

Griffin Elementary School

Monthly Newsletter
May/June 2021



Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER

Message from Principal Jones

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year has arrived. We are the survivors of the most unusual school year. So much transpired, but we managed to overcome the challenges with grace and grit. At least 97% of our students took the Florida State Assessment in April and May. Although the results of the assessments do not count for retention, students who are experiencing difficulty with grade level standards, will be given the opportunity to take alternative assessments. I am optimistic that we are going to do well and will continue to be an A-rated school for the 19th year.

To our incoming Kindergarten and new families, welcome to Griffin Elementary. I am looking forward to working with you and your child. Griffin is the best kept secret in Broward County. I always say this to new parents, "We are like a private school within a public-school system, rich in history and traditions". We also have an awesome faculty and staff who always strive for excellence.

To our Fifth Graders, congratulations on your achievement. You are off to a new beginning in middle school. Best wishes to you! You will be missed. Remember to visit Griffin to see your tile wall.

Thank you for those who participated Griffin's Tile Wall fundraiser. We will work on it during the summer, so that you can view the wall during Meet and Greet – August 17, 2021.



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Due to the uncertainty of student enrollment, class lists will be revised until the beginning of the school year. Tentative class lists will be available August 13, 2021. Please be patient over the summer.

Summer school will be at Embassy Lakes – June 21 – July 29, 2021

School will resume – Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

Have a relaxed and restful summer.

Principal Jones

Enrollment: 616

484 – Face to Face Student (78%)

132 – E-learners

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Each year, approximately 44 million American adults will experience a serious mental health condition. Less than half will seek treatment due to stigma and discrimination.

[Click to Watch video](#)

May is American Muslim Heritage Month

We celebrate the invaluable contributions American Muslims have made both in Broward and across the country.

[Click to Watch Video](#)



COVID-19 Update

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.

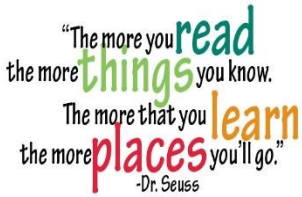
If you or your child experience flu like symptoms – keep your child home till the family gets tested. Safety is our highest priority. If your child comes to school sick, they will be sent to the nurse to get a focused assessment and will be sent home. The nurse will instruct you with the next steps.

Have a safe and healthy Summer!



LITERACY CORNER

Literacy Coach: Ms. Chmura



Summer is almost upon us! Sunshine, rain showers, and fun! I am wrapping up the series of reading tips this month. Remember, to ask your child's teacher what your child's independent reading level is before you leave for summer break! You want your child to be able to read successfully with you!

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.

In the car...

Do storytelling on the go

Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car. Try making the story funny or spooky.

"Are we there yet?"

Use the time spent in the car for wordplay. Talk about how jam means something you put on toast as well as cars stuck in traffic. How many other homonyms can your child think of? When kids are highly familiar with the meaning of a word, they have less difficulty reading it.

Don't leave home without it

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading!

Always...I read to you, you read to me

Take turns reading aloud at bedtime, down time, or anytime! Children enjoy this special one-on-one time with their parents.

Fill the summer with tons of books and enjoy your break! See you in the fall! Mrs. Chmura



Media News

Summer is almost here! Be sure to check out the public library this summer for great reading programs. One of the free programs, Tails and Tales, can be found on their website and prizes can be won. The public library offers great in-person and virtual programs, as well as great air conditioning, all summer long! Read a book or two from the Sunshine State Young Readers Awards (SSYRA). These books can be counted as award winning books for all students participating in Read Across Broward for the 2021-2022 school year. SSYRA books can be found at the public library, Axis360 through Follett Destiny-Destiny Discover, and TumbleBooks.



Broward County Public Library www.broward.org/library/summer

Sunshine State Young Readers Awards (SSYRA)

K-2 Picture Books

https://www.floridamediaed.org/uploads/6/1/4/2/61420659/20212022_annotated_liste.pdf

Gr.3-5 Chapter Books https://www.floridamediaed.org/uploads/6/1/4/2/61420659/3-5_2021-2022_ssyra_annotated_list.pdf

Gr.6-8 Chapter Books https://www.floridamediaed.org/uploads/6/1/4/2/61420659/6-8_2021-22-1_ssyra_annotated_list.pdf

Read Across Broward (RAB)

K-2 Picture Books

<https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/3676/Read%20Across%20Broward%20Level%201.pdf>

Gr.3-5 Chapter Books

<https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/3676/Read%20Across%20Broward%20Level%202.pdf>

Have an adventure filled summer,
Mrs. Berger

SPECIALS CORNER



ART from Sandra Stojack

In art class we zoomed in and focused on flowers. As always, I have our students look for 'the elements of art'. Flowers bloom everywhere and their unique designs, shapes and colors are pure examples of 'mother nature' applying the Elements of Art. As an example, I introduced all students to the art of famous Artist Georgia O'Keefe, and the way she depicted her flowers in a close-up, zoomed-in way, so people would look and appreciate nature more so through her art.

