



# Panther Paws

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<http://www.browardschools.com/parkside>

Laneia Hall, Principal  
Chenita Adamson, Assistant Principal

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## Calendar of Events

### December

- 12/2:** Robotics Competition
- 12/4:** K SEAS Field Trip
- 12/4:** K & 2nd Grade STAR Reading Testing
- 12/4-12/8:** Holiday Shop
- 12/5:** SAC/SAF Meeting, 7:30 AM Media Center
- 12/5:** K & 2nd Grade STAR Math Testing
- 12/6:** 1st Grade STAR Reading Testing
- 12/7:** 1st Grade STAR Math Testing
- 12/11:** Grades 3-5 FAST Math Testing
- 12/12:** Grades 3-5 FAST Reading Testing
- 12/15:** 1st Grade Field Day 8:30-10:30
- 12/15:** 4th Grade Field Day 11-1
- 12/18:** K Field Day 8:30-10:30
- 12/18:** 3rd Grade Field Day 11-1
- 12/18:** 4th Grade Forensic Science Field Trip
- 12/19:** 2nd Grade Field Day 8:30-10:30
- 12/19:** 5th Grade Field Day 11-1
- 12/20:** Polar Express—PJ Day
- 12/21:** Student of the Month Ceremonies 3rd-8:20; 4th-8:50; 5th-9:20
- 12/23-1/7:** Winter Break
- 1/8:** 5th Grade Intergalactic Adventures Field Trip—On Campus

## Administrator's Corner



Welcome to Winter at Parkside. It is hard to believe we are already hanging lights and the trees are being trimmed for the Holiday season. Just three short weeks and we will have another break off from school. While we know the hustle, bustle gets really going this time of year, we want you to know that we appreciate you and all you do for our staff. Please take time over this winter break and reflect of what your goals will be for 2024.

I want to start by saying Thank You to our wonderful cafeteria staff, led by Thersea Battie, for doing an outstanding job on our Thanksgiving Luncheon. She and her staff prepared and served all of the food and it went very smoothly. We hope you and your families enjoyed this special day with your children. This is a very special day at Parkside and we are so happy to share this with you.

These next few weeks will be very busy with all of our standardized testing for Progress Monitoring 2, field trips, Holiday Shop, Field Days, Polar Express Day and last week with dress up days. It is really important to pay close attention of the calendar and weekly updates for all the information. PM 2 began this week with our primary grades. Next week we will have our intermediate testing. These again are assessments that give our staff important data in driving instruction in our classrooms. Teachers will be sharing your child's data during your second conferences or after the winter break. The PTA Holiday Shop is taking place this week. This is a great way for your children to feel they are a part of the Holidays. They can go shopping on their own and purchase inexpensive gifts for friends and family. Please touch base with your child's teacher for more information. Field Days, Polar Express Day and dress-up days will happen the last few days before winter break. Please check the calendar and our website for the specific days.

I-Ready has really taken off since Thanksgiving Break. Our staff is monitoring closely each week to see if your children are meeting their weekly goals. Remember all students should be putting in time on both reading and math daily for about 10 min. The goal is 45 min per week. BUT, they must pass their lessons at 70% or higher. Students are getting rewarded weekly and 25 students will be having lunch with me with a special treat on Friday. Each month we will be celebrating students with another special award. Please help us to keep up the great work.

As many of you know, about a little over a year ago, Mrs. Adamson joined our staff as our new Assistant Principal. She stepped right into the daily grind and has become an integral part of the Parkside staff. Sadly, for us, her time has come to an end as she will be moving to Kentucky, (not going to lie I am a little jealous since this is my hometown) to be with her husband who accepted a job there in July. While we will miss her very much, we know that she and her son need to be with their family. Please wish her the best of luck in her transition. We have interviewed and do have a new Assistant Principal coming in to fill her shoes in a few weeks. More information will be sent out soon. THANKS, so much Mrs. Adamson! You will truly be missed.

Love,

Laneia Hall, Principal



Our Kindergarten students have been very busy! The children are working hard and learning how to become great readers during reading groups. Please take some time every day to read with them at home and practice sight words daily too. Ask them about what they're reading and talk to them about the parts of a book. Challenge them to write a sentence or two about the story they read! In math, we will be learning addition. We will be having **Field Day on December 18th from 8:30-10:30**. Make sure to have your child **wear their class shirt** that day. More information will be sent home about that fun day! We will be learning about holidays around the world and doing many fun holiday activities in our classrooms. Please make sure to keep reading with your child over the holiday break. We wish each and every one of you a very WARM and happy holiday season!



