

# Coral Springs PreK - 8 Bear Bulletin - Title1

VONDA L. OLIVER, PRINCIPAL

April 13, 2021

SHARI BROWN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



April 14<sup>th</sup> – Report Cards Issued

April 14<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. ELA

April 15<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. Writing

April 20<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Writing

April 21<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Writing

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Writing

May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. ELA

May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. ELA

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Make-up Day

May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. ELA

May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. Math and 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. ELA

May 14<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Civics and 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Science

May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. Math

May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Math

May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Math

May 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Math

May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Science

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



# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Greetings Families,

I truly hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break. We all understand better now how important it is to take care of our families and cherish the time given to spend with loved ones. We are experiencing a difficult year, and the best advice I can share with my school family is to take care of your mental health, everything else will fall into place.

**FSA** - We are officially in testing season. Thanks to the families who joined our FSA information session last week. We provided information regarding retention and promotion, as well as protocols for a safe testing environment. The governor's executive order states that the administration for the FSA will be face to face. Remote learners will be required to come to campus for testing. Additionally, there is no opt out of testing. Students will be marked absent if not on campus for testing. As more information from the district is shared regarding alternative promotion, I will be sure to communicate with my families. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for ensuring that our scholars stay engaged in learning either face to face or eLearning. The teachers and all staff are working harder than ever to ensure learning continues; however, it is a joint effort. We need the families support and encouragement for the learning to continue.

**Reminders:** – As more scholars start to return to campus, I want to remind families of the following:

- Masks **MUST** be worn at **ALL** times. Our primary scholars do a great job wearing and keeping their masks on. However, the older students, primarily walkers, are having to constantly be reminded to enter campus with a mask. We are writing referrals for scholars who frequently break this rule. It's all of our jobs to keep everyone safe
- The entrance gate to the car loop does not open until 7:50 am. Parents **SHOULD NOT** drop scholars off before 7:50 a.m. There is no adult supervision and parents are responsible for the safety of their children.
- Arrival time is 8:00 am. We have a lot of scholars arriving late each morning. Arriving to school late is disruptive to the learning environment and does not give scholars the best start of the day.
- Dismissal is at 2:30 pm. If your child or children are not in Aftercare, they need to be picked up by 2:30 pm each day. If scholars are continuously picked up late you will receive a call from our SRO and Social Worker.
- Please inform the school if your child/ren tests positive or is exposed to COVID-19.
- Remind your child/ren of social distancing.

**Staff Appreciation** – This year Teacher Appreciation is during the week of May 3rd - May 7th. Be sure to let your child/ren teachers know how much you appreciate them. As we get closer to Appreciation Week, I will send a letter with suggestions you may consider. A token of appreciation goes a long way.

**Code Drills** - We have monthly emergency and fire drills to practice safety. If we experience a real code, I will send an email message to parents. Please make sure all emergency contact information is up to date. Please note the types of school emergencies we practice monthly:

- **CODE RED: No Movement - Imminent Danger**
- **CODE YELLOW: Limited movement - Safe Team**
- **CODE ORANGE: Evacuation - Same as fire drill**
- **CODE BROWN: Shelter in place or evacuate building (chemical incident)**
- **CODE BLACK: Evacuate building - Bomb threat**
- **CODE BLUE: Medical Emergency**
- **CODE GREEN: All Clear**

**Please feel free to reach out to the school if there are any questions regarding the listed emergency drills.**

**Summer School** - Our school is a summer site this year. Summer school will be offered to PreK - 5th grade students. More information will be forthcoming. Summer school is face to face.

Until next time, have a wonderful week and let's wish "our children" the best as they embark on assessments. I look forward to seeing all scholars back on campus in the near future.

