



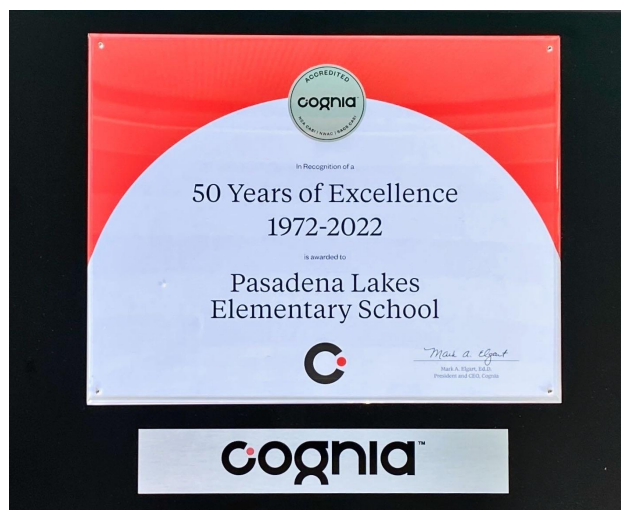
## The Panther Scoop: December 2024

*Stay up-to-date with our monthly newsletter of what's happening around Pasadena Lakes Elementary!*

**Janet C. Williams**, Principal

**Mokisha Spencer**, Assistant Principal

**Dawn Michaud**, Technology Support Specialist II, Editor



*1 - Educating Scholars for 50 Years!!*



2 - 2024-2025 School Year

## December's Character Trait: *Kindness*

*December 2024*



- **12/2:** Classes Resume, 8:10 AM, SHARP!
- **12/2 - 12/6:** **Inclusive Schools Week**
- **12/2 - 12/6:** KG - 2: iReady Diagnostic #2
- **12/2:** Inclusive Schools Week: "All are Welcome" ***Wear clothing/colors that represent your culture.***
- **12/3 :** GR 3 - 5: Math Test
  - Inclusive Schools Week: "I feel included when...". Talk about a time when you felt included and share with your classmates.
  - *Success Camp*
- **12/4:** GR 3 - 5: ELA Test
  - Inclusive Schools Week: "We all fit together" Draw/write on the puzzle piece unique characteristic about yourself.

- **12/5:** Inclusive Schools Week: “We all are linked together”. Sit or talk to a new classmate during lunch and/or specials.
  - Yearbook/Photography Club meeting
  - Book Club meeting
  - Debate Club meeting
  - S.A.V.E. Club meeting
- **12/6:** Inclusive Schools Week: “Everyone is Different” Let’s stand out in the crowd, ***wear mix match socks or shoes.***
  - KG Field Trip
  - GR 5 Field Trip
- **12/9 - 12/13:** GR 3 - 5: iReady Diagnostic #2
- **12/9 :** VPK - 2: STAR Assessment
  - *Success Camp*
- **12/10:** VPK - 2: STAR Assessment
  - GR 3: Field Trip
  - *Success Camp*
  - School Advisory Committee & School Advisory Council meeting, 2:30 PM, Media Center
- **12/11:** GR 4 Field Trip (Avila/Philistin)
- **12/12:** Robotics Club meeting
  - Debate Club meeting
- **12/13:** GR 4 Field Trip (Fahie/Caffrey)

***12/16/24 - 12/20/24: Polar Express Week***

- **12/16:** Wear Flannel, Baby, It's Cold Outside!
  - GR 5: Field Trip
  - *Success Camp*

- **12/17:** Fall Picture RETAKES & Students NEW to Pasadena since 10/28! Students IN UNIFORM! Students who want to RETAKE must bring their original photo package from October.
  - Holiday Socks! Wear your festive holiday socks!!
  - Winter Show at Flanagan High School: 6:30 PM -8:00 PM, Doors OPEN at 6:15 PM, sharp!
- **12/18:** Ugly Sweater/Shirt Dress: Get creative
- **12/19:** Holiday Hats: Wear your festive holiday head gear
  - Book Club meeting
- **12/20:** Polar Express Day! Wear your favorite, school appropriate, pajamas! NO SLIPPERS!
- **12/23/24 - 1/5/25:** Winter Break! Have a wonderful holiday break with family!
- **1/6/25:** Classes RESUME, 8:10 AM, SHARP!

