

# Royal Palm Journal/A Title I School

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



## Winter Break Newsletter!!



Lee County School District

December 16th, 2021

## Important Dates

December 20th-December 31st: Winter Break  
January 10th: Hurricane Make-up Day  
January 10th: End Quarter 2  
January 11th: Professional Duty Day - No School for Students  
January 17th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
February 18th: Hurricane Make-up Day  
February 21st: President's Day  
March 17th: End of Quarter 3  
March 18th: Professional Duty Day  
March 21st-25th: 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

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 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 2022! Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!

Latoria Wilson - Assistant Principal Royal Palm School





# Classroom News

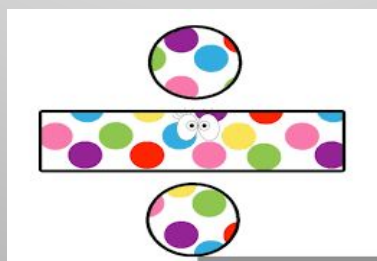
## Elementary

**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 as they are looking forward to the upcoming holidays. 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 2022!

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

Winter break is coming! We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break. Please continue to wear your mask, practice social distancing, and stay safe. Our students are learning multiplication with two digits and measurements with perimeter and area. As we near the end of the quarter the students are working very hard on division and will jump right back into it after the break. Moving right into science, the students have been learning about energy and motion, their forms, such as light, sound, chemical, and radiant energy. Last, in social studies the students have been studying the Indian cultures and their regions. When the students return from their holiday break, they will continue the course of learning and working hard. In addition, our students are continuing to discuss how to interact properly with their classmates and others. They have been learning many strategies on how to be productive in their young lives, and how to make good choices in school and at home.



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

Happy Holidays! We are quickly approaching our winter break! Since winter break is such a long break from learning, it would greatly benefit the students to continue reading as much as possible during the two weeks we have off of school. They have been working very hard in class to improve their reading and I am sure they would LOVE to show off their new reading abilities to the ones they love 😊. Ideally, have your student read with an adult every day for at least 10 minutes. That could be you reading to them, or listening to them read to you (even when you're in the car). If you are able, try your best to expose your children to both fiction (make believe) and non-fiction (real) books; however, any reading is better than no reading, so please try to squeeze it in anywhere you may have time! In addition, if you have internet access at home, they are able to access most learning applications from home through the student launch-pad (they should know their login information). Once on the "launch-pad" home page they can access numerous learning activities and educational websites! Your support is GREATLY appreciated....that way we can keep our forward momentum going with our academic progress!

Sincerely,

Ms. Matheson 2nd Grade Special Education Teacher &

Ms. Hawkins 2nd Grade Para-Educator







# Classroom News Elementary



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

We are ready for winter break! Our class has (3) amazing students now because one of our boys has exited to a school of his choice. We wish him well as he starts his educational journey at his new school. Three of our current boys continue to demonstrate a desire toward learning new things and applying learned skills to class activities as well as other related events.

We have finished our i-Ready diagnostic assessments for quarter two and learning gains were demonstrated by most of the students.

In reading, we are working on improving comprehension, and other component parts of reading through employing context clues, listening skills, identifying main idea/details, point of view, and character descriptions. In social studies we have learned about different cultures and how they are similar and different depending on their locations or regions. In science we have learned all about light energy. In our Go Math we have learned key terminology pertaining to division, and how to use arrays, number lines, equal groups, multiplication, and how subtraction can help solve division problems.

All of the students are currently working on their individual behavioral goals, and being mindful to use appropriate class behaviors when interacting with peers and staff.

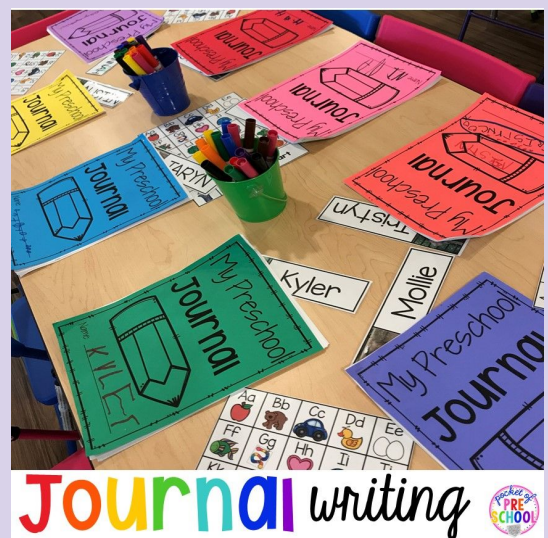
In the Winter Olympics, our class represented Kenya. It was a time well spent interacting with the other classes and enjoying the winter sports. Let the games begin!

