

Griffin Elementary School

Fall Newsletter
2021

Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER



Message from Principal Jones

It has certainly been a smooth and exciting start to the school year. Although, we are faced with the challenges of COVID-19, we have strong and consistent health and safety protocols in place. We are also fortunate to have two competent registered nurses on campus, Nurse Emily Malik and Nurse Janine Polado. We are still mandating facial coverings, frequent handwashing/ sanitizing and 3 feet social distancing. Thank you to the staff, students and families for helping us maintain a safe environment at school. I am amazed to see the students follow the protocols to keep themselves and others safe. Respect and kindness are evident as you see the students interacting.

Now that in-person instruction for all students has returned, we are finally experiencing somewhat of a normal routine at school. Our hallways are print rich with student work and we see students transitioning to Specials, lunch and recess. It is also so exciting to see active classroom engagement. We are implementing whole group and small group instruction in all content areas. We have also started flexible pull-out groups to close the achievement gaps. We are fortunate this year, to have 2 Resource teachers, Ms. Goffney (Primary



5050 SW 116th Avenue
Cooper City, FL 33330
Phone: 754-323-5900
Fax: 754-323-5940



Website:

griffin.browardschools.com

Email:

Principal:

angiemoodliyar@browardschools.com

Assistant Principal:

thomas.nordstrom@browardschools.com

Literacy Coach:

Deborah.chmura@browardschools.com

School Counselor:

Teena.novack@browardschools.com

ESE Specialist:

Jessica.horta@browardschools.com

Classroom Teachers:

Firstname.lastname@browardschools.com

grades) and Ms. Baquedano (intermediate grades) to help with this initiative. Their primary focus will be to target skills that students are having difficulty with based on diagnostic assessments in Reading and Math. Looking ahead, we have several special events. Please check the calendar.

Honor Roll parent participation will be virtual for the first semester. We will reconsider after January. Students will receive their awards in the cafeteria and we will stream the event for you to be part of the ceremony. Communication is essential to connect with you. If you are NOT receiving important robo-calls or emails from Griffin, please call Ms. Maria Dunakin to verify your phone number and email address. We also encourage you to visit our website and Griffin PTA Facebook page for announcements, reminders, information and celebrations. I also post pictures on classroom activities.

As always, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to our school community. We would not be so amazing without your help. You make Griffin "Some Place Special". Together we can achieve more.

Thank you

Principal Jones

SEPTEMBER

- Start With Hello Week
- Hispanic Heritage (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)
- Suicide Prevention BPCS Monthly
- Character Trait: Cooperation

● Day ● Week ● Month



Peace Week

September 20th – 24th

OCTOBER

- Diversity Awareness
- Domestic Violence Awareness
- Hispanic Heritage (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)
- LGBT History
- National Bullying Prevention Awareness
- National Substance Abuse Prevention
- BPCS Monthly Character Trait: Responsibility

● Day ● Week ● Month

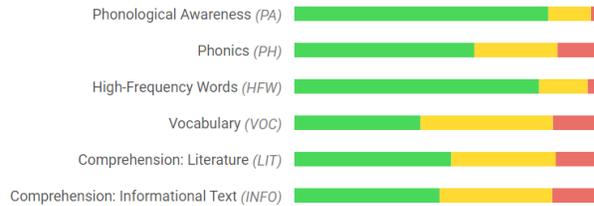
NOVEMBER

- Native American Heritage
- BPCS Monthly Character Trait: Citizenship

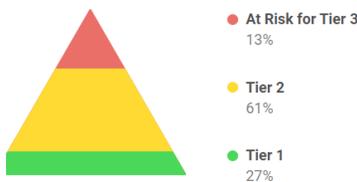
● Day ● Week ● Month

At the beginning of the school year, we completed the iReady Diagnostics. Here are the results of the students from Kindergarten -Fifth grade.

