

Griffin Elementary

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back To School!

Greetings Griffin Families
Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly newsletter! We're excited to share with you some exciting updates and news.

We completed the Florida Progress Monitoring 1 Assessments and iReady checkpoint 1 diagnostics in Reading and Math. Teachers now have an "x-ray" view of the students in their classroom and are meeting the needs of all students through whole group, small group, or individual instruction. In reading and math, we are aiming for at least 75% or higher and science 65% or higher. I know we can achieve this target or beyond because we have phenomenal educators and students at Griffin.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- MAIN
754 323 5900
- ATTENDANCE
LINE 24/7
754 323 5902



Classroom Visits

My favorite part of my job is classroom walkthroughs. I have been able to witness firsthand some of the amazing activities, instruction, and connections that your child is experiencing during my walkthroughs. This gives me the opportunity to learn more about the students and how best to support them and their teachers. Remember, you too can reach out to any member of the staff if there is anything that we can do to support you.



NEWSLETTER

November Events

November Events:

- Griffin Fun Run. This is our biggest fundraiser. Thank you for all your contributions so far. It looks like we on track to achieve our \$40,000 goal. If we reach our goal Mr. Nordstrom will get slimed. At different levels of contributions, we have awesome prizes.
- Harvest Drive – we collect items for our families who are experiencing financial difficulties. If you would like to be added to the list, please email Ms. Novack teena.novack@browardschools.com. The list is confidential. This is also applicable to our Toy Drive in December.
- Turkey Trot during PE classes

Upcoming Events

- 10/23 Fun Run Kick Off
- 10/27 Trunk or Treat
- 11/9 Fun Run
- 12/14 Wrap Party & Chorus

December Events

December Events:

- Holiday Shop: Students shop on their own for family gifts.
- Toy Drive: Parents donate unwrapped toys for our children in need. Extra toys are then donated to our sister school – Rock Island Elementary. At the wrap party and chorus concert- all gifts are wrapped.
- Fuel for First Responders: Student Council Initiative. Used to be “Cookies for Courage”. Now we can donate a variety of snacks instead of just cookies.
- December Dash – a mile run around the school. An exciting run with jingle bells tied to shoelaces. Parents are welcome to participate in the run.



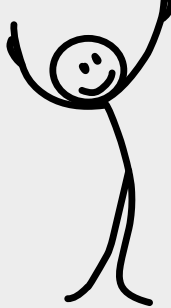
Communication

Communication is essential. Look for my weekly focus with important reminders. If you are NOT receiving Griffin parent links or emails, please call Ms. Maria Dunakin to verify your phone number and email address. We also encourage you to visit our website and Griffin PTA Facebook page for announcements, reminders, information, and celebrations. We also post pictures. Students are only featured if they have media releases.

As always, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to our school community. We would not be so amazing without you! You make Griffin “Some Place Special”. Together we can achieve more.

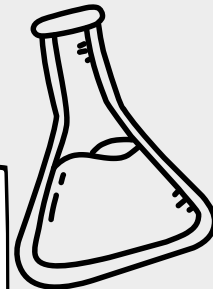
Thank you.

Principal Jones

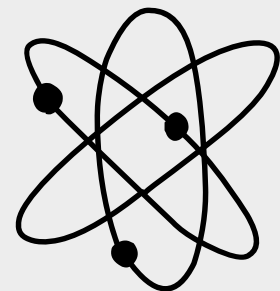
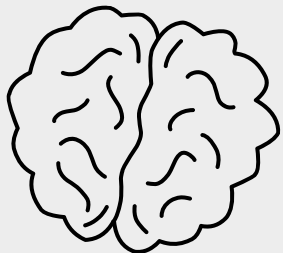


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KINDERGARTEN



We can't believe the first quarter of Kindergarten is coming to an end! We can already see so much growth in our little learners. Our youngsters have learned their color words and are working on reading their Rainbow words. Please continue to work on letter names and sounds at home as we will begin blending sounds to make words in the next few weeks. Are you reading to your child at night? That's a great time to ask comprehension questions about the story. In math, we are learning about the numbers 1-10; sequencing them, writing them and comparing greater and less than. In Science, your child has learned about animals, plants and science tools that scientist use. In Social Studies, we are learning about being good citizens, taking responsibility for our actions, and the voting process. We have many fun activities coming up in the next quarter so be looking for information from your child's teacher. As always, we appreciate your efforts in getting your child to school each day, on time, and in school uniform.



