



# Frank Augustus Miller Middle School

17925 Krameria Ave. • Riverside, CA 92504 • (951) 789-8181



# Macaw Messages

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2018

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**Main Office**  
**789-8181**

**Attendance Office**  
**789-8181**  
**Ext. 57140**



## A Message from the Principal

**Greetings to our amazing Miller FAMMily!** My name is Mark Shaw and I have the great honor and pleasure to serve as principal of Frank Augustus Miller Middle School. American novelist, Ernest Hemingway, said, **"Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be. But what will happen in all the other days that ever come can depend on what you do today."**

At Frank Augustus Miller Middle School, we are humbled by the opportunity to serve your children. Thank you for the trust you have placed in us as we endeavor to educate our students. **We understand that each day is a gift and that each day we can make a positive difference in your child's life.** We know that today matters and tomorrow depends on it!

I am very proud to serve alongside and represent an amazing Miller staff, who day in and day out demonstrate strength of character, work ethic, and genuine caring and concern for our kids' academic success and overall well-being. This is my 20<sup>th</sup> year serving as a school administrator and 29<sup>th</sup> as an educator with RUSD.

During my tenure, I have developed a vision as to what is

great about a school. Although Miller has a beautiful campus, the buildings and landscaping do not make our school great. **Miller Middle School is great because of the 1,040 students and 80 staff members that call it home.** Our community and school is a great place to be because of you, your kids, and our staff!

However, **we are always seeking to refine and build a better Miller.** Part of that energy is focused on **two school-wide goals.** The first goal centers on our effort to **strengthen students academically** and prepare them to think critically, problem solve, be innovative, and persistent; many of the tools needed for success in high school. One measure is to evaluate students' grades. As of the first quarter, 90% of students earned A's, B's, and C's in our highly rigorous school program!

Congratulations and keep up the great work!

Our second goal focuses on school engagement. We understand that when students are involved and connected to their school, the opportunity to excel academically is enhanced significantly. So, the Miller staff creates opportunities for students to engage in numerous

activities at school, such as clubs, sports, and other extra-curricular activities. Our goal is to **engage our students in a minimum of two extra-curricular activities.**

For the future, we will continue to focus on promoting an excellent school environment for where students can **collaborate, be committed, care deeply, build connections.** These are our Miller Pillars and through them, our students will thrive and succeed.

We are reminded that the measure of our character rests in the strength of our resolve to improve ourselves, stand tall when we fail, demonstrate integrity, and be persistent. Someone said that we never really fail unless we fail to try again. **We teach our students that they are powerful, valuable, and highly significant people who make important choices today that affect their tomorrows.**

Our promise to you is that together, students, parents, and staff, we will continue to conjure what we affectionately call **The Miller Magic!**

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Shaw  
Principal

**Mr. Mark Shaw, Principal**

**Mrs. Mere Jorin, Assistant Principal**

**Mrs. Elisabeth Sanchez, 7th Grade Counselor**

**Ms. Erin Tavaglione, 8th Grade Counselor**

## SAFETY FIRST

***“Take Care of yourself, take care of each other, and take care of our school.”***

### School Transfer Window:



## A Message from the Assistant Principal

Greetings,

It is an honor to serve as the new Assistant Principal in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year at Frank Augustus Miller Middle School. My experience as a teacher and counselor has prepared me for the incredible opportunity to serve the FAMMS community. In our first quarter of the school year, I have been able to see firsthand the greatness that has developed over the past 10 years at FAMMS. Since the first day of school, I have witnessed staff, students, and families who have demonstrated our Miller Pillars: Caring, Connected, Committed, and Collaborative individuals thriving to create the Miller Magic!

Our priority is the safety, academic growth,

and well-being of all students and I am confident that if we are steadfast in living by these expectations that we will surely have a productive and successful school year. As we move forward in the school year, I encourage all staff, students, and families to continue building upon our Miller Pillars by following our community expectations to take care of yourself, each other and our school. Working together to do our very best each day will strengthen our community to help our students learn and grow from each experience. As our students master grade level content standards and problem solve, we will work together to support them to persevere to be

critical thinkers, empathic, and diligent when faced with adversity.

