

Griffin Elementary School

Winter Newsletter

2021-2022

Individually we are unique, but together we are BETTER

Message from Principal Jones

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Griffin Families,

As we come to the end of the first half of the school year, I want to personally thank you for your support. Walt Disney once stated, "You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world, BUT it takes people to make the dream a reality." Griffin is this wonderful place because of YOU. The exciting learning experiences in and out of the classroom, volunteering, fundraisers, donations could not have happened without a great deal of commitment and support from all of you, that is, faculty, staff, parents, guardians and students. All the initiatives, from Boosterthon. Harvest Drive, Luncheon for Staff, Angel Toy Drive, Holiday shop, Book fair, Cookies for Courage, and December Dash were all successful. The best I have seen in years. Special thanks to PTA who always goes above and beyond the call of duty in organizing the events. Everyone deserves a round of applause. I am a proud Principal.

Please continue to follow our Social Media Face Book page for announcements and pictures. For those who do not follow social media, we send parent links. If you are not receiving the calls, please update your phone number with Maria Dunakin, our awesome IMT.

Curriculum News:

We completed the iReady Diagnostic 2. We have made great learning gains but are still working on increasing proficiency in Math and



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DECEMBER

Reading. Here is the comparative chart to see the growth from Diagnostic 1 taken in September and Diagnostic 2 in December. I am happy with the progress. In January we will be moving full steam ahead with a crunch time plan, so that we can continue to show steady growth. Our Extended Learning Camps (ELO) will start in January for students KG-5th who need extra help. Camp will start from 2:00 -3:30 PM. More information will be forth coming when we return. It is a free program. We received a grant from the district.

Reading:

	Grade Level	BorderLine	At Risk
Diagnostic 1	42%	42%	13%
Diagnostic 2	63	29	8

Math:

	Grade Level	BordeLine	At Risk
Diagnostic 1	27%	60%	13%
Diagnostic 2	52%	42%	5%

How can parents help:

Please ensure that your child is reading daily to increase content knowledge. Knowledge is power and the more your child reads, the more proficient they will become.

In Math, we purchased First in Math to increase fluency. Students can do it at home at their own pace. This program has proven to be successful if used daily KG-5th

Students must also complete their iReady personalized pathway in reading and Math. Not more the 45 minutes PER WEEK in each content area. Parents you can check child's progress under "my report" on the iReady App.

Second Quarter ends – 01/10/2022.

This Holiday Season, spend time with loved ones and celebrate with family and friends. I wish you all a peaceful and safe holiday. Take



World AIDS Day
December 1st



Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10th. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly

adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), affirming that the civil, political, cultural, economic, and social rights are the birth right of all human beings.

JANUARY

- Florida Jewish History
- National Mentoring
- BPCS Monthly Character Trait: Respect

● Day ● Week ● Month

time to reflect on all the positive things around you.
See you January 3, 2022.
With sincere gratitude,
Principal Moodliyar-Jones

F E B R U A R Y

- Black History
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Prevention
- BPCS Monthly Character Trait: Honesty

● Day ● Week ● Month



COVID-19 Update

As you are aware that the Omicron variant is fast spreading among adults and children. Many are experiencing flu-like symptoms with a scratchy throat and running nose. If your child experiences flu-like symptoms – keep your child at home till they are symptom free. We offer testing at school for Griffin children and staff only. 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 may be sent home. The nurse will instruct you with the next steps. Due to legislation signed into law by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, facial coverings will not be mandatory in schools, however Broward Schools strongly encourages it. Additionally, no asymptomatic students or employees will be required to quarantine if they are a close contact due to COVID exposure.



Media News

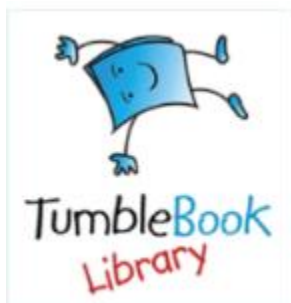
The media center is bustling with activity! It is now open at 7:30 a.m. for students who arrive at school early to return books, check out new ones, and take part in Makerspaces. Makerspaces are designed for students to collaborate and engage their minds. Students are also visiting every other week with their class where they learn about various parts of the media center, check out a book or two, and take part in Makerspace activities. Thank you for your help in reminding your students to return their books. Together, we are helping them be responsible.

