

Royal Palm Journal/A Title I School

Winter Break!!



Lee County School District

December 19, 2019

Important Dates

** (PDD) - Professional Duty Day

** (T-IS) - Teacher In-Service Day

December 18-20 Early Dismissal Days

January 8th Students Return to School

December 20th End of Quarter 2

January 20th No School MLK Day

December 23-Jan. 3rd Winter Break

February 10th No School for Students- T-IS

January 6th Hurricane Make-Up Day

February 17th No School President's Day



Royal Palm Mission

To work in partnerships with students, families 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

Royal Palm not only has high expectations for our students academically, but we also want to build strong character, independence, responsibility, and respect in our students. Parents can help us in this process, as they are also primary teachers of our students. We should all teach and model – friendship, loyalty, team work, organizational skills, following the rules, common courtesy and kindness, cooperation, and taking responsibility for our own actions; Whether its saying “excuse me” or “I am sorry” walking down the hallway or waiting in the line at Costco. Royal Palm teachers regularly promote character traits through modeling, the Learning for Life program, and regular classroom discussions. We can make a difference in our students if we work together. Royal Palm plans to continue to enhance the learning experiences of our students and to ensure a joyful learning environment. I hope you all have a relaxing holiday break and we will see you in the New Year. Robert Moretti, Principal, Royal Palm School



Mrs. Wilson Assistant Principal

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through the school year! Our students are making great progress in reading, math and many made gains on the most recent STAR assessment. Additionally, many students are regularly using the Compass program on the computer and continue to improve academic skills at their individual levels. I hope that you can spend time enjoying your children and doing some fun activities together over the winter break. I look forward to coming back refreshed and ready for a great year in 2020! Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!



Classroom News

Elementary

Ms. Fisher and Ms. Porshae Hawkins Kindergarten & 1st grades

Dear Royal Palm Families, we have had a great start to our school year! The students have worked hard and made good progress not only on their academic skills, but on their positive behaviors and attitudes with peers. They have made good choices and certainly enjoyed their rewards at the end of the day and the week. During the break for my families that may not know, check out the Lee County School District web site that shows your child's Academic Plan or their Curriculum Map. It shows where and what your child is doing throughout the school year, along with skill building examples. It's a great tool to follow your child's learning and things they will be learning. Have a wonderful winter break and enjoy some quality time with your family and friends!

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

Season's Greetings! As we approach the holiday season we are learning about holidays that are celebrated around the world. This is an exciting time of the year for students and they are looking forward to upcoming school-wide activities. We are working hard on our social skills and learning how to be good listeners. Please remember to check your child's folder daily. The folder contains your child's daily point sheet and often has information regarding school events. We hope you enjoy time with your family and friends over break and we will see you in 2020!

Mrs. Batista and Ms. Woodard 2nd grade

Hello families, we are working hard to achieve our reading goals. We visit the library once a week to get exposure to new books and get excited about reading. The students really enjoy being read to and choral reading. I encourage parents to read with their child to enforce this important skill at home. We are working daily with our reading program and making progress!



We have created a warm caring classroom environment and continue to work on our communication skills. We are super excited for the upcoming holiday!

Ms. Jackson and Ms. Anderson 3rd grade

We are nearing the end of the second quarter and it's been a blast! Our Third graders have been learning their division, fractions, perimeter and area in Math. In Reading and Writing we have been studying the solar system. In Science they made their very own model of the Solar System. In Social Studies we have an upcoming project when the students return from winter break on the different cultures. Our babies have been taking their learning seriously!

Mrs. Eddy, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Thornton Elementary Life Skills

We have continued to work on our name identification, daily journal writing, weekly spelling and vocabulary words, counting, identifying less and more, place value, and have added our birthdate and age identification. In preparation for the holiday season, we have been reading books about Christmas, and about holidays celebrated around the world. We have done two crafts a day to go with



each of the two stories read aloud. Please ask your child to share these with you because they are very proud of their hard work. Have a wonderful holiday season! Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs. Barnes, Ms. Tindal, & Ms. Hayes

3rd grade

On November 15, 2019 we visited The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre accompanied by classes: Jackson, Perl, Brown, Bechler, Murph, Eady, and Richardson. The production of Charlotte's Web was an enjoyable event! The students were able to employ learned social skills while interfacing in the community with peers and adults. To date we have worked diligently on academics and behaviors. We are proud of the students' achievements. For this quarter, language has focused on author's purpose, contractions, poems, drama, and presentation skills, in addition to strategies that improve the student's ability to process, and understand information. In math we continue to work toward mastering multiplication facts (1 – 12), individual math skills, and division. Social studies involve learning about different cultures and how it has affected our environment. Science has been all about gravity and energy. Lastly, we have completed the required assessments (STAR reading and math test, and our formative assessments. We are truly ready to embrace the holiday season! Reading tips: 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! Be SAFE and enjoy the Winter Break!



