



# The Cougar Paw Print

Kingsway Elementary School

November 2023

Letter from your Principals

*Dear Kingsway Cougar Families:*

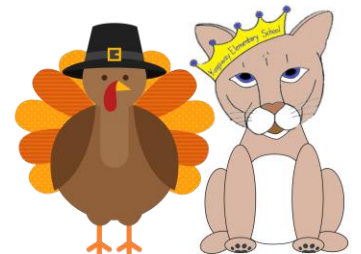
The month of November is welcomed as we take time to celebrate thankfulness. We are thankful to be leading a school that has the best staff, students, and parents! Each day we witness our staff going above and beyond to create a safe learning environment for all students. We see our students being Proud to LEAD in leading by example, earning respect, acting responsibly, and doing their best. We see parents supporting from home, communication with teachers, and joining in family involvement opportunities here at school. Again, we are so thankful to be the leaders of such an amazing school. During November, we will be focusing on reading with the Turkey Tie Reading Challenge! You can help by making sure students are reading at home! We can do it! Students can take AR tests in their classrooms. All students can earn an AR t-shirt if they reach their grade level goal. If you need more information, please reach out to your child's teacher.

We will be spreading thankfulness on campus by celebrating Thankful Thursdays. Parents, we need your help with Thankful Thursdays. We would like to show our staff how much they are appreciated for their dedication to all of the Kingsway's students' families. If you have a few moments to spare, please complete the Google Form at this [LINK](#) and provide a note of appreciation to the staff member of your choice during November. Feel free to submit this form multiple times if you would like to provide multiple notes of appreciation for different staff members. We hope all families enjoy their three day break at the end of this month.

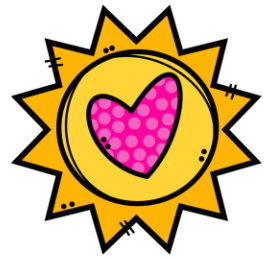
As always, thank you for your continued support.

Proud to Lead,

Mrs. Kelch and Ms. Joiner



# KINDERGARTEN



Dear Kindergarten families,

In ELA, we are finishing up unit 2 and preparing to start unit 3. Unit 2 was all about characters. Students read and compared stories with different characters to analyze how people are different. Unit 2 has taught us that characters can teach us lessons, including not underestimating others, showing forgiveness, and always doing our best. When we begin unit 3, students will read and learn about the importance of rules at home and school. We continue to focus on letters, and sight words. We have also begun writing sentences and drawing pictures to go with them.

In math, we have begun focusing on sorting, counting and comparing objects. We are sorting, counting and comparing objects based on their size, color, and/or shape. We continue to practice mastering writing numbers 0-10.

In science, we are learning how plants are alike and different and will soon move on to how animals are alike and different. In social studies, we are learning what history is, where we live, and about the armed forces.

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
- write their name using a pencil
- count/sort objects around you

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 are finishing up Unit 2 and getting ready to start Unit 3. In Unit 2, we have been answering the question, "How do we learn about characters?" We have been using story elements, inferencing, and determining the importance of parts of the story to help us learn more about characters. We also learned about short e, short u, and l-blends in words. In Unit 3, we will learn why people get involved in their communities. We will do this by making connections and learning how to summarize the stories we read. We will also be practicing phonics word patterns with r-blends, s-blends, and final consonant blends.

In Math, we are finishing up Unit 4, addition within 20, and will be starting Unit 5, subtraction within 20. The students have been using different strategies to help them add, and will learn to subtract, with number lines, double tens frames, number bonds, and fact families. We have also been working on our addition and subtraction fluency within 10.

In Science, we will continue to work on Topic 5: Parents and offspring. We will continue to utilize thinking maps to help learn about life cycles, observing animal parents and their young, and patterns in animal behavior.

Congratulations to the students who have earned 50 AR points and gotten their AR shirts. We are so proud of them! Keep working with your students at home so we can continue to earn more AR points.

