

GRIFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monthly Newsletter – Volume 4

December 1, 2020



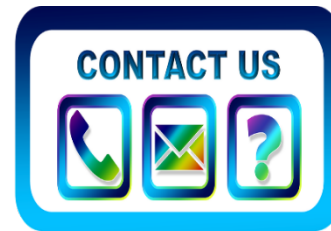
Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER



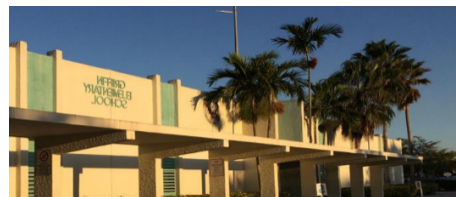
Dear Griffin Families,
As we conclude 2020, and break for the winter holiday, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all that help make Griffin an amazing place to be. We were faced with many challenges this year. Both educators and parents became eLearning teachers overnight. It is most certainly an historical year and will not be forgotten. I have personally witnessed our Griffin community come together as a true community family to celebrate and support each other, never losing sight of our main purpose...the children. It is also during this time I am reminded of my own good fortune to serve as the proud principal of Griffin Elementary.

New Changes:

The school board has approved for eLearning at home to continue for the rest of the school year. If you would like your child to return to school F2F, please notify the classroom teacher, so that he/she can prepare for incoming students. This will also help administration with the operational aspects to follow CDC guidelines. We recommend F2F students be consistent with their attendance.



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STAYING SAFE!

Please notify the teacher should your child become ill or test positive for COVID-19, so that we can evaluate the situation and determine if further precautions or notifications are necessary.

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our students, staff and families. We will continue to follow all COVID-related safety procedures as defined in reopening plans. We strongly encourage you to visit our COVID-19 resource page at www.browardschools.com for links to helpful resources.

When we work together, we can ensure the safety of everyone in our school community. We appreciate your flexibility and support.

My Wish for you!

I would like to thank the staff, students and parents for their continued support for the 2020 school year. The new year will bring new learning experiences, new challenges and new opportunities. I look forward to what lies ahead for us as a school community in 2021. I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a prosperous new year.

**Ms. Jacque Sanchez**

She was selected as the one of the FINALIST for the Broward County School Related Employee of the Year. We are so proud of you! Her interview is scheduled for 12/9/20. We wish her well.

Griffin Student Council Officers 2020-2021

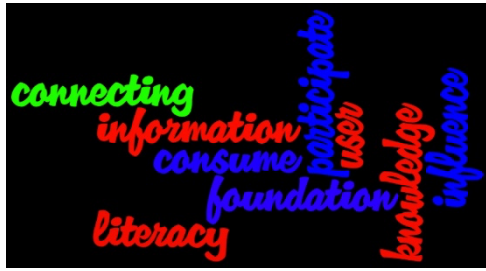
President: Alyna Rodriguez

Vice President: Sean Jukes

Treasurer: Summer Bayne

Historian: Elle Lawrence

Looking forward to your new initiatives and leadership! Thank you Ms. Benner and Mr. Anorga for leading this group of students.



Literacy Corner

Ms. Chmura – Literacy Coach

The Holiday Season is upon us. If you are thinking about gifts for your child, consider including a book or two. Young readers will enjoy an opportunity to read with an adult or show off their new skills by reading on their own. Older readers will be able to be whisked away into a world of fiction or explore topics of curiosity. Another gift that will last all year is a magazine subscription. The cool part is that your child will look forward to its arrival each month!

Don't forget those tried and true board games, as well. They are wonderful at building basic math skills and reading skills and will cut screen time while enhancing social skills. Other items like puzzles will also reduce screen time and build critical thinking skills.

Should you like a recommendation or two on some awesome books, feel free to contact Mrs. Berger, our media clerk. She can give you many options from the latest high interest books and series for various ages to those that can help build needed skills.

Take some time this holiday season to reduce yours and your child's screen time and delve into a great book, an engaging puzzle, or exciting board game. Over the Winter Break, try to participate in some outside activities as well. Leave the computers,, laptops, and iPads behind and enjoy some face to face time with your family!

