



The Cougar Paw Print

Kingsway Elementary School

October 2023

Letter from your Principals



Dear Cougar Leaders~

We're off to a great start in the 23-24 school year. It is so good seeing our students learning, leading, and laughing! #theKEScougarway

We will continue to focus on our school-wide expectations— Always Proud to LEAD. The LEAD acronym means to Lead by example, Earn respect and respect others, Act responsibly, and Do your best! Many students are doing an exemplary job leading around campus. We could not be prouder of our cougar leaders! #cougarpride

Parent and guardian communication and collaboration are vital. We want to stay connected with all families. We value the partnership you create with your child's teacher. We appreciate how dedicated and supportive you are in your child's education. Your child has a planner that will go home daily for teacher/parent communication. Below you will see a tree map of how we will be communicating this year. We encourage everyone to stay connected with us.

This year our goal is: Kingsway Elementary will utilize data, professional, development, rigorous instructional plans, positive behavior supports, and character building in order to establish a safe learning environment where students excel academically and are prepared for the future. Our staff and students are doing a great job working hard to meet our goal. We are hoping to raise our B to an A by growing 51 points. At our most recent SAC meeting, we shared our School Improvement Plan. It includes our area of focus for the year. It also states our action steps that we'll follow in hopes of reaching those goals. I know as a cougar family it can be done. Students are already diving into their Leadership Notebooks and tracking their data. We are excited to have our first Leadership Notebook Day in November. More information will be coming. We've been updating our very own Wildy Important Goals on our data tracking board. When you're visiting our campus, you'll see it once you go up the stairs. Remember, this is our year to CARRY OUR KES BANNER. We can and will do it! Staying focused, working hard, and being champions for each other will help us get there.

A few reminders... every Friday is Spirit Friday. We ask that students wear a KES shirt. Every Monday is AR Monday. Students can wear their AR shirts for reaching their grade level goals.

Letter from your Principals, continued...

October is Bully Prevention Month. We take bully prevention seriously here at Kingsway. In October, we schedule monthly activities that highlight the importance of bullying prevention through engaging tasks and conversations. Officer G does lead bully prevention lessons as well. Keep in mind that "Bullying occurs when a person or group of people hurts, embarrasses or frightens (psychological, physical, verbal) another person repeatedly." When we investigate a bullying incident, we want to answer these three questions:

- Is a student being physically, verbally or emotionally hurt, embarrassed or frightened by someone?
- Is the incident unprovoked, repeated, and/or intentional?
- Is there a difference in physical or psychological power?

Students can remain safe from bullying by saying something to an adult, asking for help, finding a friend, and/or exiting the area. If a student feels as though they are being bullied they need to verbally tell or write a note of the incident to any adult. Another way is to use the online Bully Button that can be found on the school or district website.

Another form of bullying is Cyberbullying. Cyberbullying can happen through cell phones, social media, email, online games, and even video games. It is important to be safe when online and using technology. If you would like to know more about internet safety, ask Ms. Joiner! We take Cyberbullying seriously and will investigate reported cases of this type of bullying.

If you have any questions about bullying, please email Ms. Joiner at Kalee.Joiner@yourcharlotteschools.net

As always, thank you for your continued support. We appreciate YOU!

Proud to Lead,
Mrs. Kelch and Ms. Joiner



Stay Connected with Kingsway

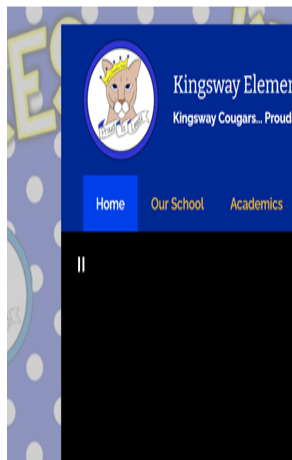


Staying connected with Kingsway helps build our school family. :-)

Connect with Kingsway

Website

www.yourcharlotteschools.net/kes



Facebook

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



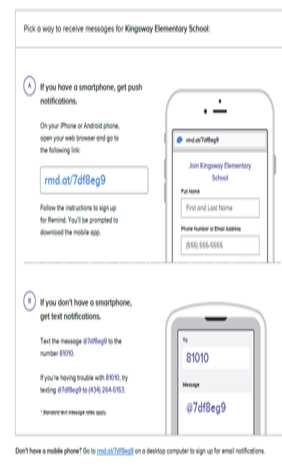
Twitter

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



Remind

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





FRE NEWS



FRE WITH MRS. C

Thank you to all the students and families that came out for our Grand Opening Event, Popcorn with Principals! It was great seeing all of you! We are working on some upcoming events for the end of September and in October. Be on the lookout for those upcoming dates!



