

Royal Palm Journal/A Title I School

Winter Break!!

Lee County School District

December 20, 2017

Important Dates

December 23–January 7th Winter Break
January 15th Students off– MLK Day
February 19th No School-President
February 20th Teacher In-Service Day—no school for students
March 16th End of 3rd Quarter



Project Dentists Care – If you or your child are in need of basic dental care, please contact Nicole Rodriguez, Administrator at Project Dentists Care – phone 239-561-1949 or e-mail them at pdc@projectdentistscare.com for an appointment. The mission of Project Dentists Care is to provide basic dental care to those under 200% of the poverty level in Lee County. They use volunteer dentists to provide the services, and have provided free care to 950 patients since opening last year.

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

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. 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 for helping us ensure your children's safety at school.

Robert Moretti

Principal

Royal Palm School



Mrs. Wilson Assistant Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through the school year! Our students are making great progress in reading and 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 2018! Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!

Latoria Wilson

Assistant Principal



Classroom



Elementary

Ms. Joceline and Ms. Jackson

Pre-K-Kindergarten

Hello and happy holidays. We have quite a great class right now. Everyone is doing better behavior wise and are learning so much in academics. We are working really hard on writing our names, learning our colors and basic shapes. We are counting to 20 without making mistakes and learning about holidays of the year. We are also working on the alphabet and learning how to form, trace, write and identify the letters and the sounds they make. We wish you a safe holiday break and happy holidays!

Ms. Winiarz and Ms. Hawkins

1st & 2nd grades

My Second Graders are off to a good pace as we approach the half way mark! In math we are learning how to write numbers in different ways (word and expanded). In Reading we are learning how to describe characters, settings and major events in a story. In Language Arts we are learning to produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification. We have been able to use that information while playing some fun learning games. We have been working hard on practicing our goals to get along with each other and express our feelings in a positive way. We are growing and getting better every day.

Ms. Nedelman and Ms. Walker

1st & 2nd grades

Dear Parents and Families, We have had a great start to the school year! We are enjoying getting to know your child and watching them grow and mature into wonderful students. We have adapted to our schedule very nicely and are working hard on doing our personal best both with our learning choices and in the way that we treat our peers – with kindness and respect.

We have very high expectations for all of our students and want each to be successful. I believe the classroom should also be a positive and safe place for your child to learn. During the year your child will engage in hands-on activities, songs, dances, and interactive centers all designed to help them grow. I eagerly look forward to an enjoyable year working with you and your child. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me! While we will do our best to educate and encourage our students, the only way we can succeed is with the help of the family. I encourage you to spend time every evening reading to/with your child and completing homework. I am always willing to provide extra materials for you to use at home. I look forward to sharing your child's successes this year.

Ms. Bidwell, Ms. Thornton, and Ms. Hayes

2nd grade

Wow another semester has passed, time flies by when you're having fun learning! Ms. Thornton and myself are so proud of our students and they are actively participating in their learning. They are currently working hard on their reading goals and learning creative writing and how to write their story on word document. The most exciting part of my job is observing my students work hard to achieve their goals in the classroom.

Learning does not only happen in the classroom, children are consistently learning from their surroundings. Parents you are their most important teacher, read to them and guide them. I hope everyone has a happy and blessed Holiday Season.

Ms. Torres and Ms. Anderson

2nd & 3rd grades

We have had a wonderful December. We had our very first field trip to the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater. We also hung up our ornaments on our tree and decorated our door as a snowman. We had to say good bye to two of our friends and classmates,. They will be moving on to new schools. We saved a 1000 Paw Bucks and had our McDonald's Meal on December 22, 2017!



I want to remind you that home learning is two pages per day. To help your child become a better reader, read with them every day for at least 20 minutes. A great online resource is FloridaStudents.org. There are fun "games" available for students of all grades!

