

# Royal Palm Journal/A Title I School

3050 Indian Street  
Fort Myers, FL 33916  
239.337.3511  
<http://roy.leeschools.net>



## Back to School Newsletter!!



Lee County School District

September 30th, 2020

### Important Dates

- October 30th: Early Dismissal - End of Quarter 1
- November 11th: Veterans Day - No School
- November 23rd - 27th: Thanksgiving Break
- December 21st - January 1st: Winter Break



### Royal Palm Mission

To work in partnerships with students, family and the community to ensure that each student acquires the knowledge, skills and core values necessary to achieve personal success and enrich the community.



### Mr. Moretti | Principal

Welcome back to a new school year. I sincerely hope that this correspondence finds you well and that you and your families have been able to stay safe. We are truly in unprecedented times. As you are most likely aware, there are significant changes which have made the start of this school year unlike any other in recent memory. The situation is extremely fluid and consequently so will the information that you receive. Due to the unpredictable nature of the pandemic situation, it will be more important than ever that you are diligent in accessing and understanding updates that you receive from the district and the school.

Our administrative team is working diligently to set up processes and procedures with the intention of developing a multi-phased plan of protection in conjunction with the district and the local health experts. The fluidity of information requires that we are intentional with sharing as accurate of information as possible. I truly understand the concerns associated with our return to school and the potential ramifications and am committed to providing you with my most heartfelt leadership and support.

I want you to know that while this is perhaps the most challenging circumstance that I have dealt with in my 5 years as a principal, I am grateful that I have such wonderful and caring parents with me.

**Robert Moretti - Principal Royal Palm School**

### Mrs. Wilson Assistant Principal

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! I am honored to continue to serve you in the Assistant Principal role and look forward to continuing my work with Mr. Moretti, as well as the rest of our staff, in our efforts to do whatever it takes to advance the achievement of all students on our campus. Working together, I am confident that we will continue to provide our students with a truly rigorous and enriching school experience. Royal Palm is a special and unique community of which I am proud to be a part of. I am confident that our school will continue to be a place where our students can learn and grow both academically and socially. If there is anything I can assist you with, please let me know.

**Latoria Wilson - Assistant Principal Royal Palm School**



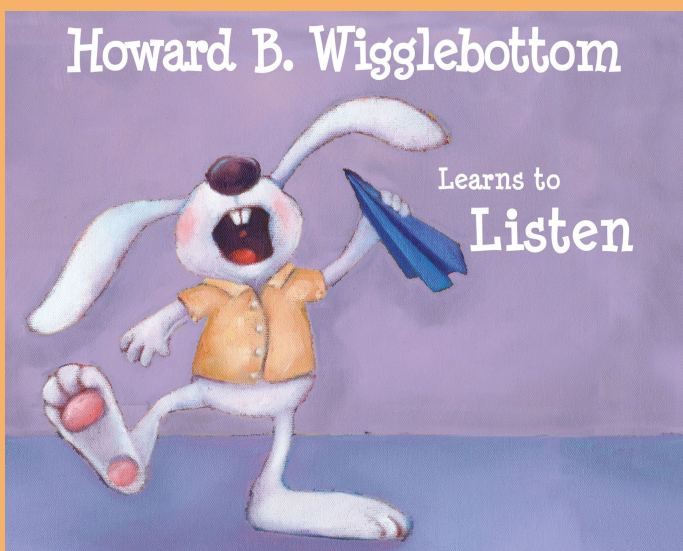
# Classroom News Elementary

## Ms. Fisher and Ms. Woodard 1st grade

Dear Royal Palm Families, We have had a great start to a very unusual school year. I am very pleased to say that my students are doing great. They are on task, making good decisions, and working hard on their academics. I want to encourage families to read to your child every day. I know in the classroom they love to listen to me read to them. Stay safe and please contact me with any concerns. Thank you, Ms. Fisher

## Ms. Brensinger & Ms. P. Hawkins 1st & 2nd grades

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Whether you're attending school face to face or virtually, we are so glad you're back! We are adjusting to our new school routine well and making sure we wash our hands, use sanitizer throughout the day, and wear our masks. We have been learning to be good listeners with the help of Howard B. Wigglebottom. We have learned how important it is to be a whole body listener and are working hard on applying these skills in the classroom. Be sure to ask your student about this and the Howard B. Wigglebottom story. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year.