1

FIRST GRADE

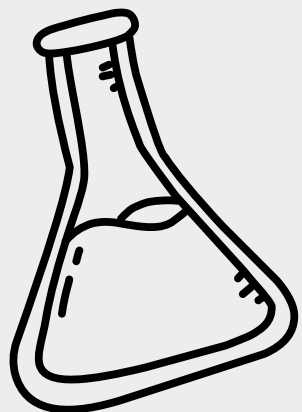


The First Graders started the year excited and ready to learn! During the first quarter they have adjusted to the routines and expectations of First Grade. Academically, we have begun our Benchmark Advanced/enVision curriculums and conquered taking assessments online. First Graders have been busy working on hands on Science activities; such as growing their own garden, observing classroom tadpoles, apple experiments and pumpkin investigations. We are finishing up the quarter strong as we gear up for the holiday season.

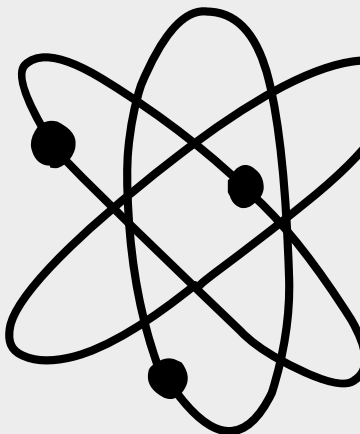


2

SECOND GRADE



Second graders are hard at work. We have been learning about long vowel words, character perspectives, story elements and fairy tales. We have learned how to add two digit numbers, round up or down, how to break apart to add, and count on a number line. We are excited for our Fall Parade and classroom rotations.



3

THIRD GRADE

Wow! 3rd grade has been busy. We are working on mastering our multiplication facts in math. We are reading passages and answering questions in reading. We are talking about plants and their parts in Science. We are learning about the regions of the United States in Social Studies.

We have some exciting events coming up in the next couple of months. We have our fall parade on the 31st followed by some classroom activities. We will celebrate Thanksgiving with some "friendly" center activities. We are looking forward to a "winter celebration" in December.

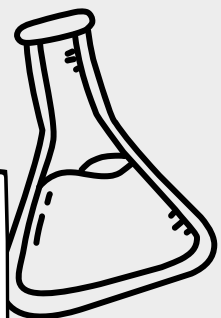
Please continue to have your child complete their i-Ready minutes and lessons on a weekly basis. They should be completing 45 minutes and passing 2 lessons every week. This will help with the standards we are learning in class. Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We are looking forward to a great school year!

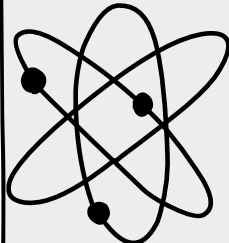

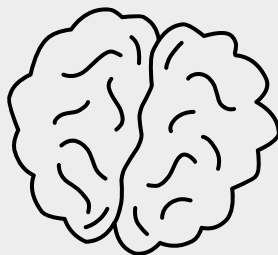


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FOURTH GRADE



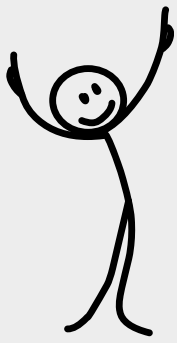
Fourth grade is moving right along this year! We are wrapping up our science unit on rocks and weathering and getting ready to learn all about animal and plant adaptations. In math we are continuing to practice our multiplication facts and use them to solve double digit multiplication problems. Division problems are right around the corner, and we are excited about learning a new skill. We continue to write and reflect in our reading journals and work on fine tuning our expository essays using our high-level vocabulary. Finally in social studies we have learned to read different types of maps and their different and their importance. This has been a great beginning to our school year, and we look forward to expanding our knowledge in quarter two.



