

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

## Spelling Bee Champions

### Results of the 2016-2017 Ada Merritt K-8 Center Spelling Bee

#### Elementary School

First Place (School Champion): Declan Wagar (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Second Place: Jamil Sublaban (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Third Place: Douglas O'Keefe (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Fourth Place: Isabella Rodriguez (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

#### Middle School

First Place (School Champion): Natalia Parras (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Second Place: Isabel Perez (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Third Place: Sofia De-Benito (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Fourth Place: Parker Grossman (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

#### **Declan Wagar (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Natalia Parras (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

**will represent Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the  
76th Annual Miami Herald Spelling Bee that  
will take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2017 at  
Jungle Island.**

## Memory Books

Make sure to secure the purchase of  
your Memory Books online for just  
\$ 20.00

## Values Matter at Ada Merritt K-8 Center



The Values Matter Initiative focuses on our school district's Student Code of Conduct and nine core values. These values are important to being a model student and having a positive impact on others. We will be emphasizing and celebrating positive behavior.

Students will be participating in classroom lessons and watching videos that expand on the nine core values. This quarter the focus will be on the core values of Citizenship and Pursuit of Excellence.



## **Online School Payment System (OSP)**

Parents may now use the (OSP) for our Before and Aftercare Program until Sunday, May 14, 2017. This will exclude all Community Classes, which will still need to be paid in the After Care Office in person. To make an online payment, please login to the Parent Portal at <http://www.dadeschools.net/parents.asp>

## **EESAC Parent Elections 2016-2017**

Congratulations to the three parents that were elected to serve on our Educational Excellence Student Advisory Council (EESAC):

Dr. Nora Gonzalez, Ms. Amalia Rocheleau, and Ms. Amy Crowley-Gonsoulin. Thank you for your time, dedication and support.

## **Thank You!**

We would like to recognize our wonderful Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for their kind donation of 12 computers for our students.

In addition, we would also like to commend and honor Mr. Alexander and Elizabete Reus, for their generous donation to assist with the purchase of 16 school computers. We greatly appreciate all of your support.

## **African American Heritage Month**

We encourage all students to participate in celebrating African American Heritage throughout the month of February. On Fridays, students are encouraged to wear T-shirts representing the colors of the flag: red, green, or black or clothing representing African American attire.

## **Ibiley Store on Wheels**

Parents, Ibiley Store on Wheels will be at Ada Merritt K-8 Center to sell Uniform items on Thursday, February 16, 2017 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

## **Running Club**

Once again, this year Ada Merritt K-8 Center has a running club that meets twice a week: Mondays 3:05 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. and Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. We have 35 students participating in grades 5 thru 7. A group of 20 brave runners participated in the Kids Run Miami on Sunday, January 29, 2017 in the cold rain. Coach Weaver would like to thank the parents for bringing the children to the race as well as participating in the race.

Our next big event will be the Superintendents 5K Challenge on April 1, 2017. Even if you are not in the running club, we would like to have as many Ada Merritt K-8 students, teachers, and parents participating. Registration is open to sign up online until April 1, 2017

# Testing Calendar 2016-2017

Parents we have provided you with copies of the 2016-2017 Miami Dade County Public Schools Testing Calendar. A virtual calendar is available at [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) under the Calendars link.

## International Education (IE) and International Studies (IS) Classes

International Education (IE) and International Studies (IS) classes will begin October 10, 2016. The times are listed as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	1:50 p.m. – 3: 05 p.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3:05 p.m. – 4: 20 p.m.

There are no IS or IE classes on Wednesdays

## After School Community Classes 2016-2017

The following Community Classes are available to all students from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade.

Ballet, Karate, Flamenco, Guitar, Hip Hop, Yoga and Chess. Tutoring is available for Portuguese, Reading Language Arts, Writing, and Math.

New Classes to be added include Art, Fitness/Gym, Musical Theater, and

Capoeira. We encourage you to pass by the After School Care office to register for these activities.

Please visit the After School Care Page on the Ada Merritt K-8 Website at <http://adameritt.dadeschools.net> to reflect all new and existing community classes.

The collection of Before/After School Care and Community School Classes Payment Schedule is as follows for December:

- December 5-9, 2016
- December 19-23, 2016

**\*Please refer to the payment schedule attached to the Newsletter for additional dates.**

## Media Center Hours



Please be informed that the Media Center will be available to parents from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. daily and 3:10 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. daily; except for Wednesdays, 1:55 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

The Media Center hours were revised to make the Media Center more available to students and teachers during school hours.

