

Royal Palm Journal/A Title I School

Winter Break!!

Lee County School District

December 18, 2018

Important Dates (PDD)-Professional Duty Day (ISD)-In-Service Day

December 21st End of Quarter 2 **January 8th** No School for Students— PDD

December 19-21 Early Dismissal Days **January 21st** No School MLK Day

December 24-Jan. 4th Winter Break **February 18th** No School President's Day



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

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 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 2019! Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!



Classroom News

Elementary

Ms. Fisher and Ms. Jackson **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 and Ms. 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 also learning the difference between tattling and telling. 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 2019!

Mrs. Winiarz and Ms. Davis **2nd & 3rd grades**

My Second and Third Graders are off to a good pace as we approach the half way mark! In math we are learning how to write numbers different ways, comparing and 2-digit addition. 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 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 getting better every day.

Mrs. Eddy and Ms. Harris **3rd grade**

Our students have been busy practicing our daily routine and procedures, and working on following the classroom and school rules. In language arts, they have continued working on weekly spelling lists, reading comprehension strategies, and conventions of writing. They have also learned about some of the other holidays celebrated in December. In Science, they have discussed the stars, sun, moon, and Earth. In Math, they have learned about fractions, and how they are alike and different. In Social Studies, they have reviewed social stories to guide actions and behaviors and different strategies to use when upset or angry.

Ms. Torres and Ms. Anderson **3rd grade**

Greetings, we have had a wonderful 4 months of school. 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 800 Paw Bucks and we will have our Culver's Meal on December 21, 2018! I want to remind you that home learning is two pages a day and 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. Lee & Ms. Davis **Elementary Life Skills**

Hello, I hope everyone has a great holiday. We are learning to communicate in sign as well as spoken language. We have been working on letters and numbers and being good citizens. We have been learning about winter holidays. Please, ask your students what they learned. If I can be of any assistance to you or if you have any concerns, please call me at 239-337-3511 or email me at Jenniferlle@leeschools.net.

Ms. Rios and Ms. Schley **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. I wish you all a wonderful break and I will see everyone back in 2019! Sincerely, Ms. Rios

Mrs. Barnes and Ms. Tindal **3rd & 4th grades**

Jingle All the Way!!!!!! Winter break will soon be here, and Christmas is just around the corner. The students have worked hard and are looking forward to a time of holiday cheer with family and friends. To date we have worked diligently on academics and behavior. Language has focused on main ideas, cause and effect, poems, author's purpose, and other important strategies to improve the student's ability to process, and understand information. In math, we have learned key concepts and terminology about fractions, identifying composite/prime numbers, and mastering multiplication facts (1 – 12). In social studies we have learned about the different cultures, how they have shaped Florida's history, the significance of Fort Mose and the first Free African American Community in the United States during the 1500's. Lastly, in science we learned all about what type of energy the sun produces, and recognizing renewable/non-renewable resources.



Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Walker **5th grade**

Ms Richardson's 5th grade class has been on the move: exploring the new world, off into the solar system and learning about Native Americans. This quarter we added, subtracted, multiplied and divided fractions, made a Thanksgiving grocery list, calculated the prices and totals, and we graphed these items to see what was most expensive on our list (It was turkey and pies!). We have also learned about the structure of dramas and poems, determined the main ideas and details of the subject matter, paraphrased, corrected spelling and grammar, printed out our science and social studies facts on Powerpoint for display on posters and projects and we had a ball making our Thanksgiving decorations!

Ms. Perl and Ms. Fetting **5th grade**

Our class is very excited to see the show, The Nutcracker, at Broadway Palm Theater. Included in this event is a delicious buffet luncheon which I know my students will enjoy. Our class has been working diligently to grasp fraction concepts before our holiday vacation. The students are learning strategies for using more descriptive language through the use of adverbs, adjectives and figurative language. We have also worked on idioms, reading comprehension, and writing skills in our language arts program. Have a wonderful Christmas vacation and I am looking forward to working on many new exciting projects with my students.

Mr. Eady and Ms. Farmer **5th & 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.



Classroom News

Secondary

Mrs. Gilmore and Ms. Sneed **6th grade**

Dear Parents: What a fantastic first semester of the 2018-19 school year! In the spirit of this holiday season, we want to tell you how much we enjoy and appreciate the opportunity we have to work with your children every day. The energy and the excitement for learning that they bring inspires all of us. Thank you also, for the support you give your child and our school. We feel so fortunate to work with such a caring and compassionate group of people. Please remember to spend those precious 15- 30 minutes each evening reading to or with your child and to be sure to check in with him/her to see how their day at school went. We know how busy and hectic this time before the December holiday break can be. Despite this, we hope all of you are able to find time to enjoy this special season of the year with your family and friends!

