



# Rodrunner Express

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

*From Ms. Haire and Mrs. Sumner*

Dear Parents,

As this year continues to fly by, it's hard to believe that March has already arrived. We have recently completed our winter progress monitoring for reading and math, which enables us to look at each student and determine how much growth he or she has made since the beginning of the year. As always, I am pleased to report that academic progress is still alive and well at Ruediger. From pre-k through fifth grade, our reading and math progress monitoring shows growth and improvement for many of our kids. If you are concerned about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to schedule a conference with the teacher to discuss progress and find out how you might be able to help at home.

With the final administration of the FAST (Florida Assessment for Student Thinking) coming up quickly for kids in grades 3-5, you probably know that we are 100% focused on academics. Please continue to monitor grades and encourage your kids to put forth their very best effort every single day. As always, thank you for your continued support!

- 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.



### Important March Dates

March 2	SAC (5:30) & PTO (6:00)
March 3	Fresh & Fabulous Friday
March 9	Report Card Night
March 10	End of Third Nine Weeks
March 13-17	SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL (Campus Closed This Week)
March 20	Teacher Planning Day
March 21	Students Return
March 29	All Pro Dads
March 30	STEAM & College Night

### Box Top News

It's almost spring and you can feel it in the air. Along with spring, comes Spring Break. As you prepare for a week of fun and excitement with your little ones, don't forget to scan those receipts. Be on the lookout for an update on our progress and also information regarding a friendly competition between the grade levels. Let's see who can earn the most during the month of March.

### Why Milk?

There are few foods that match the overall nutrition benefits of milk, which is why it is often referred to as "nature's perfect food." From growing children, to athletes, to seniors, milk offers a healthy blend of nutrients to enhance health. Milk can be incorporated into a variety of fun snacks. For example, try blending up a smoothie using fruits you have on hand, ice, and an 8-oz. serving of milk. To further the fun, try freezing the mixture in a paper cup with a popsicle stick for smoothie popsicles. As an occasional treat, mixing ½ cup of instant pudding with reduced-fat milk is a quick and easy way to enjoy a delectable dessert. Dairy may not be an option for your little one, but not to worry! Lactose-free milk is available for those who suffer from lactose intolerance. Unsweetened soymilk is also an acceptable alternative. These substitutions offer similar levels of vitamin D, calcium, and other nutrients that milk provides. No matter the milk you choose, incorporating 2-3 servings of dairy into your family's daily nutrition will keep everyone's bones strong and healthy. For more information, visit: <https://thedairyalliance.com/dairy-nutrition/health-benefits-of-dairy/>.



### Pre-K News

We have completed our study on Buildings. We have looked at what buildings are made of, features of buildings, and shapes that make up buildings. We are moving into our Reduce, Reuse and Recycle study. We will investigate where does trash go, how can we reuse junk and how can we create less trash. Please begin to save and send in paper towels rolls, toilet paper rolls, and empty water bottles for us to reuse and make something new.

At home, talk about it. Talk with your child about his or her day, but guide the discussion by asking questions like, did you work hard today? What did you do that was hard today? Encourage them that it gets easier with practice. Encourage them to keep trying. Share a time when something was hard for you, and what you did. Thank you for your continued support and help from home.

The PreK Team

### 1st Grade

It is March already! This year is going by so fast! The end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks is March 11th, followed by Spring Break starting the 14th. Let's keep those first grade skills going strong and make sure they are reading during the Spring vacation. Practice comprehension skills such as finding a cause and effect in stories, problem and solution, or main idea and details. If your child struggles with a word, make sure they are attempting to sound it out before you offer the word for them. We are helping as needed, but challenging the students to read the stories on their reading tests on their own in order to prepare for second grade.

Our math skills are wrapping up with measurement, and then we will be moving into graphing. These are also skills that are easy to work on and use in discussions with your child at home.

Thank you for your support! We are looking forward to a great 4<sup>th</sup> nine weeks and last few months!

The First Grade Team

### Kindergarten

Can you believe that it is already March? Our kids are learning a ton of new knowledge. Though Spring Break is near, let's continue to push our students. Continue to work on letter names, letter sounds, sight words, blending, and reading simple sentences. We are working on numbers 20 and beyond and will be starting on 2-d shapes in math soon.

In an effort to familiarize themselves with shapes, allow your child to point out shapes that they see all around them. Ask students how many vertices and sides each shape has. Once again, we appreciate your patience and involvement in your child's learning.

The Kindergarten Team





## Second Grade

Where has the time gone? It's hard to believe that in a few weeks we will be entering the 4<sup>th</sup> and final nine weeks of the school year. Our second-grade scholars have been working hard and gearing up for third grade. In reading, they are sharpening their skills on analyzing texts, and responding to short answer questions. In math, they're learning all about 3-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping.

Parents, don't forget to strongly encourage your Roadrunner to read, read, and read some more. We are striving to achieve at least 85% of student A.R. goals. Please review FOCUS weekly, and be on the lookout for important notes from the teacher.