READING



MATH



[The Mapping Between 5-Level and 3-Level Placement](#)

Looking at the results, you can see we have work to do in Math. As a parent, you can help with Math Fluency. It is important for students to know math facts and to do them mentally – old fashioned drills are making a come-back after they understand and learn the concepts from the teacher.

KG – Addition

1st Grade – Addition and Subtraction

2nd Grade and 3rd – Addition, subtraction, multiplication

4th and 5th Grade – Multiplication and Division.

For Reading, it is important for your child to read or you can read to your child for about 20 minutes a day. Consistency is the key. Research has shown children that are exposed to reading daily have better test scores.



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.





Media News

Welcome to the media center at Griffin Elementary! I am excited for this year and to see our school library reopen for check-out. Every student will have the opportunity to visit the media center and check out books this year.

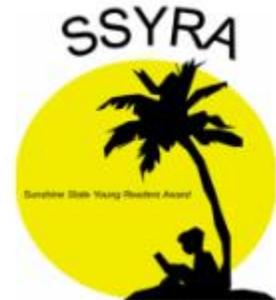
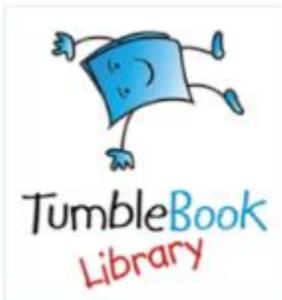
Your student will come with their class every two weeks for book check-out, so be sure your student brings their books back to school. My goal is to have students enjoy books and be exposed to diverse types of literature.

Library books may be checked out for two weeks. If materials are needed longer, please have your student let me know. If an item is not returned, your student may receive an overdue notice. If that item is not returned within 90 days, or has been damaged, a financial obligation is automatically created and must be paid prior to any other activities (ie: Aftercare, field trips, etc.). It's best practice to ensure your student takes care of their materials and brings back their books to school.

The media center has a few optional reading programs this year; many of which are posted on the school website under the Media Center tab so be sure to check out the website for Book It and Read Across Broward forms. If your student is using Beanstack, feel free to send me an email. Let's work together to create life-long readers by reading with your child. As always, feel free to reach out to me through email.

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Berger valerie.berger@browardschools.com



SPECIALS CORNER



MUSIC News from Mrs. Palmer

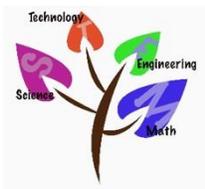
Hello everyone! We have been singing, dancing, reading rhythms, and playing classroom instruments in the music room and having a blast! This week we are singing and learning about The International Peace week and Hispanic Heritage Month through singing and dancing to songs from many different countries.

I have sent out the letters for band and chorus to students in grades four and five. My music groups will be a lot smaller this year due to COVID restrictions.



PE News from Mrs. Norrell

It has been so nice to see all our students IN PERSON out on the courts this year! Students attend P.E., Music, or STEM for a whole week and rotate to a new Special each week. In P.E., we have been working on using locomotor skills to travel in personal and general space in a variety of movement settings, while demonstrating safety practices and rules, and interacting cooperatively with others. We are also getting our Griffin Garden back up and running and different groups of students have helped plant seeds and pull weeds! Students in grades 2-5 received an Exercise Log on their first week of P.E. This is an optional activity for extra points in P.E., replacing the online Exercise Log they may have done last year on Canvas. Students are to record any physical activity they do for at least 30 minutes, before or after school, on at least 3 days of the week, including the weeks they do not actually attend P.E. Six weeks later they return the log to the Exercise Log Folder provided to their teacher. The first Exercise Log is due Friday, October 1st. I am looking forward to a great year with all our students in P.E. this year!



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

We are off to a great start in S.T.E.M. Special this year! Our students have been very busy learning about science safety, procedures, making observations, classifying objects, using the scientific method, the Engineering Design Process (EDP) to create things, and algorithms to name a few.

We are looking forward to more science investigations, learning about variables, using tools to measure, utilizing different types of technology to communicate, coding, and much, much more!



