

Coral Springs PreK - 8 Bear Bulletin - Title1

VONDA L. OLIVER, PRINCIPAL

Dec. 14, 2020

SHARI BROWN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



December 15th – SAC Meeting 5:00 p.m.
via TEAMS

December 16th – Virtual Family Fun
Night 5:00 p.m. via TEAMS

December 21st – January 1st – No
School – Winter Break

January 7th – Early release – 12:30 pm

January 18th – No School – Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day

***CSPK8 RISING STARS...WE
EMBODY COURAGE,
DETERMINATION,
EMPOWERMENT, AND
KINDNESS***



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Greetings CSPK8 Families,

Winter Break is HERE!!!! Families, as we embark into our well-deserved Winter Break, I wanted to send this message just to say thank you for your continued support this school year. It would be an understatement to say this has been a very different school year thus far; however, with the family's support, we are striving to ensure we provide a quality education to our scholars. The scholars and families who are logging on daily and our staff have worked extremely hard during the first half of the school year. Thank you!!! Parents, your children's hard work during this virtual season will help them to be prepared for the upcoming Spring Assessments (FSA). Although school looks different this year, all district schools will still participate in all state assessments.

Upon our return from Winter Break, I implore ALL parents to get on board by ensuring our scholars are engaged in learning daily. Unfortunately, the state will allow retentions this year for any student not meeting grade level criteria to be promoted. Enjoy this break because we have work to do when we return. It's all of our responsibility to ensure that our school excels at the end of the school year.

I'm wishing everyone a restful and wonderful winter break. Take time to enjoy family and friends during this holiday season. Whatever you do over the break, be sure to adhere to CDC Guidelines and stay safe. I want all my scholars back in January. Please do not forget to notify the front office of any positive COVID results. We must keep everyone safe.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Be sure you are conferencing with your child's teacher. This opens the line of communication between home and school. Our teachers are more than happy to provide you with information pertaining to your child's academics and behavior. Please do not wait until it is too late to decide to speak with your child's teacher. The time is now. Keep in mind, teachers are required to have a minimum of two parent teacher conferences per school year.

Once again, wishing everyone a safe and wonderful holiday break.

Educationally Yours,

Your Very Proud Principal
Vonda L. Oliver

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

HEAD START

Specialized PreK has been learning about different areas of the community and community helpers. Next, students will learn about all the ways people can help their community. Students are still working on counting and measurable attributes in math. Students recently met Mr. B and Ms. K and will meet Mr. D and Ms. F in the next few weeks. We will also be discussing the various holidays of December and we will include additional cooking activities and science experiments in our schedule.

The Head Start classes are engaged in eLearning and connecting with our friends that are at home. We are also learning about "Clothes" and "Winter Holidays". We have also been working with letter recognition (specifically the letters of our first name). We are also learning the letter sounds, songs, reading weekly poetry, and learning math concepts such as: numbers, patterns, counting and one to one correspondence. We also wanted to thank our Head Start parents for their cooperation with our Fall Virtual Home Visits!!

Ms. Rabone's AM/PM Speech and Language Class has enjoyed meeting our letter people friends, Ms. A and Mr. B. We learned about feelings, practiced describing using verbs + "ing", and identifying and using prepositional concepts. We are looking forward to meeting Mr. D and Ms. F in the upcoming weeks. We will also be learning about the winter holidays and working on how to answer a variety "wh" questions (what, where, who, when).

KINDERGARTEN

In Language Arts, we have learned how to ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text. We have also identified what illustrations are trying to tell us about a story. This quarter, we are introducing comparing and contrasting the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories. In writing, we are learning how to compose narrative texts which include writing about a topic to create a story. In Math, we are learning how to fluently add using numbers 0-10. We will continue to learn how to find numbers that make ten, as well as to model, compare, and count those numbers. In Social Studies, we are learning about Our World. We are learning a basic understanding of geography and will teach them a little bit about where they live in relation to the world. This quarter, in Science, we are becoming experts on identifying characteristics of the different seasons and learning about weather. Don't forget to read every night for 30 minutes and complete assignments on Canvas.

