



# The Cougar Paw Print

Kingsway Elementary School  
February 2024  
Letter from your Principals



Dear Cougar Leaders,

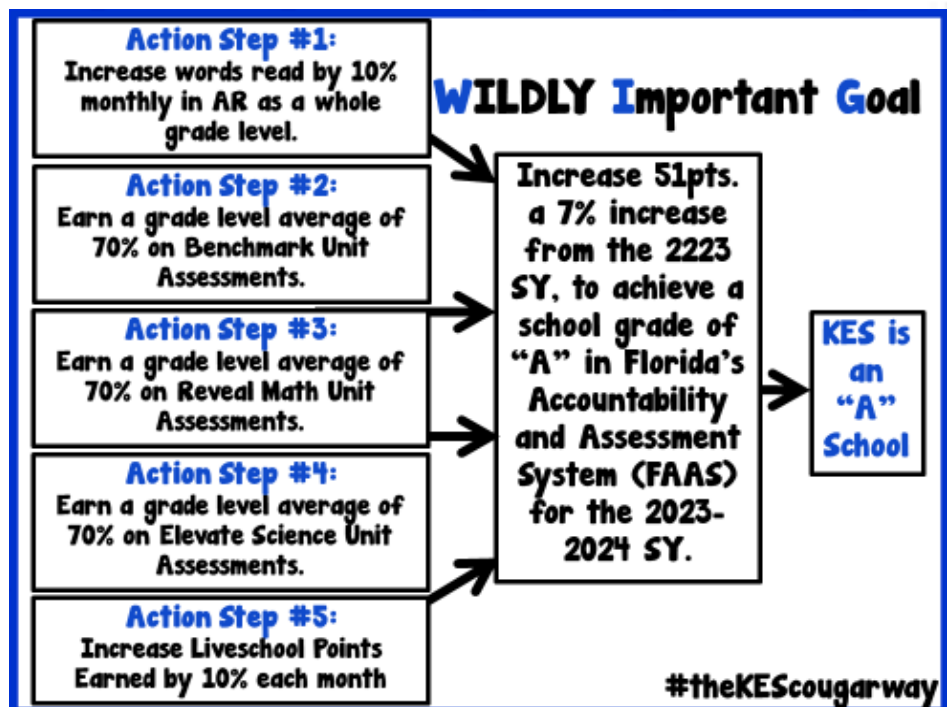
Welcome to Quarter Three! February is a month that we can focus on how kindness and friendship can change the world. It is important that we try our very best to be a good friend. Being a good friend goes hand in hand with our LEAD expectations.

We are always encouraging our Cougar Leaders to "Be Proud to LEAD". Cougar Leaders often earn Proud to Lead certificates! These certificates are presented to students on Fridays. As principals, we love these visits! Watching Cougar Leaders display Proud to Lead expectations is so awesome.

This month we are asking that you join us on our February Challenge. An act of kindness impacts more people than we know. The person that received the kindness, but also ourselves for being kind! Win-win for all!

The last few years have not been easy for many as it brought many unforeseen challenges. One way we can turn things around for all is by showing compassion and kindness to all. It's important to be positive and keep a smile on your face. We love seeing our leaders "Be Proud to Lead" and create lasting friendships. As always, thank you for ALL that you do to share in our success. We appreciate your continued support.

As we reach the third quarter, this is an important time to remember our WIGs or Wildly Important Goals. We track these goals as a school, grade levels, classes, and each student tracks their own WIGs in the Leadership Notebook.



# Stay Connected with Kingsway

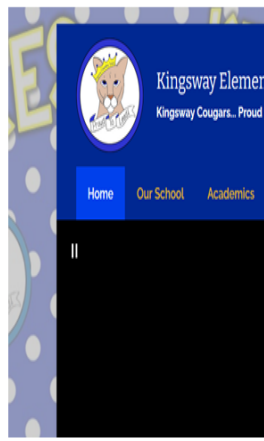


Staying connected with Kingsway helps build our school family. :-)

## Connect with Kingsway

Website

[www.yourcharlotteschools.net/kes](http://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/kes)



Facebook

[@KESCougars](https://www.facebook.com/KESCougars)



