

# Griffin Elementary School

## Monthly Newsletter – Volume 3

### November 1, 2020



Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER



#### Message from Principal Jones

**GRATEFUL**



Dear Griffin Families,  
November – is a Month of Gratitude. It is a time to acknowledge the good that you have in your life and a time to be grateful for family and friends.

We are well on our way through the second quarter. Report cards for the first quarter will be issued November 12. It can be accessed through Virtual Counselor. Interims for the second quarter will be issued November 17.

Our Face to Face enrollment is 298 out of 620 students. I am amazed at how well the students are adjusting to being in school, keeping their masks on and maintaining physical distance.

Picture of our Cafeteria – students on a staggered schedule – 6 feet apart.



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### **STAYING SAFE!**

Please notify your teacher should your child become ill or test positive for COVID-19, so that we can evaluate the situation and determine if further precautions or notifications are necessary.

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our students, staff and families. We will continue to follow all COVID-related safety procedures as defined in reopening plans. We strongly encourage you to visit our COVID-19 resource page at [www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com) for links to helpful resources.

When we work together, we can ensure the safety of everyone in our school community. We appreciate your flexibility and support.

### **iReady News!**

Research shows that involving students in their learning can have a significant impact on their success. This is even more critical when they find themselves learning from home. Here are some tips and tools to help:

[Fridge Tips](#)

[iReady.com/FamiliesSupportLearning](http://iReady.com/FamiliesSupportLearning).

Please ensure that your child reads a book every night for at least 15-20 minutes and works daily for at least 10 minutes a day on their iReady personalized learning path. Do not exceed more than 50 minutes a week in Reading and Math.

## **Message from Intern Principal: Mr. Nordstrom**

Hard to believe that November is already here and we have started the second quarter. Report Cards will be issued to students on November 12th. You will be able to see their report card and interims on virtual counselor. The same process that the district used last year will be used again. If you are not sure how to sign into virtual counselor or are not able to remember how you can always contact your child's teacher or the school. Arrival and dismissal is going very smoothly, but we can always do better. Just a few reminders: If your child needs assistance getting out of the car or they are finishing up breakfast please park your car in our parking lot and help them get out. You can walk up to the many drop off areas and an adult from the school will make sure they get to their right location. By stopping and putting your car in park while in the car line backs up, the line for those students that are ready to leave the car and head into the school gets longer. When waiting for other parents to drop off their students is a good the time to get your child ready to leave the car. Pick up and drop off is only one line of cars. Do not pull around the line and have your child walk between cars to get picked up. This is a very dangerous practice. With your support we can even make our drop off and pick up more smoother and safer.



## Ms. Jacque Sanchez

**She was selected as the 2020 Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Award – Individual Winner.**

The CIA winners will be announced at Ed Talk 2020/2021 which take place on Saturday, December 5, 2020. We are so proud of you and your hard work Ms. Sanchez, not only as our awesome Mirco-Tech but also encouraging the Griffin community to be eco-friendly with your green initiative.

Ms. Sanchez was also selected as a semi- finalist for the Broward Employee of the Year. We are keeping our fingers crossed that she makes it through the finals. Will keep you posted.

## Media News



November is here and the American National Library associations celebrates picture book month. My son loved Burger Boy when he was younger, and I cannot tell you how many times I had to read it to him. As he's now grown to be a teenager (and reading on his own), it's become a favorite memory of mine. I've even been able to entice him to help me make burgers in the kitchen because of this book! Choose your favorite picture book and share it with your child. Have them choose theirs, read it, and enjoy the time together. If you need any suggestions or help logging into our digital collection, please reach out ([valerie.berger@browardschools.com](mailto:valerie.berger@browardschools.com))

## SPECIALS CORNER:

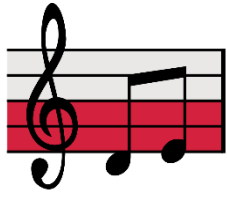
### ART



**From Sandra Stojack**

Art can be therapeutic and proves to be much needed in this time of uncertainty. Thank you all for participating enthusiastically in this first quarter. We have all worked to overcome the challenges of the remote learning and have been engaging in meaningful art lessons despite a shortage of material and limited class time. I am looking forward to the second quarter with new exciting and poignant activities.

## MUSIC – Mrs. Palmer



We have been busy in music class singing, dancing, and reading rhythms while tapping our pencils on our desks. We have explored music for Hispanic Heritage Month and now we are singing and dancing and tapping to Halloween music. Thank you, parents, for supporting music at Griffin Elementary School. Thank you, parents, for dancing with your children when we were virtual.