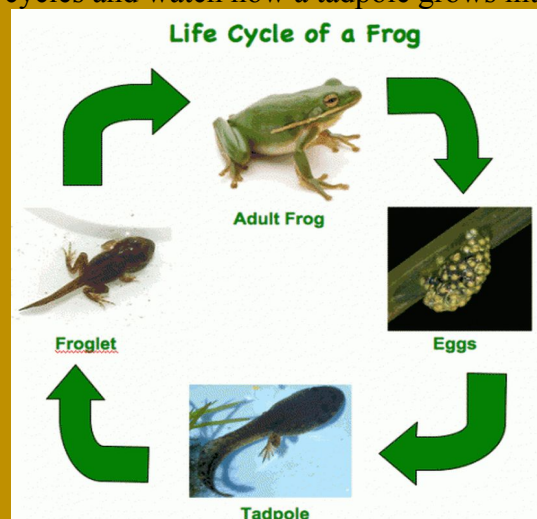


## Ms. Matheson and Ms. Hawkins 2nd grade

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!!!! Although things have changed during this pandemic, our love, care, concern, dedication as well as our desire to teach our students has NOT changed. This is my first year teaching at Royal Palm Exceptional School, however, I have been teaching for 9 years total. I received my Post- Baccalaureate Specialty degree in Mild/Moderate Special Education from Cal State, Dominguez Hills (right outside of Los Angeles, CA). I chose this course of study because of my passion for helping others in need, my desire to educate and inform this country's youth, who are also the future and also due to my life experiences, I wanted desperately to make a difference and be a positive role model to children who needed me!

Ms. Hawkins, my educational assistant in our class has been at Royal Palm for a total of 4 years and she has been a HUGE help to me! We collaborate and work together as a TEAM!!! Like the old adage says; "It takes a village to raise a child", I wholeheartedly believe in this saying and my classroom is conducted in this manner. We collaborate, work together and support each other 100%. We are very lucky to have her in our "village".

My goal this year is to increase each student's reading proficiency to grade level or as close to grade level as possible. We are currently working on sight words; reading them outloud, writing each word on flashcards to review them daily as well as looking for them in print and pointing each word out. The class is beginning to read decodable words, sentences and short stories. After reading stories we have been asking who, what, when, where, why and how questions to help us better understand what we are reading. We are also currently working on identifying and understanding nouns and verbs. In writing, we are practicing our letter formations as well as learning how to form a coherent sentence using capital letters to start and punctuation to end. In math, we have been learning about reading and interpreting bar graphs, picture graphs and tally charts! We are also raising tadpoles to learn about life cycles and watch how a tadpole grows into an adult frog.







# Classroom News

## Elementary

### Ms. Robinson and Mrs. Schley 4th Grade

Our Face-to-Face and Home-Connect students have been working very hard through all the new changes during these challenging times. Students have been working in all subject areas. In Reading, our students are learning about the four main parts of a story (character, setting, plot, and theme). In Math students are learning place value, in Science students are learning about properties of matter, and in Social Studies, students are learning about The Geography of Florida. Our students are using System 44 and Compass Learning for extra practice in reading and math. In Social Skills we are discussing and learning the importance of respecting our teachers and peers. We are very delighted to be working with your child and help them exceed in their educational goals.



### Mrs. Eddy, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Thornton Elementary Life Skills: 3rd, 5th, & 6th grades

We are so excited to be back in our classroom to work and learn in this school year! We are eagerly waiting for Mrs. Davis to return to our class and are so grateful that Mrs. Thornton has returned to be with us another school year. Hooray! Our students are adjusting to our school schedule and have been working hard to practice our classroom and school rules. We are also working on bus safety to ensure appropriate behaviors are practiced going to and from school. We have been working very hard to wear our masks properly and wash our hands continuously throughout the day. We are doing a good job of keeping track of our materials and toys, since we cannot share items at this time.



We complete activities daily to increase our name identification. We journal daily to practice the day of the week, the day and month, of the year, the current weather, and identifying feelings, likes, needs, wants, and wishes. We practice spelling words daily to increase our word recognition. We are learning new vocabulary words weekly to increase our comprehension. Our daily read alouds are paired with crafts to demonstrate the meaning of the story. We have been working on counting, identifying less and more, rounding to the nearest ten and hundred, and place value. Please make sure you read with your child daily and ask them about their day. They are very proud of their crafts and are eager to share them with you. Thank you for your continued support!