The month of November went by quickly! We spent time discussing family traditions and talking about the things we are truly thankful for. We also took some time to look at how the life of the Pilgrims in the past is so different from the life now in present time. Ask your child to share some of the differences and similarities they learned about the past and present. In math, we are finishing the Topics on addition and subtraction strategies. Remember, practicing math facts helps build math fluency. Coming up with math games together as a family can help with fluency too! After this topic, we will be learning about interpreting data! Please encourage your child to practice nightly. December will be full of learning and celebrating the holidays! Please continue to support your child's academic progress by reading, practicing sight words, and learning math facts nightly!



2023 is flying by! As we return from our Thanksgiving break, we will be continuing to prepare for the Star test which will be held the week of December 4th. Please make sure kiddos are here on time and have had a good breakfast. 😊 Holiday Shop will be running during the week of December 4th. Please keep an eye out for information from your teacher to see what day your child will be going. In Reading, we will continue to spiral previous standards. We will be jumping into learning about Perspectives in literature and explaining the Theme of a story. In Math, we have continued to master our math fluency. We will also be continuing our double-digit addition/subtraction strategies. As well as solving word problems and knowing what the question is asking. We will always be spiraling previous objectives already covered throughout the rest of the year. In Science, we are exploring the world of physical science. We will be finishing up force and motion and making real-life connections. Next, we will be diving into properties of soil. How can you help? Being involved with your child's daily homework is very helpful. Ask him/her questions on what they read during their required daily reading homework. This will help them with comprehension of the text read. Review math facts Connect through Class App as much as possible. We are so excited to level up! Love your second-grade team!



It is so hard to believe that we are already halfway through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of third grade! A few weeks ago, students received their first report card. Thanks to all those parents who sent back the envelope signed so quickly. Please take time to review the grades your child received and how they can grow from them. In the first week of December, third-graders are at the start of Benchmark Unit 4 in their classrooms with a focus on comparing (character) points of view and perspectives. In Grammar, we will be concentrating on different types of adjectives as well as the proper use of commas. In Writing, students will be exploring how to create Narrative Journal Entries. Additional emphasis will also be Summarizing, Drama reading, Poetry, and utilizing mental images. In Math, we have begun Topics 6 and 7 learning about Place Value and adding multi-digit whole numbers. We will go back to Topic 5 in a few weeks to attack geometry, area, and perimeter. As always, students should be practicing Multiplication facts up to 12. In Social Studies, we will be discussing human rights, practicing further map and charting skills, and delving into knowledge about locations surrounding the United States, including Mexico, Canada, Haiti, and Jamaica. In Science, we will revisit Seasonal Adaptations in the plant and animal world. We begin exploring different forms of Energy right after that. If you would like to order an extra class shirt, we now have a link to do so directly from the supplier. Please reach out to your child's teacher for the link if you need it. We would like all students to have one for field day on December 18<sup>th</sup>! A few housekeeping items: Students are REQUIRED to put in 45 minutes each of Math and Reading on I-Ready weekly. Although we do give some time in class to do so, if they access it at home, they will likely advance through the needed standards more smoothly. Keep in mind that the I-Ready games and Math Fluency sections do not get recorded in those times. Also, students are required to have at least a 70% average on those lessons completed, for the times to count. In addition, every student MUST have a working set of headphones to use in class. Anyone willing to donate a few extra pair of headphones is welcome to do so! (But please steer away from the Dollar Tree ones. They only last a few days). Finally, please provide time for your child to READ OFTEN at home. Even if no other homework is given, third graders should be reading 20-30 minutes every night! Escape into a book! A great story is an awesome way to take a literary vacation this winter break!



We had an amazing November! We started the month off by furthering our knowledge of life cycles and food chains. We received our class caterpillars and watched them over 3 weeks as they formed their cocoons and out came our beautiful painted lady butterflies. Our students got to dive deep into division learning all kinds of strategies and vocabulary. In reading, we had a novel time reinforcing our understanding of fictional texts using the *Wizard of Oz* and *Peter Pan*. We also had the opportunity to see a fictional play in action when we went downtown to the Broward Center for the Performing Arts to see *Why Mosquitoes Buzz*. In social studies, we learned how Christopher Columbus and other famous conquistadors sailed across the Atlantic in search of spices in India when they mistakenly stumbled into the new world! The 4th-grade team had an amazing time at the Thanksgiving luncheon with all the families that were able to come as we shared and celebrated the holiday. We end our November chapter with the honor roll assembly where we celebrate our students' hard work and dedication to always try their best! Our 4th graders are eager to see what December will bring!



