

# Griffin Gazette

Third Quarter Newsletter

## A Message from the Principal

Greetings Griffin Elementary Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year. It feels like only yesterday I sat in my office as a new principal composing my welcome letter. Time does fly. Where the months go by, I know not – but I am grateful to be doing this journey with you. I want to personally thank you for all your support and encouragement. I cannot do this alone. Running a successful school requires TEAM WORK. We are a “STARS (Striving To Achieve & Reach Success) school and we are going full steam ahead to meet our goals in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies.

In December, students in Kindergarten through Fifth participated in the Check Point 2 iReady Diagnostic. I was amazed at the growth in Reading and Math. We took Check Point 1 in August.

## Check Point 1 – Reading

Criterion Referenced

Overall Placement [i](#)



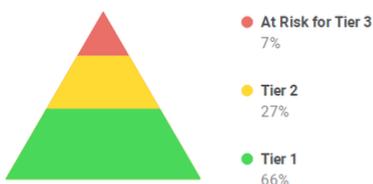
Placement By Domain



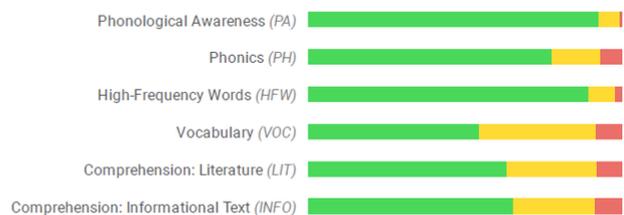
## Check Point 2 - Reading

Criterion Referenced

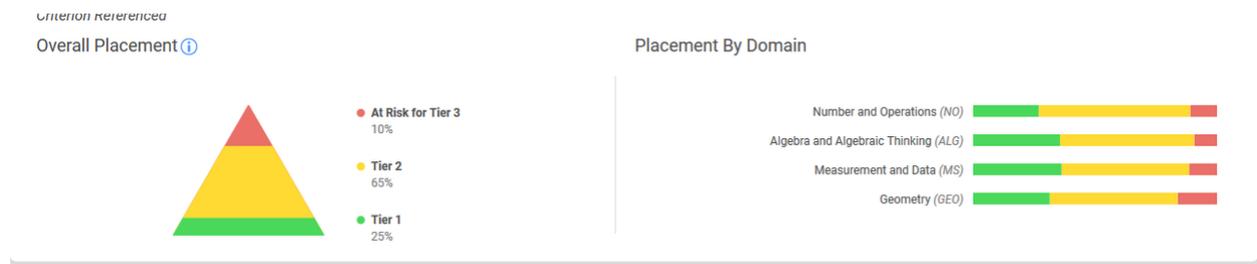
Overall Placement



Placement By Domain



# Check Point 1 – Math



# Check Point 2 - Math



We are very fortunate at Griffin Elementary to have excellent teachers. Their dedication to student excellence does not go unnoticed. Right now, we are on track to achieve great results. Our teachers are making the paradigm shift with the changing trends in education. This is an enormous task but together we are going to make it happen.

Parents, you too can be of assistance:

- Develop an atmosphere of reading at home. Reading does not only help children to develop rich vocabulary, it helps the brain learn how to process concepts and formal communication.
- Make everyday a learning day. Whenever possible encourage your children to explore the world around them, ask questions and make connections.
- Make sure homework gets done.
- Have a bedtime schedule, so that they are not tired to start their school day.
- Develop a positive relationship with your child's teacher. Get involved with the school.
- Focus on what your child is learning, not on the performance. Instead of asking what your child did in math today, have your child show you what they learned.
- Attendance Matters - Everyday Counts!

Thank you for being an active participant in our fundraisers and social events. 2 thumbs up for our PTA board. They are doing an awesome job. We have more exciting events planned for the third quarter.

Please check the school website for the monthly calendar and current news. Follow us on Facebook (Griffin PTA Page), Twitter -@GriffinElem or @Principal Moodliyar-Jones. Email address: [angiemoodliyar@browardschools.com](mailto:angiemoodliyar@browardschools.com).

