

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

## PTA Gala Revenue

On behalf of Ada Merritt K-8 Center Students, Faculty and Staff, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the Ada Merritt PTA. The PTA Gala Revenue totaled a whopping \$16,425.89. Every cent comes right back to the school in the form of educational programs, classroom resources, cultural events, Student of the Month, Student Awards' Ceremonies, End of the Year activities, guest speakers, and so much more! As a school, we feel fortunate to have such a supportive and tireless community of parents who share our vision for OUR students! Thank you

### **International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) Primary Years Program (PYP) Re-authorization Visit**

On April 16 and 17, 2009, the IBO will be making a special visit to Ada Merritt K-8 Center. The purpose of this visit is to evaluate Ada Merritt K-8 Center's implementation of the PYP Program.

There will be a PYP Re-authorization Parent Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 8:45 a.m.

Additionally, Ms. Jackeline Sanchez-Jimenez, PYP Coordinator, has asked that any parent interested in attending the lunch scheduled on Thursday, April 16, 2009, with the IBO Team, contact her via email at [Sanchez-JimenezJackelineL@dadeschools.net](mailto:Sanchez-JimenezJackelineL@dadeschools.net).

## Mandatory School Uniforms

Parents, please be reminded that Ada Merritt K-8 Center's uniform policy remains in effect.

We need your support in ensuring that your child is in uniform daily, unless otherwise stated in the school calendar.

## Earth Day

Earth Day has been scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009. More information regarding specific activities that will take place is forthcoming.

## Lost and Found

As you know there are several items that have been placed in the Lost and Found area located near the entrance of the Cafeteria.

If you have any lost items, please check this area during the week of April 13, 2009. On Friday, April 17, 2009, all items will be picked up and donated.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **2008-2009 Elementary Science, Mathematics, and Invention Fair**

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the Miami Museum of Science. The projects will be exhibited from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Jose Heijn, Fourth Grader and Isabelle Bolet, Fifth Grader will be representing Ada Merritt K-8 Center.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone there. Refreshments will be provided by the Ada Merritt K-8 Center PTA.

## Ada Merritt K-8 Center's New Website and Announcements

As of March 1, 2009, a link was placed on the Ada Merritt K-8 Center website for the Monthly Calendar and Principal's Message.

In order to accommodate those who do not have access to a computer there will be copies of the monthly calendar available in the Main Office.

Parents, please visit our new website at [adamerritt.dadeschools.net](http://adamerritt.dadeschools.net). The website includes updates, the school calendar, pictures and links to the most commonly visited websites.

This is a reminder that as of March 1, 2009, flyers will be posted on two main bulletin boards; the bulletin board located near the elevator and the bulletin board in the Main Office. Remember, all communication needs to have approval from the school administration. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

## Dade County Youth Fair

The Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition will take place during March 26 through April 12, 2009.

## Third Annual Spring Arts Festival

The Third Annual Spring Arts Festival has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Ms. Fuller and Mr. Tena will be setting up a Gallery Walk and Ms. Gonzalez and Dr. Dash's students will be providing the musical entertainment.

## Third Marking Period Student Awards' Ceremonies

The Third Marking Period Student Awards' Ceremonies are scheduled as follows:

Kindergarten	Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
First Grade	Thursday, April 29, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Second Grade	Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Third Grade	Monday, May 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Fourth Grade	Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Fifth Grade	Monday, April 27, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Sixth & Seventh Grades	Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 8:45 a.m.

## Annual Countywide Student Exhibition

The following students submitted projects in the Annual Countywide Student Exhibition.

### Ms. Fuller's Classes

Kevin Campos, Third Grade  
Francesca Tobar, Third Grade  
Jasmin Almonte, Sixth Grade  
Amelia Leon, Sixth Grade  
Aliyah Symes, Sixth Grade  
Gretchen Villamil-Diaz, Sixth Grade

### Mr. Tena's Classes

Daria Paulis, Third Grade  
Mauro Echenique, Fourth Grade  
Douglas Lopez, Fourth Grade  
Tachaka Ray, Fifth Grade

### Group Projects:

Sascha Gimenez and Isabella Fernandez,  
Second Grade

## Kellog Foundation Exhibition at Parrot Jungle Island

The following students' projects were submitted for exhibition at the Kellog Foundation at Parrot Jungle Island:

Fabiana Nunes, Sixth Grade  
Gina Cicero, Sixth Grade  
Amani Gibbs, Sixth Grade  
Carelia Montero, Sixth Grade  
Paula Honorato, Sixth Grade

Thank you, Ms. Fuller!!