5

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth grade has been working very hard in quarter 1. All 5th grade clubs have begun! All students got to meet their kindergarten book buddy for the year! They are excited to mentor and help those kindergartners grow! Students are working hard in all subject areas. In math, we are beginning topic 5 and working on long division of whole numbers with double digit divisors. In science, we have completed all our Earth and Space standards, and are moving into life science. In reading, students have been working in Unit 2 of benchmark which is focusing on story elements. In social studies, we are busy working on JA BizTown as our field trip is quickly approaching. In the area of writing, students are working on writing a multi-paragraph essay with proper sources and citations. Thank you to all the parents who have completed their back-to-school forms! We appreciate you! If you have not done so, please make sure you complete them ASAP! Remember, students cannot go on any field trips unless back to school forms are complete! We look forward to continuing the momentum and helping your child prepare the best for middle school!

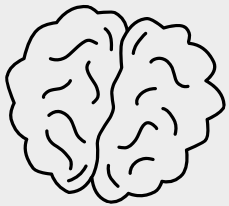


MEDIA



By Mrs. Berger

The Media Center is bustling! Books are being checked out, read, logged into Beanstack, and returned. Many intermediate students set a personal goal to read 50 chapter books this school year for Read Across Broward. I love their can-do attitudes. Their vision to succeed will be a huge part of their success.



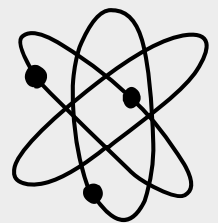
We have been learning about the various parts of the library, types of books, animals, and different apps on Clever. We celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month in the library, and our intermediate students have begun keyboarding skills using Typesy on Nearpod. Follett, Destiny Discover, Sora, Gale, and Discovery Education are great research tools for your student and provided through Clever. Our public libraries are great supporters of our school libraries. Be sure to stop in with your family and enjoy the free Broward County Public Libraries and all their services. Better yet, get your digital library card and read for free on Libby, as well as download free videos and music on Kanopy and Hoopla.

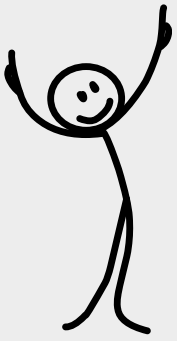


If your student needs to return their books outside of their Media week, there are return bins outside the Media Center doors. Additionally, students are more than welcome to ask their adult hall/cafeteria monitor in the morning to come to the Media Center for Morning Media (7:30-7:55 a.m.). Our Media Helpers are doing a fantastic job during Morning Media. It is amazing seeing our fifth graders help others.

Tips: Please be sure your student has a water bottle that securely closes and a safe place to keep their books at home while reading. This will help avoid a damaged book fine.

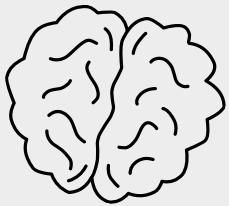
Books should be returned every 3 weeks. Items can be renewed one time. Books not returned after 90 days automatically create an obligation under your child's student number. This will take 3 days to update once the book has been returned. Please be mindful of this with Aftercare and field trip payments.





PE

Griffin PE is off and running. We are just finishing up with basketball skills and are now onto football skills. The students are very eager to help with the Griffin Garden! Ms Sanchez and Mr Nordstrom have been working really hard to get the Garden going! Coach V is looking forward to the Fun Run sponsored by PTA . It is going to be the best ever!

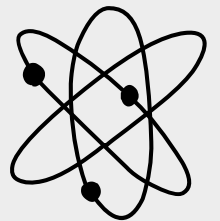


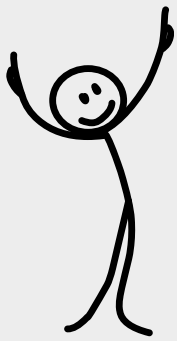
MUSIC

Our Griffin students have been singing, dancing, and playing instruments while learning about Hispanic Heritage Month. Students had an opportunity to place their name on a map of South and Central America to represent where their families are from.

Our chorus began on Monday, October 2nd. We have twenty students signed up for chorus this year. There is still room for your 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade students if they are still interested in joining.

Our band began on Thursday, October 5th. We currently have thirty students signed up for band. There is still room for more 4th and 5th grade students to participate in band.