Telephone: 754-323-5900

Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions!

Proud Principal,

-Angie Moodliyar - Jones

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**January 20th** NO SCHOOL  
**January 22nd** Student Council Meeting 2 PM  
**January 22nd** Vex Robotics Club  
**January 23rd** Third Grade Field Trip  
**January 23rd** Band practice  
**January 23rd** SECME club  
**January 23rd** BSA Science for fifth grade  
**January 24th** BSA Science for fifth grade  
**January 24th** Band practice  
**January 24th** Icee Sales  
**January 24th** Vex Robotics Club  
**January 24th** Band practice  
**January 27th** SAC Meeting  
**January 27th** Vex Robotics Club  
**January 28th** BSA Math for third, fourth and fifth grade  
**January 29th** BSA Math for third, fourth and fifth grade  
**January 29th** Eco Patrol 5th Grade  
**January 29th** Report cards go home  
**January 30th** Band Concert 6 PM  
**January 31st** Honor Roll Assembly  
**February 3rd** Chorus  
**February 3rd** Vex Robotics  
**February 5th** Math Club  
**February 5th** Living History Museum  
**February 6th** SECME Club  
**February 6th** Band practice  
**February 7th** Band practice  
**February 7th** Icee sales  
**February 7th** BCCTM practice  
**February 10th** Chorus  
**February 12th** 4th Grade Eco Patrol  
**February 13th** SECME club  
**February 13th** Band practice  
**February 14th** Early Release  
**February 17th** No School  
**February 18th** PTA Store 7:30AM  
**February 19th** Student council meeting  
**February 20th** SECME Club  
**February 21st** Career Day  
**February 21st** Band practice  
**February 21st** Icee Sales  
**February 21st** BCCTM practice  
**February 24th** Chorus  
**February 24th** Vex Robotics Club  
**February 24th** SAC meeting  
**February 26th** 5th Grade Eco Patrol  
**February 27th** Band practice  
**February 27th** SECME Club  
**February 28th** Band practice  
**February 28th to March 6th** Book Fair  
**March 2nd** Chorus  
**March 4th** Math Club  
**March 5th** Band practice

**March 5th** SECME Club

**March 6th** Band practice

**March 6th** Icee Sales

**March 9th** Chorus

**March 11th** Eco Patrol 4th Grade

**March 11th** 5th Grade Field Trip

**March 12th** SECME Club

**March 13th** Band practice

**March 13th** Field Day Opening Ceremony

**March 16th** Chorus

**March 16th** SECME Club

**March 18th** 5th Grade Eco Patrol

**March 19th** Early Release



## Our school photo

Our Griffin Elementary Staff!



## Our new Bat house!

Paul Kraugh, from Project Perch and Mrs. Sanchez chose a hearty cypress tree for its new home in our own environmental center! Looks Great! One bat has been spotted so far.



## Our Mission Statement

To ensure that all students receive a quality education, within a safe and secure learning environment.



# Griffin Elementary Contact

Main line (754) 323- 5900

Attendance line (754) 323- 5902

School Fax (754) 323- 5940

[www.browardschools.com/griffin](http://www.browardschools.com/griffin)

## Pre K

Happy New Year to our wonderful Pre-K families! We hope you enjoyed your winter break and the holidays. It's hard to believe that our school year is halfway over. Our students are making great strides! In the months to come, we will continue to focus on IEP goals and kindergarten readiness skills with our older students who will transition to kindergarten in the fall. Younger students continue to work on IEP goals, independent functioning, transitioning and social skills. All our activities include differentiated learning and are geared to meet the individual needs of our students. Please continue to read daily home notes and reinforce skills and weekly themes. It is important that you return them daily, as well. We ask that students eating breakfast at school arrive between 7:30-7:45am. School begins promptly at 8am and we want our students to have ample time to eat before beginning our day. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to an exciting 2020!

