

Griffin Elementary School

Monthly Newsletter – Volume 5

February 1, 2021



Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER



Message from Principal Jones

Dear Griffin Families,

We have just four months left for school. This pandemic has rocked our world. We are truly the “warriors during this crisis. The only way we can fight this war is continuing to mask up, maintaining physical distance, sanitizing and washing our hands regularly.

February is a special month. On the 14th we have dedicated the day to a “Day of Service and Love”. Showing kindness, getting to know one another, giving to the less fortunate, and caring about ourselves and others are traits that will help our community to heal during this crisis.

We also celebrate the Kids Heart Challenge and Black History this month. The teachers will be sending more information home.

In January we completed the 2nd Diagnostic. Students showed an improvement from Diagnostic 1. See Results below.

Reading

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Diagnostic 1	54	36	10
Diagnostic 2	62	29	8



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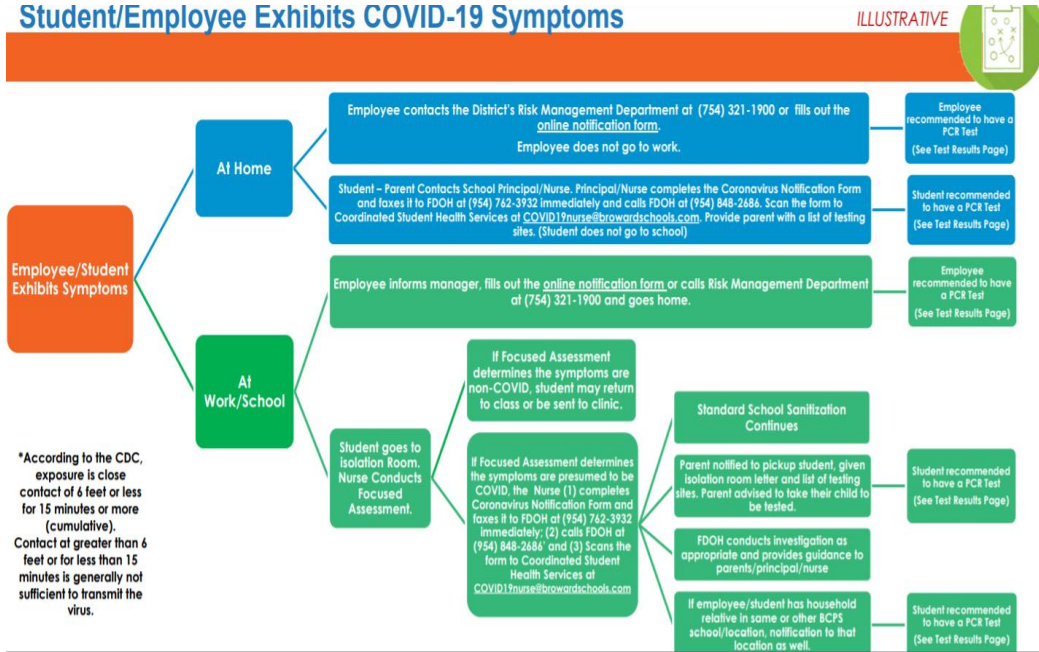
Enrollment: 620
454 – Face to Face Student (74%)
166 – E-learners

Math			
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Diagnostic 1	34	56	10
Diagnostic 2	49	44	7

To increase student achievement in all grade levels, it is important for parents to keep track of students personalized pathway in Reading and Math and the number of lessons passed. Students need to complete at least 45 minutes weekly in each subject area. On the iReady dashboard – click my progress