Once again, it is an honor to serve this great learning community and I look forward to all the experiences that will unfold this school year. As a community, we have the opportunity to create lasting learning experiences that will prepare our students for High School, College and their future Careers. We invite and encourage all students and families to find ways to get involved in creating more of the Miller Magic here at FAMMS.

Respectfully,

*Mere Jorrin*

Mrs. Mere Jorrin  
Assistant Principal

## School Transfers

**The 2019-2020 Transfer Window is 11/1/18 - 1/11/19**

**Intra-District Transfers-** within RUSD boundaries, between schools

- Parents must apply online during the Open Enrollment period through our Transfer Online System. That enrollment period for

the 2018-2019 school year is closed as of January 12, 2018. It will reopen for the 2019-2020 school year on November 1, 2018.

- If a family moves into RUSD after the Open Enrollment period, they may submit an intra-district transfer upon registration.

- If a family moves from one location to another location within RUSD they may submit an intra-district transfer to remain at the school that they were attending.

For additional assistance please contact the Pupil Services Department at (951) 352-1200 or [click here for further details](#).



## A Message from the Counseling Office

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year, one that promises to be a great one! This year, we have moved to grade level counselors. This year, Miss Tavaglione serves as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, while Mrs. Sanchez serves as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade counselor and continues with them into 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year.

As you settle into the new school year, please take some time to set up some important items for your child's school success, if you have not already. An Aeries account is a vital way to monitor your child's grades and stay in contact with the school. This internet based program allows account holders to view a lot of information including being able to look into each teacher's grade book and see all assignments and your child's grade for each one in addition to their overall grade in the class. An e-mail to any teacher is just a click away as the e-mail links are included within this program.

You can also review attendance and past grade information. Most questions are easily handled in this manner, but if you need more assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor (see contact information below). Information on how to set up an account can be obtained by contacting the front office.

You can find a great article to read at <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/study-skills-for-middle-school-and-beyond/>. The following suggestions are based on this article and you can find much more information within the article:

1. Providing a good place to study.
2. Helping them stay organized.
3. Monitor your child's use of their planner to track homework assignments, due dates and test dates.
4. Help your child develop a

good way to study for tests and quizzes.

5. Help your child plan out study time based on their workload and break down big projects into manageable pieces.
6. Communicate with teachers (see above).
7. Help your child create a support network, people he/she can turn to as they need extra help.
8. Help your child manage stress.

We hope this information is valuable to setting up a successful school year for your family.

Elisabeth Sanchez, 7th Grade  
(951) 789-8181 ext. 57034

Erin Tavaglione, 8th Grade  
(951) 789-8181 ext. 57117

## Halloween at FAMMS



Students may wear a Halloween costume to school on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. **Dress code applies to costumes worn to school.** [Refer to pages 21–22 in the Student Planner](#) for school dress code policies. Additionally, students MAY NOT wear a mask, anything bloody or gory or bring props, or weapons/look-a-like weapons to

school as a part of the costume.

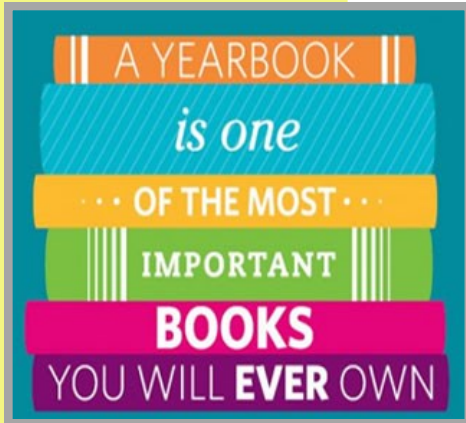
On Friday, November 2nd, FAMMS ASB will host the "Pumpkin Patch Bash," school dance from 2:00 - 4:00 PM in the gym. Tickets will be sold during lunch on 10/31, 11/1, & 11/2, \$5 with ASB card or \$7 without. An event ticket, signed parent permission slip,

and student ID card are required to attend the dance.