Ms. Rios and Ms. Harris

3rd grade

Hello Parents. When we return from winter break we will be learning about long vowel digraphs, compare and contrast, imperative and Exclamatory Sentences, Fact and Opinion, etc. In Math we will be working on: Chapter 3 Understand Multiplication and Chapter 4 Multiplication Facts and Strategies, relating addition and multiplication, model with arrays, commutative property of multiplication, multiply with 1 and 0, 2 and 4, 5 and 10, etc.

It is a great idea to read to your child each night for at least 10 minutes. This will help your child become a better reader. We appreciate anything you can do to help support your child with reading. This will just the beginning of this wonderful year!

Sincerely, Ms. Rios

Ms. Fisher and Ms. Briscoe

3rd & 4th grades

Dear Royal Palm Families, We have had a great start to our school year!The students are working hard and making good progress not only on their academic skills, but their positive behaviors and attitudes with peers. They have been making good choices and certainly enjoy the 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. 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 the quality time with your family and friends!! Sincerely, Ms. Fisher

Ms. Barnes and Ms. Tindall

4th grade

On December 5, 2017, we went on our first field trip to the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre accompanied by Classes Torres, Perl, and Rios. The Production of "Jungle Aarrgh the Way" was an enjoyable event! The students were able to view and learn about a different medium and employ learned social skills while interfacing in the community with peers and adults.

Currently no one is on Level (0) and we have been diligently working on behaviors through our Social Skills Programs (Learning for Life and Mind Yeti), in addition to Academics.

As we look forward to winter break, the students can reflect upon and be proud of their accomplishments, especially in the area of STAR Reading and Math for this quarter. Most of the students demonstrated significant learning gains!!!!!! Way to Go!!! Having finished all required testing, we are ready to embrace the Holidays. Season Greetings and a Happy New Year 2018!!!! Be safe.

Ms. Perl and Ms. Midget

4th & 5th grades

Our students have been quite excited and busy this holiday season! They really enjoyed attending the field trip to "Jingle Arghh the Way" and had a lot of positive things to say about it. We had three students of the week in quarter 2. Our class has been working on division, idioms for Language Arts, increasing their vocabulary by using a dictionary and the computer. The students had a blast illustrating their idioms. Please have your child read every day for at least fifteen minutes. Have a safe break and Merry Christmas, everyone!

Ms. Richardson and Ms. Williams

5th grade

Hello Royal Palm Family. Our students have been quite excited and busy this holiday season! They really enjoyed Santa and the Church of the Cross visit to our school! 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. Have a safe break and Merry Christmas, everyone!

Mr. Eady and Ms. Farmer

5th grade

I would like to congratulate my students on a wonderful effort on their most recent STAR Math and STAR reading assessments. Our class made positive gains in both areas. As the winter break comes and goes and school is back in session, I am hopeful that our class will continue making positive strides academically. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Classroom News

Secondary

Ms. Florit and Ms. Sneed

6th grade

Our sixth grade class is off to a great start, as we approach the half way mark! In math we are mastering ratio and rates! We have been able to use that information while applying these skills to real situations and scenarios. In Language Arts we are finishing up with Unit 7 and working on our identification of a topic and authors purpose as well developing our reading fluency. In Science and World History we are discovering the world in various ways and growing in our knowledge. We are really working hard on practicing our goals to get along with each other and express our feelings in a positive way. We are growing and maturing every day.

Mrs. Kiesinger-Morales and Ms. Candelaro

6th-8thMath

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 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! 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 6th-8th grade standards and curriculum.

Mr. Weigand and Mrs. Lemos

6th-8th Language Arts

The second quarter has been productive in middle school language arts. Students have been diligently completing their biweekly Compass Learning assignments. We have also been reading different sections of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, focusing on topics such as developing a personal bank account and personal accountability. We have also been reviewing concepts such as essay organization and the correct usage of common and proper nouns. Students have also written essays about “Why I need to develop personal accountability.” and “Why developing a personal code of behavior is beneficial.” We are also participating in a project through Fox News entitled 10,000 For The Troops in which students send a holiday card to troops who will be stationed overseas during the holidays. We have also conducted group discussions on health – related issues such as sugar consumption and obesity.