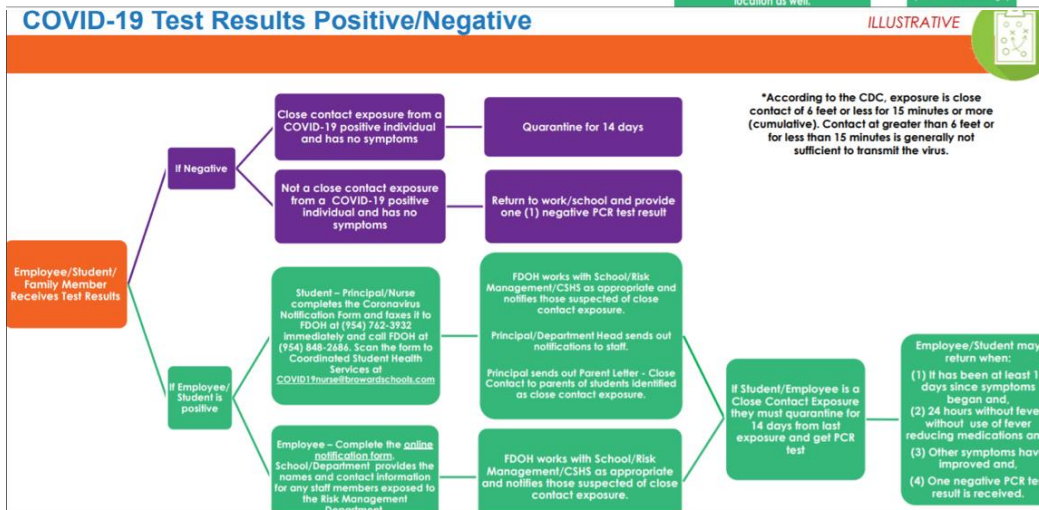
Student/Employee Exhibits COVID-19 Symptoms

ILLUSTRATIVE

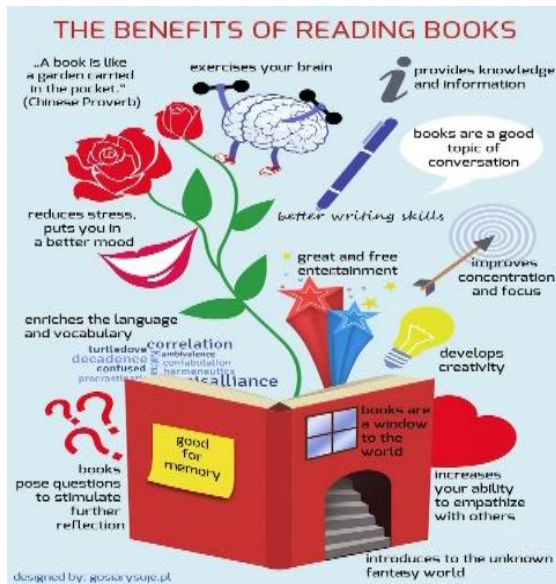


COVID-19 Test Results Positive/Negative

ILLUSTRATIVE



We are happy to report that although we had positive cases at Griffin, there has not been a community spread among students or staff. We are adhering to the CDC guidelines to keep our students and staff safe. If you or your child experience flu like symptoms – keep your child home till the family gets tested. Safety is our highest priority. If your child comes to school sick, they will be sent to the nurse to get a focused assessment and will be sent home. The nurse will instruct you with the next steps.



Literacy Corner

It's already February! Time is flying... Before we know it, spring will be here! I am going to share some tips to encourage your child to read no matter their grade level. First and foremost, have a conversation with your child's teacher to find out your child's independent reading level. At this level, your child can read without assistance for the most part.

Pick books that are at the right level
 Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

At home...

Make books special

Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them, and buy them books as gifts. Have a favorite place for books in your home or, even better, put books everywhere!

Be patient

When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind to child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

Dig deeper into the story

Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Clifford did that?"

One more time with feeling

When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often kids are so busy figuring out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.

Once is not enough

Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps children read more quickly and accurately (fluency).

Read it again and again

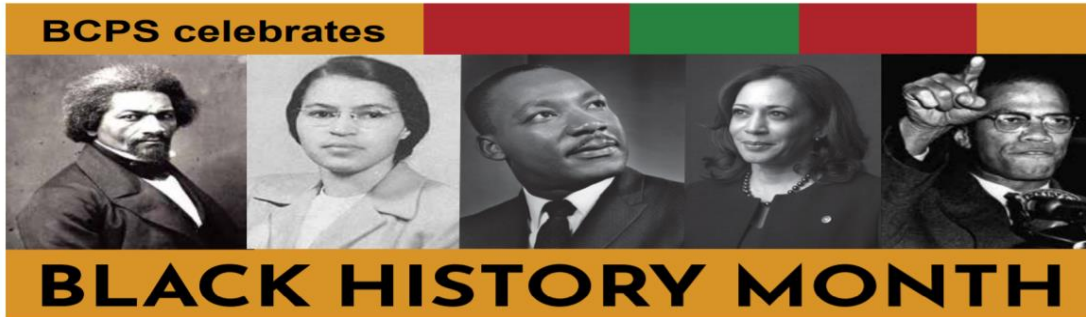
Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book.

