

Griffin Elementary School

Monthly Newsletter – Volume 6

March 1, 2021



Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER

Message from Principal Jones



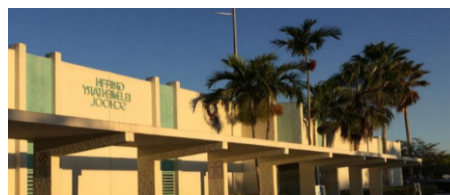
February has been a busy month at Griffin. For the day of Service and Love, students made kindness hearts, decorated rocks with meaningful messages, Ms. Novack organized a Zen Experience for staff to relax and reflect during their planning period and your generous toiletry donation for the needy. Academically, teachers completed the BAS Assessment Period 2 to assess the reading level and growth of students and the 5th Graders took a district Science Benchmark Standardized Assessment.

Students in Grades 3-5 will be taking the Florida State Assessment (FSA) this school year. Since it will be paper based, only students that are in the brick and mortar will be taking the assessment. Virtual learners will be given the opportunity to take the assessment in school at a secured and safe location that will be sanitized. On March 10, 2021 at 4 PM we will have a FSA Informational Meeting for parents and guardians of F2F students and March 11, 2021 for Virtual students at 4PM

Presently, we are running a Spring Intervention Camp for selected students in Grades K-5. Students were selected by the teachers if they needed the extra push to reach proficiency. We



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are also considering having a Science Camp for our 5th Grade students. More information to follow.

Wishing you a happy St. Patrick's Day 3/17/2021 and a safe, enjoyable and relaxing Spring Break 3/22/2021 – 3/26/2021.

Thank You.

Enrollment: 622

471 – Face to Face Student (75%)

151 – E-learners



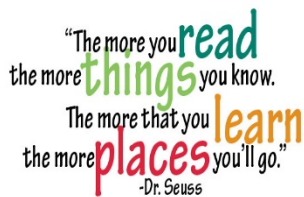
COVID-19 Update

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



March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb! We are ready. Spring is in the air. I am going to continue the series of reading tips this month. 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.

Have a conversation...

Tell family tales

Children love to hear stories about their family. Talk about a funny thing that happened when you were young.

Talk about what you see and do

Talk about everyday activities to build your child's background knowledge (this is super important!), which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. Keep up a running patter, for example, while cooking together, visiting somewhere new, or after watching a TV show.

Talk to your child

Ask your child to talk about his/her day at school. Encourage him/her to explain something he/she and his/her classmates did, or a game he/she played during recess.

Talk, talk, talk!

Talk with your child every day about things going on around the house, neighborhood, and community. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation and build on words you've talked about in the past (vocabulary).

Read it and experience it

Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about animals, relate it to your last trip to the zoo.

I read to you, you read to me

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

Find a right fit book this month and enjoy it with your child!



THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE

DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY

Here is the list of optional activities.





BCPS celebrates Women's History Month every March.

This observance began in 1987 and grew out of a small-town school event in California as a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society.

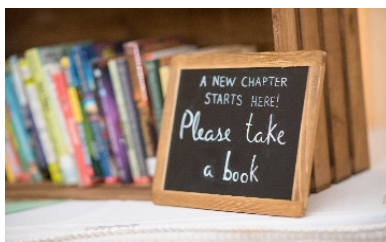


It's a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and

society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States. Women's History Month 2021 will take place from Monday, March 1-Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

congratulations

- **Ms. Jacque Sanchez – Caliber Award WINNER! Broward County School Related Employee of the Year**
- Ms. Betsy Norrell, District PE Teacher of the week
- Ms. Moodliyar-Jones – Nominee for Principal of the Year Caliber Awards
- Ms. Jessica Horta – Nominee for Teacher of the Year Caliber Awards



Media News

Books and doors are the same thing. You open them and go through into another world.

-- Jeanette Winterson

Whether nonfiction or fiction, books help us explore and understand the world around us. Read alongside your child, show them your love for books, and enjoy where books take you together. Talk about your favorite parts, what you felt, and what you learned. If you are looking for a delightful read aloud for your primary student, choose a Caldecott Award or Honor book. The illustrations are spectacular! If you need digital eBook resources, TumbleBooks on Clever has some great eBooks, as well as videos, puzzles, games, and more. Axis360 through Follett Destiny offers fiction and nonfiction titles and have a special section just for our intermediate Sunshine State books. These audio and eBooks are in such high demand that they are flying off the virtual bookshelf!