#### Inclusive Schools Week: Every Voice Matters

Students and Staff feel free to join us in celebrating  
Inclusive Schools Week 2024 and participate in these activities each day!

**Monday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** "All are Welcome" wear clothing/colors that represent your culture.

**Tuesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>:** "I feel included when..." Talk about a time when you felt included and share with your classmates.

**Wednesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>:** "We all fit together" Draw/write on the puzzle piece a unique characteristic about yourself.

**Thursday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>:** "We all are link together". Sit or talk to a new classmate during lunch and/or specials.

**Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>:** "Everyone is Different" Let's stand out in the crowd, wear mix match socks or shoes.



\*Students must adhere to the dress code, no open toe shoes, tank tops, ripped jeans, etc.  
\*Students who choose not to dress up must remain in school uniforms on Monday.  
\*School uniforms are required Tuesday – Friday.

## 2024-2025 Yearbooks

If you are thinking about purchasing the 2024-2025 Yearbook, Early Bird Pricing will END at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, 12/31/2024! Visit: [www.buytheyearbook.com](http://www.buytheyearbook.com) and enter code: 722502

Don't miss out on **bundling EXTRA savings** when you purchase both the **yearbook** and a **student well wisher ad**!

*If you need any assistance with creating the student ad, please contact Mrs. Michaud, Technology Support Specialist II, at [PDE\\_Yearbook@browardschools.com](mailto:PDE_Yearbook@browardschools.com)*

## Pasadena Lakes Elementary



24-25 YEARBOOK & STUDENT ADS  
EARLY BIRD

**SALE**

Use Chrome

THRU 11:59 PM ON 12/31/24

School ID #  
722502

**buytheyearbook.com**



Yearbook & 1/2 PAGE Recognition Student Ad Bundle  
2024-2025 Yearbook w/  
Half-Page Student Ad x1

Early Bird Discount: \$80.00  
\$75.00

Yearbook & 1/4 PAGE Recognition Student Ad Bundle  
2024-2025 Yearbook w/  
Quarter-Page Student Ad x2

Early Bird Discount: \$55.00  
\$50.00

Yearbook & 1/8 PAGE Recognition Student Ad Bundle  
2024-2025 Yearbook w/  
Eighth-Page Student Ad x4

Early Bird Discount: \$45.00  
\$40.00

Yearbook & FULL PAGE Recognition Student Ad Bundle  
2024-2025 Yearbook w/  
Full-Page Student Ad x1

Early Bird Discount: \$100.00  
\$95.00

- Preserve the memories of the year in a book to be cherished forever!
- Show your loved ones how special they are with an ad of congratulations!
- Purchase your yearbook and ad **together** at a package price!

**SHOP NOW**

A Title 1 School

## Pasadena Lakes Elementary



ANUARIO Y ANUNCIOS PARA ESTUDIANTES  
MADRUGADOR

**VENTA**

Usear  
Chrome

HASTA LAS 11:59 PM DEL 12/31/24

Identificación  
escolar #722502

**buytheyearbook.com**



Yearbook & 1/2 PAGE Recognition Student Ad Bundle  
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Yearbook & FULL PAGE Recognition Student Ad Bundle  
2024-2025 Yearbook w/  
Full-Page Student Ad x1

Early Bird Discount: \$100.00  
\$95.00

- ¡Conserve los recuerdos del año en un libro que guardará para siempre!
- ¡Muestre a sus seres queridos lo especiales que son con un anuncio de felicitaciones!
- ¡Compre su anuario y anuncio juntos a un precio de paquete!

**COMPRA AHORA**

Una escuela de Título 1

***Winter Show is at Flanagan High School on Tuesday, 12/17/24, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM***

*Students performing in the show and lap children 2 years of age and under DO NOT NEED A TICKET!*

*Ages 3 and up are **\$8 per ticket** and will be available through the e-store ONLY!*

**Ticket sales opened Wednesday, November 20th.**

Visit: [www.browardschools.com/pasadenalakes/estore](http://www.browardschools.com/pasadenalakes/estore) to purchase your show tickets.

Doors will open at 6:15 PM.

