

Griffin Elementary School

Monthly Newsletter – Volume 2

October 1, 2020



Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER

Message from the Principal Jones



Dear Griffin Families,

We are almost at the end of quarter one. This has been an eventful start to the school year with virtual teaching and learning. I want to thank you for your flexibility, patience and compliance. We have gained invaluable insight and knowledge which allowed us to leave our comfort zone and elevate to innovative ways to deliver instruction.

Schools are now preparing for both face-to-face (F2F) eLearning and eLearning instruction at home. Instruction will be synchronized. We will be following strict CDC guidelines at school with the proper handwashing protocols, mandatory mask wearing and 6 feet physical distancing.

There will be a staggered approach to the reopening. Pre-K, KG, 1st, 2nd and Specialized Programs F2F students will come to school October 9th. 3rd, 4th, and 5th F2F students will arrive on campus October 13th. We have about 300 students returning to campus. Our highest priority will be to keep the faculty, staff and students safe. Parents have the option to change their choice from F2F eLearning to eLearning at home only. Every classroom has a maximum capacity (10-14 students + 2 adults), depending on the size of the classroom. We have reached capacity in most classrooms. The survey is now closed. Students wishing to return to F2F have to go on a wait list. To parents who have chosen F2F, if your child is not going to be present or you changed your mind, please notify the classroom teacher as soon as possible, for purpose of attendance or another student can occupy the seat. For planning purposes, F2F attendance has to be consistent. It impacts lunch, arrival and dismissal.



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Classroom Teachers:

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CURRICULUM CORNER:



"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."

~ Margaret Mead ~

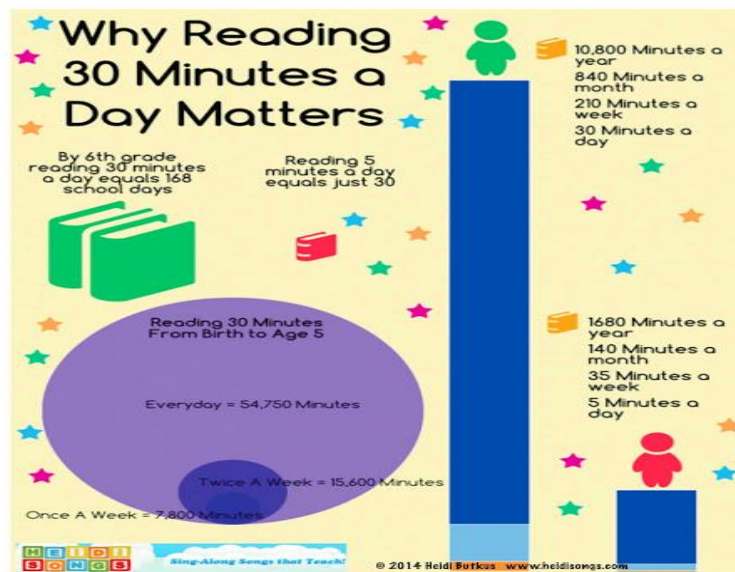
As we begin the Phase 2 return to face-to-face instruction, teachers have completed the beginning of the year assessments. The i-Ready diagnostics in reading and math are completed. Based upon the results of those assessments, the students' learning pathways have been set. Moving through their pathway will build the skills necessary for attainment of educational goals.

The BAS assessments will continue to be given by our teachers. This is the individual assessment each student will take in reading. Upon completion of the BAS assessments, the individual strengths and needs of students will be identified. Between the i-Ready diagnostic and BAS assessments, teachers will be forming their small groups for small group instruction.

Looking forward this month, Read for the Record will be held on October 29, 2020. We will have guest readers from the Mayor's office for our Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Read for the Record is sponsored by Jumpstart. This event brings children and adults around the world together to read the same book on the same day. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness about the critical importance of early literacy (birth to age 5) and access to high quality books.

This year's book is Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away by Meg Medina. This book is a celebration of lasting friendship, the power of connection, and encountering change. All of our pre-K and Kindergarten students will receive a hard copy of the book when we return to school fulltime.

Happy Autumn from Mrs. Chmura!