We thank you for your cooperation.



# Code of Student Conduct

Please ensure you review the Code of Student Conduct with your child.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to providing a safe teaching and learning environment for students, staff, and members of the community. On January 16, 2008, the School Board approved a newly revised Code of Student Conduct (COSC). The revised COSC identifies, recognizes, and rewards model student behavior within a framework of clearly established and enforceable rules and policies. It advocates a holistic approach to promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment and requires active participation from students, parents/guardians, and school staff. Students and parents/guardians can access the English and Haitian/Creole versions of the document on the M-DCPS Website located at: <http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/90/indes.htm> or you may request a copy from your child's school. The Spanish version of this document will be forthcoming.

The school district believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents/legal guardians, staff, and community members creating an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for district and community property on the part of students, staff, and community members. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers will demonstrate appropriate behavior; treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying or harassment (M-DCPS Code of Student Conduct).

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has an Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy. Please speak to your child about reporting any bullying or harassment to a school official. All allegations will be investigated.

## Ada Merritt K-8 Center Science Fair 2016-2017

### TOP SUPERIORS

#### THIRD GRADE:

Rafael Murta  
Christopher Sotomayor

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

*The following students are the **top superior recipients** who will be representing Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the **Elementary Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Invention Fair.***

Beatriz Colio (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Sarah Franco-Vila (5<sup>th</sup>)  
Gabriela Laitert (5<sup>th</sup>)  
Patrick Gonsoulin (5<sup>th</sup>)

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*The following seventh grade students are the **top superior recipients** who will represent Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the **63rd Annual South Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair***

Isabella Moreno  
Sofia Alcaide  
Dylan Uluc  
Valeria Moura  
Adriana Torres  
Matheus Sousa Beckhauser

**Date:** Saturday, February 4, 2017  
Miami Dade College, North Campus  
Science Complex  
11380 Northwest 27 Avenue  
Miami, FL 33167

# Reminders about Attendance



Parents,

Attendance continues to be a major component of your child's success in school.

We need your support to ensure that students are in school on time every day.

Students in Kindergarten and First grade should be seated in class by 8: 20 a.m. Second through Eighth grade students should be seated in class by 8: 35 a.m.

Students will not be dismissed 30 minutes before dismissal times.

I thank you for your cooperation and continue to count on your support.

## Ada Merritt K-8 Center Cross Country Team

Ada Merritt K-8 Center offered a Cross Country Team. The commitment for the team was that your child be able to run two (2) miles in order to participate in various cross country invitational meets this semester.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Cross Country season. We thank the parents for their undivided support and the students for their ongoing commitment and dedication. A final thanks to our very own Coach Julie Weaver, for her guidance and constant encouragement.

The season has finished its Championship Meet and our Boys Varsity placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of

23 teams with runner (Marco Samuel Lund-Hansen with a time of 13:58.)

Our Girls Varsity placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 19 teams with our top runner (Karina Leon with a time of 16:06 and Alicia Krasner coming in with a time of 17:16)

Our Boys JV placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 19 teams with (Santiago Carbone with a time of 13:58)

Our Girls JV placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 13 teams with (Julia Denight with a time of 17:33 and Nabila Osman with a time of 17:43)

## A Special Recognition to all our Student Athletes:

Karina Leon  
Andres Arzola  
Nikolas Lund-Hansen  
Marco Samuel Lund Hansen  
Lucas Serrano  
Gabriel Castro  
Sofia Cruz  
Gianna De Gracia  
Antonella Labrozzi  
Antonella Hemmerde  
Lucas Olin  
Javier Coig  
Nicolas Pereira  
Dylan Uluc  
Alicia Krasner  
Mariana Leon-Pantin  
Lizbeth Vera  
Lys Bagaria-Siqueira  
Andrea Paipa  
Abraham Coriat  
Mikel Marlins  
Santiago Carbone  
Erdwin Ochoa  
Joshua Silva  
Natalia Parras  
Isabella Ferrandiz  
Andrew Greig  
Jonathan Hooks  
Byron Carvajal  
Santiago Guillamont  
George Krasner  
Julia Denight

