

Coral Springs PreK - 8 Bear Bulletin - Title1

VONDA L. OLIVER, PRINCIPAL

Feb. 17, 2021

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



February 18th – Early Release 12:30 pm

February 22nd – Title I Parent Compacts
go home – To be returned no later than
March 5th

March 16th – SAC Meeting 4:00 pm
Via TEAMS

March 18th – Early Release 12:30 pm

March 19th – No School – Employee
Planning

March 22nd – March 26th – Spring Break

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



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Greeting parents!!!

I hope everyone is remaining healthy and safe. We've been face to face since October, and overall school operations are going well. Unfortunately, there have been some positive COVID cases reported both adult and student. We are weeks away from Spring Break and I think everyone is looking forward to spending time with family and friends. As of now, our district will participate in the upcoming FSA and Primary Reading Test. Therefore, I encourage all families to work with the school and teachers to engage our scholars as we prepare for these very important assessments. As in the past, student performance will determine grade level placement for the 2021- 2022 school year. Students not making adequate progress will not be promoted to the next grade level.

Upon our return, we will be starting the FSA (Florida Standards Assessment), and shortly afterwards the PRT (Primary Reading Test). As we enter each phase of testing, families will be notified. Families, I can't emphasize enough how important these assessments are for our school and scholars. Parents of virtual and face to face scholars are challenged to ensure your children are in school and online daily. Online means cameras on and actively engaged in the learning process. Our teachers do a great job of navigating between face to face and virtual teaching, but our scholars need to also be accountable for their learning. There is only so much a teacher can do when the scholars are not engaged in the learning.

COVID-19 Update:

- CSPK8 will continue to follow CDC guidelines.
 - Classrooms and common areas are still 6 feet apart
 - Everyone is required to always wear masks. During lunch, scholars are permitted to remove their mask when they eat. However, they are then prompted to put their masks back on for the duration of lunch
 - The school notifies families and staff after each reported positive case. Unfortunately, we are not at liberty to share who tested positive.
 - Please note the following protocols for someone testing positive in the school setting
 - Employee - Employee to complete a notification form to be sent to the Health Department and Risk Management.
 - The employee will list close contacts and close contacts will receive a call from the Health Department
 - Anyone named on the notification form as close contacts will be contacted by the Health Department (If everyone follows guidelines as put in place at school, we should not have to close entire classrooms)
 - The Health Department will identify return date to school
 - Students - The nurse or admin will complete the notification form to send to Risk Management and the Health Department
 - The same procedures will be followed to identify close contacts
 - Office of School Performance is notified of all positive cases
 - Notification Parent Link is sent to families and staff (Phone and email)
 - **Close Contact** has occurred if any of the following happened while an individual (student, teacher, or staff person) interacted with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, even if they didn't have symptoms during their infectious period:
 - *Had direct physical contact with the person (for example, a hug, kiss, or handshake).*
 - *Were within 6 feet of the person for 15 minutes or more. This includes single encounters OR multiple encounters within a single day adding up to 15 minutes.*
 - *Had contact with the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; contact with a dirty tissue; shared a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items).*

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

- **Classroom changes** - Unfortunately, temporary class changes may be necessary if a teacher is out due to COVID. In cases where the teacher is out, it may become necessary for the possibility of the following:
 - Virtual scholars may be temporary placed with another virtual teacher during the absence of the assigned classroom teacher due to COVID-19.
 - Face to Face scholars may be temporary placed with another teacher during the absence of the assigned classroom teacher due to COVID-19.

Arrival:

School gates are not opened prior to 7:50 a.m. Parents should not drop scholars off in the front of the school. We DO NOT have adult supervision prior to 7:50 a.m. Car loop parents are still asked to pull your cars all the way down to the end of the loop.

Dismissal:

We will continue to dismiss scholars from the classroom for the remainder of the school year. Please be on time picking your child up from school as our process goes very quickly.

Threats - The district and school take threats seriously. Please speak with your children regarding the language they are using as it pertains to making threats. Even making the simplest comment might require the school threat assessment team to interview the student regardless of age. With any threat assessment, police will be involved. If a consequence is given because of the threat assessment, it will NOT be overturned. Therefore, speak with your children about appropriate and inappropriate comments. Although many of our scholars are still virtual, the Discipline Matrix is still followed.

Emergency contact - Since the beginning of the school year, parents have changed telephone numbers and emergency contacts without notifying the office. Updating emergency information such as parent contact information is VITAL. In the event of an emergency (threat, injury, etc.), we need to be able to contact parents. Anyone that has recently changed contact information should notify the front office with updated information as soon as possible.

