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Upcoming Events

MAY

6th – May 10th

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

6th

K-Kids Meeting 3pm

7th

FT 4th & 5th Mahaffey Theater

Girl Scouts Meeting 3pm

9th

FT – 2nd Grade Weden Island

PMAC 3pm

10th – 17th

BOGO Book Fair

13th -17th

Volunteer Appreciation Week

14th

Girl Scout Awards 3pm

PTA General Meeting and

Program 6pm

15th

5th Grade Rotary FT

Chorus Concert @ Seminole

High 6pm

20th

May PBIS

21st

Ball Hawkey Celebration

23rd

WSEL Patrol Field Trip

Treasure Island FC

24th

Hawk Huddle 8:45am

Pre-K Rising Up Program

Piper/Green 9am

Scott/Bolden 10am

Kindergarten Rising Up

Program @ 1st Baptist 1pm

28th

3rd & 4th Grade Awards

5th Grade Rising Up Ceremony

6pm @ Seminole High

29th

Last Day of School 12:50pm

AR Celebration

Message From Mr. Cerreta

Dear Seminole Elementary Families,

It is hard to believe that there are only 4 weeks of school remaining for the 2023-2024 school year. It has been an amazing year! I am so proud of our students and feel blessed to be part of such an amazing school and community. At Seminole Elementary the learning never stops as we prepare for the end of the school year and start of Summer Bridge.

Summer Bridge

Summer Bridge programs will take place June 3-June 27 Monday- Thursday from 8:00-2:00. Families can learn more at www.pcsb.org/summerbridge. R' Club will be offered FREE OF CHARGE for Summer Bridge students 6:30 a.m- 6:00p.m. Please be sure to register with R' Club to reserve your spot.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

The week of May 6-10 is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Help us celebrate our staff by showing our appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication. See attached flyer.

Volunteer Appreciation

Seminole appreciates all of our parent and community volunteers. Please stop by our Appreciation Station located in the front office May 13th - May 17th for some goodies and treats. We appreciate all that you do for Seminole Elementary.

Last Day of School Dismissal

Summer is fast approaching. The last day of school for students is Wednesday, May 29th. **Please note that this is an early release day and students are dismissed at 12:50.**

Important Information about 2024-2025

1. If your child is currently registered at Seminole Elementary, you do not have to register your child for the next school year. You will receive information regarding your child's homeroom teacher via the U.S. mail approximately 1 week prior to the start of the school year. At the beginning of the school year, we ask that you update your child's emergency card.
2. Grade 5 students going to middle school do not need to register, the information will automatically roll over.

Address Changes

If you moved or are planning to move over the summer, you must change the address with the school.

Laptop Computer Return (Grade 5 Students)

All grade 5 student laptops must be returned to school along with their chargers by May 22nd. During the week of May 27-29, students will have access to their computers in school, but will not be able to take them home. Please be sure to bring the charger with the laptop. Families may be responsible for any damages to the computer. If you are unable to return the laptop during regular school hours, please contact the school so we can make arrangements to accommodate. Thank you! 727-547-7668.

Scholarships and Middle School

Scholarship opportunities and Middle School Information. See attached flyer for details.

Campus Tours

We are offering campus tours to our incoming kindergarten parents. Please contact the school at 727-547-7668 to schedule a tour.

Student Medication

The school year ends on May 29th. Pinellas County School policy does not allow us to send medication home with students or store it over the summer, even if your student is returning for Summer Bridge.

Please arrange to come to school to pick up any unused medication, including inhalers and Epinephrine Devices. Any unclaimed medications will be disposed of on Thursday, May 30, at noon.

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<https://www.facebook.com/SeminoleElementaryHawks>

**If You See Something
Say Something**



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

Look for Warning Signs. If you see something suspicious Say Something.

Character Kids for April

PREK:

Hayduke – Kai Aldrich
Hayduke – Caroline Rongey
Piper – Penelope Diaz Sampoll
Scott – Andre Loeffler

KG:

Horton – Owen Frankiewicz
Horton – Sophia Holland
Schuler – Dory Rongey
Conde – Carson Speak

1st:

Mucerino – Olivia Finical
Mucerino – Robbie Meade
Benjamin – Ethan Dziadul
Benjamin – Sebastian Murchake
Luczaj – Bianca Blau
Luczaj – Tenly Corry
Calhoun – Dustin Porter

2nd:

Patterson – Jenesis Arellano
Sadock –
Poolson – Cayson Gutillo
Poolson – Rafael Espinal

3rd:

Kopkau – Elsie Taylor
Rudolph – Nicholas Yaslik
Morgan – Link Brunk

4th:

Rongey – Haylee Pickartz
Crose – Natalya Blau
Brady – Sydney Vieno
Brady – Gavin Pipe

5th:

Lentz – Hugh Donati
Gorman – Allan Keck
Georgiadis – Allen Murray
Multigrade:
Steiner –AJ Morris

The Clinic Minute from Nurse Leslie



The school year ends on May 29th. Pinellas County Schools (PCS) policy does not allow us to send medication home with students or store it for Summer Bridge. Please arrange to come to school to pick up any unused medication, including inhalers and epinephrine devices. Any unclaimed medications will be disposed of on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024, at 12:00 noon without exception.

