

THE TROPIC ISLES STAR



“To be a national role model for academic excellence”

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Title I School

Alane Adams - Principal
Kristina Rendon- Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 12th- Holiday House begins
- Dec. 16th– 5th Grade Dance - 3:30-5:00 P.M.
Last day for Holiday House
- Dec. 20th thru 22nd - Early Dismissal– 1:10 P.M.
- Dec. 23rd– Teacher Duty Day– No School
- Dec. 26th thru Jan. 6th– Winter Vacation



Principal's Pen

The holidays are a special time to thank those who make a difference in our schools and communities. Let's take time to stop and reflect on what it means to consider others before ourselves.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The School Public Accountability Report (SPARS) can be viewed at: [Doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/index.cfm](http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/index.cfm) There is also a printed copy available for review in the school office.

Also, TIE School Grade has been released. Click on this link for more information: <http://trp.leeschools.net/school-report-card>

THE HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP IS COMING!!

Our Tropic Isles Holiday Shop will take place December 12th thru the 16th. The “Holiday Gift Shop” program makes it possible for children to experience the joy of choosing their own special gifts for family and friends. It is supervised by our parent volunteers and they will help students pick that perfect gift for the price they want..in a familiar, comfortable atmosphere. Prices will ranges between \$.25 and \$10.00. (plus tax) There will be a large variety of gifts to choose from. Imagine the fun they will have surprising their loved ones with a “secret” gift that they bought!!! More information will go home soon.



PENNIES FOR PASTA



Tropic Isles Elementary School students will be taking part in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Pennies for Patients program from November 28th – December 16th. During this program, students will collect money to support LLS's mission: *to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients*. Students will learn about service, leadership, philanthropy and how they can make a difference by changing patients' lives.

Music at Tropic Isles

It's a great year to be at Tropic Isles, especially for music.
Here are the upcoming activities:

REHEARSALS

- Singing Sea Stars – December 8
- Junior Sea Stars – December 14
- Ukulele Club – December 7, 13



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

- December 1 – Bell Towers Performance @ 7:00 (Singing & Junior Sea Stars, Ukulele Club)
- December 8 – SWFL International Airport – Singing Sea Stars & Ukulele Club
- December 15 & 16 – Tropic Isles - (Singing & Junior Sea Stars, Ukulele Club)

IMPORTANT!!!!

It is extremely important, parents that you pick your child up ON TIME. Consistent late pick up will result in your child not remaining a part of these groups. Thank you for understanding.

REMINDER: PARENT PICK UP IS ON THE BUS RAMP AT 4:00 & 4:15 P.M. SHARP.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Parents must supply the office specific information on how their child will be departing from school. We must have a NOTE with specific instructions for ANY change in the way your child goes home. This includes if there will be a different person, other than yourself picking up.

Due to Safety reasons, we will no longer be able to accept changes in transportation via telephone. If we do not get a note, your child WILL go home their normal way. If a change occurs during the day, and it is a true emergency, you must bring a note, email one to our office staff or fax in a note to our office with a copy of your picture I.D. BEFORE 2:00 P.M. Unfortunately, changes after 2:00 P.M. CAN'T be made.

“Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts, it is acquiring understanding .” – William Arthur Ward

Leader In Me

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood (listen before you talk)

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking. Try this:

1. To better understand how listening can help or hurt a relationship, try "pretend listening" with your child for a few minutes. Your child will be frustrated. Explain what you were doing and discuss how your child felt. Now have your child ignore you when you are talking. Discuss how it makes you feel when you are ignored. Finish the discussion by thinking of ways to let the other person know when you feel you are not being truly listened to. Remind your child that this is also an example of Think Win-Win.
2. Body language can be even more important than words. Play a game with your kids where you each try to guess the other's emotion (happy, sad, angry, frustrated, bored, etc.) without using any words, just body language.
3. Demonstrate how saying the same phrase in a different tone of voice can give the phrase a completely different meaning. Try emphasizing different words in the phrase "I didn't say you did it" and then have your child tell you how the meaning changed.
4. Read Chapter 5 of *The 7 Habits of Happy Kids* book with your child and then complete the Parent's Corner.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Start Your Own Traditions