## Upcoming Events


May Events:

- Teacher Appreciation Week, 5/4/09-5/8/09
- Food Allergy Awareness Week, 5/10/09-5/15/09
- IS/IE Show – Kindergarten, First and Second Grade – 5/1/09
- IS/IE Show – Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade – 5/6/09
- IS/IE Show – Sixth and Seventh Grades – 5/1/09 at 2:00 p.m.
- Festa Junina, 5/8/09
- Interim Progress Report Distribution – 5/6/09
- PYP Exhibition – Fifth Grade – 5/15/09
- Career Day – 5/20/09
- Sixth and Seventh Grade Final Exams – 5/27/09 through 6/2/09
- Accelerated Reader (AR) Field Trip – 5/21/09
- Memorial Day, 5/25/09 – No School
- Fifth Grade Promotional Ceremony, 5/29/09
- Fifth Grade Field Trip, 5/30/09
- Student of the Month, 5/26/09
- End of Year Awards Programs  
Kindergarten – 5/22/09  
First Grade – 5/27/09  
Second Grade – 5/28/09  
Third Grade – 5/26/09  
Fourth Grade – 6/1/09  
Fifth Grade – 5/29/09  
Sixth and Seventh Grade – 6/3/09

## Dial-a-Teacher

The Dial-a-Teacher Program is a free service provided by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Please see the attached informational flyer.



The school is collecting Box Tops for Education. Please check household product boxes for Box Tops. You can drop Box Tops off at the Main Office, Cafeteria (next to the pencil and stamp machine), or you can hand them to your child's teacher. Attached is a worksheet titled, "How Many Box Tops Can You Catch?" We encourage you to identify any household products that may be part of the Box Tops for Education Program, cut out the  and paste them on the sheet provided herein.

We are encouraging all parents to participate and include your child in this effort. All Box Tops collected will be turned in for money and benefit the Ada Merritt K-8 Center PTA.

## Code of Student Conduct

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, Spanish, and Haitian/Creole versions of the document on the M-DCPS Website located at: <http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/90/index.htm> or you may request a copy from your child's school.

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

# Parent and Student Handbook

The Parent and Student Handbook was provided to all parents on the first week of the 2008-2009 school year. The Parent and Student Handbook outlines district and school policies on attendance, conduct, grading, arrival/dismissal, lunch, peanut/nut free policy and many more important topics.

## Parent Volunteers/Visitors

Parents, please remember to sign-in if you plan to be in school after 8:30 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.

## ATTENDANCE

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

Student tardies are being monitored. As a reminder, students must be in their seats BY 8:30 a.m. Any students arriving thereafter are considered tardy.

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 everyday.

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.



Accordingly, please ensure your child is in his or her classroom by 8:30 a.m. We ask that parents use the circular driveway. We respectfully request that you facilitate the unloading in an effort to expedite the process and ensure the safety of all students. Once again, your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

# 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.

# Morning Drop-off

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.

This is a reminder that students in kindergarten through third grade are to wait for their teachers by their classrooms until 8:20 a.m. fourth through seventh grade students are to wait for their teachers to pick them up in the cafeteria. 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.

# Student of the Month

The purpose of the Student of the Month ceremony is to recognize students, kindergarten through seventh grade, who have demonstrated an effort to be an inquirer, knowledgeable, thinker, communicator, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taker, balanced, and/or reflective. Students who show the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile attitudes may also be highlighted as Student of the Month. These attitudes include; appreciation, confidence, commitment, cooperation, curiosity, creativity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect and tolerance. This month's Student of the Month Celebration will take place on April 30, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

# After-School Community Classes

Classes are available through our After-School Enrichment Program. Students do not have to be enrolled in the After-school Care Program to take advantage of these classes. Please take the time to review the classes, days, fees and times.

# After-School Supervision

An increasing number of students are not being picked-up according to the dismissal times listed below. This situation poses a safety problem. Please be advised that there is NO supervision of students after dismissal time.

Effective immediately, you are informed of the following: Students left in school after dismissal and not participating in any supervised after school programs/activities, will be escorted to the After-school Care Office, Room 104. Parents will be assessed a fee of \$10.00 per child for the day.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

# School Lunch

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Department of Food & Nutrition serves breakfast at NO CHARGE to all students at all schools everyday. Ensure that your child is on time and ready to learn by having him/her enjoy this most important meal of the day. Breakfast is served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Please note that the cost of lunch has changed for the 2008-2009 school year. The cost of lunch is now \$2.50 for students and \$3.00 for adults. Free/reduced students will now pay \$0.40 for lunch.

## Negative Lunch Balances

Elementary students in grades K-5 can charge up to five meals. Students will then receive notice that they have a negative lunch balance. When a negative balance for an elementary student reaches \$11.25 (or \$2.00 for free/reduced lunch), then that student will be offered an alternate meal, if they do not have lunch money.

Please note that sixth and seventh grade students **are no longer permitted to charge meals**. Alternate meals are provided to those students who have a negative balance and do not have lunch money.

## PAYPAMS

Miami Dade County Public School's Department of Food and Nutrition allows parents/guardians the convenience to pay on-line via the internet or by telephone for their child's meals with a credit or debit card. The parent/guardians will create a lunch account on-line for the child and will be able to access the following:

- a. view the account balance
- b. schedule automatic payments.
- c. receive low-balance e-mail reminders
- d. view a report of daily spending and cafeteria purchases

You may find all this information at <https://paypams.com/HomePage.aspx>.