Please make sure your student has a water bottle each day and remind them to drink it. Students are coming to the clinic overheated and dehydrated. Thank you!

Learning Environment Form

The process of class placement is sensitive and complex for teachers, parents, and the administration. Each year grade level teachers work closely together with a multi-disciplinary team to create future classes that meet the following criteria:

- balancing a range of achievement, social-emotional and readiness levels in each class
- balancing the number of students in each class receiving special services and additional support
- balancing gender and number of students
- balancing the inter-relationships of various combinations of students, including behavioral social and emotional consideration

These factors are given time and careful consideration by the classroom teacher, special area teachers, specialists, as we determine class assignments. Your input is invited in terms of the parental perspective as to the needs, strengths, and weaknesses of your child, including peer groupings. If you would like to communicate these needs, please complete the enclosed Learning Environment Form, no later than May 17. **This form is optional.** The teachers and staff are well aware of the talents and challenges of every child and we ask that you trust us to do the best for your child. Teachers do not assign students to particular teachers. They create balanced classes and administrators assign teachers to their class lists. **Please do not make specific teacher requests.** While we are greatly receptive to parental input regarding your child's needs, it is not possible or appropriate to accommodate parental requests for specific teachers. Our goal is to balance classes in ways that ensure academic, social and emotional equity.

Business Partnerships

We are currently looking for businesses that would like to advertise in our Seminole Elementary Agenda Planners. When a business purchases advertising space your advertisement will be going home to over 500 families. If you own or work for a business that would like to place an ad in our agenda planners may purchase a space: **\$200 for business card size \$400 for a half page \$800 for a whole page**

Please contact Heather Plankey in the school office if you are interested in purchasing an ad space in the folder. We also have other business partnership opportunities available.

2024-2025 School Calendar

Attached to the newsletter is the 2024-2025 school calendar. We hope that this information is helpful as you plan vacations for next year. We respectfully ask that you please plan family vacations on non-student days.

Message From Dr. McCafferty Assistant Principal

Dear Families,
I can't believe it is already May! Your child has grown in so many ways this year and we are excited to have been part of their journey. Students in VPK-2nd grade participated in Progress monitoring 3 over the past two weeks. Reports were sent home with each child to share their progress over the three progress monitoring sessions. Please check your child's agenda for their scores. Please let your child's teacher know if you did not receive a score report. Students in grades 3-5 began testing this week and are ready to show all that they know. It's imperative that students attend each school day on time and ready to shine! Score reports will be available for viewing in your parent portal after each test. We will also send paper copies home with students a few days after testing. Also, while Promise Time ended this week and the PM3 testing session is underway, we are still learning at Seminole Elementary and are getting ready for the next grade level. As a family, you can keep the fun and learning going by joining us at our PTA, New Worlds Reading, and PCS Culinary Night called "Family Fun Night" which will be held on Tuesday, May 14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Please RSVP so we have enough food and supplies by visiting: <https://bit.ly/FamilyFunNightSES> Finally, Summer Bridge is another exceptional way to continue learning and curb the summer slide. Sign up for Summer Bridge by visiting your parent portal. Find more information at www.pcsb.org/summerbridge Wishing you a wonderful last month of school and summer filled with lots of learning and adventures, Dr. McCafferty

Guidance Corner - from Mrs. Moore



This month during our K-2 guidance lessons, we focused on our character trait of the month--honesty. When I asked the students how they could be honest, most of them said the same things: Tell the truth and don't lie. During our time together, I hope they learned many more practical, important ways to be honest and build trust. This is so important for healthy relationships. As adults, it is equally important that we are honest with kids to build trusting relationships with them and model what this should look like for them in the future.

The first way to build trust is by keeping promises. We discussed the importance of promising to clean your room...and then actually doing it before you do anything else. As adults, if we say we are going to do something, we need to make every effort to follow through! If we aren't sure if it can happen, it's better not to promise that it will. For example, telling a child you promise to take them to the beach or the movies on Saturday, and then forgetting about it or changing your mind is a trust breaker. It would be better to say, "We are going to spend family time together on Saturday," if you're not exactly sure what you will be able to do but know you can definitely follow through with time together in some capacity. Another way to build trust is to be loyal. We talked about this including not talking about others in a negative way and being there for others when they are going through a difficult time. We agreed that it is ok to tell others nice things about someone when they aren't around, or to tell a safe adult if you are concerned about someone's safety, but any other concerns should be addressed directly with that person. We talked about gossip being like glitter--once it's out of the bottle it gets everywhere and is hard to clean up! Making wise choices without being asked and when no one else is watching naturally builds trust. During a few of my lessons, the teachers shared the example with the students about choosing students for special assignments (like bringing something to the office) based on the little choices they make in the classroom every day. Kids are so observant, and they are paying attention to the wise choices we make too. We can teach them so much by doing the right thing when they are watching and when they are not. As much as we discussed ways to build trust, we talked about quick ways to break trust including making up stories, blaming others, and stealing. As difficult as it may be to take responsibility for our actions in the moment, it pays dividends in our relationships and our peace in the long run. One of my favorite responses from the students when I asked them how they could be honest was: "We can be kind." It's amazing that in kindergarten, first, and second grade they already



