# Royal Palm Journal/A Title I School



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





Lee County School District

December 21st, 2023

## **Important Dates**

**December 25th-January 5th: Winter Break** 

January 8th: Professional Duty Day - No School for Students January 9th: Quarter 3 Begins - Students Return to School January 15th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - School is Closed

February 16th: Hurricane Makeup Day

February 19th: President's Day - School is Closed February 28th: Professional Duty Day - Early Dismissal

March 14th: End of Quarter 3

March 15th: Professional Duty Day - No School for Students

March 18th-22nd: Spring 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

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.

Thanks for helping us ensure your children's safety at school.

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 both behaviorally and academically. 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 2024! Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!

Latoria Wilson - Assistant Principal Royal Palm School

Latoria Wilson - Assistant Principal Royal Palm School





# Mrs. Petteys & Ms. Hawkins 1st & 2nd Grades

Happy Holidays! The 1st and 2nd grade class is excited for the holidays and the kids are busy reading, writing, and making crafts from holiday traditions around the World. The students want to remind everyone that this is the season for kindness, respect, and giving and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2024!

Ms. Petteys and Ms. Princess







# Mrs. Barnes & Ms. Tindal 3rd & 4th Grades

Happy Holidays and Enjoy the Merriment (Interpreters: Ms. Hadassa and Ms. Melby)

Classroom 141



The Holiday season is here and we are ready for the Winter Break.

Our class' population has grown since the beginning of the school year and two new students have joined the group. We are now at six!

To date we have learned new things about Poetry, all the while still focusing on finding text evidence to increase comprehension. Science has taught us to identify the different phases of the moon, and Social Studies explains how Spain, Europe and France played a prominent role in Florida's early history. Math involves learning and applying multiplication facts (0 -12), and learning the steps in solving long division problems.

Our Annual Elementary Field Trip for Grades 3rd -5th grades will take place on December 15, 2023. We will be visiting the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre to see the production of Madagascar. More information regarding this trip coming soon!!!!!!!!

Please remember to review your child's communication folder daily for their point sheets, homework assignments, and/or information specifically pertaining to parents and/or guardians. Most importantly, please engage in some sort of reading activity with your child for (15 -20) minutes daily.

"Today a Reader, tomorrow a Leader" ~Margaret Fuller

Haiku -Three Lines (1st line five syllables, 2nd line seven syllables, 3rd line five syllables)





Ms. Perl & Mrs. Harris
4th & 5th Grades

Mrs. Peterson & Ms. Jerger 4th Grade

Our students have been quite excited and busy this holiday season! The class has been working diligently in all of their academic subjects. The students are learning strategies for using more descriptive language in their paragraph and essay writing. We have also worked on sentence structure, grammar, sequencing and comprehension techniques in our ELA program. Also, I am pleased to say the students enjoy working daily on i-Ready which is a language-based and math computer program.

In math, the class has been working hard on grasping multiplication and division concepts before our holiday break. The class enjoys science - we have studied various types of rocks, the solar system and we are currently working on characteristics of animal behavior. Please continue reading with your child for at least 15 minutes daily. Have a wonderful and safe holiday vacation and we are looking forward to working on many new exciting projects in our

class!

4 x 6 = 24

Happy holidays to all my Royal Palm families! The students are doing great this year with their point sheets! I want to focus on the academics you may want to work on with your child over break-work a few minutes a day on math fluency and reading fluency. This will help them stay sharp over the much-needed long break. Be safe and enjoy your time with your family!!

Sincerely, Mrs. Peterson



Practicing Math Fluency Skills

Mr. Parks & Ms. Riley Elementary Life Skills

Hello Royal Palm Family. My name is Mr. Parks, and I am honored to teach elementary life skills at Royal Palm Exceptional Center. Our classroom focuses on foundational skills needed for future success. If you need a resource to help your child master foundational reading skills such as the alphabet, Starfall offers a variety of games and resources to help your child master the necessary skills to enter into the world of reading. Thank you for trusting us with your children, and we look forward to having an amazing second semester! -Mr. Parks & Miss Riley





## Mr. Eady 4th, 5th, & 6th Grades

Happy Holidays! It's hard to believe it's winter break and we are nearing the end of the second quarter. Our students have been working hard in both their academics and their behavior, despite being in difficult times. Academically, the students have been working hard on multiplying and dividing decimals. Behavior in the classroom has been improving. After the holiday season, we hope that our students will be eager to get back to school and back to work!