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 9th, 2019.



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

The 6th graders are happily walking like Egyptians as we study Ancient Egypt. The 7th graders are learning about the 3 Branches of Government and the 8th graders are in the middle of the Revolutionary War. All the students have expressed a great interest in world events past and present. As we celebrate the holidays it would be a great idea for parents and grandparents to share how your family holiday traditions started with your children. We hope you enjoy your holidays and encourage your child to work hard the rest of the year. Merry Christmas and Happy 2019!!!



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

It has been a very expedient second quarter in middle school language arts. Each Monday the character education topic for the week was introduced. We then followed that with a group discussion or video presentation that provided more information about the topic. Later in the week students wrote essays about topics that were presented. Some of the topics we discussed were service, the importance of using positive affirmations, and why values are important. As December approached, we talked about giving, specifically the physiological benefits associated with giving such as reduced blood pressure and heightened self-esteem. Students also participated in the 10,000 for The Troops program by writing out a holiday card for military personnel stationed overseas during the holidays.. Aside from the character education lessons, we worked on English grammar concepts that included the correct usage of nouns, proper nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and homophones. Vocabulary development was also addressed through the use of both flashcards and Compass Learning. Students also did an excellent job in completing their USA testing assessments. We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to more great things to come in 2019.



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

Season's Greetings! I hope all of you have had a wonderful school year so far. In science, the students are learning either Earth and Space, Life or Physical Sciences. Spend time with your child either reading about, doing, or watching science activities online or go to your local library to find plenty of resources to help increase your student's knowledge in any of the sciences. Truly Yours, Ashley Brown

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 2019!



Classroom News

High School

Dr. Moore & Ms. Thorton **9th-12th Life Skills**

Welcome to our newest student Triston. The weeks are flying by. It won't be long until 2018 will be over. The students in our room are learning their states and capitals. We also are learning a lot about reading from the interesting stories in the ULS (Unique Learning System) digital library. We have a class cheer ready for students who successfully read each passage. Please allow the students to participate in your grocery shopping trips by reading labels. Take some time to relax with family and friends over the holidays and we will see everyone back in 2019.

Dr. Moore and Ms. Thornton

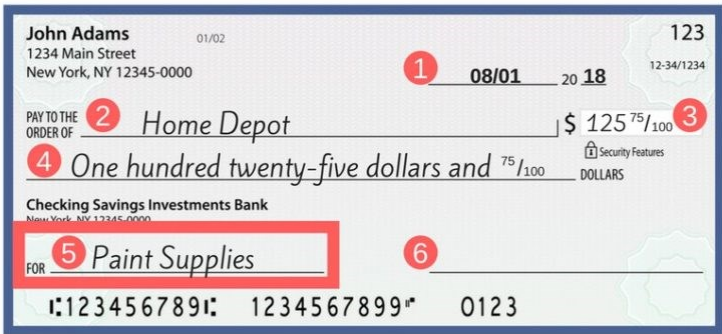
Mr. Krachenfels **8th-12th Science**

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 the Earth's spheres, plate tectonics, rock cycle, human & animal populations, chemical reactions, and physical/chemical properties. 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.



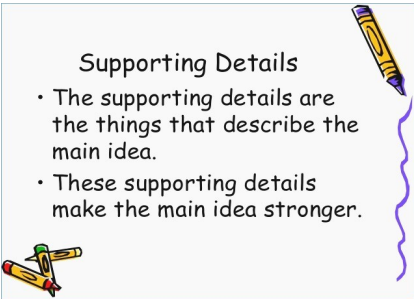
Mr. Ramos and Ms. Tivis **8th-12th Learning Strategies & High School Careers**

Hello Parents, Guardians, and students. So far this school year in our class, we have worked on teaching our students how to apply for a job, write in cursive, write a check, discussed how to use debit and credit cards, etc. We would like to see our students work on using cash to pay for items, whether it's for clothes or food, and understand how much change they should get back. We look forward to hearing how many of our students bought their own holiday gifts for themselves or their families when they return from the break. Thanks in advance, Mr. Ramos



Ms. Rosier and Ms. Williams **8th-12th Reading**

My name is Lisa Rosier and I am the new High School Reading teacher. I am so excited to be at Royal Palm and look forward to helping our students learn to read better. We will be using the Language Live! Curriculum this year and part of it will be on-line using Chromebooks and the other part will be completed in students individual books. The students will be reading about a variety of topics and it is my plan to expand these topics to hands on activities when that is possible. I want to make reading a fun class. I will also be doing my best to collaborate with other teachers so that cross curriculum learning can also take place. I welcome any ideas you may have. Please feel free to contact me at the school and I will return your call. This is going to be an awesome year!



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

We have been busy in our English 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 2019!