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

- Read at home daily
- Practice the new sight word books
- Complete weekly homework
- Practice number recognition and addition/subtraction fact fluency

The First Grade Team!

- Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Vaccaro,  
Ms. Wilks, Mrs. Georges, and Ms. Pelham



# SECOND GRADE



Hello 2nd Grade Families!

In ELA, we are finishing up Unit 2 of Benchmark - What can we learn when we face problems? We have been working on identifying the theme of a story, plot structure, character's perspectives, sequencing of events, long vowel sounds, contractions, irregular plural nouns, and opinion writing.

In math, we completed Unit 4 (Meanings of Addition and Subtraction) and are in the middle of Unit 5 (Strategies to Fluently Add within 100). We are exploring adding 2 digit numbers, decomposing addends to add, and determining the unknown number.

In science, we have been learning about Earth's surface and weather. We will take our first assessment soon!

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!



# THIRD GRADE

Dear 3rd Grade Families,

We hope this message finds you all in good spirits. We're excited to share the latest news from Kingsway Elementary School, where our little Cougars continue to shine!

## ELA Adventures:

In our English Language Arts (ELA) class, we're embarking on a thrilling journey into the world of literature. Our 3rd graders are set to explore famous poems, folktales, and myths that have captivated imaginations for generations. Get ready for epic adventures and mesmerizing tales!

## + ✕ Math Marvels:

Our young mathematicians are working their way through the exciting world of multiplication and division. From mastering times tables to unraveling division mysteries, these kids are building strong mathematical foundations one step at a time. Watch them grow into math marvels!

## Science Explorers:

In the realm of science, we're diving deep into the wonderful world of plants. Our curious minds are learning about the secrets of how plants survive, thrive, and make our world a greener place. Expect lots of green thumbs around the house as our students share their newfound knowledge!

If you ever have questions, ideas, or want to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to our dedicated teachers and staff. Together, we'll make this school year extraordinary!

Go Cougars! 

Warm regards,  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team



# FOURTH GRADE



Happy November! We cannot believe how fast this year is going by! We have already done so much and have seen so much learning!

This past month, the Be A Hero program came to spend some time with our grade level and they showed our students some really cool stuff! They learned some very useful information from the Fire and EMS Department as well as the Emergency Management Department like how to prepare for a hurricane or prevent a fire. They also got to test out their hand washing skills by testing their thoroughness under a UV light with the Health Department! They also got to hear about how we manage our mosquito populations here in Charlotte County from the Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control of Public Works! Lastly, they got to discuss the differences between moths and butterflies and see some with the University of Florida! They all had a great time!

In Language Arts, our students have really been focusing on Making Connections with characters, Summarizing texts, and discussing Theme in Unit 2.

In Unit 3, we will continue to work on these same skills as well as determining word meanings and central idea. You can practice these skills at home by simply asking them about the book they are reading! "Did you make a connection while reading tonight?" "Can you summarize your reading tonight in 3-5 sentences?" "Do you think there is a theme in your book? What is it?"

On that note, please encourage your child to be reading every night for 30 minutes to help them reach their AR reading goal of 105 points!

As always, thank you for all your support at home!


In Social Studies, we have been discussing all sorts of Spanish Explorers of Florida! Like, Ponce de Leon and Hernando de Soto! We have really been able to envision their journey by using maps in the classroom! Next, we will be discussing France and Spain's fight for Florida and what happened in St. Augustine.

In Math, we have just finished our unit in multiplication strategies! Thank you so much for practicing math facts at home! This skill continues to be the core of student's foundational learning! We are now moving on to our division strategies unit. Students will be shown many different strategies to divide large numbers, and be able to use which method they prefer. We cannot wait to see how they succeed in the next month!

In Science, we are beginning our Earth and Space unit! Students will be learning about our planet and others in the solar system! Take a minute to go outside and look at the stars this month!

We cannot wait to see how much more our Fabulous Fourth Graders do this month!