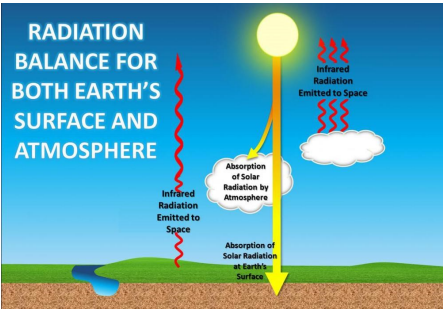
We wish all students and their families a joyous holiday season. We are very proud of the effort that students have put forth in the second quarter.



Ms. Brown and Ms. McMillian

6th-8th Science

Dear Families, It is amazing that we are already halfway through the school year! I have really enjoyed working with my students and getting to know them! My helping teacher, Ms. McMillian, is absolutely amazing with helping students with social skills. In 6th grade we are finishing up about how energy moves through the Earth. In 7th grade, we are learning about ecology, specifically animal interactions. Last, in 8th grade we are completing the unit on matter. Next year, 8th grade students will be learning about the cycle of matter and energy, 7th grade students will be learning about human impact on our planet, and 6th grade students will be learning about weather and climate. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Ms. Kunze and Mr. Buckley

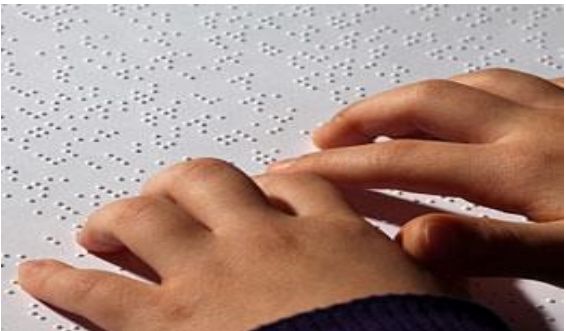
6th-8th Social Studies

The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are moving right along learning about the world, politics and the beginning of our government. The 6th graders have just started learning about ancient Egypt and are enjoying learning about the pyramids and pharaohs. They are coming into class telling stories of Egypt that they have seen on TV at home. The 7th and 8th graders are learning about our Founding Fathers and the Constitution. They are learning how to be responsible citizens. All of the students are very interested in what they are learning and enjoy sharing the stories they have learned with their families. Parents continue to ask them what they are learning and keep the discussion going. It is also great to watch the news and keep up with current events and see how the past effects what our world is doing now. As we approach the holidays it would be fun for your family to read about how your ancestors celebrated the holidays and have your student share it with their class. Happy Holidays!

Ms. Lee and Ms. Lader

6th-8th Career

Hello Royal Palm Family. We have had a fun quarter with many marvelous guest speakers. One of our guest speakers, whom was blind came in and spoke to our students about what life is like without vision. The students were able to print out their names in braille. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and New Year!



Classroom News High School



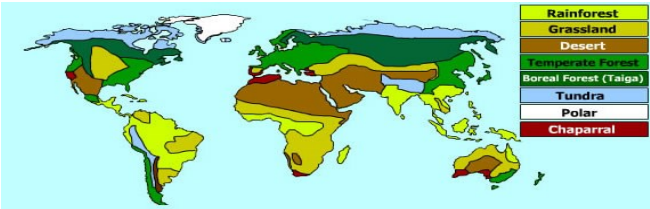
Dr. Moore, Mr. Cummings, & Ms. Hawkins 9th-12th Life Skills

It is hard to believe the holiday season is upon us. Our life skills students have made progress as we have been studying ways to use math, technology, and reading in “real-life” situations. Please allow the students to help with writing grocery lists and even using the calculator at the store. Our behavior continues to improve. We had a birthday party for Drifter, the therapy dog. Perhaps our most important upcoming accomplishment are our 2 students who will be graduating this December! I wish a big congratulations to these young men. Have a relaxing winter vacation and we’ll see everyone in 2018.