I read to you, you read to me

Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

Enjoy your next book!

Mrs. Chmura 😊



Broward County Public Schools celebrates Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

congratulations

Alishe Hajaree and Shelby Hodges

They graduated with their Bachelors in Education

- **Alison Stewart (Rasgado)** on the birth of her son – Oliver
- **Emily Tanner** – Used to be a Griffin student and is now working here as a Teacher Assistant and studying to be a teacher.



Media News

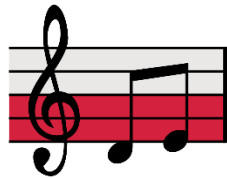
Welcome to 2021. I know that you’re working hard and going above and beyond in helping your child blossom. February is a great time to explore new interests, whether it be crafting, sports, new places, or cooking! If your child loves cooking, let them find a recipe, read it, and make it with you. Crafting 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 from Sandra Stojack

At the Art room we welcome the New Year with good rhythms, literally in a nice and tuned way, where Visual Art meets and correlates with the real world. Students are being taught Rhythm and movement; an important Principle of Design. The scope of the lesson is to create a composition where a 'visual tempo', pattern or rhythm captures the viewer's eyes and leads them to follow along in a journey of unique discovery and feelings. Furthermore, I am very excited to see new, and returning students F2F.



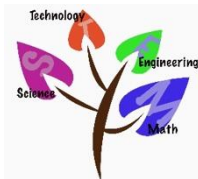
MUSIC from Mrs. Palmer

Griffin students are singing, dancing, and learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Students in grades K-3 are learning music appreciation and the instruments in the symphony orchestra. Students in grades 4 and 5 are learning about the many different styles of blues music. Students are also listening of the music of famous blues artists like Muddy Watters and B.B. King.



P.E. News from Ms. Norrell

P.E. classes continue outside on the courts and virtually simultaneously, with no equipment, practicing social distancing, and this past month we have been working on setting physical activity goals and identifying moderate and vigorous physical activity. Students in grades 1-5 are encouraged to visit their Canvas course P.E. tile and complete the weekly Exercise Logs (published Thursdays and due Sundays) for extra points towards their grade in P.E. These show any physical activity they've completed after school so students should participate in them even on the weeks they do not have P.E. We will be participating in a virtual Kid's Heart Challenge event this year which runs the whole month of February. Students can earn Heart Hero characters which will be distributed weekly at school and on a drive-by date for the at-home students on 2/18. Thanks for your support in this community fundraiser for the American Heart Association.



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

In S.T.E.M. Special we have been busy learning about living and nonliving things, plants, and various forms of energy. We are continuing to work on our observation skills, communicating, thinking critically, perseverance, and making predictions. Over the next month or so we will start to visit and learn in our school's environmental learning center whenever possible. If so, we will be sure to engage our online learners too. Have fun learning and try to get outside as much as possible. STEM is everywhere!



PRE-K NEWS!

Happy New Year to our amazing Pre-K crew! We are so excited to see all our friends every day, face to face and online! We hope everyone had a relaxing Winter Break and was able to enjoy their time with friends and family when possible. We are continuing our learning format of online and face to face until the end of the year. They are all working hard and doing great with their pre-skills, fine motor skills, and gross motor skills. Please help by practicing at home as well. A few activities you could do are cutting, tracing, writing, lacing, playdough, and more. If they are ready, you could work on reading and writing letters, simple sight words, and creating fun sentences. Please continue to practice safe distances, clean habits (washing hands, sneezing in a tissue/their elbow, etc.). Just a reminder if your child is not feeling well for any reason, please keep them home until they are illness free for 24-48 hours and let the school and teacher know of the absence. If your child is home sick, you are welcome to log into Teams and Canvas to participate in your child's class. We will continue to send home any supply packets needed every few weeks according to your child's curriculum and theme. Please remember to log onto Canvas for any important information from your child's teacher. Also, please don't forget to attend Teams sessions according to your child's daily schedule and keep up with any activities and assignments. These activities and assignments help with accurately writing IEPs and updated input for other important documenting purposes. You are all amazing Teammates in the growth for your child! We couldn't do this all without the love and support from our Pre-K families. Can't wait to see all the fun family Spring activities.
Don't Stop the Awesome Pre-K Fun!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS!

