

Principal's Newsletter
September 2007

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls:

Another school year is beginning with new programs and activities for us to take advantage of. One such program is a student leadership initiative supervised by our school nurse, Mrs. Grassi. Students will develop conflict resolution skills, strategies to prevent bullying, building and community wide projects such as intergenerational activities, and EARLY ACT, all with an emphasis on ensuring that our school is a friendly and safe place to learn.

We are continuing a monthly book report requirement, whereby students will read one book in addition to assigned reading by their teachers. The book genres and book report formats will vary month to month so that students may read books that they find interesting. Some of the topics will reflect the Character for Life themes and skills of citizenship, mediation and anti-bullying strategies.

Fifth graders will be working with a computer based writing instructional program called Vantage Learning. We used this program last year with our fifth graders and the students demonstrated excellent progress in their writing skills, as they monitored their attainment of the objectives and self-corrected until mastery. After the initial teacher training sessions, we will begin the program and the students will work on their writing several times during the week.

On Friday, September 21, 2007, we are inviting all grandparents or significant others to have lunch with us followed by a tour of the building. Flyers will be sent home in the Wednesday folders with more complete details. Also, please put September 25, 2007 on your calendars for our Open House. Again, more details will follow.

I look forward to another successful year.

Warmest regards,
Shelly Meyers

Special Education Director's Message

The Margate Public School District provides Special Education and related services to approximately 12% of the school age population. We offer a continuum of services, which includes full inclusion in the general education classroom with supports and services, in-class support, and a pullout resource center for reading, math and study skills.

Margate City is reflective of a multi-cultural environment and therefore, we do not have to create a diverse setting. We celebrate the differences of our students by acknowledging diverse cultures, abilities and interests. We provide opportunities for all students to be educated together as they participate in all aspects of the school community.

During the 2004-2005 school year, the Margate Special Services Department participated in mandatory Special Education Self-Assessment. Representatives from the Department of Education completed a site visit on May 8, 2006 to monitor the self-assessment results. We have not received the department's findings to date; however when they arrive, they will be posted on the web site.

The Margate Special Education Department prepared an interest survey, which you received in the mail. The purpose of the survey is to assess the training needs of parents on Special Education issues. Your input is necessary in the selection of topics for parents and staff training for the 2006-2007 school year. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it to the CST office.

The Parent Advisory Committee meeting dates and times will be posted on the special services home page and flyers will be sent home. Our first meeting will be held in October.

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee is comprised of parents, teachers and Child Study Team members. The main goals are to provide information to parents and community members about the special education programs and services offered in the Margate Schools, to promote positive dialogue between parents and teachers in efforts to improve existing educational programs and develop new ones, and to offer parents and teachers opportunities to gain additional information in the field of Special Education.

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Liaisons

Mrs. Rose Cohen-822-3356

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph (Tina) Hoffman-822-0167

Mrs. Susan D'Amico-823-1885

Parent Advisory Committee Meetings Schedule

The first meeting will be held in early October 2006. Flyers will be sent by mail and announcements will be found on this page.

Margate School District Child Study Team
You can contact us @ the following phone numbers:

822-7720

Dr. Shelly Meyers, Director of Special Services-ext. 350

Ms. Jacque Jones, School Psychologist-ext. 354

Mrs. Christy Stack, Social Worker-ext. 356

Mr. Kenneth Basche, Learning Consultant-ext. 358

Mrs. JoAnn Bonanni, Speech Pathologist-ext. 336

Mrs. Deborah Yeager, Speech Pathologist-ext. 241

Mrs. Dorothy Krout, Secretary-ext. 350

Mrs. Mary Repetto, School Nurse @ Tighe School-ext. 103

Mrs. Diane Grassi, School Nurse @ Ross School-ext. 303

Mrs. Nancy Palamaro, School Nurse @ Union Avenue School-ext. 203