READING TIP OF THE MONTH

Choosing the Right Book

0-1 = too easy

2-3 = just right

4 = okay to try

5+ = too hard

Words you don't know



REMINDER

Family Reading Experience Center's hours

Monday 7:30-8:30

Wednesday 7:30-8:30 and 3:10-3:30

Friday 7:30-8:30

Please remember to check in with Mrs. Miller before coming to the center. Remind messages and our school connect call will let you know of any closings.



KINDERGARTEN

Dear Kindergarten families,

Our kindergarten classes have enjoyed our first month of school! We have completed our first round of state testing, and we did amazing! We continue to practice routines, procedures, and rules within our school. We are mastering walking in line, going through the lunch line, and raising our hands.

In ELA, we have begun Unit 1. Within Unit 1 we will spend three weeks working on answering the question "Why do living things have different needs?". We have read stories relating to plants and animals. We have and continue to find the main ideas and key details within our stories. We will begin to focus on letters and sight words of the week. We continue to work on identifying rhyming words and creating our own.

In math, we are focusing on numbers up to 10. We are counting objects and relating that to the real world. We have used different types of manipulatives to show numbers 0-10. We are also working on writing numbers 0-10 using the correct strokes. We continue to practice using terms such as equal to, greater than, and less than. We look forward to comparing and sorting objects.

In science, we are wrapping up our five senses and how to use them. We will move on to how plants are alike and different. In social studies, we will be discussing what responsibility, time and history is.

We continue to master how to use our Chromebooks and take care of them. We continue to navigate our online learning apps: Lalilo, Redbird, and My Math Academy.

Things you can do at home with your child to help them be successful here at school: read to them daily, practice letters and letter sounds, practice writing their name using a pencil, and count objects around you.

Yours Truly,
The Kindergarten Team- Mrs. Hahn, Mrs. Spitalieri,
Mrs. Stromback, Mrs. O'Connor, Miss. Ulrich





FIRST GRADE



Our first graders have had so much fun during our first month of school. We finished our first set of STAR tests, and our students did such a great job! We will continue to review and practice our LEAD expectations. Our students have been doing a great job following directions and trying their best.

In ELA, we are working on Unit 1, which is all about how animals grow and change. We have been learning how to identify the topic and relevant details in nonfiction texts and how to identify the main story elements. Our spelling homework has also started to be sent home. We will continue working on Consonant Vowel Consonant (CVC) words using all the short vowel sounds.

In math, we are finishing our place value unit. The students have learned how to show numbers using tens and ones and how to show numbers in different ways. This includes pictures, base ten blocks, standard form, expanded form, and word form.

In Science, we are continuing to learn about living things. We have created many thinking maps to learn about living vs. nonliving things, plant parts, animal parts, where plants and animals live, and how people can learn from plant and animal parts.

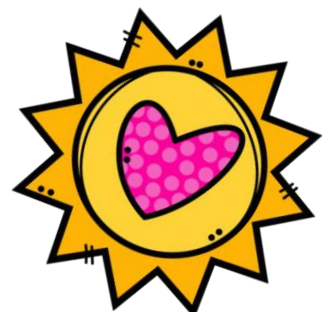
We are still learning how to use our Chromebooks and take care of them. The students love our online learning games Lalilo and My Math Academy.

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

- Read at home daily
- Practice high-frequency word recognition
- Practice number recognition and addition/subtraction equations
- Complete weekly homework

The First Grade Team!

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



SECOND GRADE



Hello 2nd Grade Families!

We have really enjoyed the first month of school and getting to know each other! We have seen so much learning and excitement in our classrooms.

In ELA, we have begun Unit 1 of Benchmark - Plants and Animals in their Habitats: How do living things get what they need to survive? We have been reading to ask questions to learn about animal habitats, working with short vowels, blends, and consonant digraphs, identifying the central idea and relevant details, building vocabulary, and creating mental images. We have also been introduced to expository writing!

In math, we completed our place value unit and have begun Unit 3 - Patterns within Numbers. We are exploring even and odd numbers and exploring patterns within arrays. We will be assessing Unit 3 this week and moving into Unit 4 - Meanings of Addition and Subtraction.