Reading tips! Remember to set aside a time every day to work on reading skills! (15 – 20 minutes) by having your child read to you, or you reading to your child! Happy Holidays to all and a prosperous safe New Year!



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

We continue doing a good job of keeping track of our materials and toys, since we cannot share items at this time. We continue to complete activities daily to increase our name identification. We also continue to journal daily to practice the day of the week, the day and month of the year, the current weather, and identifying feelings, likes, needs, wants, and wishes. We are continuing to practice spelling words daily to increase our word recognition. We are also continuing to learn new vocabulary words weekly to increase our comprehension. Our daily read alouds are paired with crafts to demonstrate the meaning of the story. We have been working on single digit addition and single digit subtraction using a number line, which we will continue to practice to increase comprehension of the concepts. Please make sure you read with your child daily and ask them about their day. They are very proud of their crafts and are eager to share them with you. Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to working with you and your child in the new year! We wish you and your family a very happy holiday season!





# Classroom News Elementary



**Ms. Robinson and Ms. Harris**  
4th grade

WOW! Can you believe, another year is about to pass us by?! Our students have been very busy learning. In reading, we continue to enjoy a variety of different types of stories, to keep students interested, as well as improve their comprehension. In math we are studying fractions, in science our students are learning about the earth, moon, and stars, and in social studies we are learning all about the colonies. Finally, in social skills students are constantly learning how to act appropriately daily. So please encourage your child to remain respectful at all times, read to you as much as possible, and return the homework sent home. Mrs. Harris and I wish you and yours a blessed, relaxed, and peaceful rest of the year.



**Ms. Fisher and Ms. Jerger**  
4th grade

Dear Royal Palm Families,  
Can you believe it is December already?! Our students have made some really good progress so far this year. I am very proud of not only their academic progress, but their behaviors in the classroom. I certainly have a great group of students this year. I am so thankful! As we head into our winter break, please continue to read to your child. Have a safe and wonderful break! Sincerely, Ms. Fisher  
P.S I recently got married, so if your child mentions Mrs. Peterson, "That's Me!"



**Mr. Bechler and Ms. Fetting**  
6th grade

Happy Holidays

I firmly believe that helping your child become a better reader is extremely important. I also believe that of all the subjects we teach, reading is the most important. My students all have various reading skills. We try, through differentiated instruction, to improve all of the reading ability of each student in our class. Reading is important as it becomes foundational to performance in all the other academic classes. If one does not read well, one cannot read important math instructions and one cannot effectively learn about history or science. I am asking that you try to work with your students. Have them read to you a little bit every day and/or you can read for them or to them. That way, we are working as a team. My Best wishes for delightful holidays.







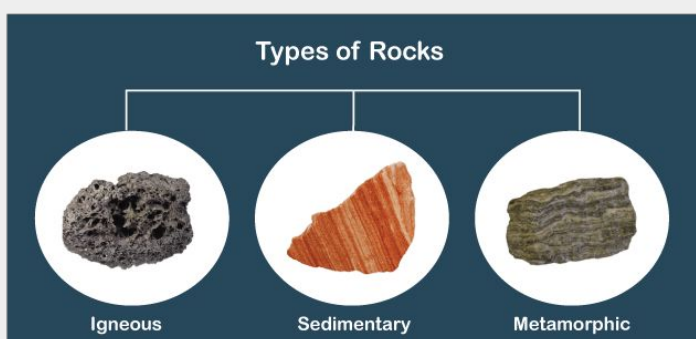
# Classroom News Elementary



## Ms. Perl and Ms. Cummins 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 fraction concepts before our holiday break. We are still reviewing multiplication and division facts daily. The class enjoys science and 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!



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

It's almost Christmas. Our class has made Christmas ornaments and we've put up our tree. We in Room 137, 5th grade, are looking forward to 2022. Since the start of school, we have learned so much. In English Language Arts, we learned how to quote and summarize text, analyze the structure of stories, poems, and dramas. In math, we've learned to add, subtract, and multiply decimals, and whole numbers, and we've learned how to calculate volume. In Science we've explored properties of matter, energy, and force. Finally, in social studies we have learned about Native Americans, the American Revolution and exploration. Way to go Ms. Richardson/Candelaro's class!

