

Griffin Elementary School

Monthly Newsletter – Volume
April 1, 2021



Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER

Message from Principal Jones



Welcome back from Spring Break. It's exactly a year ago that our world turned upside down with the pandemic. Looking back, it is amazing to see how far we have come and how much we have grown. I want to thank you for your support during the crisis. I think there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Presently we are about 78% face-to-face with student enrollment. It is refreshing to see how happy the students are at school. We are still following CDC guidelines with physical distancing, mask wearing and hand sanitizing.

We are now in testing season. Remote learners will test separately from the F2F students, unless the parents request that their child test with the classroom teacher. Thank you for attending the FSA informational night. Testing Information and parent resources can be found on our school website or www.browardschools.com/testing. The testing schedule is posted on our website and on the school calendar on the website.



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Literacy Coach:

Deborah.chmura@browardschools.com

School Counselor:

Teena.novack@browardschools.com

ESE Specialist:

Jessica.horta@browardschools.com

Classroom Teachers:

Firstname.lastname@browardschools.com

As we close out the school year, teachers will be having promotion/retention conferences with you. All conferences will be virtual. We are aware that the pandemic has increased the learning gap. Students will be receiving interventions to narrow the gap. These interventions will follow them to the next school year.

Parents you may access your child's report cards and interims on Virtual Counselor. Virtual Counselor can be found on the Clever dashboard. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you are experiencing issues or if you have a concern.

Thank you for all that you do to help Griffin to be successful. It truly takes a "village" to raise a child.

With sincere gratitude,

Angie Moodliyar -Jones

Enrollment: 616
484 – Face to Face Student (78%)
132 – E-learners

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Services, in operation since 1984, is designed to ensure that all students will engage in student learning while living in safe home and school environments. It is intended to improve the overall achievement of students through removing them from harmful and stressful circumstances, if necessary, and providing remedial supports for them to achieve academic success.

Help Starts Here!

754-321-1550

April is Autism Awareness Month

Broward County Public Schools



PTA NEWS

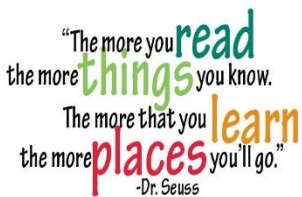
PTA is offering a free virtual magician to all Griffin students on April 29 at 6:00.



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.

Literacy Corner Literacy Coach: Ms. Chmura



April showers bring May flowers! Wait, in South Florida, we have showers straight through the summer. No wonder we have so many beautiful flowers! Books are like flowers, beautiful and inviting. This month's tips are more for our younger readers and readers to be. Remember, to ask your child's teacher what your child's independent reading level is. 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.

Word Play...

Play word games

Have your child sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

Talk about letters and sounds

Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmmmm."

Say silly tongue twisters

Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

Concentration

Use words (5 – 10) from the book your child is reading and write the words on index cards. Two cards per words and set up a concentration board. Play the game with your child. Add another level, have your child tell you what the matched words mean.

Letters, letters, everywhere

Play Scrabble, Junior Scrabble, Bananagrams, Boggle, etc. You can help your child build spelling ability and increase vocabulary. Give extra points for words from the latest book you read together!

And of course...I read to you, you read to me

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

Make letters just as important as the words they form. Have fun! Mrs. Chmura 😊



Earth Day is recognized as the largest civic event in the world. **Earth Day** is celebrated on **April 22** every year. The **day** aims to raise awareness among masses about climate change and global warming. The **day** inspires to act towards the protection of the environment and focus on the need for conservation.



Media News

April celebrates school library month. Libraries are vital to the community as they provide a safe place to grow, learn, explore and develop. Although our libraries looked different this year, we opened our minds and hearts to virtual libraries. Broward County Public Schools have built up their electronic book collection on Follett Destiny with Axis 360. Their relationship with Broward County libraries has allowed them to extend access to all students through the Digital Direct Library Card.

Many students and families are anxious to get back to the physical library building and our county libraries have opened their doors. Additionally, the county libraries are still offering curbside pickup, online events, and digital library cards that allow families to access eBooks, movies, and more.

Griffin students have had exposure to our school's online library. If you and your student need assistance, please email Mrs. Berger (valerie.berger@browardschools.com). Florida Department of Education has put together an amazing book suggestion list at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5673/urlt/BTS-ReadingList.pdf>. Many of these titles can be found through our virtual library.

On a personal note, thank you all for reading with your child each day. You're teaching your child to value books, as well as develop their ability to focus and communicate, all while stimulating their imagination. I look forward to having your students in our school library in a few months.