*Flanagan High School is located at 12800 Taft Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33028*





## Polar Express Week: 12/16/24 - 12/20/24

**Pasadena Lakes Elementary School's  
Polar Express Spirit Week**

**MONDAY 12/16**  
**Baby, It's Cold Outside**  
**Flannel/Plaid**  
Wear Flannel/Plaid shirt 

**TUESDAY 12/17**  
**Holiday Socks**  **Fall Picture Make-up & Retakes**  
**Students in UNIFORMS!**  
\*New students to Pasadena since 10/28! Students who need a RETAKE (must bring original photo package for retake, if applicable)

**WEDNESDAY 12/18**  
**Winter Wonderland**  
**UGLY Sweater/Shirt** 

**THURSDAY 12/19**  **Cozy Head, Holiday Hats**  
Wear festive Holiday Hats

**FRIDAY 12/20**  
**Polar Express**  
**Pajama Day**  
Wear school appropriate pajamas  
NO Slippers! 

**A Title 1 School**

**Pasadena Lakes Elementary School's  
Semana de Espiritu de El Expreso Polar**

**LUNES 12/16**  
**Cariño, hace frío afuera**  
**Franela/Cuadros**  
Use camisa de franela/cuadros 

**MARTES 12/17**  
**Holiday Socks**  **Maquillaje y tomas repetidas de fotografías de otoño**  
**Estudiantes en UNIFORMES!**  
\*Nuevos estudiantes en Pasadena desde el 28/10  
Estudiantes que necesiten una RETODA (deben traer paquete de fotografías originales para volver a tomar, si corresponde)

**MIERCOLES 12/18**  
**País de las maravillas invernal**  
**Suéter/Camisa FEO** 

**JUEVES 12/19**  **Cabeza acogedora, sombreros navideños**  
Use sombreros festivos

**VIERNES 12/20**  
**Expreso polar**  
**Día del pijama**  
Use pijamas apropiados para la escuela  
NO zapatillas de dormir 

**Una escuela de Título 1**

## Favorite Holiday/Winter Traditions...

### **Grade 4**

**Aiman:** My family tradition is that every new year, we go to my grandma's house to celebrate the New Year. We do lot's of fun things.

**Benicio:** Winter is the best. All of my family sitting around the Christmas tree, it's very wholesome, laughing and talking. I don't thik it can get better thank opening presents and laughing. The decorations really don't matter. Things that do matter are family and love.

**Angie:** My favorite holiday is winter because you can play with snow, build a snowman, make some hot chocolate and wear cozy outfits. Also play all day, watch a movie and sleep.

### **Grade 5**

**Veronika:** My favorite holiday is when the whole family gets together and the family gives gifts to each other. We make good food. I love my family winter traditions.

**Amiyah:** My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving because I see my family and friends and I get to play.

**Victoria:** One of my favorite winter traditions is decorating the house with twinkling lights and festive ornaments. It's a wonderful way to bring the family together while creating a cozy vibe that makes the season feel special.

**Tajarah:** My favorite holiday is Christmas and Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, we do karaoke and we build gingerbread houses and we do more stuff.

**Siyannah:** My favorite holiday is Christmas Eve because it's close to Christmas and it's fun to spend time with friends and family. It's cool outside so it's nice to play.

**Allison:** A winter tradition we have is that on Christmas day, we all gather from the morning to the evening. You may think that everyone does that but ours is special. First, when all gifts are packed, we go to my Uncle's house. I play with my cousin and then we have a family lunch. We play a little more and once everybody has come, we open our gifts and party till late.

**Kylie:** I don't celebrate any winter holidays so I could say that I just cuddle up and watch anything or drink hot chocolate and wear sweaters and do more inside.

**Fernanda:** My family and I have a tradition of dressing in matching pajamas for Christmas and also my Uncles visit from my country.



*Don't be LATE, Aim for 8:00 am!!*



Parents we need your help!! If your child(ren) arrive at school AFTER the 8:10 AM bell, the Parent/Guardian **MUST** accompany them into the front office. **DO NOT DROP THEM OFF AT THE FRONT OFFICE DOOR!!** The student **MUST** receive a tardy pass and the parent/guardian **MUST provide a verbal reason for the tardy** when the student arrives at school.

The Parent Drop off loop will close at the sound of the first bell at 8:05 am. This will allow staff to arrive to class on time to assist students and teachers. Students dropped off after 8:05 am, will need to use the main office entrance for drop off and be escorted to the door.

Thank you for your cooperation with this **EXTREMELY** critical attendance matter!!