Family Fun - Stay tuned for our upcoming virtual family events:

- Science Night
- FSA Trivia Night

Dates to be determined.

Have a wonderful remainder of the week.

Your Proud Principal
Vonda L. Oliver

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

HEAD START/Pre-K/AM/PM

The Head Start classes are engaged in eLearning and connecting with our friends that are at home. We are also learning about "Pets/Insects"(4 year old classes) and "Exercise/Healthy Foods"(3 year old class). We have also been working with letter recognition (specifically the letters of our first name). We are also learning the letter sounds, phonological awareness, songs, reading weekly poetry, and learning math concepts such as: numbers, patterns, counting and one to one correspondence. We have also been finishing up our Winter Assessments for Letter/Sound Recognition, Phonological Awareness, TSG, and Brigrance.

Ms. Rabone's AM/PM Speech and Language Class has kicked off the 3rd quarter meeting our letter people friends, Mr. C and Ms. E . We have been learning about categories and different ways of exercising and staying healthy. We are looking forward to meeting Mr. G and Mr. T. We will be learning about different types of homes and safety. In addition, we will always be working on improving our speech and language skills.

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. With this in mind, we are excited about our upcoming virtual field trip to Virtual Safety Town in March. In writing, we are learning how to compose narrative texts, which include writing about a topic to create a story. In Math, we have learned how to count numbers, model, compare, count those numbers 11-19. In social studies, we are learning all about America, and Animals in Science. Don't forget to read every night for 30 minutes!

FIRST GRADE

In first grade we are so excited for the third quarter of the 2020/2021 school year. We have more fun and exciting new things to learn. In Language Arts, scholars will be learning about the elements of a story. We will identify and explain an author's opinion about a text, find the main idea, and give supporting details about it in a text. Scholars will also practice using text features. In Writing, scholars will be learning how to identify and create simple commands and recognize that complete sentences have a subject and a predicate. They will also use context clues to find the meaning of homophones. Scholars will practice forming and using complete simple sentences, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. In Math, scholars will learn to use strategies to extend the counting sequence and understand the place value of two-digit numbers. Scholars will learn to compare numbers groups and identify which group is less or more. In Science, scholars will learn observe and discuss that there are more stars in the sky than anyone can easily count and that they are not scattered evenly in the sky. Students will explore the laws of gravity and identify the beneficial and harmful properties of the sun. In Social Studies, scholars will be learning about Black History Month, Women's History, and Tall Tales. Students will learn what it means to be brave, honest, and responsible!

SECOND GRADE

The **2nd grade team** is excited to share what we are learning in our classrooms as we started our 3rd Quarter. In Reading and Language Arts, we are learning about story structure, character traits, and sequence of events of a story. We will soon begin learning about how to recount a story to determine its overall central message or lesson. Scholars are also learning about pronouns, prefixes, suffixes, compound words and antonyms, including subject/verb agreements.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

SECOND GRADE (CONT'D)

It is vital that your child READS DAILY at home. Reading daily helps **build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills**. At this time of the year, **LLI level L** is considered on grade level in reading. By May/June 2021, scholars are expected to be reading on **LLI level M**. **In May**, the students are expected to take the Primary Reading Test. A **65% or higher is needed to be promoted to 3rd grade**.

In **Writing**, we have been working on creating an opinion piece giving our thoughts and reasons that support our ideas. We have created letters that persuades others about a topic. As we continue in the third quarter, we will be focusing on writing a narrative piece by creating a story and sequencing events in order. In **Math**, we are currently focusing on **three-digit addition and subtracting** with and without regrouping. Soon, we will be focusing on **Time and Money**. This is a great time to give your child opportunities to tell time at home and count change. In **Science**, scholars will compare the basic needs of living things and their habitat. We will also measure and compare temperature (weather) and recognize how the earth is made up of rocks. For **Social Studies**, we are learning about map skills. Additionally, we will be discussing about Famous Americans and our Government.

Please continue to:

1. Have Scholars complete 50 minutes of I-Ready Reading and 50 minutes of I-Ready Math each week, passing at least 2 out of 2 lessons with 75% or higher accuracy.
2. Check your Child's Canvas Course Progress weekly to make sure they have completed and submitted all assignments for the week.
3. Also, read books on the Scholastic Pro link, answering comprehension questions.

