



PANTHER POST

April 1, 2021

Volume 21
Number 08

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Save the Date:

April 2 — No School
April 5 — No School
April 16 — Early Dismissal/End of Q3
April 20/21 — 3rd Grade ELA FSA
April 22 — 4/5 FSA Writing



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:

Cell Phone Safety: When plans change, practice ends early, or you're running late, a cell phone is a parent's best friend — but it will only keep your child safe if you set the right rules and talk about risks. Cell phones are not just fun and games; they can sometimes lead to trouble. Explain the safety risks associated with text messages, data use, games, apps, and sharing photos. Cell phone safety is a good opportunity to learn lessons about being responsible. Remind your child to keep their information private. Instruct your child to use caution when giving out their number. Make sure they do not publicize their number on the internet. Ensure your child understands the importance of telling an adult about suspicious or inappropriate cell phone behaviors.



Media Center News:

Did you know?

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:

Many of our teachers have recently finished their last professional development session for the year on CGI – Cognitively Guided Instruction. This helps our teachers teach math in a way that makes sense to students and in a way that is appropriate for their development. You can help at home by posing a math problem and encouraging them to talk about the way they would solve it – if you need help finding appropriate problems for their grade level, you can find some on Khan Academy. FSA Testing is fast approaching for our third, fourth, and fifth-grade students! You can help your students prepare for this assessment by having them work on Khan Academy, Freckle, and/or Imagine Math. All of these wonderful teaching tools can be found on your student's launchpad. We appreciate your help in preparing them for this assessment!



Music News:

Please join us to watch our elite group of 4th and 5th grade students participate in the 11th Annual Learning for Life Got Talent Show! The event will take place on April 17th, 2021 from 2:30-5:30pm at the Rockstar Harley Davidson in Fort Myers, Florida. Our participants have worked hard during their Friday clubs to put on an exciting and entertaining bucket drumming performance. Admission is \$5

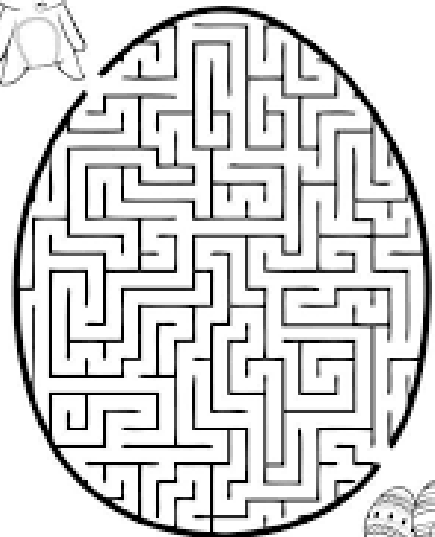


Friendly Reminder:

Please remind your child(ren) to bring in a water bottle that they can leave at school. We have **new** filtered water fountains they can use to refill and stay hydrated throughout the day!

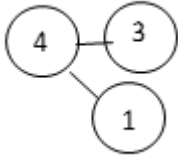
Clinic News:

Please remember to wash your child's mask after they wear it. We still need to make sure we are staying safe so if your child is ill please keep them home. Please also encourage your child to be drinking water and make sure they have a water bottle at school, to keep them hydrated and healthy. The clinic is in need of boys and girls clothes, please consider donating if you are doing any Spring Cleaning!



Kindergarten News:

This month, our kindergarten students will be enjoying watching metamorphosis occur in their classrooms! Each kindergarten class will be watching the amazing change from caterpillar to butterfly! Check your students backpacks for books – encourage your student to read to you. Please ask them questions about what they are reading. Have them draw a picture of their favorite part of the book and explain why it's their favorite part. We encourage invented/phonetic spelling in kindergarten. So, if your child spells "ixitd" for the word "excited" please be *excited* that they are using their phonics skills to sound out words! We are continuing with addition and subtraction in math. Students will use be using a "number bond" to help them see the relationship between the numbers.