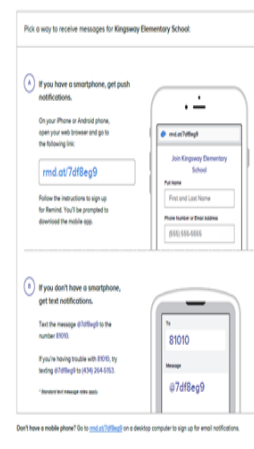
Twitter

[@KingswayCougars](https://twitter.com/KingswayCougars)



Remind

[@7df8eg9](https://www.remind101.com/join/7df8eg9)



# KINDERGARTEN



Dear Kindergarten families,

In ELA students continue to work on unit 5. Unit 5 is all about technology and how it is used both at home and at school. The stories that are read show how technology has advanced and is constantly changing. Students are also working on identifying syllables, writing complete sentences, and expanding their vocabulary with sight words.

In math, kindergarten continues to focus on addition and subtraction within 10. Students are learning different ways to add and subtract. In class, students continue to use their vocabulary words: minus, subtract, add, plus and equal. Students will begin working with numbers 10-20.

In science, students have begun learning about solids, liquids and gasses. They are working on describing and identifying them.

As far as testing, kindergarten has completed DRA testing which helps identify each student's independent reading level. They have also completed MONDO testing which identifies each student's ability to listen to a sentence read aloud and then verbally repeat it.

Things you can do at home with your child to help them be successful here at school:

Read to them daily, and have them read to you

Identify letters and letter sounds

Read sight words

Practice addition and subtraction problems

Count objects to 20

Yours Truly,

The Kindergarten Team

Mrs. Hahn, Mrs. Spitalieri, Mrs. Stromback,

Mrs. O'Connor, Miss. Ulrich





# FIRST GRADE



Dear First Grade Families!

In ELA, we will be starting Unit 6 of Benchmark. This unit is all about using stories to teach a lesson. We will be learning how to identify the moral of the story and continue to practice identifying the main story elements (character, setting, beginning, middle, and end of the story).

In Math, we will be completing Unit 9, addition within 100 and beginning Unit 10, compare using addition and subtraction. In Unit 9, the students will learn how to use an open number line to help add numbers within 100. In Unit 10, the students will use addition or subtraction to solve work problems.

In science, we will test on Topic 2: Earth's Surface and begin learning about Topic 3: Matter and Movement. In Topic 3, the students will learn to sort objects and describe how objects move.

There are many things you can do at home to help support your child academically:

- Read at home daily
- Practice the sight word books
- Complete weekly spelling homework
- Practice number recognition and addition/subtraction equations

The First Grade Team!

-Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Vaccaro,  
Ms. Wilks, and Mrs. Johnson



# SECOND GRADE

Hello 2nd Grade Families!

In ELA, we began Unit 5 in Benchmark- Solving Problems Through Technology. We will be focusing on text features, identifying the central idea and relevant details in a text, author's purpose, and opinion writing. Our phonics currently is focusing on vowel teams /oi/ (oi, oy).

In math, we began Unit 8 in Reveal- Measuring Lengths. This unit focuses on using a ruler to measure in inches and centimeters and using real world objects to estimate lengths. They will also be introduced to feet and yards. It is a great idea to measure some things around the house for practice!

Science: Changing Matter

To support your child's learning at home, encourage them to read at least 15 minutes/night and complete math and spelling homework. Students can always access our programs that we use in class too- My Math Academy, RedBird, and Lalilo. These programs are designed to take your child on their own individualized pathway for learning and focus on certain skills in both math and reading.

Please continue to check Remind, and if you have any questions you can reach us by calling our extension or through Remind. We appreciate your ongoing support!

~2nd grade team

Ms. Luhcs

Ms. Mellen

Ms. A Jones

Ms. O Jones

Ms. Johnson





# THIRD GRADE



Dear KES 3rd Grade Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well! February brings exciting updates from our classrooms.

**Math:** Our third graders have been diving into the world of multiplication and division. This month, we focus on mastering the multiplication and division facts for 7, 9, 11, and 12. We encourage at-home practice to reinforce these skills and make math fun. Utilize flashcards, online games, or everyday situations to strengthen their understanding.