Nabila Osman  
Cristel Contarero  
Micaela Montero  
Daniela Rovira  
Carolina Chinn  
Matias Kojusner  
Cristina Hope-Borges  
Alex Garcia  
Sebastian Silva  
Hugo Monsalve  
Emelly Minota  
Thomas Cancino

Giovanna Key  
Belle Kinney Winick  
Kevin Kitsos  
Lucas Mitraud  
Larissa Pontes  
Maria Segura  
Isabel Valdes

**National Junior Honor Society  
Induction Ceremony  
October 27, 2016**

**We would like to honor the New  
Seventh Grade**

Mauricio Alanis	Sofia Alcaide
Amanda Altieri	Lys Bagariasiquieda
Sofia Benedetti	Caroline Berthin
Thomas Brulay	Santiago Carbone
Javier Coig	Abraham Coriat
Arianna Garcia	Mar Garcia
Max Gelber	Alicia Krasner
David Kuper	Talia Lazar
Mariana Leon-Pantin	Isabella Moreno
Valerie Moura	Lina Ordonez
Andrea Paipa	Isabel Perez
Melanie Previsdomini	Mara Rodriguez
Brianna Ross	Hector Schmidt
Bianca Silva	
Maria Luiza Schuchovski	
Sebastian Toole	Daniela Villatoro
Bryttnie Zepeda	

**We would like to honor the  
New Eighth Grade Members**

Liesel Alfonso  
Annalie Arguello  
Karim Dergal  
Sharon Florez  
Taynes Galindo  
Alexandro Garces  
Alex Garcia

**Student Council  
Results  
2016-2017**

Congratulations to the following students  
that will be representing the  
Ada Merritt K-8 Center Student Body

**President: Deborah Eusebio**  
**Vice- President: Andres Arzola**  
**Secretary: David Kuper**  
**Historian: Max Gelber**

**ART Matters**



Congratulations to Nabila Osman (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) who was awarded third place in the Category of 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Pinecrest 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Environmental Contest. In addition, Jennifer Chistik, Kimberly Romero and Samantha Oyon were also selected as district-finalists.

Three 7<sup>th</sup> grade students: Mar Garcia, Alicia Krasner and Izabela Cookson have been

selected as district-finalist for the student art exhibit Butterflies STEAM-ing of Fancy! These will be on view at the Miami International Airport.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as District Finalists for the Painting from the Heart Art show exhibit.

The students are: Angelina Urt (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), Lucas Rovira (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), Victoria Morfe (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), Evelio Diaz (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Karim Dergal (8<sup>th</sup> Grade).

In addition, we are very proud to announce that Angelina Urt was also awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Category 1 (1st-3<sup>rd</sup> grades).

## FREE Breakfast!



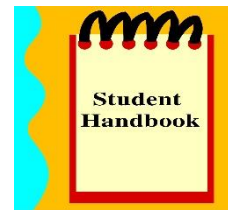
Breakfast is free for all students. Please encourage your child to come by the Cafeteria in the morning and to take advantage of the free breakfast provided for every student.

Breakfast is served until 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

School breakfast improves student behavior and learning environments.

- Schools that provide breakfast in the classroom to all students show decreases in tardiness and suspensions as well as improved student behavior and attentiveness.
- Providing students with breakfast in the classroom setting is associated with lower tardy rates and fewer disciplinary office referrals.
- School breakfast programs can lower absence and tardiness rates and improve standardized achievement test scores.

## Parent and Student Handbook

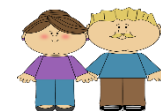


The Parent and Student Handbook is available on the Ada Merritt K-8 Center website. The Parent and Student Handbook outlines district and school policies on attendance, conduct, grading, arrival/dismissal, lunch, peanut/nut free practice and many more important topics.

We encourage you to take the time to review the Parent and Student Handbook with your child.

All students should return the Parent and Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form to their teacher.

## Parent Volunteers/Visitors



Effective immediately, parents, students, employees and community members who wish to volunteer at your school should register on-line through the M-DCPS portal(s).

Parents, please remember to sign-in if you plan to be in school after 8:35 a.m. A Volunteer / Visitor's Badge can be obtained from the Main Office. Please use the same procedure when visiting the park while physical education classes are in session. Please assist us in keeping our students safe.