# Classroom News

## Elementary

### Mr. Brown and Ms. Lader 4th grade

Welcome back! To help your child become a better reader, read with them every day for at least 10 minutes. You can read to your children or have them read to you at any point of time that is convenient for you. Expose your children to both fiction (make believe) and non-fiction (real) books. Some examples of non-fiction would be historical books or news articles, and some examples of fiction would be Captain Underpants or Dog Man. Students should also do 20 minutes of Compass Learn and Prodigy every day. A “learning path” is automatically generated based on your child’s reading ability. They have access to this at home as well ([compass.leeschools.net](http://compass.leeschools.net)) and ([Prodigygame.com](http://Prodigygame.com)). Another great online resource is [FloridaStudents.org](http://FloridaStudents.org). There are fun learning “games” available for students of all grades! I look forwards to a great year of learning with your students.



### Mr. Bechler, Ms. Fetting, and Ms. Hayes 4th grade

Welcome back to all the students. This year is a new experience for all of us with some of our students in the classroom and others joining our class through Lee Home Connect. We are striving to make this new learning environment exciting and challenging for all students. I hope that all my students had a great summer and are enjoying being back in school. I hope that this year is rewarding for all my students as they embark on their conquest for knowledge.



### Mrs. Barnes and Ms. Tindal 3rd Grade

### Ms. Wadley-Jackson and Ms. Anderson 3rd Grade

What's happening in Mrs. Wadley-Jackson's & Ms. Anderson's Class: The students have been testing the water in math by working with place value, addition & subtraction, rounding numbers to the nearest tens, hundreds, as well as identify associative property and commutative property. In the weeks to come the students will work their way into the challenge of multiplication. Moving right into science, the students have been learning all about the states of matter in solids, liquids, and gas. The students did a project where they had to look around the classroom and identify objects in the classroom that were a solid, liquid and/or a gas. The students were also excited to learn a song about the three states of matter which they were able to sing for a few staff members as they were doing a walk through the classroom. Now, the students are preparing themselves for the upcoming science lesson in which they will be discovering the art of energy and motion and they are excited and ready!

Lastly, in social studies the students for the past few weeks have been learning about the regions of the United States, the continents and the oceans of the world. Our students have also been discussing how to interact properly with their classmates and family members. They have been learning many strategies on how to be productive in their young lives, and how to make good choices in school and at home.

This year we are faced with challenging situations due to the pandemic. The configuration of our class is very different. Some of us are face to face (F2F), while others are online in the Lee Home Connect Program (LHC). We are doing what needs to be done whether in class or at home in the pursuit of our educational endeavors. We are determined and motivated!

In class we are wearing our masks daily, practicing appropriate hand sanitizing and socially distancing ourselves to keep each other safe and healthy.

We are also diligently working on academics and behaviors. We are proud of the student's achievements. For this quarter, language has focused on asking questions, (5 Wh+H), comprehension, nouns, compound words, and vocabulary. In Math we are rounding numbers to nearest ten/hundreds. In science we are learning about the nature of science, and in social studies we are learning all about geography (maps, scales, cardinal and intermediate directions). Our character word of the month is acceptance and we are learning what it means to be accepted and how it is important acceptance is to healthy living.

Finally, required assessments, which include the STAR Reading and Math Test are almost completed. We are going to have a Great year! Reading tip: remember to set aside a time nightly (15 – 20 minutes) to work on reading skills by having your child read to you, or you reading to your child!!







# Classroom News

## Elementary

### Ms. Perl and Ms. Cruzado 4th grade

I am pleased to announce that our new Educational Assistant, Ms. Cruzado, will be assisting me and working with our pupils in various ways. Our students have shown a lot of excitement and interest in their school work since the beginning of this academic year. In math, we have begun to work on place value and reviewing addition and subtraction facts to get them thinking about math again. The class has also been increasing their vocabulary by using a dictionary, weekly spelling tests, practice reading orally as well as improving their handwriting skills. In addition, the students do a daily journal entry/writing prompt which helps them with their writing and grammar skills. Our students are beginning to work on our current science unit on flower and plant reproduction which will include follow up interesting review videos. The upcoming social studies unit will have the class learning about the geography of Florida and labeling the important geographical places in our state. Our monthly social skill unit is on acceptance where we discuss the importance of respecting one another and realizing each person is important and offers interesting and wonderful ideas to our class. Please have your child read every day for at least fifteen minutes. We are very excited to work with your child and I know this year the class will continue to work on their individual educational and socialization goals.



### Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Miller 5th grade

We are in the new age of technology! We're learning to navigate Zoom, while becoming more familiar with Google Classroom/Docs/forms and slides, in addition to Powerpoint. We continue to use the old online applications: Brainpop, Pearson Reading Street, and Go math, and Think Central. We've also become familiar with new apps, such as Nearpod and I-Ready toolbox lessons. Our hybrid class is rising to the challenge, brick and mortar and Home Connect alike. Following our curriculum guide, we're learning reading strategies for challenging texts and passages; how to use context clues, prefixes, and suffixes to determine the meanings of unknown words in sentences, and for math, we know about place values up to hundreds of millions. Our social studies lessons have been on geography and maps, and in science we are learning how to think like a scientist. Way to go 5th graders!! Room-a-zoom zoom!!

### Mr. Eady and Ms. Farmer 4th and 5th grades

Mr. Eady and Ms. Farmer are pleased to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to a positive relationship with you to ensure that your child will reach his full potential. Students will need help both from home and from school in order have an effective year.

### Mr. Murph and Ms. Harris 5th grade

Welcome everyone to a new 2020-21 school year. We hope you had an enjoyable summer and made the best of it, while dealing with the new way of change due to Covid -19. Safety and social distancing are a major priority in maintaining good health and helping bend the curve on keeping the numbers down with the Covid – 19. Thanks to all the students that are participating in Home Connect and Virtual on continuing your education. Overall, continue to be positive, and there's always a new day that awaits ahead!



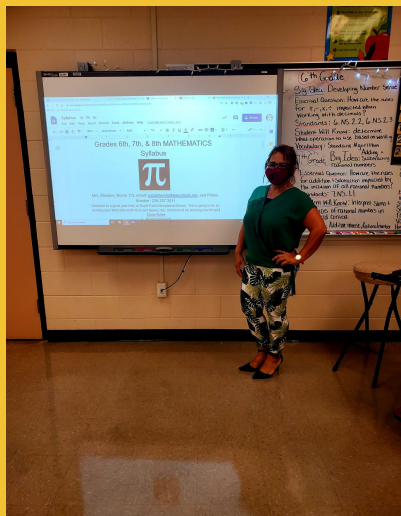
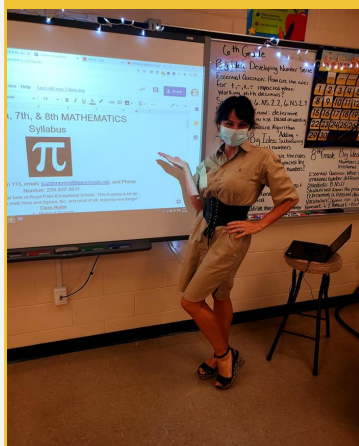


# Classroom News

## Secondary

### Mrs. Morales-Kiesinger and Ms. Canderlaro 6th-8th Math

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, Wow, what a great start to this new school year! I have really enjoyed working with my math students and getting to know them! My teacher assistant Mrs. Candelaro (Mrs. C.), is absolutely amazing, and works so well with our students! Mrs. C., is without a doubt, my “backbone” in this classroom. In 6th grade we are learning all adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators, in 7th grade we are learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers, and in 8th grade we are learning about square and cube roots. All homework can be found stapled to your child's point sheet. Students are responsible for frequently checking their math Google Classroom to see what announcements and classwork assignments have been posted. The students all know how to access their Google Classroom. If your child does not complete their homework and/or classwork assignments, their grades will significantly drop. Please encourage and remind your child of this process. I am thankful to have the privilege of working with and getting to know your child. If you have any questions or concerns, the best way to reach me is by email, [suzannemm@leeschools.net](mailto:suzannemm@leeschools.net). Sincerely, Mrs. Kiesinger-Morales & Ms. C.



### Ms. Kunze and Mr. Buckley 6th-8th Social Studies

Welcome to a new school year! If you're a fan of the TV show Big Brother you will know the theme of the show is to “expect the unexpected”. I think we have learned all about surviving the unexpected, and our parents and students need to be applauded for adapting to all that has been thrown at you and the exceptional support you have given to us teachers as we figure out ways to successfully teach your children in various and unconventional ways. Mr. Buckley and I would like to say thank you and we will continue to do our best to teach your children as best as we can. Who knows what the year will bring, but we know together we can do anything!! Royal Palm Rocks!!!