*Forgotten Items??*



One of our goals is to teach our children responsibility. However, we all forget things occasionally. On that rare occasion that you have to drop forgotten items off in the office, please, label them with your child's name and teacher's name.

Our Office Staff will be happy to assist you in getting the items to your child. We do ask that you be patient as our office staff are usually very busy. Students may not be called to the office immediately, but, items will be give to the student in a timely manner.

See Something, SAY Something



<https://www.browardschools.com/SecurityTips>

District Security Operations Center (DSOC) 754-321-3500

Email [SecurityTips@browardschools.com](mailto:SecurityTips@browardschools.com)

FortifyFL at <https://www.getfortifyfl.com/> On your CLEVER page

### *Silence Hurts*



3 - Words can hurt others, but sometimes, silence hurts even more!

The School Board of Broward County encourages students to report information about any non-urgent illegal activity, such as vandalism, theft, the sale and distribution of drugs or information about crimes that are being planned. This service allows students, as well as teachers and faculty, to send anonymous tips by sending a text message from a mobile phone, email or internet source. The following information may be utilized to contact the anonymous hotline which is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 day a year.

- **TELEPHONE** (National Hotline): 1-800-96-ABUSE (22873)
- **WEBSITE:** [www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report)
- **EMAIL:** [school911@browardschools.com](mailto:school911@browardschools.com)

- **CALL:** 754-321-0911
- **TEXT:** "SBBC" space with your text message to 274637 (CRIMES)

## December is Learn a Foreign Language Month



### LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE MONTH

Learning another language comes with a wealth of benefits. That's why December is National Learn a Foreign Language Month.

Most people learn a second language while in school. They may not be proficient in the language, especially if they do not have the opportunity to speak conversationally in that language. However, the opportunity to learn another language comes with many benefits.

- It improves your understanding of your native language.
- Your understanding of other cultures improves.
- Your confidence improves.
- Job opportunities improve.
- It makes travel easier in countries where the new language is spoken.

### ADVERTISING

Learning a new language also provides a boost to our brains by improving memory, creativity, attention span, and reducing cognitive decline. It's never too late to learn a new language. However, it is easier the earlier you start. That also means children tend to master a second language faster than adults. But don't let that discourage you. If you have children, learn alongside them.

There are many platforms for learning a new language. And with over half the world's population being bilingual, you can learn, too. Whether you take a class or download a language application, Learn A Foreign Language Month is the perfect time to do it!

## HOW TO OBSERVE #LearnAForeignLanguageMonth

Dust off your old Spanish textbook or sign up for a French class. Learn a Foreign Language Month celebrates languages and the benefits of speaking a new language. You can also:

- Immerse yourself in the new language by spending time with others who speak it fluently.
- Offer to teach someone a language you're fluent in speaking.
- Take a sign language class.
- Download a foreign language application.
- Pick up a book about the foreign language you're interested in learning.

## ADVERTISING

Share your experience learning a foreign language by using #LearnAForeignLanguageMonth.

Educators and families, please visit the [National Day Calendar Classroom](https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/pop-culture-lifestyle/learn-a-foreign-language-month-december) for more ways to Celebrate Every Day!

## LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE MONTH HISTORY

National Day Calendar continues to research the origins of this observance but it has been celebrated since at least 2009.

Resource: [www.nationaldaycalendar.com/pop-culture-lifestyle/learn-a-foreign-language-month-december](https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/pop-culture-lifestyle/learn-a-foreign-language-month-december)

## Sun Activities

### SUN SAFETY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS



Take a walk through your neighborhood and have your child point out the different examples of places to seek shade, such as umbrellas, porches, under a tree or a shade structure.



Select a sampling of 3 shirts from your child's closet. Hold each shirt up to a light so the child can see how much light shines through (e.g., dark-colored shirts vs. light-colored shirts, thin vs. thick fabric, etc.). Ask your child to pick the shirt they think provides the best sun protection. It's important to note that darker-colored shirts and heavier fabrics will provide better sun protection and are an important way to be safe in the sun. This also includes wearing sunscreen and seeking shade.



Take your child to the zoo to look at different types of animal skin, such as the smooth skin of dolphins, the dense fur of the polar bears, or a flamingo's feathers. Talk about how their skin protects them from the sun.



