

Royal Palm Journal

Winter Break!!

Volume 4, Issue 10

December 16, 2014

Lee County School District

Important Dates

December 19th–January 4th Winter Break **January 19th** Students off– MLK Day

January 13–15th Early Dismissal

January 16th Students off-Professional Duty Day



Mr. LaMar Principal

Greetings families and students! Thank you for welcoming me to Royal Palm. It is my sincere privilege to serve as Principal. I would like to communicate my appreciation for your support. My door is always open, so please come by or call anytime.

Sincerely,
Ashley LaMar



Royal Palm Mission

Provide an opportunity for each student to be involved in a well-planned, structured program that is best suited to meet each individual's needs. Areas of attention are behavior, communication, socialization and academics. The ultimate objective is to assist students in the successful return to their geographical school.

Mr. Moretti Assistant Principal

At Royal Palm, we have spent many hours creating, planning, and practicing for an emergency that may take place while your children are at school. Our number one priority is the safety of our students and staff. Each month we take valuable time to practice and prepare for code red, fire and tornado drills.

In the event of an emergency at school that requires you to pick up your children, you will receive a phone call from parent link informing you about the emergency and giving you appropriate directions. This is why it is so important to update your emergency information with the school. If you have moved or changed your contact number please contact the school with that information.

Thank you for helping us ensure your children's safety at school.
Robert V. Moretti



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Please provide an updated email address and you will start receiving quarterly newsletters from Royal Palm.

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EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Thank You!!

Classroom



Elementary

Ms. Petit-Frere and Ms. Jackson

Pre-Kindergarten

Happy Holidays from us in room 148! Already filled with merry spirits, they cannot wait for Santa to come. The Pre-K students have surprised us recently with their behavior, counting, and letter recognition. They have come so far in this past quarter. So far, we are a little past half the alphabet. Every week, we focus on one letter of the alphabet and play different games and activities that start with that letter. For O, we played Simon says with opposites. For N, we learned some nursery rhymes and songs. When was the last time you sang, "Head, shoulder, knees and toes" or the "Itsy bitsy spider"? We wish you a great safe holiday! See you next year!

Ms. Hocfbaum and Ms. Walker

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten class has been working very hard this fall on our academic and behavioral goals. In math, we have been learning about addition with all numbers up to 10. We have just been introduced to subtraction. We have improved our reading fluency by practicing every day. In language arts, we have learned about punctuation and spacing in our sentences. We have studied about plants in science and are now learning about animals. We have done some projects relating to respect and tolerance and patriotism in social studies. The school year seems to be flying by very quickly. We hope to improve our behavior and continue to move up the levels at Royal Palm so that we can earn more privileges. Have a great holiday break!!!

Ms. Kellum and Ms. Cruzado

1st grade

Where has the time gone? The holidays are here already! We have been so busy that these weeks have flown by us. Our class has been working hard on their social skills and have improved as individuals as well as a group. Almost everyone is on level seven. We have two students who are exiting, hopefully, at the end of this semester. It has been rewarding for both Ms. Cruzado and I to watch their growth and see how they can stay on task longer, participate in class discussions, take turns, work together, share, and compliment each other on a job well done. They also offer to help each other if they see that someone is having difficulties.

I have spent eighteen years of my teaching career here at Royal Palm. December 18, 2014 will be my last day, as I am retiring. I feel that I am leaving here with this class of students showing growth both academically and behaviorally. They have come far and I feel confident they will continue to be successful with their learned skills. Thank you for the opportunity to work as a team with you and your child. We wish you and your family a very safe and Happy Holiday!!!!

Ms. Tom and Ms. Senat

2nd grade

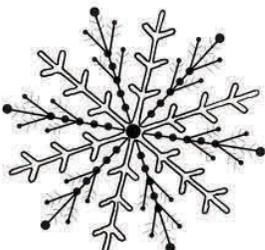
Ms. Pauls and Mr. Cummings

2nd grade

Mrs. Stephens and Mrs. Anderson

3rd grade

Our students have been quite excited with the arrival of December! They are counting down the days until Winter Break and oh, the days have been so busy and quickly passing! We have been making holiday crafts, studying about children's celebrations in other parts of the world and enjoying hot chocolate and snacks while watching the Polar Express. We would like to say a special "thank-you" to the Church of the Cross for bringing us gifts and wish you all a warm and fun-filled holiday season with your families!