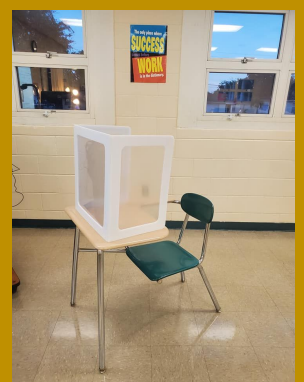
### Mr. Weigand and Ms. Robinson 6th-8th Language Arts

Welcome Back!! It is great to be back to start another school year. Though there are changes to our instructional delivery model, we are excited for what lies ahead. We embrace the opportunity to work with the students to help them become better in all phases of their lives.

The year has gotten off to a great start with a lot of interaction and participation. We will be focusing on the theme of overcoming adversity throughout the course of the school year. In the first quarter the classes will be reading the book This Is Good. We will supplement this book with readings from Chicken Soup for The Teenage Soul as well as readings from Think Positive. We will be utilizing The Google Classroom for assignments, as well as Nearpod for daily instruction. On Friday we will participate in educational games. Writing will be a major emphasis in the curriculum as will the development and enhancement of critical thinking skills.

### Ms. Brown and Ms. McMillian 6th-8th Science

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, There are some very important things you can do to help your child succeed in science. These things include: recognizing scientific vocabulary in everyday events, solving puzzles, looking for extra practice books, cooking, always having a growth mindset, and educational web sites like Khan Academy. I am thankful to have the privilege of working with and getting to know your child.







# Classroom News

## Secondary

### Ms. Baez and Ms. Briscoe 6th-8th Reading

Dear Students, Parents, and Families,  
Welcome back to a new, different and exciting school year. What a challenge! We have really enjoyed working with our reading students for the past few weeks and getting to know them! During this school year we will continue to work on Language! Live our reading program. Language! Live is currently helping students learn how to identify the author's purpose to better understand the text, and answer comprehension questions and key vocabulary words.

This year all homework is to be completed at home or in class. Students are responsible for completing 4 to 6 assignments weekly, online as well as book work. The students all know how to access this website and they can create an Avatar of themselves. Please encourage your child to complete all of their work and to always ask for help if they do not understand the class instructions.



### Dr. Moore, Ms. Thornton & Miss. Jerger 9th-12th Life Skills

Things are off to a great start in our class. We now have six "face to face" learners and are working on our academics as well as social skills. One of our favorite times of the day is watching the CNN Student News which is also called CNN 10. At the end of the newscast our students take turns relating their favorite news story. School is different than it used to be, but one thing remains the same, when we try our best, we feel good about our accomplishments. Taking turns, building friendships, and of course following directions are some of the skills needed to be successful in our class. We hope everyone is having a great start to the 2020-2021 school year.



### Ms. Jackson 6th-8th Career

Greeting Royal Palm families. Part of our career class will be focused on understanding the logical structures of the different types of arguments—for instance, arguments that involve statistical generalizations or ones where we reason to the best explanation-- that we frequently employ in the course of everyday life. We will cover common missteps that people often make in everyday reasoning, including missteps that people make in making judgments based on probability, so that you will be able to better recognize these when you see them and to avoid making them yourselves. We will look at some principles of probability and how these might be used in making good judgments in situations of uncertainty where risks need to be calculated as best as possible. Like I said, this is just part of what we will be learning. I will keep you updated throughout this school year as we move into new critical thinking and career aspects.



### Mr. Jensen, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Delva, Ms. Roberts & Ms. Hernández

Welcome Back! I am happy to have talked to all the kids in my classroom this year, even if it was virtually. We are going to have a great year despite the covid-19 challenges. We will be keeping in touch through Zoom and Google Classroom. Remember to stay happy and I will see all of you very soon.



### Ms. Senat, Ms. Jackson, & Mr. Vandeveld 9th-12th Life Skills

Welcome back! 2020 has been a historic year so far! We have had to adjust to wearing masks, online schooling, and using social distance practices. With all this, our students have shined. I am so proud of our life skills students for their hard work. This school year, our students have been working hard again through ZOOM and Google Classroom. One tip to advice is practice communication with your student about their feelings. Children may not have the vocabulary or methods to express themselves appropriately. Take time for 10-15 minutes to talk about their feelings.