Griffin's Media Center's goal is to develop a love of books and learning, so students are welcome to check out any book that they would like. We do discuss how some books may be a bit easy for them to read, some "just right," while others are best to read with someone else. I encourage you to read with your child daily. Reading is great for building fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; but it is equally important, if not more, for fostering compassion, creativity, imagination, and self-confidence.

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Berger

valerie.berger@browardschools.com



SPECIALS CORNER



MUSIC News from Mrs. Palmer

I am so proud of our Griffin Elementary School Chorus! They rocked Light Up Cooper City! What a great way for us to represent our school and our talents. Our chorus will perform for our annual Holiday Gift wrap. Our band is doing a great job learning notes and how to play their instruments. Our band concert will be in January.

We have been singing, dancing while learning of different holidays from different cultures around the world in the music room and having a blast!



PE News from Mrs. Norrell

December Dash One Mile Fun Run

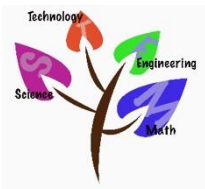
Routines have been established and all students are getting better and better at increasing their cardiorespiratory endurance during our warm-up Pacer run each class! We had some records broken during the in-class Turkey Trot and look forward to our annual tradition, the one-mile December Dash fun run which will be held on school grounds on the last day before our winter break, Friday, December 17th. Students in Grades PK-2 will begin around 8:30am and complete a half mile, followed by grades 3-5, completing one mile. We need many, many parent volunteers for this event, so please let your child's teacher know if you are available that day.

Reminder: Grade 2-5 second (optional) Exercise Logs will be due to their classroom teacher on Dec. 3rd.

Save these Dates: On Feb. 1st we will kick off our annual community service project for the American Heart Association, Kid's Heart Challenge. We raised the most money of all Broward County Public Schools last year! All contributions will be due by Feb. 25th.

Field Days will be held on the following dates: Mar. 11- Opening Ceremonies, Mar. 14- Field Days gr. K, 2, & 4 and Mar. 15- Field Days gr. 1, 3, & 5. We will need lots of parent volunteers to run the stations at these events!

Have a wonderful, restful Winter Break,
Ms. Norrell



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

In S.T.E.M. we will be having an amazing time during, Hour of Code and throughout the month of December. Please feel free to have a look at the Code.org site available to your children via their Clever Log in portal. Parents can have some fun coding at home too! Playing with different coding robots and other critical



thinking activities is not only fun but helps to encourage and prepare our students for a bright future.

In January and February, we will continue to work on various STEM projects in K-2 and focus on science content in grades 3-5. Please continue to encourage exploration, thinking skills and observations. There are so many things you have to offer your children regarding S.T.E.M. in your everyday happenings!

We will also be getting outside more to enjoy our environmental learning center, where we will be placing a bird feeder and contributing to some Citizen Science research. Our local habitat offers a great way for us to observe all kinds of wildlife. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology offers apps and various information to help you identify birds. Have a look and help your child become a passionate learner. <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>. Have fun birding!



PRE-K NEWS!

Welcome to December Pre-k Family! We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break filled with great food, family and friends! November was a quick and busy month for our staff and students. It's hard to believe the bustling holiday season is upon us. We are hoping to keep the students on task as much as possible in the upcoming weeks as we have numerous fun-filled holiday activities planned. Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing our daily lessons and following up with behavior reports sent home as this is the best way for our students to continue making great strides towards their goals. This month we've learned about different holidays our friends celebrate in our community. In the upcoming weeks we will be introducing a new theme on health and nutrition. Again, thank you and we look forward to your continued support. Team-work makes the dream work. Happy Holidays!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS!

As the year comes to an end, we have been busy learning about celebrations around the world and the four seasons. The children have been getting to know their 5th grade book buddies through fun and engaging activities as well as in the Media Center checking out library books. As we continue to move forward into next year, please practice rainbow words, writing sentences phonetically, and adding objects together to make 10. We look forward to seeing all the progress in the New Year!! We wish you a safe Winter Break and a Happy New Year!

