

## Building Bridges to the Future



# R.W. BLAKE ACADEMY



**Principal:** Mrs. Sybille Oldham-Jackson  
**Assistant Principals:** Ms. Rachael Tedder  
Dr. Tanya C. Dunnells

February 2018

### FSA Testing

FSA testing begins in March with FSA ELA Writing for 4th through 7th grade students on Tuesday, March 6th and 8th grade will test on Wednesday, March 7th. Please see the website for additional testing date information.

*It is very important to have each student here, everyday, on time (by 7:45am).* Students who have a test scheduled for that morning that arrive late will be held in the office until testing is complete. They will be required to make up the test at a later time or date. You can help your child do his or her best by sending them to school well rested. Encourage them to take the test seriously; however, do not add unnecessary pressure.

### Mrs. Oldham's Corner

The students have done a great job settling in after the holidays and they are focused on learning. Thank you for getting your children here on time every day. It really helps the classroom environment when there are no interruptions! Attendance is very important this second semester. The teachers are presenting new information on a daily basis and once your child misses that instruction, it can never truly be recovered. Please plan trips and appointments for after school hours. Appointments during the school day can be a problem for your student and the other students learning in the classrooms, so please plan ahead. It is very helpful to ensure that all attendance notes and transportation changes are written in your child's agenda. This ensures that the teacher sees it. TNL is coming up on Feb. 8, 2018. I hope you will plan to attend and help us celebrate Black History month!

Mrs. Sybille Oldham-Jackson,  
Principal

### Dates:

**February 5-9**  
FTE Week

**February 6**  
Interim Reports go home

**February 7**  
Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night

**February 8**  
TNL—African American History  
6:00-7:00 pm

**February 9**  
Sweetheart Dance  
Grades 6-8

**February 19**  
Holiday—No School

**February 23**  
Spring Book Fair  
Begins

**February 22– Mar. 1**  
STAR Testing  
Window

**February 26**  
Student Holiday—No  
School

### PTO Corner

Welcome back teachers and students! We are excited to announce the start of Blake Academy's 2018 Parent Teacher Organization. The goal of our PTO is to create a stronger connection between our teachers and parent/guardians, as well as enhance our school community! WE NEED YOU AND ANYTHING HELPS, even an hour whenever you can! If you are interested please email Ilani Williams at [ilanidwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:ilanidwilliams@gmail.com), with your help this year will be the best yet between our parent/guardians and teachers here at Blake Academy! Thank you for all for your excitement and support!

### Safety Info

All visitors to Blake Academy must present their picture identification to gain access to the campus. Thank you for your help keeping our kids.

### The Love and Logic Approach

This program is known as Parenting with Love and Logic, a philosophy founded by Jim Fay and Foster W. Cline, M.D., and based on the experience of a combined total of over 75 years working with and raising kids.

Many parents want their kids to be well-prepared for life, and they know this means kids will make mistakes and must be held accountable for those mistakes. But these parents often fail to hold the kids accountable for poor decisions because they are afraid the kids will see their parents as being mean. The result is they often excuse bad behavior, finding it easier to hold others, including themselves, accountable for their children's irresponsibility.

Jim Fay teaches us that we should "lock in our empathy, love, and understanding" prior to telling kids what the consequences of their actions will be. The parenting course Parenting the Love and Logic Way teaches parents how to hold their kids accountable in this special way. This Love and Logic method causes the child to see their parent as the "good guy" and the child's poor decision as the "bad guy." When done on a regular basis, kids develop an internal voice that says, "I wonder how much pain I'm going to cause for myself with my next decision?" Kids who develop this internal voice become more capable of standing up to peer pressure.

What more could a parent want? Isn't that a great gift to give your child? Parent child relationships are enhanced, family life becomes less strained, and we have time to enjoy our kids instead of either feeling used by them or being transformed from parent to policeman.

