull forward. From that point, your child will be directed to the gymnasium. Please assist us in keeping your child dry and safe on bad weather days.

#### **SCHOOL ID TAGS/LANYARDS**

For the safety and security of our school, all Margate Middle Students need to be identified. Please make sure your child is wearing his or her ID tag and lanyard every day. If the ID tag is lost, a replacement tag must be purchased for \$5.00 through the grade level office.

#### **SEVENTH GRADE NEWS**

**Ms. Coletti, 7th Grade Assistant Principal**

Middle school is a transition for parents and students alike. Adolescents seek their own identities by moving away from childhood dependence on parents. To help ease parental concerns, I want you to know that these changes in behavior are normal! However, you need to be prepared for the challenges of adolescence. Some common characteristics of the "11, 12, and 13 year old stages" include: emotional intensity, argumentativeness, competitiveness, influence from peer pressure, resisting parental demands (like chores or bedtime), restlessness, teasing, being talkative, and just being silly.

This is the time when parental involvement in school really makes a difference. Keep the communication with your child open at all times. Be consistent. Know your child's friends and lastly don't be afraid to ask for help! Margate Middle School's Guidance Department has over forty years of combined experience. Working together, we strive to ensure your child receives a quality education that is productive both academically and socially.

#### **Code of Student Conduct Handbook**

Parents and students, beginning this school year, the Code of Student Conduct handbook will be distributed electronically. You can access it any time on the Broward Schools web site at [www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)

#### **EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

**Ms. Itty, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal**

The school year is off to a wonderful start. We had a fabulous turnout at our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Curriculum Carnival. I want to thank all of our parents for coming out to this wonderful event. By attending important school functions, you show your children the importance of the home school connection. As parents, you need to establish with your children the importance of getting a good education and developing a lifelong appreciation for learning. It is essential to continue the learning at home by reinforcing the education that your children receive in the classroom.

Please ensure that your children complete their homework every day and read for a minimum of 20 minutes a night. Research shows that the more students read, the more fluent they become and better able to understand what they are reading. In addition, reading allows our students to expand their vocabulary which is an essential component to increasing student achievement. Set aside a specific time every evening for homework, without interference from television, video games, phones calls and text messaging.

We need to work together to educate the children of our community. I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you and your family thrive this school year.

#### **WHY GOOGLE WHEN YOU CAN USE DESTINY INSTEAD?**

We would like to introduce you to our online access port DESTINY. This product offers access not only to the books available in Margate Middle School's library, but also to all the magazine articles, online reference books and audio and video resources provided to our students by the School Board of Broward County. Studies have shown that students who use credible, accurate and reliable resources, such as those provided through this access port, find information that is useful for their reports 99% of the time. Those that use Google or other general search engines find useful information only 26% of the time.

Any Margate Middle School student can access this information gold mine by clicking on the links section of the school website and opening the Destiny Quest window. Students will then need to login using their 10 digit student ID number as the User Name and their birthday as the password. The format for the password is 2 digits for month/2 digits for day/4 digits for year, for example, 09/29/1995. Once their name appears on the page, students should click on **Exit Destiny Quest**. They should then click on **Library Search** in the left hand column, type in the topic they are looking for, and click on the button for **ONE SEARCH** at the right. The results will be displayed on two lists. The first list will be databases where information is found including Gale Engage Learning, Grolier Online, World Book Online and the second list, reached by clicking on the tab titles, shows the books and videos available at the Margate Middle School Library. If you have any questions about using this access point, please call Ms. Johnson in the Media Center (754-322-3809).

#### **GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

**Ms. Miranda, Guidance Director**

Margate Middle will be conducting hearing screenings November 8-9 for all 6th graders. Please have your child in attendance during this week.

BAT II is scheduled for Monday, November 28 - 30. It is imperative to have your child take this benchmark assessment in order to determine areas of academic need. Please have your child in attendance during this week.