-Pre K Team

## Kindergarten

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful and restful break. We are now more than half way through the school year and the students are making great progress. It is important that they spend time reading each night and practicing their sight words. Please make sure that you are asking comprehension questions during your daily reading time. Your child is growing as a reader every day, be sure to review letter sounds, practice rhyming and blending sounds together. In math, we are starting our subtraction chapter. Please remember that you have access to iReady at home. It is a great way to get extra reading and math practice.

There are many exciting things coming up this quarter. In January we will be taking a field trip to Publix and then we will celebrate the 100th day of school on the 29th! Be on the look out for more information! A few reminders heading in to this quarter, students need to be in their classroom by 8:00 am to avoid being marked tardy. Also, if there is any changes for dismissal, please either write a note and place it in your child's folder in the morning or call the office directly during the day. The kindergarten day is always busy and the teachers may not see a Remind message during the school day. Thank you for your continued support!

-Kindergarten Team

## First Grade

We hope our First Grade Families had enjoyable holiday season. The teachers wish you all an incredible new year filled with many blessings!

We are looking forward to our next field trip to watch the play Pout, Pout Fish at the Coral Springs Theater on January 14th. First Grade will also be visiting Butterfly World in February. Please be on the look-out for more information regarding this next field trip.

Students will be re-tested on their reading levels in the next few weeks during the 2nd BAS assessment period. 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. It is also suggested that students practice their basic addition and subtraction math facts. This can be accomplished with the use of flashcards or by accessing fluency apps on technology devices.

We also continue to encourage the use of iReady reading and math programs at home to further assist students with the development of important skills.

We are ready and very excited for another successful nine weeks of school! We will continue to work diligently to produce independent thinkers and lifelong learners in our first grade classrooms.

-First Grade Team

## Second Grade

Second Grade welcomes 2020!

Second Graders celebrated the New Year by discussing and writing our 2020 resolutions and some classes also made vision boards. The students set amazing goals to achieve in 2020!

On January 10th we celebrated Deputy Gordon by sending him thank you notes for all he does to help keep all of us at Griffin Elementary safe.

On January 14, the students attended the Jump Rope for Heart kickoff. Students will be jumping rope to raise money for the American Heart Association.

Class pictures will be taken January 16th. Students should wear their class t shirts for the picture.

Several second grade students will be featured authors reading at Featured Author Night on January 16th.

All Second graders completed their second iReady diagnostic in Reading and Math in December. These diagnostics will assign lessons to individual students to work on lessons which will strengthen needed skills.

On January 29th the students will be Rocking the 100th day of school! Students will dress as their favorite Rock Star as they rotate through various 100 based centers in the Second Grade classrooms.

We are excited we are already in the second half of the school year!

-Second Grade Team

## Third Grade

Welcome back 3rd grade! Happy New Year! We are half way through the school year and the students are still working hard. The students finished the ELA portion of the BSA. The results will indicate what standards the students have mastered and still need practice on. We will take the Math portion on January 28-29th. The teachers will be sharing the results with the students during one on one conversations. We are looking forward to our upcoming field trip on the 23rd to the Coral Springs Theater to see "The One and Only Ivan". There are many more exciting events taking place this month so please look at the calendar PTA sent out. We want to remind our students to make sure they complete their I-Ready minutes by the end of each week (45 minutes for Reading and Math). As always, we are here to answer any questions or concerns you have.

-Third Grade Team

## Fourth Grade

Happy New Year! Our fourth graders are working hard in all subject areas. In language arts, they are practicing 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 and drawing conclusions with fiction and non fiction 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 move into division. Prior to the holidays, we had an awesome field trip to the Everglades Park, where we enjoyed an air boat ride and several animal exhibits. We look forward to a productive and successful second half of the school year.

-Fourth Grade team

## Fifth Grade

The 5th grade is on a roll! In Math, our 5th graders are finishing up adding and subtracting fractions. We're moving into multiplying and dividing decimals. In ELA, we are working on document-based analysis of science and historical text as well as novel studies. In Science, we are continuing our hands-on centers to review prior year's concepts. We have been working in Matter & Energy. We have some amazing events planned our 5th grade classes this quarter. We'll be visiting the Frost Museum and holding Field Day Opening Ceremonies and events. Finally, our 5th graders who are in the VEX/Robotics, BCCTM, & Debate Team will be competing in competitions this quarter and Student Council members will be promoting kindness and friendship throughout the month of February. We are looking forward to a exciting and successful 3rd quarter.