Happy Holidays from Mrs. Chmura

Media News



2020 is closing out and I am so thankful for each one of you. I know that you're working hard and going above and beyond in helping your child blossom. December brings winter

break, and that's a great time to explore new interests, whether it be crafting, sports, new places, or cooking! If your child loves cooking, let them find a recipe, read it, and make it with you. Crafting is a great way to encourage reading and critical thinking. Find a craft book, read about different ideas, choose one, and create. Reading is such a great way to develop vocabulary, stronger social skills, and process complex ideas. It's also a great way to spend time with your child and show them how much you love them.

Digital books may be found on Clever either through Tumblebooks or Follett Destiny (Catalog-Destiny Discover-Axis 360). Please email me, your Media Clerk (valerie.berger@browardschools.com), if you need suggestions or further help.

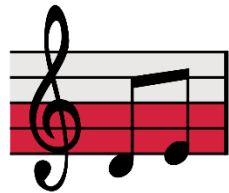
SPECIALS CORNER

ART – Ms. Stojack



This is a great time of the year where we have huge celebrations. For the Month of December, at the Art room we are very enthused with all the holiday festivities, as they present great visual input to be applied through engaging and captivating lessons. Students will be working with three Elements of Art: Line, Shape and Color. Lessons will be tailored to re-connect students during this wonderful time of the year. The objective is to deepen students understanding of social and cultural context through their own creations of artistic ideas.

MUSIC – Mrs. Palmer



I am so proud of our Fourth and Fifth Grade music students for creating their own music on Q-Grooves Lite from Quaver. The students are choosing different tiles of music patterns in many different genres of music to create their own songs on the computer. Their song can be downloaded for Power point presentations and their ring tone for their cell phone. Many thanks to our PTA for purchasing this past year's subscription for Quaver music. It is an outstanding music education computer program. Students can work on their composition in music class, in after care, and at home if they want to.

Students in grades K through 2 have been learning how to read music while playing Halloween rhythms, turkey rhythms, and now December rhythms while tapping their pencils or old markers on their desk. Students have been singing and/or dancing to Holiday and celebration music.

P.E. News from Ms. Norrell



We are enjoying this nice change in the weather during outdoor P.E. classes! This month we are working on line dances, like the Cupid Shuffle and the Electric Slide, in P.E.! Congrats to the many students in grades 1-5 who continue to complete their weekly Exercise Logs in Canvas. The last Exercise Log (#8) for this second quarter will be published on Canvas December 17th. Have a healthy and relaxing holiday break!

S.T.E.M. Happenings from Mrs. Bencivenga



We will be celebrating an Hour of Code throughout the month of December in honor of CSEd week (Computer Science Education). Throughout the month students will be engaged in basic coding activities, introductions to various robots and more! Feel free to

have the entire family join the coding fun the week of Dec. 7th by visiting [Code.org](https://code.org) or by joining your child on Code.org via the Clever portal. I hope you enjoy participating in an Hour of Code! Happy Coding!

PRE-K NEWS



We hope everyone had a nice relaxed break with friends and family. We know it may not have been the same as last year, but we have no doubt it was still an amazing Thanksgiving for all. We will continue our learning format online and face to face. Online learners and Face to Face learners have adjusted well to our dual format. Keep up the GREAT work! We are so proud of everyone and how they have grown since the beginning of the year. They are all doing great with practicing clean habits and mask wearing. Please continue to practice safe distances, clean habits (washing hands, sneezing in a tissue/their elbow, etc.), and using nice words. We will continue to send home supply packets every few weeks, as needed, according to our curriculum and themes. Please remember to log onto Canvas daily for updates and any schedules. There may be some important information that is needed before each lesson. Also, please attend Teams sessions according to your child's daily schedule. Thank you for following our classroom routine and supporting our learning schedule. Please don't forget to keep up with any activities and assignments to help the teachers collect important data on your child. We couldn't do it without the love and support from our Pre-K families. Can't wait to see all the fun family Winter/Holiday activities. Keep Rocking and Rolling Pre-K!!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



This is an exciting time of year for our Kindergarteners! This month we look forward to talking about holidays and traditions from around the world. In reading, we are practicing blending sounds together to read words, stretching out the sounds we hear to write sentences, and learning new sight words every day. We are also working on identifying the characters and setting of a story, making predictions, and making connections as we read. In math we are starting our addition chapter. Please continue to practice writing numbers properly and counting.