Media News

Fall is here! Many wonderful things come with the fall, one of which is Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15). As your child is reading online, enhance their literary exposure by checking out authors Alma Ada, Juana Martinez-Neal, Meg Medina, Matt de la Pena, Ruth Behar, and Gary Soto; read about famous Hispanics and Latinos like Sonia Sotomayer, Cesar Chavez, and Frida Kahlo; or explore a new place or culture. Reading opens the door for dreams and conversations and is free entertainment. Your child will forever remember you reading to them.

Axis 360 is available to all Broward County Public School students and can found through their Clever dashboard (Clever – Follett Destiny – Griffin Elementary/Log In – Catalog – Destiny Discover – Axis 360/Log In). Axis 360 is also available on IOS and Google Play personal devices.

As you're doing fall cleaning and come across BCPS library materials, please return them to Griffin Elementary. I will check them in and get them to the correct school. This will also help you avoid any student obligations.

Love,

Mrs. Berger (valerie.berger@browardschools.com)

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” – Margaret Fuller

About National Hispanic Heritage Month



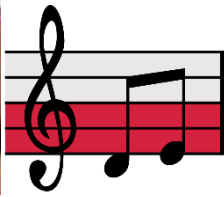
Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period.

SPECIALS CORNER:

Ms. Norrell (PE) – Ms. Palmer (Music)- Ms. Bencievenga (STEM)– Ms. Stojack (Art)



Welcome back to eLearning Art, Music, PE, and STEM! Special teachers are working hard to make our classes engaging using Canvas and live Teams Meetings. Currently, students visit the same Special all week, so please make sure your child is logging in to their Special Teams Meeting link on time every day. Classroom teachers have that log-in link which is also available on each Special teacher's Canvas page. Students are graded on attendance and participation in Specials. The assignments in Canvas are done in class, with the exception of the weekly Exercise Log in grades 1-5, on the PE Canvas tile. PE Exercise Logs are optional and should demonstrate physical activity done before or after school hours. Please feel free to email us through our Canvas

PRE-K NEWS



Welcome back and happy fall to our preschool families! We are off to a great start to the school year and appreciate your support with distance learning and all that comes with it. Our students have adjusted well and are managing our daily schedules and routines wonderfully. Thank you for your efforts in making that happen! Morning Meetings and small groups have been successful, and our students are leaning more each day. 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. In preparation for the return to school, practice wearing masks for extended periods of time with your child. We miss them greatly and look forward to seeing them in person soon!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS:



The Kindergarteners have been busy adjusting to the routines and procedures of online learning and they have done a wonderful job. We have enjoyed getting to know your children the past few weeks! They are busy learning letter names and sounds. We are practicing rhyming, blending and starting to learn sight words. Please continue to practice these things in the afternoon or evening with your child. In math we are working on numbers 1-10 and working on using math vocabulary (greater than, less than, the same, etc). Please read the Canvas Announcements on your class homepage when you sign in each day. We are starting to meet with small groups and will continue to meet individually to assess our students. We would like to thank you for your patience and support.



FIRST GRADE NEWS:

First Grade would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing parents and students for working so hard this first quarter! We are incredibly thankful for your support thus far. You have ROCKED virtual learning!

We are extremely excited about welcoming some of our first-grade students to our school building. We ask for your continued support, patience and flexibility as we begin to teach both online and face to face.

We are committed to making this a great year for our amazing first graders.



SECOND GRADE NEWS!

Second graders are doing a wonderful job with elearning. The students continue to learn to maneuver Teams and Canvas, and we are so very proud of how well they are doing. We thoroughly enjoy seeing each other every morning and checking in during our daily morning discussions. We are currently discussing habitats, and animals that live in specific habitats. We are also learning about Hispanic Culture. Second Graders also completed their Iready diagnostics and did such a great job! We celebrated Peace Week by writing about what peace means to us and discussing ways we can help bring peace to ourselves and those around us.

Stay safe everyone!

THIRD GRADE NEWS!



Hello amazing 3rd grade families! What a start to this school year...something we never thought would happen. We are happy to say that each day gets easier. Hats off to the true heroes the last few weeks, the students! They have done an outstanding job being flexible with their schedules as we completed the beginning of the year assessments. The 3rd grade teachers are looking forward to getting back to our regular routines next week. Please continue to read updates from your teacher and the school about the reopening process and we look forward to moving along this school year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

FOURTH GRADE NEWS!



