

# 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 21st, 2022

## Important Dates

- December 21st-Early Release Day/End Quarter 2
- December 22nd-January 6th: Winter Break
- January 9th: Professional Duty Day
- January 16th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 20th: President's Day (school for students)
- March 16th: End of Quarter 3
- March 20th-24th: 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 the School Messenger system informing you about the emergency and giving you appropriate directions. This is why it is so important to update your emergency information with the school. If you have moved or changed your contact number please contact the school with that information. Thank for helping us ensure your children's safety at school.

Robert Moretti - Principal Royal Palm School



## Mrs. Wilson Assistant Principal

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 2023! Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!

Latoria Wilson - Assistant Principal Royal Palm School



# Classroom News

**Ms. Fisher and Ms. Jerger**  
**5th grade**

Dear Royal Palm Families - Can you believe it's December already?! My students are making great progress so far this year. I would like to wish you all a great winter break, and enjoy your time with family and friends! Also, read with your child each day. This is so important to have a role model in their life. I hope everyone stays safe and have fun making memories!!  
Sincerely, Ms. Fisher



**Ms. Brensinger & Ms. P. Hawkins**  
**1st & 3rd grades**

Season's Greetings! Students in our classroom are learning about holidays celebrated around the world and sharing traditions celebrated within their own homes. This is such an exciting time of the year for students as they are looking forward to upcoming schoolwide and classroom activities. We continue to work on our academic and social skills goals, focusing this month on learning the difference between tattling and telling. Please remember that students are sent home with point sheets daily - please sign these and have your child return them to school. Point sheets help keep parents informed on daily progress within the classroom. While out of school for winter break, please encourage your child to read and/or read to your child for 15 minutes each day. If you have computer access at home students are also able to access their i-Ready accounts and can practice reading and math skills for 10 minutes each day. We hope that you enjoy this time with your family and friends and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!  
Ms. Brensinger and Ms. Princess



**Ms. Castro**  
**Mental Health Professional**

Hello, Royal Palm family!

It is hard to believe we are already at Winter Break and getting ready to welcome 2023! My name is Vanessa Castro and I am Royal Palm's Licensed Mental Health Professional. Although I juggle multiple schools, your students at Royal Palm hold a special place in my heart. With your students being off of school for a few weeks, it is so important for you to engage and stimulate their mental health. Focus on making new holiday memories and connections with your student. Those memories and bonds will help and guide them as they grow older. I also encourage you to engage your student in different activities or hobbies they enjoy and include yourself in them. Showing your student how much you care about them and their interests will help them feel secure and loved which are two major pieces of the mental health puzzle. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at (239) 337-3511 or via email at [VanessaCa@leeschools.net](mailto:VanessaCa@leeschools.net). Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!







# Classroom News

## Ms. Wadley-Jackson and Ms. Woodard 3rd Grade

I know my kiddos are looking forward to their winter break. They are excited about spending time with their family and having fun with their friends. My kiddos 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 there specialty - boy do they know how to do that - so now my kiddos will be ready to come back with all sorts of stories, telling me this and telling me that. I know they will have a wonderful holiday break. Stay safe my boys, stay safe.



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

Season's Greetings to All!

For this quarter we have been reading wonderful stories in our Wonders Book about immigrating to America. We have learned how identifying and explaining the development of the theme help us understand the story through using figurative language strategies, hyperbole (exaggeration) and simile (comparing using as, and like). In Math, we finished the unit on perimeter, area, and identifying quadrilaterals and lines. In the coming weeks, we are working on place value and identifying numbers up to 10,000. We learned about our governmental process and U. S. Constitution and was able to apply what we know during discussions on the recent gubernatorial election. In Science, we are identifying basic forms of energy: Light, heat, sound, electrical, and mechanical. In a learning game we listened to various sounds with closed eyes then tried to identify them. Some sounds were easy, while others were quite difficult. It was a fun way to interact and engage the students in a meaningful way. Parents don't forget to read with the kiddos or have them read to you!

Did you know???? Mistletoes are a large group of plants that are parasitic on above-ground parts of woody trees and shrubs. Happy Holidays and be safe over the winter break!





# Classroom News

## Elementary

Ms. Perl and Ms. Harris  
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 where we have studied various types of rocks and 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 in 2023!

It tastes...	It feels ...	It looks...	It smells...	It sounds...
sweet sour bitter crunchy salty chewy dry juicy hot fizzy tasteless delicious	prickly smooth rough soft hard silky thick sticky heavy light bumpy spiky	dark shiny long skinny fat thin small large speckled light bright dotted	fresh delicious bitter rotten salty smoky sour spicy stale stinky sweet smelly	loud noisy quiet silent squeaky creaky melodic fizzy shrill deafening faint

Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Fettig  
5th grade

Our 5th grade class has been growing in knowledge of our country's history. We've learned who wrote the US Constitution, and learned about Native Americans. We've made compare and contrast models of Inuit and Anastasi Indian habitats. We learned about electrical energy and we have made a simple circuit using a battery and old Christmas lights. We've also explored force and motion concepts by creating a chain reaction. Finally we are learning all about multiplication and division!

