



# PANTHER POST

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### Save the Date:



**Dec 2**— RVP Family Cooking Night at 6pm

**Dec 18**— Wear your Christmas Pajamas to School!

**Dec 21-Jan 4** — No School / Winter Break

### Transportation Changes:

The safety and security of our students is our priority. Please remember to send a note in with your students with any transportation changes for dismissal the morning of the change. We cannot accept any changes over the phone. You may also fax a note to the school with a copy of your driver's license **before 1:00 P.M.** Any changes made after 1:00 P.M. will NOT be made. Thank you for your cooperation with this important matter.

### Early Sign-Outs

If you're planning on picking your student up early from school, please send a note with your student so that both the teacher and front office are aware and can be prepared. No students are allowed to be signed out after 3:15pm.



### Harry Chapin Food Pantry

We are now in partnership with the Harry Chapin Food Pantry and have a food pantry on-site. Please reach out to Mrs. Otero or Ms. Gonzalez (274-3932) if you are in need of visiting our pantry. It can be accessed by appointment and at all major school events.



**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

### Stay current by following us:



Ray V. Pottorf Elementary



@rayvpottorf



@rvpelementary



### Technology News:

**KHAN Academy** - Need help with math? This **FREE** website provides step-by-step videos and practice exercises to help AND it is a student favorite. Every type of math is covered here in addition to computing, science, and history. Though it's best when kids already understand the concepts and just need help with the little details, this resource gives kids access to independent, self-paced learning. Khan Academy can be accessed via your student's launchpad.



### Media Center News:

Becoming a good reader takes practice. Kids are happy to practice when they get the books they want. Our book cart, Book Dash, and Destiny Discover are the perfect way for them to find and choose the books they want to read. For this month of December, why not take time each night to snuggle up with a good book (a blanket as necessary) and read together. Using "Book Dash" is like



ordering food for pick up. When you place an order, you have to give us time to find your book, process it, and put it in the Book Dash Closet out front. You will not get it the day you order it. Ms. Engvalson is teaching classes all day and will prepare your book that evening or during her planning time the next day. In most cases, your Home Connect teacher will let you know your books are in the Book Dash closet.

### Math News:

We've made it to the twelfth month of the year! In November, some teachers attended a day of CGI Math Training. This training enhances teachers' abilities to teach math with understanding through a focus on students' mathematical thinking. For many teachers, this is their second or third year learning how to apply CGI strategies in their classroom. Research shows that CGI increases students' math achievement, problem-solving experiences, and teachers' math knowledge. We encourage parents/guardians to have students solve math problems on their own and discuss what strategies they used to answer. Here are some sample problems you could try. 1. Jenny's dad carves the turkey. He places 2 drumsticks, 2 wings, 11 slices of white meat and 8 slices of dark meat on a platter. How many pieces of turkey are on the platter? 2. Jenny bakes some chocolate chip cookies for dessert. She makes three batches. The first batch has 16 cookies. The second batch has 14 cookies and the third batch has 15 cookies. Jenny throws out 6 burnt cookies. How many chocolate chip cookies does Jenny end up with? 3. Jenny wants to double her grandma's green bean casserole. It calls for 1/4 cup of onions on top. How many cups of onions would Jenny need to put on top now?



### PBIS News:

PBIS is beneficial for all students- here are some strategies to use at home and school. 1) Set clear routines for everything you would like the child to do. Although it can be tedious, be explicit about everything. Do not assume that they know your expectations and be sure to show them how you would like things to be done. Kids often get in trouble because they do not understand what they are expected to do. 2) Avoid using shame and intimidation to correct a child; instead quietly and quickly bend down and whisper to the student what you would like them to do and the consequence they will receive if the expectation is not met, then move away. 3) Children benefit from a 3-5 minute break to reset and get focused. Consider allowing time to rest and reset before transitioning to a new task. Brain breaks are helpful and fun.

### Mental Health News:

#### Make School Attendance a Priority

- Establish routines for bedtime, waking up and showing up for class.
- Identify a quiet place for your child to do school work. If you have multiple children, make a schedule. Or ask your school or community agencies if they have created places for distance learning, or if noise-canceling headsets are available for students.
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to

school or logging in to the computer if you can't be there to help. Find a family member, neighbor or older child who can help over the phone or who can help while wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance. Community-based organizations might also be able to help.

