

Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004

banyanschool.com

Upcoming Events

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
Early Dismissal	Yom Kippur	September 19	All Day

MRS. SANSONE'S CLASS NEWS

My FIRST (Focused Intensive Reading Strategies & Techniques) students are off to a great start this school year! My period 4 & 5 class have been reviewing their letters-keywords-sounds for consonants and short vowels. Keywords help students recall the sounds more easily when decoding and encoding phonetically-regular words. My period 7 & 8 student has been reviewing all taught syllable types. Identifying syllable types helps students determine the vowel sound for that syllable. Keep up the great work!

MR. HOFMANN'S NEWS

Welcome back to all Banyan students and parents, I hope you all had a terrific summer! The gym looks magnificent with freshly painted walls, new lighting, and a polished floor.

On the first day of Phys Ed class, the students started off the new school year by playing full-court Connect 4 and learning how to do proper push-ups. Then I set up a course in the gym for miniature golf. Perhaps the next Tiger Woods can be found in the hallways at Banyan.



Back to School Night!!

September 26 – 7:00 PM



MRS. RALLO'S CLASS NEWS

Welcome back! It was great seeing all of the students return to school last week. They all seemed to have grown a bit during the summer! I saw lots of smiles and heard many stories about their exciting adventures.

As we get back into the swing of things, students will be spending time reviewing skills. TMC students will begin defining the structure words from the *Lindamood Bell Visualizing and Verbalizing Program*. They will learn to analyze images before applying this strategy to visualizing short passage and poems. Reading students will practice comprehension skills such as main idea and connecting to text prior to beginning a novel. Writing students are presently completing a writing sample which will be used as a baseline. Once completed, they will review several basics including how to recognize complete sentences, apply capitalization and punctuation correctly, and brainstorm. Narratives will be the first type of writing to be introduced to the students.

I will explain class work, homework, and goals for the year at Back to School Night. Please contact me whenever you have any questions or concerns. Looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

MS. GROSS' SPEECH NEWS

Welcome back from Ms. Gross and Mrs. Tuli in the Speech Suite!! We are both so excited to be working with the students to continue to improve their speech and language skills. Look for your child's speech notebook to come home this week as this will be used for communication purposes!

Looking forward to fantastic fun in speech this year!

MRS. BOYSEN'S

Welcome Back! I would like to ask any parent who has not sent in health forms to please do so as soon as possible. It is very important to have updated health information for your child so I may better care for them.

Please send in a nutritious snack for your child every day along with fresh water. Your child may carry their own water bottle with them throughout the day. Please, NO glass bottles!

Flu season is upon us. Please get your child vaccinated to help prevent the spread of germs.

Diane T. Boysen, RN



From Mr. Hofmann

Robert Taylor enrolled at Banyan Elementary School for mainly academic reasons. Little did he know that he'd make lots of acquaintances along the way.

Turns out, they'd be friends for life.

Taylor, a 2014 Banyan High School graduate, ran into several old friends at Banyan School's 25 Year Anniversary Celebration, which was held at Banyan Elementary School's Fairfield campus on Sept. 8.

They laughed and reminisced about the good memories at the party, which included an enormous food spread and DJ as well as an inflatable obstacle course, video game van, and Carnival games.

"I received the invitation a couple of months ago, and when I heard that some of my friends were going, I decided that I had to go," Taylor said. "It didn't take me too long to RSVP."

Paul Silliere, a 2014 Banyan High School graduate and 2016 Life Skills graduate, jumped at the chance to come back as well.

"I wanted to go because I felt it was really important to be there," Silliere said. "It was a nice way to celebrate a once in a lifetime moment and a way to say thank you for what Banyan has done not just for me but for all of the students."

The celebration wasn't limited to graduates. Current students and their families attended as well. Close to 250 members of the Banyan community were on hand.

"I thought it was amazing," said Danielle DeRosa, a Banyan board member whose son, Anthony, is a seventh grade student. "It was a nice way to celebrate. You could tell it was heartfelt."

DeRosa lauded the fact that past students returned to their old school

"Past students came back and that showed that Banyan was in integral part of their lives," she said. "We all come together at Banyan and the celebration brought everyone together. The students were so happy to be there, and parents are so happy to see their children happy."

