

Happy Holidays!

Villas Elementary School

A Title I School

8385 Beacon Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907
http://vls.leeschools.net/ T: 239.936.3776

Breakfast: 7:25am- 7:55am

Students Hours: 7:55am- 2:10pm

Office Hours: 7:00am- 3:30pm

A Message from Administration

Happy December! It is amazing to me that I am sending out the December newsletter already – it feels like the first half of the school year has passed by so quickly! As this year comes to a close, I can't help but look back at all the wonderful happenings at Villas Elementary. I feel so fortunate to be a part of a community that works together for the betterment of the children. Staff and families are to be commended for their efforts in providing the students of Villas with support and encouragement. I look forward to the coming New Year and our continued partnership to make Villas Elementary a place where all children are successful and demonstrate P.R.I.D.E.

This month is surely one of the busiest and most exciting months of the year for most of our kids. During the holiday season it is a fitting time for all of us to model random acts of kindness and generosity. Make this month great for somebody else. Toss kindness like confetti.

Wishing you a safe and wonderful holiday season filled with happiness, good health, and good reading.

Dismissal Changes

Please send in a note with your child if they are going home in a different manner than usual. Also, please be sure to put your child's first and last name as well as the teachers name on the note. The school office must be notified in writing no later than 1:30 p.m. of any last minute changes, please e-mail Maria Garcia at MariaEG@LeeSchools.net, and contact the Main Office at 936.3776.

Counselor Corner

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."-Aesop

December's character word is: KINDNESS. 'Tis the season for caring. Over the past month we have been celebrating and discussing kindness throughout the school. Many of our students have been learning about empathy and how important it is to have empathy for others. Please support this valuable lesson at home as well.

How can you promote empathy?

1. Empathize with your child and model empathy for others.
2. Make caring for others a priority and set high ethical expectations.
3. Provide opportunities for your children to practice empathy.
4. Expand your child's circle of concern to all people.
5. Help your child develop self-control and manage feelings effectively.

Mrs. Neymeyer, School Counselor

Villas Elementary School's "Section 504 Coordinator" is Darcy Neymeyer, Counselor, DarcyGN@leeschools.net, phone 239.936.3776.

Empathy

Empathy is understanding and caring about how someone else is feeling.



Upcoming Events

December 5- December 9

PTA Holiday Gift Shop 8:00am- 2:00pm

December 10

AR Blast 10:00am- 12:00pm

December 15

Pictures with Santa for \$2.00

Dairy Queen Night 5:00pm- 8:00pm

December 19

Voices of Pride Holiday Concert 6:00pm

December 20

Early Dismissal at 12:10pm

Field Day for Kindergarten & 1st Grade

December 21

Early Dismissal at 12:10pm

Field Day for 2nd & 3rd Grade

December 22

Last Day of Quarter 2

Early Dismissal at 12:10pm

Field Day for 4th & 5th Grade

December 23

No School- Professional Duty Day

December 24- January 8

No School- Winter Break

January 9

First Day of Quarter 3

Students Return

January 13-27

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

January 16

No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 19

Report Card Day

January 20

PTA Family Movie Night- Finding Dory- 6:00pm

January 23

PTA Meeting 5:30pm

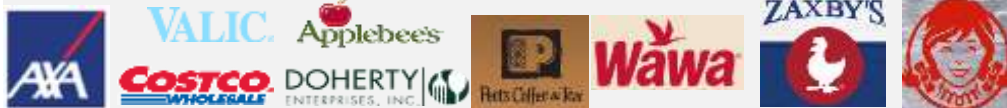
SAC Meeting 6:00pm

January 26

Dairy Queen Night 5:00pm- 8:00pm

Emergency Practice Drills

The School District of Lee County emphasizes the importance of providing a Safe, Secure & Healthy Environment for all. All schools work closely with local, state & federal agencies to meet regulatory requirements & safety measures. At Villas Elementary, safety is a priority. Villas participates in monthly practice drills in order to be prepared in an emergency situation. Emergency Drills include: fire, tornado, bomb threat, lockdowns, and bus evacuations.



Positivity

Respect

Integrity

Determination

Excellence

The Villas Mission is to do whatever it takes to help students meet or exceed grade level standards.

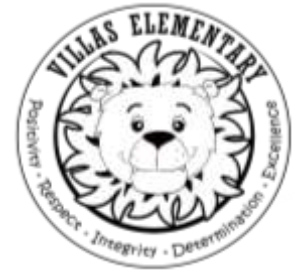
The Villas Vision is to ensure that every student achieves his or her highest academic potential.

