

Coral Springs PreK - 8 Bear Bulletin - Title1

VONDA L. OLIVER, PRINCIPAL

Sept. 15, 2020

SHARI BROWN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



September 15th – SAC Meeting
2:00 p.m. via Teams

September 30th – No School

October 16th – Early Release 12:30 p.m.

October 19th – No School – Teacher
Planning

October 20th – SAC Meeting
2:00 p.m. via Teams

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



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Greetings CSPK8 Families,

We are so excited to welcome everyone back to the 2020 - 2021 school year. Although we are starting the year in a very unusual method, our belief in our students and staff remain the same. We believe that through all of this, our students can still be successful.

Families, we are asking for your support during these unprecedented times. Keep in mind that as you are trying and doing your best to help "our children" so are our teachers. They are absolutely doing the best they can do to provide a quality educational experience for "our children". Families, I encourage you to reach out to the teachers if there are any concerns or questions. Our teachers are more than willing to support during non-instructional times of the day. The teachers follow the same conference hours as we would face-to-face, either before the school day or after the school day. Unfortunately, teachers can't stop during instructional time to answer questions from parents. They want to give their best to "our children".

School Reopening Survey - Families, please be on the lookout for a survey from the district regarding your preference for the continuation of eLearning. Your input is needed to help us make decisions on the next phase of school opening.

Bears' Den - Families, just a reminder that staff members from our school go on Facebook live each Monday night to read a story to our scholars. All we ask is that you tune in to watch. It's a fun way to keep our school families connected during the time we are not face-to-face.

CSPK8 families, we appreciate each of you and look forward to the time we are once again face-to-face. Until then, I encourage all families to continue to support our children during remote learning. At the end of the school year, we will still be held accountable for high stakes end of the year assessments. It is critical that our scholars engage whether we are learning remotely or face-to-face.

Our front office is open daily from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Your Very Proud Principal,
Vonda L. Oliver

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

HEAD START

Specialized PreK: Ms. Lasky's class has been working hard with online learning, using Canvas and meeting on TEAMS. We have been learning the alphabet, counting, and patterning. We look forward to starting the Letter People next week and meeting Mr. N!

Head Start: Ms. Di Siena, Ms. Guirand and Ms. Dayi will start the Ball Study from Creative Curriculum on September 21st. We have been working on the Beginning of the School Year unit, which includes: letters of the alphabet, letter sounds, weekly phonemic awareness, nursery rhymes, and numerals 1-10.

AM/PM Speech and Language: Ms. Perez and Ms. Rabone have had a great beginning of virtual school! We met new friends, explored our new way of learning, reviewed our ABC's, and even worked on our special sounds!! It was so much fun learning about each other and sharing what makes us unique! We are having so much fun learning about colors/shapes and basic concepts (opposites) to expand our vocabulary and improve the way we communicate!! We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing!

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to KINDERGARTEN! We are so excited for the beginning of the school year. We have lots of fun and exciting new things to learn. We are also looking forward to learning how to type and use so many different virtual resources.

We are beginning to learn our letter names and sounds and how to write each of them. We are learning to read and use our sight words. They are great to practice at home. We have also started to explore the wonderful world of books. We are learning the different parts of the book. We identify the characters, setting, the problem, the solution, the beginning, middle, and end of the book and if it is fiction or non-fiction. So don't forget to visit your local bookstore and/or local library. In Math, we have started to learn how to read, write, and represent numbers 0 to 10. The homework pages sent home are a great resource to reinforce these skills at home. As the new school year started, we have learned our rules and procedures in the classroom during Social Studies. In Science, we are learning about our five senses, how to use science tools, and how things change over time.

In writing, we are learning letter formation and how to use letters to make words. We are using those words to learn how to think, draw, write, and label our own writing. This allows us to create our own stories using words and pictures. Remember all work assignments in Canvas are to be COMPLETE and due EVERY FRIDAY! We do ask that students try to read one book every night. This greatly improves fluency.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

FIRST GRADE

The First Grade Team would like to welcome all the new first graders to the new school year! In Reading, first grade is currently reviewing letter names and sounds, phonics and sight words. During the reading of their texts, students are learning to identify the main idea and details, along with understanding the characters within the text. We are currently doing Leveled Literacy Interventions (LLI) as well to place students in their reading levels. In Writing, first grade is going over handwriting skills, how to form a proper sentence, as well as introducing Core Connections, which teaches students, and how to write using the “main idea” with evidence to support their writing. In Science, we have been working on States of Matter and we will be learning about Living and Non-Living things next. In Social Studies, we are reviewing what rules are and why they are important. We are also learning what it means to be a “good” citizen. In addition, the first graders are learning about national holidays and why they are important. In Math, we are currently going over math concepts and simple one-digit addition problems. We will then be moving into learning about subtraction. The First Grade Team knows that even in this time of virtual learning, which is difficult for everyone, our first grade scholars will “rise” to the occasion like stars!