**NO COSTUMES.** There will be a caramel apple bar, pizza, drinks, and Kona Ice available as optional purchases. [CLICK HERE for details and permission slip.](#)



BUY  YOUR  
Yearbook



## Buy a FAMMS Yearbook

Be sure to pre-order a yearbook before March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 for the low price of \$40. The **yearbooks may be purchased in room 453 with Mrs. Reese.** Yearbooks will be hardbound, in full-color, and personalized with the student's name. If you are unsure if a yearbook has already been purchased, please

email Mrs. Reese at [hreese@rusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:hreese@rusd.k12.ca.us)

Parents or other family members may purchase a personalized recognition ad in a variety of sizes. These ads will be in full color and you can design it with text, photos, and artwork. If you need help with designing the ad, please see contact Mrs. Reese to make an appointment. These

ads can be to congratulate students from the class of 2019 or wish the class of 2020 best wishes for a successful 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Ads may be purchased and created October 31<sup>st</sup> through March 8<sup>th</sup> only. Recognition **ads** are available **online** only. [Visit our yearbook page](#) for more information.

## Dress Code Update



At Frank Augustus Miller Middle School, we ask that students wear appropriate, safe, non-distracting clothing. Students who wear clothing with alcohol, drug, gang, racist, sex related, or otherwise offensive sayings or symbols will be asked to change their clothing. If the parent is unable to be reached, a student

may be offered a loaner shirt in order to expedite the process of them returning to class. Also, clothing such as pants that sag below the waist, bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, strapless and undergarments showing are not acceptable. Hats are not permitted in the classroom. Only baseball style caps are

allowed on campus outdoors, but they must be worn forward. No bandanas, do-rags, beanies or snow caps are allowed. Unsafe accessories such as wallet chains, spiked jewelry, long, heavy necklaces or large belt buckles are not permitted. Thank you.



## Interquest School Visits

Please read the following information regarding the District's use of the detection canine program and surveillance cameras as noted on page 34 in the [RUSD School Information for Parents, Handbook 2018/19 School Year:](#)

### USE OF SURVEILLANCE/ VIDEO CAMERAS

In order to maximize the safety of students, staff, and school property, surveillance/video cameras are used in a variety of areas on school campuses. Evidence of vandalism, graffiti, or criminal activity will be forwarded to law enforcement for arrests and prosecution. Recorded events from the surveillance/video camera systems will be used as evidence in discipline matters,



### USE OF DETECTION CANINE FOR SEARCHES OF DRUGS OR OTHER CONTRABAND

In an effort to keep schools free of drugs, the district contracts

with a vendor to provide specially trained, non-aggressive canines and handlers to assist in determining the presence of substances prohibited by law or district policy. These inspections are random and unannounced. The inspections will be implemented in compliance with all applicable laws and under the provisions of district policy and administrative regulations. Evidence from inspections will be used in student discipline matters and will be forwarded to law enforcement.

Interquest will begin visits to schools in RUSD no earlier than **October 2018.**

## Classroom Interruptions

In support of our focus on providing the best educational opportunities for our students, we are committed to not interrupting the classrooms during instruction unless it is absolutely unavoidable. In our effort to limit classroom interruptions, we are asking for parents to help by attempting to set the day's plans with your children **before** sending them to school each day. It's a great opportunity to converse with your child and build organization into your day.

Every time a request is made for a message to be relayed to a student or teacher in a classroom, the secretary in the office must call the classroom. This call goes out into the classroom, even if it may be during important lessons or tests, or even when there are guest

speakers. We would like to eliminate the calls and thereby stop interrupting instruction.