Next up in the months of March and April, which are the windiest months of the year, the artwork of Alexander Calder would come in handy, as his artwork uses air flow to move his art and provide his audience with different views, and perceptions of his sculptures. Students used the building blocks of art to create individual parts of a hanging Mobile and assemble a unique Mobile for each grade level at Griffin.

I wish to say thanks to the students and parents of Griffin Elementary school, for all your effort and resulting beautiful artwork. Thank you!





MUSIC from Mrs. Palmer

I am excited to announce that I am almost finished creating my virtual Talent Show "Griffin's Got Talent." This year's show will be very different than my shows in years past. Videos can be seen on Canvas after May 24th according to your child's grade. The entire show will also be on the Griffin Web page as well.

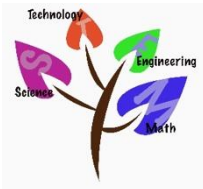
A large thank you to our school PTA for helping me to purchase the Quaver Music Education Program for all our Griffin students. Most of the songs from Griffin's Got Talent are from The Quaver Music Education Program.



P.E. News from Ms. Norrell

WOW, what a year! Special thanks to all our great Griffin students for adapting to simultaneous virtual and face-to-face socially distant P.E. classes with no P.E. equipment! Both groups were very patient when we had glitches! This year we reviewed the benefits of physical activity and learned new stretches, balances, exercises, and dances. Students in

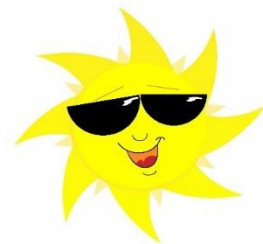
Grades 1-5 now know how to do online Exercise Logs. We've had discussions on moderate and vigorous activity, water and sun safety, pedestrian and bike safety, food groups and food labels, our circulatory and respiratory systems and more! All this while navigating Canvas tiles and live Teams sessions! We also had a banner year for Kid's Heart Challenge contributions, raising \$21,094.59 for the American Heart Association, surpassing our goal of \$15,000! I hope everyone stays fit and active over the summer! Congrats to our 5th graders! I look forward to seeing everyone else back next fall!



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

S.T.E.M. Happenings

As we wrap up this school year our primary students have been busy learning about the Sun, Sun Safety, creating mini greenhouses, and enjoying the engineering antics involved in the fairytale, Three Billy Goats Fluff.



Our secondary students have been extremely busy presenting their animal information, preparing a cooperative ppt in fourth grade, researching and creating a full ppt presentation on animals native to Florida in fifth grade.

A special thank you to all the classroom teachers, students and their parents for helping to make this year run as smoothly as possible.

Remember that science is everywhere, so take a few moments each day to enjoy it!



PRE-K NEWS!

We can't believe we are within the last few days of the school year. We have so many end of the year activities!!! The excitement is too much!! We are so grateful for all the amazing memories we made this school year. We hope you all have the best summer with loved ones!

Please don't stop the learning just because school is out. I wonder how many seashells are at the beach OR how many blocks does it take to be as tall as you OR how can you be an amazing scientist? There are so many fun activities you can do to help that growing mind without feeling like work or learning.

For those little ones growing up and moving on to kindergarten, we wish you the best as you rock your new grade! We've watched you grow over the years and it is hard to hold back the tears of joy as you move on to the next new adventure!



For the little ones coming back, we can't wait for another awesome year together! There are still so many things we have to learn and explore and can't wait for the awesome fun! For our amazing parents, words can't express our gratitude for all your support and understanding as we learned how to teach our little ones in a whole new format. We will forever be a team! The Pre-K Team!

Have the best summer ever!!!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS!

As we approach the last few weeks of this school year, please continue to work on fluency, comprehension and memorizing sight words. Please remember to also work on i-Ready in both reading and math each week.

The goal is for students to have 45 minutes accrued in each subject by the end of each week. We also recommend you practice skip counting numbers by 2s and 5s and memorizing math facts up to 20. In the upcoming weeks, we will be learning about plants and ocean animals. We will also have a special end-of-the-year countdown. This gets the students so excited about our upcoming summer break. Thank you again so much for being flexible and patient with all the transitions and changes this school year. This is one year we will never forget!