SPECIALS CORNER



ART from Sandra Stojack

For the Month of March students were exposed to art contests and expositions in an effort to raise awareness through creativity and of course implementing the 'elements of art'. One student competition was the Florida Everglades "Design the Everglades Challenge Coin". This year's theme was "Only One Everglades" – this one was Art Integration with STEM, featuring a theme lecture presented by Mrs. Bencivenga. During March, a few student's artwork were chosen to represent Griffin Elementary in the 2021 Broward County-wide YOUTH ARTS EXHIBITION. The theme for this year's exhibit is "Art Connects Us." And we would like to congratulate students that were selected: Hunter Hollman - Grade 5, and Rodolfo Rivero - Grade 5. There were so many Griffin students who created great art – but only two submissions were allowed. To those not chosen this time, you can be selected for the next exhibit in April "Ways to Reduce Food Waste". So please do your best with the next assignments as you may be selected!



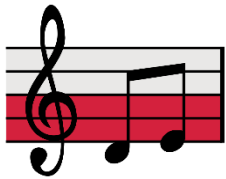
Rhythm & Movement

Hunter H.
Grade 5
Mixed Media (more than two mediums used)
Griffin Elementary
Sandra Stojack, teacher



Disability Awareness Month - Helping Hand

Rodolfo R.
Grade 5
Mixed Media (more than two mediums used)
Griffin Elementary
Sandra Stojack, teacher



MUSIC from Mrs. Palmer

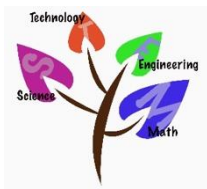
I am excited to announce that I will be putting on a virtual Show at the end of the school year. I plan to call it "Griffin's Got Talent." This year's show will be very different than my shows in years past. I will record classes performing music, dances, songs and Rhythm Readers from each class that we have learned in music class. Fifth Grade students will perform in a class act and be allowed to submit an individual act, but spaces will be very limited and there will be

my usual set of Guidelines as to what is acceptable for Griffin students. I will send out more information on guidelines and how to submit your act in the future.



P.E. News from Ms. Norrell

As mentioned last month, our students did a phenomenal job raising \$21,094 online during our annual community service fundraiser for the American Heart Association, Kid's Heart Challenge (KHC)! "Thank you" gifts have been delivered to students at school and any E-Learners who haven't received theirs yet will be able to pick them up at our KHC Drive-By Pick-up in front of the school on April 8th from 12:30-1:30. Special thanks to these students who raised the most money for their grade level: PK-James Magner, K-Avery Liberto, 1-Aria Vicente & Allison Leon, 2-Sage Atagan, 3-Griffen Giordano, 4-Angelo Jimeno, & 5-Molly Genson. Fantastic work!! Also, several students in Grades 1-5 continue to work hard on their online weekly Exercise Logs posted on their Canvas P.E. tile. These optional logs earn students extra points towards their grade in P.E. The last Exercise Log (#8) for the 4th quarter will be due May 23rd. Keep up the great work!



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

Spring has sprung! In S.T.E.M., we have been busy learning about living things such as plants and animals in grades K-5. Earth day is on April 22nd, but we will be learning and practicing ways we can continue to make Earth such a wonderful place throughout the entire month. Remember to get outside and get some fresh air! Science is everywhere!



PRE-K NEWS!

Bring on the beautiful flowers, butterflies, and joyful days! Last month we learned all about living things and what a great lesson to start with during our Spring exploring! Can't wait to continue this great lesson and exploring in April! Did you know living things have specific traits they follow? Like, growing and changing, needing food and water, making more of themselves to add to this wonderful world. Who wouldn't want a world full of beautiful flowers, insects, and many more? Along with seeing all these nice things, we need to remember to respect nature and look from a distance. For example, if we picked every flower we saw, who would be able to see them after us? Please continue to work with your child(ren) on letter identification, letter formation, and letter-sound recognition, receptively and expressively. They are constantly growing and getting smarter each



day. Thank you for continuing to practice safe distances, clean habits (washing hands, sneezing in a tissue/their elbow, etc.). Your efforts have help us keep your little ones and the classroom a clean welcoming learning environment for all. They are all doing great staying socially distant while interacting with each other and building friendships. Please remember if your child is not feeling well for any reason, please keep them home until they are illness free 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 continue to use Canvas and email as our main source of communication, please check often for any important information from your child's teacher. We can't say thank you enough for our amazing supporting Pre-K families!
Keep up the great work Pre-K!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS!

The Kindergarten Team is excited to welcome back Mrs. Barcelona! While we are happy to have her teaching with us again, we are sad to say good-bye to Mrs. Torres. We are so appreciative of the hard work and dedication that she showed to our little ones while she was with us. We wish her all the best at her new placement. We know her new students and their families will love her as much as we do!

