

# Gator Gazette

## Meadow Park Elementary

vol. 2.1 – Fall 2018



### Welcome back!

Dear Meadow Park Family,

I want to welcome everyone to the first MPE newsletter of the 2018/19 school year. It is hard to imagine that the first quarter of the school year is behind us. Our teachers are working hard each and every day to ensure your child is learning and growing. At Meadow Park, we want our students to be able to master grade level academic standards and to be able to demonstrate significant growth throughout the school year. We also want our students to be able to develop and adopt important leadership and life skills and exhibit on a daily basis our GATOR expectations.

Families, please take time and read about the wonderful events going on at MPE. I also encourage families to volunteer at school and to participate in the many family involvement activities going on at MPE. We will send home fliers, utilize Facebook, the school website, Remind, and School Messenger to notify you of any up and coming school events. Families are also encouraged to each lunch with their child at school, attend student lead conferences, volunteer for a grade level field trips, become a member of Pit Crew or SAC, and experience our Title I Family Reading Experience. I also want to utilize the newsletter to remind our parents the importance of following car rider drop off and pick up procedures. It is extremely important that we follow the suggested path for our car rider line to ensure the safety of our amazing students and families. Last, I want to encourage all of our students and families to read with one another for at least twenty minutes each evening. Reading together is so powerful! The 2018/19 school year is going to amazing!

Sincerely,

Matt Loge, Principal

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# 3rd Grade

Third Grade is working hard on i-Ready to increase our lessons passed this year. We've started learning many multiplication skills and strategies. The students are very excited about Reflex and

# Intermediate Grades News



# 5th Grade

5<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed having fun with their parents on family recess day. Everyone enjoyed the quality time spent with one another.

The fifth grade students explored how to filter dirty water to make it drinkable. The students worked in small groups of 2 or 3 to create their own filter system from provided items such as gauze, charcoal, sand, cotton balls, etc. It was a great, hands-on, real life learning experience!



# Art

Have you wondered why your students have been bringing small broken toys to school? It's because the Meadow Park Art students are collaborating on a fabulous school sculpture made out of toys. Any small broken or unwanted toy will do! The students are excited about this project and our estimated date of completion is spring 2019.



# School News

## Model UN

Congratulations to our Model UN team! They were given a topic and assigned which side to defend. October's debate was against Peace River Elementary, and our students argued on the side of being FOR school uniforms. Students had to do research, cite their sources, and come up with rebuttals after hearing the other team's argument. I'm happy to announce that the Port Charlotte High students chose them as the winners of tonight's debate!

Congratulations to our Model UN students as well as Miss Amann, Miss Magagnos, and Mr. Probst who really enjoyed working with them!



# Media

Thank you for your support of the Enchanted Forest Book Fair! We could not do the book fair without all the things teachers and parent volunteers do to help make it successful.

## THE RESULTS ARE IN.....

*Total Sales— \$8,395.82*

All For Books Wishing Well -	\$384.50
<i>*Total to be doubled by Scholastic for needy libraries</i>	
All For Books Redeemed- 59 Books/	\$383.60
Books for teachers and volunteers -	\$440
Book Fair Profit -	\$1,750
<i>*To help fund SSYRA and book purchases</i>	

# October is Bullying Prevention Month

## What is Bullying?

You have probably been hearing this word a lot lately; at school, in your neighborhood, and especially in the media, but sometimes it's overused. So, what exactly constitutes "bullying" behavior?

*Bullying is defined as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on others. The behavior is intentional, unprovoked, reoccurring, and involves a real or perceived imbalance of power. These actions can be written, verbal, electronic, or physical.*

It is important to understand this definition. School-aged children are frequently involved in conflicts with other students. Many times, these conflicts are referred to as "bullying" even if they don't fit the above definition. Many times the conflict is two sided, but parents only receive one side of the story when students come home. On the other hand, sometimes these conflicts can turn into situations that are more serious if not handled promptly.

Bullying can be both direct and indirect. Sometimes it happens face to face or directly via email or social media. Other times it is indirect such as spreading rumors, gossiping, or social exclusion. We treat all bullying situations very seriously no matter the circumstance.

## What is the school doing to help?

This year, all our students received bully prevention training from school resource officers with follow up conversations from classroom teachers. As conflicts arise throughout the year, students are given conflict resolution assistance from Mrs. Elek, Dr. Bo, or Deputy Orneas. All students are aware of the ways to report bullying on campus both written, verbally, or through our electronic anonymous bully button online.

## What can parents do to help?

- Communicate regularly with your child. Ask about their day and encourage them to give details about their academics, personal interests, after school activities, etc. Get to know their friends and their friends' parents. Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Encourage them to be involved. Being involved in school and in extra-curricular activities can boost confidence, help kids make friends, keep them busy, and protect them from bullying behavior.
- Monitor **ALL** technology usage. There are many popular apps that students are using for cyber bullying and your student might not even realize it. A few popular ones to be aware of are Instagram, Snapchat, Musical.ly, Ask.fm, Kik, Xbox Live, Vine, and YikYak.
- Model how to treat others with kindness and respect. Your kids are ALWAYS watching you. Small comments or gestures that are meant as "jokes" to adults can become learned behavior for children.
- Teach them how to be an advocate in the right way. Students need to feel comfortable standing up for themselves and others. Help them learn conflict-resolution strategies instead of fighting back verbally or physically.

## What can students do to prevent bullying?

- Be careful with your words and actions, and be aware of how they can affect others.
- If you witness bullying, do not participate. By giving the bully an audience, you are supporting their actions. Don't laugh or gossip about the bullying afterwards.
- Tell the bully to stop. Be firm. Tell them what they're doing isn't nice.
- Support the victim. Try to get the student away from the bully if possible. After the bullying occurs offer kind words or help.
- Tell an adult what's going on. It's important to try and stop bullying when you can, but it is also important that adults know what is happening so they can intervene as well. It is not being a tattler if another student is hurting.

**We want Meadow Park to be a safe environment where everyone is free to learn and grow. We all need to do our part to make sure that happens! Spread kindness to everyone. Always!**