



Nova Blanche Forman's Parent Newsletter

Charles L. McCanna, Principal

Janet Calamaro, Intern Principal

Nova News - Fall 2008

The first quarter of the 2008-2009 school year has flown by quickly and everything is going smoothly. Nova Blanche Forman received an "A" grade from the state and also achieved AYP (Annual Yearly Progress). We are very proud of both of the accomplishments. The entire Nova Zone is proud to be "A" schools.

The school is looking great. The front bus loop has been completed and a new roof was put on part of the school. The inside was repainted and now the outside is being painted. The mural by the front door is currently being updated and repainted.

Nova Blanche Forman is very proud to honor Ms. Ramgadoo as our Teacher of the Year. Ms. Ramgadoo is an awesome fourth grade teacher who loves teaching and does a wonderful job of integrating technology into the curriculum. When asked about herself, this is what she said: "It is an honor to be named Nova Blanche Forman's Teacher of the Year. This is my third year teaching here at NBF. Three years ago, I completed my internship with Ms. Mary Beth Mazza. That experience provided me with a rich array of opportunities to effectively communicate with children. After my internship, NBF's wonderful staff welcomed me with open arms. My philosophy as a professional in

the field of education is to enable my students to exceed academic and social expectations while working in a safe and productive learning environment. In addition to teaching, I am pursuing my Master's Degree in Exceptional Student Education at Florida Atlantic University. As an educator, I feel it is necessary to continually seek professional development in areas of technology and curriculum. I am working with an amazing group of learners this year and I am excited to help fulfill their academic goals."

Mrs. Muir, our Micro-Computer Technology Specialist, was voted our School-Related Employee of the Year. When asked about her role and contributions to our school, this is what Mrs. Muir had to say; "I am a micro-computer technology specialist. I have worked for the SBBC for 9 years and at Nova Blanche Forman for 2 years. I am a member of the PTA and SAC, and I love my job! In the two years I have been at NBF, Ms. Ramgadoo and I have written two grants bringing in over \$75,000 in technology hardware and software. In addition, our school has participated in programs such as Investing in Broward's Digital Educators and Glides, which brought in a new laptop and projector for every classroom teacher and provided on-site specialized training for our staff. NBF's reputation as a leader in technology continues to

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reach new heights as we pilot new technology for the district.”

Congratulations once again to Ms. Ramgadoo and Mrs. Muir!

STAR Security System

Please remember that ALL visitors need to check in through the front office when entering our school. Your driver's license will be swiped through our security system and a visitor's pass issued. It is important that when you visit the school for a conference, meeting or classroom event, you only go to the room designated on your pass. Parents should not be wondering the building as this interrupts the learning environment. We are often in need of volunteers, especially for PTA events and field trips. Remember that you can not volunteer at school until being cleared by the SBBC . This must be done on-line each year at www.getinvolvedineducation.com

Bus Stops

This year, transportation is not approving alternative bus stops. This is a district decision and our transportation liaisons are adhering to the new guidelines. If you move, your address needs to first be changed in our school computer prior to issuing a new bus stop. Proof of address is required.

Kindergarten News

Congratulations to our Kindergarten families for getting through the beginning of the 2008 – 2009 school year with much success and happiness! By now, we all know how we come and leave school safely on the bus, as a car

rider, or at aftercare. We have been learning a lot about our letter names and sounds and should be practicing this more by reading at home each night for 15 minutes either alone or with someone. Good job keeping up with the weekly homework. We have also been learning about themes such as apples, leaves, fire safety, and our phone numbers and addresses. We even had a visit from the Fire Fighters! It is very important to remember our personal information in case of an emergency! There is much more fun and learning coming up in the next few weeks. We will be learning about pumpkins, spiders, Halloween fun and farm animals. We will be going on a field trip to The Tradewinds Park Farm on November 25. To celebrate the season, we will be having a Fall Centers Rotation on October 30 along with a Storybook Character Parade on October 31. Make sure to bring your character costume to school along with the book the character comes from. Our Kindergarten success relies on a strong communication between home and school. Please invite your children to share all the wonderful things he or she is learning with you at home. And as always, read! Happy Learning!

Fabulous First Grade

Congratulations go out to Nova Blanche Forman's First Grade. They were chosen to receive a class set of books as part of the *One Picture Book One Community* Project. A copy of the book **Max's Words** by Kate Banks was given to each first grade student to take home, read with their families and keep. Classes have been busy creating class books based on the story which will now

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be sent to the Reading Department as a thank you.

First graders are excited about the new technology being used in the classrooms. Not only are we expanding our keyboard skills on desktops as well as laptops, but our new projectors are adding a multimedia dimension to our learning. Our new document camera lets us get up close and personal to the tiniest items. Students are developing their skills in reading and math using SuccessMaker (CCC). Also, students can develop their reading comprehension skills by participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program whose website can be accessed from home at <http://www.hosted32.renlearn.com/66636>. Student login is their first initial followed by the first four letters of their last name. Their password is their initials.