In science, we have been exploring rocks and minerals and their properties!

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!

The Second Grade Team-
Ms. Luhcs, Ms. Mellen, Ms. Schreffler,
Ms. A Jones, and Ms. O Jones 😊





THIRD GRADE



Dear Wonderful Families of our Third Graders,
We hope this newsletter finds you well and we're delighted to share some highlights from our classes as we dive into an exciting journey of learning.

Exploring Animal Adaptations:

In both ELA (English Language Arts) and Science, our students have embarked on a fascinating adventure exploring animal adaptations. We've been reading captivating stories and articles about animals from all around the world. The children are discovering how different species have adapted to their environments in unique ways. It's been an eye-opening experience for all of us!

Spelling Words Weekly

As part of our language development, we have started our weekly spelling words practice. Each week, our students will receive a set of words to study and practice at home. This will help enhance their spelling skills and expand their vocabulary. We encourage you to engage in these fun and interactive activities together.

Expository Essay Writing:

In the coming weeks, our budding writers will be diving into the world of expository essay writing. They will be learning how to organize their thoughts, conduct research, and present facts and information in a clear and structured manner. This is a valuable skill that will not only serve them well academically but also in their future endeavors.

Math Adventures - Comparing 4-Digit Numbers:

Currently, we are focusing on comparing 4-digit numbers. Your child will be mastering the skills of understanding place value and making comparisons between numbers. We encourage you to practice these skills at home!

We are incredibly proud of our third graders and their enthusiasm for learning. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring their success. If you have any questions or would like to be more involved in our classroom activities, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. We look forward to an exciting and enriching year ahead! Go cougars!

Warm regards,

Ms. Aragon, Ms. Donnelly, Ms. Martire, Ms. Nicholson, and Ms. Sandqvist

FOURTH GRADE



Hello families!

In 4th grade, ELA students will be beginning Unit 2: Character Actions and Reactions in Benchmark. Our essential question for this unit is, "How do we reveal ourselves to others?" In this unit, we will explore how characters contribute to the plot and theme of a story. We will also focus on context clues, and prepare for argumentative writing! While reading with your student at home, ask some questions about the characters and their actions throughout the story!

In social studies, we are starting Week 7: Spanish Explorers! Students will study the explorers who discovered Florida, emphasizing Ponce de Leon. Students will learn about other Spanish explorers who sought treasure in Florida.

In math, we are finishing up our Unit 4: Multiplication as a comparison. They have done so well solving comparison problems using multiplication and division. Thank you for continuing to practice math facts at home! We will be beginning Unit 5: Numbers and Number Patterns very soon. While out and about, engaging in math talk can help your student see patterns in math outside of school!

In Science, students had so much fun talking about and doing activities with plant and animal life cycles. Now, we are finishing up our food chains lessons and beginning on Environmental Impacts.

We can't wait to see what this next month holds for our Fabulous Fourth Grade Cougar Leaders!





FIFTH GRADE



We can't believe it is September already!! Whether the weather knows it or not, autumn is almost here. We felt it (slightly) in the breeze yesterday. Soon the monarch butterflies will make their stop in Amelia Island State Park and petunias will bloom. However, it's not quite over yet, and while we may be trying to soak up the last bit of summer, our learning is already in full swing.

We have finished taking the BOY FAST Assessments in ELA and math. Your child should have shared their results with you already and if they haven't, please ask them to. Communicating with you is a terrific way for them to start being accountable for their academic growth. Also, students should be reading for at least 30 minutes each day.

In ELA, we are learning how to use context clues in the text to determine the meaning of unknown words. Students are responsible for creating a vocabulary notebook and updating it weekly. We are also learning to summarize and explain how relevant details support the central idea of a text. And finally, we are learning how to write in cursive! Students are really excited about that!

In math, students are learning about place value and how it relates to decimals. In science, kids are learning all about matter, including chemical and physical changes. The science fair is coming in November. More information regarding the science fair will be available in the next few weeks. In social studies, we are continuing to discover the process of exploration and ancient civilizations.