Mr. Krachenfels and Ms. Blue 8th-12th Science

High School science would like to congratulate our science students for their upcoming successful completion of the second quarter of the 2017 school year. During this second quarter our science classes have covered biomes and aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity and conservation, human population, motion, mechanical waves & sound, atomic structure, cell structure, and cell functions.

We are also pleased that our high school students have consistently achieved high academic scores in these academic areas and that these students have shown excellent attitudes towards school. Additionally we have planned on two field trips for the second semester. In January we are planning on going to the Imaginarium Science Center, and in April taking a tour of the Henry Ford Estate and going on a Caloosahatchee River pontoon boat science cruise. It has been a very good year for all and we are sure this trend will continue into the 2018 school year. We wish that your Christmas is wrapped in joy and filled with love. I wish for peace, health and happiness throughout the coming year.



Mr. Ramos and Ms. Tivis 8th-12th Critical Thinking & Financial Literacy

I hope everyone has a great holiday break. In our class, we’ve been working on teaching our students how to apply for a job, writing in cursive, writing a check, supply and demand, etc. We have also learned how to interview for a job and create a budget. Our students are getting better at signing their names in cursive and we can’t wait to start the new year in a new direction.

Ms. Baez and Ms. Schley 8th-12th Reading & Spanish

Dear Families, I have really enjoyed working with my reading and spanish students and getting to know them! This semester we have completed some amazing activities! My students are making great academic gains according to their Star Test results. Keep up the good work! I wish you all a great holiday season!

Mr. Hebner and Ms. Henderson 8-12 English

Greetings to my Koala family, it's Mr. Hebner here, and the high school students have been developing their research and writing skills this quarter. They have been searching for textual evidence in complex sources to support their thesis statements when constructing a 5- paragraph essay. Some of my students have really put forth a considerable amount of effort. Overall, always an interesting day at the Palm!

Mr. Rivas, Ms. Senat , Ms. Christian, Ms. Hawkins, & Ms. Mitchel 9th-12th Life Skills 9th-12th Life Skills

In Koala Life Skills we learned about holidays around the world. We read stories from other countries. The students enjoyed holiday crafts that celebrate diversity of their cultures. Happy holidays from Royal Palm Life Skills department!

Mr. Kovacs and Mr. Green 8th-12th Math

If you want to get better at math the no stress way is just build it into your day. We all buy stuff. Count your change. Estimate what your bill will be. Estimate how much tax you will pay at 6% or how much you will save with the 15% discount. This type of math is called Consumer Math which will serve you well since you will be buying stuff for the rest of your life. I wish everyone a Happy Holiday and look forward to seeing you back here in 2018.

Ms. Alexandre and Ms. Thomas 8th-12th Social Studies

We have been busy in our social studies classes.. It is imperative that each and every student come to class on time and completes all of their assignments. I wish you all a relaxing and restful holiday. See you in 2018!

Shandra Backens-Teacher Leader 7th-12th Credit Retrieval

Setting a daily goal for yourself is key to making progress in everything. Kids can use help setting daily goals, too. Setting achievable goals can help you and your child as s/he grows into an adult. Start by allowing your child to choose a goal for themselves that can likely be completed by the end of the day. Then, check-in about their progress to help them with time management, or give them guidance to break the task into smaller parts until the goal is achieved. A new year’s resolution is considered a long-term goal and may be forgotten about after a short period of time. However, if you can reach your daily goal, you will feel the sense of accomplishment right away. Have a wonderful holiday!

Mrs. Stephens K-12 Art

Our students have been quite excited and busy this holiday season! They are counting down the days until Winter Break and oh, Elementary students can’t wait until Santa and The Church of the Cross visit our school! We have been making holiday Arts and crafts. You can see some of the elementary, middle and high school kids’ decorations displayed on Royal Palm’s Tree at the Edison-Ford Estates. Congratulations to our two 5th graders who participated in Kids Tag Art and received Awards of Distinction! Their art is turned into decorative front end license plates, bicycle tags and key fobs for sale. These designs represent our school and are available to the public on the Lee County Tax Collector website. Have a safe break and Merry Christmas everyone!