Place a dark, colored piece of construction paper on a sunny window sill with a solid object placed in the middle of it. Leave the object there for a few days. Have your child look weekly at the construction paper. Lifting the object to see how much of the paper exposed to the sun is fading. Explain to your child that just as the sun has changed the unprotected portion of the paper, the sun does the same thing to their skin — changing and damaging it.



Note the sun's power by slicing one apple into rings and hanging the rings from individual strings to dry. Place another apple in a cool, dry spot. Make sure the hanging apple-rings do not touch, and cover them with cheesecloth to discourage bugs. Have children observe the ring's changes. To demonstrate more clearly the difference between dry one and the dry the apple rings are dried out, cut the other apple (the one you set aside at the beginning of the experiment) into rings. Then compare a freshly cut ring to a dried one. Explain that the sun has the same power to dry out your skin as it has to dry apple slices. This can be a reminder to moisturize your skin after being in the sun.



Purchase UV-protecting beads from a craft supply store. These can be made into bracelets or backpack zipper pulls. The beads are a useful and fun way to demonstrate the effects of UV rays on the skin.





**Panther Child Care: 754-323-6922**

Ms. Tinerino-Allen



***Pasadena Lakes "Panther Care" is the place to be!***

Do you ever worry that you'll be late to drop off or pick up your child from school on time? Do you want them to be engaged in social and academic activities and interact safely with new friends after school?

If so, our aftercare is the place to be! Join the fun today!

Our students are involved in many amazing activities and we appreciate your support in making our program the best there is! They receive homework "help" for 45 mins daily, eat a healthy supper, play indoor and outdoor sports/dance activities, complete arts and crafts projects, and participate in other subject areas and enjoyable events that take place in our program.

Our students are involved in many amazing activities and we appreciate your support in making our program the best there is!

They receive homework “help” for 45 mins daily, eat a healthy supper, play indoor and outdoor sports/dance activities, complete arts and crafts projects, and participate in other subject areas and enjoyable events that take place in our program.

Program Hours:

Panther “Before Care Hours” are from 6:40 a.m.-7:40 a.m.

Panther “Aftercare Hours” are from 2:10 p.m-6:10 p.m.

Costs per Child to attend:

- Registration fee per each child \$30.00
- Monthly Before Care Fees: \$63.00
- Monthly Aftercare Fees: \$253.00\*\*(includes the early release day) \*\*
- Monthly Activity Fee \$12.00,
- Scholarships are available to apply online and must be paid in the aftercare office.

(Aftercare full fees and Activity fees are due each pay period together).

\*Late pick up fees of \$15.00 will be applied after 6:10 p.m.

(Aftercare full fees and Activity fees are due each period together).

Ms. Tinerino-Allen can be reached at (754) 323-6922 from 2:10 p.m. -6:10 p.m.

December Theme: The Gingerbread Man, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and other exciting holidays around the world!

Don't be left out, sign your child up today!

*Happy Holidays from Ms. Tinerino-Allen and her amazing Staff!! We wish you an amazing holiday season!*

*Mrs. Morrow, Title 1 Liaison*



## Monitor Homework

Let your child know that you think education is important and so homework has to be done. Here are some ways to help your child with homework:

Have a special place for your child to study. The homework area doesn't have to be fancy. A desk in the bedroom is nice, but for many children, the kitchen table or a corner of the living room works just fine. The area should have good lighting and it should be fairly quiet. Provide supplies and identify resources. For starters, have available pencils, pens, erasers, writing paper and a dictionary. Other supplies that might be helpful include a stapler, paper clips, maps, a calculator, a pencil sharpener, tape, glue, paste, scissors, a ruler, a calculator, index cards, a thesaurus and an almanac. If possible, keep these items together in one place. If you can't provide your child with needed supplies, check with her teacher, school counselor or principal about possible sources of assistance.

Set a regular time for homework. Having a regular time to do homework helps children to finish assignments. Of course, a good schedule depends in part on your child's age, as well as her specific needs. You'll need to work with a young child to develop a schedule. You should give your older child the responsibility for making up a schedule independently—although you'll want to make sure that it's a workable one. You may find it helpful to have her write out her schedule and put it in a place where you'll see it often, such as on the refrigerator.