Ms. Miller and Ms. Wheeler

5th grades

We here in Ms. Miller's class were rewarded with a "Pet in the Classroom" Grant! Pet Super Market has given us the opportunity to have a fish aquarium in our classroom! So be on the lookout for Fish Tales!!! While we are studying the Animal Life Cycle in Science, we will also be learning to be responsible care takers and class leaders. So....Come explore our fish aquarium starting January 2015! Also-We are still studying the culture and life of Florida Indians. We will be making data science boards about the life and history of Florida Indians and building replica Indian artifacts. Please feel free to stop by and explore "our" world.

Mrs. Rockwell and Ms. Devita

5th grades

As the holidays approach and Winter Break is upon us, it's time to stop and ponder where the time has gone! We have been busy, busy, busy learning in all subject areas. We have read many books over the first two quarters. We started the school year reading the fantastic Gregor the Overlander five-book series by Suzanne Collins. We fell in love with all the characters in the Underland Chronicles. Everyone was a little bit sad when the fifth book ended. We then switched from fantasy to more realistic fiction with the classic survival story – Hatchett by Gary Paulsen. We followed that up with Brian's Winter and The River in which Brian Robeson, the lead character, continued his adventures! We are looking for more engaging authors to capture our imaginations for the rest of the school year! Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy Winter Break – from Rory, Riley, Rolando, Kendall, Angel, Branon, Ms. Devita, and Mrs. Rockwell!

Dr. Moore and Ms. Thornton

5th grades

Our holiday vacation will soon be here and we want to thank the children in our class for working so hard on their academics since the beginning of school. Another group of individuals who deserve recognition are the parents, foster-parents, and grandparents who care for our students on a daily basis. We want to offer them encouragement. Vacation time brings many opportunities to improve reading skills. Reading recipes, box-tops, and even comic books will help our students maintain the progress they have made this year. A new era has started as we say goodbye to Mr. Perry and welcome Mr. LaMar to the Royal Palm Family. It is my belief that Mr. LaMar and Mr. Moretti will continue the fine work that Mr. Perry started. In closing, here is wishing you all the best from Room 309 during the holiday season and in the 2015 New Year!



Classroom News

Secondary

Mr. Shell and Ms. Sneed

6th Grade

The sixth grade students of Room 118 are working with diligence to develop their reading comprehension skills. The students' online reading program is titled TEEN BIZ/Achieve 3000. Teen Biz articles are high interest, nonfiction reading. After reading an article, students answer a set of multiple choice comprehension questions of which they must score 75% to earn a passing grade. Improvement of reading comprehension is being recognized by all students in the class. We are looking forward to the Royal Palm Christmas party on December 18. Happy holidays from the students and staff of Room 118.

Ms. Schiegner and Ms. Milne

6th Grade

As the holidays are getting closer, Ms. S and Ms. M's class is getting into the holiday spirit. The kids have been extremely busy making decorations for the classroom and are very proud of what they have accomplished so far. We also are welcoming a new student into our classroom who has been greeted with open arms. She has been a great addition. Our students are extremely excited about the Christmas party on the 18th and are ready for their Christmas break. Many of them are going to be with family and friends and others will be traveling. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See everyone in 2015!!!!

Ms. Morales and Ms. Medina

7-8th Math

Extra, Extra, Read All About It!! News from the Middle School Math Department...Wow, it's hard to believe that this school year is half over already! My math students have learned so many new grade level math skills! My seventh grade classes have been learning and practicing finding the percent of a number, the percent proportion, the percent equation, the percent of change, sales tax, tips, markups, discount, simple interest and adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers. My eighth grade classes have been learning and practicing finding slope, constant rate of change, equations in $y=mx$ form, slope-intercept form, graphing a line using intercepts, writing linear equations, solving systems of equations by graphing and all about functions! Each month, all of my math classes participate in a Kagen teambuilding activity. Not only are these activities incredibly fun, but they have really helped transform classmates into a team of friends, trying to conquer and learn the challenging 7th & 8th grade standards and curriculum. I would like to wish all of you a well-deserved Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly." Robert Kennedy

Mrs. Perry and Mr. McMillian

7-8th Science

I am happy to report that all 8th graders made gains on their Mid-Year assessments! Happy Holidays to all of our students! Get plenty of rest because 8th graders will be exploring space when we get back from break and 7th graders will be traveling to the center of the earth!

Ms. Meltzer and Ms. Farmer

7-8th Reading

Happy Holidays! We just finished up Unit 2 in our reading series, Inside. As many of you may have heard, we have a new (to us) helping teacher, Ms. Farmer! We have been busy learning about different winter holidays and traditions then comparing them to ours. We hope you have a wonderful Holiday Break and New Year! See you in 2015!