## Mr. Eady and Ms. Farmer 4th and 5th 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. Perry Instructional Coach

Happy Holidays to all! This year is flying by! In academic news, my job is to assist all teachers in instruction and learning with a focus on science. I am currently working on some spiral review material as we gear up for testing. 5th and 8th graders will be taking their Science FCAT tests this spring. I am also the art chair and involved in art enrichment on campus. I'm constantly on the lookout for fun and interesting art projects for our students. Look out for your student to be bringing home some of them in the second semester! I wish you all the best this holiday season and throughout the year!





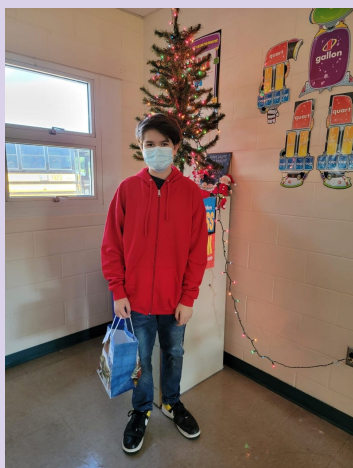
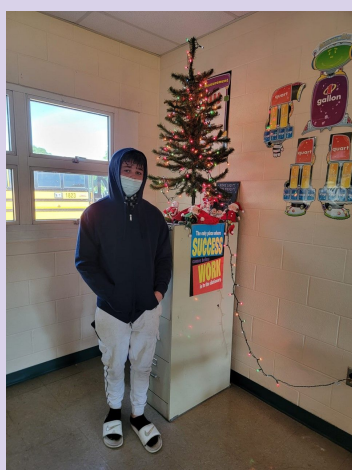
# Classroom News Secondary



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

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, Wow, what a great start to the second quarter! Ms. Hayes and I have really enjoyed working with our math students and getting to know them! In 6th grade we are learning all about Solving and Graphing Inequalities, in 7th grade we are learning the Percent Proportion, and in 8th grade we are learning about Slope-Intercept. 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](mailto:suzannemm@leeschools.net). I wish you all a wonderful winter break.

Sincerely, Mrs. Morales-Kiesinger & Ms. Hayes  
My homeroom students were very appreciative of their Christmas gifts!



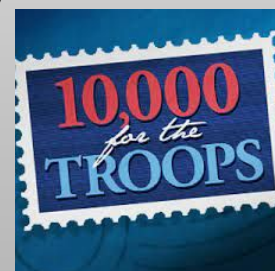
## Ms. Kunze and Mr. Wise 6th-8th Social Studies

Here we are getting ready for winter break and holiday celebrations already. The year is moving quickly and there is a lot of learning happening in middle school social studies. Students are learning about the colonist in the new America and the difficulties they ran into before declaring their independence from England. They are also learning about the Constitution and how it is the “rule book” for our government and where all our laws come from. We are learning to appreciate our freedoms and to be responsible citizens. Everyone is working hard on behavioral and social skills needed to move on from Royal Palm. Best wishes to all our Royal Palm families for a happy and healthy new year!

## Mr. Weigand 6th-8th Language Arts

It has been a productive second quarter in middle school language arts. We have continued to move through the book *The Energy Bus*, and have been able to engage in discussions on a variety of topics, such as forgiveness, and identifying the “energy vampires” in our lives. Students have been completing i-Ready lessons on a consistent basis, and have been able to elaborate on how they can apply their learning to their daily lives. In November we focused on the importance of gratitude, and each Wednesday we completed a class activity that focused on this theme. One of the activities we completed was the 10,000 For The Troops holiday card campaign sponsored by Fox News. The students wrote very detailed and heartfelt messages to our troops overseas. We continued to work on sentence writing and editing. Students have shown progress in their ability to not only identify their own mistakes, but to identify mistakes in other pieces of writing. As the quarter progresses we will be working on essays that highlight character education concepts discussed in *The Energy Bus*.

As we conclude 2021, I would like to wish all the students and their families a very happy holiday season. I look forward to what lies ahead in middle school language arts after the holiday break.



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

Dear Students, Parents, and Families,

Happy Winter Break! There are some very important things you can do to help your child succeed in science. These things include: recognizing scientific vocabulary in everyday events, solving puzzles, seeing what’s in your local stores for extra practice books in Math and ELA skills, cooking together, and using educational websites like Khan Academy. I am thankful to have the privilege of working with and getting to know your child.





# Classroom News Secondary



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

**Ms. Jackson and Ms. GiGi**  
**6th-8th Career**

Dear Students, Parents, and Families,  
The year 2021, hasn't stopped surprising us. We made it to the end strong and healthy! THANK YOU, to all parents, guardians and students, for maintaining the rules implemented by the school. We have been working hard getting used to the HMH program and reading comprehension tasks.