**Science:** Our young scientists are exploring the fascinating realm of energy! From understanding different forms of energy to observing changes, the classroom has been buzzing with curiosity. Encourage your child to share their newfound knowledge about energy forms and changes at the dinner table—it's a great way to reinforce their learning!

**ELA:** Students will be immersed in captivating stories centered around making good choices. Through these tales, students are honing their abilities to analyze character development, identify themes, and decipher context clues. Engage your child in discussions about the stories they're reading to enhance their comprehension and critical thinking skills.

As always, we appreciate your support in your child's education journey. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if you'd like more information on how to assist your child at home.

Wishing you a wonderful February filled with learning and joy!

Sincerely,  
The 3rd grade Team



# FOURTH GRADE



Hello our Fantastic Fourth Grade Families,

We are so happy to be back in the swing of our second semester of our 23-24 school year! Students have worked so hard to learn new skills and complete their FAST State Testing! We are so proud of the growth our students have made since the beginning of the year, and cannot wait to see how much they grow in the coming months! We have already accomplished so much this year in 2024! Our 4th graders took their FAST Reading and Math Tests and we loved seeing all the growth! In math, we are finishing up multiplying fractions and whole numbers, and beginning our unit on decimal fractions! Students have done a phenomenal job working with fractions this year! A great way to incorporate decimals in your students' lives at home is to talk about money! Talk about what those few cents on the dollar mean, what fraction of a dollar is \$.50? This is a great way to incorporate math at home!

In Science, we are finishing up our unit on changes in matter. Students have done some fun experiments involving magnets, playdough, and balance scales! We will be starting our unit on Motion of Objects! We will be discussing energy, speed, and moving objects. Students have been working hard to learn important science vocabulary, so be sure to ask them what they are learning in science!

This far in ELA, we are working on author's perspective a little more by evaluating texts and looking for their claim as well as reasons and evidence that support it! All of this is being done through the topic of Technology which has been super exciting to read about! We have been reading about robots in the workplace, drones, and even AI! It has been so much fun. For practice at home, have your student work on reading informational texts and asking them questions like "What is the author's claim?", "What reasons do they state to support their claim?" And "What evidence do they provide to support that reason? (Examples)"

Thank you for all of your continued support at home! It really does make a difference!

In Social Studies, we will be learning about Transportation as well as Communication and how they both have changed over time which aligns perfectly with our Technology topic in ELA! We will get to learn about the Wright brothers, Henry Ford, along with Alexander Graham Bell! We will also learn about the future of Communication and Transportation. We look forward to fun discussions and sharing ideas!

# FIFTH GRADE



We are so excited to have our students back at school! We hope everyone enjoyed their winter break! Students should continue reading at least 30 minutes each day. Research shows reading 30 minutes each day not only improves reading and writing skills but it also increases empathy and emotional well-being.

In ELA, we are analyzing how setting, events, conflict, and characterization contribute to the plot of a story and explaining how an author develops a theme of a story. In social studies, we are tracing the development of technology and the impact of major inventions on business during the early development of the United States.

In math, we are learning all about adding and subtracting fractions this month. We will be working on fractions for the next few units so this is only the beginning! In science, we are learning about weather and climate this month.

Students should continue working on their science fair projects – participation is mandatory and graded so please make sure that your student is staying mindful of due dates for this project!

We are super proud of our students who have earned awards for the 2nd quarter. Everyone should keep working hard for the 3rd quarter awards!







# EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION



## Kindergarten and Third Grade

Hello Kingsway families! Our third quarter is off to a great start. It was wonderful recognizing all our Cougar Leaders for their accomplishments at the 2nd quarter awards ceremonies. In ELA, third grade is practicing describing characters' perspectives, explaining the theme of a story, and using context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words. In writing, the students are practicing narrative writing. In math, students are back to learning and practicing strategies for multiplication and division. Our kindergarteners are expanding their letter knowledge with word families. They are continuing to practice describing characters, settings, and important events in a story. They are then learning how to retell a story using that information. In math, they are learning to identify numbers 11-20 and to work with those numbers to solve problems. Third-grade families, please work with your child on learning their multiplication facts. And students in all grades benefit when they have a family member read with them each day. Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning. We are so proud of all our Cougar Leaders!

