



# Rodrunner Express

Shannon Haire  
Principal

Melissa Sumner  
Assistant Principal

*Reaching Every Student— All Day, Every Day, Every Way!*

*From Ms. Haire and Mrs. Sumner*

Dear Parents,

Welcome to February everyone! With Valentine’s Day almost upon us, I am happy to report that our wonderful parents and teachers are planning a very special opportunity for kids in grades 3, 4, and 5 again this year. Mark your calendars for February 10th, pull out your best Sunday clothes, and join us again this year for ‘*Some Enchanted Evening*’! In case you didn’t experience it in years past, this is our annual Father/Daughter and Mother/Son dance, and we are pulling out all the stops. Guests will enjoy dining and dancing to music provided by our DJ, along with a keepsake picture and crafts. Tickets must be purchased beforehand, so be sure to locate the flyers that went home with kids.

If you are the parent of a student in grades K-5th, you are aware that the annual *Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)* is just around the corner. Please know that our teachers and coaches continue to do an excellent job of analyzing student data and using it to make sound decisions about what needs to be done to keep our students moving forward with their academics. As we await the test, you can also be certain that they are continually assessing students’ progress and using the results of quarterly AimsWeb, STAR, and iReady to plan appropriate instruction.

- Check their agendas and grades daily.
- Make sure homework is completed correctly and turned in.
- Read for 20 minutes every night.
- Be at school every day - on time and for the entire day.
- Focus on academics, hard work, and effort.
- Ask questions when you need help.
- Concentrate on appropriate positive behavior.

**FAST TESTING SCHEDULE**

**All K-5th state testing will be in May!**



**Important February Dates**

***Black History Month***

Feb. 1	Class Pictures
Feb. 2	SAC (5:30) & PTO (6:00)
Feb. 3	Fresh & Fabulous Friday
Feb. 8	Progress Alerts Available in Focus
Feb. 10	Valentine’s Dance 3rd-5th (tickets required)
Feb. 20	No School - Presidents’ Day
Feb. 22	All Pro Dads (reservations required)

**Box Top News**

So, have you downloaded the Box Top For Education app yet? If you haven’t, you may be missing out on an opportunity to help your school and win a prize. Throughout February, we will be holding a membership drive. We will be entering all parents that are signed up for BT4E into a drawing for a Publix gift card. Then, the parent with the most submissions will be awarded a gift basket. Don’t delay get enrolled today.

when we least expect it. Thank you for all your support!!

**Pecans**

Florida produces five to ten million pounds of pecans annually. In Florida, pecan trees can be found in all regions between Pensacola and Miami. Most of the total acreage (8,500 acres) is located in Northern Florida because nut production is more optimal here thanks to colder winters compared to South Florida. Pecans are the only nut native to the United States. Pecan harvest season begins in September/October. Pecans provide healthy fats, primarily monounsaturated and polyunsaturated, fiber, protein, thiamin, zinc, copper, manganese, and phytochemicals. They are a delicious way for people to consume heart-healthy nutrients. Enjoy the rich, buttery texture and naturally sweet taste of these nutrient-dense nuts!





## Pre-K News

This month we are starting our Buildings study. We will investigate the following:

What do the buildings in our neighborhood look like? Who builds buildings? What tools do they use? What are buildings made of? What happens inside buildings? What is special about our building?

Throughout our study, we will read stories such as The Three Little Pigs and The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. These two will give us an opportunity to hear the story from different perspectives. Perhaps, that big bad wolf isn't so big and bad after all.

### Friendly Reminders

\*School Choice Deadline (Children transitioning to Kindergarten): March 1, 2023

\*End-of-the-Year Meetings will be held in Late April/May

The PreK Team

## 1st Grade

February is here! We have had an amazing first half of the year and can't wait to see what February and beyond will bring! First graders are working on many challenging concepts in reading and math.

In math, they are tackling two digit addition and subtraction. This skill will need lots of practice and extra support, so please make sure to check their homework folder and work one-on-one with them. You can test their mental math skills when driving in the car by giving them non-regrouping problems to add or subtract, such as  $50+13$ .

In reading, we are discussing poetry-- *Perfect for Valentine's Day!* Our first graders are reading poems and looking for rhythm, rhyme, alliteration (Dave dances daily), and repetition. When reading at home with your child, please make sure to encourage them to sound out challenging words, and reread to better understand the texts.

First grade teachers will be sending out letters about a classroom Valentine exchange. Be on the lookout!

Thank you for your support,  
The First Grade Team

## Kindergarten

Kindergarteners have made great progress thus far! The majority of our students have mastered letter names and their letter sounds. We are currently working on word families while blending to make new words! We are increasing our independent reading skills and practicing writing, so that we can create our own sentences. In math, we are finishing subtraction and will now be working on numbers 11-20 and counting by 10s. At home, you can work with students by having them count to 100 and have them recognize different numbers up to 100.

As a reminder, please have students bring an extra pair of clothes to keep in their backpacks. Also, please write your child's name in their jacket. We are having quite a bit of jackets being left in the classrooms, and students are not recognizing/claiming these items.

Finally, as Valentine's Day approaches, please be on the lookout for information pertaining to the Valentine's Day Exchange. We truly appreciate the hard work and effort that students and parents have put into making sure this is a successful school year for all. I'm sure you don't hear this enough, but thank you! Let's continue to make this year great!