## P.E. News from Ms. Norrell



P.E. classes are held outside on the courts and virtually simultaneously, which is a bit of a challenge with the elements! We are also limited on the skills we can work on since we must practice social distancing and are not allowed to use equipment at this time, but we are making the best of it as we continue to work on yoga & fitness routines, balance, locomotor skills, & FitnessGram physical fitness activities. Students in grades 1-5 are encouraged to visit their Canvas course P.E. tile and complete the weekly Exercise Logs (published Thursdays and due Sundays) for extra points towards their grade in P.E. These show any physical activity they completed after school so students should participate in them even on the weeks, they do not have P.E. Hopefully you can do more fun things together as a family outside now that the weather is getting a little cooler!

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



In S.T.E.M. Special we have been busy engineering things out of recycled materials, working on our observation skills, communicating, thinking critically, working on perseverance and making predictions. We will continue to work on these skills as we learn more about force & motion in grades K-2 and conducting science experiments in grades 3-5. We will also, be learning about some of Rube Goldberg's inventions and cartoon antics involving chain reactions. Thank you all for participating full heartedly and making learning fun!

## PRE-K NEWS



We have had so many amazing online and face to face experiences so far. Can't wait for many more! Each day our students are getting better at adjusting to the "new" school routine. The students are becoming more comfortable wearing their masks throughout the day. Please continue to practice safe distances and clean habits (washing hands, sneezing in a tissue/their elbow, etc.). We couldn't do it without the love and support from our Pre-K families. We will continue to send home supply packets every few weeks, as needed, according to our curriculum and themes. Please remember to log onto Canvas daily and attend Teams sessions according to your child's daily schedule. Routine is especially important for our little ones, so try to create one that suits the needs of your child and family, while keeping with school schedules. Also, please keep up with any activities and assignments to help the teachers collect important data on your child. Keep Rocking and Rolling Pre-K!!

### KINDERGARTEN NEWS



We are excited to be starting the second quarter. We would like to thank all of our families for your patience and support as we made the transition to in school eLearning. Your child's teacher will be scheduling a conference with you this month. We enjoyed participating in the Red Ribbon Week activities and having a guest reader, a Cooper City Commissioner, join us on October 29<sup>th</sup> for Read for the Record. Kindergarteners should continue to practice letter names and sounds. They should be practicing their rainbow sight words daily and they can also access iReady in the afternoons for extra practice. We will continue to have a material pick up every Thursday for our At Home Learners. In School learners please be sure to send in a fully charged device and headphones every day.

### FIRST GRADE NEWS:



Dear First Grade Parents,  
We are incredibly appreciative of your continued support! We can't say enough about how well our face to face learners have adjusted to all of the safety measures that have been implemented at Griffin. We are equally impressed by the patience and resilience shown by our virtual learners at home. Our first grade students are truly amazing!  
Please continue to support your child at home by dedicating 10 to 15 minutes per night to reading practice. This will give your child the opportunity to apply the decoding strategies they are learning in class.  
We look forward to another successful quarter as we begin to learn about the upcoming current events and the holidays ahead.

Warmest Regards,  
The First Grade Teachers

## SECOND GRADE NEWS!



Second graders are doing a magnificent job learning. While some students continue to work at home, others have returned to Griffin. We have had to adapt our schedules and would like to thank all our families for being flexible and understanding. The students have daily SEL lessons. These lessons help students recognize and manage emotions, solve problems, and establish positive relationships. The lessons are such a great way to start each day.

The students learned about 9/11, Constitution Day and Voting/Elections in Social Studies. We will begin learning about Veteran's Day and how very special our veterans are to us.

In Science we discussed the life cycle of a plant, a butterfly and a frog. We discussed their basic needs and basic needs we have.

In Math, 2nd grade is learning about place value. The students are writing numbers in a variety of ways.

We are celebrating Red Ribbon week. Ms. Novack planned fun activities which are helping us learn about saying no to drugs.

2nd graders continue to utilize Teams and Canvas. They have learned to use large gallery to see their friends. In Canvas students have learned to utilize the laptop camera and upload files. We feel so very proud of our students!

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

## THIRD GRADE NEWS!



The 3rd graders are doing a fantastic job and moving right along. We are going strong with academics and now in second quarter, the expectations, are rising! In math, the students should start memorizing their multiplication facts. This will help them moving forward with the standards they need to know. Flash cards are a great, quick way to practice daily. We are also working on solving two-step word problems. The students need to look for clue words to solve the problem. In Reading, we are working on learning the standards through our Ready book, story works jr, and keystones. The students are fully engaged and doing a lot of reading. We want to take this time to thank you so much for your continued support as we continue to navigate these uncharted times. Please remember to have your child work on i-Ready daily

and ensure that they are completing their canvas work in a timely manner. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

## FOURTH GRADE NEWS!



Fourth Grade is welcoming the fall with a smile. We have jumped into double digit multiplication and division. In reading, we are analyzing multiple texts including fiction and nonfiction, and responding to questions. We have established a routine with our face to face and virtual students that helps keep the class flowing smoothly. The students are navigating multiple websites and learning to work independently. While this is not a normal year, our students have stepped up to the challenge.