## Mrs. Andrews School Social Worker

Hi! Hi! My name is Johanna Andrews and I am your School Social Worker. I look forward to working together with you all during this school year! As your School Social Worker, I am the link between home, school, and community. Some of my responsibilities include: Being a productive member of our school's Mental Health Team, counseling students in matters of attendance and make every effort to resolve problems contributing to poor attendance, provide resources to students and families including information on food, clothes, shelters, and mental health, work closely with health, welfare, and law enforcement agencies to coordinate all services that best serve a student and their family, advocate and provide support for homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Act and students in Foster Care. You can contact me by: Email at johannama@leeschools.net Call or text my District cell phone (239) 337-3511

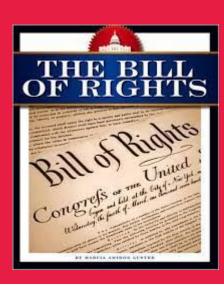


Mrs. Richardson & Ms. Fetig 5th & 6th Grades

The winter season is upon us, and we are so excited for the holidays. It's a time for family interactions and celebrations, food, and fun. In our class, we have been showing progress learning this quarter. We've made improvements in reading and our reading scores have improved. We get to read out loud and get one on one help with difficult comprehension text and questions. We are also learning to sit quietly and read. In Science, we learned about tectonic plates and how they cause volcanoes and earthquakes. We have also learned that our galaxy is called the Milky Way, and our sun is one of many stars. In Math, the topics we have learned about are integers, exponents, and fractions. In Social Studies we learned about the Government, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Amendments. We had so much fun in our Social Skills lessons as we learned to play together with sand, slime, putty, building sets, and we watched Growth mindset videos. We also decorated our Christmas tree and drank hot chocolate on very cold days. We're ready for our winter vacation now.







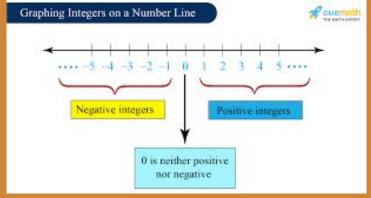


#### Dr. Scheller & Ms. King Grade 6

The first half of the year is complete, and our class has made a lot of progress. Our school garden has many new crops growing, from tomatoes to collard greens, and the soil is nearly completely set. In reading, we have read folktales, informational texts, timelines, biographies, poems, and opinion editorials. In language arts, we have studied grammatical conventions, and written both narrative and explanatory essays. In math, we have studied all manner of mathematical operations with integers. In science, our class has studied the movement of water around the globe in a myriad of ways, as well as the effects of weathering and erosion. In social studies, we have studied the founding and development of the American colonies, as well as the reasons for the American Revolution. Please talk with your child about what they have learned and ask what more they would like to learn more about! Dr. John Scheller





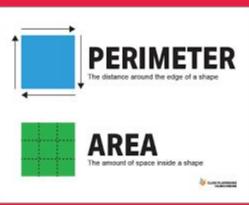


## Mrs. Eddy, Ms. Thornton, & Ms. Rawson Elementary Life Skills

It has been a fast-paced first half of the school year! We are very excited that we have learned so much so far this school year! Please review our crafts and emergent readers we have been working on in the classroom, which are sent home in our daily folders. We can look over them during winter break to continue to work on reading.

We have continued to work on activities to practice name identification, to include our classmates' and teacher's names. Our daily work tasks help us 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 are learning new science themed and social studies themed vocabulary words weekly to increase our comprehension. We can review some over winter break too to reinforce what has been learned already. Our daily read alouds are paired with crafts to demonstrate the meaning of the story. We have been working on using a basic calculator to complete basic facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We have practiced finding perimeter and area of simple shapes, complex shapes, and triangles. We will continue our learning of area to include circles. Please make time to read with your child daily and ask them about their day. They are so proud of their crafts and are

happy to share them with you. Thank you for your continued support! Have an awesome winter break! See you in January! Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. Thornton, and Ms. Rawson



## Mr. Murph Behavior Support Specialist

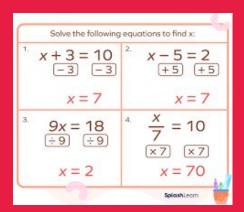
We appreciate that you always give it your all in class, even if it's not something you're interested in at the moment. This demonstrates your maturity and growth. When you arrive at school prepared to learn and with a cheerful attitude, we really appreciate it. I wish you have a wonderful Christmas break and enjoy time with your loved ones and friends. See you all in 2024!