The Kindergarten Team



FIRST GRADE NEWS!

The First Grade Teachers would like to wish all of our wonderful families a very happy New Year! We are excited, re-energized and ready to continue teaching our wonderful first grade students. Students have been very busy learning to read and becoming better readers. Students are consistently learning through the use of thinking maps and have been able to enjoy a wide range of both fiction and informational texts. In Math we continue to expose the students to all of the addition and subtraction strategies via Go Math. We also continue to practice basic addition and subtraction facts for automaticity.

As we move into the 2nd half of first grade, we'd like to stress the importance of reading with your child and setting aside some time for them to practice their reading as often as possible. It is imperative that they learn to read fluently to assist in further developing their comprehension skills. We would also like to ask that you assist your child in completing their weekly iReady minutes in Reading and Math, 45 minutes is required for each. Thank you so much for your help with this requirement.

Our next field trip is scheduled for February 8th to Flamingo Gardens. We hope the students enjoy the natural scenery, beautiful plants and learn about some of the interesting animals and their habitats.

We'd like to thank each of you as you continue to support our classrooms and partner with us on this extremely important first grade year!



SECOND GRADE NEWS!

Our second graders have been successful with our new reading program, Benchmark Advance. This curriculum covers all reading foundational skills while also incorporating writing and integrating science and social studies topics. Throughout our holiday season, we have also been learning about the history of the first thanksgiving, and some different winter holidays that are celebrated throughout the world. We are looking forward to our Polar Express Day and Ice Fishing activity. We continue to incorporate social-emotional lessons each day, focusing on cooperation, respect and positive thinking.

We are looking forward to planning a field trip very soon. Please stay tuned for more information to come!

Second graders should continue to practice Math Facts and read nightly.

Mrs. Alderman, Mrs. Coxe, Mrs. De Ferrari, Mrs. Menendez, Mrs. Selby, Mrs. Shanley



THIRD GRADE NEWS!

Happy Holidays! The 3rd graders are working hard in class every day. Please make sure you are practicing multiplication facts daily. The fluency of knowing facts is imperative in moving forward with math skills. Please also ensure that your child is reading aloud daily to work on fluency. Ask them questions about what they are reading. Your child should be working on i-Ready Reading and Math, completing 2 lessons each week.

The month of December is an exciting one for 3rd grade. We are looking forward to our Polar Express movie morning in the cafeteria with a special delicious treat! We are also having a hands-on field trip from the Gabie Science Bus. The teachers are looking forward to celebrating the holidays in class with a party and finishing off the month with the December Dash. We hope everyone enjoys winter break.

Upon our return in 2022, the students will start getting in preparation for FSA. We will take the FSA Reading and Math in April and May. The second quarter ends on January 10 which is an early release day followed by a no school day on January 11. Be on the lookout for messages from your child's teacher about things they want you to help prepare them for.



FOURTH GRADE NEWS!

As we wrap up the end of 2021, the Fourth-Grade teachers would like to wish all our families a wonderful holiday season. This is the time to recharge our batteries and enjoy our loved ones. Our students have spent the last few months working on multiplication and division. We are now heading into fractions. In the area of reading, the students have been hard at work with our new reading series, Benchmark Advance. While it's been challenging for most, our students are showing tremendous progress! We are continuing to work on reading skills such as decoding unknown words and referring to the text for details to support our answers. We are also continuing to work on writing multi-paragraph essays, as we just took our first Writescore Assessment. When we return in January, it is CRUNCH time! We will be working rigorously to prepare for the Spring Assessments. Thank you for all your continued support! Happy New Year! Cheers to an awesome 2022!

FIFTH GRADE NEWS!



5th grade is off to a great start as we are moving briskly through our curriculum. Students have learned to how add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers and decimals. Next, we get to learn all about fractions! In science, students have been learning all about matter! There are exciting lessons coming up to study physical and chemical changes and then we will cruise right into energy. Students have been enjoying learning about the U.S. Constitution through our new Benchmark Advance reading series.

