



# PANTHER POST

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Brandy Macchia– Principal  
Angela Davis– Assistant Principal  
Tonya Knight– Assistant Principal

### Save the Date:

May 11/12 — ELA FSA 4/5



May 19/20 — Math FSA  
(3rd,4th,5th)

May 25/26 — Science testing (5th)

May 31 —No School

### 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:

Kids can do more than merely use, play with and watch media created by others. Instead, they can use technology in creative and imaginative ways. For example, tech can help them write their own songs or create works of art. Children can also use smartphones, tablets or computers to create their own videos to share with family and friends. They can have fun filming themselves acting out a play or make an instructional video to teach a grandparent how to play their favorite video game. Allowing students to explore what they know through technology can be a great way to connect their learning with



### Mental Health News:

#### Why is Mindfulness important?

#### Research confirms that for children, mindfulness can:

- Mitigate the effects of bullying (Zhou, Liu, Niu, Sun, & Fan, 2016);
- Enhance focus in children with ADHD (Zhang et al., 2016);
- Reduce attention problems (Crescentini, Capurso, Furlan, & Fabbro, 2016);
- Improve mental health and wellbeing;
- Improve social skills when well taught and practiced with children and adolescents.

#### A Mindfulness exercise you can try at home with your kids:

**Mindful Posing:** One easy way for children to dip their toes into mindfulness is through body poses. To get your kids excited, tell them that doing fun poses can help them feel strong, brave, and happy.

Have the kids go somewhere quiet and familiar, a place they feel safe. Next, tell them to try one of the following poses:

1. The Superman: this pose is practiced by standing with the feet just wider than the hips, fists clenched, and arms reached out to the sky, stretching the body as tall as possible.
2. The Wonder Woman: this pose is struck by standing tall with legs wider than hip-width apart and hands or fists placed on the hips (Karen Young, 2017).

Ask the kids how they feel after a few rounds of trying either of these poses. You may be surprised!

### Clinic News:

Just a few reminders.... Continue to encourage your student to wash their hands with soap and water thoroughly and when on the go make sure to use hand sanitizer ;) Please remind your students to be drinking water at home and help them get enough water everyday by sending them to school with a water bottle. If your student is showing signs of illness PLEASE keep them home to rest and to not spread germs, lets help eachother stay SAFE & HEALTHY!



### Math News:

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be taking their Math FSA on May 19th and 20th. Students this is your chance to show what you know about Math concepts you have been learning. Please be sure you get a good night sleep on the days before the FSA. Grade levels will be participating in a Math Blitz on the days leading up to the FSA. Please be sure your student is present so they can get the most of these learning opportunities. As always, you can access technology resources such as Freckle, Khan, and ImagineMath. If you need help accessing these resources at home please reach out to your student's teacher. Additionally, if you need paper-based resources, please reach out to your student's teacher.



### Music News:

Congratulations to the RVP Panther Pride Percussion Group who performed at the 11th Annual Learning for Life Talent Show. These talented musicians came in 2nd place in their division and received a beautiful trophy. We are so proud of these students who represented our school with PRIDE! In other news, we are gearing up for our own RVP School Talent Show, which will be taking place on June 11th, 2021. Students across the school are working hard to prepare their acts for a fantastic performance. Students will perform live for select grades, and there will be a livestreamed broadcast available to the whole school. We can't wait to showcase RVP's talented students.



### 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 May, why not take time each night to snuggle up with a good book (a blanket as necessary) and read together.

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.



### Kindergarten News:

It is amazing that it is now the 4th quarter! It seems like we were just starting the school year with your child and teaching them how to walk in a line, sit in a classroom, listen to a teacher and follow directions. We have come very far since day 1 of Kindergarten! Please remember to still be sending your child to school with a water bottle. We have been noticing less and less children have been bringing in water bottles. Our weather is starting to get hotter again - more hydration is necessary as we have recess every day and PE every other day! Please also continue to read with your child at home. We have a lot of "budding readers" that are set to become awesome readers with your assistance at home! Check your child's folder nightly for their book and also math homework!