FIRST GRADE

In first grade we are so excited for December. We have lots of fun and exciting new things to learn. In Language Arts, scholars will be learning how to identify the sequence of events in a text. Students will then use those skills to retell and write stories in the order they were read. We will identify and explain the main idea and identify the topic and relevant details in a text. In Writing, scholars will be learning how to write an informational text and write a thank you note using exact adjectives. Scholars will also practice identifying and writing exact statements. In Math, scholars will be learning to solve addition and subtraction problems using the strategy "make a model". They will learn to identify addition and subtraction relationships. In Science, scholars are learning how to use the scientific method to ask questions, create a hypothesis, observe an experiment, and come to a conclusion about the experiment. In social studies, scholars will be focusing on identifying celebrations and national holidays from around the world as a way of honoring different nation's ethnic heritage.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

SECOND GRADE

Hello Families! Our scholars are still learning to maneuver around our virtual learning environment. Just a reminder that our online lessons start at 8:45 a.m. daily. Also, please remember that all Canvas lessons, I-Ready Reading and Math, plus Think Central Math are essential parts to the process of our learning each day. It is important to check your child's Canvas Course Progress daily, to make sure they are completing all tests and assignments for each subject.

In **Reading** and **Language Arts**, we are focusing on Main Idea and Details, Cause and Effect, Understanding Character Traits, and Fact and Opinion. Students should be able to identify whether a text is fiction or non-fiction based on the key details in a text. For **Writing**, scholars are working on identifying the main idea as a reader in a given text. We have been practicing looking for evidence from the text to support the topic and point of a passage and incorporating the evidence into our informational writing. In **Math**, our scholars are using place value to add 2-digit numbers with and without regrouping using different strategies. For **Science**, we are learning about the changes in properties and we will be investigating the cause and effect of force and motion on an object. Whereas, in **Social Studies**, our students will be learning about rules, laws and our government.

Please make sure your child is reading daily and using the i-Ready website to practice their reading and math skills. Thank you for all your support to help your scholar succeed in this virtual learning environment.

THIRD GRADE

Greetings to our wonderful families!! It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through our school year. When students come back after the holiday break, we will be starting our 3rd quarter. Students need to read every day to increase their stamina. They also need to practice their math facts to build their fluency.

- In our **ELA/READING** block, we have been working on text features, character traits, and the main idea of a text. Students have been working with informational texts and how to use text features to have a better understanding.
- In **WRITING**, students are learning how to synthesize information from two texts and how to respond to a writing prompt.
- In **MATH**, we continue with multiplication. Students are learning how to analyze word problems and how to use different strategies to solve them.
- In **SCIENCE**, we have been learning about the Sun and how we use light and heat energy to survive.

FOURTH GRADE

Greetings families! The school year feels like it's flying by as our scholars continue to do their best in this virtual setting. As our scholars have become more tech savvy, the rigor in our curriculum has increased to match our scholars' new skill sets. In Reading, we have been working on developing a deeper understanding of text features, and the additional knowledge we can gain from them, as well as using story details to make inferences, and integrating knowledge from multiple text sources. In Math, our scholars have continued to build upon their division skills by learning different strategies to solve division problems with two and three digit dividends. Soon they will be moving onto working with multiples, factors, and patterns. In the content area of Language Arts, our scholars continue to develop their informative essay writing skills by synthesizing information from multiple sources to respond to a prompt, as well as developing strong controlling ideas, evidence, and elaboration to write four paragraph essays. In Social Studies, we have been exploring Florida's involvement in the Civil War, and the development of the state afterward. In Science, we have been delving in deep with the properties of matter, and the physical and chemical changes that occur in states of matter.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

FOURTH GRADE (CONT'D)

While we certainly face difficulties in this virtual setting, it has also allowed our scholars to have virtual access to things they otherwise wouldn't have. As a result, we have already participated in several virtual fieldtrips which exposed our scholars to live plays, math performances, and Native American art exhibits, just to name a few. We are excited to continue to take advantage of every opportunity to allow our scholars to participate in the many interesting virtual events happening in our school district that foster deeper understanding of our 4th grade content, as well as the real world.

As we continue to move through the second quarter while distance learning, please remember to check on your scholar's work and ensure they are submitting assignments on time. We cannot give credit for work we do not receive. We also encourage scholars to read for at least 30 minutes a day, complete one reflexmath lesson a day, and pass at least two I-Ready lessons in reading and math each week. Thank you so much for your flexibility as we continue to navigate distance learning. Even more so, thank you for your involvement in your child's education. We look forward to continuing a great school year!