The Kindergarten Team



## Second Grade

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks of second grade! Our scholars are already hard at work. In reading, unit 3 will introduce students to a variety of texts, which will require them to utilize comprehension skills like author's purpose, sequencing, and main Idea/ key details.

In math, students are moving on to solving 3-digit addition and subtraction problems. Parents, please be sure to review all homework with your child each night. Homework is good practice, and it helps to re-enforce skills taught in class.

You are encouraged to log into FOCUS regularly to view your child's grades. Thank you for your continued support at home. Let's work together to make this 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks the best yet!

Second Grade Team



## 3RD GRADE

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Express! The third-grade team is excited about the growth we are seeing in our students! We are in FULL Boot Camp mode! That means your student is working **extremely** hard to prepare for the final Progress Monitoring Test in May. To help us be successful, please ensure your student is **present, well rested, and on time daily**. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIME IN THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS!

Also, please speak with your student about behavior. **Any** behavior distraction is a loss in instructional time! We need every minute to help launch your scholar into 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We need to maximize every minute, so students can be successful in their academics.

### Curriculum Updates:

In reading, we are starting Unit 3: HEROES. We will be focusing on plot, setting, characters, inference, theme, text structure and poems in this unit. We are also reviewing all of our comprehension skills and practicing grammar daily. In math, students are learning all about fractions: equal parts of a whole, fractions on a number line, and fractions of a group to name a few! **Please work with students on memorizing their math facts. This is critical to being successful on the MATH ASSESSMENTS.** As always, we appreciate your support and we are only a call, email, or remind message away.

The Third Grade Team

## ESE

This month, we will continue working on individualized goals for all our students. Our curriculum will focus on Black History Month and geography. We will also be incorporating our Special Olympics curriculum and introduce new sports including soccer and t-ball. Please make sure names or initials are on jackets and hats.

Thank you!

Mrs. Whitley and Mrs. Gallegos

This month, we will be continuing to work on our grade level curriculum and IEP goals. It is important that sight words and spelling words are being practiced at home. We work on both daily during our small groups, but the extra practice at home will greatly benefit your students' progress and success. We are also working on our reading skills. Reading a book with your student every night before bedtime is a great way to expose your student to reading. Here is to another great month!

Mrs. Gargan, Primary ESE Teacher

**February is full of new and challenging skills to learn. We are flying through fractions in math. We are working on vocabulary and reading comprehension in language arts. Students have made amazing progress so far this year! Please continue to work at home with your child on multiplication skills and by reading nightly. Thank you for all that you do!**

Mrs. Harvell, Intermediate ESE Teacher



### 4th Grade

We are sailing right along and continuing to work with fractions and decimals this month. We have learned how to add, subtract, and multiply fractions and mixed numbers. Multiplication and division makes this process much easier if we are on top of those skills. Please practice with your child each night if he/she is struggling. Next up are shapes and their attributes!

In reading, we are beginning a new unit- unit 3. We will take a unit test and close out that section. We have learned similes and metaphors and continue to refine our reading skills. READING, READING, READING.....is very crucial to your child's progress. Please make time to read with them, listen to them read to you, or have them read aloud to someone.

Attendance and behavior are two things that go right along with your child getting the best opportunity out of their school education. Keep up the support at home because it truly makes such a difference!

The Fourth Grade Team

### 5th Grade

**Fifth grade is on the move! We are flying through fractions. By the time we are finished with fractions, your child will be able to add them, subtract them, multiply them, divide them, compare them, and anything else you can imagine about them! Please look over your child's homework each night and encourage them to complete it.**

**In Science, we just enjoyed a visit from "High Touch, High Tech." We learned about Newton's laws. We continue to move through our units to cover all 5<sup>th</sup> grade science benchmarks, but science is a rigorous concept so those reading skills are most definitely helpful. You might be amazed at what they are learning.**

**Ms. Norman and Mrs. Atkins are focusing on prefixes, personification, and poems in reading. To celebrate Black History Month, the students are working on their bottle projects.**

The Fifth Grade Team

### SPECIAL AREA

We will be celebrating Black History Month during the month of February by highlighting trailblazers and their accomplishments. This is a great time to watch age-appropriate documentaries, read books and discuss current events in our community. Additionally, plans are underway for the launching of our SAFER SMATER KIDS curriculum beginning in February 2023. This is a LCS approved educational tool utilized to support students as they learn life skills and ways to:

- Identify trusted adults and professionals who can help promote health
- Identify ways to express needs, wants and feelings
- Describe ways to respond when in an unwanted, threatening or dangerous situation
- Describe situations when a health-related decision can be made individually or when assistance is needed
- Identify healthy options to health-related issues or problems/ Identify healthy behaviors
- Recognize the physical and social dimensions of health
- Identify ways to prevent childhood injuries in the home, school and community settings
- Identify the correct names of human body parts
- Explore the ways that a friend would act in a variety of situations
- Recognize health consequences for not following rules
- Tell about behaviors that avoid or reduce health risks
- Encourage others to make positive health choices

As you can see, there is some cool information coming down the pipeline and students will be encouraged to continue sharing what they learn with their support systems (families, friends and communities). So, this is a heads up that some thoughtful conversations are coming soon!

Hope you have a peaceful day on purpose!

Mrs. Colson, School Counselor