Fifth grade has been working very hard this past November. In reading, we are working in fiction texts. We are focusing on comparing and contrasting characters, setting, plot, and theme. In Language Arts, we are working on verb tenses and conjunctions. In math, we are working on dividing 4 digit-numbers by 2-digit divisors. It has been a tough chapter. There are many strategies to use for division, however, kids are catching on to the "traditional" way of dividing, which is long division, so that's been fun to witness. In science, we are learning about chemical and physical changes. In social studies, we are studying the different Native American tribes in the United States. We are getting ready to wrap up the year with fun holiday parties and activities by keeping the holiday spirit alive since we are so lucky to be all together!

# SCHOOL COUNSELOR <sup>CT</sup>

## December Counselor's Corner

There is so much to be thankful for this holiday season! We had a wonderful family turnout at Parkside's Thanksgiving luncheon on 11/17/23. We look forward to having this amazing experience again next year!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> FAST Progress Monitoring testing window begins on 12/4/23. Grades K-2 will test for Reading on Monday, 12/4/23 and for Math on Tuesday, 12/5/23; Make-ups for grades K-2 will be held Wednesday, 12/6/23 through Friday, 12/9/23. Grades 3-5 will test for Math on Monday, 12/11/23 and for Reading on Tuesday, 12/12/23; Make-ups for grades 3-5 will be held Wednesday, 12/13/23 through Friday, 12/15/23.

For more information on the test design, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>.

If you or your student would like to interact with the online testing platform or review FAST Reading and/or Mathematics sample items at home, sample test materials are available at <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

Sincerely, Tracy Cerra & Nicole Hahn, School Counselors



### School Advisory Update

School Advisory Council and School Advisory Forum will have their monthly meeting on **Tuesday, December 5, 2023**. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. We ask that you come a few minutes earlier so that you can be checked in and we can begin the meeting at 7:30 am sharp. On Tuesday, December 5th our primary students will begin STAR testing and testing starts at 8:15 am.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday morning.



### Panther Aftercare Reminders

We are heading into the last 4 weeks of 2023! WOW, that went by fast. Let's try to stay upbeat and finish 2023 strong. We wish all of you a happy holiday as you celebrate with your family and friends. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Kwanzaa!

Our next payment is due on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> by midnight. Please speak to me before that date if you need to make other arrangements.

Please keep a look out for our annual aftercare survey. We need as many of you as possible to let us know how we are meeting your needs. Thanks in advance for your responses.

Continue to remind your child/ren daily about our school-wide behavior goals. We should all have them memorized by now, let's encourage our students to show what they know.



### Parkside PTA Update

Hello December!

We hope everyone had a wonderful thanksgiving! On December 6th, PTA is having a family night at the theater! The Center - Coral Springs Center for the Arts is having a modern educational sketch show, So Bizerk! Please be on the lookout for the flyer with additional information. Also, from **December 4th - December 8th**, students will be able to shop for their family and friends during our *Holiday Shop*. Students will be having plenty of fun celebrating this holiday season during *Polar Express Day*, they will be receiving a hot chocolate and joining us outside for a special surprise. For *Field Day*, all students will be receiving a special cool treat!!

We wish all of our families a wonderful holiday season!



### Parkside 2023 Robotics Team



On Saturday December 2nd, The Parkside Panthers, robotics team competed in the Miramar, Aviation and Robotics Expo Scrimmage. We are proud to say that our team came in sixth place and the robot they designed was successful in scoring using programming code that students designed. A great time was had by all.



### Parkside 2023 Thanksgiving Luncheon

On Friday, November 17, 2023, Parkside Elementary held its Thanksgiving Family Luncheon! We are so grateful for all of our families and were delighted to share this time with you! Mr. Mena play the most delightful live music while families joined classrooms for an afternoon of great food and cheer. Our cafeteria manager, Ms. Battie and her team work hard to ensure that the check-out process went nice and smooth! Ms. Hall and Ms. Rivera were our very special elves who worked diligently preparing the adult meals throughout the entire day! We hope everyone enjoyed the special day at Parkside last month and we look forward to many more Thanksgiving gatherings in the future.



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