We are so proud of them! 'Till next time!

Your 4th grade team 



# FIFTH GRADE



With October rolling in, we at Kingsway are getting into the fall spirit! A chill has settled in the air... and we are loving it during recess!

Students should continue reading at least 30 minutes each day!

In ELA, we are wrapping up Unit 2 which was all about characterization and included topics like why we choose our friends. Looking ahead, we will be starting Unit 3 which covers text structure and text features. We will be reading more about US laws and the US Constitution during this unit. In social studies, we are exploring how the old world meets the new world – or how colonization began.

In math, we've just finished adding and subtracting decimal numbers and are now beginning to multiply large numbers using different strategies. In science, we are learning about the different forms of energy and will soon begin a deep dive into electricity.

We are excited to hold our first 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance coming in November! More information will be sent home soon!

STEAM night is coming in November as well! More information regarding this will be coming soon!

Fall  
IS IN THE  
Air

# EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)

## Kindergarten and Third Grade

It's hard to believe it's already the end of the first quarter. Our students have been working hard and learning so much! In kindergarten, we are learning our letters, sounds, and sight words. We are also working on our writing skills. In math, we are identifying numbers and counting, including using one-to one correspondence. We have also been working on sorting, counting and comparing objects. Third grade has been reading both fiction and nonfiction texts. We have been working on identifying central idea and relevant details, characters' actions and character traits, and writing an opinion essay. Math has been focusing on multiplication and division strategies. Practicing multiplication facts at home will help students become more proficient with solving these problems. Reading books and asking questions about the story is also a great way to help your child become a stronger reader. I know our cougar leaders will continue to work hard in the second quarter.

## First and Fifth Grade

As the first quarter is nearing the end, it is important to look back to see all that we have learned. You should be proud of how far you have come. We will continue to work hard in quarter 2. In first grade, we are learning how to add numbers to 20 using various strategies. Students have learned how to use number lines, ten-frames and manipulatives. In reading, students are working on their short vowel sounds. They have been learning about story elements such as the setting and characters. Please remember to practice your sight words each night. They will help you to become even stronger readers! In fifth grade, students have been working on adding and subtracting decimals and next will embark onto multiplying decimals. It is important to practice those math facts and to stay fluent when working with larger numbers. In ELA, students continue to expand their vocabulary. We have been comparing and contrasting characters' relationships in stories. We will continue to work on and strengthen our writing skills going into quarter two. I can't wait to see how you grow during this next quarter! I am proud of all of our cougar leaders!

## Second and Fourth Grade

I cannot believe that the first quarter is coming to an end! All of our cougar leaders have been working so hard. In second grade, we have been working on the relationship between addition and subtraction. We are now working on strategies to add within 100, including base ten blocks, number lines, and decomposing numbers. In ELA, students have been working on identifying and explaining themes, identifying different characters' perspectives, and long vowel spellings. In fourth grade math, students have been working on finding factor pairs and finding the rule in a number pattern. Multiplication facts are SO important in fourth grade, so please continue to practice at home. In ELA, our students are working on summarizing, explaining how characters contribute to the plot, and explaining a theme and how it develops. Keep up the great work, cougar leaders!





# 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.

## ART

Cougar Artist have been exploring creating a variety of dots for International Dot Day. Students read the book, *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds. Vashit, a little girl in our story started her artistic journey with a dot and someone who believed in her. She began to believe in herself and created many beautiful masterpieces that looked like a dot. Each grade level created a different "dot" work of art inspired by a variety of artists. Kindergarten created collage and printmaking dots, 1<sup>st</sup> Dot Mandalas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Piet Mondrian Dots, 3<sup>rd</sup> Alma Thomas Dots, 4<sup>th</sup> Watercolor Spiraling Patterned Dots, and 5<sup>th</sup> Watercolor Pencil Mandala Dots. Each dot was created uniquely by our amazing cougar artists!