Feel free to reach out through email (valerie.berger@browardschools.com) if you need a book suggestion, help on Axis360, or anything at all!

SPECIALS CORNER



ART from Sandra Stojack

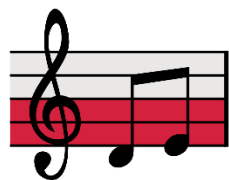
For the Month of February, the mobile Art-Cart commuted around Griffin Elementary to Celebrated Black History month at every stop. We



discussed ethnicities, origins, traditions, and culture.

Students learned about the origin and uses of Artistic masks in African, and that African masks are the most admired and well-known art form of Africa. They are both

conceptual and artistic forms with great meaning to their culture. Students enjoyed making their own creative African Masks, using the Elements of Art: color, lines, shape, and Principles of design. Pattern and related math-symmetry also are a predominant characteristic of African Masks. And of course, the fun part of cutting eyelets so-as to wear and see through to their peers and have a fun roll-play in celebration.



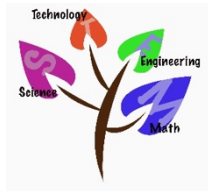
MUSIC from Mrs. Palmer

February has been an exciting month in music class. Students in grades K and 1 have been singing and learning about the 100 days of school, Valentine's Day, and dancing to music from Motown. Students in grades 2-3 have been learning about the Blues. Students in grade four have been learning about the instruments and their families and fifth grade is learning about the music of Motown and how it brought together two cultures through music.

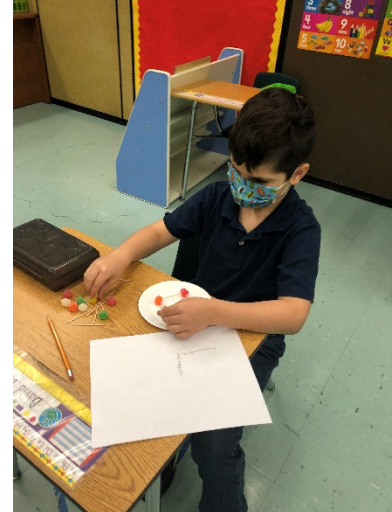


P.E. News from Ms. Norrell

Our students did a phenomenal job raising donations online during our annual community service fundraiser for the American Heart Association, Kid's Heart Challenge (KHC)! **We raised just over \$20,000!** Students have already received their "Heart Heroes" and wristbands; the other prizes earned (yoyos, t-shirts, kickballs, etc.) have been ordered and will be delivered upon arrival, after Spring Break. E-Learners will have another KHC Drive-By Pick-up for earned prizes on April 8th. Several students in Grades 1-5 have been working 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 third quarter will be due March 7. Keep up the great work!



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



In S.T.E.M.

Special we have been busy learning about living and non-living things in the primary grades. We've explored how animals can be portrayed in books with human characteristics and discussed real & make-believe animals. We focused on Fairytales in STEM where we learned a lot more about wolves and pigs in fact and fiction. We will be working to engineer some strong houses that the big bad wolf (a.k.a. the fan) cannot blow down with first grade. Kindergarten will be learning about strong structures that make towers & bridges. Then they will be engineering their own towers with index cards and testing their designs. In grades 2-5 we have been learning about plants, animals and reviewing types of energy. Fourth grade even did a seed dissection! Over the next month or so, we will be visiting our outdoor environmental education center/area more. Fresh air and nature always make a great learning environment. Hopefully, students will feel inspired to start a garden and spend some time outdoors. As I always say science is all around us! Keep observing...



PRE-K NEWS!

We've had such an amazing February! We celebrated all about LOVE and learning about some amazing people for month of Black History. There were so many talented people that helped us to live a better life. Some inventions we learned about was the stop light, peanut butter, the first clock, clothes dryer, and many more. Not only did we learn about inventors, but about some brave people that weren't afraid to help others. We also did some fun and creative crafts in celebration of Valentine's Day. We talked about how we should love and respect each other every day!! Huge shoutout to everyone on our Team: teachers, teacher assistants, parents, grandparents, and siblings. Everyone plays an important role in the student's growing mind! We are forever grateful for your endless efforts of helping with all necessary pre-skills to be successful every day. Please continue to work on their pre-skills, fine motor skills, and gross motor skills. There are so many fun activities that you may not even realize that your child is learning from. For example, counting the cars by color or size, searching for flowers outside, sorting noodle shapes, etc. This helps with their focusing skills, counting skills, and categorizing items. 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 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. Please remember to log onto Canvas for any important information from your child's teacher. This is where you can find weekly activities and the daily schedule. Please attend Teams sessions according to your child's daily schedule. If your child will be absent for any reason during their online session, please let the teacher know so he/she can begin the lesson with the other students. We will continue to send home any supply packets needed every few weeks according to your child's curriculum and theme. Thank you for submitting your child(ren)'s work, please continue!! These help us with their IEPs and other important documenting purposes. As Spring approaches, enjoy some extra time outside with loved ones! We love to hear all about family traditions and activities! Pre-k has some exciting activities prepared for Spring as well! Can't wait to see! We can't say thank you enough for our amazing supporting Pre-K families! Keep up the great work Pre-K!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS!

