



The Cougar Paw Print

Kingsway Elementary School

December 2023

Letter from your Principals



Cougar Leaders-

We hope everyone enjoyed Fall break with family and friends and celebrated the season of thankfulness. The next three weeks are packed full of celebration as we anticipate our next Holiday break. Students' last day before break is December 21st. We hope you will spend time together making lasting memories and celebrating the conclusion of another year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready to tackle the second half of the school year on January 8th, 2024! We are proud of everyone's hard work during the first half of the year! Keep up the hard work! We have a few events planned this month for students to enjoy. The week of 12/18-12/21 will be dress-up days-see flyer on Remind. On 12/21 students will be watching a movie, completing fun activities, and spending time with friends. I know we are all excited for these events.

We have our FAST ELA and Math Testing for kindergarten, first, and second graders happening this month! Parent letters have been sent home with testing dates. Our third through fifth graders will be taking their FAST PM 2 ELA and Math assessments in January. Those parent letters will be coming home in January. It is important that students get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and come to school ready to show what they know!

Kindness is contagious and helping others has been proven to make us feel better too! Let's try to focus on being generous with our time and attention rather than money – it's free and better for everyone, as well as our planet! This month is a time for giving, cherishing, and loving one another, exactly what our parents, staff, and students are about here at Kingsway! We hope everyone has a healthy, safe, and relaxing break!

Mrs. Kelch and Ms. Joiner

Stay Connected with Kingsway

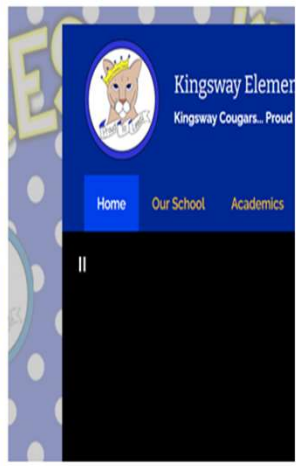


Staying connected with Kingsway helps build our school family. :-)

Connect with Kingsway

Website

www.yourcharlotteschools.net/kes



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



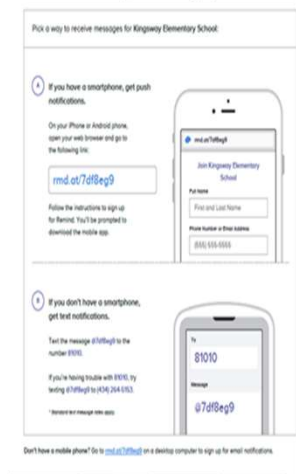
Twitter

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Remind

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



KINDERGARTEN

Dear Kindergarten families,

In ELA we have finished unit 3 and will start unit 4. Unit 3 was all about rules both at school and at home. We read many stories that reminded us of the rules and why they are so important. We also discussed main ideas in the stories we read, and how to find the most important information. We now know at least 10 sight words! Our sentences are getting better and we are starting to create our own sentences.

In math, we have learned all about shapes, sorting, and identifying numbers up to 10. We are beginning to learn addition within 10! Soon we will also start subtraction.

In science, we are learning about animals. We are discussing how baby animals are alike and different from their parents. We are also sharing similarities and differences between all animals. In social studies, we are learning about the first thanksgiving, seasons, and the weather.

We are looking forward to the holidays and all of the fun seasonal activities we have planned!

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

Practice reading sight words

Use addition to add 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!

We are so excited to see how much progress the students have made so far this year! First grade has done such an amazing job!

In ELA, we will finish Unit 3 and begin Unit 4. In Unit 3, we learned all about how to be a good member of our community. Unit 4 is about how people create stories. We will use many different fiction stories to help learn about story elements and who is telling the story.

In math, we will finish up Unit 6, which is all about 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes. We are using many different types of manipulatives to help us learn about shapes. Unit 7 is all about the meaning of addition. We will learn more about addition using numbers to 0-99.

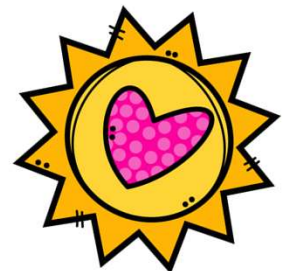
In science, we are continuing to learn about the sky and earth. The students will learn about planets, the moon, earth, and stars during this unit.

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 homework
- Practice number recognition and addition/subtraction equations

The First Grade Team!

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



SECOND GRADE



Hello 2nd Grade Families!

It's hard to believe it is already November! In ELA, we are finishing up Unit 3 of Benchmark - What can we learn when we face problems? We have been working on describing main story elements, context clues, characters' perspectives, expository writing, and r-controlled vowels. After Thanksgiving break, we will begin Unit 4 (How can a story change depending on who tells it?).

