

# Tiger-rific News

## We're an "A" School

North Grade K - 8 School Newsletter

Nicole Patterson

Principal

824 North "K" Street

Lake Worth, FL 33460

Sarah Larralde

Assistant Principal

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### PRINCIPALS' NEWS

Welcome Back Tigers! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and that our students are excited and prepared to learn.

Our theme this year is "Building a Great Year Together @ North Grade". Our teachers and staff are all prepared to make a difference in the lives of our students by building a safe, compassionate community of lifelong learners who are inspired to become respectful, responsible, innovative, independent thinkers, and problem solvers. You play a key role in the academic success of our students; therefore, school/parent communication is crucial. This year teachers are using the Dojo App to communicate with parents, again. If you have not yet downloaded the app, please do.

To further ensure a successful school year please:

- **Make your child's attendance to school a priority – instruction begins promptly at 8:00 am daily. Instructional time is bell to bell – from 8:00 a.m. until 2:05 p.m.**
- **Allot time for homework and reading with your child on a nightly basis.**
- **Please schedule appointments after the hours of school. We teach from bell-to-bell and want all of our students to receive the maximum amount of instruction time during a school day.**

Our instructional program will be far more effective if your child is in school every day for the whole day. We look forward to having a successful school year.

Please find the Parent's Right-to-Know Letter located on the North Grade website under "Parents & Students".

Nicole Patterson  
Principal



Sarah Larralde  
Assistant Principal



## September

### Calendar of Events ~ September

<b>2</b>	Labor Day ~ No School
<b>6</b>	Fall Ball Dance Grades 3 - 5~ 5:30 – 7:00 pm.
<b>6</b>	Middle School Mid-Term Progress Reports available on district portal
<b>9</b>	SAC Meeting ~ 8:15 am in Cafeteria
<b>11</b>	9/11 Anniversary/Patriotic Day
<b>11</b>	Open House/Curriculum Night 5:30-6:15 ~ Grades K-2
	Open House/Curriculum Night 6:15 -7:00 ~ Grades 3-8
<b>15</b>	Hispanic Heritage Month begins and runs through October 15th
<b>23</b>	Elementary Mid-Term Progress Reports available on district portal
<b>26</b>	Title I Gearing Up for Kindergarten Meeting 5:30 – 6:30 PM
	PTO Meeting ~ 8:15 am Cafeteria

## October

### Calendar of Events ~October

<b>3</b>	Fall Holiday ~ No school
<b>7</b>	SAC Meeting ~ 8:30 am in Media Center
<b>11</b>	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 9-week marking period
<b>14</b>	Fall Holiday ~ No School
<b>17</b>	Fall Picture Day ~ Everyone participates
<b>21</b>	Middle School Report cards available in SIS



# NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS



## **KINDERGARTEN NEWS**

Our new Kindergarten Tigers will be starting our first Reading and Writing Unit: Plants and Animals Have Needs. We will practice foundational skills like rhyming, syllables, and letter identification as well as handwriting. In Writing, we will be learning how to express our ideas through drawing and speaking. Math begins with counting, representing, then eventually comparing numbers 0 to 10. We would like to thank our Kindergarten families for sending in all the necessary materials to help get the year off to a great start!

## **FIRST GRADE NEWS**

First grade is a time of great academic growth and our students are off to a great start! In Reading and Science, we are learning about how plants and animals grow and change. In Math, we finished our unit on 2D and 3D shapes. We are now working on adding and subtracting, with facts to 10. You can support your child's learning growth by reading bedtime stories, playing outdoors and discussing the plants and animals that you see, and letting your child help you add and subtract while shopping, working in the kitchen, doing laundry, etc. Homework will begin after the upcoming Open House. However, please check your child's "Take Home" folder every day as unfinished classwork or information from the office may be enclosed.

## **SECOND GRADE NEWS**

Welcome back to school! We are so excited that you are here! We just finished up our Foundations and Routines Unit and are in the process of Unit 1 in ELA where we are learning all about Plants and Animals in Their Habitats! We are also practicing choosing just right books and building our reading stamina! In Science, we already finished up our Social and Emotional Unit as well as our Human Growth and Development Unit. We are currently in Unit 1 where we are learning about Discovering Science and will soon be in Unit 2 where we will be learning about The Needs of Living Things! In Math, we have completed Unit 0 and are finishing up Unit 1 where we have learned how to Add and Subtract with Facts to 20. We will soon be in Unit 2 where we will be building our Foundations for Multiplication by Working with Equal Groups as well as Unit 3 where we will be learning how to Add with Sums to 100. Parents, please monitor your child's backpack and stay in constant communication with your child's teachers through Class Dojo. We can't wait to continue in 2nd Grade!

