

Upcoming Events

December

4th
K-Kids 3pm Centennial

7th
Kindergarten Winter Concert
Seminole High @ 6pm

11th -15th
Holiday Shop

11th -20th
Elf Grams for Sale

12th
Jack Hartmann Concert for
VPK & K PE Court @9am

13th
All Pro Dads Centennial
7:30am

Girlfriends (during lunch)

14th
PMAC Meeting Port 1 3pm

Winterfest 5pm

16th
Angel Tree Pick Up 10am
Centennial

18th
VPK/ Pre-K Multicultural
Bookshare

19th
Chorus Winter Concert
Seminole High @ 6pm

20th
PMAC Staff Luncheon

December 22 – January 7th
Winter Break

CLUBS

Girl Scouts Every Tuesday
Centennial @ 3:00pm

Beach Club Every Thursday
Centennial @ 3:00pm



This Issue

Message from Mr. Cerreta **P.1**

Character Kids for November **P.2**

Specialists/Title 1 News **P.3**

Spirit Night & Business Partnerships **P.4**

Message From Mr. Cerreta

Dear Seminole Elementary Families,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and are now anxiously anticipating the upcoming winter holidays. It is hard to believe that there are only 3 more weeks until the end of the 2nd grading period which ends on December 21. As a reminder, winter break is from December 22- January 7. Students return for the 2nd semester on January 8, 2024.

It has been a joy watching the students grow, learn, and mature this semester! As I reviewed each report card and the students' individual assessment reports, I am pleased to say that Seminole Elementary has a wonderful group of smart, capable, and motivated students. Your interest and encouragement in your child's education is very important regarding your child's attitude towards school; the more interested and enthused you are in what they are learning, the more eager your child will be to study, read, and do their best.

Please take time this season to rest and enjoy family and friends.

FAST Assessment

All students in grade K-5 complete an online assessment three times a year know as FAST Assessments. (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking) FAST assessments are used to measure a student's growth in mathematics and reading. The Fall assessment gathers baseline data. The Winter and Spring assessments measure progress. They are used to chart a student's academic growth from year to year. The data from the FAST assessments helps the teachers carefully monitor the student's academic progress and provide remediation and enrichment when needed. Students will be taking their Winter FAST Assessments from December 4- December 21.

Seminole Elementary Celebrates Holidays Around the World (Winter Fest) December 14.

All of our Seminole families are invited to our Winter Fest Family Night on Thursday, December 14 for an evening of holiday fun. Participants will have an opportunity to make holiday ornaments, meet Santa, skate on our special ice skating rink, decorate cookies, tour the school, and see the Holidays Around the World. We look forward to seeing you on **December 14, 5:00-7:00.**

Congratulations To Our Outstanding Readers:

One aspect of our School Wide Reading Program is for the students to read each night 45 minutes for Grades 3-5 and 20-30 minutes grades K-2.

After students read a book or have a book read to them, they take an Accelerated Reader test to earn Accelerated Reader points.

Congratulations to the following student for earning 100 points grades 3-5, 50 points grades 2 and 35 points for grade 1.

1st Grade 35 Points

Evan Castellanos Ethan Espailat Sunny Lin Brayden Mccafferty Matthew Wilder

2nd Grade 50 Points

Jessalynn Alincy Burhan Demirel Xion Leshore Ella Twiss Victoria Vanguela Calzadillas

3rd – 5th Grade 100 Points

Quinn Sperling Natalya Blau Layla Gauthier

Character Kids for November:

PREK:

Piper – Julian Fix
Scott – Mohammad Halawen
Hayduke – Aziel Howell
Green – Amaya Croteau

KG:

Horton – Kynzlee Dickinson
Horton – Thomas Dean
Conde – Nicky Dunski
Schuler – Eliazbeth Valle-Najar

1st:

Luczaj – Bentley Davis
Benjamin – Khyla Holland
Mucerino – Stefan Vukovic
Mucerino-Sophia Reilly
Calhoun – Jackson DiCarlo

2nd:

Patterson – Owynn Bond
Poolson – Ryleigh McKnight
Sadock – Allora Keohavong

3rd:

Morgan – Jackson Marasco
Rudolph – Bryce Hvizdzak
Kopkau – Joby Brown

4th:

Rongey – Kristine Tardiff
Croze – Brantley Gilbert
Brady – Rory Lindberg

5th:

Lentz – Braydon Jeske
Gorman – Lyla Aguilar
Georgiadis – Nataly Morales

**Rotary Club
Students of the Month**



Congratulations to our Rotary Club Students of the Month for the month of November Kaiden McKinley, Allen "AJ" Murray, and Carson Richmond.