- When school is in session, avoid extended family trips and non-urgent medical appointments.
- Ask your child's teacher about attendance and tell the teacher any concerns you have.





### Kindergarten News:

It is unbelievable that it is December already! It feels like we just started school! Our kindergarteners have been doing wonderful following through with the procedures of school they have learned! We are learning how to give the beginning sounds of words, find words that start with the same beginning sounds, and break words into their onset and rime (the word dog can be broken into /d/ /og/). We continue to work on letter identification and sounds, so that students have fluency with these skills to then be able to give letter sounds and blend them together and make words. In reading stories to your child, please talk with them about who the characters are, where and when the setting is, and what happens at the beginning, middle, and ending of a story. In math, we have been finding numbers that are "one more" than another number and also "one less". We are continuing to do our problem-solving questions, such as, "There are 5 bears in the forest. 2 more bears join them. How many bears are in the forest?" In these problems, it is more important that they can verbalize what they did (I drew 5 circles to show the 5 bears that were in the forest, and then I made 2 more circles to show the 2 other bears that came. This shows there are 7 bears in the forest.) Instead of just saying  $5 + 2 = 7$ . We are working on the communication skills of being great problem solvers! We are all very proud of all the growth we have seen in our students – and we can't wait to see how much more they grow this month!



### Joke of the Month

Q: What do you call a snowman in July?

A: a puddle.



### Third Grade News:

Quarter 2 has roared to an outstanding start with many students returning to our 3rd grade classrooms from HomeConnect and Virtual Learning. Welcome back! Also, please welcome the newest teacher to join our 3rd grade team, Ms. Kaylee Morfis. She will be instructing many of our returning students. In ELA, we have been studying the elements of stories, poetry and drama, but we will be studying non-fiction standards again soon. Math has been focused on the study of Time, Measurement and Place Value. Finally, our learning in Science is currently targeting Energy and Motion. As we move into the holiday season, 3rd grade is looking forward to our annual tradition of decorating gingerbread houses on December 11th. Information about this project will be coming home soon from your child's teacher.



### Fourth Grade News:

4th grade students are doing an amazing job with learning new things and making new friends! In math we are getting ready to learn about fractions - comparing them, adding and subtracting them, and many other skills! We are enjoying science lab with Ms. Camel and learning so much through investigations about energy. Be sure to ask your student to show you examples of the different forms of energy around your house. Many students are working hard in AR and reaching their reading goals for this quarter. We appreciate your support and hope you all have very happy, safe and restful holidays!

### First Grade News:

First Grade had an amazing first quarter. During the second quarter we will be building upon and using the vital foundational skills we are learning in phonics. In ELA, we will be working on determining the central message of literary books and the main idea of informational books. In math we will be working on strategies for adding numbers over 10. We are so excited to tie in the holiday celebrations with our curriculum. Please be on the lookout for any special messages from your child's teacher.

### Second Grade News:

Second Grade Adventures Continue!



Second quarter has arrived so quickly! We are excited to have new students from Home Connect join us in our new adventures in second grade. Students are exploring many new topics in both Science and Social Studies. In Science they will learn about the life cycles of plants and animals. They will understand how the plants and animals adapt to their environments. In Social Studies, they will identify different landforms and the natural resources that they provide us. Developing a love of reading along with comprehension skills are the focus of second grade reading. We are reading different genres of books, such as poetry, biographies, fables, and informational texts. Read to your child, and have them read to you. Ask them questions about the story, and enjoy the quality time together. Reading at home is the best way to improve reading skills learned in school. In Math, your child is developing an understanding of place value and how to decompose numbers to solve word problems. It is exciting to see their math skills grow. Keep working with your child at home as they share math skills learned at school.

### Fifth Grade News:

We've got lots going on in 5th grade this month! We're investigating different types of energy from mechanical, chemical, and electrical to sound, heat, and light! Woah! That's a lot of energy! In ELA, we're learning how a narrator's point of view can shape the way stories are told and how they are structured to draw us in with action and events, as well as how to understand and appreciate the way an author's visuals contribute to the tale. Did you know author? We'll also be comparing and contrasting text structures in informational texts and how understanding an author's use of structure like chronology, cause and effect, and compare and contrast can help us become better readers and writers. In math, we'll be buried in fractions as we learn how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide them even more deeply than we did last year! It's exciting!

### Mini-Challenge Time!

How many **snowmen** can you spot hidden throughout this newsletter?

A: 13