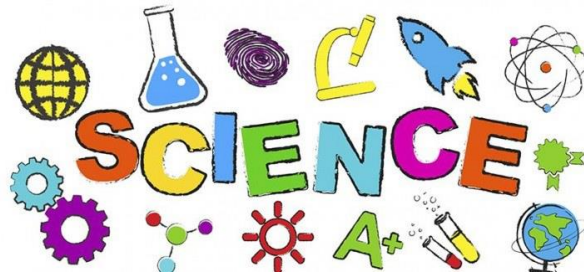
Remove distractions. Turn off the TV and discourage your child from making and receiving social telephone calls during homework time. (A call to a classmate about an assignment, however, may be helpful.) If you live in a small or noisy household, try having all family members take part in a quiet activity during homework time. You may need to take a noisy toddler outside or into another room to play. If distractions can't be avoided, your child may want to complete assignments in the local library.

Don't expect or demand perfection. When your child asks you to look at what she's done—from skating a figure 8 to finishing a math assignment—show interest and praise her when she's done something well. If you have criticisms or suggestions, make them in a helpful way. One final note: You may be reluctant to help your child with homework because you feel that you don't know the subject well enough or because you don't speak or read English as well as your child. But helping with homework doesn't mean doing the homework. It isn't about solving the problems for your child, it's about supporting him to do his best. You may not know enough about a subject such as calculus to help your child with a specific assignment, but you can help nonetheless by showing that you are interested, helping him get organized, providing a place the materials he needs to work, monitoring his work to see that he completes it and praising his efforts.



For more information about homework, see the U.S. Department of Education booklets, *Helping Your Child with Homework* and *Homework Tips for Parents*, both listed in the Resources section.

### *Mrs. Balboa, Science Coach*



#### **Tips for Studying Science and being Successful!**

- Do the assigned science reading before class discussion.
- Read for understanding and ask questions.
- Scrutinize each paragraph and pay close attention to vocabulary.
- Read each chapter and your notes more than once.
- Don't skip sample problems and examples those are very important.
- Read all the text features such as graphs, charts, and text boxes.
- Check your work by collaborating with a classmate. Share what you found during the experiment.
- Redo experiments at home with your family. Share with them what is happening in your classroom and the science world around us.

### *Mrs. Balboa, Math Coach*



## ***Fun at Home with Math Fluency***

### Measuring

Break out the rulers and measuring tape! The beauty of using measurement to appeal to the language of numbers for your child simply comes down to purpose—if something must fit, numbers come to the rescue.

### Counting

Have your child help you with taking inventory of the fridge. If you have any kind of garden or fruit bearing tree, have them count your bounty! Use your view from the window and take count of all the birds you see, cars that drive by, dogs on a walk, etc. You can even have your child keep a counting journal of all the things they're keeping track of each day. If they're a sports fan, encourage them to follow player and team statistics and scores.

### Estimating

Even adults have fun with this type of guessing game. Put a jar of something out on your counter each week for the whole family to guess the number of items they think the jar contains. After a week or so, take them out and count them (more counting practice!), and have prize for the person who is the closest.

### Baking/Cooking

Break out the cookbooks! Aside from the fact that we all need to eat, there is a great deal of fun to be had in the kitchen. Considering liquid volumes and weight measurements in recipes add a new dimension to measurement and immediate purpose to the use of numbers.

### Earning

Finally, if measuring and baking don't do the trick, an allowance can certainly pique the interest of any child with their eyes on prize. Help your child develop number sense along with responsibility as they maintain some kind of "account" or piggybank.

## ***Ms. Damasco, Literacy Coach***

This month, we're fostering the joy of reading and encouraging our students to explore new books over the winter break! As the holiday season approaches, consider setting aside time each day for reading as a family. Whether it's sharing a favorite story, listening to an audiobook on a cozy night, or exploring a winter-themed book, every little bit helps build a love for literacy. Don't forget to check out our school library for some wonderful book

recommendations before the break. Wishing you a season filled with wonderful stories and warm memories!

### *Pre-Kindergarten*



December brings an exciting opportunity to engage our children in the wonder of the holiday season. This month, we will focus on experiencing the season through our senses. Together, we'll explore the feelings, textures, colors, and scents (like cinnamon and pine) that make this time of year so magical. We'll also learn about the symbols of the season, such as candles, stars, and bells, that hold special meaning and singing festive songs.

Wishing you a joyous holiday Season!

We're grateful for your love and support.

Friendly Reminder to please check your child's folder/backpack at the end of each school day for any important information.