FIRST GRADE NEWS!

This has been a great year for our 1st graders. We are so proud of them and all that they have accomplished. As we wrap up the year, we are looking forward to all the fun activities we have planned. Wishing everyone a great summer.



SECOND GRADE NEWS!

Second graders continue to work hard. The students have been working on writing skills including, adding details to our writing and using correct punctuation. Students are focusing on reading comprehension standards utilizing reading packets and standards based lessons. Students will be introduced to basic cursive. Although cursive takes patience and some practice the students seem to love being exposed to it each year.

In Science students are learning about the important of exercise and nutrition. This ties in with our human body systems unit which the students finished up in April.

In Math, students have measured in inches, yards, centimeters and meters. The final Math chapter focuses on shapes and their attributes.

The Second Grade teachers, even with masks and computers, have thoroughly enjoyed every moment this year with your children. It is every teacher's joy seeing the growth of each individual child.

We wish you all a safe and wonderful summer!

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



THIRD GRADE NEWS!

The end of the school year is quickly approaching. We will be administering the Math FSA on May 11th and May 12th. We will also be administering the final iReady Diagnostic Assessments in both Reading and Math the week of May 17th. Please be sure your children arrive to school on time, get a good night's rest, and have a healthy breakfast. We would also like to thank the Griffin PTA and families for all they did to make us feel appreciated and special during Teacher Appreciation Week and all year. Our greatest gift is having your children in our classrooms. Have a fun-filled summer! See you all face-to-face in August!



FOURTH GRADE NEWS!

Our fantastic fourth graders have made it to the finish line. This school year has been like no other. Thank you to our parents and families that supported the 4th grade teachers all year long. We couldn't have done it without you. We have all adapted to new styles of learning and have become very tech savvy along the way. We wish our students and families a wonderful summer filled with all the activities they enjoy. Have a great summer break.



FIFTH GRADE NEWS!

5th grade is staying busy with our end of year testing. Students are doing a great job and truly showing how much they have learned this year! We will continue to participate in different activities to review all content areas. Students should continue to get a good night's sleep, have a big healthy breakfast, and come to school ready to rock! The countdown to middle school is on!



SPEECH CORNER

Spring Greetings from the Speech-Language Therapy Team!

Mrs. Pao, Mrs. Izquierdo, and Mrs. Schiller hope everyone is ready to finish our 2020-2021 school year strong and enjoy the summer!

We would like to give a friendly reminder for parents to please ensure that face-to-face students bring functioning headsets with microphones to school daily.

Also, we recommend that e-learners also use functioning headphones during virtual Microsoft Teams sessions as it allows our students to focus and actively participate in e-learning teletherapy sessions. We also ask that during the session to please minimize distractions by keeping the work area free from clutter and background noise.

We are using the following digital resources:

pinkcatgames.com, Flocabulary.com, superduperinc.com, getepic.com,

boomlearning.com, ultimateslp.com, and more!

Also, please check out awesome Articulation, Fluency, and Language Skills videos on <https://peachiespeechie.com/>!!!

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

Mrs. Schiller at kimberly.schiller@browardschools.com.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Monthly Observances

American Muslim Heritage Month
Haitian Heritage Month
Jewish American Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month



April Students of the Month for **TOLERANCE**

Name	Student First Name	Student Last Name
Stacey Alderman	Noah	Abernathy
Martin Anorga	Kayleb	White
Melinda Barcelona	Amelie	Silva
Serena Benner	Mirjana	Alfonso
Valerie Burd	Angelina	Chen
Christine Caruso	Cooper	Borzen
Stephanie Cohenour	Penelope	Thompson
Jamie Coxe	Amari	Llerena
Sidona Del Corral	Rachel	Gause
Vilma Dourvetakis	Emily	Mogerman
Scott Feldman	Adrian	Martinez
Patricia Gallagan	Noah	Kuzminski
Amy Giardiniere	Kenley	Rowland
Alicia Hammell	Randy	Perez
Angela Keller	Chase	Hollman
Sasha Lyn	Cash	Stringer
Kimberly May	Shaade	Roseme
Kimberly Millovan	Sophie	Llerena Mesa
Meghan Pugliese	Laura	Catherman
Cynthia Schissler	Mason	Berger
Dana Shapiro	Angelo	Olmeda
Michelle Shirley	Cayden	Taylor
Lisa Smith	Jase	Coleman

Christina Vega	Ava	Nahum
Ayanna Villanueva	Elizabeth	Jose Granados
Tom Von Achen	Ahmad	Salim
Melissa Zuckerman	Emery	Ortiz

Summertime often means fun time – and for good reason. We get a break from school and fill our days with many outdoor activities. But don't forget, to stay safe. Whether you stay at home, go to camp, or travel out of town, here are some important safety tips

Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate!!