Educationally Yours,  
Ms. Vonda L. Oliver

## **HEAD START/Pre-K/AM/PM**

### **AM/PM**

Spring is here and we are very excited to jump into the fourth quarter! Ms. Rabone's AM/PM Speech and Language classes will be meeting our letter people Mr. R, Mr. Z, and Mr. I in the upcoming weeks. We will be learning about colors of the rainbow, zoo/farm animals, and insects. We will also begin to introduce 3D shapes. We are looking forward to practicing categorizing with Mr. Z and measuring with Mr. I.

### **Specialized PreK**

Specialized PreK is just finishing up the theme, The Earth, Our Home. We will be starting the Living Things Unit soon. Children will learn about a variety of living things, plants and animals, and how they grow and change. We are looking forward to meeting Mr. Z, Mr. I, Ms. V, and Ms. L. In math we were learning about solid shapes and next we are being introduced to addition concepts. We will continue to work on spring activities, writing our names, counting, and individual goals.

### **Head Start**

The Head Start classes are welcoming Spring, engaging in eLearning, and connecting with our friends that are at home. We are also learning about Trees & Plants. 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 starting our Spring Assessments for Letter/Sound Recognition, Phonological Awareness, TSG, and Brigrance.

## **KINDERGARTEN**

We are so excited for the fourth quarter. We have lots of fun and exciting new things to learn. We are starting to read more fluently and continuing to read and use our sight words. They are great to practice at home. We have learned how to identify the characters, setting, the problem, the solution, the beginning, middle, and end of the book and if it is fiction or non-fiction. We have also been learning the order of events. For example, what happens first, next, and last. In math, we have learned how to read, write, and represent numbers 0 to 100 and compare groups of objects to see which group is greater than, less than, or equal to. We have begun counting by 10s to 100. The next chapter includes 2-dimensional shapes, which we are excited to explore the number of sides and vertices. The homework pages sent home are a great resource to reinforce these skills at home. In Science, we learned about living and non-living, real and pretend. We learned about animals, skin coverings, and what animals need. We recently learned the life cycles of butterflies and frogs. Next, we will be learning about Force and Motion. In Social Studies, we learned why we celebrate America and American Symbols like the bald eagle, statue of liberty, and the White House. Next, we will be learning about the Economy and community helpers. In writing, we are learning how to use the words we have learned to form sentences. 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. We are also learning how to put our thoughts into sentences and using punctuation.

Please remember Homework packets are due Fridays. We do ask that students try to read one book every night. This greatly improves fluency.

## **FIRST GRADE**

In first grade we are so excited for the fourth 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 similarities and differences in texts and between characters. We will identify the sequence of events in a story, find the main idea, and give supporting details about a text. Scholars will also work with poetry by identifying lines and stanzas in a poem.

# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## FIRST GRADE (CONT'D)

In Writing, Scholars will be learning how to research a topic and write about it. Scholars will continue forming and using complete simple sentences, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. In Math, scholars will learn to measure length using standard tools and non-standard tools, and they will tell time to the hour and half hour. Scholars will represent data using picture graphs, bar graphs and make tally charts. In addition, scholars will work with three-dimensional and two-dimensional geometric shapes. In Science, scholars will learn to identify Earth's natural resources and how to conserve our most natural resources. Scholars will also review all Big Ideas from the beginning of the year and create Science projects from each Big Idea. In Social Studies, scholars will be learning about where they live and how location affects how people live. They will study maps and map elements, called the PRT, in which they need to score a 55% or better for promotional criteria to the second grade. We look forward to completing this school year with a big bang!

## SECOND GRADE

The **2nd grade team** is so excited to close out this year strong! We hope all our families had a safe and restful Spring Break! As we begin our 4<sup>th</sup> and final Quarter, we are expecting all our scholars to do their very best to finish the year successfully.

Second grade scholars will be learning many important **Reading and Language Arts** skills in the 4th quarter! We will be reviewing how to compare and contrast two texts on the same topic. Then we will be looking at text and graphic features in different text. Scholars will also work on determining the main topic and key details of a text, draw conclusions and determine the sequence of events in a story. We will also focus on summarizing events within a story, identifying the point of view of a character and mastering cause and effect and point of view of a text.