## First and Fifth Grade

Happy New Year!! We are gearing up for a great 3rd quarter! Here's what's coming up next...In first grade ELA, students will be learning their long vowel sounds. They will be learning about text features and how to identify topics and relevant details of a text. In math, students will be learning different ways to understand subtraction through various strategies. In fifth grade ELA, students will continue to draw inferences and to distinguish important information from non-important information. In math, students will be learning how to add and subtraction fractions. FAST Testing is quickly approaching. Please make sure you get a good night's rest. You're going to rock it! Please keep reading daily and practicing your basic math facts. I'm looking forward to an awesome second half of the year!



# EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION Continued



## Second and Fourth Grade

This month, our 2nd graders are diving into the exciting world of addition within 100. From counting base ten blocks to solving story problems, our little mathematicians are honing their skills and becoming true math marvels! In ELA, it's all about storytelling magic! Our students are exploring main story elements like characters, settings, and plot twists. Additionally, they're unraveling the enchanting world of themes, discovering the deeper messages within the tales they read. Our 4th graders are delving into the fascinating world of multiplying fractions and whole numbers. From unraveling the secrets of mixed numbers to mastering multiplication magic, our young mathematicians are on a journey to become true math maestros! This month, our 4th graders are deciphering the secrets of storytelling. They're unraveling plots by understanding how characters evolve, how settings create atmospheres, and how events and conflicts weave together to form captivating narratives. Join us in celebrating our 2nd and 4th graders as they embark on this educational adventure, mastering math and language arts with enthusiasm and curiosity!





# Spectacular Specials Spotlight

The special area team is unique, as we each do our best to enrich each child's educational experience by providing lessons in our field of expertise. We have briefly highlighted what students are working on while attending their special are classes.

## PE:

Welcome to the New Year, Cougars! This month in PE we will begin our volleyball unit. We will learn many skills such as passing, setting and serving. We will practice them each week to get ready for team play. We will go over the rules of the game. Then the students will use the skills learned to play against each other in the last couple weeks of the unit. Our 5th grade girls moving on to 6th grade soon, will have the opportunity to try out for their middle school team next year. If they are interested in the sport, I can work with them one on one during our class period. I am excited to get the net up and teach them this fun and exciting sport. Also, we will do our Mid Year Pacer Test. Stay tuned for more info soon. Thank you for your continued support!  
Coach Hurley



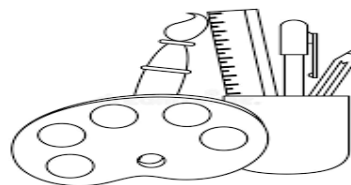
## Art:

### Art Room Highlights!

In February we will continue to focus on exploring the elements and principles of art through cultures. This month we will be learning about folk art in Mexico and South America. Students will be learning about weaving, pottery and other decorative arts that are made to reflect the culture around us!

We can get messy in art! Most of our materials are of the "washable" kind, but if there is a favorite shirt or outfit, please consider wearing something else on an art day. We do our best to keep clean but sometime accidents happen.

We love recycled materials in the art room. If you are looking to get rid of egg cartons, yarn, fabric scraps, wood scraps and other doo dads I would be happy to take them off your hands. Feel free to send them in with your student.



# Spectacular Specials Spotlight Continued



## STEM:

Happy New Year! We ended 2023 with a fun building challenge. We also wrapped up learning about animals and their characteristics in kindergarten and first grades, classifying animals into major groups in second and third, and exploring food chains and webs in fourth grade. Fifth graders continue to prepare for their science fair projects. 😊 Fifth grade families, please remember projects are due March 1st. March will be here before we know it! You can find more information on my website.

<https://sites.google.com/yourcharlotteschools.net/msclark/home>

As always, if you need assistance and/or have any questions, please reach out via Remind or email: [Nicole.Clark@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:Nicole.Clark@yourcharlotteschools.net).



Students will learn more about plants this year as we watch them grow on the Garden Tower. I can't wait to see if we have any produce.

More and more students are participating in the Science Challenge! Keep it up Cougars! I'm also looking forward to more work in our Moment of Science activities.