As we begin the fourth and final quarter of the school year, it's important that we continue to keep working hard and focusing on making progress in all academic areas. What can you do at home? Establish a nighttime routine that should include your child reading to you and you reading to your child. At school, we are writing responses to include 2-3 sentences and illustrating their responses. In math, we will be working on 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes, creating graphs with data, and measurement of objects. In Science and Social Studies, we will be learning about states of matter, butterflies, frogs, and ladybugs. Please remember to charge those iPads each night! Thank you for your continued support each and every day.



FIRST GRADE NEWS!

Welcome to Spring in First Grade! Our first graders have done a great job of completing our Leprechaun and Spring Challenge activities. Spring Break was a welcome break and a rejuvenating time for all. We are looking forward to all the learning and activities to come as we prepare for the last nine weeks of school.

First graders testing their STEM parachutes at recess!



SECOND GRADE NEWS!

We are in the last quarter of the school year. The Second Graders have been working on measurement. Students are measuring in both standard measurement and metric. Please continue to have students practice Math fluency and complete 45 minutes a week of iReady Math.

We have begun our unit on the Human Body Systems. Students will be learning about the brain, muscular system, digestive system, circulatory system and respiratory system.

We will begin reading a variety of fairy tales and fractured fairy tales and comparing them. Students should be reading nightly to improve fluency and strengthen vocabulary. Students should also be completing 45 minutes of iReady reading each week.

Please continue to practice safety during these difficult times. Wear masks, wash hands frequently and stay home if you are sick.

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



THIRD GRADE NEWS!

FSA is upon us! We have worked diligently to prepare our students and we want to thank you, the parents, for all your support throughout this very challenging year. We know in our hearts that your children will shine. Please make sure to send them to school on FSA days with a healthy breakfast, arriving on time, and a good night

sleep the night before. Moving forward in the month of April, we will continue learning the math standards while reflecting on standards already learned. Please encourage your child to complete 2 lessons per week on i-Ready in both reading and math. The i-Ready will be used as an alternative promotion criterion, so therefore, the more lessons your child passes the closer

they will get to that desired score. Again, we thank you for all you have done to make this unprecedented school year a successful one!



FOURTH GRADE NEWS!

Our fourth graders are working hard in all subject areas. In language arts, they are practicing opinion writing and writing for information. They are building strong paragraphs using details from the text to elaborate on their ideas. Using strong vocabulary and exact word choice are some of the lessons that they are learning in class. In reading, the children are practicing higher level comprehension skills such as inferencing, drawing conclusions, and text structure with fiction and nonfiction texts. They are learning to become active readers through note-taking and proving their answers by underlining in the text. In math, it's important to keep the multiplication facts fresh as we have moved into fractions and decimals. Make sure they spend 45 minutes on iReady weekly.



FIFTH GRADE NEWS!

This month our Fifth graders are participating in the Writing FSA. In science, our students are continuing to learn all about mixtures and solutions, states of matter, and chemical and physical changes! In Math, we are closing our chapter with converting measurements, and will be moving on to our last chapter, Volume! Each 5th grade class is wrapping up their novel study and are left wanting to read more at the end of each chapter. Throughout this month our focus will be on reviewing all material from all subjects in preparation for our FSA!

Students should continue to work on completing their I-Ready Goal of 45 minutes each week in both Reading and Math but most importantly working towards passing a lesson weekly in each subject. Students should also be practicing their multiplication fact fluency daily. It is crucial that they feel confident in order to succeed in 5th grade math problems.

We appreciate our parents' support in ensuring all students come to school each day well rested, and ready to learn!



SPEECH CORNER

[Spring Greetings from the Speech-Language Therapy Team!](#)

Welcome back! Mrs. Pao, Mrs. Izquierdo, and Mrs. Schiller hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break and are ready for our fourth quarter!

We would like to give a friendly remind for parents to please ensure that **face-to-face students bring functioning headphones to school daily.**

Also, some e-learners may also need to use functioning headphones during virtual Microsoft Teams sessions. This is very important as it allows our students to focus and actively participate in e-learning teletherapy sessions.