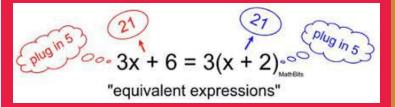


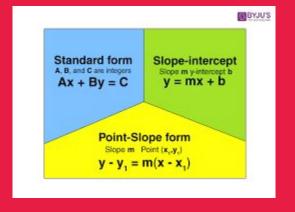
# Mrs. Morales & Ms. Candelaro 6th-8th Math

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, Wow, what a great start to the second quarter! Ms. Candelaro and I have really enjoyed working with our math students and getting to know them! In 6th grade we are learning all about writing and solving one-step equations, in 7th grade we are learning all about equivalent expressions, and in 8th grade we are learning about linear functions. All homework can be found stapled to your child's point sheet. 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 . I wish you all a wonderful winter break. Sincerely, Mrs. Morales-Kiesinger & Ms. Candelaro

My homeroom students were very appreciative of their Christmas gifts!





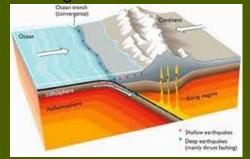


## Ms. Brown & McMillian 6th-8th Science

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, Happy Holidays and winter break! Your student has been studying one of three subjects, Earth, Life, or Physical Science. The 6th grade has been learning about the Rock cycle, Earth's interior, and Plate Tectonics. The 7th grade has been learning about the types of reproduction, cell cycle, and heredity. The 8th grade has been learning about Matter: physical and chemical properties as well as changes. I am thankful to

have the privilege of working with and getting to know your child.



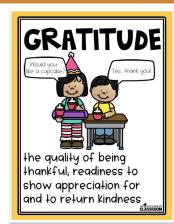


# Mr. Weigand 6th-8th Language Arts

The second quarter in middle school language arts has been very productive. Students have been working diligently on their biweekly i-Ready lessons to enhance their comprehension, phonics skills, and many other areas. This quarter we have been focusing on argumentative essays during our Wednesday writing activity. Students have developed a good understanding of how to state a claim and back it up with supporting details. Prior to Thanksgiving Break we participated in The Cards For The Troops Campaign. Students wrote three cards each to military personnel stationed overseas. During our Motivation Monday activities we have focused on various character traits such as gratitude. We have also talked about the value of and importance in giving to others. As we wrap up the second quarter we will continue to work on the skills

previously discussed.
Students will also be participating in Fast
Testing and I - Ready assessments during the month of December.
I wish you all a very joyous holiday

season.





# Classroom News Secondary

# Wadley-Jackson 6th-8th Reading

I know my students are looking forward to their winter break. They are excited about spending time with their family and having fun with their friends. My students will be visiting places and seeing many faces. They will love the short time spent, but they know they will have to get back to school so they can all vent. Talking is their specialty. They will share their experiences with each other, and they will come back ready to start working on their Read 180 program. I know they will have a wonderful holiday break. Stay safe my students, stay safe.



#### Dr. Moore 9th-12th Life Skills

We are quickly approaching the winter holidays and an extended vacation from school. It is important that our students be exposed to learning opportunities even when school is not in session. Many of our older students are beginning to understand the difference between wants and needs. Perhaps they could even be involved in planning family shopping trips. Opportunities to develop personal social skills along with daily living skills abound during vacation days. Lastly, family traditions, religious observations, and celebrations are great opportunities to help our young learners better understand the world. Best holiday wishes and hopes for a prosperous new year from Dr. Moore in Room 316!



Ms. Jarman & Ms. Wells 6th-8th Career

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families

This is my first full year teaching Career Electives at Royal Palm and it's been an exciting year so far. During the first semester, your student has been exploring careers that interest them. We have also been discussing how mental health is an important factor in their lives. Next semester we will focus on Social Media and the effects

A resource you can use with your child is Commonsensemedia.org.
Have a safe & healthy break...
Happy Holidays!

it can have on mental health.