Mr. Padilla, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Hawkins **9th-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!!!

Thanks! Mr. Padilla

Ms. Senat, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Hernandez, and Mrs. Jerger **9th-12th Life Skills**

In our classroom we have learned about the different Biomes and Tundra of Earth. We have learned how to use Google Maps and locate Florida on the U.S. Map. We have learned what makes Geysers erupt and about forms of transportation. In Math we have learned adding with four digits and recognizing different forms of money for purchases. Also, we have been exploring the different regions and holidays around the world. Room 313 Life Skills class would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.



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

It is hard to believe the first semester is almost history. We have covered many topics, including solving basic algebraic equations both mathematically and graphically, throw in a little geometry and of course Fraction Friday. I want to wish all of you a great holiday, a happy new year and I will see you back here next year.

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

Ho! Ho! Ho! Welcome to winter. Hello parents, it is a great 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 have learned a lot since the beginning of year. It has been an amazing ride so far. My students have learned a lot about social issues regarding our community and our country as a whole. Also, my students have learned a great deal about world history, what makes the world the way it is today, and how cultures evolve over the lifespan. A topic my students were greatly interested in is when they learned about their own culture and the diversity their cultures have experienced over the years. My students know all about how to appreciate our differences and treasure our country and our democracy. During the winter break, I would like to encourage you to keep your child reading as they are having fun. There are plenty of books in our public library and more specifically, they can learn about place and location in geography, how our location saves us from snow, and winter storms. I hope you have a great winter break and wonderful time with family and friends during the holidays. Happy holidays, Ms. Saint-Cyr Alexandre



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. Happy Holidays from your P.E. Department! Mr. Murph and Mr. Cochrane



Mr. Mike Bursztyn **Title 1 Parent Involvement and Family Engagement**
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, ParentLink phone calls, e-mails 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, Scholastic Book Fair, elementary Trick or Treat, Drug Prevention Red Ribbon Week Health Fair, 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.



Mrs. Cioffi **School Counselor**
Hello Families from your Royal Palm Counselor, this is a reminder that the holidays can be stressful for some of our families. Please remember that you can call 211 for assistance. This is the United Way’s referral service. Please take time to enjoy the time with your children. Take a walk, read a book, complete a puzzle or play a board game. The best gift that we can give each other is time this season. The public library is open over our holiday break. I may see you there reading a book.

**24 Hours A Day
EVERY DAY**

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL
information and
referral to health
and human services

211
Call
Connecting people to services

LIVE UNITED
United Way

211portage.org

Mrs. Stephens **6-8 Art**
Greetings from the Art department, I am proud to report that two 5th graders (Ms. Perl’s class) have had their TAG artwork selected to receive Awards of Distinction! Both of their Distinction plates will represent our school and be available to the public to purchase on the Lee County Tax Collector’s website. Congratulations! Talented middle school students participated in creating beautiful decorations for the 2018 Edison & Ford Winter Estates Children’s Tree Trail located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33901. I hope you and your family can stop by and enjoy!



Mrs. Meltzer & Ms. Cruzado **Reading Coach/Media Specialist**
Happy Holidays! Winter break is a great time for extra reading practice! Two websites previously mentioned are compasslearning.leeschools.net and floridastudents.org. In addition, there is starfall.com (for elementary students) and funbrain.com (all students). 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 2019!

Mrs. Millins **Behavior Specialist**
Happy holidays! I’m so excited to be a part of the Royal Palm team. As the behavior specialist, I will be working with the students on managing their behaviors more effectively. As educators and parents, we strive to help our children learn to be more responsible for their own behavior. When children learn to manage their behavior better they will make better choices, be more successful at school and home, form friendships and be all around happier. Don’t forget about our PAW store which is part of our supportive behavior system.....feel free to donate items that the students might enjoy (i.e. basketballs, pencils, Legos, markers, etc.). Jill Millins, Behavior Specialist



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 Barnes—ESOL (Endorsement), Lorna Baez Hernandez—ESOL (Endorsement) , Roderick Eady—ESOL (Endorsement), Gloria Fisher—ESOL (Endorsement), Susan Galatz—ESOL (Endorsement), LaToya Gilmore—Elementary Education k-6 and ESOL (Endorsement), Jennifer Lee—ESOL (Endorsement), Elyse Perl—ESOL (Endorsement), Suze Saint-Cry Alexandre—ESOL (Endorsement), Bethy Senat—ESOL (Endorsement), Alfreda Richardson—ESOL (Endorsement) Candida Rios—ESOL (Endorsement), Karen Strykiewicz—ESOL (Endorsement) and English 6-12, and Kevin Weigand—ESOL (Endorsement) , Ashley Brown—Science 5-9, and Lisa Rosier—ESE, Science 5-9, and Reading