**Message From Dr. McCafferty
Assistant Principal**

Dear Families,
Our students will be taking Progress Monitoring 2 of Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) reading and math tests beginning on December 4 and ending on December 21. Teachers will communicate the exact date of testing for your child.
By the time of this administration window, students will have had an opportunity to learn the grade-level standards, and this administration will provide a mid-year score to compare to the baseline score from PM1.
Letters went home this week explaining the tests in more detail including how to find additional information about the test. Score reports for PM2 will be sent home with your child before winter break. If you have any questions, please contact me at 547-7668 or at mcaffertyj@pcsb.org.
I look forward to seeing you at our WinterFest on 12/14!
Dr. McCafferty

Congratulations to the First Quarter Principal's List Students



3rd Grade

Tanner Highnote	Lucas Ruse	Quinn Sperling
Jaidon Cunningham	Elsie Taylor	Rowan Plomatos
Maya Castellanos		

4th Grade

Bryce Henshaw	Noah Hoang	Ajna Goxhaj
Vuk Veljkovic	Layla Gauthier	

5th Grade

Cameron Westbrook	Lyla Aguillard	Amya Auten
Numan Demirel	Carson Richmond	Elliot Sperling
Colton Taylor		

RISE
Respect/Responsibility
Integrity
Self-Control
Empathy

Guidance Corner from
Mrs. Moore



This month in classroom guidance we are working on conflict resolution skills. Students are learning three steps to follow when facing a conflict with a peer:
Step 1: Take a deep breath and calm down
Step 2: Share feelings
Step 3: Choose a solution.

Usually sharing feelings is the most difficult step, so I give them a script to follow to help them get started. The script says: "I feel _____ when you _____ because _____. What I would like is _____." This asks them to name the feeling they are experiencing, which is an important life skill, and then think about what exactly it was that made them feel that way....another very important life skill! Filling in the "because" part is a little more advanced, but with practice, they can do it!

We have been using Goldilocks and the Three Bears to practice these skills. I play the role of Goldilocks, and students take turn being one of the bears and talking through what I did and how it made them feel, as well as what they would like to see happen moving forward. They have done a great job at working out the conflicts in this story. This is a fun activity you can do at home with them to help them practice conflict resolution. Read a story, talk about the conflict, and then role play the characters working out their conflict peacefully.

The students at Seminole continue to amaze me with their empathy and grace. I believe they all can learn conflict resolution, we just need to give them the skills, and patiently remind them to practice as conflicts arise. Much like playing catch with a child every day, or practicing lay-ups with them out in the driveway, they need coaching and repetition in expressing their feelings and working through problems. Working as a team, school and home can help our students master conflict resolution, setting them up to face challenges with confidence.



Music News

with Mrs. Marr

Upcoming Events

Kindergarten
Holiday Concert
Dec 7 @ 6pm

Chorus
Holiday Concert
Dec 19 @ 6pm

Both concerts will be held at Seminole High School at 6pm. All performing students should wear their Christmas best. Seminole Beats students should wear their BEATS shirts with jeans/black bottoms.



Recorder News

Recorders have been ordered! Recorder playing will begin soon for 3rd Grade! We are currently learning how to read notes on the music staff and will begin playing recorders very soon!!

November 2023



How Can Parents and Guardians Create a Language Enriched Environment at Home

Building a language enriched environment will help your child become avid readers as they grow. One way is to read newspapers, comic books, magazines, street signs, recipes, or directions to them every day. Create a special time in the evening or at night to read with your child, such as, before bed or while eating dinner. Encourage your child to talk about the book(s) they are reading. If they seem hesitant, ask them questions to help them get started. The more you do this, the more your child will get comfortable with the idea of discussing their books with you or anyone. Share poetry and rhymed books with your child. Identifying and using rhyming words will help them develop letter sound recognition which is important for reading readiness as they grow. Lastly, as you walk around outside, point out words on street signs, buildings or store fronts and have your child try to read it to you. The more they read the more confident they become with their reading skills.

Fine Motor Corner

by Kimberly Meyer, MS OTR/L
our school based Occupational Therapist

Surviving Holiday Meals with Picky Eaters

It's a pain to have spent hours preparing a beautiful holiday meal only to have your child reject most of the dinner and request having chicken nuggets or mac n cheese. Here are some helpful tips I found that might be (or not) helpful with those picky eaters.

Test out some of the food early. Many kids need to see the food a few times before they will accept it to try. Do a small taste test and see if you can get them to try a little of some of your family's favorites. You'll know and they'll know what they like when they see it at the big dinner. Many grocery store delis and restaurants have a thanksgiving plate that you can pick up early and try with your kiddo days before. If you have a picky eater who rejects the veggies, use a dipping sauce or a topping like cheese or ranch. It might be a little less healthy, but they will learn to try it without the parts without toppings or dips eventually. Have them help prepare the dinner. They can assist with much of the meal preparation and by involving them, they might be more interested in eating what they have helped to prepare. Ideas include pouring, measuring, and stirring. They can also help by serving people portions or setting the table.