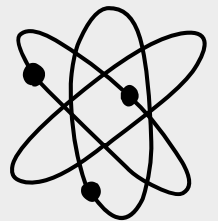
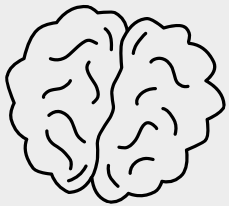
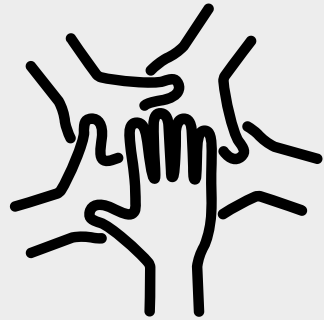




CONGRATULATIONS

September
Student of the Month
Character Trait - Cooperation

Barcelona Millie Bayer
Del Corral Adalynn Greene
Pritchett Isla Schultz
Sanabria Arya Adam
Buckley Madison Gilliam
Cohenour Aaron Brito
Coxe East Chicoye
Dourvetakis Nora Krause
Zuckerman Tyler Garbellano
Alderman Jace Westram
DeFerrari Ellie Lobue
Giardiniera Sawyer Hamilton
Perry Axel Castellanos
Shanley Kenzie Bergens
Anorga Dalia Batista
Goffney Kayla Arner
Keller Teresa Lonth
May Payton Moule
Baquedano Jackson Byrne
Burd Michael Litvak
Caruso Juliana Abenina
Feldman Victoria Ancinez-Carvaja
Hajaree Alexander Taboada
Gallagan Kaitlyn Izquierdo
Hammell Sarah Murphy
Hucaluk Alexis Chlem
Rasgado Austin Carbajal
Shapiro Jase Meyers
Vega Johan Mayer



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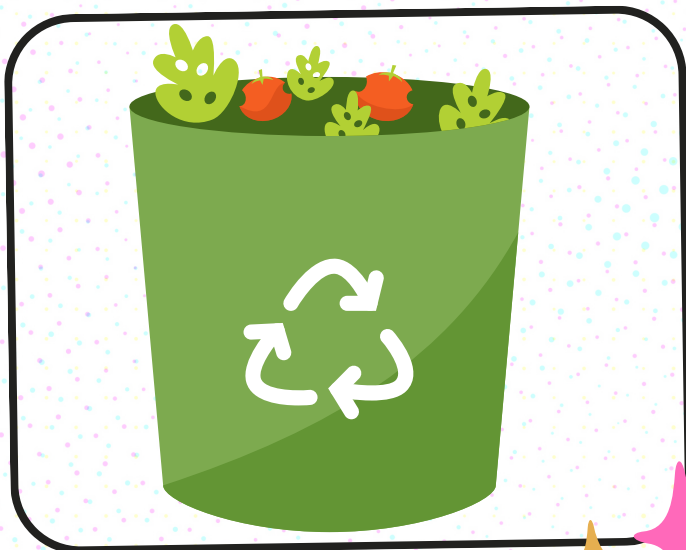
Sustainability News

We came back from summer vacation to a very over grown Food Forest garden. Mrs. Baquedano's class has been busy weeding during recess. Also, students planted seeds for our Griffin vegetable garden in media and in PE. Thank you Coach Von Achen for tending to our seedlings and working with your classes planting those seedlings. Let's hope they produce a plentiful bounty!

We started our Food Rescue program in the cafeteria. Certain foods and beverages that students do not want to eat are donated to Feeding South Florida on a weekly basis. Thank you Ms. Brantley and our wonderful volunteer, Mrs. Scura for all your support!

What goes in the blue bin?

- paper
- clean soda and soup cans
- clean plastic bottles
- cardboard
- magazines
- clean glass



Recycling

Fourth and Fifth grade Eco Patrol is in full swing. Our members are the engine behind our successful student-led recycling program here at school. Fourth grade picks up recycling on Mondays and fifth grade on Thursdays. Our November meetings have been switched to accommodate our speaker. November 8th will be our 5th grade meeting. November 29th will be our 4th grade meeting.

Thanks to those volunteers who came out to the International Beach Clean Up in September!