Kindergarten students have access to iReady Reading and Math through Clever. We utilize the program during the school day, but they should also use it at home for practice. Students have access to leveled and decodable books to read each week through Learning A-Z on Clever. Reading the assigned books in Learning A-Z is a great way for them to practice reading texts on their level at home. Please continue to work on the rainbow sight words. Face to Face students need a fully charged device, headphones and an extra mask every day.

Happy Holidays, From the Kindergarten Team

FIRST GRADE NEWS:



As the Holidays approach, we'd like to extend our warmest wishes to all of our students and families. May you all be surrounded by the love of family and friends. This year has been very different, but we continue to be amazed by our students, their resilience and their ability to adapt to our new way of learning.

Please continue to support your child at home by dedicating 10 to 15 minutes per night to reading practice. We'd also like the students to continue to practice their basic addition and subtraction facts. Don't forget we'd like for all students to have 45 minutes in iReady reading and math by the end of each week.



SECOND GRADE NEWS!

Griffin Elementary Second grade students began Distance learning in November. Distance Learning for the months of November and December will be teaching students about Native Americans, specifically the Wampanoag, the Iroquois and the Seminole tribes.

Students will be interacting with classes from Griffin and other schools and will complete a compare and contrast as a final project.

Second graders also enjoyed STEM activities to celebrate Thanksgiving. A turkey hideout was designed to hide the turkey from being eaten, and the Mayflower was designed with tin foil to see if it would sink or float.

Second graders are working on 2-digit addition with regrouping. Students should continue to practice fact fluency at home to strengthen mental math skills.

Students should continue to work on writing skills. This includes using complete sentences, capital letters when starting a sentence and punctuation at the end when answering questions. Students should be writing paragraphs of 5-6 sentences on one topic which include details.

We are very proud of our Second Graders and their continued curiosity while Elearning.

Mrs. Alderman, Mrs. Coxe, Mrs. De Ferrari, Ms. Goffney, Mrs. Menendez, Mrs. Selby

THIRD GRADE NEWS!

We have just a short time before winter break. We are thankful at how resilient the students are and how they have adapted to all the change. We ask that you continue to ensure that your child does their i-Ready minutes each week (45-60). Please make sure they are checking their canvas inbox for any messages that come across. We also ask that you guide them in



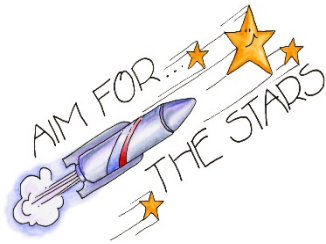
work completion. We are looking forward to a nice break with our families. We have been working so hard these 2 quarters. It is time to rest and enjoy your family. We are starting to see some growth after the Thanksgiving break. We see significant change in independency. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

FOURTH GRADE NEWS!



Happy Fall! Fourth Grade has been cruising through double digit by double digit multiplication and in fact are continuing with division. Please continue to practice your multiplication facts! We just successfully finished our first writing workshop on our expository essay about fall! The students were excited and had a blast while learning about the writing process. They even completed their first 5 paragraph essay! Big Kuddos! IReady is very important and needs to be worked on daily. Students should have at least 45 minutes for Reading and Math weekly.

FIFTH GRADE NEWS!



5th grade is on a roll! We are enjoying our novel studies and learning about different text structures. In math, it's all about decimals! We mastered adding and subtracting decimals and are now practicing multiplying and dividing decimals. In science we are excited to begin learning about animal adaptations. Our 5th grade student council officers were elected! A huge congratulations to the following students who were elected by their peers:

President: Alyna Rodriguez
Vice President: Sean Jukes
Treasurer: Summer Bayne
Historian: Elle Lawrence



Seasons Greetings from the Speech-Language Therapy Team!

Mrs. Pao, Mrs. Izquierdo, and Mrs. Schiller would like wish everyone a Happy Holiday!