Kids might like sitting with other kids at the nearby "kids table" and though they might fill up on the buttery, yummy dinner rolls and pie, it's just one meal (or two) out of a year! They'll be ok! It's a social opportunity for them as well as you to share a meal. They might be encouraged by other kids trying the foods on their plates.

If you have a super picky eater who is adamant on not trying anything on his plate, be prepared with at least one of their favorites. If they won't eat the turkey, you could provide the chicken nuggets to eat with the other traditional side dishes. If you're a guest for dinner somewhere else, bringing a dish that you know your pickiest eaters will enjoy will be a good choice at dinner for all the picky eaters and not just yours! Keep the portion sizes very small ...a dollop or spoonful of items not touching on the plate so as to not overwhelm with a big plate of unusual food.

Focus on the celebration vs. the food. Even if they don't eat much of the food at dinner, the day isn't about stuffing themselves but rather about sharing a meal with family and friends and the theme of the day being gratitude. They might try a new thing or two knowing how much effort was put into the meal. Celebrate more than food. Sunshinehouse.com Feedinglittles.com

Art News

What is better than receiving handmade art for the holidays? If your 5th grade artist turned in their signed permission slip for Kids Tag Art and finished their work, you will find their artwork on the website listed below, and can order as many tags as you like for yourself, friends and family. 100% of the proceeds go to Seminole Elementary's Art program, so you are supporting the Art program as well as your little graphic designer! Three winners will be announced December 1st, so be on the lookout for that, and the three winners and their families are invited to a reception at Largo High School in January to receive their awards!

kidstagart@pinellastaxcollector.gov | kidstagartpinellas.org

Office and PTA News

Please Bring ID

Please bring your photo ID when you come into the school office to sign out your student, check in for conferences, or to meet your student for lunch.

Picking up Students Early

If you are planning on picking your student up early please notify the office in advance so we can have your student ready for you. Early pick up of students should occur before 2:15 p.m.

Lost and Found

Our Lost & Found is already accumulating items. Please label your student's water bottle and lunch box with their initials so we can return lost items.

Clothes Closet:

Please consider donating any gently used shorts to our clothes closet. We are still in need of shorts (sizes 6-14). You can bring donations to the front office.

Volunteering

Thank you to our volunteers who helped escort our speakers during the Great American Teach In! Our volunteers helped to make this day a huge success! Please make sure your e-mail is up to date in the volunteer portal so you can receive communications about volunteer opportunities. If you are unsure how to check for this please contact Heather Plankey in the school office. If you are interested in volunteering at our school, please register at www.pcsb.org/volunteerregistration. It can take up to 3 weeks for a volunteer registration to be approved by the district.

PTA

There will not be a PTA General Meeting in December. Our PTA will be sponsoring the Holiday Shop. This gives our students the opportunity to purchase gift items for friends and family. The shop will run December 11th-15th. Students will have a walk through with their class and write down the items and price of things that they wish to purchase. All students will be able to purchase items at the Holiday Shop during their recess time.



Business Partnerships

Seminole Elementary has many opportunities to partner with the businesses and organizations in our community. To find out how your organization can partner with our school please contact Heather Plankey in the school office at (727)547-7668 or plankeyh@pcsb.org

Thank you to the following organizations for their support of our school:

Remax Hustle & Heart Group
 Seminole First Baptist Church
 VFW Post 9272
 Osteria Bricco
 Treasure Island Fun Center
 Dairy Queen
 McDonald's

PDQ
 Kiwanis Club of Seminole
 Seminole Women's Club
 El Jalisco
 Anona United Methodist Church
 Curlew Hills Memory Gardens

Horace Mann Insurance
 5/3 Bank
 Seminole Elementary PTA
 The Backpack Lady Project
 Sub Pubs Restaurant Group
 Smuggler's Cove Mini Golf

Business Partners & Community Partners:

Thank you to Dairy Queen for hosting our November Spirit Night. A portion from all of the sales was donated to Seminole Elementary. There will not be a Spirit Night in December.



Donation to Art Department

Thank you Curlew Hills Memory Garden for the donation of \$500 to our Art Department



Dunedin Fine Art Scholarship Award



Congratulations to Cerra Kolka for winning the Dunedin Fine Art Center Scholarship

Pre-K Pie Day



Seminole Elementary

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www.pcsb.org/seminole-es

Louis Cerreta
 Principal

Dr. Jennifer McCafferty
 Assistant Principal

Dywayne Hinds
 Area III Superintendent
 (727)588-5020



Great American Teach In