#### **BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT TEST II**

#### **Reading & Math**



**November 28 - 30, 2011**

#### **Kids of Character**

The Sun-Sentinel Newspaper's "Kids of Character Program" honors students who go above and beyond while exhibiting specific character traits. These traits include cooperation, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self control and tolerance. Each month throughout the year, a different trait is highlighted that promotes character through education. Congratulations to the following students for being selected Kids of Character for the September trait of cooperation:

*Owls* - Malissa Howard  
*Seahawks* - Dylaisha Rivera  
*Sharks* - Kelvin Buendia  
*Hurricanes* - Clifford Paul  
*Panthers* - Nakita Young

*Knights* - Suan Suban  
*Seminoles* - Cheryl Elias  
*Gators* - Israel Rutledge  
*Rattlers* - Eric Miller  
*Ospreys* - Jephthe Dorelien

## September Margate Middle Team Students of the Month:

### 6th Grade

Owls - Redjanie Romain  
Seahawks - Tiriell Simpson  
Sharks - Dorian Sommerer

### 7th Grade

Knights – Tiffany Abreu  
Osprey – Carlos Dejesus  
Hurricanes - Sierra Bilinski  
Panthers - Oljunie Antoine

### 8th Grade

Rattlers - Allysa Khan  
Gators - Christian Roche  
Seminoles - Han Do Tran

## ESE DEPARTMENT

### Ms. Montiel, ESE Specialist

The ESE Department in collaboration with FDLRS Parent Services offers a variety of parent workshops and information for parents of students with disabilities:

For more information: 754-321-2211 FDLRS Parent Services

<http://www.broward.k12.us/studentsupport/ese/html/WORKSHOP.htm>

Workshops are held in the morning, evenings and weekends. Target audience for workshops - parents of children ages birth to 22 years.

## MATH CONTEST

### Ms. Shell, Department Co-Chair

Get ready, we are officially announcing a **Compass Odyssey Contest**, where you can **earn prizes each month** just by reviewing material you've learned in class! Compass Odyssey is a web-based tutorial program that helps students retain concepts that were taught in class.

How does the contest work? To be eligible, you need to log-on to Compass Odyssey through the links page on [margatemiddle.org](http://margatemiddle.org). Use your student ID as your login AND password. Go to the Math Assignments and work on the Chapters you have been working on in class! Each month we will pick the student in each class that has logged the most time on Compass Odyssey to be invited to a special reward!

Don't have internet access at home? Try working on the computers in the morning in library, or asking a teacher to stay after school to work on their computer! You could even go to your local library and use their internet. There is chance for everyone to participate, and review skills to help them do their absolute best in math this year! So join in today!

## MATH-A-THON

### Ms. Shell, Department Co-Chair

This year, we participated in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Math-a-thon. The Math-a-thon is a cool way to sharpen your math skills and earn awesome prizes while helping save lives. We hosted this fundraising program to raise money that helped St. Jude Children's Research Hospital find new treatments for cancer and other catastrophic diseases. We've had students here at Margate that have been diagnosed with cancer, and hospitals like St. Jude were there to care for and nurture them back to good health.

This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> year participating in the Math-a-thon so we had a school goal of \$2000. **With your help, we are proud to say we more than reached that goal by raising \$2,330.25!** The Hurricanes team, encouraged by their math teacher Ms. Rubright, were once again our top fundraising team with \$1,062.35 raised! Thank you SO much for all your hard work. You have become someone's hero! Want more information? Visit [www.mathathon.org](http://www.mathathon.org).

Visit [www.dimensionm.com](http://www.dimensionm.com), login using your student i.d. number and your birthday for your password, MM/DD/YYYY (include the slashes). Here is an example: September 25, 1997 would be 09/25/1997. More Questions? Please talk to or email Ms. Shell at [lesley.shell@browardschools.com](mailto:lesley.shell@browardschools.com)

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

### ... A Message From The Reading Coach, Ms. McNally

The month of October had us **"Batty for Books."** If you had a chance to visit our campus during the month of October I'm sure that you saw the wonderful pumpkins decorated as our students' favorite characters.

The month of November has Spartans **"Gobbling Up Good Books!"** Ask your child to tell you what book they are presently "devouring".

You have probably heard your child talking about the exciting things taking place at Margate Middle, and most likely heard the words **"Accelerated Reader"** mentioned once or twice. But what do these words mean?

Accelerated Reader is a software program that helps teachers manage and monitor students' reading growth. A student simply picks a book that is on the Accelerated Reader web-site and reads it at his or her own pace. When finished, the student takes a short quiz on the computer, and finds out immediately how well they've done. Remember, students are required to accumulate Accelerated Reader points as part of their reading grade. It is expected that at least 20 minutes be spent each night reading. Therefore, there is no such thing as "I don't have any homework." Please encourage your child to not wait until the last minute to earn their AR points! Students that meet their goals will be invited to a pizza party. So far this year our students have read **593 books!**

A special thank you goes out to all the parents and students that joined us for **"Reading Rocks and Rolls"** during our Curriculum Carnival. We had a great time practicing our reading fluency while singing to the sounds of fifty's music!