### Love and Logic in Action

Dad: "Oh, no. You left your bike unlocked and it was stolen. What a bummer. I bet you feel awful. Well, I understand how easy it is to make a mistake like that." (Notice that the parent is not leading with anger, intimidation, or threats.) Dad then adds, "And you'll have another bike as soon as you can earn enough money to pay for it. I paid for the first one. You can pay for the additional ones."



### Strategies for doing your best on tests

As we all know, the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) is quickly approaching. In the past, this may have been a reason for great alarm and those dreadful butterflies in the stomach. Well, it is time to say goodbye to those pesky butterflies! These basic, easy-to-apply strategies will make a world of difference before and during the FCAT.

- ◆ Understand how you will be scored on the FSA and learn what your score means to you and your school. Visit [www.fsassessments.org](http://www.fsassessments.org) for more information.
- ◆ Study hard in each and every class because reading and math can be found in every class that you take.
- ◆ Listen and learn from your teachers when they provide FSA tips and learning experiences that urge you to "think".
- ◆ Studies show that kids who watched fewer than three hours of television a day scored higher on standardized reading tests than those who watched more.
- ◆ Read newspapers, magazines, food labels, recipes, letters, and instructions, in addition to fiction and nonfiction books.

## PE News

Elementary P.E. is continuing with our striking module.  
The weather is fluctuating be prepared with jackets for cooler days and be prepared for the warmer days as well.

## Yearbook and Newspaper News

## Academic Team News

This year's A-Team was again under the direction of Ms. Heather Robitaille. We are very proud of our team and each member for working very hard, staying after school, and putting in long hours at home studying. The students that made up this year's team were: Alannys Cruz, Meagan Garrison, Jackson Ince, Cienna Marine, Maggie Perkins, DeShawn Saddlers, Toby Thompson, Steven Velazquez, and Julius Williams.

We only have about 35 (2017-2018) yearbooks left to sell at \$35.00 each. You have the split payment option of paying \$25.00 now and \$15.00 in May when the books arrive (**No refunds**). Please send cash or money order to Mrs. Wetherington in room 203. A receipt will be sent via your child's agenda the following day. We will stop selling yearbooks march 2<sup>nd</sup>. **After that date, we will begin a waiting list for any extra books we "may" get for \$40.00 each due at yearbook pick up.** We also have student Newspapers for sale for only 25 cents!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a yearbook ad this year! We sold all of our available space! Email Mrs. Wetherington at: [antje.wetherington@polk-fl.net](mailto:antje.wetherington@polk-fl.net) to reserve space for next year! Remember 8<sup>th</sup> grade ad space goes quickly! Family Ad prices are \$10 for SHOUT OUT small ad, \$35 for business card size ad, \$50 for ¼ page, \$75 for half page and \$125 for full page! Business ads are slightly higher in price. All ads are in FULL COLOR and we have the BEST yearbook ad prices anywhere! \*\*\*\*\* **You can also reserve next year's 2018-1019 yearbook for only \$25.00!**

**Yearbook is selling "real" carnations Now-Feb.12 for only \$3.00 each while supplies last!** They will be delivered to your student **ON VALENTINE'S DAY! Wednesday, February 14.** Order forms were sent home already and you can get additional forms in the office. Hurry! Please send exact cash! While supplies last! We cannot accept LATE orders!

Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures of your student with their favorite emoji! We got lots of them! Our space is full now! Thanks!

Please start saving **NOW** for the month long APRIL SPCA Drive! We will collect pet food, treats, toys and other items for the Lakeland SPCA!

## Dr. Seuss Celebration

Your help is requested, Your help we do need! Come join our celebration, come and do read!

What: A Dr. Seuss reading celebration for all small and all tall (grades K-5).

When: Friday, March 23, 2018

If you or someone you know is able to come out and read to our students, please let us know. . Please RSVP to Mrs. Champion: [Rebecca.champion@polk-fl.net](mailto:Rebecca.champion@polk-fl.net) OR call 863-499-2870

Your help is very important and appreciated!