In math, we are finishing up Unit 6 (Represent Subtraction with 2-Digit Numbers). After break, we will begin Unit 7 (Solve Two-Step Problems). Practicing subtracting and adding 2-digit numbers at home will help your child be successful in these units.

In science, we are learning about minerals and solids, liquids, and gases.

We are so excited for Leadership Day! The students can't wait to talk about their progress and achievements with you!

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 Kingsway Elementary 3rd Grade Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well as we dove into an exciting month of learning at Kingsway Elementary School. In November, our 3rd graders explored a diverse range of topics across various subjects. Here's what your children focused on:

ELA (English Language Arts):

In ELA, our young scholars delved into the fascinating world of government. They learned about the different branches of government, the roles of our elected officials, and the principles that help our democracy function. Engaging discussions and interactive activities made this subject come to life.

Math:

In Math class, we tackled fractions! Understanding fractions can be a bit challenging, but we had some fun using creative ways to help your children grasp this concept. You should be amazed at their newfound fraction knowledge!

Science:

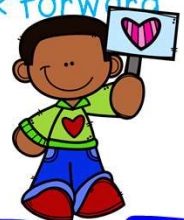
Our 3rd graders nurtured their green thumbs as they studied plant reproduction and growth in Science. They explored the fascinating journey of how plants reproduce and grow, from seeds to beautiful blossoms. Hands-on experiments and observations brought the world of botany to life in the classroom.

We also want to take this opportunity to say we hope all our Kingsway families have a joyful and festive holiday season. No matter which holidays you celebrate, we hope that this time brings you warmth, happiness, and cherished moments with your loved ones. Let us all remember to embrace the spirit of togetherness, gratitude, and kindness.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved in your child's educational journey, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. We value your partnership in ensuring a rich and rewarding learning experience for our 3rd graders.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. We look forward to a month filled with discovery and celebration.

Warm regards,
The Third Grade Team



FOURTH GRADE



Hello Fourth Grade Families!

We cannot believe we are already in December! The time is flying by with our Fabulous Fourth Graders! We still have lots of work to do before our restful Winter Break!

In ELA, we have started Unit 4 "Understanding Different Points of View." Students will be asking questions about characters and events and creating mental images of those characters and events. Be sure to ask your student our essential question for the unit, "What do we learn when we look at the world through the eyes of others?" Students will also be starting narrative writing! By the end of the unit, students will be asked to write a narrative text with characters and dialogue that show a logical sequence of events. Thank you for reading with your student for 30 minutes each night!

In Math, Students are working hard on our Fractions Units. We are finishing up Fraction Equivalence and beginning Subtraction and Addition Strategies with Fractions. Fractions can be so fun if you have the right attitude. If you see your student struggling at home, you can access the program FRAX if you have access to Classlink. FRAX is a fantastic program that students have been working on all year to help prepare them for these units. It is fun and engaging and hopefully, it has made your students love fractions! If you have any questions about how to access or anything about math in particular, feel free to send a message on Remind and we would be happy to help! Thank you for continuing to practice these skills at home!

In Science, we are finishing our unit on the Solar System, and beginning the water cycle! We have many great activities planned to show the movement of water on our planet! Be sure to ask your students about what they are learning about the water cycle in science!

In Social Studies, students will study the role of pirates in Florida's history. They will discuss Spain's neglect, which led to Florida becoming a pirate-filled state. Additionally, students will study how Florida became a territory of the U.S. thanks to Andrew Jackson and Jean Lafitte's pirates. Students are completing engaging activities that help them understand the rich history of Florida!

We cannot wait to see how much more these students will grow in the second semester! We hope everyone has a fabulous December!





FIFTH GRADE



November

This month, our 5th graders are certainly keeping busy! They are working hard in all subjects while looking forward to Thanksgiving break! Students should continue reading at least 30 minutes each day – we are trying to beat last month's reading goal on AR which was 2,518,000 words read as a grade level! Keep up the great work, readers!

In ELA, we are focusing on tracking the development of an author's argument and analyzing author's purpose and perspective through Unit 3. We are continuing to read more about US laws and the US Constitution during this unit. In social studies, we are learning about the significant events leading up to the American Revolution.

In math, we have just finished Unit 6 which was all about multiplying decimal numbers and we are now moving into Unit 7 which is about division of large numbers. In science, we are wrapping up learning about the solar system and beginning the water cycle!