THIRD GRADE

Third graders have been working hard to prepare for the FSA assessment. We are on our final stretch and we need to make sure our students are prepared. In reading, students have been learning how to find the point of view of the narrator and comparing two stories. In math, we started learning about fractions. This is a new concept for students, so they need practice. Students need to practice their math facts, especially the multiplication time tables. Students must know how to tell time as we will be learning to solve word problems with elapsed time shortly. In writing, students are learning how to synthesize, organize, and write a four-paragraph essay. In Science, students learned about the plant's structure and we are getting ready to learn how animals and plants are classified.

FOURTH GRADE

Greetings families! As we sail through the 3rd quarter, our scholars are hard at work. In reading, scholars have been working with concepts of Point of View, describing characters and settings, connecting presentations of text, and understanding elements of Dramas and Poems. In math, scholars have been expanding their knowledge of fractions while learning how to simplify, find common denominators, as well as add and subtract fractions. In writing, students continue to develop their ability to write multi-paragraph essays, this time with opinion prompts. In science, we have been learning about the Law of Conservation of Mass, and the different form of energies. Lastly, in Social Studies, students continue to learn the different aspects of Florida's history, with recent content focusing on the economic development of Florida.

We would like to remind families that FSA is just around the corner. As we continue to prepare scholars for these high stakes assessments, it is important to ensure scholars attend class on time, are focused, and on task both in the school building and eLearning from home. Just as well, please remind your scholars the importance of completing work on time, as the connection to the structured in class learning is lost when too much time passes between the practice of new concepts and their delivery. We appreciate everything you do to support your scholar's education, especially during these times. Thank you!

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

FIFTH GRADE

We are progressing steadily through Quarter 3 and scholars are learning many new strategies and skills. In reading, students will continue to alternate between literary and informational texts as they dive into understanding supporting evidence and literary structure, using multiple sources for writing and speaking, and comparing and contrasting stories in the same genre.

Fifth graders have unique opinions about different issues; they will be able to express their views in a structured manner as they argue for or against an issue as they engage in opinion writing. In math, time will be spent exploring all the methods used to solve problems involving decimals and fractions. Science classes will discover the power of forces and experimenting with forces. On the other hand, social studies will be all about Black History Month and the Great Depression. On another note, as a friendly reminder - please monitor Pinnacle, Canvas, and i-Ready regularly to check your scholar's performance. Also, verify that assigned work is being completed. Kindly reach out to the team if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, The Fifth Grade Team

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mr. Zielsdorff: **Reading:** Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations. **Writing:** How can I write an opinion essay? **Math:** Adding and subtraction of fractions with common and uncommon denominator. **Science:** Observe and describe some basic forms of energy, including light, heat, sound, electrical, and the energy of motion. **Social Studies:** Summarize challenges Floridians faced during the Great Depression.

Mr. Jones: In reading, we are going to be working on story structure and describing characters. In math, our class will be adding and subtracting numbers within 1000. In science, we will be discussing and working on plant and animal needs. In writing, we will continue to work on creating opinion pieces.

Ms. Sullivan: Ms. Sullivan's class is preparing for the FSA. In reading, we are working on comparing two texts. In math, we are learning about fractions. In writing, we are finishing up with informational texts and moving into opinions.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

ESE NEWS

Many students have become online learners due to Covid-19. There are many students that are having difficulty with this new way of learning. Students are often off task since they may have distractions at home or just can't seem to keep focused on their teachers that are modeling lessons. If your child becomes distracted, then it is time to redirect them to the task. Try using a timer, mini breaks, If/Then strategies, and verbal redirection. Try speaking with the teacher to see how you all can work together to make sure that your child meets with success.

SPECIALS

ART - Art scholars will continue to learn about various artists and art movements. Since February is Black History month, student artists will learn about Elizabeth Catlett who creates sculptures and is also a master printmaker. Her art is personal and informs us of African American lives. Her work is primarily about African American women and children. In the 3rd quarter, student artists will continue to do **many** practice drawings but will also be **encouraged** to create their own artwork using the techniques learned during art classes.

MEDIA - This Semester in Media I will continue to plan and teach lessons based on Standards which are being taught by home room teachers. As the FSA exams are near I will take a review kind of approach to teaching to help students go over important concepts which are relevant for this purpose. Where reading motivation is concerned, as we are on the last lap to Reading Across Broward and the awards, it is also necessary to focus on motivating students to read and log books in Beanstack. Writing of the reviews is also encouraged as students will not only earn badges, but also build their writing skills as they do so. Parents are encouraged to keep a list of the books read by younger students to be submitted on paper or logged from home through the Beanstack APP. Teachers are also reminded to help to log books that they have read with their classes. Please be reminded that schools have been entered in a special reading challenge through Beanstack, and Coral Springs need to do well.....So Read Write and Log.