Ms. Allbritten and Ms. Henderson

7-8th Language Arts

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Ms. Allbritten and Ms. Henderson. We would like to recognize 4 of our students that are making great strides towards their personal goals.. Javarius, Carlton, Maliek, and Tommy are making the right choices and doing the right things on a daily basis. We would like to thank "The Church Of The Cross" for the generosity and kindness they show the students at Royal Palm. You ALWAYS go above and beyond any expectations that we could ever have. THANK YOU!! May all of the students and staff at Royal Palm have a safe and happy holiday. See you on January 5th.

Ms. Hirst and Ms. Candelaro

7-8th Language Arts

Mrs. Hirst & Ms. Candelaro's 7th and 8th graders have continued to be busy learning the new Common Core curriculum and using our brand-new textbooks! We have done many things including: learning about different cultures and belonging, controversies

including young people taking on huge challenges, and argumentative/persuasive writing. Our focus will continue to be learning how to read new material, analyze it, and then citing textual evidence in writing. Yes, it is more involved; however, many of our students are rising to the challenge!!! Way to go 7th and 8th graders!!! Have a wonderful, safe winter break and see you next year!

Ms. Walker and Mr. Perkins

7th-8th Reading

Happy Holidays to all our students and their families! Be sure to practice your reading over the break! Check out your local library for your favorite books!

Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Casseus

Life Skills

A time for gifts, a time for cheer, a time to celebrate a New Year. The staff in room 316 would like to wish a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays to the entire Royal Palm School. These past few months have been exciting, our class has shown a tremendous amount of improvement on their assignments. Zachary was awarded a positive postcard for always showing the initiative to finish his work and Frank was awarded a positive postcard for helping out in the clinic. Way to go guys! In celebration of the upcoming holiday our students have made several projects; holiday placemats, snowflakes, and Christmas coloring. Come by our classroom to see our wonderful display of Christmas pictures in the windows. We hope that everyone has a safe and wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing all of you next year!

Mrs. Gunter and Ms. Thomas

High School Math

Starting this year 9th graders are on the Standard Diploma tract. To facilitate this challenging transition the school district is providing us with the new software called ALEKS. ALEKS is an artificial intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics he/she is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained. ALEKS courses are very complete in their topic coverage and ALEKS avoids multiple-choice questions. A student who shows a high level of mastery of an ALEKS course will be successful in the actual course he/she is taking. ALEKS also provides the advantages of one-on-one instruction, 24/7, from virtually any Web-based computer for a fraction of the cost of a human tutor. ALEKS will be an important diagnostic tool and supplementation to instruction. Dear students, please actively participate in the ALEKS program! Use it to the limit of 90 minutes weekly. Your knowledge and rate of success will improve significantly! Merry Christmas and a safe and successful New Year to all our students.

Mr. Daly and Ms. Tivis

High School Reading

We have just completed the Mid-Year assessments in Reading and Writing. The students tried their best and will show gains. The students will continue to prepare for the new tests and try our best to make the biggest gains. We continue to work in our Edge books and the Florida Collections books. In my homeroom David continues to make progress on his GED at Dunbar Community School. We also would like to welcome Lee to our class from Mr. Cochrane's class. We wish all of you a Happy Holidays and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at school (337-3511) or via email kevinbd@leeschools.net.

Ms. Santini and Ms. Harris

High School Social Studies

Our classes have been exploring the Cold War and the Civil rights movement, Latin America, the U.S. Constitution and taking a look at different world economies. Lessons have included many hands on and interactive activities as well as geography challenges. Students are learning to create outlines, graphic organizers and complete projects. Over the vacation the students will be interviewing adults in their lives who lived through the 50's and 60's. We hope they will have fun making comparisons between their lives and teenagers and those of their interview subjects. The students have also helped decorate for a rewards fiesta that was a real treat for all who earned participation. Special thanks to Shelbi for her fantastic artwork!

We want to wish everyone a happy and peaceful holiday. See you all next year!!

May your Christmas
be wrapped in Joy
and filled with Love
Best Wishes for Peace, Health and Happiness
throughout the coming year.

