The rainy season has started - please make sure that if your child walks home or rides their bike, they have an umbrella or raincoat. While we will not dismiss bike riders or walkers if it’s lightning, they will be dismissed if it’s raining. So, an umbrella or raincoat will keep them dry.

Thank you to all the families that came to our Spring Fling! We had a great time playing games and eating some good food!

Assessment season has also begun! The assessments are administered to help us understand how children are progressing in their learning. This data also assists in making curriculum decisions at both the district and school level. If you are wondering what you can do to help your child, here are some suggestions:

- Encourage your child to try his/her best!
- Help your child get a good night’s sleep and have a good breakfast in the morning.
- Help your child with time management.
- Remind your child to read carefully.
- Remind your child to check his/her work.

Mission: We will create a supportive environment in which children and adults feel welcomed, respected, safe and valued. Diversity is honored in our community where we collaborate to benefit the whole child.

Vision: Challenger 7 is a school, in partnership with families and the community, where all students excel and grow, to become life-long learners.

Maggie Rassel
Principal
Challenger 7 Elementary School
6135 Rena Avenue
Cocoa, FL 32927
321.636.5801

Mary Helen King
Assistant Principal

In accordance with the Jessica Lunsford Act, we cannot relay telephone messages to students regarding a change to their afternoon dismissal procedures. If the regular method of leaving school needs to be changed, parents must send a signed note to be given to the teacher. Only a written statement from the parent/guardian can be accepted as valid instructions.
First grade has been learning about fairy tales this month in reading! We’ve read a few fractured fairy tales and the students have been comparing and contrasting them to the original versions. The students are loving this! We are continuing to learn about r-controlled vowels for next week and then we will be moving onto other phonics skill like aw/au, oy/oi, and ow/ou. When you are practicing spelling words at home, make sure you are also practicing rhyming words for the three-class words. We do the same thing in class, as well. Continue reading at home and recording the minutes on a chicken pox sheet. The last day to turn in chicken pox will be May 10th. In math, continue to practice math facts at home. We will start learning about adding two-digit numbers soon and it is very important that your child knows their “ways to make” in order to add two-digit numbers.

April is here! Where has the time gone! Second grade is excited about our field trip to the Orlando Science Center on April 18th. Remember, all money is due April 12th. The cost is $30 for both students and chaperones. This price includes transportation, lunch, and admission to the Orlando Science Center. Pick up will be at 3:00pm. Please be prompt. ALL CHAPERONES MUST BE FINGERPRINTED TO GO ON ANY FIELD TRIP! In reading, students will compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story by different authors or from different cultures. We are also working on poetry and opinion writing. In math, we continue to review measurement, money, three digit addition and subtraction story problems with and without regrouping and arrays. In science we are studying the sun’s energy, wind, and water, magnets, and force and motion. Social studies is all about our government and the rights and responsibilities as a citizen. Have a happy spring!

Fourth grade had a blast at field day! There was great sportsmanship on all sides, as each class did their best to compete. We have some really good athletes and we have some really good sports! It was a wonderful day in the sun, relaxing, and having fun before our first FSA! The Writing FSA went very well and the authors in 4th grade took their writing very seriously. We continue to prepare for the next round of FSAs; Reading on May 1st and 2nd, and Math on May 7th and 8th. In reading, we are working hard on fiction works, especially with main Idea, theme, and inferencing. In math, we are having lots of fun with geometry and angles! Feel free to tape shapes onto the floor at your house and ask your child what the shape is, how many vertices there are, what type of angle, and area and perimeter! Your fourth grade teachers request that you help your student by checking those math review homework sheets and reading with your child for 30 minutes each night.

There is a lot going on as we prepare for state FSA assessments. Fifth grade tests in ELA reading and writing, math, and science. Reading preparations will include lots of reading passages with writing responses, as well as review of grade level vocabulary and testing strategies. We will also be completing our final DBQ on Valley Forge in the next couple of weeks. In math, we are getting down to crunch time for FSA and you will more than likely be seeing more homework and reviews coming home to be completed. We are utilizing Khan Academy on the school Launchpad for review and it is a great resource to practice skills. If you have online access at home, your child knows how to logon and use it. Thank you for any help you can give. We are wrapping up physical and chemical changes in science and will begin our unit on energy and force/motion.