Many first graders had fun at Science Night doing activities such as making butter as well as learning about scientific processes like cohesion and adhesion.

First graders are enjoying their new Treasures Reading Series which has a wealth of material at all levels. The website for our new reading series as well as other textbooks can be accessed by going to Browardschools.com> BEEP> and clicking on the Student Portal. Students will need to sign in with their student number and birthdate. Students can read along with the book by clicking on the speaker next to the words.

Please remember that your child should be reading at least 15 minutes per night. This is not optional. It is part of their homework. Research shows that daily

independent reading results in a dramatic improvement in reading skills. Thank you for working with us on this goal.

Sensational 2nd Grade News Important Dates & Announcements

- October 16:** We went on our first field trip to the Miami Seaquarium. The students really enjoyed the trip and learned a valuable appreciation for the ocean environment.
- October 22:** Fall Center Day- Our Fall Center day is a day where the students rotate around the classrooms and engage in different activities to further explore the Fall season.
- November 3:** SEAS Field Trip-Broward Performing Arts/ Patriotic Portrait show-The students will attend a performance that will take them on a musical journey through American history and patriotism.
- November 13:** Report Cards go home
- November 26:** Second Grade's Harvest Feast- We have started getting donations for this event, but we still need some more donations and parent involvement. Please contact your child's teacher, if you would like to be involved.

Academics

Reading/ Language Arts: We are off to a great start in reading; we have been focusing on story structure, summarizing, sequencing, main ideas and details. We will be doing a lot of reading and writing this year, so work with

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your child to expand their vocabulary and writing skills by diving into a good book together!

Science: We just finished up our unit on Matter. Please ask your child about all the interesting experiments and facts they have learned about matter. We will be starting our study of the Moon and living and nonliving organisms soon.

Social Studies: We learned about communities and the importance of the community in our lives. We will be learning about Native Americans in November. You can go to the local library and research different Native American tribes and learn more about their contributions to our society.

Math: We worked on place value, graphing, comparing numbers, rounding, skip counting and exploring odd and even numbers. We will soon be starting on money and time. You can help your child look at the ways that they'll use money and time in everyday life!

Third Grade News

Third grade students have been busy learning about Matter and other related concepts. All teachers have been doing many science experiments and demonstrations to strengthen student understanding of these concepts. In five third grade classrooms, teachers have been implementing the use of I-pods on a weekly basis. The use of this new technology is helping us achieve numerous educational goals including but not limited to the introduction of new concepts and summative review of different skills in many subject areas.

The Third grade team and students are SUPER excited to participate in a field trip to Sea World on November 3, 2008.

Students are expected to learn a great deal of information about marine ecosystems and animals. Students will build prior knowledge on various concepts related to processes of life.

All third grade students should be taking advantage of Accelerated Readers Program. After reading AR books for a MINIMUM of 30 minutes everyday, students can check their understanding by taking an online quiz on their AR books. A list of books and directions to the website can be found at Nova Blanche Forman School's home page. Students get points for every quiz and earn classroom or school based rewards and prizes for their efforts. Students should also be practicing their multiplication facts every week.

A great deal of material is covered every single day. Therefore, students should attend school regularly in order to keep up with their assignments and activities. Please visit the website of your child's teacher regularly to view information about homework and several other activities. The Third grade team is looking forward to a great successful school year.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is working diligently on writing. All classes are working on the same prompt each month. Parents can help their children by encouraging better vocabulary. Look for announcements about more information on ways to help your child.

This month is the annual fourth grade trip to St. Augustine. Students participating in the trip will be learning about the history of the Oldest European

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city. Other students will be taking virtual tours on-line, and working on activities to learn about Florida History.

Fourth graders are participating in Commit to be Fit earning awards. The awards are for completing their goals and achievement for eating healthy and exercising.

Please encourage your child to participate in the Publix's Reading for Touchdowns. Participating students brought home their Playbook, and should be working on their daily goal for reading minutes.

FANTASTIC FIFTH GRADE

The teachers are looking forward to an exciting year with our students who have already been extremely busy this year. They have rediscovered matter, mastered new mathematical concepts, participated in numerous writing activities, and have begun the D.A.R.E. program. Classes have shared the novel Walk Two Moons and will soon begin the popular Flush. As we prepare for Marine Lab, students have been immersed in topics related to the ocean and specifically, the coral reef ecosystem.

Fifth grade is proud to welcome new teachers to our team, although they are not exactly new to Nova. First, Ms. Danielle Lombardo officially joined the Nova Blanche staff this year and was a welcome addition to the team. Additionally, Mr. Luis Viveros returned to the south Florida area and to Nova Blanche. Many of you may remember Mr. V from his year here in 4th grade. Both teachers are a tremendous asset to NBF and especially to 5th grade.