## **THIRD GRADE NEWS**

We have started a new year of learning and are thrilled that our students are eager to learn many things in Math, Writing, Reading curriculums. We

are starting out reading journey with Animal Adaptations and have asked the students to read many books and articles of animals of their choice. They will be able soon check out from the school library. The local library has many options as well. In math classes, they have begun their journey with multiplication connections and word problems. Please see they study their multiplication tables and relate them to division. In writing, we will begin writing in expository form. This form of writing is like report writing. We will be teaching them how to organize their thoughts and then elaborate on facts found in articles or text. Please help by reminding your child or children to start sentences with a capital letter.

## **FOURTH GRADE NEWS**

Welcome back to school! Fourth grade is already working hard on many things. We have already learned about classroom routines, procedures and expectations and have already begun working in all subjects. We have started our first ELA unit about observing nature. We are also learning place value to one million and have begun the nature of science unit. Fourth grade students will have homework Monday through Thursday in both math and ELA. They are also expected to read each evening for twenty minutes. Please make sure that your student is doing their homework in order to help them have a successful year. We are excited to have your students in our classes this year and are looking forward to a fabulous year.

## **FIFTH GRADE NEWS**

Fifth grade is working hard and already doing some great work! We have been busy going over and practicing our rules, routines, and procedures. We started our Benchmark unit in ELA, Cultivating Natural Resources. We will be learning about how our Natural Resources affect our lives. In Math, we are working on decimal place value, and how to read decimals and in Science, we are working on the Nature of Science. Fifth grade students will have reading and math homework weekly. They should also be reading 30 minutes each. Please encourage your students to complete their homework as it sets them up for success this year. We are excited to have your students in our classes, and are looking forward to a great year!!

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS**

Continued on page 6

# SCHOOL INFORMATION



## PARENT LIAISON

Welcome back North Grade Tigers, Volunteers, and Business Partners. We hope you all had a wonderful summer. We are back and ready for another great school year.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you signed up last year to be a volunteer, then you are ready to begin volunteering. You do not need to register again. If you are new to the school and would like to volunteer, you will need to go to the front office and have your license scanned. You will also need to sign up on the front computer to be a volunteer.



## CAFETERIA NEWS

This year all students receive breakfast and lunch at no charge. We do ask that you complete the Income Survey. By completing this survey, it could entitle you to additional benefits. Please notify the Food Service Manager about any dietary restrictions your student may have. If the student has any allergies, we will need the doctor to complete a form with the information. In addition, you must first see the school nurse.



## POPCORN FRIDAYS

In the previous years we would have Popcorn Fridays. Almost every Friday we would sell popcorn at the school. The cost of a bag is \$1.00. We use the money raised to defer the cost of our Safety Patrol Trip to Washington, D.C.

In order for Popcorn Fridays to return, we need parent volunteers to come in early on Friday mornings to pop the popcorn and bag it. If you are interested in volunteering for Popcorn Fridays, please contact the school at 561-202-9301.

## MEDIA CENTER NEWS

We're so excited to be off to a great start in the Media Center. In the next two weeks, 2nd-5th grade students will be coming home with library books. We are working with them now on being responsible with their books and keeping them in their backpacks when they are not reading them. We've also reminded the students to keep the books away from potential hazards like markers, crayons, pets, and younger siblings. Many books were also ruined last year by leaking or sweating bottles in backpacks. Part of our school Guidelines for Success is to Act Responsibly and this is a great opportunity.

Like last year, 3rd - 5th grade students have the opportunity to participate in The Battle of the Books. It is a competition that invites groups of students (up to five on a team) to read 3 books each and then spend an afternoon in the Media Center in early 2025 answering questions about the books with their teammates. The books for this year are: 24 25 SSYRA Book List 3-5 The books will be available for the students to borrow and the eBook versions are also available through the Portal in Destiny. (The students are learning to navigate Destiny in media class.)



## FUN FRIDAYS

Almost every Friday, we have Fun Fridays. Each Friday there will be a different theme, such as, crazy hat day, favorite team day, or pajama day. Students may come to school dressed representing the theme for the week. We send flyers home about the upcoming theme and send out

September 6 – Geometric figures (circles, squares, triangles, etc.)