Fourth grade is off and running as we have successfully transitioned into the virtual learning environment. The students have been working on learning to multiply multidigit numbers, writing and responding to a variety of texts, and incorporating science and social studies concepts within the reading block. Our students have learned to use multiple applications like Canvas and Teams to engage in learning. Our students have risen to the challenge and we are very proud of their effort.



FIFTH GRADE NEWS!

Our 5th graders started the year off strong with their previous knowledge of technologies such as Canvas, StemScopes, and Think Central. After a few days practicing using our new video communication platform, TEAMS, we were ready to start rocking this school year!

In the area of reading, we began with finding main ideas, summarizing, quoting accurately from the text, and the relationships between scientific and technical texts. Our 5th graders are also currently enjoying a Novel Study that their teachers have chosen to read.

Math has been jam-packed with information! Chapter 1 of our Go Math textbook is full of different topics including place value, powers of ten, multiplication and division, and evaluating numerical expressions. It is imperative that 5th grade students know their multiplication facts with automaticity. Please see your child's Canvas page for some websites with multiplication games that the students can use for practice!

Science has been out of this world! (Literally). We began by learning all about our solar system and different objects that are found in it. We will now be moving into our Wacky Weather Unit in which we learn all about the weather and weather instruments.

Now that beginning of year assessments are behind us, begin looking for communications from your child's teacher to set up one-on-one conferences. In these conferences

Message from Ms. Pao – Speech and Language Pathologist



Suggested Apps for Speech-Language Therapy

If you are looking for supplementary activities to continue your student's progress, here are some suggested apps for the iPad, iPhone and iPod touch. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at vicky.pao@browardschools.com

Speech App : Articulation Station (By Little Bee Speech) When you first download Articulation Station you will receive the entire P sound program to try for free. Additional sound programs can be purchased as needed from the Articulation Station Store within the app.

Language Apps

Inference Ace: Reading Comprehension Skills & Practice for Struggling Readers (By Janine Toole) Suggested for Kids 6 – 8 y/o (Try a few levels for FREE)

- Hearbuilder Following Directions (By Super Duper) Suggested for PreK-3rd grade students (FREE)

- Hearbuilder Sequencing (By Super Duper) Suggested for K – 6th grade students (FREE)

- Hearbuilder Auditory Memory (By Super Duper) Suggested for K – 8th grade students (FREE)

- World’s Worst Pet – Vocabulary (By Curriculum Associates, LLC) World’s Worst Pet is structured to provide repeated exposures to a cluster of conceptually related target words. (FREE)



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

Spotlight on Septembers Students of the Month

Cooperation - Working together for a common purpose



Student	Teacher
Luke Johnson	Ms. Lyn
Delilah Velez	Ms. Do'rio
Logan Peters	Ms. DelCorral
Payton Moule	Ms. Smith
Jim Lay	Ms. Torres / Ms. Barcelona
Emmanuel George	Ms. Villanueva
Marcus Mendez	Ms. Lewis / Ms. Cohenour
Kennedy Umbaugh	Ms. Douvetakis
Jordyn Rowland	Ms. Pritchett

Penelope Puelles	Ms. Pugliese
Zachary Mateus	Ms. Shirley
Airam De Andrade	Ms. Zuckerman
Logan Fernandez	Ms. Alderman
Ezra Farley	Ms. Coxe
Jase Meyers	Ms. DeFerrari
Raquel Rosenow	Ms. Goffney
Jack Corbyons	Ms. Menendez
Chloe Fajardo	Ms. Shelby
Anthony Childers	Ms. Giardiniere
Isabella DeLaCruz	Ms. Keller
Celeb Santi	Ms. May
Gabriela Amador	Ms. Millovan
Anthony Corti	Ms. Schissler
Zachary Collins	Ms. Underhill
Adam Layine	Ms. Baquedano
Connor Mogerman	Ms. Caruso
Jazmin Brito	Mr. Feldman
Gavin Langley	Ms. Gallagan
Christian D'Brot	Ms. Hopkins
Leilana Lebon	Ms. Shapiro
Rylan Cohen	Mr. Anorga
Caylin Ivey	Ms. Benner
Jordan Mancuso	Ms. Brown
Emelie Fajardo	Ms. Burd
Alexis Nightingale Monache	Ms. Vega
Kamryn Crawford	Mr. VonAchen



October's Character Trait

Responsibility- meeting obligations by being reliable, accountable and dependable to self and others.