We have many exciting events coming up, starting with our field trip to Universal Studios in January. After that, we will put our business expertise to the test by practicing real world situations such as balancing a bank account, interviewing, and ultimately working for a day at our J.A. Biztown field trip!



SPEECH CORNER

Season's Greetings from the Speech-Language Therapy Team!

Mrs. Schiller, Mrs. Pao, and Mrs. Izquierdo wish everyone a warm Seasons Greetings!

If you would like to contribute the following supplies, it would be greatly appreciated!

Stickers, Prizes (Gently used toys and children's books), Tissue Boxes, Hand sanitizer (large and/or small), Bleach-Free Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, Colored Pencils, Colored Pens.

Mrs. Schiller is working with students in our Pre-Kindergarten Specialized and Intensive Behavior classes as well as Kindergarten, and 1st grade students.

Mrs. Pao is working with students in 2nd grade to 5th grade as well as PreK-1st grade students needing therapy 4-5 days a week.

Mrs. Izquierdo is working with students in the Emotional or Behavioral Disability classes. She is also a Local Educational Agency (LEA) Representative and assists Mrs. Horta (our ESE Specialist) with running ESE meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail

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

Mrs. Pao at vicky.pao@browardschools.com,

Mrs. Izquierdo at melissa.k.izquierdo@browardschools.com

FRONT OFFICE NEWS



BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE FORMS

We still have several students who have not completed or filled out the back-to-school forms.

This updates all the information in the system once we review it and ensures the safety of the students.

If you have not done so already, please go to the Griffin Elementary website griffin.browardschools.com and under additional quick links (right hand side, bottom of page) click on the back-to-school forms and fill out forms.

You will get a confirmation number as you finish the process.

Any questions, please call the school 754 323 5900 and we will be happy to help.

Thank you.

REPORT CARDS and INTERIM REPORTS

You can access your child's report card by logging into your child's Clever account.

Click on the Virtual Counselor icon to access their report card. **Remember the Password is your child's birthday mm/dd/yyyy (no leading P)**

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Seedlings have been planted out in our Griffin garden and they are thriving. The students did a great job of adding the new soil and planting the seedlings, under the guidance of Mrs. Norrell. Thank you, Mrs. Norrell for your dedication and green thumb.

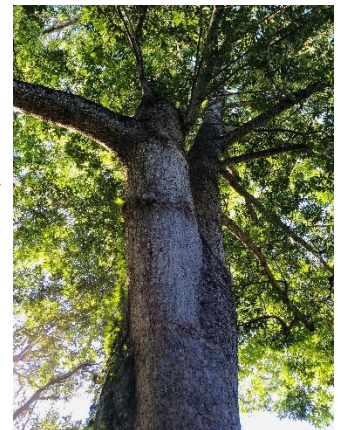


Also, did you know that our majestic Red Silk Cotton tree in the environmental area is famous? It was just recognized by the State of Florida as a "Champion Tree". Check out this link for more information.

<https://ffs.fdacs.gov/ChampionTrees/home.mvc/Detail/1268>



Also, we just received notice that our Food Share Table and Food Donation initiatives can start back up in the new year. It's a great way to eliminate waste in the cafeteria. Please talk to your children about donating any unopened/uneaten to our program. One of our biggest items are unopened milk cartons. **Students are NOT required to take a milk. They are required to take 3 food items; one must be a fruit or vegetable.**



Just a reminder to bring your old towels, linens, clothes and shoes to be recycled at Griffin. We get 10% of the proceeds. Collection bin has been relocated to the Bus loop parking lot, on the outside of the fence for easy off hour access.



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.

The food forest is thriving. Thanks to a grant from the Whole Kids Foundation and a generous donor we have a large variety of Sugar Apples, Jack Fruit, Bananas, Sapodilla, and Mango.

Lastly, over the summer we cleared an old bike



area near the environmental area and it's ready for transformation. If any parents are landscapers, landscape architects, or own a nursery, we could definitely use your expertise to create an additional outdoor learning space. Please contact me at Jacqueline.sanchez@browardschools.com

Thanks for your support and have a wonderful holiday season with your family!

Mrs. Sanchez