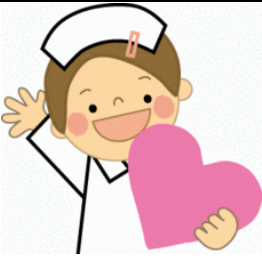
September 13 – Celebrate the Ocean Day (wear all colors of blue)

September 20 – Favorite T-Shirt Day

September 27 – Fall Color Day

## SIS GATEWAY

The SIS Gateway provides parents and students with real-time access to student information including schedule, grades, attendance, assessment data, and much more. We will be sending home the access codes at Open House. If you don't make it to open house, please check your student's backpack for the paper. If you did not receive it or have lost your Parent Letter for Gateway Access, please notify your child's teacher and we will print out a new one and send it home with your child.



## FROM THE DESK OF YOUR HEALTH CARE DISTRICT SCHOOL NURSE:

It is important that up-to-date emergency contact information and working phone numbers are on file for each student. Please be sure to provide the school with any emergency contact changes as well as any new phone numbers, this way you will be able to be reached in the event of an emergency.

If your child has any medical conditions or requires medication in school, please make arrangements to speak to your School Nurse regarding a plan of care for this school year. School Nurses can assist in meeting the health care needs of your child while at school, helping them be better prepared to learn.

For more information visit:

[www.hcdpbc.org/schoolhealth](http://www.hcdpbc.org/schoolhealth)



## SCHOOL WEBMASTER

The North Grade website can be a one-stop place for information about the school. You also can find the email address for any staff member here too. Click on the link below to visit the website.

[SCHOOL WEBMASTER LINK](#)

Check out this page for information about the school and information from the District.

## NORTH GRADE'S SOCIAL MEDIA



If you don't already know, you can follow North Grade on Facebook and Twitter. Our handle for Twitter is:

North Grade@NorthGradeEL

Facebook: North Grade Elementary School



## CAR LOOP PROCEDURES

Your child's safety is very important to us and we have developed guidelines for the Car Loop that ensures your child's safety and that the car loop moves smoothly. We understand parents need to get to work on time.

- Drive through the car loop at a slow speed.
- **There is no exit from the car loop prior to 7:30 am.** You are not allowed to turn around to go out. **The car loop is one way only.**
- Keep your vehicle in the right of the lane. We need the other lane open for staff members coming to work or emergency vehicles. Do not straddle the lane.
- **Parents are not to exit their vehicles** to help their student out. Hugs and kisses should be done in the car.
- The car loop is one way. You are not allowed to exit the car loop in the opposite direction. The gates open at 7:30 am in accordance to School District Policy. If you need to drop off your child prior to 7:30 am, it must be off campus
- The car loop is a single lane. The cones are there to restrict drivers from driving around and passing other vehicles. Do not pass the other cars in line, please.
- No cell phone use while you are in the car loop. There are signs posted.
- All students must be unloaded from the **right** passenger side of the vehicle.
- **All personal items should be inside the vehicle and not in the trunk.**
- If your child is in a child safety seat, please help them out of the seat before you are ready to drop them off.
- Pull all the way forward so you are directly behind the car in front of you. There should be no space.
- Do not unload where there is not a sidewalk.

By following these guidelines, we can keep our students safe and the car loop line moving smoothly.

# SCHOOL INFORMATION



## **PTO NEWS**

Welcome back North Grade Tigers! We hope everybody had a great summer and you are ready for a wonderful school year! The Parent Teacher Organization held its first meeting on Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am. Thank you for those that were able to attend.

The current members of the PTO are hoping to find parents that want to volunteer this year and in the coming years. Current members are eager to spend time with new volunteers, showing them the ropes, so that they can take over when it's time for the current members to "graduate." Signing up for PTO does not commit you to volunteering and help can be offered as much or as little as you like. We also appreciate monetary donations as our operating budget is strictly through parent and community donations. Volunteering can take on many different forms: making copies, sending emails, making social media posts, creating fliers, working events, purchasing items for events, encouraging community sponsors and participation, and coming up with great ideas that make school at North Grade fun and fulfilling for the kids.