Mrs. Wilmhoff



## PE

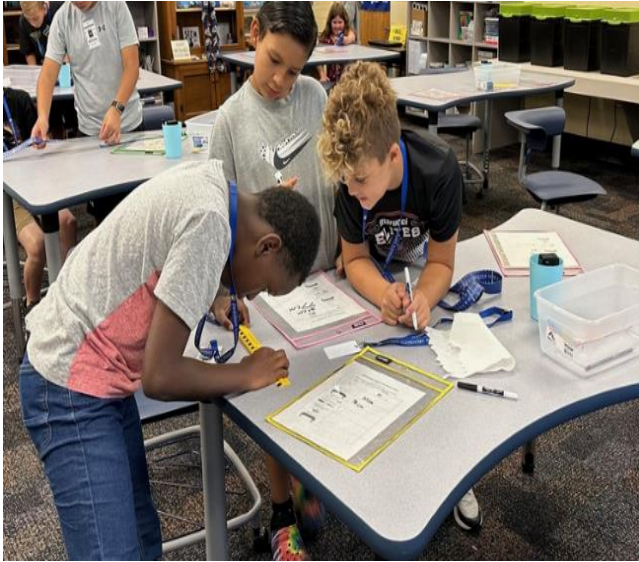
Hey Pawsome Cougars! 'rIt has been a busy month. We kicked off the Kids Heart Challenge and have raised over \$1500. WOW!! Way to go! I am very proud of all of our cougars and how they are willing to help those in need. We also have been playing the popular Gaga Ball game. Our kindergarten classes have been introduced and seem to love it. Nice work! The next few weeks, wee going to focus on ball handling in basketball. They students will learn different dribbles and passes. Teamwork will be an important skill to utilize during these drills. I can't wait to see all they learn. Keep working hard!

Coach Hurley

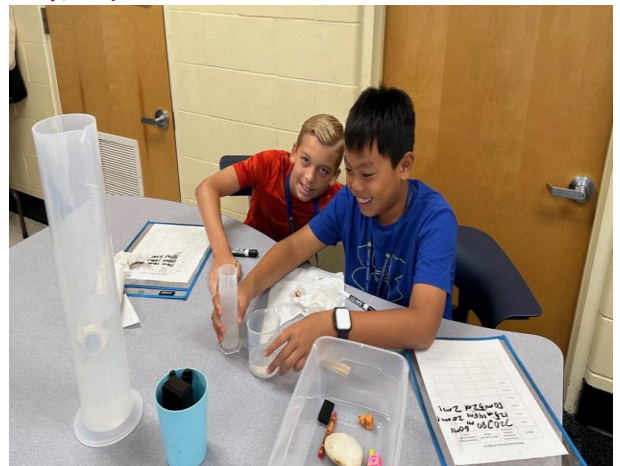
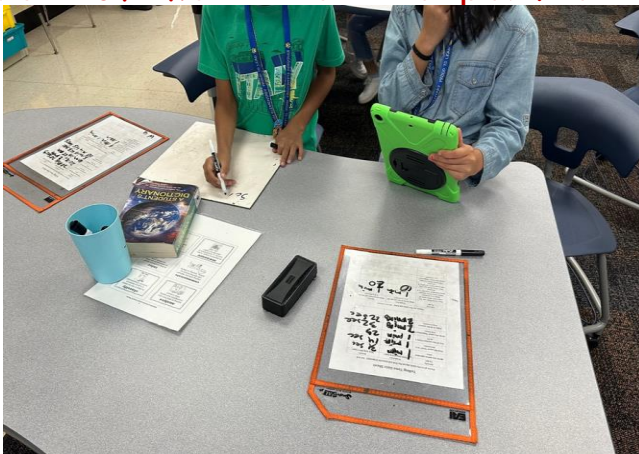
# SPECTACULAR SPECIALS SPOTLIGHT

## STEM

Students have been busy wrapping up the science tools unit. We measured objects using centimeter rulers and measuring tape.