Fifth graders were recently sent home with a letter and tri-fold board for the 5th grade science fair – participation is mandatory and graded so please make sure that your student is staying mindful of due dates for this project!

Our 5th-grade fall dance and STEAM night were both huge successes! Thank you to everyone who participated and had fun with us!





EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION



Kindergarten and Third Grade

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! Our students continue to work hard! In kindergarten, the students are identifying letters and their sounds, and reading sight words. They are also still working on writing skills, including writing complete sentences. In math, they are identifying shapes and learning how to add two numbers. Third grade is continuing to work on identifying central idea and relevant details. They are also learning to identify various text structures in a nonfiction passage. In math, they have finished multiplication and division strategies, and are now learning about fractions. Please continue working on math facts with your child and reading with them daily. I know our cougar leaders will continue to work hard as we finish the second quarter.

First and Fifth Grade

In the midst of the second quarter, students in 1st grade have been working on their l-blends and s-blends. They have been learning about text features and how they help us understand a text. In math, students have been working on subtracting numbers to 20 using various strategies. Please keep practicing your math facts and reading daily. In 5th grade, students have been reading passages about the U/S. Constitution. Students have been summarizing the text and finding the relevant details to identify the central idea. In math, students have been multiplying multi-digit numbers with decimals. Please continue to practice your math facts and keep reading daily. We are excited to see the students' progress as we continue in quarter 2. Keep working hard, Cougar Leaders!

Second and Fourth Grade

In second grade, students are reading informational texts about present-day government workers and laws, as well as historical fiction stories set during the American Revolution. Students are expected to be able to identify the central idea and relevant details, identify different character's perspectives, describe main story elements, and use context clues to determine the meaning of words. In math, students are working on subtraction within 100. In fourth grade, students are reading informational texts and fictional stories about the interactions between citizens and government. Students are working on summarizing, identifying text structures, explaining how text features contribute to meaning, and explaining how relevant details support the central idea. In math, students are working on multi-digit division. Please continue to practice your multiplication facts! This will help when they are dividing.



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:

Hello Families!! I first want to thank all of you who participated in the Kids Heart Challenge. We raised over \$1700.00! There are many kids who get to slime their dear ole Coach Hurley in December! Don't worry, it's for a good cause!



If you have a Kindergarten student, they were introduced to the amazing game of Gaga Ball. They absolutely love it. This is a reinvented game of dodgeball inside of an octagon pit. Students are on their own team and strike a ball rolling on the ground. To stay in the game, don't let the ball hit your knee or below by jumping, blocking, and dodging the ball as it comes at you. You want to be the last 3 players left in the pit. It is so much fun!

In October, we completed our first pacer test for grades 2-5. They have a baseline score for the year. There will be 2 more, February and May. The students also did the sit-up challenge. I was very impressed with the amount of students who did over 20 in a minute! Practice, Practice, Practice!

In November, we will do many games that involve relay races that incorporate our Fall Theme for the month. I hope you all have an incredible Thanksgiving and enjoy your family time during our break coming up soon!

Thank you for your support!
Coach Hurley

Art

It may be warm outside, but inside Kingsway Cougar artists have been preparing for fall! Each grade level explored a different fall-themed art project for the month of October. Their works of art turned out beautiFALL! Kindergarten made cute value ghosts and pumpkins. First-grade artists studied spiders and created patterned spiders with metallic colored pencils. Second-grade artists learned about creating secondary colors. They blended two primary colors to create their amazing secondary pumpkin patch. Third graders explored patterned pumpkins with oil pastels. Fourth-grade artists made us look up through their warm-colored trees. Finally, fifth grade explored creating silhouettes on a monochromatic background! We all agree that these fall art pieces are pumpkin to talk about!





Spectacular Specials Spotlight Continued

STEM



Students wrapped up the science process lessons and should have a better understanding of the scientific method and working through an experiment. Now we can dive deeper into various science concepts!

Ms. Rhonda from Keep Charlotte Beautiful came and presented lessons about taking care of our planet. Fifth graders learned about landfills, fourth explored composting, third graders learned strategies for reusing materials, and kindergarten through second grades studied recycling. Thank you for visiting our students, Ms. Rhonda!

Moment of Science began. Be sure to ask your child about the weekly questions on CPN.