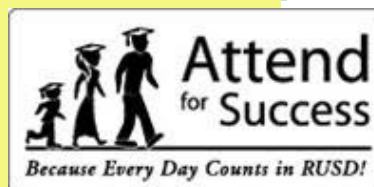
### **We ask you to help us by:**

Informing your student before they leave for school in the morning of any plans for after school that they may need to know such as:

- Who is picking them up after school?
- Do they need to ride the bus or walk?
- Who are they to go home with?
- What to do if it rains?
- Do they have their homework?
- Making sure **lunch** is taken care of by:

- Seeing that they take their lunch with them to school.
- Checking if they have enough money for that day.
- Putting money on the lunch account in advance, so they have money.

If you are going to be picking your student up before the regular dismissal time, please come to the office at the designated time and sign out your child. These are a few suggestions that can help us to eliminate classroom interruptions and keep the important instructional time uninterrupted. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.



## Attend for Success

Please be sure to call the attendance office or send a note when your student is absent from school for any reason. Absences need to be excused within three days of the absence. This year we will be offering an innovative program called "Saturday for Success." This

program is designed to give students the opportunity to make up critical time at school that was missed because of an unexcused absence, truancy, or illness. "Saturday for Success" is not punitive in nature, but rewards students and parents for taking the

initiative to participate. When students attend the program an unexcused absence, truancy, or illness is removed from the student's attendance record. Please contact the attendance office if you are interested in your student attending "Saturday for Success".

## A Message from the Library

### The Library at Miller - It's Not Just for Reading

Our library is a beautiful multipurpose facility with thousands of books to read. Students may check out up to three books at a time. If your student is having difficulty finding a book they would like to read, tell them to ask Ms. Ezakovich, Library Media Assistant for help. There are computers and a printer for those times when a teacher simply must have a paper copy of an assignment. We have other activities for our students, including:

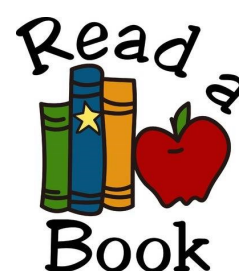
- **3D Printing:** Thanks to LCAP funding, there is a 3D printer available for students to use. Students will receive instruction on

how to create an object and then will be allowed to print it. There is no charge to use the 3D printer.

- **Puzzles:** There is always a jigsaw puzzle out for students to help put together when they have a few moments. It is fun to see students gathered around the puzzle working together to solve it.
- **Other Activities:** Legos, duct tape projects, friendship bracelets, and sewing are just a few of the additional activities for all students to participate in.

### Library Hours

The library is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. daily (except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month) for homework, research, and studying. We are fortunate to have courteous and well-behaved students who come into our library, and all Macaws are invited. For your child's safety, parents must go to the office to sign their child out. Come on in and enjoy our FAMMtastic library!



## Join PTSA

### It's Not Too Late to Join PTSA!

Although school has already started, it is not too late to join PTSA. If you have not signed up for membership yet, there are envelopes available in the office or [use this link to join on](#)

[-line](#). Membership is \$7.75 per member! If you are new to Frank Augustus Miller, please consider becoming a member. Information is available in the school office throughout the year. Thank you for your support.

**Want to be involved?** PTSA is always looking for volunteers to help with school activities/programs. If interested, please contact President, Vanessa Hernandez at [fammsptsa@yahoo.com](mailto:fammsptsa@yahoo.com).



## Contacting Teachers & Checking Homework



There are several ways to contact Frank Augustus Miller teachers. One way is to email the teacher, go to the Teacher page on the [FAMMS website](#) to locate email addresses. Another way to contact teachers is to leave a voice message. You can

also check up on your student's grades and missing assignments by using the [Aeries Parent Portal](#). In order to log in, you will need your student's ID number, the phone number that is on file in the attendance system, and a verification pass code. Pass codes

will not be given out over the phone, but you may call and request that the code be sent home with your child. You may also come into the office with a photo ID and request the code, or have your student come to the office to request the code.