PRE-K NEWS!

Welcome to an awesome 2021 – 2022 school year! We were so excited to see everyone, some returning faces as well as some new ones! We are having the best time exploring and learning together. Can't wait to continue and begin some exciting adventures as we learn each day. We would really appreciate your continuing support to reinforce our daily/weekly lessons. These can be as simple as "I Spy" games, counting objects, "Hide and Seek" with letters and numbers, and so much more.

Our students are getting better at adjusting to the "new" school routine and mask wearing. Please continue to practice safe distances and clean habits (washing hands, sneezing in a tissue/their elbow, etc.). If your child is showing symptoms, as stated in the CDC and Broward Schools guidelines, please have them stay home and contact your child's teacher and the school promptly to let them know your child will be absent.

Please monitor the Griffin Elementary website, listen to all parent links, and notes from your teacher for any important information and upcoming events. As the Holidays approach, we will have themed activities and events following all CDC and Broward School guidelines.

We couldn't do this without the love and support from our Pre-K families.

Don't Stop this Awesome Pre-K Fun!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS!

Hello Parents! Thank you so much for attending our summer screening and Open House! As we navigate this first quarter of Kindergarten, we know that by working together we can help each of our little ones learn and grow. In Language Arts, we are working on letter names, sounds, and sight words daily. The children are also building comprehension skills by listening to stories that are rich in content and vocabulary. Has your little one been writing at home? At school, they are learning to "stretch out words" when spelling and writing. It is a process, so just keep trying! In Science, we are exploring the world through our 5 senses and learning about scientific tools and how to use them. Our Social Studies curriculum is focused on being a good citizen, a responsible student and family member, and the importance of following rules at school, home, and in the community. How can you help? I-Ready Reading and Math is a great resource to use at home. 10 minutes 3-5 times a week is great. We know it's difficult, but it's important to let the children answer the questions on their own. We are working at school on following directions, building stamina to maintain focus, and being kind to each other. Thank you for all your support. Need help? Simply contact your child's teacher on Remind. We look forward to a great year with your little ones!

The Kindergarten Team



FIRST GRADE NEWS!

Welcome Back to School! We are so excited to see everyone's smiling faces back at school for a wonderful year of learning. In August, we learned about being good friends and treating others with kindness and respect. In September, we began reviewing our short vowels, we became scientists and we performed some exciting science experiments. We also read the terrific book "The Bad Seed". October will bring some fantastic Fall Activities, including bats, spiders and of course the classic story, Stellaluna. In math, we are adding and subtracting single digit numbers. Please remember to have your child complete at least 15 minutes of i-ready reading and math at home.

Thank you to our amazing first grade parents for your support and generous donations. We want to remind you to please register for clearance to volunteer if you are interested in volunteering for future events. Please also make sure you have completed all beginning of year forms for your child.

We are certain we are going to have a terrific year together in first grade!



SECOND GRADE NEWS!

Our second graders have been adjusting well back to a "normal" school setting, which they haven't experienced since Kindergarten. They have enjoyed doing an author study on Kevin Henkes stories the first week of school. Second grade is excited to begin working with Benchmark Advance, our new reading series. We are also incorporating social-emotional lessons each day, focusing on cooperation, respect and positive thinking.

We will also continue with Beginning of the Year diagnostic assessments to get to know our students academically. Conferences will begin in once we diagnostics are completed.

Second graders should continue to practice Math Facts and read nightly.

Mrs. Alderman, Mrs. Coxe, Mrs. De Ferrari, Mrs. Menendez, Mrs. Selby, Mrs. Shanley



THIRD GRADE NEWS!

Hello amazing 3rd grade families! We are already halfway through the first quarter. The students are working on building their reading and math skills. Please have your child complete 2 lessons per week on i-Ready in both Reading and Math. Doing so will help close any gaps they may have.