Mr. Brown and Ms. Fetting

4th grade

Seasons greetings! I recommend that you have your student read either to you or you read to them for 10-15 minutes every day. This can be done in the car or just before bed. To help develop a healthier brain, have your child alternate between a fiction and a non-fiction book after they finish one. I also recommend that your child gets 15 minutes of Compass Learning in three times a week. A "learning path" is automatically generated based on your child's reading and math abilities. Your child has access to this at home as well (compass.leeschools.net). Another great online resource is FloridaStudents.org. There are fun "games" available for students of all grades! I can't wait to have another great quarter with everyone after winter break! I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year's break.

Ms. Perl and Ms. Walker

4th grade

Our students have been quite excited and busy this holiday season! They really enjoyed attending the field trip, Charlotte's Web at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. The class had a lot of positive things to say about the fun filled play. Our class has been working on division, fractions and prime and composite numbers. Students are writing short essays for Language Arts which improves their grammar and writing skills as well as using a dictionary and the computer to build up their vocabulary. The students also enjoy using the computer for compass which increases their skills in math and language arts. Also, I am pleased to say the students work daily on system 44 which is targeted instruction and practice in phonics skills which is a computer-based program. Please have your child read every day for at least fifteen minutes. Have a safe break and Happy Holidays everyone!



Mr. Belchler and Ms. Schley

4th grade

Hello parents and guardians. Two new students have joined our class this quarter. We are looking forward to winter break and all of the good things that holidays bring: family get togethers, spending time with friends and the people who are valuable in our lives. We are hoping to get our garden up and running next quarter!

Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Lader

5th grade

We've had a great semester. Our class has explored plays, poetry, long division, adding and subtract fractions and decimals, weather, Native Americans and European Explorers. We've had a great Thanksgiving week and we are looking forward to Christmas and New Year season. Have a Happy Holiday!



Classroom News

Secondary

Mr. Eady and Ms. Farmer

3rd, 4th & 6th grades

I am pleased to announce that the students in class have made positive gains on both STAR Reading and STAR Math tests. The students have been more attentive and independent when it comes to classwork. The goal is that this momentum continues after the holiday break into the second semester. We will continue to work hard towards our academic and behavioral goals. Happy Holiday Wishes from Mr. Eady and Ms. Farmer



Mr. Murph and Ms. Harris

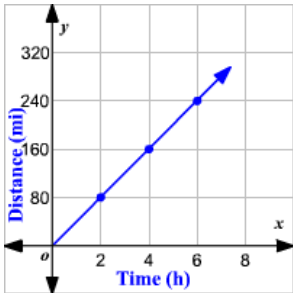
5th & 6th grades

We would like to give acknowledgement to our students for their hard work and efforts for the first half of the school year. The good vibes (chilling-out) and the structure in our classroom have brought about some positive change and educational growth. We will continue to work on behavior and interacting with others appropriately. Parents, Guardians, Staff and students, please enjoy your break. See you back in class in a couple of weeks. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Mrs. Kiesinger-Morales and Ms. Candelaro

6th-8th Math

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 sixth grade class is working on rational numbers. 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! I hope you all are able to enjoy the holiday break and make some wonderful memories. I will see everybody back on January 8th, 2020.



Ms. Kunze and Mr. Buckley

6th-8th Social Studies

Winter is here and the learning is going strong. We are learning about how our government began and the reasons why the Founding Fathers made the choices they did and how the different cultures of the colonists played a part in how things are done and how our families still practice their individual customs. Students are beginning to understand their role in their local and federal government and how to voice their opinions and let their elected officials know what they expect. It's an exciting time and we still have a lot to learn. Keep encouraging conversations with your student and explaining your customs and how they started in your family. Keep your family history alive. Happy Holidays to all of you. It is a pleasure to teach your children.



Ms. Baez and Ms. Briscoe

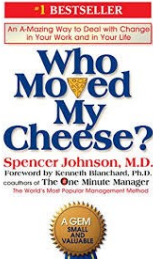
6th-8th Reading

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, I have really enjoyed working with my middle school students and getting to know them! This semester they have worked on vocabulary words, author's purpose, fluency and other reading skills. Our daily work is developed in the system of a program called Language Live. Language Live allows the students to work at their own pace. Language Live also improves their reading level. My reading students had amazing scores on their most recent STAR test. I hope they keep up this great work in 2020!