Third Grade News:

Happy Spring! During April, third graders will continue practicing valuable English and Language Arts Skills in our Extended Day Program. Currently, we are working hard to increase our reading fluency and comprehension abilities. We are also busy preparing for the Third Grade FSA test on April 20th and 21st. Parents can be a big help to their child by making sure they are in school every day, ensuring 8 to 10 hours of nightly sleep and monitor their nightly reading to keep up with their A.R. goals.

Lastly, The Green Bus visited us recently. It was so much fun learning different ways we can help keep our earth healthy. We played games and learned new words like Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink in an outdoor classroom. Some of the games included "Recycle Relay", "Jeopardy", and a baseball themed game which helped the students come up with ways they can make a positive impact on our Earth.

Fourth Grade News:

Happy Spring! We cannot even believe we are getting ready to start the 4th quarter with the kids! They are working hard every day to improve their writing skills as we prepare for the FSA Writes test later this month.

In math we have been learning about Geometry and will be reviewing everything we did this year as we get ready for FSA next month. Please talk to your child about their AR goals & the books they are reading. Have them tell you about characters, setting, plot, or facts they learn! Science is always interesting to our 4th graders and we are ready for lots of investigations as we study Life Science topics.

Please watch for important information coming home about school events & other news, and remember to check Focus to stay updated on your child's grades. Thanks for all you do!!! We love working with you & your children!

Joke of the Month

Q: How does the Easter Bunny stay in shape?



A: Eggs-ercise

Second Grade News:

We can't believe Quarter 3 is almost over! Please continue to read each night with your student and ask questions about what you read together. In Reading, we are reading informational texts and describing how reasons support specific points from the author. In Math, we are learning how to construct arrays and how to use repeated addition to represent the arrays. In Social Studies, we are learning about how governments form and why laws are important. Additionally, students will be able to identify characteristics of a responsible citizen and how citizens can make a positive impact in their community. In Science, we are learning about the seasons and the importance of the Sun's energy. Lastly, we will be taking our STAR Reading and Math test for Quarter 3 in the next few weeks. Please contact your student's teacher if you have any questions!

Fifth Grade News:

April 1 is an important day - not because it is April Fools Day but because there are only 51 days left of school. I mention this not because my main focus is the last day of school, but, my focus is having 51 days for our children, your children to be prepared for Middle School and FSA! As a fifth grade team we are focusing on Reading, Writing, Math and Science - preparing our kids the best we can, to be ready for their transition to Middle School, as well as, the Florida State Assessment (FSA) in April and May.

As I mentioned, we have two focuses for upcoming months - preparation for 6th grade and the Florida State Assessment (FSA). In Math, your children will be learning about graphs and how to read and analyze the information. They will also be engaged in review of skills that have been presented throughout the year in preparation for the assessment. Reading, we will also be focusing on skills that have been covered throughout the year.

Thank you to Ms. Smith and Mrs. Kuykendall, who have been instrumental in preparing our students for the FSA Writes. Our students are learning about creating a creative HOOK to get their readers engaged in their topic. Also, helping our students to stay on topic - to pay close attention to the directions of their writing assessment and stick to the topic!

Mrs. Camel has been working tirelessly to get our students prepared for the Science FSA. This is so important because when students reach 5th grade they are required to add Science to their list of assessments. Students in Grade 5 take four (Math Reading, Writing and Science) FSA assessments where other grades only take 2/3 (Math, Reading, Writing) depending upon their grade level.

How can you help us get our students ready for the Florida State Assessment?

1. Have your child get a good night's sleep!
2. Make sure your child is at school - it is important for them to be here for the new material, as well as, the review of skills that will be taking place!
3. Read 30 minutes a night - **We have Accelerated Reader Goals!** Let's help them meet those goals by reading with your child. Take turns reading paragraphs and then, ask your child questions about what they read! We have an incentive of a pizza party for those who meet their goal at the end of the quarter.
4. Math: Practice those math facts.
5. Writing: Did you do something cool over the weekend? Have your child write it down in a paragraph retelling the events. The ability to write for an extended amount of time without a break is very important. The FSA in writing is 120 minutes in length.