FIFTH GRADE

Welcome to December's edition of Coral Springs PreK-8 Bear Bulletin. We hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends while staying safe and healthy.

It has been a tremendous success transitioning from online E-learning to a combination of brick and mortar face to face learning! Our scholars that have returned to school are doing a wonderful job completing their schoolwork and participating - while being mindful of the social distancing procedures. E-Learning is not an easy task for our scholars, families, as well as our faculty; however, each week we are all becoming more successful and adaptive to E-Learning education.

It is imperative that you check your child's academic progress in Pinnacle daily to ensure academic success. In addition, please make sure you check your child's Canvas pages for assignments, emails and announcements. As a reminder, scholars should be signed into Teams promptly at 8:30 am, have their cameras turned on, and have their school materials easily accessible.

This month in Mathematics, we will be working on multiplication with decimals and division with decimals. Please make sure that your child practices their math facts for at least 15 minutes each day and take advantage of the Reflex Math program set up by their math teachers. It is critical for fifth grade students to know their multiplication facts, as they are the driving force behind mostly all mathematical concepts.

Our ELA reading curriculum shifts towards comparing two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact). Vocabulary is as important as ever and we will be determining the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes. In addition, we remain committed to integrating literature into our Social Studies lessons showing diversity and equity for all. All students should be reading for a minimum of 25 minutes each day and completing IReady lessons.

In writing we continue working on 4 paragraph essays in our interactive notebooks. The focus for this month continues to be writing informative essays; however, for the new academic year we will shift to writing opinion essays.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

5th GRADE (CONT'D)

The grade level has just completed mixtures and solutions in science. Our next topics of study will be “weather in specific environments” and “environmental changes.”

Again, please remember to check your child's grades in Pinnacle, Canvas emails and announcements often so that they do not fall behind. Also, reach out to the classroom teachers for help when needed. As always, we would like to thank all the families and students for adhering to the school guidelines. We appreciate your efforts and support and are proud of our scholars.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Gelman's K-1 class will be working on the following. In Reading we will be learning about Sequence of Events. We will identify and explain the order of events taking place in the story and why it's important. We will also review/practice Main Idea/Topic. In Writing, we will be learning how to transfer an essay from the planning frame to the 4-paragraph format, make inferences, and create main ideas based on evidence. We will practice forming and using complete simple sentences, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. In Math, we will be learning to use strategies to find sums and differences within 20, count back 1, 2, or 3, use addition to subtract, or make a ten. We will learn to solve addition and subtraction problems and how to count, read, and represent numbers of 100 to 120 objects. In Social Studies, scholars will be learning about various holidays around the world and how they are similar and different from how we celebrate here in America.

Mr. Jones' class will increase their knowledge by using strategies based on place value and relationship between addition and subtraction in Math. They will learn how to describe how characters respond to events and challenges. The students will be practicing writing a paragraph and identify the constitution as the document which establishes structure, function, powers, and limits of American government.

Ms. Sullivan's 3rd grade class will be working hard again this month. In reading, my class is working on character traits, sequence of events, and main idea. In writing, my class is responding to a prompt using two texts for evidence. In math, my class is continuing to work on multiplication facts using different strategies.

Mr. Zielsdorff's 4th-5th grade class will be end the month learning how to support inferences in literary texts, using strategies to find quotients in division, synthesize two or more texts in writing, and investigate the changing properties of matter in science.

ESE NEWS

I would like to congratulate two ESE families on being nominated for excelling on elearning. Congratulations to **Ms. Gordon and family** and **Ms. Ochoa and family**. These families have gone above and beyond helping their children be successful on elearning throughout these difficult times. Their children continue to make progress with their academics and are present and ready to work each day. They will be honored during a virtual recognition program on January 25th. Thank you to all the parents that have stood by your child and have given them support to be successful learners.

You all ROCK and deserve recognition!