### *Kindergarten*



Hello amazing Kindergarten families, happy holiday season. We are so thankful for all the support you have given us so far this year. In December we have a ton of fun activities planned.

Math: we will be focus on subtraction within 10.

Reading: We will focus on identifying characters, setting and major events in stories. We will be answering the question, Why do we us technology? We will continue practicing decoding (tapping out) and encoding (writing) CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words. We will continue practicing our primer sight words adding three additional words each week. Please continue to practice these nightly, and have students look for their sight words in books.

Science: We continue to learn about patterns of movement. Students will understand How can we explore the different ways and the different patterns by which objects move? What is the difference between a push and a pull?

Social Studies: Our focus shifts to learning about American History and comparing our lives to those in the past.

We are also preparing for our Winter Show on December 17th so please help your children practice their songs. We cannot wait to see what amazing work our Kindergarteners complete this month.

We wish you happy holidays and an amazing end to 2024!

## *First Grade*



Winter in Florida is finally here! Cooler weather and warmer clothes as the holidays are right around the corner. That's right-our first graders will be able to participate and will be immersed in many enjoyable holiday activities at school. First grade is excited to learn about the importance of holidays and how they are culturally celebrated around the world.

**Reading/Writing:** Students will be able to explain the similarities and differences between information provided in visuals and words within an informational text. They will be comparing and contrasting two texts on the same topics.

**Math:** Students will practice their math strategies using addition and subtraction. They will be counting by ones and tens to 120, using a number chart. (Skip counting by 2's to 20 and by 5's to 100.

**Science:** Our marvelous scientists will be learning about magnifiers and how they are helpful to others.

**Social Studies:** Students will learn about patriotic symbols, holidays, and observances. They will compare life then (in the past) with life now (the present) as they learn about different holidays celebrated around the world.

## Second Grade



Happy Holidays! Our scholars are making gains everyday.

Reading: Our scholars will identify Characters' Perspective. Questions you could ask your child after reading a literary text are: Who is telling the story?, Where in the story does another character tell what he thinks or what he or she feels about what is happening in the story? Our scholars will also, identify and explain similes, idioms, and alliteration in texts.

Science: Our Scientists demonstrate that the greater the force (push or pull) applied to an object, the greater the change in motion of the object. This month's key concepts will be: Pushing and pulling can cause an object to change position and to move. People, objects, or nature can push or pull objects. The more force applied to an object, the greater the change in motion of the object.

Math: Our mathematicians will solve one- and two-step addition and subtraction real-world problems. Instruction will include understanding the context of the problem, as well as the quantities within the problem. *Together we will work on* problems that include creating real-world situations based on an equation.

## Third Grade



Our third graders are busy learning and growing every day! In Reading, our focus is on the 3rd Grade Benchmark Education Unit 4- Comparing Point of View. Students will continue learning about standards that were previously taught along with learning new standards within the Unit. It is critical that students are present at school every day so, they won't have to catch up

on assignments and standards they were taught while they were absent. Please continue having your child read for 20-30 minutes each night with a book to build fluency and comprehension skills.

**Math:** Students will continue to work on strategies to use when multiplying and dividing through word problems and equations and Geometry. Practicing multiplication facts every night plays a vital part in solving equations and increasing multiplication fluency. Third graders are also responsible for returning their homework assignments, to show their understanding of the skills previously taught.

On December 2, third graders will be attending their first field trip to the Broward Center of the Performing Arts to watch an educational musical and in January we will be visiting the Anne Kolb Nature Center.

Thank you for your continued support!

### *Fourth Grade*



**Math:** We are entering the half point of the EnVision curriculum! Can you believe it? Therefore, we are gearing up to take the Cumulative Assessment for all seven topic lessons soon... Let's take a **RECAP of the Math Topics** we've learned so far: Place Value: Numbers to One Million, Multiplication and Division Basic Facts, Multiply by 1-Digit Numbers, Multiply Greater Numbers, Divide by 1-Digit Numbers, Use Operations with Whole Numbers to Solve Problems, and Number Patterns, Factors, and Divisibility What can you all do to ensure our students are prepared?

- 1) Review all the Math Topic Family Engagement letters sent home for chapters 1 through 7 with our student
- 2) Use assigned online resources such as I-Ready Math, Success Maker, Savvas Bridge for videos and lesson practice, Fluency Flight, and much more... Please remember: The more our student

practices math skills and strategies in school and at home, the better he/she will get throughout the school year!