-Fifth Grade Team

## Physical Education Special

**Kid's Heart Challenge**-Help your child save lives and be a heart hero! Our annual community service event, Kid's Heart Challenge, (formerly Jump Rope for Heart) occurs Feb. 10-14, during Physical Education classes. This program not only helps students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health, but also teaches our children the value of giving back to those in need. Fundraising envelopes go home after our Kick-Off Assembly on Jan. 14th, but if you misplace yours, you can register online at [heart.org/KidsHeartChallenge](http://heart.org/KidsHeartChallenge), or pick up another one in the front office. The American Heart Association will provide free wristbands to everyone who registers online. Students can earn characters that attach to the wristband and/or keychains instantly, and other "Thank you Gifts" have to be ordered and will arrive later. Our school earns free physical education equipment through participation in the event. Checks should be made payable to American Heart Association and can be scanned. Please keep all envelopes with contributions at home until the due date: **Friday, February 14th!** Thank you for your support!

**Founder's Day One Mile Fun Run/Walk**-We like to encourage our families to come out and participate in the Founder's Day One Mile run/walk on Saturday, March 14th. Griffin has won the "Spirit Award" several times for having the most participants in the event. Registration forms will be available, for those interested, in P.E. classes and in the front office when we get closer to the event. If forms are returned to Griffin's front office by Monday, March 9th, Ms. Norrell will drop them off at the recreation center and send home the packets with the students by Friday, 3/13. We look forward to seeing you at this fun family event!

**Save the Date for Field Days**-Field Days are coming in March, so please mark your calendars as we will need plenty of volunteers for: March 16-Grades K, 2, & 4th and March 18-Grades 1, 3, & 5. Parents are welcome to attend the Opening Ceremonies held on Friday, March 13th at 8:15, on the back field.

**Grade 2-5 Exercise Logs**-The third Exercise Log will be due Feb. 28th. Students received these (optional) forms last week in PE and can earn extra points by returning completed logs.

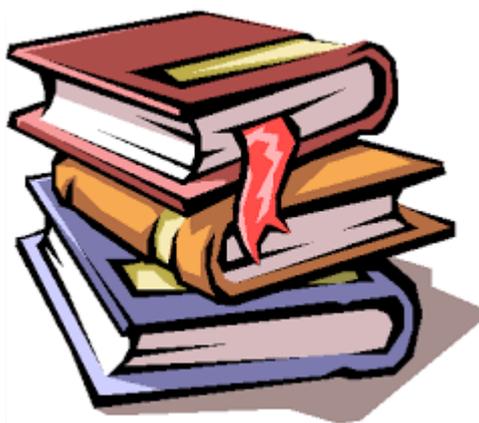
-Ms. Norrell



## Media News

2020 is off to a great start! Thank you to everyone who returned their borrowed books from the Media Center. As a reminder, books are borrowed for a two week period. The Media Center opens at 7:30am each day, and students may bring their books back throughout the day with teacher permission. Read Across Broward logs will be due the beginning of April. If your student misplaced theirs, they may download a new one from the Griffin website or stop by the library to pick one up; and Book It continues through the end of March. Additionally, Makerspaces are open in the library on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:30-7:55am. Students thoroughly enjoy constructing with Legos, designing with Pony beads, games, and so much more. Makerspace donations are kindly accepted.

