



# Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004  
banyanschool.com

## *Upcoming Events*

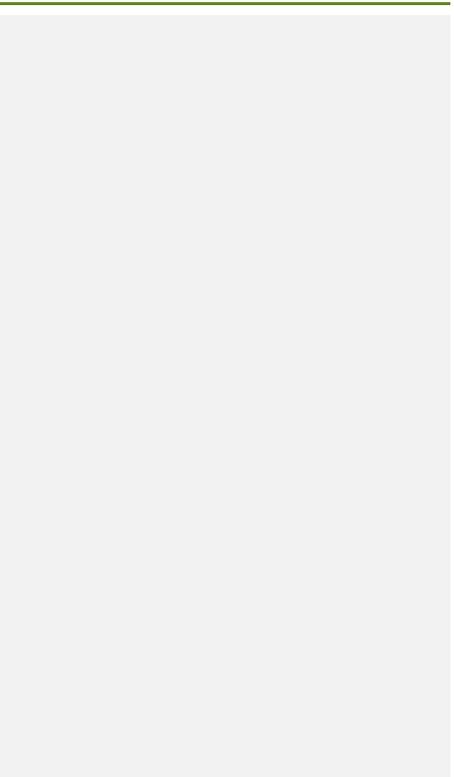
<b>Event:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>
<b>Back to School</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>September 26</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

### **MRS. MARTIN'S CLASS NEWS**

The school year has started and I wanted to let you know I am excited for another successful year! I will keep you informed on what we are doing in class and any upcoming events in the Banyan News. In FIRST class we are reviewing rules we learned from last year and will continue working in Wilson.

### **MS. ZATUROSKA'S CLASS NEWS**

My first period reading class is working on their short vowel words. We have started reading new books this week from the Moon Dogs Series. This week, we have been reading the stories, "Kip's Bad Leg," and "Is it Matt?" We have been incorporating Lindamood Bell's "Visualize and Verbalize" program in our reading. The students have been practicing describing what they read by creating a picture in their minds and have been describing who the characters are and what they are doing in the story. My fourth period reading class has been doing an excellent job working on their letters and sounds. We have been working hard on rhyming words and our sight words. We've also been listening to read alouds and describing who the main characters are and what the setting of the story is.



## **MRS. SANSONE'S CLASS NEWS**

Attention all parents:

All Banyan students have access to a free reading website/app called Lexia. Please be on the lookout for your child's username and password. This information will be sent home from your child's FIRST or Vocabulary teacher. This program is a great resource to practice all reading skills, including comprehension. You can feel free to have your child use this program at home for extra practice. Please be sure your child completes the program independently. The program will adjust as needed, providing more support if your child needs extra practice, or it will move at a quicker pace if your child is showing mastery of a certain skill. Information about RAZ-Kids and Learning Ally will be sent home next week. Stay tuned!

## **SOCIAL SKILLS NEWS**

Every month we are emphasizing one Social Thinking strategy in all of our social skills groups! I'll be announcing the strategy here and giving some "homework tips" on how to use the strategy at home.

For September, we are exploring the differences between thoughts and feelings. One way we learn about this is practice using our filters. Often we get thoughts in our heads, but sometimes we cannot say them out loud! We have to learn how to keep some thoughts in our head. If we don't, we may say something hurtful to others.

One game we like to play is "secret keeper". One person in the group gets to be the hider. They hide an object in the room. After they do this, they write down where they hid it on a picture of a brain. But they don't show that brain to the group. While the group looks, the hider can give hints where the object is hidden. But the hider CANNOT say what is written on the brain picture! If the hider says what is on the paper or does not use his/her filter, their turn is over. If they keep that idea in their brain, they win!

This game requires learners to use impulse control and perspective taking to work with the group. This is a fun game to play at home as well!

## **MRS. WILSON'S MATH NEWS**

### **Time and Money Fridays**

All math classes will be devoting Fridays to time and money concepts this year. The importance of time and money in our daily lives is so important and we hope this dedicated effort will benefit all our students. Please encourage time and money awareness at home. My students have been enjoying reading the weekly Shop-Rite advertisement. There is so much practical math in this simple activity—price awareness, fractions, decimals, percents. Everyone loves looking for their favorite food item. We will build in additional activities as the year progresses.

### **IXL**

All students have received their login cards and a parent introductory letter explaining the IXL supplemental math practice website. If you have not received this information, check your child's binder. IXL provides a wealth of extra practice opportunities in math. Last year, Banyan students collectively completed over 78,000 extra practice problems. That is quite impressive, don't you think?

## **MRS. ONSDORFF'S CLASS NEWS**

The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time for students to share their activities and adventures from the summer. In my TMC (*Teaching Minds to Comprehend*) classes, the students have been doing an excellent job with their listening comprehension. They are having great conversations with their classmates about summer activities. They have been very engaged and are formulating appropriate questions about their friends' adventures. The students are sequencing their stories and extending their responses using many descriptive adjectives. They are looking forward to sharing their adventures with photos to enhance the visualizations and review the structure words.

## **MR. MALDONODO'S MUSIC NEWS**

Welcome to another new year at Banyan School! There are so many things going on. Students are working hard in each of their classes, especially in music. Students will be working towards the Winter Concert. This year will be different from the past 2 years' concerts. Half of the school will be working to playing instruments, including xylophones, drums, claves, and other percussion instruments. It will be such a great sight to see! The other half of the students will be working on singing Broadway songs and songs from movies. It will be such a great sight to see our students succeed and have fun while doing it. I hope to see you soon!