Home Health Tips - Share Your Thoughts and Feelings

Living in our “new norm” can be stressful and sometimes scary. It’s perfectly fine to have mixed thoughts and fears. Everybody is afraid of something. You just need to talk about it. When we keep everything inside, we tend to see things as worse than they are, sometimes we don’t even have the right facts. When you talk to others they might

find that they have some simple solutions to ease your fears. Express yourself! Talk it out! Brainstorm!



News from our ESL Department

For the newsletter, here is a link from the district that offers ESLS Resources for Caregivers.

<https://www.browardschools.com/Page/52608>

Also, feel free to include our contact info:

jessica.horta@browardschools.com- ESE Specialist

alison.rasgado@browardschools.com- EBD Support Specialist

tina.p.miller@browardschools.com- ESE Clerk



October

Date	Event	Time
9/15-10/15	Hispanic Heritage Month	
10/5 – 10/7	eLearning at home – all students	
10/8	No School – Teacher Planning Day	
10/9	Grades PK, K, 1 st , 2 nd and Specialized Program F2F students return to school – synchronized learning with students at home	8:00-2:00
10/12	Early Release Day	8:00–12:00
10/13	Grades 3-5 F2F Return to school	8:00 -2:00
10/14	Early Release Day	8:00 – 12:00
10/16	Early Release Day – end of quarter 1	8:00 – 12:00
10/19	No School – Teacher Planning Day	
10/20	Quarter 2 begins	
10/23-10/31	Diversity Awareness Month Red Ribbon Week	

Report cards issued – 11/12/20

PTA Membership Drive

Single child \$8.00

Family \$16.00

Visit our Griffin website – Under School - select PTA which will take you to their Website
Click to join PTA for online payment

BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE FORMS



If you completed your forms, thank you. If you have not – please complete as soon as possible. Link can be found on our website. Only 60% of our families have completed this task. We need 100% completion rate. It will take 15-20 minutes of your time. It is important for us to update your information in our system. Once completed email or call the school with your confirmation. If you need assistance, please reach out to the school.

Planning for Face to Face eLearning instruction at school

*We are very excited to have teachers, staff and some students back at school. We understand that the decision to send your child (or children) to brick and mortar school comes with risks and responsibilities. Our school will do everything possible to minimize the risks based on the resources we are given, the policies decided and initialized from the School Board, as well as the footprint of the physical design of our school. **Caregivers and students have the responsibility to comply with the guidelines for physically distancing, monitoring for illness, and attending school with the required technology.***

We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and compliance during this time!

BEFORE SCHOOL

To ensure you are not sending a sick child to campus, we encourage you to ask these questions every morning:

- > Does my child feel warm, have a fever or elevated temperature (100.4), or have the chills?
- > Does my child have a persistent cough, runny nose or sore throat?
- > Has my child recently had a loss of taste or smell?
- > Has anyone in my household tested positive for COVID-19?
- > Has my child been in close, unprotected contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (spent longer than 15 minutes within 6 feet of someone who was sick with a fever and cough or confirmed/suspected of having COVID-19?)
- > Is my child feeling otherwise sick or ill today?
- > Is my child awaiting test results for COVID-19?
- > Has my child tested positive for COVID-19?
- > Has my child been told to self-quarantine or self-isolate by a doctor or District Administrator?



STAY HOME!

BRING TO SCHOOL

- District or personal laptop with charger – fully charged
- > Headphones/Earbuds
- > 1-2 Masks – if forgotten we will provide your child with one



- › Book(s) to read during Arrival
- › Water Bottle (students will not be able to use the water fountain)
- › Suggested Supplies – ask your teacher for specific items
 - Folder with Paper/Journal
 - Pencils, Crayons/Markers
 - Personal Hand Sanitizer
- › Please keep all non-essential items, such as toys and electronics, at home.
- › Students will use only their own personal supplies.