#### Mr. Jensen, Mr. Vandevelde, & Ms. Robinson 9th-12th Life Skills

Tis the season for everyone! Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Chrismukkah, Yule, or Kwanzaa, learning about everyone's different traditions is always special and important. We encourage families and staff to discuss the different traditions with students through videos, lessons, and activities. Also, discuss why some people do not celebrate holidays. Our students have been busy learning in all subjects and will continue, but with a festive spin on it. Our class will participate in different holiday activities, such as making ornaments, a snowman, and a reindeer.

Mr. Jensen's room wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

## Ms. Kunze and Ms. Tivis 6th-8th Social Studies

Wow! The holidays are here already. That means we are almost through the first semester. The students are working are working on their behaviors and academics and we are having a pretty good year so far. In Social Studies, the 6th graders are learning about the Revolutionary War and why and how the early Americans fought for freedom. The 7th graders are learning about the three branches of government and how our government works. The 8th graders are learning World History and are learning about ancient civilizations. They are learning how the past has shaped our present. All the students are asking questions and we have had some great class discussions this year. Ask your student questions and start a conversation and learn what they are learning about. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at their responses. Mrs. Tivis and I would like to wish you Happy Holidays and a healthy, happy New Year. 2024 is going to be great!



# Classroom News



### **Important** Message

Staff, Parents/Guardians, and Students: This notice serves to fulfill annual notification requirements in accordance with Section 763.93 of the Asbestos Emergency Response Act (AHERA). As required under AHERA, Royal Palm must maintain an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) and keep the AMP on file at the school, and the School Administrative Unit Office. The AMP is available for review during school hours, Monday through Friday. Periodic surveillance of known asbestos in Royal Palm is performed every six months by a designated person to assess the condition of the ACBM. Six-month Assessment Results are maintained and are also available for review in the AMP.

#### Ms. Gilmore 9-12 Reading

Another year has come and gone and while we mourn days gone by, we also cherish the joyful memories made during 2023.

As we continue creating engaging classrooms where students are actively involved in their own learning, we hope that families are reminded to create learning experiences at home. 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.

Lastly, we wish so much joy for you in 2024! Thank you 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. Ms. Gilmore

## Ms. Gallucci 9th-12th Credit Retrieval

At Royal Palm Exceptional School, we offer a credit retrieval program called Edgenuity. This class was created to assist students with making up credits that they are missing and need toward graduation. This is an independent learning program in which students must be self-motivated to complete the coursework. This is a computer-based program which instructs them and then tests their knowledge in each segment. Teachers are here to assist them, monitor their progress, and provide encouragement. The

100% with a minimum of a 70% grade average to earn credits. So if your child is missing core credits (English, Math, Science, or History) which are needed for graduation, talk with our school guidance counselor to see if our credit retrieval program is appropriate for them.

goal is to complete each course

Edgenuity

#### Mr. Kovacs & Ms. Woodard 9-12 Math

It's almost Winter Break and we will have two weeks off from school. Enough time to lose some of the gains you have made. To minimize loss, do something during the holiday that involves math, such as visiting Khan Academy, count your change, calculate how long it will take to get to grandpa's house, or something else. Above all, have a safe, happy holiday, and I will see you in

#### Ms. Strykiewicz & Ms. Blue 9-12 English

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, please don't hesitate to contact me at 239-337-3511.

#### Ms. Alexandre & Ms. Sneed 8th-12th Social Studies

Greetings to Parents and Students!!! As the year ends, I want to take some time to reflect on all the wonderful things the students have accomplished throughout the school year 2023-2024. For those students who come to school every day I want to thank the parents and guardians who are doing their best to help our students reach their goal. That said, I want to reassure you that I have done my best to help the children learn all they can in social studies to be great citizens and make a difference in our society. During the winter break, I want to inform you about the opportunity to take your children to the library to check out books to read. You can also use this time to relax a little and take the kids to some outdoor activities. I wish you a areat winter break.



# Classroom News Secondary

# Ms. Baez 8th-12th Critical Thinking & Careers

Greetings 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 have 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 have 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 khanacademy.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.

## Ms. Gadsden and Ms. Hayes 9th-12th Reading

WOW! We're halfway through the year and it has been an AWESOME learning experience! This Winter our students will continue their studies with various Sciences. Environmental Science students are learning about Biodiversity and climate change. Biology students are learning about the types of reproduction, cell cycle, and heredity. Physical science students are learning about energy, electricity, and forces. We will be doing some hands-on activities and

virtual
labs to get the
students more
engaged in
learning Science.
Happy Holidays
and
enjoy your
Winter Break!