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,

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

COUNSELOR ' S CORNER

Monthly Observances

Earth Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Autism Awareness Month

April's Character Trait

Tolerance

sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from
or conflicting with one's own

March Students of the Month for Self-Control

Name	Student First Name	Student Last Name
Stacey Alderman	Aliyah	Arenas
Melinda Barcelona	Kylie	Leffler
Serena Benner	Feifei	Chen
Christine Caruso	Kyle	Paulson
Stephanie Cohenour	Dakota	Wastenev
Jamie Coxe	Ezra	Farley
Jacqueline De Ferrari	Aaron	Batista
Sidona Del Corral	Brian	Izquierdo
Vilma Dourvetakis	Rex	Albury
Scott Feldman	Sebastian	Masreliez
Patricia Gallagan	Jake	Mann
Amy Giardiniere	Jayson	Vasquez-Jimenez
Germaine Goffney	Genesis	Saez
Alicia Hopkins	Domineko	Parrota
Angela Keller	Leah	Hedrick
Sasha Lyn	Shams	Lakloumiche
Kimberly May	Natalie	Cruz
Donna Menendez	Dylan	Anraczinskas
Kimberly Millovan	Katherine	Lonth
Kimberly Pritchett	Skyla	Hahn
Meghan Pugliese	Victoria	Chamberlain
Cynthia Schissler	Logan	Reed
Lisa Selby	Daiyamil	Ulloa
Dana Shapiro	Jayden	Interian
Michelle Shirley	David	Delgado
Lisa Smith	Sienna	Birritta-Paludi
Christina Alyssa Vega	Andre	Auerbach
Ayanna Villanueva	Elizabeth	Granados
Melissa Zuckerman	Anyeli	Fernandez

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

TESTING

4/6	FSA/ELA – Writing 4 th and 5 th grade F2F students
4/6	Session 1 FSA/ELA 3 rd grade F2F students
4/7	Session 2 FSA/ELA 3 rd grade F2F student
4/7	FSA/ELA Writing 4 th and 5 th grade Remote Learners
4/9	Session 1 FSA/ELA 3 rd grade Remote Learners
4/12	Session 2 FSA/ELA 3 rd grade Remote Learners

Testing season is here! At Griffin, we teach the curriculum, minimize teaching to the test, and encourage positive praise. While we provide the education and encouragement please help us out and practice good daily habits.

Home Testing Prep

1. Get a good night's sleep – 9 to 12 hours are recommended
2. Eat a well balance breakfast – reframe from sugary cereals and pastries
3. Arrive on time – Allow a few extra minutes for students to get settled in class
4. Bring personal belongings - glasses, sweater, water bottle
5. Encourage your child to their best – avoid unnecessary pressure

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

Happy Spring! A big "Thank You" to our ESE Families for working as part of our team to best meet student needs. We appreciate you!

You can reach our department anytime via phone or email for question or concerns. See below for April and May Webinars offered by The FDLRS Network.

April 16th – How Understanding Learning Styles Helps When Parenting

May 21st – Resources for Parents and Families

[https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13477/FDLRSParent Services Webinars Description.pdf](https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13477/FDLRSParent%20Services%20Webinars%20Description.pdf)



April



Date	Event	Time
4/2	No School	
4/5 – 4/9	Florida Food Waste Prevention Week	
4/6	FSA/ELA – Writing 4 th and 5 th grade F2F students	
4/6	Session 1 FSA/ELA 3 rd grade F2F students	
4/7	Session 2 FSA/ELA 3 rd grade F2F student	
4/7	FSA/ELA Writing 4 th and 5 th grade Remote Learners	
4/8	Early Release Day – students go home at 12:00 noon	12:00pm
4/9	Session 1 FSA/ELA 3 rd grade Remote Learners	
4/12	Session 2 FSA/ELA 3 rd grade Remote Learners	
4/19	SAC/SAF meeting	2:15pm
4/22	Earth Day	
4/28	Kindergarten Round Up – Virtual	4:00pm
4/29	Free Virtual Magician Show for all students – PTA sponsored	6:00pm

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.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

This month is Earth Month and Earth Day is April 22nd. We will be celebrating Earth Week with some fun and informative daily activities. Also, the week of 4/5 through 4/9 is the first ever Florida Food Waste Prevention Week. Teachers were sent videos and activities to share with the students to discuss the issue with food waste. Please feel free to talk to your child about what food means to them and discuss food waste at home and in the cafeteria. Check out the below video:

Life of a Strawberry <https://youtu.be/G0x50yzQXRU>



Food Waste in Numbers:

#1 Personal Action to reduce carbon emissions

\$165 Billion dollars' worth of food is thrown out annually by Americans

62.5 Million tons of food is discarded in America every year

21% of the fresh water supply is used to produce WASTED food

Below are the results of our first food waste audit which was done back in December of 2018 before we started our food rescue/food share table program. Unfortunately, due to COVID we were not allowed to implement the program this year, but we are fired up and ready to start again in the Fall.



Just a reminder to bring your old towels, linens, clothes and shoes to be recycled at Griffin. We get 10% of the proceeds. Last month we received a check 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.

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