February has been a month of much academic growth for our Kindergarteners. We celebrated 100 days of learning! We also celebrated friendship and kindness on February 14th. Students have been busy practicing decoding skill, writing sentences, counting to 100 (in many ways), and learning about American symbols. Next, we will start our math chapter on geometry. It is important to *practice* reading skills daily. Please remember to help your child practice sight words at home. Sight words help our students with their fluency skills. Thank you for continued support during this unprecedented year.



FIRST GRADE NEWS!

As March rolls in, the learning experiences continue in first grade. Kids have explored states of matter, researched Black History Month and celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The kids showed off their creativity and demonstrated their math knowledge as we celebrated the 100th day of school. We are proud of all the progress our students have made this year and are looking forward to spring break. Stay tuned for more fun activities.



MRS. PRITCHETT



MRS. PUGLIESE



MRS. ZUCKERMAN



MRS. COHENOUR



MRS. COHENOUR



MRS. DOURVETAKIS



SECOND GRADE NEWS!

Second graders have been working on researching Famous Black Americans who made an impact on our lives. Students created a project and will be sharing their research with their peers. Dr. Seuss's birthday is March 2nd. Griffin will be celebrating the author with a variety of themed days and by reading many of his books!

Students also reviewed Fire Safety and developed safety plans for their homes. Students are currently learning about money and telling time. Continue practicing at home to reinforce these skills. Students should be reading nightly as this will enhance their imagination, fluency, and vocabulary. Reminder: All students should be completing 45 minutes of iReady Reading and iReady Math each week.

A big thank you to all our parents for your continued support!

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



THIRD GRADE NEWS!

We are 3 weeks away from the end of the third quarter, which means only one quarter left of the year! We can't believe how fast time has gone. For the month of March, we have an early release day on the 18 and no school on the 19 which is the start of spring break. Upon returning, in April, we will be taking our FSA in ELA. The

test is taken over 2 days. Once dates are finalized, you will know! Please continue to ensure that your child completes and passes 2 lessons on i-Ready Reading each week. This is their pathway and has lessons geared for them to help close any gaps they have. It is also important that they are reading aloud as well to build their oral fluency. In May we will take the FSA in Math. The test is taken over 2 days. Once dates are finalized, you will know! Again, please ensure that they are completing and passing 2 lessons on i-Ready Math each week. The lessons are on their path and help close the gaps. They should be practicing their multiplication facts

daily. It only takes 2-3 minutes and there are several apps out there they can use to practice. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.



FOURTH GRADE NEWS!

Fourth grade is going forward full steam ahead! We are really working hard on writing. We have been practicing on opinion writing and even began to introduce informational writing as well. Students have been working

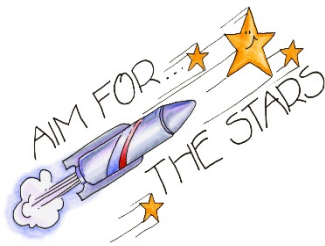
hard on reading several sources at a time, brainstorming, planning, and writing several paragraphs using evidence and elaboration. We are encouraging students to use citations from their sources as well. We are planning to have a mock FSA Write Practice coming up on March 5th so students can experience writing in a timed structure.

In the area of reading, classes are continuing to go into novel studies. Students really enjoy breaking down literacy elements in a novel! We are continuing to work in Our IReady Books daily to meet the needs of our Florida Standards. Grammar and Vocabulary are continuously being worked on throughout the day, especially when students are writing.

In the area of Math- we are going deep into fractions! We are adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators, comparing fractions, ordering fractions, converting fractions, and now are beginning to multiply fractions as well. Students are enjoying fractions just as much as the teachers!

Please continue to make sure your child is working on IReady Reading and Math lessons with fidelity! The goal is 45 mins weekly on both subjects! IReady is so important because it meets the needs of every child!

FIFTH GRADE NEWS!