Mr. Weigand and Ms. Robinson

6th-8th Language Arts

The second quarter was productive yet moved quickly in our classroom. We read the book *Out of the Maze* by Spencer Johnson which is the sequel to *Who Moved My Cheese?* which students read in the first quarter. In this book students learned how to go about making necessary changes when confronted with obstacles such as self-doubt. They also learned the importance of developing interpersonal relationships with others who provide hope and encouragement. Writing continued to be a focal point of the curriculum and students completed essays on topics such as gratitude, and the importance of avoiding things that weigh us down. We also worked on sentence editing and constructing sentences through the use of appropriate past and present tense verbs. Students also completed their Progress Monitoring Assessments required by the district. Miss Robinson and I were pleased with the progress of our students as they showed great perseverance in trying to improve their scores from previous tests. All classes participated in The 10,000 For The Troops Holiday Card Program in which they wrote out cards for the troops overseas. We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a great 2020. We look forward to the second semester with eager anticipation.



Ms. Brown and Ms. McMillian

6th-8th Science

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, Happy Winter Break! There are also 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, see what's in your local stores for extra practice books, cooking, always have a growth mindset, reading articles, and educational web sites like Khan Academy. I am thankful to have the privilege of working and getting to know your child.



Mr. Carr and Ms. Tivis

8th-12th Critical Thinking & Careers

Greeting Royal Palm families. Throughout the last quarter your students have been focusing on how the stock market works, and much more recently, learning how to code. They've learned what stocks are, how to read tickers, charts and graphs, and how to understand market analyses to determine when to buy a stock and when to sell one.



They've been utilizing a simulation (howthemarketworks.com) where they are given a certain amount of "fake money" to buy and sell stocks, based off of real-time market values and trends, and compete against their fellow classmates to have the most profitable stock portfolio. Another skill the students have been working on is coding. Through khan-academy.org the students have been learning how to make basic drawings and animations through coding with JavaScript. As we move on throughout the next semester they will be expanding their coding abilities even further to the point of making games, simulations, and even interactive webpages.



Classroom News

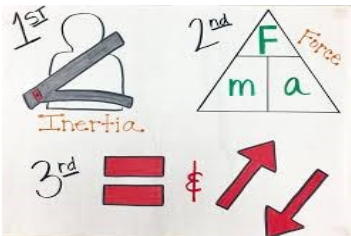
Secondary

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

It is hard to believe we are at the halfway point in the school year. Our students have improved their reading and comprehension since the beginning of school. We are also paying attention to current events by enjoying CNN 10 which is a special news show for youth. The students have also enjoyed watching lettuce and tomato plants grow in our hydroponic garden. In addition to these academic pursuits the students are employing social skills. We are trying to say please and thank you and smile when talking with adults or classmates. Sometimes simple things like waiting in line or holding the door open for someone make a good day into a great day. We wish everyone a great Holiday Break and are looking forward to more good things for 2020!

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

The High school Science Department at Royal Palm has the goal of providing each student with an understanding of basic scientific knowledge, concepts, and applications. Given the makeup of today's world, the science department feels that an extensive academic preparation in the practical applications of science is absolutely necessary for students to understand current technological advances. In order to do this our students have been studying Newton's Law of Motion, Waves Properties & Interactions, physical/chemical properties, Ecosystems, Biomes, Atmosphere & Climate Changes, Macromolecules, Cell Structure & Function, Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, and ATP. Our department would also like to congratulate our students for successfully mastering these concepts. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Mr. Jensen, Mr. Delva, & Ms. Hernández **Ms. Robinson,**
8th-12th Life Skills

Our Life Skills Class is very happy to communicate we are working on several daily needs. We are teaching and learning how to capitalize words in holidays, how to use the pronouns this, that, these, and those. We are increasing our daily and weekly spelling sight words practiced in class. Our students have the opportunity to maximize their oral reading comprehension skills, improving their verbal fluency and vocabulary. Currently, we are performing two digit addition without regrouping, and identifying money and coin values. Lessons provided from the district ULS are helping our students to improve their daily living skills, such as employment and independent living. We are very enthusiastic observing our student's outcomes!!!