Scientifically yours,

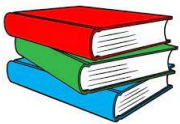
Ms. Clark

# Spectacular Specials Spotlight Continued

## Media:

Media is continuing to support literacy for our students. The last week of January, we participated in Celebrate Literacy Week. The theme was Believe in Your "Shelf": Building Resiliency through Reading. During the second week of February, we hosted our "Bookaneer" Book Fair.

Earlier this year, we sent home the AR goals for each grade level and how each child can earn an AR shirt. When your child reaches their grade-level AR point goal, they will receive an AR t-shirt to proudly display their accomplishments. Below are the goals set for the 2023-2024 school year for your ease and convenience. Many of our students are working hard to earn their shirts.



K- 20 points

3rd- 90 points

1st- 50 points

4th- 105 points

2nd- 75 points

5th- 120 points



Happy reading,

~Ms. K

## Music:



Greetings KES families, the music program rings in 2024 with some exciting programs! Third graders will be learning recorders in preparation for a District-wide orchestral concert. Fifth graders will be singing in the Honor Chorus, again in a District-wide presentation being held on March 1. We are beginning rehearsals for these two programs now. The upper grades are reviewing note durations (the length of a sound), and the lower grades are looking at our singing voices as instruments.

Yours in music,  
Mr. Hecht

# MULTI-AGED CLASSES

We LOVE all the progress we are seeing in our multi-aged classes! ♥

- In Ms. Bolam's math class, we are working on addition and subtraction within 20, and ways to compose and decompose single-digit numbers. In ELA, we are learning how to use pictures in text to learn more about the meaning of the text. In science, we are learning about why matter matters and that the shape of materials can be changed by things we do to it. In social studies, we are learning about how various holidays are celebrated and honored around the world. We continue to add to our total words read with our AR stories, reading and quizzing at least once a day. Ms. Julie's Cougar Leaders are having fun reading and learning! 😊
- In Mrs. Awad's class, Student have been learning about technology and how it's important and makes a difference in our lives. In Math we have been learning about subtraction and related addition facts. We have also been learning how to decompose numbers. 2nd grade has been learning about measurements and perimeter. In science, Kinder and 2nd grade have been learning about matter and changes in matter. 1st grade have been learning about the Earth's structure. In Social Studies, we have been learning about multiple topics: who is in charge, responsibilities, presidents, weather, maps and earth. We continue to work on our social skills. This month we've been learning about how to deal with stress and how to be respectful to others.

# MULTI-AGED CLASSES

## Continued

- In Ms. Lizabeth and Mrs. Rosado's class, students have been learning about Technology and Society in their ELA class. 4th graders have been learning about technology for tomorrow, while 3rd graders have been focusing on advancements in technology, and 2nd graders have been learning how technology solves problems. We've practiced our phonics daily as well as grammar skills, text structures and text features, comparing and contrasting how authors present information, and authors' purpose and claims. In math, 4th graders have been learning about adding and subtracting mixed fractions, while 3rd graders are learning how to find area and perimeter, and 2nd graders are learning about measuring length. In Science 4th graders are learning about properties of matter, while 3rd graders are learning about the universe and stars, and 2nd graders are learning about energy. We continue to work throughout each day on following directions, focusing on our academic tasks, and respecting each other.
- In Miss Wyman's we have been focusing on communication skills and engaging with our peers. In science, we are learning about matter and energy. In English, we have been working on reading comprehension questions, building sentences, sequencing a story, sight words, identifying letters, matching letters, and corresponding letter sounds. In math, our class has been working on identifying colors, classifying shapes, number identification, 1:1 correspondence, addition, subtraction, rounding, division, and multiplication. In social studies, we are learning about American monuments, presidents, patriots, maps, and globes.