Fifth graders also explored volume and displacement, while the rest of the students experimented with time.



We're working through the science process now, learning how to write a hypothesis and collect data.

More and more students are completing the Science Challenge this year! I'm so proud!!!  
Keep up the good work Cougars!  
Scientifically yours,  
Ms. Clark



# VARYING EXCEPTIONALITIES CLASSES

Our Multi-Age Classrooms are  
falling in love with learning!



In Ms. Wyman's class, we have been focusing on communication skills and engaging with our peers. In science, we are learning about observations and the plant/pumpkin cycle. In social studies, we have been talking about the past, present, and future. In English, we have been working on reading comprehension questions, sequencing a story, sight words, and identifying 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 Mrs. Carthy's class, we are learning to walk in a line and share during center time. We have been working on exploring jobs in the classroom including our ABC helper and 1-2-3 helper. The children are learning to use their voices at circle time with echo microphones. Encourage them to use their words in the home as well. We are counting to 100 every day and all our friends are improving every day. Behaviors are starting to recede and learning is taking place. We are learning to use pictures to get our needs met, and we are developing a communication wall so children can point to what they would like, food, water, bathroom, hug, and break are all included. We will continue to work on behaviors throughout October and are excited about what is to come.

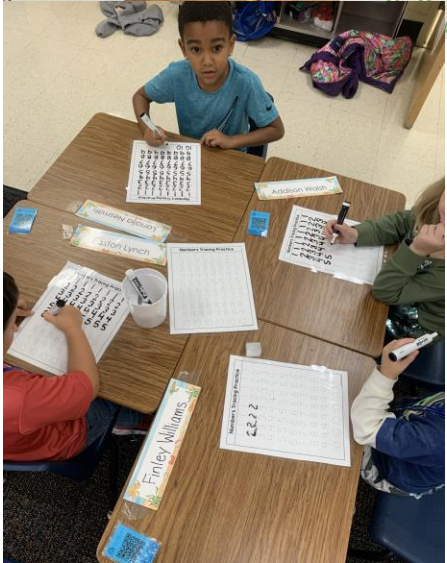
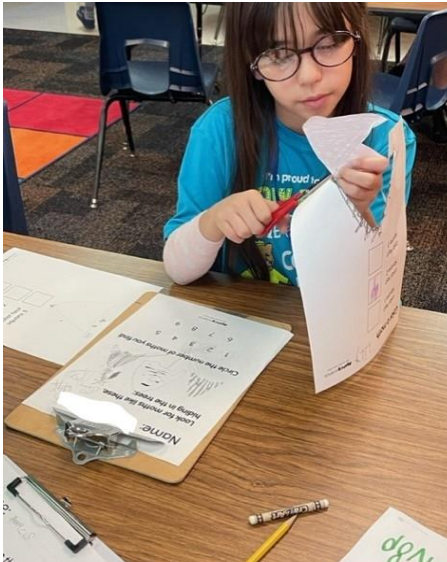


# VARYING EXCEPTIONALITIES CLASSES continued

- In Ms. Bolam's class, we've been working hard on improving our social skills and how to be a good community of learners. In ELA we are learning about characters and the many roles they play in stories. We are also working on writing opinions and narratives based on the stories we read. In math, we are learning to count and represent numbers within 20, sorting and grouping objects, and adding within 20 (1st grade). In social studies, we are learning about the changes in transportation over the years, as well as the importance of Veteran's Day and why we celebrate it. In science, we are learning about animals and plants, and their life cycles. We've been enjoying this spooky season by doing some fun experiments also. With our dancing ghosts experiment, we learned about chemical reactions and the kids had a blast!
- In Mrs. Awad's class, 2nd grade: we are learning about different characters and their perspectives in ELA. In 1st grade: we are learning to identify setting, characters, and main elements in a story. In Math, 1st grade: we are learning how to count numbers within 20. 2nd grade: is adding two whole numbers within 100. In science, 2nd grade: we are learning about the weather, the sun, and how they affect Earth's surface. 1st grade is learning about animals, plants, and their life cycles. In Social Studies we are reviewing the pledge of allegiance, traits of being a good citizen, time, history, and resources to search for information. We are learning how to be confident and practice mindfulness to be independent Cougar Leaders and achievers.
- In Ms. Lizabeth's and Mrs. Rosado's class, students are learning about government and citizenship in ELA. 2nd grade is studying why we need a government, 3rd grade is investigating why people participate in government, and 4th grade is analyzing how government influences the way we live. We're identifying text structure & text features, summarizing to include central idea & relevant details, and using context clues to determine meaning. Students are learning about multiplication and division in 3rd grade math, and our 4th grade students are learning about multiplication strategies with multi-digit numbers. In science, we have been hands-on with learning about classifying plants, and animals and identifying plant structures and processes. We continue to work every day to show respect and perseverance as Cougar leaders.