READ 30 EVERY DAY

Benefits of Reading

- Improved vocabulary
- Expanded world knowledge
- Deepened Empathy
- Improved Academic Performance

DAILY READING ADDS UP

Reading Time	Number of Readers
30 min	1,314,000
10 min	438,000
1 min	219,000

MAKE READING ROUTINE

- Bed Time:** Read a book to your child before putting them to bed. Allow your child to read under the covers. Read before and a great habit for nighttime reading!
- Meal Time:** Incorporate a picture book into your meal time. Read together and share the sillies for picture books. Chat as a family about books you've recently read. Leave books on the table so they can flip when you aren't looking at a recipe.
- Bath Time:** Read to your child while they are in the bath tub. Leave books in the bathroom for extended visits.

www.openabookopenamind.com



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Kindergarten and Third Grade

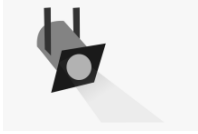
Hello! My name is Mrs. Garn. This is my 9th year at Kingsway Elementary School! I previously taught 1st and 2nd grade here at Kingsway, and this year I am the ESE support teacher for kindergarten and 3rd grades. I am so excited to be going into classrooms to work with students and help them be successful, enthusiastic learners! In ELA, we've started our Benchmark curriculum. We are reading non-fiction, working on short vowel sounds, being good listeners, and responding to books through conversation and writing. In math, we're learning place value in four-digit numbers, and practicing solving problems using different strategies. Kindergarten is working on counting to 5, letter sounds, identifying nouns, and answering questions about books that have been read to them. We're already off to a great start. I know we will have a wonderful year full of fun and learning!

First and Fifth Grade

Hi Families! My name is Mrs. Jurowicz and I am excited to be the ESE Teacher for grades 1 and 5. September has been a busy month! In first grade, students have been learning the life cycle of a frog. In ELA, they have been identifying the topic and relevant details of a text. We continue to work on blending sounds to form words. In math, students have been learning about the value of numbers in the ones and tens place. In fifth grade ELA, students have been reading passages about corn. They have been working on vocabulary, identifying the text structure of a passage, and utilizing text features. In Social Studies, the students have been learning about the history of FL and how it became a state. Over in math, students have been working on solving the formula for volume along with reviewing place value. Our students continue to work hard and try their best. I'm excited to see all the great things they will do this school year!

Second and Fourth Grade

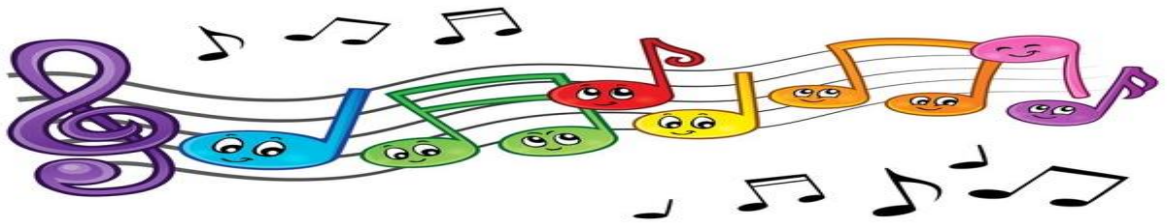
Hello everyone! My name is Miss Caldwell and I am the ESE teacher for 2nd and 4th grade. Now that the beginning of the year testing is finished, we are diving into the curriculum! In second grade ELA, students will be reading informational science texts and fiction stories about the interrelationship of plants, animals, and habitats. In math, students have just completed Unit 2 which covered place value, representing numbers in different forms, and comparing and ordering numbers. They will now begin exploring patterns within numbers! In 4th grade ELA, students will read firsthand accounts of writers' interactions with nature and novel excerpts in which characters encounter nature. In math, our 4th graders also just finished Unit 2 which covered representing 6-digit numbers in different forms, comparing and ordering 6-digit numbers, and rounding multi-digit numbers. They are now working on multiplication facts with factors up to 12 and related division facts. I cannot wait to see our cougar leaders grow!



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 area classes.

Music



Hi folks, in music class, we have been exploring meter- we are analyzing songs with different time signatures, and clapping and playing the beats in each measure while also counting the beats out loud. We are looking at the placement of strong and weak beats in different songs. The older grades are learning about triplets (three equal beats over one beat) and their importance in both traditional music and modern songwriting. The younger grades are using rhythm sticks and jingle bells to express the beat. The middle and upper grades have expressed pitches using "melody wackers," and some classes have already kept the beat with a snare, hi-hat, and kick-drum. Looking forward to more musical adventures with you this coming month! ~ Mr. Hecht

P.E.