## PTSA Sponsored Events

### Popcornopolis Fundraiser

The Popcornopolis fundraiser orders are due on Friday, November 2, 2018 to the office.



### Box Tops

Remember to bring in your Box Tops! Each semester the 7<sup>th</sup> period class that brings in the most Box Tops will receive a prize!



### CFK for Kids

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLED HERE!** Turn in your old ink & laser cartridges, cell phones, gaming systems, iPods, GPS devices, DVD's, PDA's, Digital Cameras, Laptops, iPads, Tablets and eReaders. Collection box is located in the Library.



If you haven't already checked out [the FAMMS website](#) be sure to take a look. You will find a wealth of information for parents and students.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 11/3 RUSD Girls Volleyball Tournament, King High School
- 11/4 RUSD Cross-Country Meet, Riverside Golf Course
- 11/4 Standard Time Begins, set clocks back one hour
- 11/8 PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM
- 11/9 School Spirit Day: Wear red/white/blue/camo
- 11/12 **Veteran's Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL**
- 11/16 Turkey Trot - PE classes
- 11/19-11/23 **Thanksgiving Break, NO SCHOOL**
- 11/26 School Resumes
- 11/30 Talent Showcase, gym, 6:00 PM
- 12/11 Holiday Choir Concert, gym, 6:00 PM
- 12/13 Holiday Band Concert, gym 6:00 PM
- 12/14 School Spirit Day: Wear your pajamas today! NO SLIPPERS
- 12/21 **End of Semester I—NO SCHOOL for students**
- 12/24 -1/4 **Winter Break, NO SCHOOL**





## RUSD Promotion Ceremony Requirements

RUSD passed a set of requirements for participation in 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremonies. Please read the guidelines carefully as they are currently in effect and can jeopardize your student's chance at participation.

1. The 7th grade class promoting in June 2014 (and every 7th grade class thereafter) will be required to pass 20 classes out of the possible 24 semester classes attempted, or 100 out of 120 credits attempted over two years to participate in the promotion ceremony.
2. Passing a class is defined as earning a trimester grade of A, B, C, or D.
3. Students receiving an 'F' semester grade will be allowed the opportunity to remain

eligible for the promotion ceremony by passing the failed class with a 'C' or better grade the following semester.

4. Students entering a middle school after the start of the school year will be required to pass five out of six possible classes taken for the full semester (s) they attend the RUSD middle school to participate in the promotion ceremony.
5. If a student is considered in jeopardy of not participating in the promotion ceremony, an Individual Promotion Plan (IPP) may be completed by a designated school representative, student, and parent. The goal of the IPP is to identify a plan of action that will be taken by all

stakeholders to assure the student's participation in the promotion ceremony.

The purpose of the middle school promotion ceremony criteria is founded on two tenets.

RUSD seeks to:

- Motivate every middle school student to pass all classes.
- Prepare every middle school student for the rigor of high school, college, and career.

Should you have any questions about the promotion ceremony participation criteria, please contact one of our counselors at (951) 789-8181.



## School Spirit Days



Don't forget that every Friday is a Spirit Day at Frank Augustus Miller Middle School. Students may wear our school colors of turquoise and yellow. With our focus

on exposing ALL students to College and their academic life/plans after High School we have made every Wednesday College Day. Students may wear their favorite

College Team/University Wear. Support the Spirit at Frank Augustus Miller!







Cash or Checks  
payable to  
FAMMS

Purchase from  
Mrs. Balice in the  
Office



Best Gift Idea

#### **STAY-IN CASE CL100**

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- Plastic ring frame surrounds perimeter.
- Reinforced corrugated plastic siding.
- High density foam provides great drop & bump protection.
- Exterior pocket for power cords & accessories.
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- Durable top handle + removable padded shoulder strap.
- Built-in ID window.

## **Always-on Chromebook Design!**

PROTECTION. QUALITY. STYLE.FUNCTION.