# Cougar Pride!



# Stay Connected with Kingsway

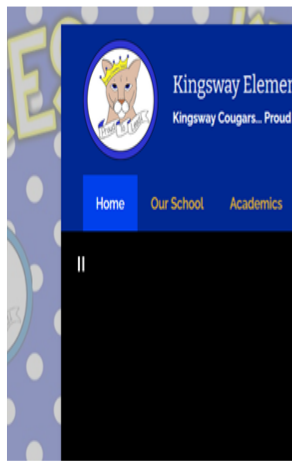


Staying connected with Kingsway helps build our school family. :-)

## Connect with Kingsway

Website

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



Facebook

@KESCougars



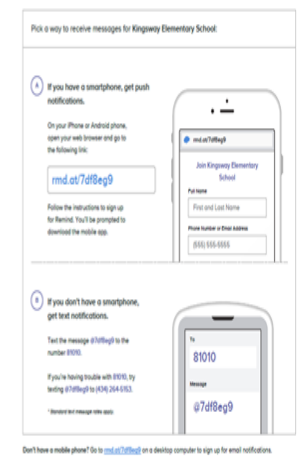
Twitter

@KingswayCougars



Remind

@7df8eg9



# 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.



# REMIN



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:

11/14/23	3/12/24
1/23/24	4/16/24





## KINGSWAY ELEMENTARY

23300 Quasar Blvd.

Port Charlotte, FL

Phone: (941) 255-7590

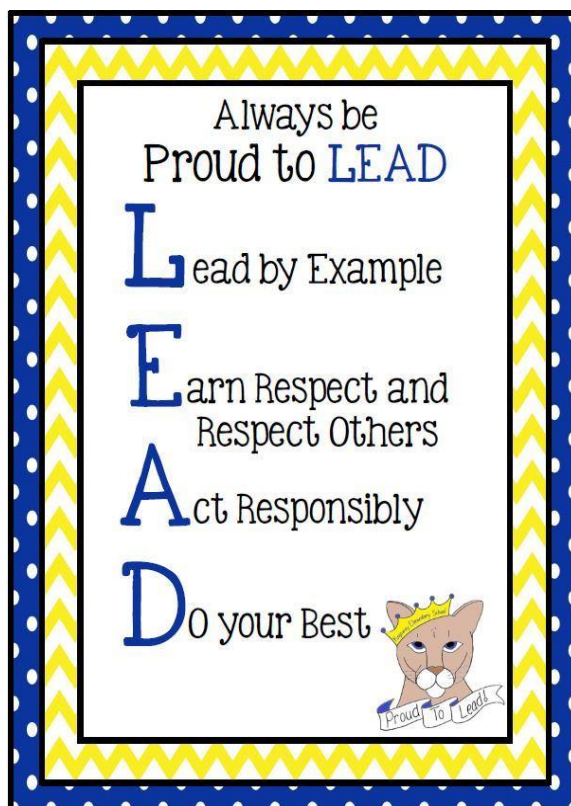
Fax: (941) 255-7591

**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.**