Thank you for your continued support at home.



The Second Grade Team

## 3RD GRADE

Third grade family, it's HARD to believe that February is over already! It went by like a WHIRLWIND! 3<sup>rd</sup> grade **BOOT CAMP** is in FULL SWING. **BOOT CAMP** simply means that we are working SUPER HARD on ALL of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade skills. EVERY SINGLE MINUTE of the day we are working to ensure that students are prepared for their upcoming end of the year tests. We want EVERY student to be CONFIDENT because they **KNOW** strategies to attack each question asked of them. Please help us by making sure students are in school, well rested and **on time** each day.

Curriculum Updates: In reading, we are working on making inferences, comparing and contrasting texts, hyperboles, and reviewing previously taught skills and strategies. In math, students are focusing on elapsed time while reviewing previous skills. Please make sure your scholar can tell time on an analog clock and **practice multiplication facts using flash cards with students every night**. As always, we appreciate your support!

Third Grade Team



## ESE

### K-2nd

Happy March Roadrunners! In our small groups, we are continuing to work hard on grade level academics and our personal goals. It is important that our spelling words and sight words are being practiced at home, doing so will greatly benefit your little roadrunner!

As we approach Spring Break, it's important that your students continue to practice their academic skills at home. This can be done with flash cards, reading books, or free worksheets found online.

Mrs. Gargan

### 3rd-5th

We are marching through this school year like champs! We are continuing to work on IEP goals and grade level standards. Students are working hard in our small groups. Our reading goals include vocabulary, fluency and reading comprehension.

In math we are working on fractions, two-dimensional figures and time. As we hop into Spring, it is important for students to practice at home. Please read nightly and practice multiplication flashcards. There are also fun academic websites for them to try like [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com) and <https://storylineonline.net>.

As always, we appreciate your support.!

Mrs. Harvell

We're very excited to announce that our new playground has been installed and is ready to be enjoyed!

This month will have an emphasis on Science, the five senses and exploring light and sound. We will be introducing new sports such as tee-ball and soccer as part of our curriculum!

Mrs. Whitley and Mrs. Gallegos



### 4th Grade

Our fourth graders had the wonderful opportunity to attend Blended Lives last month. This fit perfectly with our focus on Black History month. If you haven't, take some time to ask them about the history of Tallahassee, John G. Riley, and the Goodwood Museum, please do so- they had a wonderful time exploring these two sites. Some also attended our St. Augustine trip, where we continued to learn more about Florida's history focusing on the Spanish conquest along with the British take over of St. Augustine and the many battles that occurred at the fort Castillo de San Marcos.

During this month, we will be taking the time to dive into our students most recent pieces of data from PM 1 testing and PM 2 testing. We will be looking closely at each student and showing them their first scores and comparing it to their second set of scores. We are eager to see gains in these two areas. We have one last PM 3 testing. With great eagerness and importance, we need them to show their very best work and growth.

It has been an adjustment to go from one final end of the year test to 3 tests that take place during the school year. Please remind your student that all 3 tests track their progress and readiness for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and are very important pieces of data.

In math, we are working on angles, line segments and triangles, next up is units of measurement. Anytime that you can, please allow your child to cook/bake with you in the kitchen to help prepare them for units of measurement.

In reading, we have just completed our Unit 2. We have closed out Unit 2 with a unit test score. We begin Unit 3 which is focusing on Realistic fiction and analyzing characters. We will look closely at how characters develop throughout a story and how we can use inferences to help analyze characters.

Fourth Grade Team

### 5th Grade

**We continue to work on rigorous material in the classroom to help prepare our 5<sup>th</sup> graders for the different FAST and FCAT tests that they will participate in this year.**

**In Ms. Norman and Mrs. Atkins' classes, the students have been focused on writing with supporting their answers by using text evidence and main ideas. The skill for the reading unit is compare and contrast.**

**Science continues to make discoveries with Mr. Rwito and the STEM class. We are learning about our environment and its changes in Unit 10.**

**We can do anything imaginable with fractions! Compare, add, subtract, multiply, divide, or model..... You name it, we can do it! Please look over your child's homework each night and give any extra support needed.**

**We would also like to ask for our parents to please discuss the importance of BEHAVIOR. When behavior is on task, learning becomes better, and the more fun activities we can do.**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

## SPECIAL AREA

March is Youth Art Month! During the month of March there will be a district wide exhibition of student artwork at the main branch of the library downtown on the 1st floor. Several students from every grade level will have work on display and invitations to those artists will be going home soon but all are welcome to come view the exhibit!

In the art room, we are working our way through the elements of art and principles of design, and are currently on movement, value, and texture. Art club students recently got to attend a field trip to LeMoyné Art Gallery, and a wonderful group of 2nd and 4th graders also experienced the work of Elizabeth Catlett currently on display at the Gadsden Art Museum.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming sculptures/clay projects the students will be starting in the near future!

Ms. Kidd, Art Teacher