Ms. Rosier and Ms. Miller **Credit Retrieval**

We have been busy in our Credit Retrieval classes.! It is imperative that each and every student come to class on time and completes all of their assignments. As we enjoy all of the festive meals of the holidays, the nutritional health of our students should remain a priority. One way to ensure that students are provided with a good source of fruits and vegetables is through a Kale smoothie. Kale greens provide a wonderful source of magnesium, potassium, and vitamin K. Here is a healthy and delicious recipe for a Kale smoothie: Ingredients: ½ cup water (or milk of choice, ½ cup orange juice, ½ frozen banana (peeled), 2 kale leaves (about ½ cup), 1 cup frozen mango chunks, ¼ avocado **nutmeg spice, cinnamon, or cardamom can be sprinkled on top for a festive holiday taste appeal. Instructions: Combine all of the ingredients in a high-speed blender and blend until completely smooth. Pour into a glass and serve right away! www.detoxinista.com. I wish you all a relaxing and restful holiday. See you in 2020!



Ms. Strykiewicz and Mr. Greene **8-12 English**

Our high school just finished up a fun group project involving puppets. Each class worked together to write some short puppet plays. They had to plan and agree on what they wanted to write about, write the script, and then revise and edit. After they finished the script, they assigned parts, picked out their puppets, and practiced.



The classes then performed their plays for the elementary school students during their lunch. The project was a lot of fun, and at the same time taught skills such as breaking down a task, planning, and working together.

Mr. Kovacs and Ms. Blue **8th-12th Math**

Holy cow, first semester is over already. That's half the school year. I hope you have a Merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. Come back refreshed to finish out the next quarter strong.

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

Hooray!!! Winter is here. Hello parents, it's really a pleasure to write this note to remind you how happy I am to be your child's teacher and a part of this learning community. Our students' are learning a lot during this school year about social studies and social issues regarding our community and our country. In the social studies class, our students' are learning a great deal about social studies, what makes the world the way it is today and how cultures evolve over the life span. They are learning about our own culture and what made it diversified over the years. They are also learning about how to appreciate our diversity and learn to treasure our country and our democracy. I can go on and on, but my aim is to remind you as parents the importance of keeping your child proactive in learning during the winter break. You can select some books that the district recommends for children to read or you can try to reach our public library, which offers excellent programs for the children. It has been a pleasure to have you trusting me with your children's education and I hope to do this again, for the next coming years. Yours in education, Ms. Saint-Cyr Alexandre



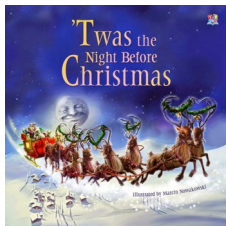
Ms. Gilmore **8th-12th Reading**

Dear parents, I would like to thank you again for all your effort this year in supporting your student(s) as they work toward their educational goals. I am looking forward to a very successful second semester and I know you are too. I have high expectations for your child, and I will do all that I can to help your child achieve those expectations. Your help and support will not only make your child more successful in school this year but will instill good study habits that will last a lifetime. I will be expecting all work assigned in class to be completed. Of course, all children do not work at the same pace. Some children will get their work done in class and some will not. Whether or not your child gets his or her work done in class has no effect on their grade. If your child does not complete an assignment in class, he or she will be required to complete it at home. The way you can help is to ask your child every school day if schoolwork needs to be done, and if so, make sure your child completes the assignment. Finally, I want you to know that one of my most important goals this year is to keep the lines of communication open with you. I am available every day to talk with you between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 239-337-3511 ext. 218 or latoyag@leeschools.net if you have any questions or concerns during the year.



9th-12th Life Skills

Season's Greetings! As we gather around with family and friends, we can continue to support our students' needs. During this holiday season, parents can involve their children in a variety of activities. Parents can read a holiday story, have students help in setting up the table and identify nouns and colors in the home. From all of us to you, happy holidays!



Title 1 Parent Involvement and

The 2018-2019 public accountability reports (SPARs) are now referred to as Florida report cards data. Royal Palm does not receive a school grade but does receive what the Florida Department of Education refers to as a school improvement rating each year.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), sets forth new requirements for state, district, and school report cards that were previously met by Florida's School Public Accountability Reports (SPARS). These new requirements are effective beginning with the 2017-18 school year and are reflected in the Florida Report Cards that are available through the EduData Portal. Historical data can be found through the SPARS database. Royal Palm Exceptional Center received a 2018-2019 School Improvement Rating of "Maintaining". This is an improvement over the prior year's rating, due in part to increased learning gains by our students, and Royal Palm qualified for School Recognition Funds this year as a result. To access Royal Palm's reports and data, go to the Royal Palm Exceptional Center website roy.leeschools.net and under "Shortcuts" click on the "Annual School Report Card" link and the "Annual School Public Accountability Report (SPAR)" link.