SECOND GRADE

The Second Grade team would like to welcome our parents and scholars to the 2020-2021 school year! We are eager and excited to have your children in our classrooms. Our school theme this year is: Coral Springs Rising Stars... **We** embody COURAGE, DETERMINATION, EMPOWERMENT, and KINDNESS. The Second Grade team will strive to provide the best educational environment for all of our scholars, even during this virtual experience.

During the first few weeks of school, we have been reviewing rules, procedures, and expectations to make this year successful! The scholars have started to take their beginning of the year assessments for both Reading and Math in i-Ready and will be assessed individually in LLI to determine their reading levels. These results will be used to lead and guide our instructions.

In **Reading** and **Language Arts**, we are focusing on Sequencing, Main idea and Details, Comparing and Contrasting, and examining the Author’s Purpose of a text. We are **writing** narratives through a variety of topics and genres. The variety of topics will be used to help build knowledge about our world. In **Science**, we have been examining the properties of soil and we will be exploring life cycles that repeat in nature, such as plants and butterflies. In **Social Studies**, we are focusing on how the Native Americans were important to the success of the early settlers.

Please have your child read 30 minutes daily to help increase fluency and comprehension skills. Your child will be utilizing the i-Ready website to help build both reading and math skills once the on-line assessments have been completed. If you have not done so already, please complete and return the online “Back to School” registration forms as soon as possible. Please check your child’s Canvas Course Progress frequently to ensure that they have completed their assignments and test weekly. We appreciate **you** as a partner in your child’s education.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

THIRD GRADE

Greetings to our wonderful families! September is going to be a busy month for us here at Coral Springs PreK-8, especially for our 3rd-grade students! We have a lot to look forward to as we continue to work toward mastery of our 3rd grade standards.

- In our **ELA/READING** block, we have been focusing on finding the main idea of a passage. Please encourage your child to read every night for at least 20 minutes to increase their reading stamina.
- In **WRITING**, we continue to work on finding the main idea as a reader. Our next move is to find the main idea as a writer. Students are learning how to find the topic, pieces of evidence, and write elaboration after reading a text.
- In **SCIENCE**, we have been learning about light/heat and friction. We are getting ready to start reading and learning about the States of Water.
- In the area of **MATHEMATICS**, we continue to utilize problem-solving skills as we perform addition and subtraction with regrouping. Students are also learning how to estimate by rounding numbers. Our next step will be on graphs and line plots. Please continue to encourage your children to practice math fluency facts.

Thank you parents and guardians for your support.

FOURTH GRADE

Welcome to the 2020/2021 school year. We are excited to guide your 4th grade scholars through their academic successes this year. Even though we are kicking off the school year virtually, we aren't letting that get in the way of our goals. Expect rigorous lessons, accompanied by assignments that provide our scholars the opportunity to struggle and strive for growth. We also have several virtual field trips planned for our scholars, so be on the lookout for that information. The challenges this school year are great, but so are we! Here is a glimpse of what we have been working on in the first quarter.

Our scholars have been strengthening their understanding of historical and technical text in reading. This requires a deeper understanding of cause and effect, sequence of events, and main idea. We have been strategically reinforcing these skills through our Social Studies unit on the original Indigenous Nations of Florida: pre-colonial contact. We have begun to further develop our scholars writing skills, starting with understanding how to identify the main idea and key details of paragraphs and the whole text. From here, we are moving forward to understanding how to analyze a prompt and elaborate. In science, students have been exploring the phases of the moon, and how objects move in space. Lastly, in Math students have been cultivating a deeper understanding of numbers and operations by exploring place value relationships, addition and subtraction, and rounding.

As we continue to move through the first quarter while distance learning, please remember to check on your scholar's work and ensure they are submitting assignments. 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 a great school year!

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

FIFTH GRADE

Welcome to 5th grade's first newsletter. This year is different from the past because we commenced the 2020-2021 academic year virtually. Consequently, the team would like to thank parents for ensuring that scholars are logged on daily at the scheduled time. We encourage scholars who are not working in the virtual face-to-face environment daily to do so. Each minute of instruction missed, often cause gaps in learning.

For the upcoming weeks the team has many engaging activities, and new skills for scholars to learn. In math, students will continue working on place value, multiplication, and division. Please use i-Ready and Reflex math at home; these programs help students succeed as they build addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills.

Our children will immerse themselves in literary and informational texts that address comprehension skills such as inferences, and themes of stories, dramas and poems. Additionally, scholars will engage in writing expository essays that require them to find the main idea of articles, cite evidence and elaborate upon that evidence.

Fifth grade's social studies focus on American History; therefore, for this month, classes will explore the theme navigation and exploration as they unearth information about early explorers and how to locate places using latitude and longitude.

In science, scholars will engage in experiments and glean knowledge from content as they learn about the sun and the water cycle, classifying matter and forms, and uses of energy.