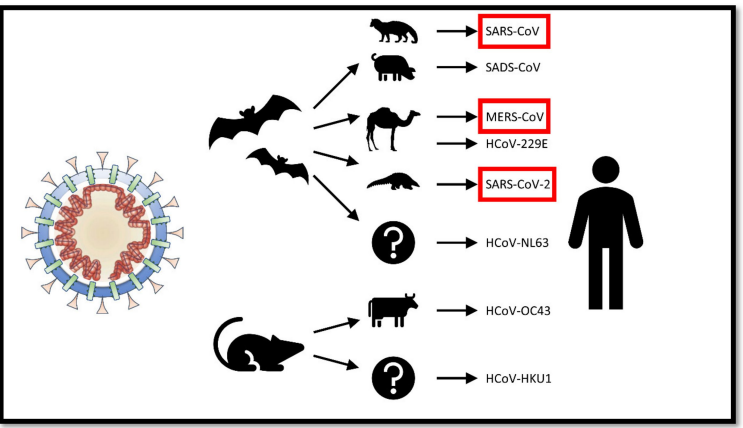


# Classroom News

## Secondary

**Mr. Krachenfels and Ms. Jackson**  
8th-12th Science

High school science would like to welcome Royal Palm students to the new 2020-2021 school year here at Royal Palm Exceptional School as well as our Home-Connect students. Additionally, we would like take this time to thank Royal Palm parents and students alike for putting forth the extra effort to be sure that students wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines. We feel that this positive parental input is a large reason why the school year has been as much of a success as it has been. Additionally, high school science is fully aware of how hard is for most people to fully understand the scientific facts that the last 3 virus outbreaks (SARS, MERS, MERCS, and MERD) and the current COVID -19 pandemic were caused and spread by diseases carried by bats.



**Mrs. Rosier and Mr. Wise**  
7th-12th Credit Retrieval

Welcome Back! I hope that you’ve all had a wonderful summer. I hope that you are relaxed, rejuvenated, and ready to start the 2020-2021 school year. I am so delighted that you are a part of our amazing learning community. Here in the Credit Retrieval learning lab, we are posed and ready to help you succeed in your academic endeavors so that you will be able to reach your highest learning potential as you prepare for a wonderful future ahead of you. Again welcome back, I am so glad you are here!

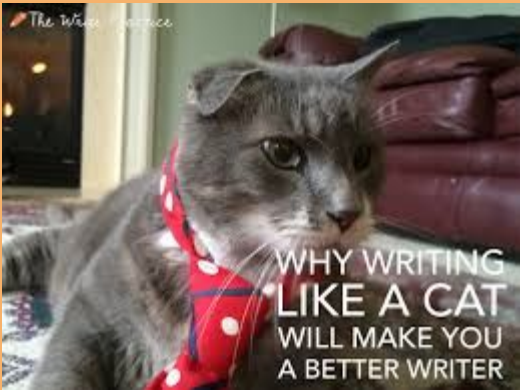


**Mr. Kovacs**  
8-12 Math

Well here we are again for another exciting school year. But this one is going to be different with some students Lee Home Connect and others in person. But with social distancing, masks and washing your hands frequently we will get through it. We are off to a good year!

**Ms. Strykiewicz and Ms. Blue**  
8-12 English

A new school year brings new opportunities, even in this nontraditional year. It is exciting to think about all of the learning that will happen in the year ahead. We are already off to a great start with students working on their first essay of the year. During the first week of school, students wrote from the perspective of an animal. They imagined what the animal might think about and do during their day. There were some very creative responses! I can’t wait to see what these young minds write next.



**Ms. Alexandre and Ms. Sneed**  
8th-12th Social Studies

Greeting Parents and Students!!!  
This school year is the first time we came back to school wondering about what we needed to do to keep us going strong. I am glad everyone is healthy and safe in our building, however, we must remain very vigilant to fight the spread of this virus. For those students who are studying at home on Lee Home Connect, I want to thank the parents and guardians who are doing their best in such unprecedented circumstances. With that being said, I want to reassure that I, Mrs. Alexandre will do my best to make sure that our students are learning all they can in social studies. Together we will conquer this virus, and we will return to our normal school setting in the near future.