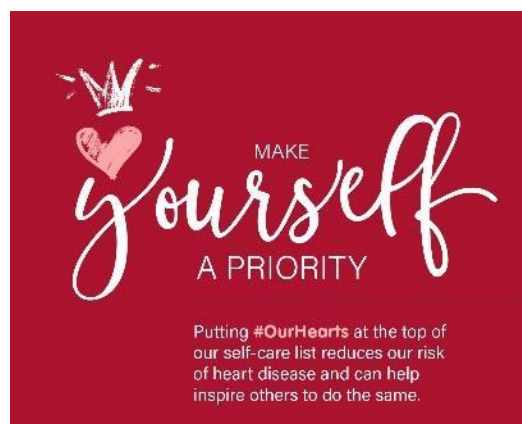
# MENTAL HEALTH

## February: Social Worker Happenings

Welcome back Kingsway. I would like to congratulate the 4th grade for having the best overall attendance for the second quarter, nice job 4th grade. Kingsway is honored to be a partner with Eddie Heyse Fencing. Mr. Heyse has generously offered to provide pizza for the entire grade level that has the best attendance overall each quarter. Thank you, Mr. Heyse. Kingsway continues to have Free Food Fridays. Feel free to take advantage of the bags that are in the lobby each Friday. Kingsway also participates in Thursday BackPack program. This is where identified students are placed on a list to receive a small bag of food (drink, snack, cereal, fruit cups, and spaghetti O's) to go home each week, if your child is someone that could benefit, please reach out to Mrs. Daly. Should your family have additional needs please don't hesitate to reach out to the social worker: Mrs. Daly at [Vicky.daly@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:Vicky.daly@yourcharlotteschools.net) or at extension 3614.

## February: Mental Health Updates

The Mental Health Team would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024. Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays are over, we can take a breath and focus on the new year. With that being said, take some time to focus on yourself.





# FORTIFYFL

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows individuals to submit tips concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities and threats. That information goes immediately and directly to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



# REMIND



Cougar Families, Please do not forget about our Remind App. This free service let Kingsway Elementary send quick one-way messages via text to your cell phone. We can stay in touch while keeping your personal contact information private. We use this app to communicate many things like spirit nights, event reminders, and even things like rainy day dismissal notifications.

# PTO & SAC

**\*Come join us to learn about KES\***

Why? The more parents are involved in school, the more informed they will become. Parent involvement is directly linked to student success. SAC and PTO meetings are a great way to become involved in decision-making at our school.

**Meeting Schedule:**

**3/12/24      4/16/24**





**KINGSWAY ELEMENTARY**  
**23300 Quasar Blvd.**  
**Port Charlotte, FL**

Phone: (941) 255-7590

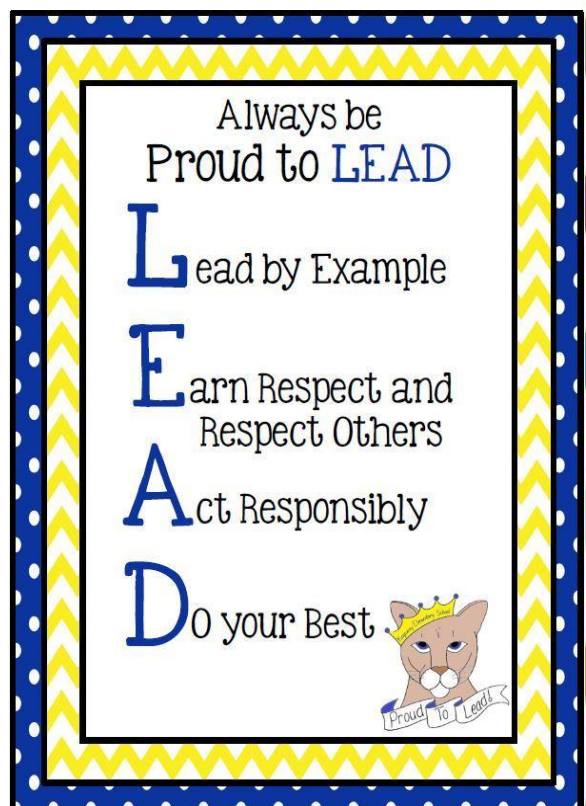
Fax: (941) 255-7591

**Proud to L.E.A.D.**

**Kristina Kelch-**  
*Principal*



**Kalee Joiner-**  
*Assistant Principal*



**The mission of Kingsway Elementary School is to provide a safe, student-centered learning environment that empowers students to become responsible, lifelong learners.**