Kindergarteners are working hard and having fun! They have adjusted well to all the changes that the new year has brought! We are busy learning reading rules, practicing our sight words and reading decodable and leveled books. In math we will be working on numbers up to 100! Now is a great time to practice counting to 100 with your child. They can practice counting by 10s also! We recommend you continue to practice addition and subtraction skills as well.
We look forward to celebrating the 100th day of school on February 5th and Valentine's Day this month. During February we will also talk about American Symbols and the job of the president. Please be sure that your child is working on the homework activities that your teacher assigns each week. As always, make sure that your child is bringing a charged device and headphones each day. We are very proud of our students and look forward to seeing more growth in their skills this month.



FIRST GRADE NEWS!

First graders have been busy exploring science. We have been learning all about states of matter and earth, time and space. The teachers and students are excited to celebrate 100 days of learning in first grade. It's amazing how far they have come. We cannot wait to celebrate acts of love and kindness, as well as President's Day with our students. Please continue to remind your children to read at home for pleasure, to practice fluency and comprehension.



SECOND GRADE NEWS!

Second Graders have been hard at work. In math, we have been working on adding and subtracting three-digit numbers with regrouping. They are continuing writing using complete sentences and correct punctuation. We have completed the second I-READY Diagnostic in Math and Reading. Classes enjoyed celebrating Groundhog Day on February 2nd and the 100th day of school on February 5th. Students should also practice math fluency and have your child read nightly. Please continue to practice safety during these difficult times. Wear masks, wash hands frequently and stay home if you are sick.



THIRD GRADE NEWS!

3rd quarter is well underway. We are working hard in the classroom every day! The inauguration was an important event in history, and we watched it in class with the students. It was very powerful! Please continue working on i-Ready lessons so they can reach their weekly goal of 45 minutes and/or 2 lessons passed in each subject area. In the month of February, you can expect to see your child's 2nd quarter report card through virtual counselor. Virtual counselor is located on your child's Clever portal. We are 2 months away from FSA, so FSA prep has begun. We are working on testing strategies and mastering our math facts. The anticipated dates for FSA Reading are 4/6-4/7 and for Math 5/11-5/12. It is important to have your child complete all their work by the end of each week on canvas. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.



FOURTH GRADE NEWS!

We are in Quarter 3! The year has gone by so quickly! We are continuing full steam ahead and working hard! We enjoyed seeing more of our 4th graders return to campus! They have done an amazing job with following all social distancing procedures as well as mask wearing! Kudos!!! They have been working so hard and are continuing to show growth and improvement. We wrapped up our iReady Diagnostic 2 Testing and are

currently continuing to BAS test students to update their levels. Please make sure your child is logging on and completing at least 45 minutes a week in iReady Reading and Math! Please make sure they are not going over 45 minutes!

In the area of math, we are continuing to work on factors and multiples as well as branching into fractions! We are practicing making common denominators and equivalent fractions. As well, we are going forward into adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators. Please have your child continue to work on their multiplication and division facts and these need to be memorized for quick recall.

In the area of reading, each class is working on select novels to really deepen our understanding of literature elements. The students really seem to be enjoying them! We are continuing to work daily in our Ready books and Scholastic News to enrich our reading and social studies standards. Making sure your child is reading daily is a great way to help their fluency and vocabulary!

In the area of writing, we are focusing on writing multi-paragraph essays using the writing process of coming with a plan, revising, and editing before students make their final draft. Students are continuing to practice using transitional phrases and hooks to provide for a more engaging essay.

FIFTH GRADE NEWS!