During the Christmas break continue to read 20 minutes a day on anything that you choose. When we come back, we will continue to work on the different units of System 44 and read 180. Stay safe, relax and enjoy your Christmas.



**Dr. Moore and Mrs. Miller**  
**9th-12th Life Skills**

Greetings, It is time to enjoy time with family and friends as the holidays approach. We have made strong gains in reading and social skills so far this year. Please help these youngsters use their skills during the holiday break.

Practical math tasks are equally important. Does your child know how to make change from a twenty or how to budget money? Holiday break is a wonderful time to acquire those skills in a "real life" setting.

We wish you and your family happiness during the holiday season. All the best for a great 2022!



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

**Mr. Jensen, Ms. Hernández, and Mr. Vandeveld**  
**8th-12th Life Skills**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Mr. Jensen's class. We look forward to a well-deserved Winter break. We have had our ups and downs, but I think we made it through the toughest part of the school year, and we are looking forward to the third and fourth quarter. This year the class has participated in making muffins, ramen noodles, tacos, sloppy joes, instant oatmeal, mac and cheese, grilled cheese, monkey bread, pizza, instant grits, pancakes, goulash, waffles, chocolate chip cookies, baked ziti, sugar cookies, calzone. I hope this is only the beginning. We have started doing laundry and other skills that will help with living skills. I am excited to start the third quarter of the school year. I will keep everyone posted on upcoming events.

**Ms. Senat and Ms. Lader**  
**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!



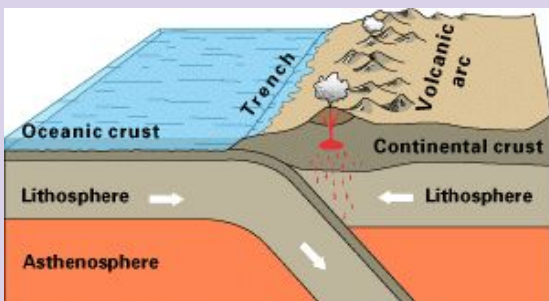


# Classroom News Secondary



**Mr. Delva and Ms. Woodard**  
**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.



**Ms. Canciani**  
**9th-12th Credit Retrieval**

Greetings From Ms. Canciani, High School Credit Retrieval Teacher! I wish you and your family a relaxing and safe Winter Break. Credit Retrieval can be accessed from home for instructional activities. Also, a great resource is Overdrive. With this App, your student and family can enjoy a wide variety of books, audiobooks, and read-along books. Directions: Go to: [Launchpad.leeschools.net](https://Launchpad.leeschools.net), Instructional Apps, then Overdrive. ENJOY!



**Mr. Kovacs & Ms. Blue**  
**8-12 Math**

It's almost Christmas 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 to keep mathematical 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 2022!

**Ms. Strykiewicz**  
**8-12 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, 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.

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

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 the 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. I hope you have a great winter break and wonderful time with family and friends during the holidays. Happy holidays, Ms. Saint-Cyr Alexandre





# Classroom News Secondary



## Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Buckley 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](http://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](http://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. Gilmore and Ms. Jarman 8th-12th Reading

Dear Parents:  
What a fantastic first semester of the 2021-22 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!

Ms. Gilmore  
Secondary Reading



## Coach Ramos and Coach Murph P.E.

I hope everyone enjoys their winter break. In our class, we have been working on spatial awareness and low impact high intensity workout videos (Quarantined/Rainy Day PE). We also play basketball, flag football, and soccer. The students have shown an interest in being out of the classroom for a while as well as being able to have fun in the sun. Please remind your students to drink water during activities and to use hand sanitizer after using shared equipment. Enjoy the holidays and have a Happy New Year.



## Ms. Castro Licensed Mental Health Professional

Hi, Royal Palm family!

My name is Vanessa Castro and I have served Royal Palm as your School Social Worker since 2017. I have now transitioned into a new role within the school district. That role is Licensed Mental Health Professional. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in this new role, I will be able to assist and support students and their mental health needs through school-based services. I can help families connect to outside mental health services for their student in addition to providing mental health assessments, treatment, and recovery services to students with one or more mental health or co-occurring substance abuse diagnosis. While I would be able to check in with all students, a consent form is needed by a parent for more intensive school-based services. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [VanessaCa@leeschools.net](mailto:VanessaCa@leeschools.net) or call me at (239) 337-3511. Let me know if you need more....or less!!!