Hey Kingsway sports fans!! We have been working on many things in PE this month. Our biggest and most exciting game is back!! GAGA BALL!! Have you heard about this yet? It is the big craze across America. I purchased the Gaga Ball pit last year with help from our Suncoast Schools and their generous grant. It is very similar to the dodgeball game, but the ball is consistently being hit back and forth inside an arena. If the ball touches anywhere from their knee to their foot, they will be out of the game. This game works on eye-hand coordination, dodging, jumping, blocking, and fair gameplay. After we complete many rounds, the students then find 5 different friends to high-five and tell them good game. I am hoping to instill the love of a competitive environment, yet be a kind winner and a gracious loser.

Thank you for your continued support here at Kingsway!
Coach Hurley



SPECTACULAR SPECIALS SPOTLIGHT continued

S.T.E.M.



The science adventures continue in STEM Lab! Students wrapped up learning about science tools and data recording earlier this month. Now we're diving into the science process. In the upper grades students tested their hypotheses for pendulum lengths. Younger grades worked on a hypothesis about gummy bears in water. Some classes are exploring the five senses too! Many classes are starting to earn their reward day! So proud of their efforts and work ethic! Classes can earn stars for following directions & having a positive attitude. Keep up the great work Cougar Leaders!

The Science Challenge is back this year. Please encourage your child to give it a try (the Science Challenge station is right across the hall from my classroom)! The Moment of Science is coming so! Scientifically yours,
Ms. Clark



Media

Media sponsored our "Score with Books" book fair. The "Score with Books" book fair helped out students discover new books, complete series, find new favorite characters, and more!

Ms. Krueger is extremely grateful to all the volunteers, the students, and their families for their support. Thank you!

~ Ms. K





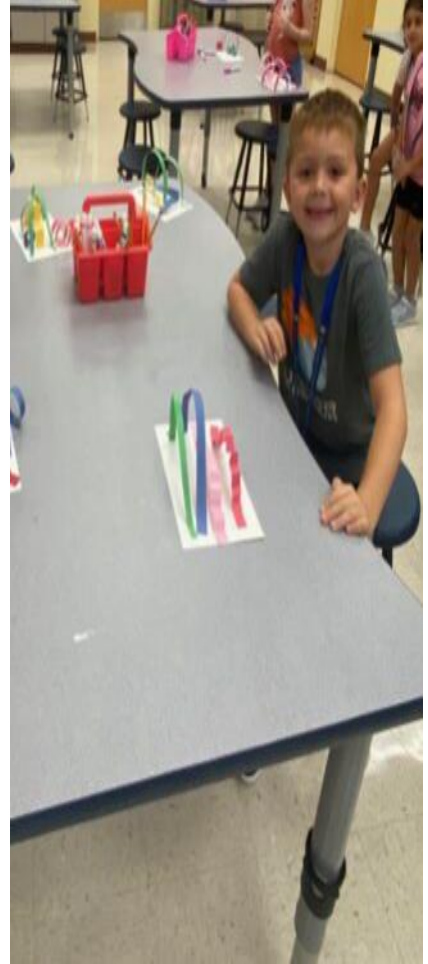
SPECTACULAR SPECIALS SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

ART

We have had the most amazing start to the school year, with our Cougar Artists! I have enjoyed spending time with your child each week watching them grow in their creations. In the first week of school each student created a tiny work of art for our tiny art gallery. After sharing who I am and some of my story with my students I gave them the opportunity to share a little about themselves with me. They of course did this through art. Students created a get to know me sculpture where we learned about a variety of lines and how to create a three-dimensional artwork by creating 3-D lines. Each line they added to their paper represented something about themselves, whether it be that they have a brother or sister, have lost a tooth, could ride their bike or tie their shoes, etc. They created some beautiful sculptures that they brought home. If you get a chance as your student what each line represented. This week we are jumping into a new project! I look forward to seeing their creations!

Happy Creating!