Ms. Todd & Ms. Anderson P.E.

It is my pleasure to be your child's Physical Education Teacher this year. Ms. Anderson is the P.E. Helping Teacher. Please ensure your child brings gym shoes and clothes that allow for movement each day they are scheduled for P.E. class.

We have implemented a sportsmanship rubric that is reviewed weekly with students, the topics covered are: playing fair, following rules, being supportive of teammates, showing respect and exhibiting self-determination and persistence. We have noticed improvement in sportsmanship with each grade level since introducing the rubric and reviewing regularly.

Physical education class helps develop self-assurance and determination in young people. The goal is to improve each student's personal fitness level, instill healthy habits of regular exercise and movement, and to develop cooperation and teamwork. In P.E., students learn how to share, take turns, and cooperate with classmates to accomplish a common goal. Most importantly, we want them to learn NeW things and HAVE FUN!!
Respectfully,

Andrea Dinninger-Todd M.Ed. and Ms. Anderson

#### Ms. Castro Mental Health Professional

Happy Holidays, Royal Palm Family! My name is Vanessa Castro and I am Royal Palm's Licensed Mental Health Professional. Mental Health strains are much more common during the Holiday season so please be sure to take some time to take care of you and your student. Prioritize the most important activities or schedule get-togethers for after the holidays: If you

feel overwhelmed by social obligations and what others are asking of you, learn how to be comfortable saying "no." It is ok to put yourself and your student first. If you would like more inform ation on Royal Palm's



Mental Health Team, please do not hesitate to reach out.



# Additional News

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

Parent Involvement is Key: It is difficult to argue the fact that you as parents, guardians, and caregivers play a VERY important role in your child's progress and achievements at school. The more you are involved, the more likely that your child will experience academic, behavioral, and social success at Royal Palm. Please do not ignore the invitations you receive for parent workshops, SAC meetings, IEP meetings and other involvement opportunities on our campus. For example, there were two Zones of Regulation parent workshops about helping your child to be more successful in school and at home via managing emotions and coping with stress. These were presented by District **FDLRS and ESE Family Services Specialists** Renae Seguin and Cindy Michaels on December 7th and 12th in the Royal Palm Media Center. A flyer was sent home and provided via School Messenger phone calls, texts and emails. Be on the lookout for additional opportunities like this during the 3rd and 4th quarters. You can provide your ideas and feedback regarding parent and family engagement by calling me at 337-3511, extension 250. Have a healthy, safe and relaxing holiday break, and we will see you in 2024!



#### Mrs. Meltzer Reading Coach & Media Specialist

Happy Holidays! Winter break is a great time for extra reading practice. A great resource is floridastudents.org. In addition, 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. Let them enjoy their favorite Holiday movie or show by reading it! This will increase your child's reading fluency and comprehension! Have a wonderful and relaxing break, see you in 2024! Mrs. Meltzer Reading Coach/Testing Coordinator





# Royal Palm Journal/A Title I School

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



# Additional News

#### Mrs. Millins Behavior Specialist

Hello Happy Holidays!!! Winter break is almost upon us and the students 'are getting excited! While at school, the students work on being responsible, being respectful and being safe. Over the break, parents and caregivers should continue to work on these skills with their kiddos. I hope everyone has a happy and restful holiday. Encourage your kids to make good choices every day because CHOICES MATTER.



#### Mr. Kleinmann School Counselor

"Greetings Royal Palm Family and Friends. Although it has been gaining momentum, I'd like you all to consider setting up your parent Focus account and linking your student. All the information you could need is found here:

https://www.leeschools.net/our\_schools/focus. You can call the school when it comes time that you need your student's PIN#. This way you can easily keep up to date with grades and assignments. I would strongly recommend that you set up a reward system for your child for completing assignments. It is my sincere hope that you have a holiday filled with close, heartfelt, and meaningful family time."



# 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) —ESOL (Endorsement), Roderick Eady—ESOL (Endorsement), Reading (Endorsement), & Middle Grades General Science 5-9, Ketinna Gadsden, Middle Grades General Science 5-9, Karen Strykiewicz—ESOL (Endorsement), and Wendy Wadley-Jackson—ESOL (Endorsement).

# Royal Palm Journal A Title I School

3050 Indian Street Fort Myers, FL 33916 239.337.3511

http://roy.leeschools.net