SCIENCE – This quarter our primary scholars will be exploring gravity, the mysterious force that makes everything fall down towards the Earth. We will research what it is so that we can explain why gravity important. We will conduct drop experiments so that we can determine why heavier objects seem to fall faster than lighter objects. Our intermediate scholars will be observing the different forms of energy and how they transform. Our focus will be on how electricity flows.

PE - Middle School: Students will participate in a variety of fitness activities that promote five components of health related fitness, such as: Cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition. Students will look at the different body types, the muscles of the arms and legs and stretching exercises that that can be used to increase their elasticity. Grades K-2: Students will work on 1) locomotor skills and 2) movement concepts, and how the two are combined to create variety and enhanced fun in a number of settings. Grades 3-5 Students will explore the use of locomotor skills as the basic building blocks of more complex movements, and how important they are to the structure, and execution of all major sports and games.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

MATH

Welcome to another great semester at Coral Springs PreK-8! This year has been going extremely well. Our teachers and scholars are working together to achieve mastery of the grade level standards. Each student has individual needs in Math and our teachers are differentiating their instruction to help each student reach their Math goals.

IT IS CRUNCH TIME! The Math FSA is quickly approaching! We need to work together to ensure that your child successfully prepares and completes the FSA to the best of their ability. Please make sure that your child is present everyday to ensure that he or she is able to obtain the necessary instruction to show proficiency on the Math FSA on May 11th and 12th.

Our scholars are becoming more proficient with using math manipulatives virtually and in person to support 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 enrich our children's education. A few math resources that our scholars can access at home are:

- **Primary (K-2):** iReady Math, khanacademy.org, ixl.com/math, abcya.com
- **Intermediate (3-5):** iReady Math, khanacademy.org, Reflex Math, Canvas
- **Middle School (6-8):** iReady Math, khanacademy.org, algebra1.com, ixl.com/math, Canvas
- **Digital Manipulatives** – Didax.com

Thank you for all your hard work and support as we dive into second semester. Together, we can positively impact the education that our scholars will receive this year. Furthermore, I 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!

Mr. Person – Math Instructional Coach

GUIDANCE

WOW! We are almost through the year and I know this has not been the easiest school year for anyone. As we approach testing, I know we all may be anxious to see what our students have learned. We want all of our students to be successful, so we are making adjustments for our e-learning students. On testing day, e-learning students are encouraged and welcomed to come in to take their test in a testing environment and may leave once they are finished by pickup or walking. This option provides the students with less distractions, so they are able to perform better on assessments.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

LITERACY CORNER

It's almost Spring and with this time of year comes assessments for our scholars in English Language Arts! Many often ask how best to prepare our scholars for their assessments so I've put together some helpful suggestions that will get your scholars talking and writing about what they're reading.

Below are some conversation starters for what you can ask your scholars about what they're reading:

BEFORE READING:

- What will this story/text be about? How do you know?
- What do you already know about the story based on the title?
- What do you already know about the topic?

DURING READING:

- What do you think will happen next in the story?
- How does the character change based on their experiences?
- How do the pictures/maps/illustrations/charts help you better understand the text?
- What does the word _____ mean? Can you show me in the text where you found a clue about that word's meaning?

AFTER READING:

- What is the most important thing that happened in the story (or the chapter)?
- Why did the author write this text/story? What did they want you to learn?
- How is this story/character like a different story/character you've read about before?
- Can you tell me the sequence of events in this story/text?
- If you were going to share some facts about this topic with someone else, what would you tell them?

WRITING:

Once scholars are familiar with a story or text, they can write about the text to share an experience they've had that relates to the story/text (narrative), share information about a topic (informative), or express an opinion.

For our growing scholars in the primary grades, they can write anywhere from 2-5 simple sentences to retell the story/text, write about a character's traits, or identify some simple facts they learned from reading. They might also give their opinion about the topic and briefly identify details from the text that supports his or her thinking.

Intermediate and secondary scholars, after reading together at home, using the text to share information on a topic and connect it to their own experiences is a great way to assure that our scholars are continuously working to improve their writing skills. They might also choose an opinion on the topic and use evidence and their own thoughts, also known as elaboration, to support their opinion.

In all types of writing, your scholars would benefit from you re-reading their writing and helping them to write complete sentences of different lengths with appropriate punctuation and spelling.