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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 14:44

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**Subject:** Great Blue Heron Herald- February 2nd

Hello Heron Families!

I hope that everyone is keeping warm! I know that I have been freezing the past few days, my true Floridian blood is showing! So many things are up and coming so please read on for classroom happenings, upcoming field trips and events.

### **Classroom Happenings**

This week in practical life we are focusing on organization, cleaning routines and kitchen tidiness! We are also getting into some of the harvest in our garden. The snap peas and pole beans are delicious! We even have some carrots getting ready to be pulled and a melon we are going to try in the morning. Please also see the following from Ms. Laura about our upcoming service project with the SPCA:

Upper Elementary and Early Secondary students will have the opportunity to participate in a field trip/service project to the Key West SPCA. For interested students, they must bring one of the following donation items by February 7th as their "ticket" to participate. Students who do not wish to participate will not be required to attend (but we hope to have more opportunities for service projects this semester!)The date for the field trip will be determined after the donation drive is complete.

The SPCA has asked for the following items:

- Puppy pads
- Canned cat food (pate style)
- Cat scratchers
- Soft plush dog toys (no rope toys or rawhides)
- Low calorie dog treats

Another needed item is fleece fabric to make dog toys in class. This could be in the form of an old blanket or a large cut of bulk fabric. Please see the following example:



If you have questions regarding this donation drive or service project, please contact Ms. Laura at [Laura.Hulec@keysschools.com](mailto:Laura.Hulec@keysschools.com). We would also love to hear from families who have other volunteer

opportunities in the community. Please let us know if you have a contact that could accommodate a service project for our students!

In our area of math our 4th years are delving deep into the study of Least Common Multiples (LCM) and Greatest Common Factors (GCF) which leads us into a deeper study of fractions. The 5th years just finished up with the order of operations and then we will continue our work with operations with decimals. The 6th year students are practicing with ratios and proportions.

In language we are focusing on writing. All of the students are looking at how to take given sources of information and find examples that will aid them in composing an essay. Each grade level will be studying a different kind of writing style: expository, opinion, or argumentative. Of course we also like to go back to our word study to see how we can use figurative language to enrich our writing. Grammar and editing is also a large portion of this unit as well.

We continue our cultural studies with Florida history as we just ended with sharing the brochures that students created after researching their choice of an early Florida colony. We are planning on having a local celebrity (at least to the children) Dead-eye, from the Art and Cultural Society, to come in and explain to the children the impact that Ft. Zach had on early Florida colonization during the civil war era.

Science units so far this quarter have been fun and exciting. Many smaller experiments have been conducted by students to go with each of our units of study. Our 4th years are focusing on Earth's Atmosphere, the composition and how it impacts the other parts of our planet. The 5th years are delving deep into the water cycle and its impact on our local environments, and the 6th years are studying energy as it relates to physical sciences (kinetic and potential energy).

### **Important Dates**

February 11th-24th- Parent Teacher Conferences

- Please click on the link below to sign up for your conference!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054CA9AC2AA2F58-2122>

- These will take place on our half-day Fridays and a few days are scheduled after regular school hours during the week. These conferences will be in person OR virtual.
- February 2nd (TODAY)- Progress Reports go home.
  - Please see the envelope that is coming home today.
- February 15th- Studios of Key West Field Trip
  - Permission slips will be sent home today, please return them by Friday, February 11th.
- GeoBee Fundraiser
  - Last week pledge forms for this years' GeoBee went home with your child. Please note that for pledge purposes, the children will be asked to know 30 geographical terms. Those terms will be pulled from the list that went home with the pledge forms. If you have any questions, please let me know. If you did not receive one, I have attached them to this email.

## **Rabbit Care!!!**

Bili the Bunny would LOVE to have a family take him home for the weekend. It has been a while since someone has taken him home, he gets very lonely!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ca9ac2aa2f58-rabbit1>

We would also like to request that we have donations made for his care. The supplies needed for him can get expensive so any little bit of monetary donations or just buying what is needed would be a great help! Thank you all in advance.

## **Classroom Wish List**

Thank you to all the families that have already purchased things for the classroom! The students are already enjoying the new rug in our central shared space and the new cleaning supplies have already been in use!

If you feel like you can contribute to our classroom with donations, please feel free to look through our wish list.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2PVEY5X1S3WMC?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2PVEY5X1S3WMC?ref=wl_share)

## **Volunteer/Service hour Opportunities**

- Pet care over the weekends
- Carpet cleaning (we have the supplies)
- Rug washing
- Upholstery cleaning- classroom couch
- Rip out old carpet tiles and replace them with laminate tiles in our new kitchen area!
- General campus up-keep

Thank you for taking the time to stay caught up! It takes a village!!!!

*Sandy McCoy*

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