Welcome back! We were thrilled to welcome back more students to the face to face learning environment in the new year. Two of our 5th grade classes are now Co-Teaching blended models! Ms. Benner and Ms. Vega's classes are combined, and Mr. Anorga and Mr. VonAchen create the second dynamic duo. We really are #BetterTogether! We have completed our second i-Ready Diagnostics and students were able to take some time to self-

reflect to determine if they are on track to meet their goals! Students enjoyed learning about circuits and forms of energy and put that knowledge to the test when we completed our Science BSA. This month, we look forward to learning about Black History Month, forces and motion, and multiplying and dividing fractions.

SPEECH CORNER



Happy 3rd Quarter from the Speech-Language Therapy Team!

Mrs. Pao, Mrs. Izquierdo, and Mrs. Schiller would like to give a friendly reminder for parents to please ensure that your students **bring functioning headphones to school daily**. This is very important as it allows the student to actively participate in e-learning teletherapy sessions.

Mrs. Schiller is working with students in our Pre-Kindergarten Specialized and Intensive Behavior classes as well as Kindergarten students. Mrs. Pao is working with students in 1st grade to 3rd grade and some 4th grade students. Mrs. Izquierdo is working with most

of the 4th grade students, students in 5th grade, as well as students in the Emotional or Behavioral Disability classes.

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.

Counselor's Corner

Monthly Observances

Black History Month
American Heart Month

February's Character Trait

Honesty...being truthful, trustworthy, and sincere

congratulations

December Students of the Month

Jordan Crocket...Mason Neubauer...Riley Coxe...Kaden Albaklesh...Zoey Davis...Mila Orjuela...Cassidy Clark...Jasmine Colon...Isabella Diaz...Elizabeth Hill...Zachary Adkins...Jacob Raposo...Jonah Mayer...Stella Jukes...Nialla Francis...Nina Melendres...Caroline Scurman...Lea Izquierdo...Samantha Hutchison...Michael Depass...Joshua Matthew...Trey Loche-Alderman...Luca Tirone...Blayton Bruce...Alexander Schaefer...Rose Dubay...Randy Perez...Kaylee Jenkins...Isabella Rosado...Kylie Steedman...Simon Angarita...Austin Murray...Alexander Diaz

January Students of the Month

Hendrix Carvajal...Isabella Mazzola...Kaelie Tighe...Brianna Covino...Olivia Senatus...Penelope Thompson...Brandon Smith...Michael Anthony Pitts Prado...Sebastian Amador...Penelope Sullivan...Vanessa Davidson...Koa Boze...King Godfrey...Brandon Jimenez...Caden Steedman...Jaun Angel Carballo London...Jenna Horowitz...Natalie Cruz...Daehan Calle...Taylor Moule...Amber de la Cruz...Adrian Baez...Akira Blake...Madison Lule...Grayson Mazzola...Austin McGee...Darwin Brereton...Jackson Rollins...Sean Jukes...Cody Magrone...Emmaunel Gonzalez

Need Help with Homework?

Ask Bria for free, live assistance. Monday – Thursday – 3:15 to 7:15

1. Log into SSO/Canvas and Click Ask Bria 2. Complete and Submit request 3. Open Microsoft teams and wait for a call from a certified teacher

More Exciting Events:

- MSD Commemoration Day- Day of Service & Love Classroom Connection Activities
- Toiletry Drive – Support CCHS class of 2021 Covid-19 Relief Effort
Collection Items: Large Ziploc Bags (1-3 gallons), Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Lotion, Body Wash, Soap
Drop off in carlines: February 8 – February 12

Ms. T. Novack -754 323-5900 - teena.novack@browardschools.com

Technology

Hello Griffin Parents. I just want to thank you all for your hard work assisting your child during our eLearning adventure. I know it's been a rough ride, but you have all been amazing!

Just a reminder, if you need to exchange a device or get a new one issued to your child, please visit the Griffin website to complete the request form. Scroll halfway down and on the right side under "School Quick Links" you will see "Device Request or Exchange". Please click that link and complete the form. Once I get the request, I will contact you to arrange for a pickup. If you are exchanging/returning a device, please bring the old device along with the power adapter. Please do not show up to exchange/return a device without notifying the front office. If I know ahead of time, I can have everything ready, and you will not have to wait. Always let your teacher or myself know if you are coming by for technology assistance so that I can make sure I am available.