# FAMMS Calendar



## November

7, 14, 28.....Planning Days, dismissal at 12:07 PM  
2.....Pumpkin Patch Bash ASB Dance 2:00-4:00  
3..... Girls Volleyball Tournament, KHS, 8:00 AM  
4..... Daylight Savings Time Ends  
8.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM  
9.....Spirit Day, Wear Red/White/Blue/Camo  
**12.....Veteran's Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL**  
16.....Turkey Trot, PE Classes  
**19-23.....Thanksgiving Week Recess, NO SCHOOL**  
30.....Talent Showcase (Gym) 6:00-9:00PM

## December

5, 12, 19..... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:07 PM  
11.....Holiday Choir Concert, Gym, 6:00 PM  
13.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM  
13.....Holiday Band Concert, Gym, 6:00 PM  
14.....School Spirit Day, Wear Pajamas  
21..... **End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, NO SCHOOL**  
24-Jan. 4..... **Winter Vacation, NO SCHOOL**

## January

9, 16, 23, 30..... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:07 PM  
7..... School Resumes after Winter Break  
7..... Semester 2 Begins  
10.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM  
21..... **Martin Luther King Holiday, NO SCHOOL**  
21..... National History Day Competition, Uni, 9:00 am  
28.....RUSD History Day Competition, Uni, 8:00 AM

## February

6, 13, 20, 27..... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:07 PM  
1..... 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration, History Classes  
2..... RUSD 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Tournament 8:00-12:00  
7..... S1 Awards Night, 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. 6:00 PM, 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. 7:00 PM  
8..... 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration, History Classes  
8..... ASB Dance 2:00-4:00 PM  
9..... RUSD 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Tournament 8:00-12:00  
14.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM  
14..... 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Visitation  
15 & 18..... **President's Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL**  
21..... 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House 6:00-7:30 PM  
25..... 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration, History Classes  
28.....AVID Parent Night 6:00-7:00 PM

## March

6, 13, 20..... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:07 PM  
2.....Science Olympiad (Ramona HS)  
7..... AVID Interviews, Staff Lounge 4:00-7:00 PM  
9..... 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Soccer Tournament 8:00AM-12:00PM  
10.....Daylight Saving Time Begins  
12..... Spring Picture Day, PE Classes  
14.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM  
14..... RUSD Band Festival, ADV Band 6-8:00 PM  
15..... RUSD Band Festival, INT Band 6-8:00 PM  
16.....8<sup>th</sup> Grade Soccer Tournament 8:00-12:00 PM  
21.....ASB Carnival 2:00-4:00 PM  
22..... **End of Qtr. 3, NO SCHOOL**  
25-29..... **Spring Break, NO SCHOOL**

## April

3, 10, 17, 24..... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:07 PM  
1..... School Resumes after Spring Break  
5..... FAMMS Track Meet 12:00-2:00 PM  
8.....State SBAC Testing Begins  
18.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM  
21..... **HAPPY EASTER**  
22..... Science CAST Test  
30..... Spring Choir Concert 6:00-8:00 PM

## May

1, 8, 15, 22, 29..... Planning Days, dismissal 12:07 PM  
7.....Spring Band Concert 6:00-8:00 PM  
8.....CA Day of the Teacher  
8.....Final Grade Check, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities  
9.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM  
11..... RUSD MS Track Meet, Ramona, 8:00-12:00 PM  
14..... Final Grade Check, 8<sup>th</sup> Promotion  
17..... 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance, Gym, 6:00-8:00 PM  
22.....Yearbook Distribution, Quad, Lunch  
23..... 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Night, Gym, 6:00-7:30 PM  
24..... 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip, 7:30 AM – 1:45 PM  
27..... **Memorial Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL**  
29..... Last Day of School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
30..... 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion. Field, 8:30 AM- 9:30 AM

\*Please note that as the school year progresses, other activities may be added. Also, dates and time are subject to change.



**Thanksgiving  
Break  
11/19 - 11/23**