We are looking forward to some exciting events in the next couple of months. We have two in-house field trips planned, one in October and one in November. Information about this will be coming home in October. We are excited to have Grandparents Day back this year! During that time, the Scholastic book fair will also take place. Another exciting event is the fall parade. That will take place on October 29. Information about these events and more will come home with your child soon.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We are looking forward to continuing this year and having some normalcy back!!!!



FOURTH GRADE NEWS!

Fourth grade is off and running. We are so happy to have the children back in school. They are coming to school excited to learn and socialize with their peers. Academically, we have been concentrating on place value and multiplication when it comes to math. In reading and writing, we have been working on main idea and summarizing. We are looking forward to writing workshop next month where we will learn the complete writing process. It's a tradition! Many things are on the horizon for our fourth graders. Parades, field trips, and all the special things that Griffin Elementary offers are returning. We are back and better than ever!



FIFTH GRADE NEWS!

Our 5th Graders are off to an amazing start. They have set their goals high and are developing a Growth Mindset to DREAM BIG this year. In 5th Grade, we have started lessons in all content areas. In ELA, our students have begun their first novel study and are working diligently on their first essay of the year. In Math, we completed Chapter 1 which focused on Place Value, Order of Operations, and Multiplication. We are diving into Chapter 2 all about Dividing Whole Numbers. In Science, students reached for the stars as they explored and learned about Our Solar System. The minds of our students are now back on Earth as they learn about Weather and Climate. Not only are our 5th graders striving to do well in all content areas, they are working on their organization and communication skills in the classroom. All students are doing their very best each day and the 5th grade Team of teachers are very proud to have a wonderful group of students this year. In 5th grade, we are DREAMING BIG and looking forward to seeing all the amazing things our students will accomplish.

How can YOU help your child reach their goals at home?

- Please continue practicing **multiplication skills** at home each night.
- Remind your child to complete 45 minutes in both **i-Ready** Reading and Math each week (1 lesson passed in Reading and Math).
- Check your child's **agenda** to ensure that all homework is being completed.

- Check **Pinnacle** weekly for updated grades.



SPEECH CORNER

Autumn Greetings from the Speech-Language Therapy Team!

Mrs. Schiller, Mrs. Pao, and Mrs. Izquierdo welcomes everyone back to school for the 2021-2022 school year!

Please check out awesome free Articulation, Fluency, and Language Skills videos on [https://peachiespeechie.com/!](https://peachiespeechie.com/)

If you would like to contribute the following supplies, it would be greatly appreciated!

Hand sanitizer (large), Bleach-Free Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, Prizes (Poppets, backpack hand sanitizers), Pencils, Colored Pens, Wipes, and Spiral notebooks.

Mrs. Schiller is working with students in our Pre-Kindergarten Specialized and Intensive Behavior classes as well as Kindergarten, and 1st grade students.

Mrs. Pao is working with students in 2nd grade to 5th grade.

Mrs. Izquierdo is working with students in the Emotional or Behavioral Disability classes. She is also a Local Educational Agency (LEA) Representative and will be assisting Mrs. Horta (our ESE Specialist) with running ESE meetings.

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

FRONT OFFICE NEWS



BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE FORMS

Welcome Back!

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.

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

Welcome Back!

Our student led recycling program is up and running. Our 4th and 5th grade members met to discuss what can be recycled here at BCPS and they learned all about contamination. Our goal is to not only recycle, but to reduce our contamination.



Seeds have been planted by students during their PE rotation and our seedlings look great. Hoping for another bountiful year of veggies for our students to taste. Thank you, Mrs. Norrell for your dedication and green thumb.



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 has been relocated to the Bus loop parking lot, on the outside of the fence for easy off hour access.

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.

Thanks for your support!

Mrs. Sanchez



ese.chair@gmail.com



Broward ESE Advisory Council



@BrowardESEad



browardeseadvisorycouncil.com

BROWARD ESE ADVISORY COUNCIL WELCOMES YOU!