Lastly, if your child is carrying their devices in their backpacks, please remind them to be gentle when handling their backpacks so that the screens do not get damaged. We have had a surge of broken screens in the past few weeks. Feel free to reach out to me at jacqueline.sanchez@browardschools.com with any questions or concerns.

Thanks again for all your support and stay safe!

Exceptional Student Learning Corner



jessica.horta@browardschools.com- ESE Specialist
tina.p.miller@browardschools.com- ESE Clerk

Instructional Strategies for ESE Students

Focus on the Essentials

By identifying important principles, key concepts, and big ideas, students are able to make connections within the content and across the curriculum. When possible, develop thematic instruction that will allow students to make connections to self, text and world.

Graphic organizers provide visuals so students can see the connections clearly as well as help the teacher to monitor their learning. Coordinate lessons and assignments across the curriculum or various classes.

Make Linkages Obvious and Explicit

Point out the key concepts and how they are connected or related to each other. This can be achieved by providing clear explanations and using visual aides.

Prime Background Knowledge

By activating prior knowledge and then connecting it to new information, students are able to comprehend the skill, concept, or content. You can easily do this by:

- asking questions
- making comparisons
- relating events to self, text or world
- providing critical background knowledge

Provide Temporary Support for Learning

Scaffolding allows you to provide student support in learning new information. The scaffolds are temporary support. This means when the students are learning a new skill or concept, you begin by modeling and then supporting their learning through ongoing practice before moving the responsibility to the students. As students become more independent, you gradually reduce the level of support until they have reached mastery.

Use Conspicuous Steps and Strategies

Give students explicit steps or procedures in order to solve problems. At first you will need to model the process using Think Alouds. Think Alouds slow down the reading or problem-solving process in order to allow your students to take a peek inside your mind. By verbally expressing your thoughts, students learn what good readers do while reading. Posting the steps allows students to refer to them as needed, building independence.

Review for Fluency and Generalization

Provide many opportunities for students to practice the new skill or concept. Feedback on their performance and increase of knowledge is necessary to ensure students are retaining their newly found knowledge. Continuous monitoring of students insures student achievement. An effective way to communicate with students is through student – teacher conferences allowing you to speak to the needs of the individual student. For

more information about providing feedback, the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory has research-based findings and steps to implement constructive feedback to your students.

Adapted from the State of Florida, Department of Education. Teaching Resources for Florida ESE, Instructional Strategies



February

Kids Heart Challenge Black History Month

Date	Event	Time
2/2	Kick Off for Kids Heart Challenge	
2/3	Report Cards can be accessed – Virtual Counselor	
2/9	Picture Day -F2F students – PE Pavilion	
	Interims for 3 rd Quarter Issued	
2/10	Picture Day – Virtual Students – PE Pavilion	
	Health Screenings for Students KG/1 st /3 rd	
2/14	Valentine’s Day	
2/15	No School	
2/18	Early Release Day	

BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE FORMS



Still waiting for about 20% of our families to complete their forms. Thank you to the parents who have completed them. The school always need updated information.

REPORT CARDS

You can access your child’s report card by logging into your child’s Clever account. Click on the Virtual Counselor icon to access their report card.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Remember to bring your old towels, linens, clothes and shoes to be recycled at Griffin. We get 10% of the proceeds. We just received a check today for \$100.34 for the months of October, November, and December. Collection bin is in the parking lot of the North car loop (Prek-2nd).

Also, remember to recycle at home and keep it free of contamination. If you are not sure if it can be recycled, toss it in the trash. At school we recycle clean, empty water bottles, soda bottles and juice bottles; as well as cardboard (no pizza boxes), paper. All film plastic, such as grocery plastic bags and storage bags can be recycled at Publix or Walmart, not in your city recycling bin. Learn more at coopercityfl.org and search recycling.

Also, Griffin is competing in the “How Low Can You Go Challenge”. We are working to reduce our electric and water usage and competing against other Broward schools.