****Student achievement for the 2018-2019 school year is as follows: Learning Gains for English Language Arts (ELA) – For ALL Royal Palm students tested, 38.6% showed learning gains for the 2018-19 school year. This was an increase from 16.7% the previous year. For the LOWEST 25% of Royal Palm’s students, 58.3 % showed learning gains for the 2018-19 school year. There was no state data for the previous year.**

Learning Gains for Math -- For ALL Royal Palm students tested, 39.1% showed learning gains for the 2018-19 school year. This was an increase from 17.9% the previous year. For the LOWEST 25% of Royal Palm's students, 29.4% showed learning gains for the 2018-19 school year. There was no state data for the previous year. Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA): Per the Florida Department of Education (DOE) school report card website, the percentage of all Royal Palm students tested that took an alternate assessment for 2018-2019 was 15.7 %. The FSAA is given for English Language Arts (ELA), Math and Science. Royal Palm data can be found on our website roy.leeschools.net - under "What's Happening", click on the "Notification to Parents and Stakeholders of Student Achievement" link to access this report. Additional Royal Palm information for school grades and school improvement ratings can be found under "Shortcuts".

As a parent, you play an important role in your child's education - the more you are involved, the more your child will experience academic, social and behavioral success here at Royal Palm. There were many flyers, school website postings, Twitter posts, and School Messenger phone calls, emails and/or text messages from me during this first semester, inviting you to attend school events. We had Open House, the Annual Title 1 Meeting, parent workshops, Pastries for Parents, primary grades Trick or Treat, Giving Thanks Turkey Luncheon for parents, and SAC meetings. Many of you are busy, or live far from Royal Palm Exceptional Center, but PLEASE make every effort to attend the events, activities and workshops at our school. You can provide your ideas and feedback regarding parent and family engagement by calling me at the school at 337-3511. Have a safe and relaxing holiday break. Thanks

6-8 Art

Happy holidays from the art department. My students have been very busy creating Christmas crafts for our school's big Christmas party. Our theme is Santa Clause is coming to town. Decorations will be put up during the last week of school before winter break. I'm looking forward to seeing all the crafts collectively at the party!

Reading Coach/Media Specialist

Happy Holidays! Winter break is a great time for extra reading practice. Two websites that are great are Compass Learning (compasslearning.leeschools.net) and Florida Students (floridastudents.org). Starfall (starfall.com) and Fun Brain (funbrain.com) have educational games available as well. To give your child another opportunity to improve their reading, mute your television and turn on the closed captioning function. This will increase your child's reading fluency and comprehension! Have a wonderful and relaxing break, see you in 2020.

P.E.

This semester went by so fast! In PE, we played many different games and sports that your students' really enjoyed. We did tug of war, parachute, sack races, 3 legged races, frisbee toss and flag tag amongst other games. We also learned about volleyball, basketball, football and played some dodgeball and freeze tag. I look forward to what the new year brings and how well we work to move into the end of the school year.

Behavior Specialist

SHOW ME THE PAWS!!!! The students of Royal Palm are working diligently on their behaviors to earn their Paw Bucks. Every Friday they are given the opportunity to spend their bucks at the Paw Store. They are also using their social skills to work collaboratively on holiday art to decorate our school! Encourage your children to make good choices through the holidays and get plenty of rest!!!

School Counselor

I hope you all have a wonderful Winter Break! There are some great things that we are looking forward to in the year 2020! We will be implementing PurposePrep for social/emotional and mental health education for all students grades 6 through 12. Elementary aged students will begin their education on substance abuse prevention and medicine safety. I am looking forward to bringing more guest speakers into the school, and finding avenues for students to tour the local technical colleges. Parents please remember that your student's school counselor also acts as liaison for the School Mental Health Team, and that we have the resources as a district to help connect your student to outpatient therapy, medication management, and case management. Thank you for reading, and let's have a fabulous year together, as a Royal Palm family.

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 course work 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 course work and/or testing. Out of Field and Not Highly Qualified (NHQ) Lorna Baez Hernandez—ESOL (Endorsement), Essie Barns—ESOL (Endorsement), Michele Batista— Elementary Education K-6 & 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, Elyse Perl—ESOL (Endorsement), Bethy Senat—ESOL (Endorsement), Karen Strykiewicz—ESOL (Endorsement), Wendy Wadley—ESOL (Endorsement), and Kevin Weigand—ESOL (Endorsement)