In social studies, students are currently learning about Ancient China and from there will move on to Ancient Greece. In ELA, in addition to working on our essay writing, we have just finished reading “Two Brothers” and “The Road Not Taken”. Throughout this unit we compared and contrasted the author’s craft in conveying the common theme, as well as interpreted figurative language and summarized texts. We will be working more on this with nonfiction, in which we will compare and contrast the authors’ presentations of the same event, and trace and evaluate how authors support claims they make. In science, we will be starting our human body systems unit and looking at a cow heart, chicken heart, sheep brain, and will be learning how body systems work to keep our bodies in balance. In math, we are starting our unit on data analysis and creating different types of displays to represent data. We had a fantastic Pi Day on March 14th. Congratulations to the following students for successfully creating their circular structure for the Pringles Challenge: Stella Swanson, Alexis Esposito, Gauge Pugsley, Isabella Gutierrez, Zachary Spear, Josh McMillon, Elijah Jenkins, Ben Payne, Kendra Foster, Nikolai Turner, Brad Mardell, Sophia Vance, Dominique Jenkins, Clifton Slone, and Brandon Valdez. We are taking our final field trip of the school year on Thursday, April 18th to Sea World. We will be leaving at 8:15 and returning at 6:00 PM. Money ($50 cash only) and permission slips are due no later than Tuesday, April 9th.

If you have any questions about any item in this newsletter, please contact the school at 321-636-5801.
Our next art fundraiser is here! This time students made a personal choice while creating their art. We practiced our skills in meeting expectations, craftsmanship, and creating meaningful and unique works of art. Students have been super eager to receive their thank you stickers for participating and have been eyeing the catalog since February. Orders are due April 10th. Late orders will NOT be accepted. If you lose your online access code, you can email me at Smith.Samantha@brevardschools.org. All orders help your child feel confident about their art AND they help raise funds for our school!

Grades K-2 has been studying the depths of “Peter and the Wolf”, a Russian folktale with music composed for the orchestra by Sergei Prokofiev. We have been learning the instrument families of the orchestra, why the instruments are called what they are, and what they sound like. Students are learning to listen and know what instrument is playing and what character from the story the instrument represents. For example, the duck is represented by the oboe, and she has a little “ditty” that goes along with her character that the students recognize by hearing it. The grades 3-6 students have been studying pentatonic scales and how to sing/play them. Now, we are getting ready to compose our own pentatonic music working in groups. Recently, we have played Musical Jeopardy to assess our knowledge of musical things. Chorus has been diligently rehearsing for our upcoming performance in May, learning the music of “Love Note” the musical. Strings are busy rehearsing for our feeder chain concert at Space Coast High School on April 25th. More upcoming information will be coming soon.

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2018-19 Parent and Family Engagement Plan: We invite you to read our 2018-19 Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The plan can be found in multiple locations for your convenience. On our website, it is located under the “Title 1” tab. A printed copy is also available in the Title 1 Binder in the front office. You may also request your own copy of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan through the front office. Translation of the documents is always available upon request.

Please take a moment fill our the BPS Parent Survey. We’d love to know what you think. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will help us continue to support and improve Challenger 7.

http://tinyurl.com/BrevardFE

We are now in our state testing time at school and so for those students in grades 3 – 6 that can mean some feelings of worry and stress.

It is a great time to remind your children about NED: Never give up, Encourage others and Do your best! Also, speak to them about ways to calm themselves with deep breathing and positive self talk. You can find more information about NED through the following link:

http://www.mindsetmission.com/assembly.html

Our students are ready to show what they know and you can help them by making sure they get a good night’s rest and eat a healthy breakfast each day. Challenger 7’s STARR students are so ready for these testing days!!
Community Bag and Giving Tag Program

We are pleased to announce that Challenger 7 Elementary School has been chosen by Winn-Dixie store leadership as the benefiting non-profit to receive a donation through the Community Bag Program for the month of April. This program is designed to make it easy for shoppers of BI-LO, Harveys, Winn-Dixie, and Fresco y Más to give back to their community while supporting the environment. Each time a shopper purchases the Community Bag with the Giving Tag, our school will receive a $1 donation.

SCHOOL SAFETY

In an effort to continue to improve the safety of our students and staff, we are making some changes to the times our gates are opened and closed. Car loop gates will be opened at 7:00am and again at 2:30pm. The car loop gates will be closed at 8:00am and 3:00pm. Students that stay for clubs or after-school activities will be picked up in the bus loop by the Front Office. The school gates to the right and left of the office will be opened at 7:30am and a staff member will be at the gates ensuring all parents/guardians have signed in at the Front Office. Please make sure students are not on campus before 7:30am, unless they are in a before school activity, club, or Brevard After Care program.

For Brevard After School parents: This is a reminder to please park at the BACK of the school when dropping off your student in the morning and when picking up in the afternoon.

Thank you for helping us keep our students and staff safe!

Congratulations to Jennifer Jenkins and her cafeteria staff for achieving a FIVE STAR rating!!

To achieve a five star rating, school cafeterias must adhere to proper food safety procedures, cleanliness, food preparation, and presentation. They must achieve a Grade A (or receive 90% or higher) on their evaluation.

April Showers Bring May Flowers

if april showers bring may flowers

WhAt do mayflowers bring...

pilgrims