Many families celebrate the same traditions, such as birthdays and holidays, in very different ways. Some families have other traditions that are completely unique. Hearing about other people's traditions can give us ideas for our own families. Family traditions build the bonds that support children in school. Here are some traditions you might enjoy:

- **Sharing service.** From time to time, volunteer as a family. For example, help serve a meal at a homeless shelter.
- **Saying thanks.** Before Thanksgiving, cut out a large paper tree and hang it on a wall. Let family members write what they're thankful for on paper leaves and tape them, face down, to the tree. Then on Thanksgiving, scatter the leaves on your table and read them out loud.
- **Visiting relatives.** Attend family events, even if they require traveling. Go to Grandma's annual family reunion. Or help with Aunt Betty's New Year's party. This will build your child's sense of family and belonging.
- **Celebrating birthdays.** Write your child a birthday letter every year, highlighting his accomplishments and what you love about him. Another idea: Have the guests at his birthday party sign the tablecloth. Each year, add new names and look over the old ones.
- **Power-out night.** At least once a year, pretend the power has gone out. Gather the family and tell stories, reminisce, play games and sing songs by candlelight or flashlight.

STUDENT LEADER BLOG

This is my first year here at Tropic Isles and I'm loving it! All of our school events are amazing and so much fun. The teachers and faculty here are so nice and kind. Even though this is my first year at Tropic Isles, I'm very sad that it is also my last. I'm going to miss everyone here, especially Ms. Morehead.

Love,

Aston



THIRD GRADE NEWS

Third graders finished up the 1st Quarter strong! We are all working hard on being proactive and trying to make 2nd Quarter even better. Your child has a new point goal for AR. They should be reading at least 20 minutes from their AR book every single night.

You can help them at home by asking comprehension questions like: **What is the story mainly about? Who are the main characters? How would you describe the characters and why? What is the problem of the story? What is the solution? What is the theme/moral?** Please talk every day about the progress he/she is making in each subject. When your child knows that you think school is important, they will take it more seriously. Learning always starts at home and your child's mood affects how well he/she learns. A positive outlook is the best thing you can inspire in your children to keep them performing well at school and willing to tackle their homework.

Also, we are working to help them solve math word problems and a strategy we use in class is the C.U.B.E.S. method: **Circle the numbers, Underline the question, Box the math action words, Evaluate and draw, Solve and check.** By using C.U.B.E.S., your child will be able to focus on the important information and get to the heart of what the problem really is asking. Thank you for all you do to be involved in our school and in your child's education!

Hello Tropic Isles family and friends!

Our school donated close to 1,000 plastic bottle caps to the VFW on Pondella Road just before Veteran's Day. Please continue to send in your plastic caps of any kind (milk, water, soda, juice, laundry detergent, etc...) with your child to school. We will continue to give them to the VFW. They are collecting them to raise money to buy a service dog for a disabled veteran. Thank you for helping us give back.

Also, a big thank you to all the Veterans that participated in our assembly. It was a very heart warming event that recognized our veteran's for their service.



First Grade News

First graders have been working hard on addition and subtraction strategies and reading comprehension. We are excited about reaching our AR goals this quarter; please continue to read each night with your child and ask WH (*who, what, where, when, why*) questions as you read.

We are also selling CHICK-FIL-A Calendars! Get yours for \$8.00!

AR NEWS

GOT BOOKS?

With the holidays fast approaching and our extended time off from school, students usually need a push to continue to read during time off from school. Please remember to have your child read each day of the Thanksgiving and Winter breaks. Even just 15 minutes will do the trick! This can be done as a family or individually with each kid. Make it time spent one-on-one with your child. Choose holiday books or winter-themed books to appeal to your child's interest. Ask your child to read aloud to you while you are baking holiday cookies or meals. However you choose to use this reading time, it is sure to pay off when they come back from each break.