## FIFTH GRADE NEWS!



Happy Fall! Fifth grade is cruising into 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter! In math, we have completed multiplication, division, and place value, and are currently working on decimals. In science, we learned all about our weather and weather instruments that we can use... seems like our rain gauge has been the most popular instrument these past few weeks. In reading we have been identifying the theme of poems, identifying main ideas, and finding details in the text. Thank you for picking up our packets during our first drive thru event! We hope to continue this once each quarter for students to have some interactive journaling activities and writing prompts to use at home.



## Happy 2nd Quarter 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.

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](mailto:vicky.pao@browardschools.com), Mrs. Izquierdo



at [melissa.k.izquierdo@browardschools.com](mailto:melissa.k.izquierdo@browardschools.com),  
or Mrs. Schiller  
at [kimberly.schiller@browardschools.com](mailto:kimberly.schiller@browardschools.com).

Ms. T. Novack -754 323-5900 - [teena.novack@browardschools.com](mailto:teena.novack@browardschools.com)

### Attendance Counts! All Day, Everyday

#### Tip of the Month

##### Practice Gratitude!

Being home with your parents, sisters, brothers, other relatives, and caregivers can be stressful. You might even say that they get on your nerves. Instead of being negative, focus on the positive facts. Tell them something nice and thank them for all they do. A simple thank you or words of praise can go a long way..... And make you feel good too! November's Character Trait Citizenship Knowing, understanding, and displaying a high regard for rules, laws, government, heritage and for those who have served and sacrificed for community and country.

#### Spotlight on October's Students of the Month

Congratulations! We are so proud of your achievement. Keep up the excellent job!

Kaleb Crooks	Ms. Villanueva
Garrett Poliakoff	Ms. Lyn
Kiersten De Ferrari	Ms. Del Corral
Christian Politi	Ms. Smith
Taylin Wade	Ms. Torres
Everley Cuevas	Ms. Giardinaire
Jaleah Brereton	Ms. Lewis
Austin Keller	Ms. Dourvetakis
Aiden Alonso	Ms. Pritchett
Julie Abrams	Ms. Pugliese



Zachary Adkins	Ms. Shirley
Jordyn Klein	Ms. Zuckerman
Naralia Bialek	Ms. Alderman
Koa Boze	Ms. Coxe
Sortino Birritta Paludi	Ms. De Ferrari
Jayson Jenkins	Ms. Goffney
Alexis Chalem	Ms. Menendez
Maya Kaufman	Ms. Selby
Isabella Horta	Ms. Keller
Sofia Cajiao	Ms. May
Kendall Kornfeld	Ms. Millovan
Emily Snider	Ms. Schissler
Calen Growing	Ms. Underhill
Elliot Mourdain	Ms. Baquedano
Madison Rogacki	Ms. Caruso
Jameson Underhill	Mr. Feldman
Kelsy-Anne Smuts	Ms. Gallagan
Jackson Rollins	Ms. Hopkins
Brody Jackson	Ms. Shapiro
Logan Ortiz	Mr. Anorga
Lucas Chalem	Ms. Benner
Jai Crockett	Ms. Brown
Molly Genson	Ms. Burd
Noah Umbagh	Ms. Vega
Hunter Hollman	Mr. Vonachen



## News from our ESL Department

Also, feel free to include our contact info:

[jessica.horta@browardschools.com](mailto:jessica.horta@browardschools.com)- ESE Specialist

[alison.rasgado@browardschools.com](mailto:alison.rasgado@browardschools.com)- EBD Support Specialist

[tina.p.miller@browardschools.com](mailto:tina.p.miller@browardschools.com)- ESE Clerk



## November PTA Membership Drive Month

Date	Event	Time
11/3	Election day - Planning Day for Teachers	
	Native American Heritage Month	
11/4	Family Night – Tijuana Flats	
11/5	Family Night - Icetasy	
11/9-11/13	Anti-Bullying Week	
11/11	No School – Veterans Day	
11/12	Report Cards Issued – Virtual Counselor	
11/13	World Kindness Day	
	Drive through Icees	1:30 – 2:30
11/14	Diwali – Festival of Lights	
11/16	SAC/SAF Meeting	2:15 – 3:00
11/17	Interims to selected students	
11/20	Drive through Icees	1:30 - 2:30
11/21	Family Night Lunessa's Café	
11/23-11/27	No School – Thanksgiving Holiday	
11/30	School Resumes	

### BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE FORMS



We have about 200 families that have not yet completed their online forms. Please complete as soon as possible. Link can be found on our website. It is mandatory that this information is completed annually. We need to have your updated information and signature pages for some important school documents.

Thank you and have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!



...  ...  
ALWAYS  
· GIVE ·  
**THANKS**  
IN  
**EVERYTHING**  
· HAPPY ·  
THANKSGIVING