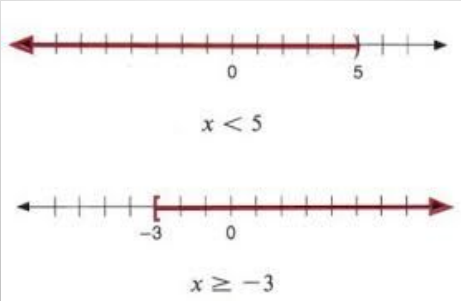


Mr. Eady  
5th grade

Happy Holidays! It's hard to believe it's winter break and the 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 is going well. Currently, there are three students who are on level seven! After the holiday season, we hope that our students will be eager to get back to school and back to work!

Mr. Scheller and Ms. Anderson  
6th grade

Are you excited for our winter break? Mrs. Anderson and myself have enjoyed working with your child as they develop self-regulation of their behavior and learn academic concepts. In reading, students will read texts through varied points of view, analyze the structure of stories and poems, and compare and contrast differing genres of texts to strengthen comprehension. In math, students will learn how to solve algebraic equations, begin to write and graph inequalities, and then dive into geometry. Social studies will have students learn about the revolutionary war and our country's emerging government, while science will have students learn about plate tectonics and Earth's history. Let's go!



### Sentence Structures

- 1 Simple
- 2 Compound
- 3 Complex
- 4 Compound - complex





# Classroom News

## Secondary

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

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, Wow, what a great start to the second quarter! Ms. C. 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. C.

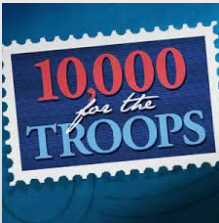


### Ms. Kunze 6th-8th Social Studies

Happy Holidays! The students have adjusted to this new year and are on track learning and being safe. Students have been learning about the Revolutionary War, the Constitution and the structure of our government. They know there are 3 Branches of Government and how the power is divided and shared between each branch. We had an election and they learned about our electoral system, how to debate and the Electoral College. We will continue learning about our country's beginnings and how the past affects the present and future. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2023!

### Mr. Weigand and Mrs. Wells 6th-8th Language Arts

It has been a productive second quarter in middle school language arts. Students have continued to work diligently on their biweekly i-Ready lessons, making real world connections to the material presented. We have continued to read from Jon Gordon's book *The Positive Dog*. Students have learned about the importance of positive stories and how they can best identify positive stories from their own personal experiences. We have read a poem called *The Little Cloud* in which students learned to identify their individual purpose in life, and to work toward their personal goals despite the obstacles they face. Wednesday continues to be the day when students work on essay writing. In this quarter they have shared personal reflections on topics such as why good choices matter. Before Thanksgiving Break, students participated in The 10,000 For The Troops holiday card campaign, in which they wrote holiday cards and personal notes to the military troops overseas.



### 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**

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, I have really enjoyed working with my middle school students and getting to know them! So far 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 are consistently improving their reading skills everyday. I hope they keep up this great work in 2023!



**LANGUAGE! Live®**

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

It is difficult to believe that we are already approaching the halfway point in the school year. Our students are doing so well in their daily academics. Many are reading fluently and answering comprehension questions. Others are working on their math skills. We enjoy the CNN 10 Student News every school day and verbally share two things that we learned from the program with our classmates.

Our behaviors are improving across the board. All of the students are on Level 4 or higher on the point and level system and three students are currently on Level 7 which is the top level. We have been practicing greeting each other in a positive manner each morning. One of the best things

happening this year is the return of face to face visits with Patty and Fergus our Pet Partner team. They help us realize that life is good even

when we are facing daily challenges. We want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and look forward to 2023!

Dr. Moore and Ms. Miller



**Ms. Jarman and Ms. Lader**  
**6th-8th Career**

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 and Mr. Vandeveld**  
**K-6th Life Skills**

Wow,

2023 is almost here and we are ready to face the challenges of the upcoming year. We are halfway through the school year. Where does the time go? I can hope the second half of the school year will be as successful as the first half.

Looking back, 2022 has seen its share of challenges in the classroom and away from school. It is important that we have been successful through the most of difficult of times. We have endured the worst nature can throw at us, and came through strong.

Let's hope 2023 will be a bit more chillaxed and not throw to many more curves our way. Until I wish everyone a happy and restful holiday season. Enjoy yourselves and get the needed rest everyone deserves.

Jeff Jensen



**Ms. Senat, Ms. Robinson, & Ms. Riley**  
**8th-12th Life Skills**

Hello families - in life skills 313 we are asking "what holidays do we celebrate in winter?" We are learning about all the different winter holidays and traditions. Students are exploring Jewish, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa traditions. Students created winter art pieces that they will be taking home at the end of the fall semester. No matter the traditions, life skills 313 wishes all families a very merry happy holiday!