High School science would like to wish parents and students alike
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Murph Room 311

Holiday Greetings from Room311

As we approach the winter break and the end of the first semester , the boys in room 311: Michael, Travis, Arne, Fernando, Felix, Gene, Mr. Murph and I wish all Royal Palm students and staff a wonderful holiday break and a safe and Happy New Year! It does not seem possible that we have already completed nearly half the school year and when we return on January 5th it will be 2015 ! We are busy preparing for the upcoming standardized tests and are confident that great improvements will be demonstrated by the whole class. Behaviorally, we are proud to say most of the class is on level 7 and the others are steadily moving up ! We look forward to seeing all of you next year!

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Wednesday, Dec. 17: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

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Physical Education

We have had a great second quarter in PE class. Students have continued to progress with respect to their fitness levels and skill development in various sports. We have held class outside more frequently due to the cooler weather. A highlight of this second quarter was our annual United Way fundraiser called Going the Distance. This was a voluntary activity, but participants were informed that they would receive rewards for participating and finding a staff sponsor. The event required students to complete a 12 minute course around a set of cones either, by jogging, running, walking or a combination of the three. I would like to recognize the following students who participated in this event. Jayden Jean-Baptiste, Frankie Alexander, Markerly Marc, Carl Merrickes, Keon Stokes, Jah'Von Baskin, Darnell Hayden, Justin Edwards, Jon'Tavis Scurry, Frankie Celestin, Angel Hernandez, Kervin Staco, Jordan Anderson, William Bradford, Max Gwinn, Edgar Lopez, Chase Thayer, Sheldon Biddle, James Buchanon, Eladio Colon, Giovanni Gonzalez, Anber Harris, Darnaesha Snell, Fernando Unda, and Arnie Solheim.

Mr. Weigand

Literacy News & Media

The media center is happy to announce that most of the new books for this school year have arrived! Thank you to the students who took part in selecting the books this year. Reading is so important in our culture today....we all need to read, read, read on a daily basis. Hopefully, one of your holiday wishes will be for a shiny, new book to devour! Imagine opening those pages and finding a whole new world to escape into for a fresh, new outlook on life – or imagine reading about that animal that found its way home after so many struggles and strife – or – how about discovering something different and thrilling that you never knew before or wanted to learn more about!

This world is filled with so many wonderful things to learn and appreciate....books teach us if we allow them....books take us on journeys....books can leave us speechless...they can bring comfort when we need it...understanding, compassion, empathy, and joy.... books help us see new worlds....and books just plain make us happy!

Wishing you and yours a very safe, happy, and healthy holiday season with oodles of opportunities to practice your reading.

Ms. Hickey

Guidance Department

Of all the things we help our children learn and do, helping them to develop a healthy self-esteem is probably most important. This is because self-esteem affects all aspects of their lives – how they learn, how they interact with friends, how they treat others, how they problem solve, how they handle adversity, and how much they are willing to try new things. Here are some tips to help your child develop healthy self-esteem:

Praise your child. Notice when your child has done something well and tell them! Easy on the criticism. They should hear 5 positives for every 1 negative thing you say.

Criticize the behavior. When your child misbehaves, talk about the behavior, such as, “What you did was hurtful and I know you are a nice kid. How can you make this better?” Do not label your child “bad”.

Validate feelings. If your child gets a blow to their self-esteem, they need you to allow them to feel sad, hurt or mad. After, you can boost them up with positives.

Give your child chores. Children learn how to function in groups by learning how their own family cooperates. Set your child up to be a team player by giving age-appropriate chores at home. Offer praise for their work!

Give the gift of time. Your children know how busy you are, so when you find 10 minutes to listen about their day or play a game, they will feel worthy and loved. The gift of time spent is worth much more than the gift of money spent.

Avoid harmful comparisons. Do not compare your child to others, especially siblings. Instead of saying “Why can’t you be more like so-and-so?” try “Do you notice that so-and-so does this?” Let your child know that it’s okay to be different and that you don’t expect perfection.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday!



ExTRA Program News

The ExTRA Program is currently sending students to 3 Lee County locations. The students work at Juniper Village, Harry Chapin Food Bank, and Publix. The students are learning important job skills that they can carry over to their adult life. We also have a car wash each week (weather permitting) to assist in fund raising for the program. The students are going to earn their way to see a show at Broadway Palm and an awards luncheon at Colonial Country Club. The program is having a garage sale on December 13th and again in March to help raise funds to offset the cost of the program. Students are having a great time learning on the job

Out of Field

The following faculty members are engaged in training to add the endorsement of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to their current teaching certificates; Delorice Robinson, Michele Perry, Patricia Hocfbaum, and Beverly Hirst.