-Mrs. W



VARYING EXCEPTIONALITIES CLASSES

Our students are unbe-leaf-able! 🍁

- In Mrs. Carthy's Pre-K class, In our Language skills learning we are working on naming all our letters. We are working on recognizing the letters in our names. We practice our ABCs every day and would love you to continue that at home. It is also extremely helpful if you read to your child for at least 20 minutes every day. Children who are exposed to more words on a daily basis will have stronger language skills when they reach kindergarten. In math, we are working on "apple kisses" (abacuses). The students roll a foam dice and then practice counting out beads on the lines of an abacus. We also count our numbers 1-100 every day and would love to continue to help them at least once at home every day.
- In Ms. Bolam's class, our Kindergarteners and 1st graders are working very hard! In ELA our friends are learning all about the different kinds of characters in various types of stories. In math, our Kindergarten friends are learning our numbers 0-10, as well as sorting, counting, and comparing objects. Our 1st graders are learning about place value, as well as addition and subtraction within 20. In social studies, our leaders are learning all about rules and expectations within our communities. In science, both our kinders and 1st graders are learning about living things and plants, while our 1st graders are also learning about parents and offspring. We are also working on our social skills and what it means to be an empathic and caring classmate.
- In Mrs. Awad's 1st grade ELA class, we are learning to identify story elements in a story. In 2nd grade ELA, we are learning to identify the main story elements and plot in a story. In 1st grade Math, we are working on identifying number place Value. In 2nd grade Math, we are learning number place values up to 1,000. In science, 1st grade is learning about how animals and plants grow. As for 2nd grade Science, we are learning about Earth's structure and how it's made of rocks, minerals, and different types of soil. In social studies, we are learning about being good citizens in different communities. We continue to work on regulating and improving our social skills by being kind and showing empathy to others.

VARYING EXCEPTIONALITIES CLASSES continued

- Ms. Liszak's and Mrs. Rosado's ELA classes are focusing on character matters. Our 3rd graders are studying ways characters shape stories. They're practicing summarizing (including plot and theme), explaining how characters add to the plot and theme, and comparing and contrasting how two authors present the same theme. 4th graders are learning about characters' actions and reactions. We're practicing using context clues, summarizing, explaining a theme, and telling how characters contribute to the plot. 5th graders are learning about developing characters' relationships. We're practicing using context clues, summarizing, story elements, and describing how an author develops a character's perspective. 3rd-5th graders are practicing phonics and grammar skills and learning about opinion writing. In math, the 3rd graders have been working on using algorithms to add and subtract with/without regrouping. The 4th graders have been working on understanding multiplication as a comparison, working with multiplication and division in word problems, and working with equations. The 5th graders have been working on adding, subtracting, rounding, and comparing multi-digit numbers with decimals. We continue to work throughout each day on emotional regulation, social skills, and personal development.
- 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 cycle. In social we have been talking about home and school responsibilities. 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.



SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

Hey Kingsway,

We continue to make attendance a priority and hope that you will as well. We look forward to seeing your children each and every day. If there are any concerns around attendance, please reach out to the school social worker Mrs. Daly.



Mrs. Daly, School Social Worker
Vicky.daly@yourcharlotteschools.net





Cougar Pride!



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

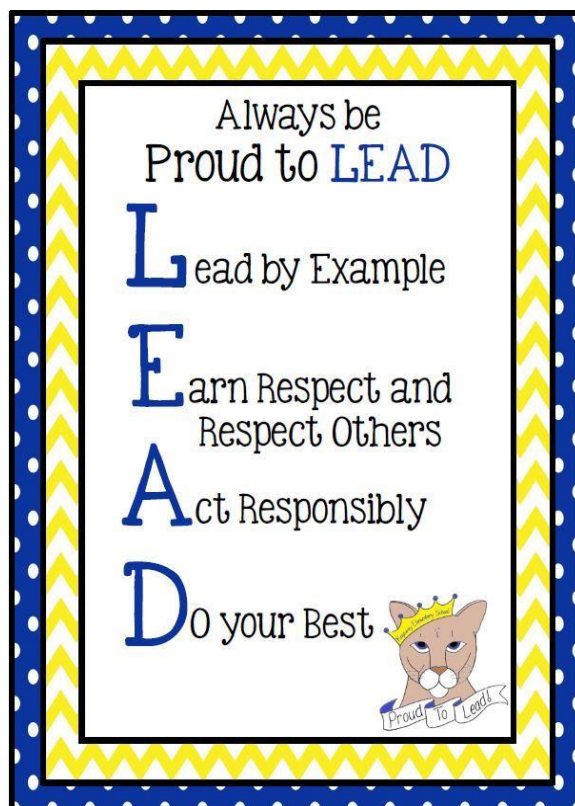
Fax: (941) 255-7591

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.