In **Writing**, second grade scholars will continue learning about the different types of poetry. We have created acrostic, rhyming, alliteration, and haiku poems. Students will also create an informational piece by using the Core Connections template. We will continue to practice elaborating, providing details, and citing evidence from a given text in our writing.

In **Math**, we will finish working on **Time** and **Money**. Then we will focus on **Measurement** in customary and metric units and identifying **Data** in different kinds of graphs.

In **Science**, scholars will learn the importance for preparing for severe weather, lightning, and other weather-related events. Also, students will recognize that Earth is made up of rocks and come in many sizes and shapes.

For **Social Studies**, we will explain the cultural influences and contributions of immigrants today and identify terms and designations of time sequences (calendars).

Just a reminder that it is vital that your child **READS DAILY** at home. Reading daily helps **build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills**. By May 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**.

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.

Thank you for your continued support, **The Second Grade Team** ☺

# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## **THIRD GRADE**

We are ready for our last quarter of the school year!!!. We are in our last stretch, let's make it count!!! Students have been working hard to prepare for the ELA FSA. Mark your calendar! This assessment will be administered on April 13 and 14. Please, have your child read for at least 30 minutes every day. In math, we have been working on measurements: time, volume, mass, and line plots. Soon after, we will start learning all about Geometry. Students must practice their math facts every day to become fluent in math. Reflexmath is a fantastic site for students to practice their multiplication facts. Also, it will benefit students to practice IReady lessons in reading and math every day. Thank you for all your support.

## **FOURTH GRADE**

Greetings Families! We have arrived at the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and it is testing season. Please keep your eyes out for Mock testing information and actual FSA testing details. Our FSA writing test is April 15<sup>th</sup>, with Math and Reading to follow in May. We have only one skill left to cover for Reading, which is explaining an author's reasons and details in informational text. Once we cover this standard, we will be circling back to deficient skills to prepare for the Reading portion of FSA. For Math, we are wrapping up with our fractions and decimals standards and we will be moving onto Measurement and Geometry. Once testing ends in May, we will be preparing our students for 5<sup>th</sup> grade by continuing to work on deficient skills and doing more independent project-based learning.

As we move through this final quarter, be sure you have spoken with your scholar's teachers regarding their academic progress and promotion readiness. Just as well, please ensure your scholars are completing assignments when they are due. Not only so they can get credit for their work, but so they are practicing skills with intent while lessons are still fresh in their minds. We look forward to working toward success together as we race to the finish line this school year. Thank you for all you do to support you scholars!

## **FIFTH GRADE**

We are in our final stretch of the 2020-2021 school year; however, there is still a lot to accomplish before the academic year comes to a close. It will be just a few more weeks until the FSA writing assessment! For the last couple of months, we have been working on opinion essays, and we will now return to informative prompts and alternate between the two types before the big day. The Writing test will begin promptly on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Prior to the official test, we will be having a mock writing test on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. All testing dates for writing are listed in Canvas.

Reading, math, and science will be administered later in May. Official testing dates will be forthcoming. Continue to monitor Canvas for these dates. Parents, please ensure that students are completing all Canvas assignments, working on i-Ready reading and math, reading for at least thirty minutes each night, and are present daily face-to-face or virtually so that they can do their very best to demonstrate their learning on these state assessments.

After state tests are finished, students will continue to practice fifth grade skills as well as begin preparation work for sixth grade.

Parents, the team wants to thank you for all that you do for your children to ensure their success. Let us continue this great partnership as we come close to the end of another year that had its fair share of successes and challenges!

# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Ms. Sullivan's** class is getting ready to take our Reading and Math FSA. We have been busy working on skill reviews and learning different strategies to use on the FSA. In Math, we are finishing our units on perimeter/area, and geometry.