# Classroom News

## Secondary

**Mr. Brown and Ms. Blue**  
**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.



**Mrs. Eddy and Ms. Thornton Elementary Life Skills: grades 6-9**

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! We have dealt with a lot as a community following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole. We came back ready to learn and have worked hard to finish this semester strong. 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 teachers' 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 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 using a basic calculator to complete basic facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We learned a lot about our government and how it works. We are learning about how our country formed. We have learned about the Periodic Table and are learning about force and Newton's Laws of Motion. 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!

**Mr. Kovacs**  
**8-12 Math**

It's almost the end of second quarter, marking the halfway point in the school year. I hope you take the time during the Christmas break to unwind and relax. If you have been working at your assignments, asking questions, and submitting your work you have earned some time off. When you come back it will be the third quarter. For high school this means it's second semester and a clean slate as far as grades go, and another chance to do your best without being hindered by first semester grades.

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

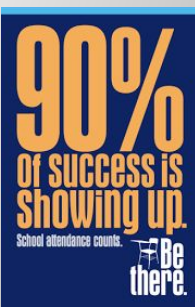
This year, students had the opportunity to complete some creative writing assignments. There were some extremely creative stories that students submitted. One story had a man who turned into a human waffle and another had a character who could change shapes. There were aliens invading earth, a boy who got sucked into a computer, and an invisible boy. I was impressed with all of their different ideas and how well they completed the assignments. Most of the students went beyond the minimum requirements of the assignment. I cannot wait to see what they come up with on their next project.



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

As the semester comes to an end, I would like to take some time to reflect on all the wonderful things the students have accomplished through the first half of 2022-2023. Of course, it is a big challenge to come to school everyday based on the circumstances that we are surrounded with, but overall, it has been a great success because we live through it. I am glad everyone is healthy and safe in our classes. 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. With that being 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 making a difference in our society. During the winter month, 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 great winter break.





# Classroom News

## Secondary

**Ms. Migdal & Ms. Hayes**  
8th-12th Critical Thinking & Careers

In this class we have been focusing on making resumes and learning about what references are when asked on job applications. We have been learning about interviewing and the correct way to address future employers.

We have also been spending time researching what jobs will look like in the future and how technology will be integrally involved; how some of the new technology will be able to change their own algorithms. So jobs of the future will require training in how to operate, fix and maintain the new technological tools that are our future holds. Happy Holidays to you all, stay safe.



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

Another year has come and gone and while we mourn days gone by, we also cherish the joyful memories made during 2022.

As we continue creating engaging classrooms where students are actively involved in their own learning, we hope that families are reminded to also 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 2023! 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  
Secondary Reading

"So How Was School Today?"

**Mr. Ramos**  
Physical Education

In PE class, we are working on spatial awareness, and playing basketball and volleyball. The students have shown an interest in being out of the classroom for a while as well as being able to use the gym again. Please remind your students to drink water during activities and to use hand sanitizer after using shared equipment.



**Mr. Murph**  
Behavior Support

We appreciate you giving your best effort, even when it's challenging at the time. By persevering, you'll get stronger in the long run. Enjoy your holiday vacation with family and friends, and I hope you have a fantastic time. When January rolls around, I hope to see you!

**Mr. Jensen, and Mr. Vandeveld**  
Life Skills Grades 2, 3, 6, and 8

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 of the 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.







# 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.



COVID had limited parent/family face-to-face contact and involvement, but this year we are able to conduct a combination of remote (Zoom) and in-person activities. 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 parent workshops about meeting your child's sensory needs, offered by FDLRS and ESE Family Services Specialists Renae Seguin and Cindy Michaels November 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom and in-person. 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, safe and relaxing holiday break, and we will see you in 2023!



**Mrs. Meltzer**  
**Reading Coach/Media Specialist**

Happy Holidays! Winter break is a great time for extra reading practice. Two websites previously mentioned are [compasslearning.leeschools.net](http://compasslearning.leeschools.net) and [floridastudents.org](http://floridastudents.org). In addition, [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, safe, and relaxing break, see you in 2023!



## 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**

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**

Dear Parents and Students,  
I am sincerely impressed with your willingness to continue to attend school and follow along with the new procedures this school year. This is a very important time of year because even though the holidays are upon us, we need to try to achieve good grades as the semester will be ending on December 21st. This means that your high school students will be granted their first credits of the school year, and middle school students earn another quarter grade, which gets averaged to become their annual grade. One easy way to stay engaged with school is to access the "FOCUS Parent Portal." This will require the use of your student's PIN# to set up, but give me a ring at the school if you wish to do so. I am happy to provide that information to a parent/guardian. Let's keep up the great work this school year. Have a wonderful Winter Break!



## 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), Endorsement, Roderick Eady—ESOL (Endorsement) and Reading Endorsement, Gloria Fisher—ESOL (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, and Bradley Brown ESE and Science 5-9.

**Royal Palm Journal/A**  
**Title I School**

3050 Indian Street  
Fort Myers, FL 33916  
239.337.3511

<http://roy.leeschools.net>