

PANTHER POST



September 2023

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

In Kindergarten, in addition to learning our letters and sounds, we have been working hard on important phonemic awareness skills. Research has identified phonemic awareness as the most potent predictor of success in learning to read. Phonemes are the individual units of sound that make up words. For example, the word "sat" is made up of three phonemes: /s/ /a/ /t/. Phonemic awareness is not only the recognition that words are made up of small sound units, but it is also the ability to break down, manipulate and blend phonemes. Young readers need to be able to apply their understanding of phonemes to begin to read. Phonemic awareness allows young readers to build another important element of reading: phonics. Phonics (the relationship between letters and sounds) builds upon phonemic awareness. When a child understands and can manipulate sounds verbally, they are ready to transfer this knowledge to printed words. Things such as counting words in a sentence, rhyming, blending beginning and ending sounds of words /d/ /og/ to make the whole word, breaking a word into its syllables, etc. are all examples of phonemic awareness skills. There are many games you can play using phonemic awareness skills – I spy the /m/ /ilk/, etc. Continue to also work with your child on their math skills (activity examples are in parentheses) Counting groups of objects (ask your child to count you out 7 crayons), sorting groups into categories and saying why they are in those categories (these are clothes and these are toys), drawing to do problem solving (there were 3 dogs in the yard, if they each had 2 bones, how many bones were in the yard?), and writing their numbers 0-10. Thank you for all your support in helping your child be successful!

FIRST GRADE NEWS

Our first graders picked up right where they left off before summer! The most important part of first grade is learning to read so our students can begin reading to learn! Parents, your support at home is crucial. We encourage your child to bring library books home so they

can practice reading and begin making strides to make their AR goals, please take the time to listen to your child read. In class we have been discussing story elements such as character, setting, and sequencing events, using thinking maps. During math your child has been discovering various strategies to effectively add and subtract numbers within 10 with automaticity. We will begin to increase those numbers to 20. Ask your child(ren) to show you different ways to make 10! Our goal is to facilitate an engaging learning environment so our students can continue to foster a love of learning! Please reach out to your child's teacher for specific ways you can help your child at home to sharpen their skills. Look out for upcoming events.

SECOND GRADE NEWS

Happy September last month just flew by! We have been enjoying getting to know all the students and building new skills. In reading we just finished up working on plot structure, describing main elements in a text, explaining and identifying text features and identifying and use base words and affixes to find the meaning of unfamiliar words. In math we just wrapped up reviewing some of our addition and subtraction facts. We are moving on to creating equal groups. We are working hard to also meet our AR goals. To help meet their reading goals, please read with your child for 30 minutes every night. This ensures that they will be ready to take their AR quiz the next day at school.

THIRD GRADE NEWS

Third grade is off to a great start in our new school year! We are looking forward to learning and doing many great things this year! This month in ELA we are learning about author's purpose and text features, along with improving our skills in phonics. In math we are continuing to learn our properties of multiplication, and strategies to solve multiplication and division. In science we are learning about matter (how to describe and measure), and in social studies we are exploring the five regions of the United States and how to read maps.

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We can't believe first quarter is halfway over already! We are excited about even more learning adventures coming next month!

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

We have had a great start to 4th grade! The students are doing a wonderful job creating a learning community and settling into routines. In math we have been busy with place value concepts and will soon be working on angles. In ELA literary elements have been a focus, along with idioms and context clues. Next, we will be reading informational texts centering on explorers. Be sure to ask your student about Science Lab and what they have learned about matter! Thanks for your support and keep reading with your child EVERY night to help your child be ready to take AR quizzes each week.

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

We are in full swing in 5th grade. In math we are working with place value patterns and relationships. In ELA we are exploring how literary elements affect the plot of a story. In science we are finishing up properties of matter and moving on to mixtures.