In **Ms. Gelman's** class in reading we will be reviewing Drawing Conclusions and starting to move into more learning geared towards the PRT (Primary Reading Test). In writing, we are still going over information writing and how to complete 3 full paragraphs with related details with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion that all tie together. In math, we are working on using various strategies to add and subtract, as well as place value numbers. In science, we will be reviewing Earth's resources and why they are important. We will also be trying to do a few science projects as well.

In **Mr. Zielsdorff's** Reading lessons, we will be working on explaining how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text. With our Math lessons, we will be working on comparing two decimals to hundredths and understand that comparisons only work if the wholes are the same size. How can you record decimal notation for fractions and compare decimal fractions? In Writing, we will be working on How can I write an informative essay by using the evidence from the prompt in an organized 3-4 paragraphs response that contains an Introduction, Body, and Conclusion.

In **Mr. Jones'** class in the area of reading, we will be working on comparing and contrasting different texts on the same topic. In writing, we will identify and write different types of poems, and present them in class. In the area of math, we will continue to work with time and money. In social studies, we will be working on a women's history month project and in science, discuss weather patterns.

## ESE NEWS

Parents of ESE students: There will be a Summer Learning Opportunity (SLO) for students that were not eligible for Extended school year (ESY). You will be notified from the district if your child is eligible for SLO. It is based on Iready scores. Summer Learning will take place from June 21st to July 29th. The hours are 8-12 Monday through Thursday. More information will be forthcoming for ESE students. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Dowling.

## GUIDANCE

TESTING TESTING 1-2-3! FSA is quickly approaching and during these times testing will look a little different. FSA does not have remote proctored sessions so students will have to take the FSA Assessments on campus. Fortunately, e-learning students will only need to come in on their required testing day. If you have any additional questions, please reach out the school and ask for Ms. Hicks. Looking forward to seeing you.

# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## SPECIALS

### ART

In the last Quarter of the 20/21 School Year, Coral Springs Scholars will continue to learn about artists and art movements. For example, they will explore a variety of art styles by looking at paintings by Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso and the many artists of the Impressionist movement, such as Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Edgar Degas and Mary Cassatt along with the Post-Impressionist artist, Vincent Van Gogh. The many drawings they do each week will reflect their gained knowledge.

### MEDIA

Quarter four is here and I have a few points to share. Kindly remember to add your final books to Beanstack. I trust that you read lots of those over the Spring break. Logging of books read for the Reading Across Broward motivation program for this school year ends on March 31, 2021. If you have written log sheets that you did not enter in Beanstack, please turn them in to me by Monday April 5 so I can add them to the report which is generated for Beanstack. Where the curriculum is concerned, for this quarter I will continue to support students in sharing standards-based lessons relating to content being taught by home room teachers. This will further help in reinforcing concepts even as we prepare for the FSA exams. Speaking of FSA, I would like to join all my colleagues in asking all parents and guardians to give your child all the support you can during the month of April to help them to develop confidence and achieve success in their upcoming exams.

Finally, April is Library Media Month. And I would ask that you do this:

1. Turn in all outstanding library books to facilitate a good inventory process.
2. Participate in Library related activities when these are posted.
3. Continue to read books from every genre of literature.

### SCIENCE

This quarter our scholars will acquire a deeper understanding of variables in science. Often times, students will mix up the three variables. It takes a lot of practice to help them – which is where the experiments come in.

An independent variable asks the question, “Which variable are you testing?” It is also the variable that changes or varies in the experiment. It is part of the research question and is intentionally changed.

A dependent variable asks the question, “What will the results measure?” It depends on the independent variable and is part of the results. It is the factor or condition that might be affected. It’s what you’re measuring.

The controlled variable asks the question, “What things will you make sure will stay the same during the experiment?” All of these variables do not change and are kept the same the entire time throughout the experiment.

When we control variables, we are able to draw conclusions between the independent and dependent variables without having skewed results. We will also discuss the importance of repeated trials.