We are excited to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation during this holiday season. For every letter sent online at <https://www.macys.com/social/believe/write-a-letter/or> dropped in a big red letterbox in a Macy's store, Macy's will donate **\$1 to Make-A-Wish®**, up to \$1 million, to create life-changing wishes for children battling critical illnesses across the country. With your help, we can make each child's wish come true.

From **November 29 through December 5**, Macy's will celebrate National Believe Week by doubling our donation to Make-A-Wish, **pledging \$2 for each letter** collected, up to an additional \$1 million, above the existing \$1 million campaign goal, to help grant children's life-changing wishes across the country.

We will be using online toy catalogs (i.e. walmart.com and target.com) to show our students age-appropriate toys that they may wish for. Then we will encourage them to verbalize and/or write their holiday letter and submit them virtually on <https://www.macys.com/social/believe/write-a-letter/>.

If you have any questions or concerns please e-mail Mrs. Pao at vicky.pao@browardschools.com, Mrs. Izquierdo at melissa.k.izquierdo@browardschools.com, or Mrs. Schiller at kimberly.schiller@browardschools.com.



Ms. T. Novack -754 323-5900 -
teena.novack@browardschool
Attendance Counts! All Day, Every Day

**November's Students of
the Month – Responsibility**

Villaneuva	Matthew Serrano
Lynn	James Magner
Del Corral	Abigail Hassan
Giardiniere	Jordan Crockett
Smith	Luna Petruk
Torres/Bacelona	Solei Roseme
Dourvetakis	Colin Chew
Lewis/Cohenour	Lucy Calhoun
Pritchett	Michael Litvak

Pugliese	Kinley Generuex
Shirley	Eo Spector
Zuckerman	Michelle Llerena
Alderman	Jax Goodwin
Coxe	Koa Boze
De Ferrari	Adrian Lugo
Goffney	Robert Dubay
Menendez	Connor Sime
Selby	Chloe Diaz
Keller	Erin Allen
May	Peyton Hedrick
Millovan	Griffen Giordano
Schissler	Reese Shapiro
Underhill	Komorie Huggins
Baquedano	Isabella Gonzalez
Caruso	Trevor Gonzalez
Feldman	Janieva Maisonet
Gallagan	Dominic Dellegrazie
Hopkins	Randy Perez
Shapiro	Evelyn Moreo
Anorga	Cole Francis
Benner	Aunah Sherman
Brown	Emmaleah Bray
Burd	Eva Stamm
Vega	Samantha Keller
VonAchen	Sage Beauregard

December Observances

- Rosa Parks Day – December 1
- Human Rights Week – December 6 – 12
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 7
- International Animal Rights Day – December 10
- Bill of Rights Day – December 15

Happy Holidays

- Bodhi – December 8
- Hanukkah – December 10 – 18
- Christmas – December 25
- Kwanzaa – December 26 – January 1
- Happy New Year 2021!

Holiday Tips

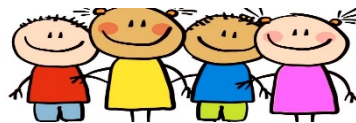
- Watch out for poisonous Plants
- Check wiring on all holiday lights

Place candles in safe place and of reach for children
Maintain trees – water, check stands & ornaments
When giving gifts –
Don't forget helmet for bikes and scooters
Keep small piece out of reach for young children

Holidays and Covid

Holiday time can be stressful make this one
a happy and healthy one

Finances maybe tight – make gifts, spend time together, and love each other – Best Gifts Ever!
Remain Calm – practice mindfulness
Be sensitive to everyone's feelings



News from our ESL Department

The ESLS Department would like to thank our amazing families for their cooperation during our virtual meetings. Please continue to reach out to our team with questions or concerns. We strive on communicating with parents and guardians for the best possible outcomes for our students. We are so grateful for all the hard work that our school and families are putting forth with our students. We appreciate you and all that you do!