### First Grade News:

The Winner of our Book Battle was...drum roll, please..... THE BOOK WITH NO PICTURES! As we begin to wrap up our year in first grade, our students are transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn. Our aim is to push our students to become fluent readers as this successfully prepares them for second grade. To help us in this we will spend our time reviewing skills that were previously taught and learned throughout the year. In addition to spiraling back we will also be focusing on our last two ELA standards, one literary and one informational. Exciting times are ahead in math as we will be introducing time and partitioning shapes. As always, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Let's finish out strong. Have your child(ren) read each night to sharpen their reading skills.

### Second Grade News:

Wow! It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end soon. Your child's last day as a second grader is on June 17th. This is so exciting for everyone, however you need to remind your child that the learning does not stop until the last day of school. There is so much information and important skills that we need to cover. Especially with all that we had to make up from last year.

As we are learning about graphing, counting money, measuring and geometric shapes it is important that your child continues practicing adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers. Newsletters are being sent home periodically to give more information about those skills.

Reading has been a main focus in second grade. It is important that they have a quiet place to read and concentrate on the content of their book. Your child should be able to read a book and understand its content before taking an AR test. Please have your child read at home for 20 to 30 minutes each night. In school your child is learning how to compare and contrast information that are in two different books or articles. They are using their skills and critical thinking to answer questions. This is an important step in the transition from

"Learning to Read" to "Reading to Learn".

Please include a learning/ reading time in your schedule as you are making plans for your summer. It is important to keep their skills sharp and reduce the regression that sometimes happens during the summer.

### Joke of the Month



Q: What has four wheels and flies?



A: A trash truck!

### ELA News:

Quarter four has begun for students and teachers at Ray V Pottorf! Our students had the opportunity to complete their last DIBELS assessment. Remember that this assessment checked your child's knowledge of letters, letter sounds, segmenting-decoding-blending words (Grades K-1) and oral reading fluency Grades (1-5). Also, it measured your child's progress and growth as a reader. Teachers used the results from the data to target and meet the needs of your child in reading to make instructional decisions to target your child's need(s). In addition, state testing has begun. Our teachers are working extremely hard to ensure that our students are prepared and feel confident as a reader. Please continue to encourage your child to read and talk about his/her book. This will help to improve his/her fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

Reading is the ticket to any adventure!...Continue to explore the journey!

### Third Grade News:

April was a busy month for third grade and May is shaping up to be just as busy! Among some of the highlights of April were that we planted a tree for Earth Day. We are in the process of naming our tree which will be here to enjoy for years to come. Thank you to Sunman Nursery and Mike Westin from the Department of Forestry for donating and helping us to plant our tree. We also recently finished taking the ELA FSA. Good job, third graders! Now, on to Math testing. We will be testing for FSA Math on May 11th and 12th. We will be prepared! We are doing some fun things in Math to get ready. We are traveling in groups to visit each third grade teacher to play some fun Math games to learn and review the Math standards we have worked on all year. Third Grade will "Rock" the FSA!

### Fourth Grade News:

Welcome to the 4th quarter of 4th grade! Seems like we were just starting the year with so many unknowns and now we are getting ready to take FSAs and finish our amazing year together! We are so proud of the growth your children have made this year academically and socially. These next few weeks we will continue to review, review and review everything we have learned this year (and last!) as students get ready to show what they know on our state tests. Please make sure your child is well rested and on-time for school, on test day AND every day! Here are a few things you can do at home to help keep your child successful in school: \*It is getting warmer so having them bring a water bottle is a great idea. \*Keep reading for AR quizzes every night & talking to your student about what they read. \*Ask them to show you what they are practicing in math. \*Have them ask you questions about our science concepts such as inherited traits, weathering, erosion and plants! \*Remind to keep being respectful and working hard at school!

**See Next Page for 5th  
Grade NEWS!**