“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.”- Seneca

Our amazing 5th graders continue to do their best each and every day. Student’s dedication was recognized in the month of February with Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance certificates for their first semester.

This month our Fifth graders are continuing to work hard in preparation for the upcoming FSA. Our students have enjoyed learning about Force and Motion in Science and are excited to experiment with MATTER! We will be learning all about Solutions vs Mixtures, Physical vs. Chemical changes, and so much more! In Math, we are closing our chapter with Multiplying and Dividing Fractions. We will switch gears to our unit all about Measurements! Each 5th grade class has begun their new novel study and are left wanting to read more at the end of each chapter. We will soon be putting pencil to paper and our writing knowledge to the test with a practice writing FSA.

All our 5th graders continue to work together at a distance by collaborating in group projects such as creating a Black History Poster and a giant Periodic Table of Elements.

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 are looking forward to seeing their knowledge and creativity shine this month when preparation meets opportunity.



SPEECH CORNER

Happy Spring Greetings from the Speech-Language Therapy Team!

Mrs. Pao, Mrs. Izquierdo, and Mrs. Schiller would like to give a friendly remind 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.

Some of the digital resources that we have been using during our therapy sessions are **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

Women's History Month - National Nutrition Month

March's Character Trait

Self Control...having discipline over one's behavior and actions

February Students of the Month for Honesty

Sebastian	Amador	Pugliese
Naya	Nieves	Dourvetakis
Jackson	Bryne	Pritchett
Annabelle	Fernandez	Cohenour
Jaleah	Brereton	Zuckerman
Koa	Boze	Coxe
Adiel	Soffer	Alderman
Ashely	Batchelor	De Ferrari
Olivia	Kopp	Menendez
Justin	Pimental	Selby
Celine	Alkabesh	Goffney
Cameron	Cardinale	Keller
Raiden	Thompson	Millovan
Logan	Reed	Schissler
Lucienne	Ghassan	May
Jackson	Graham	Baquedano
Nicolas	Wolenberg	Gallagan
Domineko	Parrotta	Hopkins
Valeria	Molina	Shapiro
Natalia	Saenz	Caruso
Harley	Steward	Feldman
Nikolai	Matos	Brown
Mikaela	Bishop	Vega
Kobe	Conway	Benner
Andrew	Cash	Anorga
Raymond	Quintana	Von Achen
Brandon	Matter	Burd
Gerry	Mayen	Torres
Clay	Spahic	Giardinieri
Aria	Rodriguez	Smith
Teresa	Lonth	del Corral
Eo	Spector	Shirley
Luke	Johnson	Lyn
Gabriella	Hacket	Villaneuva

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

Testing season is coming quickly. 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

Instructional Strategies for ESE Students

Focus on the Essentials

By identifying important principles, key concepts, and big ideas, students can 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 aids.

Prime Background Knowledge

By activating prior knowledge and then connecting it to new information, students can 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



March
Women’s History Month
National Nutrition Month



Date	Event	Time
3/1 – 3/5	Dr. Seuss Week	
3/1 – 3/14	Virtual Book Fair	
3/2-3/3	Mid-Year Reading Assessment – Primary	
3/4	PTA Virtual Meeting	5:30pm
3/9-11	CogAt Assessment – F2F only	8:30 am
3/10	FSA Meeting - F2F students	4:00 pm
3/11	FSA Meeting - Virtual students	4:00 pm
3/15-17	CogAt Assessment – Virtual students only	8:30am
3/18	Early Release Day	
3/19	No School	



3/22 – 3/26	Spring Break	
3/29	SAC/SAF meeting	2:15pm
3/30	Strawbridge Fall Make Up Pictures	

BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE FORMS



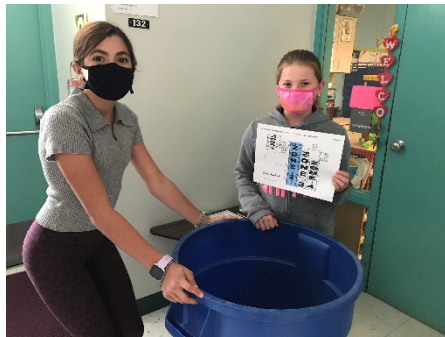
Still waiting for about 20% of our families to complete their forms. Thank you to the parents who have completed them. The school always need updated information.

REPORT CARDS 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

Student recycling started back up this month at Griffin. Our Eco Patrol students are a big part of our recycling success here at Griffin. Students were very excited to get back to work!



Also, remember 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