# Classroom News

## Secondary

**Ms. Hill and Mr. Green**

**8th-12th Critical Thinking & Careers**

Hello all, I am Ms. Hill. I am teaching one of the Careers elective classes here at Royal Palm Exceptional School. So far, this class has been working on self-actualization affirmations and coping skills, while learning what a resume looks like, writing a resume and follow-up after an interview. We are also exploring individual students' future careers, i.e., if a student wants to go to trucking school. I help that particular student look up different trucking schools in FL. Together we will research a specific trucking school or two; to find out what is expected, how long it takes until you get your trucking license, what it costs, and if there are scholarship programs offered, and what the beginning salary looks like.

I want my students to know something about what to expect when they graduate and find themselves looking for employment. I am truly enjoying working with these students, they make me laugh and I find that they are very inquisitive. I am located in room #118, stop by and say hello anytime.

**Ms. Gilmore and Mrs. Tivis-Barron**  
**8th-12th Reading**

Dear Parents/Guardians  
I hope you had a fun, exciting, and enjoyable summer! My name is Ms. Gilmore. I am the high school reading teacher. It is my goal to provide all students with an educationally challenging, yet fun, experience in my classroom. Please be sure to check for student point sheets, which are sent home daily. We want you to know that one of our most important goals this year is to keep the lines of communication open with you. Please don't hesitate to contact me at (239) 337-3511. I look forward to working with you this year!



**Mr. Ramos and Ms. Howell**  
**P.E.**

I hope everyone has had a great start to the school year. So far this school year has been like no other in years past. In our class, we worked on spatial awareness and low impact/ high intensity workout videos (Home Connect/Rainy Day PE). The students have shown an interest in being out of the classroom for a while as well as being able to have fun in the sun. Please make sure to hydrate your students when at home with lots of water while they're playing. For Home Connect students, please go to the PE Google Classroom and watch the video tutorial regarding how to complete your assignments. Make sure to stay 6 ft apart and practice social distancing when possible. Thanks in advance, Coach Ramos & Coach Howell



**Ms. Castro**  
**School Social Worker**

Hello, Royal Palm family! My name is Ms. Castro, and I am the School Social Worker here at Royal Palm. I am so happy to be here for my fourth school year and my second being here full-time! As your School Social Worker, I work with students and families closely in regards to mental health, attendance, resources, and many other things. Attendance is extremely important – both in person and virtually this school year. A student cannot succeed if they are not actively participating in their academics. A very important component of moving up levels is achieving that perfect 40 on a point sheet and you cannot earn a 40 if you are not here in person or logging in! Please reach out to me if you ever have issues with attendance. It is also super important to communicate with the school in case your student is going to miss a day due to illness, travel, etc. You can always call me at (239) 337-3511 or email me at [VanessaCa@leeschools.net](mailto:VanessaCa@leeschools.net) if you have any questions or issues at all. I look forward to a great school year with you and your student!





# Additional News

## Mr. Mike Bursztyn Title 1 Parent Involvement and Family Engagement

As one of 45 Title 1 Schools in Lee County, Royal Palm Exceptional Center School receives additional funds for the purpose of improving student academic and behavioral achievement via teacher training, hiring additional staff (helping teachers, social worker, parent involvement teacher), purchasing instructional materials and supplies, offering parent workshops and parenting materials/resources, and supporting and increasing parent and family involvement. Like all Title 1 schools, Royal Palm has a Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP). Our draft 2020-2021 Royal Palm plan was discussed and reviewed last Spring as part of a "Zoom" meeting to obtain input and feedback, and it was part of the agenda during our Annual Title 1 Meeting via Zoom on September 22nd. During these meetings, parents, SAC members and staff provided input in the areas of defining activities that build capacity for strong parental involvement, staff training, and discretionary activities that relate to student achievement. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year we will have numerous school activities and workshops that you should attend. Naturally, due to COVID-19, there have been adjustments to how these activities will occur, with more emphasis on access via Zoom on-line communication, Google Forms, postings on our school website, and School Messenger phone calls, texts, and e-mails. I am working with Donna DJerf, District ESE Department Parent Liaison and Lanna Elrod-Flynn, District FDLRS Parent Services Specialist to present a parent workshop in October, and specific information will be communicated to you soon.

The more you are involved, the more your child will succeed, so let's work together to achieve positive academic, social and behavioral outcomes for all students at Royal Palm School. Throughout the year we will provide speakers to work with you on how understanding the IEP, behavior management, supporting math and reading in the home, home-to -school collaboration, social skills, and online safety can improve their child's academic progress and success. If you have any questions, need assistance, or would like to volunteer at the school (pending COVID-19 restrictions) please do not

hesitate to contact me, Ms. Vanessa Castro (School Social Worker) or Mr. Colin Kleinmann (School Counselor).

### Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2020-2021

Royal Palm's Parent and Family Engagement Plan for 2020-21 will be disseminated to parents soon. A paper copy of the plan will be provided via your face-to-face program student or via US Mail for Lee Home Connect students. It will also be provided via an upcoming School Messenger communication that will include a link to the document, or as an attachment if we have a current e-mail address for you. You can go to Royal Palm's school website [roy.leeschools.net](http://roy.leeschools.net) and look for this plan under "Shortcuts". Please take the time to review our Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Thank you.

### Parent & Family Engagement



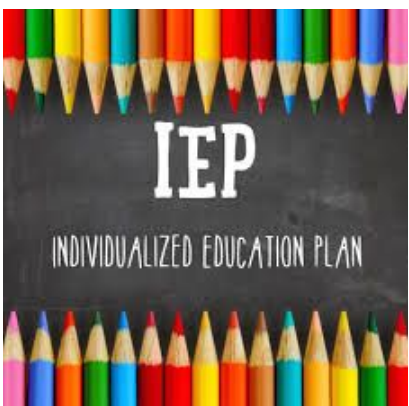
## Mrs. Meltzer Reading Coach/Media Specialist

Welcome back! To help your child become a better reader, read with them every day for at least 10 minutes. That could be you reading to them, or listening to them read to you (even when you're in the car). Expose your children to both fiction (make believe) and non-fiction (real) books. In addition all students have access to Compass Learning. A "learning path" is automatically generated based on your child's reading ability. They have access to this at home as well ([compass.leeschools.net](http://compass.leeschools.net)). Another great online resource is [FloridaStudents.org](http://FloridaStudents.org). There are fun "games" available for students of all grades!



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# Additional News

## Mrs. Millins Behavior Specialist

Welcome back Royal Palm, Families!!! I am so happy to see our students faces whether it's in person or via zoom! I will be on the lookout for students making good choices, such as, showing up on time and being prepared for class, being kind to others, and completing work. These choices will be rewarded with points. These points can be spent at our new PAW store, called The Koala Katalog. Due to COVID, our students will be able to enjoy an online shopping experience! They will be able to purchase items such as earbuds, water bottles, snacks, soccer balls, footballs and more!!! Make good choices, earn points and go shopping!!



## Mr. Kleinmann School Counselor

Hello and welcome back to another great year at Royal Palm. It is exciting to face the challenges and logistics of the new Learning Models that we are practicing district-wide. I am here to help with your students needs as they connect with school in person or remotely. I am also excited to share that there are a couple new resources in our county for mental health counseling and treatment which also accept Medicaid as well as are sliding-scale based fees. We will also be embedding Florida Career Shines into the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies curriculums to enable students to take personalized inventories that narrow down their optimal career paths. This is also available to our high school students. Elementary-aged students will be taking Safer Smarter Kids curriculum (making safe decisions) for their next grade level this year. A focus on planning for the future is more important than ever before. We are excited to have your student back to learning.



# Out-of-Field Teachers

According to Florida Statute 1012.42, we must notify parents of students who are being taught by out-of-field teachers. A teacher is out-of-field until the coverage/endorsement for a class that he or she is teaching is issued by the state of Florida. In addition, the certification and/or endorsement must appear on his or her teacher certificate. Individuals who are teaching out-of-field are certified in a least one area and are qualified to teach, but are required to take additional coursework or testing to add a coverage/endorsement to their certificate. Please contact the school, 239.337.3511, if you need further clarification. The following teachers have agreed to teach out-of-field while completing coursework and/or testing. Out of Field and Not Highly Qualified (NHQ) Lorna Baez Hernandez—ESOL (Endorsement), Essie Barns—ESOL (Endorsement), David Bechler—ESOL (Endorsement), Roderick Eady—ESOL (Endorsement), Gloria Fisher—ESOL (Endorsement), LaToya Gilmore— ESOL (Endorsement), Eric Murph—Elementary Education K-6, ESOL (Endorsement), & ESE K-12, Bethy Senat—ESOL (Endorsement), Karen Strykiewicz—ESOL (Endorsement), and Wendy Wadley—ESOL (Endorsement) Tamara Hill-ESOL (Endorsement), Jennifer Jackson--ESOL (Endorsement), and Sarah Matheson--ESOL Endorsement

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