Parents, together we can help students blossom into reading, math, writing, science, and social studies champions. Let us work together to build a strong foundation.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Multi-grade classes are ready for take-off and aiming for the stars this school year. Ms. Gelman's K-1 class is learning about how to determine the main idea in reading and writing. In science, they are investigating matter and exploring addition concepts in math. Mr. Jones' 2nd graders are learning about putting story events into sequential order. In science, the hot topic is soil. The focus for math is place value and skip counting. Ms. Sullivan's 3rd grade class is developing the ability to use the topic and point to determine the main idea. They are thinking like scientists as they investigate friction. Mr. Zielsdorff's 4th and 5th graders are learning to identify the main idea of nonfiction text. They are also using information from text to write a summary. They will be exploring place value. The ESE Support Facilitators are working hard to help students master their goals as they offer additional support to the students and teachers. The teachers are excited about how hard the students are working during E-Learning.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

SPECIALS

ART

Each week that our students have art, they will be learning about a ***New Artist***. Every Monday they will see a video or listen to a read aloud with information about the artist's life and art. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, they will do drawings that relate to the style of the art they are studying. On Friday, it's time to choose their favorite drawings and add details to it. We will also talk to each other about the drawings they chose.

MEDIA

Hello everyone! As we roll into the new school year, I will continue with orientation for those students that I have not yet seen for Media classes.

I am also doing Reading Motivation, whereby I take the opportunity to introduce students to an abundance of online reading resources. Students are also being reminded of how to log books and activities in Beanstack, so that they will be well on their way to receive badges and certificates for Reading Across Broward after March 31st of next year.

Online databases will also be explored as students become engaged with doing research on different topics.

PE

The focus this quarter is to identify, explain and demonstrate three topics:

1 - Rules as they relate to conduct (behavior), safety, and their overall effect on social interaction in PE class.

2 - Stretching Exercises and their effectiveness in helping to preventing injuries and enhancing our physical performance.

3 - Locomotor Skills as basic to all movements we will carry out in our everyday lives both in the wide-open space and in the restricted area.

SCIENCE

This month our students will be recalling all the ways we can use safety lab rules and procedures at home and the process scientists follow when conducting an experiment, creating a model and/or field observation.

ESE NEWS

In ESE we are off to a good start! Our students are learning to maneuver through canvas with some assistance. Our Pre-k students are getting to be pros. Our students in the cluster are working hard and doing their best following directions. Our students in general education classes are getting the hang of it to move to their small groups with their support facilitator. Parents, if you are having concerns about your child please contact our school, especially with any questions related to exceptional education. Way to go students and teachers!

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

LITERACY CORNER

Greetings from CSPK8's Literacy Coach, Mrs. Alfred!

As we begin the new school year its important that we provide opportunities for our scholars to improve their reading fluency and comprehension skills outside of their school day! Here are a few helpful ways that we can promote the practice of these skills with our children in all grades PreK-8:

- Find texts that interest your scholar! These texts can be anything from *picture books*, *graphic novels*, or *comic books* to *nonfiction books* and magazines like *National Geographic Kids* or *Highlights!*
- Read aloud! If your scholar is just learning to read, modeling while they read along helps them with identifying frequently seen words. If they're a more fluent reader, sharing the job of reading aloud allows children to ask questions about vocabulary they may not know.
- Talk about what you read! Talk about what the characters in a story are experiencing. Discuss how animals adapt to survive or how inventors developed their new ideas. Discussing the text allows our scholars to dig deeper into understanding the text and make connections with their own lives. Environmental text is a great source for learning too! Put that "junk mail" to use when you grab it from the mailbox and have your scholars read the descriptions of what's on sale or what's on the menu at your favorite restaurant. Challenge them to write creative descriptions for items on sale or on the menu!

Your support and engagement in the learning process outside of the school day is a great benefit to our scholars as they strive to learn and grow!

MATH

Welcome to another great year at Coral Springs PreK-8! If you are new to our Bear family, I wanted to introduce myself and describe how a Math Coach will positively impact this amazing educational institution at Coral Springs. Specializing in math instruction for over a decade, math education has become a passion of mine that I want to share and explore with teachers, parents, and children. As a Math Coach, I am expected to wear many hats. Instructional coaching is a collaborative approach to teaching and learning. It is confidential, non-evaluative, and supportive. We work one-on-one and in small groups with teachers to develop their teaching practices. We focus on practical changes teachers can make in their everyday teaching. This work is supplemented by other professional development activities. Our staff development is job-embedded, ongoing, aligned to the state standards, curriculum, and assessment.

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](https://www.khanacademy.org), [ixl.com/math](https://www.ixl.com/math), [abcya.com](https://www.abcya.com)
- **Intermediate (3-5):** iReady Math, [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org), [ixl.com/math](https://www.ixl.com/math), Canvas
- **Middle School (6-8):** iReady Math, [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org) [algebration.com](https://www.algebration.com), [ixl.com/math](https://www.ixl.com/math), Canvas

I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to positively impact the education that the scholars at our school 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!

Sincerely, Mr. Person – Math Instructional Coach