School Notes

Absences: Please send in a note when your child is absent. These notes determine whether the absence will be documented as excused or unexcused.

Cafeteria: Students at Villas Elementary are eligible for breakfast and lunch at no additional charge, regardless of family income. If you would like to visit your child during lunch, you must sign in at the front office and obtain a visitor's pass.

Lunch Menu Link: <http://vls.leeschools.net/index.cfm?p=cafeteria-corner>



<p>Bus Information For bus stop info, visit www.leeschools.net/backtoschool. Please call transportation at 239.590.4000 for transportation questions.</p>	<p>Walkers Please be courteous to the Villas Wesleyan Church parking and landscaped areas. Parent Pick-Up Signs must be visible to ensure safety of our walkers.</p>	<p>Parent Pick-Up Please use Parent Pick-Up Signs at all times when picking up your child. If you need new Parent Pick-Up Signs, please contact your child's teacher.</p>
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South Zone Middle Schools- Open House Information

Bonita Springs Middle Center for the Arts:	Zone: S-3	Thurs., Jan. 19	(239)992.4422
Cypress Lake Middle School:	Zone: S-1	Wed., Jan. 25	(239)481.1533
Fort Myers Middle Academy:	Zone: S-1	Tues., Jan. 24	(239)936.1759
Lexington Middle School:	Zone: S-2	Thurs., Jan. 26	(239)454.6130
Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle:	Zone: S-1	Thurs., Jan. 12	(239)334.1357
Three Oaks Middle School:	Zone: S-2	Wed., Jan. 18	(239)267.5757

Parent Gradebook Access (FOCUS)

Lee County's Focus Parent Portal provides parents/guardians a real-time view of their child's assignment grades, attendance information, as well as current averages in all classes. If you would like to have access to your student's grades, assignments and schedules, please register for a Focus Parent Gradebook Account. Instructions can be found on our website: <http://vls.leeschools.net> under the Parents section.

Compass Learning

Compass Learning at <http://compass.leeschools.net> is a valuable learning tool that students use here at school and have access to at home. The activities are specific to each student's needs based on their quarterly STAR test scores. Compass learning is like having a private tutor for your student. It provides interactive lessons and activities that can remediate and enrich your child. Simply go to the link and have your student sign in using their login number they use here at school (example bg12345). They will then need to click on the grey Reading rectangle. This is where they will find their own personal lessons.

You can also access Compass Learning on your iPhone or iPad. In the App store search for **Puffin Academy**. Click on **Get** to download the app. Select **Puffin Store** to download the Lee County Compass App. In the search field, type in **Compass**. Click on **School District of Lee County App**. Click **Install**. Click on the **CompassLearning-School District of Lee County app to launch Compass**.

<p>Florida College and Career Ready Standards App – quick reference to help teachers and parents understand language of standards. https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/florida-college-career-ready/id920898055?mt=8</p>	<p>The Just Take 20 is a Florida initiative to improve student achievement in reading and literacy by recognizing that literacy begins at home! http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/just-take-20.</p>	<p>Bookshare (https://www.bookshare.org/cms) – An accessible online library for people with print disabilities.</p>	<p>CommonLit (https://www.commonlit.org/) - Free collection of fiction and non-fiction texts for grades 5 - 12 sorted by Lexile, theme, genre, and standard with text-dependent questions.</p>
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Before School Program

- Before school begins at 6:45 am.
- Only registered students may attend.
- The cost is \$10 per week, per child or \$3 per day, per child.

After School Program

- Payments are due Monday or the first day your child attends.
- Bring exact change.
- Pick up is by 6:00 pm; \$1.00 per minute will be charged after 6:00 pm.
- Bring ID or the school issued Parent Pick-Up Sign when picking up your child.

Got LEGOS?

Villas Elementary is accepting Lego donations for our After School Program. New and used Legos of all shapes, sizes, and colors would be appreciated.

Reporting Out-of-Field Teachers

All teachers at Villas Elementary are Highly Qualified. The following teachers are engaged in training to add the endorsement, English for Speakers of Other Languages, (ESOL) to their teaching certificate:

- Michelle Cline
- Seneca Hartmann
- Caryn Toback
- Kristin Wilhelm
- Lorraine Yates

Additionally, Roxann Camel is engaged in training to add the Gifted endorsement to their teaching certificate.

Traducción disponible: Si desean información sobre este boletín por favor de llamar a Keila Espinoza (936-3776) de 7:45am-2:00pm.



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