Mrs. Meltzer Reading Coach

Happy Holidays! Winter break is a great time for extra reading practice and trips to the library! One fun idea to get your child reading is to cook together. Cooking is so much fun over the holidays and provides a great opportunity for your child to read out the ingredients and steps. Two websites students can also practice their reading skills at are compasslearning.leeschools.net and floridastudents.org. Have a wonderful and relaxing break, see you in 2018!



Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Murph **P.E.**
P.E. has been a lot of fun this quarter from Pre-k all the way through 8th grade and High School earned time . Elementary students have learned a lot about getting along with peers and helping younger, less experienced classmates learn basic skills and games. Intermediate age students have learned volleyball, basketball, tetherball and flag football skills as well as teamwork and the benefits of being physically fit. The addition of our weight training facility has added a new and valuable option to the other sports. Happy Holidays from your P.E. Department! Mr. Murph and Mr. Cochrane



Mr. Mike Bursztyn **Title 1 Parent Involvement**
During this past quarter you received e-mails, phone calls and/or texts from me via Royal Palm ParentLink. My goal is to reach out to all of you and get you involved in events, workshops and activities at our school. I realize many of you are busy, or live far from the school, but please consider attending parent workshops and other school-wide events as a way to support your child’s behavioral, social and academic success.
Recently we held parent workshops on IEPs and behavior techniques. We also held a Pastries with Parents event. Thank you to those of you who attended, and I would love to see more of you attend in the future. Please contact me with any ideas regarding increasing parent and family engagement here at Royal Palm. For example, would you attend a parent workshop if it was held at 8:00 in the morning here at Royal Palm? Or, I could change the location and have a workshop at the District Public Education Center on Colonial and Metro. Please provide your ideas and feedback. The school’s number is 337-3511. Have a safe and relaxing holiday break Thanks.



Mrs. Cioffi **School Counselor**
Holiday Health and Safety Tips:
* Wash your hands often- take precautions to avoid getting sick.
* Stay warm- Please dress students in layers. Mornings can be chilly. They can always take a jacket off in the afternoon heat.
* Manage stress this holiday season- Balance work, home and play. Remember what is really important.
* Travel safely- Don’t text and drive. Make sure to buckle your seatbelts.
* Be smoke free- Avoid smoking and breathing in other people’s smoke.
* Get check-ups and vaccinations- don’t forget to schedule your child’s annual checkup.
* Watch the kids and prevent injuries- be careful when hanging those decorations.
* Handle and prepare food safely.
* Eat healthy and be active. – find fun ways to stay active with your children. Dance to your favorite holiday music.

Mr. Cioffi **Behavior Specialist**
Students are having a great time doing the right thing here at Royal Palm. Part of our Positive Behavior Support is the “Paws Store.” Students earn paws from teachers and staff. They save these paws and then go shopping at our school store. Students shop either Tuesday or Thursday with their teacher or helping teacher. We are always looking for donated items for the store. If you clean out any gently used toys or games, please consider donating them to the store. Thanks!



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
Out of Field and Not Highly Qualified (NHQ) Essie Barns—ESOL (Endorsement), Jennifer Bidwell—ESOL (Endorsement) & NHQ Elementary Education K-6, Nichol Florit—ESOL (Endorsement), Elementary Education K-6, and NHQ, Roderick Eady—ESOL (Endorsement), Gloria Fisher—ESOL (Endorsement), James Hebner—English 6-12 and NHQ, Elyse Perl— Elementary Education K-6 and NHQ, Alfreda Richardson—ESOL (Endorsement), Candida Rios—ESOL (Endorsement), David Rivas-Rodriguez—ESOL (Endorsement), Suze Saint-Cry Alexandre—ESOL (Endorsement), Bethy Senat—ESOL (Endorsement), Evelyn Torres—Elementary Education k-6 and NHQ

