



*Yolanda L. Valls, Principal*

*Amor Reyes, Assistant Principal*

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Mae M. Walters Elementary School family, I welcome you to the 2009-2010 school year. We are pleased to inform you that, for the sixth year in a row, we have earned an 'A' as designated by the Department of Education, due to the outstanding effort from our students, teachers, and parents. We look forward to an exciting and productive year as we continue to set high expectations for all our students. However, we recognize that it can only be accomplished through a cooperative effort between school and home. As the parent, you play a vital role in the education of your child and we are confident that you will continue to take an active role by attending scheduled meetings and workshops, and by helping at home.

Frequent school-to-home communication will help create a stronger bond between parents, teachers and administrators. With that goal, this newsletter will be sent home each month to inform you of the exciting activities and news from Mae M. Walters Elementary School.

Once again, our staff is truly looking forward to meeting and working closely with each of you. Our commitment is to continue providing the best possible education for your child.

### SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND BREAKFAST

General morning supervision begins at 7:30 a.m. All students are encouraged to participate in our **free breakfast program that provides a nutritious meal to start the day.** After breakfast, students will report to their designated areas to wait for their teacher. Students arriving between 8:20 and 8:30 a.m. must report directly to their classroom. After 8:30 a.m. students must report to the cafeteria to get a tardy pass.

### DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

**Parent Pick-Ups:** Students are expected to be picked-up promptly. At 2:00 p.m., Prekindergarten and Kindergarten students will be picked up through the Kindergarten gate; first grade to the left of the main entrance. At 3:00 p.m. (except on Wednesdays, when they are dismissed at 2:00 p.m.), second and third grade will be picked up to the left of the main office; fourth and fifth grade to the right of the main entrance, in front of the cafeteria.

**Bus Students:** Students who ride the M-DCPS bus will be walked directly to the bus at dismissal. Those who ride private buses will wait in the cafeteria until the buses arrive. At said time, they will be escorted to the bus by the bus drivers or school personnel.

**Walkers:** Teachers will escort students to the appropriate exit. Students should follow all safety guidelines to and from school. Encourage your child to use the sidewalks and crosswalks where there are crossing guards.

### UNIFORM POLICY

Mae M. Walters Elementary School is a mandatory uniform school. Therefore, all students are required to wear the school uniform daily. Parents will be called if a student is not properly dressed. Appropriate clothing will need to be brought to the office in order for the student to return to class. Uniforms may be purchased from uniform companies and many department stores. Our school colors are hunter green (polo shirts) and khaki (pants or skirts). Blue jeans and shorts are NOT acceptable. It is required

that all students wear closed toe shoes or sneakers to school. Wearing the school uniform helps develop pride in appearance, improves school discipline, eliminates fashion fads and results in less expensive purchases for school clothes. Waivers to not wear the school uniform may be picked-up from the school's principal.

Wednesday is Spirit Day at school. On that day ONLY, students are allowed to wear other school-sponsored T-shirts, i.e. Chess Club, FEA, Field Day and PTA, to show school spirit.

Students are not allowed to wear shoes with rollers, nor are they allowed to bring book bags with rollers.

### SECURITY POLICY

In order to ensure the safety of our students and staff, we are asking our parents to assist us in protecting our school. Please drop off your children after 7:30 a.m. at either the 32 or 33 Street entrances. If you come for school-related business, we ask all our visitors to enter through the main entrance located at 650 W. 33 Street and report to the main office for a visitor's pass. This entrance will be staffed with a security monitor at all times during school hours. All other exterior doors and gates will be locked to prevent entry from the outside. We appreciate your support as we strive to maintain a safe environment for our students and staff.

### OPEN HOUSE

Our Open House has been scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This important school event gives parents the opportunity to become familiar with your child's teachers, classroom rules, school procedures, curriculum standards and much more. We encourage all parents to attend.

### SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (SES)

We encourage you to complete the SES tutoring forms sent to you. This is a great opportunity to receive free tutoring. If you do not want the services offered, simply mark "no" on the appropriate box and return form to your child's teacher by 9/8/09.

### DIAL-A-TEACHER

This program provides students with homework help in most subjects from Monday through Thursday, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. by calling 305-995-1600.

### MANDATORY READING LOGS

As part of the district wide home learning policy, all students are required to read, or be read to, thirty minutes each evening. Your child will be taking home a Reading Log to record that he/she has read the required time. Please make sure you review and sign it daily. Remember that, as parents, you are the most important teachers. Reading is the basis for all success and must be encouraged at home.

### AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We offer an After School Care Program for our students through the YWCA. It provides a safe and fun environment on our school campus from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Adjusted rates are available for care from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. For cost information, please call 305-558-2806 or stop by the school and speak to the program manager between the operating hours of 1:45 and 6:00 p.m.