Parents, please be aware that the **FCAT Explorer** program is up and running. This free website is designed to help students practice reading and math skills outlined in the Sunshine State Standards. Students have been given a password and sign-in name through their reading teacher. They may access FCAT Explorer from their home computer by visiting the Internet at [www.fcatorplorer.com](http://www.fcatorplorer.com).

At Margate Middle we like to celebrate our accomplishments! In addition to quarterly incentives for students that meet their AR goals, students that spend time polishing their reading and math skills by using **FCAT Explorer** will also be rewarded. And on October 14<sup>th</sup>, those students that logged in over 200 minutes using **SMaRT** summer tutorials were invited to a pizza party!

### Parent Tip of the Month:

If your children are going to become better readers, you must make time for them to read. Limiting television and video games frees up time for **READING!**

## SCIENCE FAIR

### Ms. Ventura, Coordinator

It's that time of year...SCIENCE FAIR! The science teachers at Margate Middle school will be guiding students through the process of completing a science fair project. The Margate Middle school science fair judging will be held in January 2012. For everything needed to complete the science fair project, visit the following link:

<http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/venturascience/resources.cfm?subpage=1018163>

## STEM MAGNET PROGRAM

### Ms. Ragin, Coordinator

Magnet Schools of America (MSA) is hosting its national conference this year in Fort Lauderdale, and has chosen to highlight our STEM Magnet program to its visitors. We will look forward to showing the MSA visitors what our STEM program is all about. On October 26th, we will host MSA with a tour of the school, highlighting our STEM labs and magnet students.

Great things are happening with our STEM program. Students are settled into their classes and are being exposed to biomedical engineering and biomechanics and civil and mechanical engineering. They are working on specialized software and equipment. Inside the STEM labs, students are working through a rigorous curriculum that has them completing hands on projects. In the MET lab, students are practicing their measurement and engineering skills by using Google Sketch Up and K'Nex kits to change floor plans, and then design a school of their own. In the SET lab, students have been busy programming robots to run on specialized courses and perform specific tasks. They have also been creating multimedia projects aimed at helping the environment.

To further expose students to STEM careers and Universities, the following trips have been planned for this semester:

- National College Fair, 10/19
- Museum of Discovery and Science, 11/9
- LegoLand Winterhaven, 12/9

Do you have a student in a STEM elective? Do you want to help out by being a chaperone on a field trip? Do you work for a company that gives presentations to students and you would like to come in and speak? If so, go to [www.getinvolvedineducation.com](http://www.getinvolvedineducation.com) and sign up!

### **DRAMA CLUB**

#### **Ms. Rothman, Sponsor**

The Drama Club is working hard on our Fall production of "The Wizard of Oz". Join us as Dorothy and her friends seek to overcome the Wicked Witch of the West and persuade the Wizard to grant their wishes. The curtain goes up on Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 in the MMS cafeteria. Tickets will be on sale at the door for \$3.00.

### **HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS**

#### **Officer Scaperrotta, SRO**

- Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them.
- The best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them. If you can't take them, see if another parent or a teen aged sibling can go along.
- Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions.
- Make sure you set a time that they should be home by. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time.
- Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem like fun but they need to know the other side of the coin as well, clean

up and damages can ruin Halloween. If they are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess they've made.

- Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof, the eye holes should be large enough for good peripheral vision.
- If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so that kids costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.
- Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.
- Kids always want to help with the pumpkin carving. Small children shouldn't be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer, although you can be cut by them as well. It's best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.
- Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them.

Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.

### **SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS**

<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/foodservice/MENUS.htm>

### **ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR LUNCH**

Make quick and easy online payments to your children's meal accounts

- Pay with a Credit Card
- Quick and easy online meal payments with your child's FSI number
- Check Your Child's Account Balance
- See What Your Child is Eating
- Receive Account Balance Alerts  
[www.broward.k12.fl.us/foodservice/](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/foodservice/)  
or [www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com/](http://www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com/)

Note: The description of your payment on your statement will read, SBBC Food & Nutrition.