**Reading:** This month, our 4th grade students will dive deeper into analyzing texts to identify the narrator's point of view and understand characters' perspectives. They will explore how characters influence the development of a story and learn to identify the plot and theme. Additionally, students will practice summarizing fiction and analyzing poetry, focusing on rhyme and structure. We are continuing to build skills to nurture inquisitive and thoughtful readers.

**Language arts/science:** Students will be creating a new fictional scene and continue working on their cursive writing skills. They will be learning how to form and use verb tenses and review prepositional phrases. Diving into science students will be experimenting with forces and learning all about earth's movements.

**Social Studies:** Our Social Studies standards will focus on the early exploration and the first colonial settlements in Florida. Topics include the motivations of the early Spanish explorers of Florida and the importance of the first permanent settlements in Florida, particularly the City of St. Augustine. Topics such as daily life in Florida missions and the effects of colonization on Native populations will also be discussed.

## *Fifth Grade*



Fifth Grade continues to push forward. We are collecting \$17 for the upcoming field trip to the Frost Museum. We are taking a trip to Driftwood Middle school and the City of Miramar's Aviation Expo. These field trips should cement some of the lessons the students have learned this year. In Math, students will be mastering skills of division with decimals. Finally, in ELA, students will continue to build their comprehension by mastering the skill of sequencing in a variety of different genres.

Happy Holidays from the Fifth Grade Team!



## *A.S.D. (Autism Spectrum Disorder)*



I can't believe we're already in the month of December. We are thrilled to share some exciting news! Our students have been working hard every day to prepare for our upcoming Winter Performance. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their creativity, teamwork, and the skills they've been developing in class. The performance will include music, movement, and other surprises that highlight the unique strengths of our amazing students. It's a moment for them to shine, and your presence and support will mean the world to them.

We understand that events like these can sometimes feel overwhelming for children with ASD. To support their success, we've been practicing routines in small, manageable steps, using visual aids and predictable schedules to build confidence. We would love to have as many families as possible join us to celebrate the hard work and talents of our students. It's a wonderful way to create positive memories and reinforce the skills they've been practicing. Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to seeing you there!

In addition, the winter break is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with your child while reinforcing important skills in fun and engaging ways. There are activities and resources designed to support your child in practicing social, communication, play, academic, and self-help skills. For instance, you can practice role-playing scenarios like greeting a friend or asking for help; use simple scripts during family gatherings to help your child feel more confident in social interactions; follow a simple recipe to practice sequencing, measuring, and following directions; and explore books about snow, winter animals, or the holidays to strengthen literacy skills.

We hope these ideas inspire fun and meaningful moments during your winter break. Wishing you a safe, joyful, and relaxing holiday season!

If you have any questions or need support, please feel free to contact Ms. Spann, Autism Coach at [Marla.Spann@browardschools.com](mailto:Marla.Spann@browardschools.com).

*Mrs. Thomson, School Counselor*



### Spotlight on Life Skills and Wellness (LSW)

Life Skills and Wellness (LSW) fosters skills that build confidence and support mental and emotional health. We are helping our students gain knowledge of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and resiliency.

These competencies provide life and employability skills that build confidence to support the well-being of our students, enabling them to overcome challenges. As outlined in [Florida Statute 1003.42\(n\)](#), these competencies help students work towards achieving goals both academically and socially as we prepare them for the 21st-century workplace.

There are different ways to identify the successes and needs of students' LSW progress and development. Families are invited to register for a [free family account with ReThink Ed](#). There you will find videos, activities, and additional LSW resources. Enroll in our [Life Skills and Wellness Canvas Resources for Families and Students](#) which offers activities and resources to support Life Skills and Wellness at home.

### All about Xello

This year Broward County schools invites all elementary students to use an application on Clever called Xello. Xello helps students to explore different careers. Students in grades K-2 get to play different career games to solve a mystery in Career Town. Students in grades 3-5 complete missions that use their interests and skills to help them find careers they may want to pursue.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [meagan.thomson@browardschools.com](mailto:meagan.thomson@browardschools.com). I look forward to another successful and happy year.

## Contact Us



*"We, the Panther Family, are committed to ensure, that ALL students receive a quality education within a safe and nurturing learning environment."*

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School success starts  
with attendance