# Additional News



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

**Parent Involvement is Key:** It is hard to argue the fact that you as parents, guardians and caregivers play a VERY important role in your child's school success. The more you are involved, the more likely that your child will experience academic, behavioral, and social success in school. During the past year, COVID-19 has limited face-to-face contact and involvement, but please do not ignore the invitations you receive for parent workshops, SAC meetings, IEP meetings and other computer-based (Zoom) involvement opportunities. For example, there were two parent workshops presented by District Family Liaison Donna Djerf this month on the 13th and 14th. A flyer was sent home and provided via a School Messenger e-mail. Be on the lookout for additional opportunities during the 3rd and 4th quarters. You can provide your ideas and feedback regarding parent and family engagement by calling me at 337-3511. Have a healthy and relaxing holiday break.

**Notification to Parents and Stakeholders of the Annual School Public Accountability Report (SPARS):** NOTE - 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 most recent rating DOE assigned to Royal Palm was the 2018-19 rating of "Maintaining". This was an improvement over the rating for the prior year, partially due to increased student learning gains, and Royal Palm qualified for School Recognition Funds two years ago as a result. FLDOE has updated our school testing, learning gains and other data categories for the 2020-21 school year. To access Royal Palm's reports and data, please visit our website at [roy.leeschools.net](http://roy.leeschools.net), and under the headings "What's Happening" and "Shortcuts" you will find multiple links to School Improvement Ratings, School Grades and SPAR/School information. This information (flyer in English/Spanish, School Messenger phone call/text/e-mail) was previously provided to parents back in October.

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## Mrs. Meltzer and Ms. Cruzado Reading Coach/Media Specialist

Happy Holidays! Winter break is a great time for extra reading practice! One great website is [floridastudents.org](http://floridastudents.org). This will not only keep their reading skills fresh, but give them extra practice for the FSA. This year the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) will take place beginning the first week of April. More information will be coming home as time gets closer.

Additional websites your child can use for practice are [starfall.com](http://starfall.com) (for elementary students) and [funbrain.com](http://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 2022!

## Ms. Walters School Social Worker

Hi! My name is Kedisha Walters and I am your new School Social Worker. I look forward to working together with you all the rest of 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,
- Counsel 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, and
- As a last resort, based on COVID safety guidelines, conduct home visits in order to contact a student/family after all other avenues have been exhausted. This includes multiple documented contacts by teachers and other school staff.

You can contact me by: Email at [Kedishaw@leeschools.net](mailto:Kedishaw@leeschools.net)  
Call or text my District cell phone 239-357-3834

In person in room 315B (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays)  
Some School Social Workers have more than one school and/or other District responsibilities. My other responsibilities include: Oak Hammock Middle School (Wednesdays & Fridays)





# Additional News...



## Mrs. Millins Behavior Specialist

Happy winter break!!! Royal Palm is bustling with positive behaviors!!! I have seen so many of you working hard at staying on task, being respectful and being responsible.

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 online 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!!! Keep up the good work by practicing these skills at home too. Remember...CHOICES MATTER.



## Mr. Kleinmann School Counselor

The winter season is upon us and the days have grown a tad shorter than before. No matter your creed as a family, the winter holiday season has traditionally been a time for self-reflection and new beginnings. While many of us struggle with figuring out what those new beginnings should look like (especially our students), you as the parent/guardian can certainly help guide your student along the path to a more successful future. A couple of great new beginning to try would be:

If you haven't already – create your FOCUS Parent Portal Account here:

<https://www.leeschools.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=676305&pageId=6495535>

Cook (and eat) a healthy meal together to incorporate life skills into your break. Enjoy nature in the cooler weather and take a walk as a family. Make your New Year's resolutions together – write them down and display them on the wall/refrigerator. Think of some of the things that no longer suit you from 2021 (habits, thoughts, items, etc.). Let go of some of these things in order to allow yourself to grow beyond those limitations.

Most of all – HAVE A HAPPY WINTER BREAK!!  
Kind regards, Colin Kleinmann – School Counselor

# 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), Essie Barnes—ESOL (Endorsement), David Bechler—ESOL (Endorsement) and Reading Endorsement, Roderick Eady—ESOL (Endorsement) and Reading Endorsement, Gloria Fisher—ESOL (Endorsement) and Reading Endorsement, LaToya Gilmore— ESOL (Endorsement), Bethy Senat—ESOL (Endorsement), Karen Strykiewicz—ESOL (Endorsement), Wendy Wadley—ESOL (Endorsement), Jennifer Jackson--ESOL (Endorsement), Sarah Matheson—ESOL Endorsement and Reading Endorsement, Ms. Richardson and Ms. Brensinger Reading Endorsement, Mr. Delva—Science 5-9 and ESE, and Mr. Maxwell—ESE

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