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

SPECIALS

The Specials teachers will be introducing to our scholars a multitude of names that have made contributions to science, sports, arts and media. Mrs. Faron will elaborate on how the artists were inspired by where they lived. Mr. Steele will highlight the sacrifices (hours of practice, eating healthy, support, etc.) many athletes make to become successful at a young age. Mrs. Clarke will mainstream the importance of checking credentials when selecting research sources. Ms. Laird will continue to display how many scientists use data collected by measuring or counting to support a theory.

MATH

Welcome to another great quarter at Coral Springs PreK-8! This year has been flying by and we are thrilled with the progress and perseverance that each CSPK8 family member has shown during this hybrid model of education. Our teachers and scholars are continuing to work together to achieve mastery of the grade level math standards through a blended learning model. Each student has individual needs in math and our teachers are continuing to differentiate their instruction to help each student reach their math goals.

Please continue to work with your child on their basic math facts to support and develop their math fluency skills. 2nd – 5th grade students can login to **Reflex Math** every day to support and refine their basic math facts. Kindergarten through 3rd can login to **toytheater.com** (*click Math*) to support their fact fluency, as well.

Our staff has continued to work very hard to incorporate vital math strategies and skills to assist each child during our remote learning and face-to-face teaching model. Our scholars are now becoming proficient with the concrete level of math development, as they have been focusing on using virtual math manipulatives to model their understanding of difficult math concepts.

As I stated in the previous Bear Bulletin, educators and parents need to have a strong partnership. Together, we can further develop and enrich our children's education. A few math resources that our scholars can access at home are:

- **Primary (K-2):** iReady Math, toytheater.com (K-3rd), abcya.com
- **Intermediate (3-5):** iReady Math, Reflex Math, Canvas, khanacademy.org
- **Middle School (6-8):** iReady Math, khanacademy.org, algebration.com, ixl.com/math, Canvas

Thank you for all your support as we dive into third quarter. Together, we can positively impact the education that the scholars at our school will receive this year. Furthermore, I continue to look forward to working together to support, nurture, and enrich the lives of all the wonderful teachers and children that attend Coral Springs PreK-8!

Stay Safe and Best Regards, Mr. Person – Math Instructional Coach

GUIDANCE

Happy Holidays - Be safe, and Practice Social Distancing. Please refer to CSPK8 Counseling Corner Canvas page for resources over the break if needed.

If there is an imminent threat or concern, call 911, Mobile Crisis Response Team 954-677-3113, or First Call for Help 954-357-0211 for any mental health issues that may arise. If an unforeseen circumstance arises during the winter break, please call 2-1-1 for shelters that are available. Thank you

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

LITERACY CORNER

Greetings parents and scholars! We've made it to the midpoint in the year and its time to finish as strong and confident as we started! In this newsletter I'd like to highlight some strategies for strengthening reading and writing utilizing *Informational text*. For many readers, finding excitement in reading leads them towards thrilling stories of courageous characters whose epic adventures changed their lives! But informational text can be just as engaging and help our scholars gain knowledge that could end up changing HIS or HER lives!

First, start by selecting an informational text that contains unfamiliar, but intriguing topics that can reveal new and interesting facts and details about the topic. For the young reader who is interested in how cars have developed, find informational texts about how cars have changed throughout the years!

Once you've selected the text, discuss the elements of the text that you can identify such as the Table of Contents, Index, and Glossary. Informational text doesn't have to be read cover-to-cover so using these text features can help you locate the information that you're most interested in learning more about.

As you move through the organized sections of the informational text, stop and ask questions- both about the text and about all the text features (pictures, captions, diagrams, charts/graphs) and what additional information they have learned from the text that they didn't know before! Since your scholar selected a book that is high interest, they'll be excited to learn and share their newfound information with others! For example, did you know that the World Record for holding your breath under water is 24 minutes and 3.45 seconds set by a diver who lives in Spain or that you can hold your breath under water longer in cold water than you can in warm water? Yes! Informational text for the win!

Finally, as you and your scholar read these awesome informational texts together, you can support their development as writers as well as readers. Encourage your scholar to respond in a journal to a prompting question about the text. Encourage them to go back into the passage to find evidence and include that in their writing as support for their ideas. Some families keep a response journal that includes text-based writing responses from the scholars as well as from the parents.

As Dr. Seuss says, "The more you read the more things you'll know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-read-nonfiction-text>