As the school year progresses, we ask that parents continue to monitor students' daily reading activities, homework assignment completion, and any projects teachers may assign. Most classes have a monthly book report based on a specific genre. Students have planners that are utilized daily and parental review is also requested. Please visit your teacher's classroom page on TeacherWeb for specifics on each class. We look forward to seeing many of you at our first Honor Roll assembly which will be held in early November.

Guidance Corner

The first marking period has ended successfully without a hitch. Our children are working hard and making wonderful progress – which is what we all hope to see. The big emphasis this year is on bully free schools, which we have stressed for the past few years. Good behavior begins at home with nurturing, fairness, understanding, and consistency and I cannot emphasize that enough. Rules need to be established and explained so children know just why the rules were established. Do listen to your children. Let them express their thoughts about the rules and sometimes we may even gain insights from what they say. When rules are understood, your children will respect your decision(s) and we, the parents won't be the "bully" at home. Under **no** circumstances should you tolerate rudeness from your children. Rudeness at home transfers to rudeness at school. And, that in turn can be misconstrued to a form of bullying. Your children have been taught that there is a difference between tattling and telling. Tattling is when you report someone for behavior that is not your business because you want to see that

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person get into trouble. Telling is totally different. Telling is when you see someone threatening or harming another person in a repetitive fashion and the alleged "victim" may be afraid to let an adult know. Another person, the witness, has a moral responsibility to tell an adult. We have taught our students that no one – child or adult – is permitted to bully another person.

With both school and home working cooperatively together, we will continue to maintain the path of excellence - both academically and behaviorally. We need to keep the channels of communication open between home and school and remember that we are a partnership working to best meet the needs of "our" children so they are able to reach their maximum potential.

TIP TOP TITAN

Congratulations to the following students for being Blanche Forman's Tip Top Titan for the month of September. These students were recognized for following the social skill of **COOPERATION.**

Melanie Quevedo	Mr. Goodman
Carolina Montealegre	Ms. Hays
Gerianne Salamanca	Ms. Martinez
Spencer Grosso	Ms. Queen
Vishnu Anand	Ms. Ribler
Madison Stauffer	Ms. Smith
Alexis Carter	Ms. Wechsler
Bryan Harris	Ms. Bush
Jessenya Barahona	Ms. DeHart
Charlize Barrows	Ms. Hageman
Anika Allen	Ms. Janik
Samantha Carbone	Mr. Morda
Carolina Restrepo	Ms. Stewart
Serena Doyle	Ms. Whelan
Estefano Delgado	Ms. Feller
Alison Aleman	Mr. Kover

Gloria Mendez	Ms. Lopez
Giulianna Reyes	Ms. Moyer
Kayum Chowdhury	Ms. Palermo
Isabella Zayas	Ms. Portuondo
Maria Algarin	Ms. Thompson
Trevann Espinoza	Ms. Archer
Cole Chase	Ms. Batool
Henry Coakley	Ms. Brown
Brianna Harriott	Ms. Dorf
Kevin Fender	Ms. Pena
Samantha Yuan	Ms. Rivera
Nicole Damian	Ms. Taylor
Ashanti McGowan	Ms. Lesinski
Ariel Civelek	Ms. Mazza
Emily Udvardy	Ms. Nelson
Zoe Romero	Ms. Parsons
Cameron McLennan	Ms. Ramgadood
Lauren Margolis	Ms. Roberts
Mark Bonner	Ms. Addeo
Briana Morris	Ms. Bookman
Rebecca Bejusca	Ms. Fuchs
Orellana Smith	Ms. Lombardo
Dominique Marcus	Ms. Munro
Alejandro Fonseca	Ms. Torres
Gladys Paiz-Navarro	Mr. Viveros

Mark Your Calender!

Oct. 27	Second Quarter Begins
Oct. 29	Wear Red Day
Oct. 31, 2:30	Storybook Character / Scientist Parade
Nov. 4	No School
Nov. 5	Class Pictures
Nov. 5, 4:45	SAC/SAF Meeting, 5:30 PTA
Nov. 6	Club Pictures, Make-ups
Nov. 11	No School
Nov. 10-14	Holiday Boutique
Nov. 13	Report Cards Issued
Nov. 17, 2:30	3 rd Grade Honor Roll
Nov. 18, 2:30	4 th Grade Honor Roll
Nov. 19, 2:30	5 th Grade Honor Roll
Nov. 27-28	No School
Dec. 1	Interims Issued
Dec. 2, 4:45	SAC/SAF Meeting, 5:30 PTA
Dec. 22	Winter Break Begins
Jan. 5	Classes Begin
Jan. 13, 4:45	SAC/SAF Meeting, 5:30 PTA
Jan. 15, 1:30	Early Release Day
Jan. 16	No School, Teacher Planning
	End of Second Quarter