TECHNOLOGY

Reading & Technology: Between kindergarten and twelfth grade, students with an average daily reading time of 30+ minutes are projected to encounter 13.7 million words. At graduation, their peers who averaged less than 15 minutes of reading per day are likely to be exposed to only 1.5 million words. There are several options available to help children find books free online. Students have books at their fingertips, just waiting to be read. Be sure to check out Overdrive through the Lee County Public Library! There are also many other great online resources where families can listen to stories being read aloud such as www.storylineonline.net.

MATH

We are looking forward to welcoming families on Friday, September 22nd for our annual Math Night from 5pm to 7pm. Please come play various math games and enjoy learning with your student. Refreshments and math resources will be provided for free for those families in attendance.

MEDIA/AR NEWS

Get Ready! The Literati Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing our own books empowers us kids and inspires us to become Bolder, Prouder, and Stronger Readers. AND—as always—every book we buy earns rewards for our school. Get Ready! The Literati Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing our own books empowers us kids and inspires us to become Bolder, Prouder, and Stronger Readers. AND—as always—every book we buy earns rewards for our school. Our fair will take place from October 18 to October 25th in the Media Center. We will be open during our evening Student Led Conferences as well. More information about all of this is coming home soon. Catch you at the Literati Book Fair!

SCIENCE

RVP students are practicing what it's like to think like scientists! You can help your child develop these inquiry skills at home, too! A great conversation starter is to her/him to describe physical properties (characteristics) how things look, feel, smell, taste, and even sound. Developing a descriptive vocabulary is a critical skill in scientific communication. Is the object rough? Sticky? Sour? Pungent? Oblong? Dense? High pitched? Magnetic? For more ideas on how to support science learning at home, ask your child's teacher or email our science coach, Mrs. Camel, at roxannc@leeschools.net.



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MENTAL HEALTH

Our food pantry is open every Friday (other than when school is closed from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Can't make that time? Call or text Miss Cathy at 239-281-3675 and arrange a time with her to get non-perishable food.

PTO NEWS

We are looking forward to our first big PTO event in October...TRUNK OR TREAT! So please save the date for October 27th and plan to join us for an evening of fun and FUNdraising! Be sure to follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/RVPPTO> for more details on Trunk or Treat and other fun events. Our next PTO meeting is October 19th at 4:30pm for anyone who would like to join!

TITLE 1

The Parent & Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) is in our front office and available upon request. Furthermore, student-led conferences will be next month! The dates are Thursday, October 19, 2023, or Tuesday, October 24, 2023. This is an amazing opportunity for your student to share their academic progress with you. We will have translators available during this great event!

ELA

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." --Dr. Seuss. There are so many ways to make reading fun! Here are just a few: 1) Check out your local library, it's free to check out books and they even have free passes available to fun places like Calusa Nature Center and CMON Children's Museum 2) Read a book out loud as a family, then watch the movie version together and compare them (The Pagemaster, Jumanji, The Lorax, etc.) 3) After your child reads an AR book they bring home, have them do a fun project on it like creating a new book jacket, brochure recommending it to a friend, shoebox diorama of their favorite part, etc.

How do you make reading fun at home? Send your ideas to christinaasm@leeschools.net to be featured in next month's newsletter!

OUT OF FIELD TEACHERS

Florida State Statue 1012.42 recognizes that teachers at times must be assigned duties in a class outside the field in which the teacher is certified. The teachers at Ray V. Pottorf Elementary School are certified but may be assigned one or more classes outside their areas of certification and are required to take appropriate steps to comply with the statutory regulation. The following faculty members are engaged in training to add the endorsement, English as a Second Language (ESOL), to their certificate: Silvia Antunes, Samantha Chagnon, Kylie Consoer, Brittani Dulevich, Tracie Freeman, Lorybeth Green, Brianna Hatfield, Mary James, Skylar LeMaster, Kenzie Leeseberg, Jamie McKinney, Paola Mojica, Cynthia Montoya-Tarres, Rebecca Rhodes & Alicia Sullivan. The following faculty member is engaged in training to add the Reading endorsement to their certificate: Natasha Hodge.