Have a wonderful holiday season!

jessica.horta@browardschools.com- ESE Specialist
alison.rasgado@browardschools.com- EBD Support Specialist
tina.p.miller@browardschools.com- ESE Clerk



December

Date	Event	Time
12/1	Rosa Parks Day	
12-4-1/15	Virtual 5K Fundraiser	
12/4-12/7	Angel Toy drive pickup	7:30 & 1:30
12/6 – 12/12	Human Rights Week	
12/7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance	
12/9- 12/11	Drop off gifts in car loop or front office	7:30 – 2:30
12/10	Animal Rights Day	
12/10-12/18	Hanukkah	
12/15	Gift Pickup – identified families only	2:00 – 3:00
12/16	Gift Pickup	4:00 -5:00
12/17 -12/18	Cookies for Courage drop off	7:30 AM
12/18	Cookies to be delivered to the police and fire station	
12/18	Last day before winter break	
12/25	Christmas	
12/26-1/1	Kwanzaa	
1/1	Happy New Year to You!	

School Resumes – 1/4/2021

BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE FORMS



We still have about 30% of our families that have not yet completed their online forms. Please complete as soon as possible. Link can be found on our website. It is mandatory that this information is completed annually. We need to have your updated information and signature pages for some important school documents. I will be emailing families that have not completed their form. Many of you have started the forms but did not complete, therefore it is still pending. Please check online.

Make-Up Work

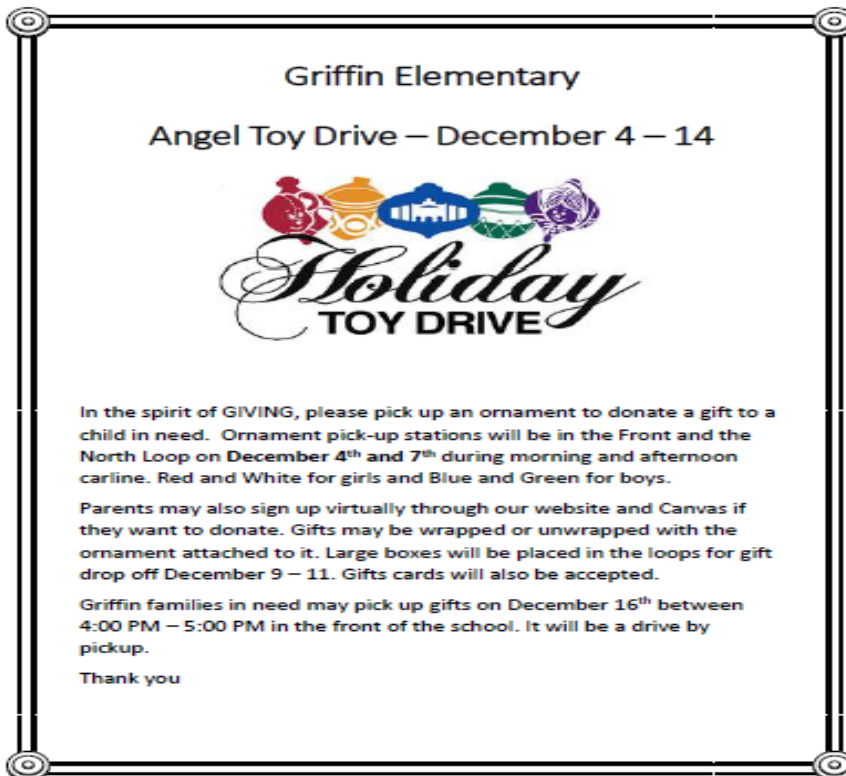
- Make-up work shall be accepted for full credit and grade for excused, unexcused absences, and external suspensions.
- All make-up work, including quizzes and tests, must be submitted/taken within two school days upon return to the missed class, not including the day of return, for each day of an absence.
- When assignments and appropriate instruction are provided prior to the absence, make-up work (including major projects) is due on the day of return to the missed class.

- Under extenuating circumstances and at teacher's discretion, additional time may be allowed.

Angel Toy Drive

We will be doing it a little different this year. It will be a drive-by drop off and pick up in the carline. Our goal will be to smiles on our student faces for the holidays. It's the season for GIVING and SHARING. Check calendar for dates.

A big thank you to those who are participating in this giveback.



Cookies for Courage

It is a Griffin tradition to collect cookies and deliver to our police and firemen in Cooper City during the holidays. Usually Student Council are the ones to spearhead this initiative. December 17 & 18 families and staff can drop off store bought cookies in the carline. This will take place the last week before Winter Break.



Principal Jones

Enjoy the Winter Break – 12/18/2020 -01/04/2021