We are a parent-led volunteer group formed under Broward County Public Schools policy to provide recommendations to the School Board and Superintendent on systemic issues relating to exceptional student education (ESE). We are a voice for students with disabilities, their families/caregivers and those who work with them. Advisory and its four subcommittees provide meetings throughout the year to inform our work and to support you and your child, offering a forum for advice and discussion, district news, legislative updates, guest speakers, presentations, and a chance for you to engage with Broward school district personnel. Our subcommittees are:



AUTISM (ACE)
@ACEBroward

acebroward@gmail.com

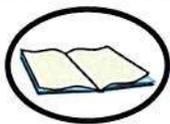
www.facebook.com/AutismCommitte



DOWN SYNDROME

dscommitteeboard@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/dscommittee



DYSLEXIA &
SPECIFIC LEARNING
DISABILITIES

SLDbroward.chair@gmail.com

Facebook: "Dyslexia/SLD committee"



EMOTIONAL
& BEHAVIORAL
DISABILITIES

eseEBD.chair@gmail.com

Facebook: "EBD Committee"



Turn the page for our
ESE ADVISORY CALENDAR 2021/22
Our meetings are open to all. Come & join us!



BROWARD ESE ADVISORY

and its subcommittees look forward to seeing you at our meetings.
 Details of in-person venues, links to join the meetings virtually, agendas, &
 guest speakers will be posted monthly at
www.browardeseadvisorycouncil.com

Please check our website regularly for any schedule changes

<p>SEPTEMBER 2021</p> <p>Thurs 2nd, 9.30am - 11.00am Autism Committee (ACE)</p> <p>Tues 21st, 6.30pm - 9pm ESE Advisory general meeting</p>	<p>OCTOBER 2021</p> <p>Wed 6th, 6.30pm Emotional & Behavioral Disabilities Committee</p> <p>Thurs 7th, 6.30pm Dyslexia/Specific Learning Disabilities Committee</p> <p>Wed 20th, 6.30pm - 9pm ESE Advisory general meeting</p> <p>Thurs 28th 6pm Down Syndrome</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2021</p> <p>Thurs 4th, 6.30pm - 8pm Autism Committee (ACE)</p> <p>Wed 17th, 6.30pm - 9pm ESE Advisory general meeting</p>
<p>DECEMBER 2021</p> <p>Wed 1st, 6.30pm: Emotional & Behavioral Disabilities Committee</p> <p>Thurs 2nd, 6.30pm Dyslexia/Specific Learning Disabilities Committee</p>	<p>JANUARY 2022</p> <p>Wed 19th, 6.30pm - 9pm ESE Advisory general meeting</p> <p>Wed 26th, 6pm - 8.30pm ESE Advisory Family Resource Fair</p> <p>Thurs 27th, 6pm Down Syndrome Committee</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2022</p> <p>Wed 2nd, 6.30pm: Emotional & Behavioral Disabilities Committee</p> <p>Thurs 3rd, 9.30am - 11.00am Autism Committee (ACE)</p> <p>Wed 16th, 6.30pm - 9pm ESE Advisory general meeting</p>
<p>MARCH 2022</p> <p>Thurs 10th, 6.30pm Dyslexia/Specific Learning Disabilities Committee</p> <p>Wed 16th, 6.30pm - 9pm ESE Advisory general meeting</p>	<p>APRIL 2022</p> <p>Wed 6th, 6.30pm: Emotional & Behavioral Disabilities Committee</p> <p>Thurs 7th, 6.30pm - 8pm Autism Committee (ACE)</p> <p>Wed 20th, 6.30pm - 9pm ESE Advisory general meeting</p> <p>Thurs 28th, 6pm Down Syndrome Committee</p>	<p>MAY 2022</p> <p>Wed 18th, 6.30pm - 9pm ESE Advisory general meeting</p>

Executive board/planning meetings:

- ESE Advisory: Sept 8th, Nov 9th, Jan 4th, March 8th, all 7pm
- Down Syndrome Committee: Oct 14, Jan 13, April 14, all 6pm