Fifth grade families – Science Fair information went home November 1st. I'm working through the process during my class time. Please connect with me via Remind for helpful tips. I can't wait to see their projects!!! :-D

Scientifically yours,

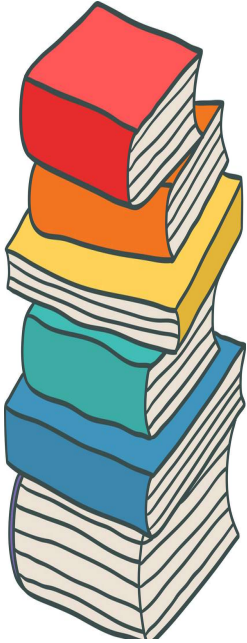
Ms. Clark





Spectacular Specials Spotlight Continued

Media



During media, students hear read-alouds and engage in a variety of activities. The 4th and 5th graders are in the midst of a nonfiction series on weather. The third-grade students are enjoying another series entitled, Animal Battles. Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade have listened to a multitude of storybooks, sang songs, and played with literature-based story toys. While in media students self-select books for their own reading pleasure.

Ms. K. is very proud of all the students working on earning those AR points and improving their comprehension skills. A flyer was sent home with the required AR points students need in order to earn their grade-level AR shirt. (Kinder 20 pts, 1st 50 pts, 2nd 75 pts, 3rd 90 pts, 4th 105 pts, and 5th 120 pts) Our AR store will open soon to help reward and motivate our Kingsway readers.

Ms. K sure enjoys having the Kingsway Cougars in the library!
Continue to read and enjoy books!
Happy reading,
~Ms. K

Music

Hi folks, we have been making strides in music. Students are creating melodies on boomwhackers and xylophones, and we are learning about syncopation and off-beats, set to the seasonal themes of autumn and Thanksgiving. We are gaining recognition of notes and rests, and their respective timing values and names on the treble clef staff. The chorus has been working hard, rehearsing for the upcoming (December 14th) KES holiday concert- we hope you will join us there!!
Yours in music,
Mr. Hecht



VARYING EXCEPTIONALITIES CLASSES

The students in our multi-aged classes gobbled up knowledge in November! 🦃

- In Mrs. Carthy's Pre-K class, we are learning how to sit as a group at circle time and how to share with our friends in centers. We have been improving since the beginning of the year, and Mrs. Carthy is very proud. We have gained 2 new friends in October and November and we are working on modeling what we have learned to our newest peers. We are also working on communication skills and how we use pictures to communicate our wants and needs to our teachers. We are determined to understand that when we can communicate, even with pictures, we can achieve many things.
- In Ms. Bolam's class, we sure are working hard! In ELA we are learning why people tell stories and how stories are created. We're learning new sight words and we're working on reading decodable texts independently. In math, we are learning about different 2D shapes and we're sharpening our addition skills. Not to brag, but we've got several math superstars in our class! In social studies we are learning about the seasons and our Earth; we're learning how to locate where we live on both a map and a globe. In science, we're continuing to learn about our planet Earth, and all about the animals that live here with us. Every day we are working on our social skills and learning more ways to be kind, helpful, thoughtful citizens. My friends are working hard to fill up our kindness jars (by doing acts of kindness), in hopes of earning a PJ Pizza Party. 😊
- In Mrs. Awad's ELA class, we have been learning about why it's important to have a government, a community, and rules to follow. We are focusing on identifying the main idea with supporting details. We continue to work on our phonics and grammar skills to improve our reading fluency. In Math, 1st and 2nd-grade students are learning how to add and subtract numbers within 100. We also started learning about 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes. Kinder students are learning about different shapes and we are starting to add numbers from 0-10. In science, 2nd-grade students are learning about matter and how to describe different properties of matter. 1st-grade students are learning about the sky and its different patterns. Kinder students are learning about animals and how they are alike and different. In Social Studies, we are learning about the first Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims. We continue to work on growing our class community (class family) to be respectful and kind to one another.

VARYING EXCEPTIONALITIES CLASSES continued

- In Ms. Liszak and Mrs. Rosado's class, we finished up our third ELA unit, which was on government and citizenship. 2nd graders learned about why we need a government, 3rd graders learned about why people participate in government, and 4th graders learned about how government can influence the way we live. We've practiced phonics and grammar skills, summarizing, central idea and details, and telling how text structure and text features add to meaning. In Math, 2nd grade is working on subtraction with regrouping to 100. 3rd grade just finished up multiplying and dividing with 3, 4, 6, and 8 facts. Keep practicing facts at home! We want our 3rd-grade students to be fact masters. 😊 4th grade is working on division strategies with multi-digit dividends and 1-digit dividers. In science, 2nd and 3rd grade focused on properties of matter. We have had a lot of fun creating different mud textures to see which is the best consistency to build a house, and we have created clouds. In 4th grade, we are learning about Earth's Patterns and Space. We have made our own "universe in a box", and we will be exploring moon phases. We continue to work throughout each day on setting goals and showing respect and kindness to those around us.
- In Miss Wyman's we have been focusing on communication skills and engaging with our peers. In science, we are learning about observations by learning about the plant life cycle and watching our caterpillars turn into butterflies. 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, place value, division, and multiplication. In social studies, we are learning about Earth, seasons, and the first Thanksgiving.





SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



The Turkey Trot was a huge success, thank you all for your help, the students had a great time. As we come to the end of the second quarter, it appears that the grade with the best attendance is still uncertain, however the 4th grade is leading. Whatever grade has the best overall attendance for the second quarter will earn a pizza party.

Starting in January, KES will have Free Food Fridays. A table will be set up in the lobby with bags of food that have breakfast, lunch and dinner items in bags, please help yourself to the bags.

Mental Health News:

The holidays are here and it's time to celebrate. Please spend time relaxing and enjoy your time with family and friends. We hope that everyone has a great break and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Check out these stress survival tips on staying sane this season.

1. Practice acceptance. Brace yourself for inevitable mishaps, and forget the "perfect" holiday

2. Plan ahead

3. Schedule "me" time

4. Make a list, and check it twice

5. Squeeze in exercise

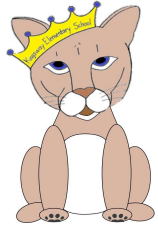
6. Everything in moderation

7. Share the holiday spirit

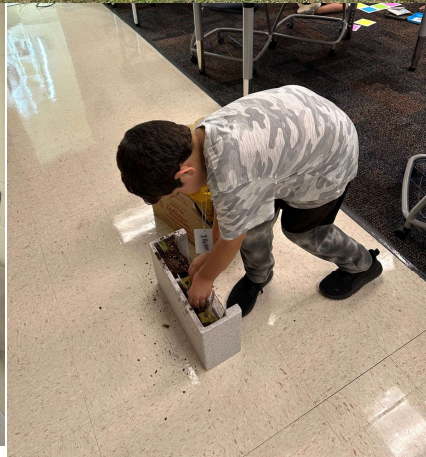
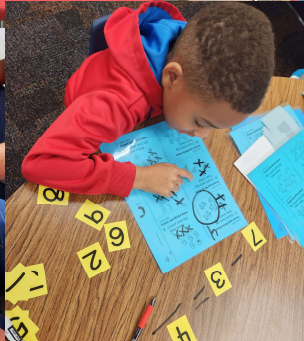
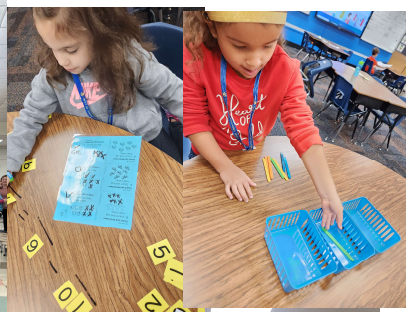
8. Most of all, enjoy time with family and friends



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.



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:

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





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Port Charlotte, FL

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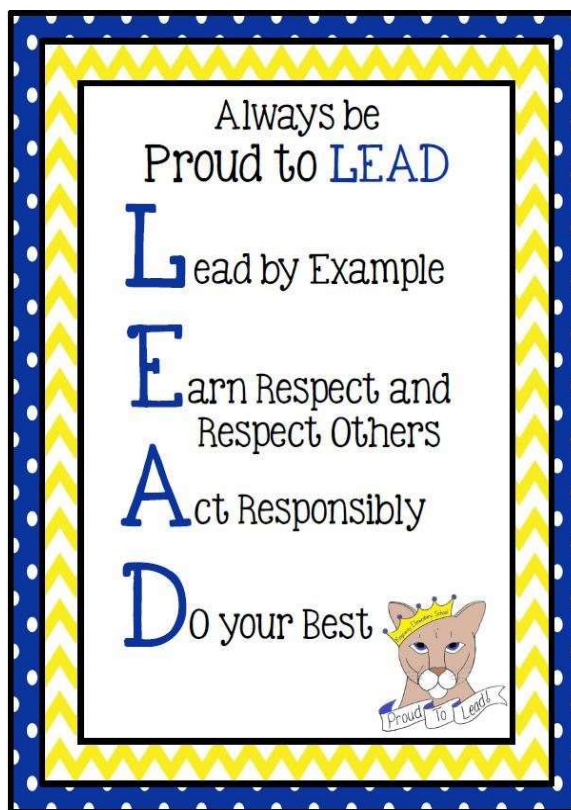
Fax: (941) 255-7591

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.