### PE

PE Focus for fourth quarter will be on Heart Health. We will look at the effect different physical activities have on heart rate:

- 1) during activity, during recovery period, when the body is at rest
- 2) locate areas of the body where we can find a pulse
- 3) upper grades will learn how to calculate the heart rate
- 4) lower grades in terms of fast or slow  
(All grades will compare and contrast the effects of the various physical activity)
- 5) We will do a hands-on study of a heart model.
- 6) We will have our annual Jump Rope for Heart Celebration and Fund Raiser.

# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## MATH

Welcome to the final quarter of the Coral Springs PreK-8, 2020-2021 school year! We are approaching the home stretch and our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> FSA and EOC end of the year testing. Our teachers and scholars have worked together to achieve mastery of the grade level standards and we appreciate all your support in your child's education. Each student has individual needs in Math and our teachers are continuing to differentiate their instruction to help each student reach their Math goals.

IT IS STILL CRUNCH TIME! We need to continue to work together to ensure that your child successfully approaches and completes the FSA to the best of their ability. We will be holding Mock FSA assessments in April. These assessments will be held in a test-taking atmosphere to give the students additional practice for the FSA. Furthermore, they will give our teachers the data that they need to reteach and remediate those skills that the students have not yet mastered. Please make sure that your child is present to ensure that he or she can obtain the necessary instruction to show proficiency on the Math FSA.

Our scholars have become more proficient at using virtual math manipulatives to support their understanding of difficult math concepts. These concrete representations of math concepts are vital in developing the procedural and conceptual understanding of new math skills.

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, algebration.com, ixl.com/math, Canvas
- **Digital Manipulatives** – Didax.com

Thank you for all your hard work and support as we dive into fourth quarter. Together, we can positively impact the education that the scholars at our school will receive this year. Lastly, 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!

## LITERACY CORNER

Greetings families!

This year is coming quickly to a close and you and your scholars have been working tirelessly to continue make academic improvement, despite many challenges. As we prepare for the upcoming end of year assessments, one area of growth we have noted is in our scholars' stamina when it comes to reading. As our scholars work to read lengthy or multiple texts they begin to struggle with their endurance, or capability to read with solid level of comprehension for an extended length of time. An article I recently encountered called, "Building Reading Stamina" by Reading Rockets, highlighted a few ways parents can help scholars develop Reading Stamina:

Vary the way the reading is done. Parents can think about this in terms of having their child "read to himself, read to someone, and listen to reading." Some combination of the three should make up the reading time, especially for new or struggling readers.

Choose "just right" books. If your child is at a stage of being able to read alone, help him choose books that he can read independently. This means he should be able to decode almost every word in the book correctly. In this situation, avoid using books that are too difficult to read alone. If your child will be reading with you, choose books that are lively and engaging. Keep in mind that our most independent readers also need guidance in selecting books, keeping the level of difficulty in mind as well.

Set reasonable goals. Most emerging readers find it difficult to sit for long periods of time, even with the most engaging book! When starting out, limit book time to just a few minutes and work up from there. For elementary aged readers, consider starting with 10-15 minutes of reading time, and work up from there. Add a few minutes to your reading time every week or so. For our middle school aged readers, consider starting with 15-20 minutes of reading time and then gradually work to increase.

Celebrate progress. Without getting too caught up on the number of minutes spent reading, celebrate the time that is spent reading. Share your favorite parts of books read, plan the next visit to the library, and share progress with other family members.

Providing a variety of sources of texts to read and monitoring progress towards building stamina (on perhaps a chart or graph that the scholar creates) will aid scholars in increasing their ability to maintain focus and comprehension as they read lengthier or multiple texts in a session and adjust to a variety of genres. Please feel free to share your practices for helping your scholars increase their Reading Stamina- we'd love to see how you're monitoring and celebrate your scholars' success with them and you!