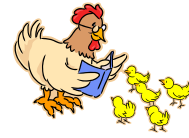
Coupon books are currently for sale. This is the biggest fundraising opportunity for PTO for the entire year. Books, sent home with the students, cost \$25 and offer hundreds of dollars in savings at local restaurants and stores. PLEASE support your child and child's teacher by purchasing a book! If you decide not to purchase the book it should be returned immediately to your students' teacher. If you choose to purchase additional books online, click on the link: [Coupon Books](#) and the portion of money earned from the purchase will be credited to North Grade. Please feel free to share this link with family and friends, even if they do not live in Palm Beach County, as books for other areas can be purchased as well and still be credited North Grade.

Our next meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup> @ 8:15 am in the cafeteria. We hope you can join us.

You can contact us @ [NorthgradePTO@gmail.com](mailto:NorthgradePTO@gmail.com)

Please join PTOs Facebook page for event postings.

## **LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS**



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Every month in the Newsletter we will be offering parents ideas and tips for how they can help their child improve his/her reading skills. One of the most beneficial ways to improve your child's reading skills is by either reading to your child daily or if your child already knows how to read, you can make sure your child reads every night for 20 to 30 minutes.



## **BAND AND CHOIR NEWS**

We are gearing up for after-school clubs in music! Information will be going out soon regarding North Grade Tiger Band (4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade). These groups have a limited capacity and fill up quickly, so please don't hesitate to apply using the link on ClassDojo. We look forward to a great year of music-making!



## **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Mateus competed in the 2024 Area 8 Bowling Tournament at SpareZ in Davie on Sunday, August 11th. He bowled against 3 athletes from South Florida. Mateus earned a Gold Medal with a 2-pin advantage over 2nd Place. Congratulations Mateus! Mateus was also selected to compete in the 2024 Special Olympics Bowling State Games at Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando, September 13th & 14th.

### **SURFING**

Mrs. Howard is stoked to announce the results from the 2024 Special Olympics Surfing State Games in Cocoa Beach. One hundred fifteen surfers from around the state participated in this awesome event sponsored by Ron Jon Surf Shop. Klohe and Mateus waited for the perfect ocean wave swell to earn maximum points during their surfing competition. At times the surf conditions were challenging and crashed over their heads but Klohe and Mateus were able to stay focused and hang on to their surfboard for the perfect ride to the beach. They both earned a GOLD MEDAL which helped their Teammates earn 3 Gold Medals, 1 Silver Medal and 2 Bronze Medals.

# SCHOOL INFORMATION

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

All students were given their IDs to wear during the first week of school. Students are expected to wear them at ALL TIMES. IDs are used for safety purposes as well as meal services at school. If a student refuses to wear their IDs during the school day or forget it at home, they are assigned lunch detention for the day. We encourage students to put their IDs in their backpacks when they get home, so that they are always prepared for the next day of school. If you can help remind your child before they leave in the morning, we would greatly appreciate it.

Starting a new school year in uncertain times can bring many emotions, including anxiety. Anxiety is a common feeling of nervousness or worry. When those feelings stop your children from having fun or doing normal activities, they may need help reducing their anxiety.

How to Help

- Breathe. Practice calming breathing together by taking slow, deep breaths.
- Challenge negative or irrational thoughts by having your children ask themselves questions such as “What evidence is there that makes this thought true or not true?” or “If it did happen, what could I do to cope?”
- Plan. Help your children prioritize and break down tasks into smaller, doable steps.
- Be calm. Model confident and calm behavior for your children.
- Establish an at-home routine. Schedule time for homework, fun, meals, and a bedtime routine.
- Support a healthy lifestyle. Provide healthy meals and time for physical activity. Maintain an appropriate curfew so your children get enough sleep.
- Identify thoughts and name emotions. Describe to your children what you observe and ask in a clarifying manner if that is what is occurring. Asking if, rather than telling what, your children are feeling helps them develop greater ability to name and tame their emotions. For example, “I see you frowning and not talking much. Are you feeling sad?”
- Communicate. Set aside time to talk one-on-one with your children. Connect emotionally by listening and giving eye contact. Validate concerns and avoid lecturing.
- Get help. Talk to teachers about any concerns you have about your children. If you are concerned your children have an anxiety disorder, talk with a counselor, doctor, therapist, or other mental health expert.

### Curriculum Night

Wednesday, September 11th is North Grade K-8 Middle School's Curriculum Night. We hope you are able to join us for the evening to learn about each of your student's classes. You will find their class schedule in your student's SIS portal.

Thank you!

Sonia McGowan (TOSA)



<https://getfortifyfl.com>