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Backpacks, Lunches, Testing, and Start Date for 2014-2015

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The
Academic
Linking Students to Learning
and Parents to Resources **Link**



Holiday Park Everglades Tour is this Friday, April 25th from 10:00 to 11:30. Bring your fishing poles and your fishing license if you want to fish afterwards!

Address is:

**21940 Griffin Road, Fort
Lauderdale, Florida 33332 |
954-434-8111 |**

info@evergladesholidaypark.com
[m](#)



Information

Testing

Testing begins Monday, May 5th. Most students will be taking the CogAt which is a test that provides information on your child's verbal and non-verbal skills as well as information regarding whether he or she is performing academically to his or her potential according to his or her cognitive ability.

To that end, I have ordered a practice test for each student so that he or she will become familiar with the format. These practice tests will be done in class. If the student does not complete the practice test, it will come home to finish with your help. You may keep the practice test - no need to return it.

Backpacks

I spoke with students regarding backpacks this past week, and I apologize for not making parents aware first.

Due to our smaller space and the shorter distances between classes, it is not as necessary to accommodate the rolling backpacks and large cases.

4/25 - Field Trip

5/2 - Mandatory Friday

5/5 - Standardized
Testing

5/14 - End Stand. Testing

5/19 - Registration for
2014-2015 - Information
will be provided.

5/19 - Dr. Forgan Testing
5/20 - Dr. Forgan Testing
5/21 - Dr. Forgan Testing

5/29 - End of Year
Celebration Field Trip -
Peanut Island Adventure *

6/4 - Last day for
discounted Registration
Fee

6/4 - End of Year Awards
and Luncheon*

6/5 - End of 4th Quarter
6/5 - Half Day

6/10 - Summer Academic
Program Begin

6/18 - Report Cards
Mailed

*** - The dates for Peanut
Island Adventure and
the End of Year Party
could change.**



OUR FIRST DAY OF
CLASSES FOR THE
2014-2015 SCHOOL
YEAR IS TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2nd!

This start date allows for

Space is tight in the classrooms, and as students transition from class to class. I have asked students to use the backpacks that have the straps to slip over the shoulders.

Teachers keep each student's books in the class, and except for books that go home with the student for HW, books do not need to be carried from room to room. Should a student have to carry home a heavy book home for HW, he or she can drop off the book to the class it belongs so as to not carry it around for any length of time. Some of the books, such as some of the science books, are heavy. If these books are sent home, students may drop them off to Mrs. Herath. She will keep the book at the front desk for the student until he or she goes home. (Remember, Mrs. Herath forgets NOTHING!)

I have found with all of our students that the larger the rolling cases or backpack the more papers that get lost, and the more unnecessary items that are carried around. Believe me, I have checked. :-)

I have also found that the rolling backpacks and cases damage the walls as they are rolled around and take up quite a bit of space in the classrooms.

I hope you understand and support me on this. We will do what we can to lessen the weight that might need to be carried by holding books for the children. We did try to accommodate the large cases and rolling backpacks last week, but it was not workable. In the church, students left their backpacks under the counter and came back as needed. However, we do not have adequate storage for all the backpacks, especially the large rolling ones, in our small storage space. It looks like we will need this space to store the lunch boxes. Thank you!

Lunch

We will be providing students the option to order pizza on Wednesdays. Each slice is \$2.00. We will order cheese and pepperoni pizzas and provide plates. Students must bring their own drinks.

180 days of school for students who attend five days a week. Students who attend four days a week, will have some HW for Friday so as to fulfill the 180 day requirement. However, keep in mind, that elementary and middle school homeschool students do not need to maintain the 180 days of school.

Our high school students are required to attend Monday through Friday so as to fulfill the 180 day requirement. Students who travel significant distance and/or who have prior approval may work from home on Fridays, but must complete a full day's school work.

We have some excellent changes coming next year that will better serve our students! I look forward to implementing them.

We will have the Health Department visiting for an inspection any day now. According to regulations, we are not licensed to prepare food by microwaving. I am sorry, but we cannot microwave lunches, nor can we allow students to microwave their lunches. Parents will need to put food that needs to stay warm in a thermos. Keep in mind that aluminum foil does not keep sandwiches warm.

Additionally, students are eating outside at the picnic tables and carrying hot food for that distance adds a risk for an accident, especially the hot soups students sometimes bring. I apologize for the inconvenience! When we were in the church, we ate lunch near the microwave, and the church building is not subject to health inspections. We now are.

Also, we have been providing spoons, forks, napkins, and paper plates for students. Quite often, these are donated or left over from parties. We thank you for these donations!

Finally, if anyone has access to building materials, specifically left over counter top material, I would like to replace the top on the island in the kitchen. Currently, there is a large raised cutting board in the center of the island that inhibits our students' use of the space for art and science activities. I would also like to extend the top about 6 to 12 inches to accommodate extra seating. Thank you!

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