Playing outdoors is fun but make sure you drink plenty of water. A general rule is to drink half your weight in ounces. If you weigh 80 pounds you need to drink 40 ounces of water a day. Go have fun and always remember your water bottle.

Protect your Skin

Apply sunscreen with SPF 40 or higher and reapply every three hours. Wear protective clothing including a hat or cap. You might even want to stay indoors or in the shade during peak sunshine hours.

Avoid Bug Bites!

Bugs love scented soaps and lotions so avoid using them too much. Cover your arms and legs as much as possible and consider using insect repellent before going outdoors.

Swim with a Buddy and with Parent Supervision

It only takes seconds to get into serious trouble while swimming. Always swim with a buddy and only when an adult is watching. If heading out to a lake or boating fun, remember to wear a life jacket and follow all the safety rules.

Bicycles + Helmets = Fun

Riding your bike can be a lot of fun but it can also be the cause of injuries. Wearing a properly fitted helmet is the first rule to prevent serious bicycling injuries. Follow the rules of the road and have fun!

Have a Great and Safe Summer!!

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

Exceptional Student Learning Corner



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

A big thank you to our Griffin families for navigating this year with us! We appreciate your input and cooperation during our meetings and look forward to the 2021-2022 school year. Feel free to reach out to us with questions via email or phone. Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

ESE Staff 😊



May and June



Date	Event	Time
5/17 – 5/19	iReady K-4 th ELA	
5/19 – 5/24	iReady Diagnostic K-4th	
5/31	No School	
6/2	1 st Grade Soccer Game	
6/2	Kona Ice Truck	
6/3	Kindergarten Pizza Party	
6/3	1 st Grade Balloon Outside	
6/4	3 rd Grade Cafeteria Movie	
6/4	5 th Grade Kick Ball Game	
6/4	1 st Grade Luau	
6/9	5 th Grade Virtual Graduation Ceremony	
6/9	Early Release Day and Last Day of School	

FRONT OFFICE NEWS



BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE FORMS

We have several students who have not completed or filled out the back-to-school forms.

This updates all the information in the system once we review it and ensures the safety of the students.

If you have not done so already, please go to the Griffin Elementary website griffin.browardschools.com and under additional quick links (right hand side, bottom of page) click on the back-to-school forms and fill out forms.

You will get a confirmation number as you finish the process.
Any questions, please call the school 754 323 5900 and we will be happy to help.

Next year all back-to-school forms will be done online.

Thank you.

REPORT CARDS and INTERIM REPORTS

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. **Remember the Password is your child's birthday mm/dd/yyyy (no leading P)**

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Last month was Earth Month and we want to thank those students and families who took the Earth Week Challenge! I hope you had fun and learned something about conservation. During Food Prevention Week we took a food waste audit in the cafeteria. Below is the data from that day.



Since that day we have diverted **1,882** items from the garbage and into the hands of hungry people and animals.

We are ready to start our Food Share table back up again in the Fall! Those items that are not shared with our students and staff will be donated to those in need. Thanks to a Griffin parent we have the perfect refrigerator to store all our food at a safe temperature till the items get delivered.



This year due to COVID the cafeteria could not implement the regular program of "Offer vs Served". They are hoping to have that program reinstated for next year. What does that mean? That means your child does NOT have to take a milk. The only requirement is that they take a fruit OR vegetable, everything else is offered, but not served. This eliminates food waste starting in the cafeteria line. Lastly, free lunch and breakfast will be offered again next year.



Our Griffin garden has been bountiful this year (thank you Mrs. Norrell and Mr. Nordstrom) and although we couldn't perform our usual taste tests with all the students, the garden has been used as a teaching tool where students can learn about germination, plant structure, seed dispersion, evaporation, etc.. Last week we had special guests who met with all our fifth-grade classes prior to the 5th grade Science test to review the Science standards utilizing our garden and outdoor classroom.



Just a reminder to bring your old towels, linens, clothes and shoes to be recycled at Griffin. We get 10% of the proceeds. Collection bin is in the parking lot of the North car loop (Prek-2nd). We are hoping to have it moved over the summer to outside the gate so that everyone can access it.

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.

Reuse Art Project: If you purchase the **small sized** water bottles, please save them for a project in our environmental area. You can bag them up and send them in with your child. Please make sure they are clean and empty.

Thanks for your support!

Mrs. Sanchez