-Mrs. Berger



## STEM Special

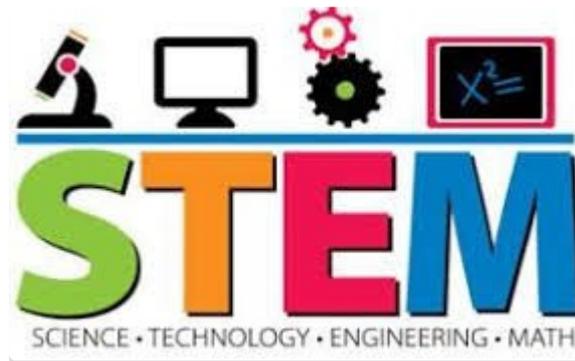
STEM Special is off to a fabulous New Year! We had lots of fun coding in 2019 and now we are looking forward to getting outside a little bit to do some Science exploration, continuing hands-on learning and having fun! Science is EVERYWHERE, so get be sure to point it out and have some great family discussions about it.

Please join the Specials Remind group @7gbach for periodic updates and reminders.

Sincerely,

-Mrs. Bencivenga

STEM Specials Teacher



## Art Room Special

The term's first art project was a continuation/completion of 'Mirroring' which I found inspiration from Narcissus; the figure of Greek mythology drawn by An idea of the mural was introduced, which raised a lot of questions and discussions during the process. Art within the classroom is such a perfect environment for grouping and teamwork.

The term's second art project was 'Pumpkin Patches with mixed mediums'. The four seasons can easily be reflected in the arts. This is important as it helps students to understand the transition of time and teaches them about related changes. Students were to use mixed media, where they had to use scissors for their fine motor skills, and paint brushes, which they really enjoyed, and of course lots of paint.

'Patterns' was our third art, and one of the seven Principles of Design. Each student divided a large sheet of paper into six equal-sized spaces where they were to exercise concepts and options previously learned. They created various designs with repetitions, where the sense of space and orientation simply equals a fun experience for our eyes.

Lower grades also enjoyed the same project, as I introduced them in a more animated approach. Students drew their pattern in a shaped circle card paper props, where it eventually would become an analogue clock. Patterns are used as a technique that allows artists to attract and mesmerize viewers through its composition.

'Geometric Shapes' was another assignment presented in an Architectural approach, where students learned about basic fundamentals, through geometric shapes. The assignment suggested was to build a castle, composed of geometric shapes. We discussed all shapes previously learned and identified shapes to be used for the castle.

Take flight through creativity – stay grounded in artistic thought and practice.

Thank you,

-Sandra V. Stojack

## Speech and Language News

Dear Griffin Elementary Parents,

Mrs. Pao and Mrs. Izquierdo are looking for gently used toys for their Speech-Language classrooms to be given as prizes.

Mrs. Pao has been working on working with her students on the following initiatives to increase expressive language skills:

- 1) The Roald Dahl Imaginormous Story Idea Challenge (Write most creative story idea in 100 words or less to win great prizes)
- 2) Macy's Letters to Santa to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish-Foundation (Practice letter writing, grammar, spelling, etc...)

If you are looking for supplementary activities to continue your student's language development, 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](mailto:vicky.pao@browardschools.com)

#### LANGUAGE

1. World's Worst Pet – Vocabulary (By Curriculum Associates, LLC) Provides repeated exposures to a cluster of conceptually related target vocabulary words. Suggested for 4th – 8th grade students (FREE)
2. 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; buy all levels for \$2.99)
3. Clue Catcher (By Golden Mean Advisory Resources LLC) Teaches the inferencing skills necessary to use context to define unfamiliar vocabulary words. (FREE with \$12.99 in-app purchase for ALL Grades 3rd to 10th)
4. Hearbuilder Following Directions (By Super Duper) Suggested for PreK-3rd grade students (FREE)
5. Hearbuilder Sequencing (By Super Duper) Suggested for K – 6th grade students (FREE)
6. Hearbuilder Auditory Memory (By Super Duper) Suggested for K – 8th grade students (FREE)

-Mrs. Pao and Mrs. Izquierdo



## Final Thoughts

- Remember parents, if you plan to chaperone a field trip you must be an approved Broward County Volunteer.
- Aftercare parents: Reminder next payment is due February 7, 2020.
- Parents please be aware of your child's lunch and specials time when planning an early pick up.
- Please note: There will be NO early dismissals after 1:30 PM.
- Parents, please be kind to your fellow drivers in the morning and afternoons. Please pull all the way forward when traveling through the car line.