# STUDENT ABSENCES

Please be reminded that if your child is absent from school; he/she must bring a written note, within three school days, explaining the absence(s) in order to be excused. The following are considered excused absences:

- a. student illness
- b. medical appointment
- c. death in family
- d. observance of a religious holiday or service when mandated for all members of a faith that such a holiday or service be observed
- e. school-sponsored event or activity previously approved
- f. other individual student absences approved by the principal



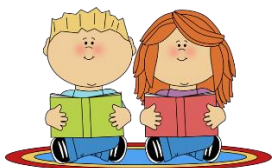
Parents, we appreciate the great effort being made thus far to have students in school on time. Please continue supporting us as we encourage students to be on time to school every day.

If you do not provide a written note explaining the absence(s) it will be considered unexcused.

Please review the attached letter regarding the Attendance Plan.

Please note that parents will automatically receive a Connect Ed message once the student has three absences.

## Media Center Etiquette



Remember that there is no eating or drinking in the Media Center. We need to keep the

computers clean and in working condition. It is important that we follow the Media Center rules so that the Media Center can be maintained in the best condition for our students. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## "Keep It Neat!" Campaign

*Keep it neat,  
Stay in your seat!*

*Don't eat or touch,  
Your neighbor's lunch!*

*Check the table and floor,  
Before you walk out the door.*

*It's the cool scene,  
To keep our school clean!*

Parents, to promote balanced, caring, cooperative, and respectful citizenship, we have initiated the "Keep it Neat!" Campaign. During breakfast and lunch the students are encouraged to make sure they don't drop wrappers, utensils, napkins or other items on the cafeteria floor. In addition, students are encouraged to talk with friends, read or just enjoy a quiet meal. Students may not walk around the cafeteria. Instead, they are to wait for their teacher during lunchtime to arrive before they throw their tray and/or other items away.

## Peanut/Nut Free School



Let's be mindful that Ada Merritt K-8 Center is a peanut/nut free school. Please refrain from sending to school any peanut or nut containing products. In order to avoid accidental contact I am urging all parents to discourage their children from sharing foods, utensils, and containers.



# Traffic Safety



Please assist us in respecting all crosswalks and speed limits around our school. Miami-Dade County ranks #1 in the State of Florida and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Our students will participate in the WalkSafe Program in our continued efforts to reduce the number of pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Parents, please keep in mind that the "walkers" dismissal area is for parents who stand and wait for their child's class to be dismissed. The teacher acknowledges the parent(s) and the child then walks to where you are.

Please note that if you want to have your child come to your car you must use the **circular driveway** located at the opposite side of the school (4<sup>th</sup> Street). We need your support and cooperation to ensure the safety of our students during arrival and dismissal.

Additionally, please use caution when dropping off and picking up your child. For safety and convenience, we are recommending that you please use the circular driveway area.

## Morning Drop-off

This is a reminder that students whose homeroom classroom is in Building One should wait for their teacher to pick them up at 8:20 a.m. Students whose homeroom class is located in Building Two should wait for their teachers sitting outside their assigned classroom. Security monitors will be supervising the students. Parents are not allowed in classrooms during the morning drop-off. Please understand that school must begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and we need your support in maximizing instructional

time. Accordingly, please ensure your child is in his or her classroom by 8:30 a.m.

## Circular Drive Pick-Up

Parents who chose to utilize the Circular Drive Pick-Up must remain in their cars. School personnel will dismiss students to your car. Students will not be dismissed to parents who "walk-up" to the Circular Driveway.

Parents who wish to "walk-up" may do so at the "Walkers" Dismissal Area located at the North Side of the school on Southwest Third Street.

In order to continue to have a safe and smooth daily dismissal, it is important that all parents support the school guidelines on Dismissal.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Student of the Month



The purpose of the Student of the Month Ceremony is to recognize students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grades, who have demonstrated attributes from the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile, for example: being an inquirer, knowledgeable, a thinker, a communicator, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taker, balanced, and/or reflective. This includes showing the following attitudes: appreciation, confidence, commitment, cooperation, curiosity, creativity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect and tolerance.

The format of the Student of the Month ceremony has changed. The ceremonies will still take place each month; however, they will take place in the afternoon at 1:15 p.m. in the cafeteria. Students will receive a t-shirt, a pencil, a certificate and will make their own special ice-cream creations.

**The January Student of the Month Celebration will take place on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 1:15 p.m. in the Cafeteria.**