Carrie Nugent, whose daughter Grace graduated from Banyan Elementary school in June, agreed.

"I loved it," she said. "It was so nice seeing teachers and old friends. The fact that so many people attended showed how they feel about the school. It was also so nice to see so many of the teachers. The school being so successful after 25 years, it was a huge accomplishment."

"For all of the graduates to come back – even from the first graduating class, really says a lot."

Taylor and Silliere were two of past graduates. When offered the chance to come back for the celebration, both of them jumped at it.

Taylor looked at different schools before enrolling at Banyan. His parents weighed each school's strengths and then considered their options.

"I almost chose a different school because there appeared to be more sociability," he said. "In the end, my parents chose Banyan for me because of academics. The other school wasn't challenging enough. And had I not chosen Banyan, I never would have met all of the friends I saw at the celebration."

Silliere, who attends Essex County College and majors in Liberal Arts, found reason to celebrate Banyan as well.

"I originally came to Banyan because the school I was at wasn't as accommodating," Silliere said. "All of the staff at Banyan worked with me and the other students both academically and socially. Banyan helped me get to college and become a successful student."

"Everyone was happy to be there," he said. "It's really good to stay connected socially and a great way to celebrate all of the successes Banyan has had. I don't believe I'd have ever gone to college if not for Banyan. It was a great reason to celebrate and we'll never forget that day for the rest of our lives."

Taylor graduated from Essex County College and now attends Rutgers-Newark, where he is majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Art.

But his heart remains at Banyan

"It's really interesting," he said. "Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog."

SOCIAL SKILLS

Welcome to Social Skills!

Our counseling team welcomes you to the start of new year! Dr. Rick and myself are located in room 10, or as we affectionately call it, the counseling room! You can find us running social skills groups and working with students individually to meet their social and emotional needs. We also have the support of two psychology interns who will be assisting us for the year. Social Thinking by Michelle Garcia Winner is the curriculum we use with our students. The Social Thinking curriculum provides strategies that enhance a student's abilities to focus their social attention to interpret the social context and then socially problem solve to figure out how to respond appropriately. We follow a four-step process guiding students to socially attend, interpret, problem solve, and respond to social information, and to use their evolving social competencies across contexts, whether they are in a classroom, on a playground, at home, or in the community. Teachers and staff alike utilize Social Thinking in their classrooms and we are eager to present this information to parents as well! Each month we will introduce a new Social Thinking topic to your child in our social skills group and throughout the month practice and build upon these strategies. Please refer back to the Banyan News for monthly updates on our topics and helpful techniques you can use at home! Please feel free to contact us with any questions!

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The Counseling Team,

Ms. Miranda Dekker, Msw, Lcsw

Dr. Rick Manista, PsyD, Ma, Edm

MS. VANDENBREE'S CLASS NEWS

Welcome back! It has been a great first week of school at Banyan!

My FIRST (Focused Intensive Reading Strategies & Techniques) classes, periods 1 & 2, 3 & 4, and 7 & 8 have been working really hard on the WADE (Wilson Assessment of Decoding and Encoding) and the WIST (Word Identification and Spelling Test). Also, we have gotten back into the class routine and been reviewing previous concepts. My TMC (Training Minds to Comprehend) class period 9 has been working on listening comprehension skills. They also have been using structure word cards to help organize their visualizing and verbalizing skills. Keep up the great work!

MR. CUELLAR'S CLASS NEWS

Welcome Back! I am Mr. Cuellar or Mr. C and I teach multiple subjects, FIRST, Math and Reading, but built in to my day is running the Vistas program. Vistas started a few years ago as a transitional program from 8th grade to high school. As we started this year, one question that might pop is, "Where will my 8th grader go to High School?" As a school, we want to discuss these topics and address them as best as we can which is why the Vistas Program was established as a weekly class. The Vistas Program is based from Naviance, an online college and career readiness platform, which is geared to help students explore their interests and strengths and develop a course of study that matches long-term goals with an actionable plan. Throughout the year, we will discuss what their passions are along with identifying attainable goals. Our goal for the students is to name, claim, and aim for their futures