ARRIVAL

- › Drop Off: car loops, school bus loop, bike riders or walkers – check our arrival and dismissal MAP – separate document
- › Parents are encouraged to drop off students between 7:45 am -8:00 am unless students are having breakfast in the cafeteria – 7:30 am drop off. It will be a grab and go breakfast which will be eaten in the cafeteria. Breakfast is free for all students until December.
- › Students will receive a squirt of hand sanitizer at each entry gate
- › Depending on the time, students will either sit in the hallway or report to the classroom directly.
- › All students will sit physically distant from each other
- › Students are to bring reading materials to read while waiting for school to begin. Remember to keep all toys at home.

LUNCH

Lunch is provided free to all students until December.



Students will be eating lunch in the cafeteria – staggered lunch time – 6ft. apart. They will only remove their masks when eating. If they leave their assigned area, they will have to put on their masks. Tables will be disinfected by adults after every class leaves. Students will pick up and throw their own trash away.

DISMISSAL

We will have staggered dismissal to abide with physical distancing. Masks will have to stay on until they get into the car. Walk up parents and students when they leave the school premises.

Car Riders and Walk up – Parent Pick up

- › 1:30 pm: North Loop - Pre-K, KG
west Loop – 3rd Grade
- › 1:45 pm North Loop – 1st Grade
South Loop – 4th Grade
- › 2:00 pm North Loop – 2nd Grade
South Loop – 5th Grade

Bus riders, Walkers, Bike Riders and After Care will be dismissed at 2:00 Pm
Crossing guard will be on duty.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS

- › Parents, visitors and volunteers will be admitted on campus on a limited basis.

- **Appointment must be made to access campus. Call 754-323-5900 to schedule.**
- **No parent volunteers in classroom at this time.**
- Conferences and meeting will be held through TEAMS.
- **No deliveries** of items to students during the school day. (i.e. lunches, snacks, backpacks, jackets, birthday cakes or homework)
-

SANITATION

- Each classroom will be provided with PPE supplies (Sanitizer, Wipes, Gloves, Masks)
- Custodians will sanitize high frequency touch points and used areas throughout the day (Doorknobs, Railings, Clinic, Group bathrooms)
- Students will be provided wipes to wipe down their desks daily.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided; however, students may bring their own.
- Frequent handwashing and sanitizing will occur throughout the day.

SECURITY

- Our SRO and Campus Monitor will be present on campus during school hours.
- The north and south gate will be locked after 8:15 am
- The front gate will be locked at 8:30 am. The campus monitor will open the front gate every ½ hour. If you are at the main gate and it is locked, please call the school 754-323-5900
- Daily perimeter patrol and campus monitoring conducted throughout the day.
- Students at this time will not be required to wear ID badges, till further notice
- Staff and Teachers will be required to wear ID badges.

MASKS

- Facial coverings must be worn at all times while on campus and school buses.
- Face covering should cover both the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps.
- Masks may be taken off to eat snacks and lunch
- Masks may be taken off during physical activity if physical distancing is in place.
- School will provide disposable masks as needed.
- If students do not abide with the mask wearing policy at school after several warnings, parents will be contacted. For the safety of the students and staff in the school, student may be asked to continue with eLearning at home.

TECHNOLOGY

- Students are to bring fully charged district issued or personal laptops to school with chargers.
- Students will bring home devices daily
- You may purchase a protective covering for devices.



UNIFORMS

Uniforms are encouraged but not mandatory this school year.

Any color Polo Shirt

- Solid Navy or khaki bottoms: Shorts, Pants or Skirt
- Griffin T-shirt may be worn on Fridays

AFTERCARE

- Griffin Aftercare will be offered on campus

- > Aftercare services from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm.
- > Registration online is required.
- > Health and safety measures will be the same as the school day.
- > At this time we are not offering before care because of low enrollment and staffing.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

- > Hallways and walkways have been marked with decals to indicate 6-feet apart for students.
- > Posters and signage have been placed throughout the campus for social distance, masks and hand-washing reminder.
- > Classrooms have been set-up to facilitate social distancing guidelines.
- > Air filters have been upgraded to the highest level available for our HVAC system.
- > Isolation room has been added to quarantine any student or staff member who may be exhibiting symptoms. We are using a portable
- > Two nurses or a nurse and nurse tech will be assigned to our school.
- > When possible, one-way hallways have been implemented.