Tips for Keeping Kids' Brains Engaged this Summer

From the following website: <https://www.narbis.com/blog/seven-tips-for-keeping-kids-brains-engaged-this-summer/>

- 1. Get into a reading routine with your kids over the summer to ensure they continue learning.** Set aside time for reading everyday whether it be right before bed or a certain time during the day. For younger children, let them choose a book that interests them. For older children, choose a book that will interest them and try offering an incentive system to get them to read on a consistent schedule. An example would be to offer them a sweet treat or small reward for every book they read. Literacy is the foundation of all learning. Over the summer it is more important than ever that children continue to read and strengthen their literacy skills.
- 2. Help them discover these educational tools that won't bore them to tears.** Khan Academy recently added fantastic "Get Ready For ___ Grade Math" programs designed for kids to take over the summer and fill in any knowledge gaps that may have built up over the years. Narbis smart glasses: For kids with ADHD, or those kids who simply have trouble focusing, spending time away from the structure of a classroom environment can exacerbate attention issues. Narbis at-home smart glasses use neurofeedback to measure brain activity and help kids with attention disorders. Sensors in the Narbis glasses and a NASA-patented algorithm track how relaxed, distracted, and focused you are to help the brain practice focus and attention.

- 3. Set up a daily routine, including quiet time.** Establish a basic daily routine with a picture chart for pre-readers or a simple list for older children. This can include meals, hygiene, setting the table, making their bed, and outdoor play or exercise. Create a few clear family rules or expectations for the summer. This will ease the transition for when the children return to in-person school. It will also reduce the stress of the increased demands by having established expectations for behavior for your child. Have your child use the summer to work on writing with a pencil in a journal. They can write about what they would like such as sending a letter to their grandparents.

- 4. Use games to enhance learning and information retention.** It is extremely helpful to use games, life skills activities, and family time to enhance learning and retention of information. Games such as Uno, Monopoly or Memory will extend topics taught in school to other activities that will help children use these skills in a variety of situations. This will also help with working memory and social/emotional skills such as patience, empathy, and teamwork.

Learning during the summer won't look the same as learning at school. Sticking to a simple schedule that includes reading, math through real-life situations, and writing will keep the brain alert and will prepare your child for the new school year.

Fine Motor Corner

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

The after-school crash

Children follow pretty solid schedules all day at school which often require being quiet, walking in a line, controlling their impulses, waiting to speak by raising their hand, staying seated and focusing their attention for longer periods of time. Sometimes there is little opportunity for free play, socialization, movement, or unstructured activity. These kids get home and, since it is their safe place, they often fall apart when they get home. This can be seen in behaviors where they may be irritable, clingy, moody, or whiny. They may completely withdraw and want to just not talk or answer questions. It can be frustrating as a parent to understand, and this may be triggering enough to cause arguments at home. What can we do at home to help these children? First, an afternoon snack might help. Meeting these basic needs and making sure they are comfortable and not hungry or thirsty. Second, they may need time to decompress from their day. Some children will seek activity of playing with friends or siblings and others might need to just sit and have some alone time with a preferred activity. Some kids act out as they look for connection with a parent. One on one time with you cooking or winding down together might be perfect for them. Third, providing time for unstructured, sensory, or gross motor activity...in the yard or at a park. It is great to have a schedule and to be in team sports but important not to overschedule them after an already remarkably busy school day. Finally, hold the questions for them until later and try to open the conversation using a statement instead of a question, "I know you had a book report presentation to do today, I hope that went well!" which opens the opportunity for them to respond. Kids often hold it together well all day long, do not take it personally if they crash with different behaviors. Stay calm and consistent with love, understanding and compassion. Take one day at a time.

Music Spring Concert May 16th 6pm @ Seminole High



ARTicle



Funding For Summer Art Camp

Applications are now open to talented student artists with documented financial need aged 10-17 in Pinellas County who aspire to be musicians, actors, dancers, writers, visual or digital artists. SPAA's Funding Futures Awards Program is dedicated to helping students nurture their creative interests and develop their expressive talent by providing funding to those eligible and connecting them to local after school arts programs or summer arts camps. Funding Futures is designed to identify and encourage talented emerging student artists in Pinellas County seeking St. Pete programs in the categories of dance, music, jazz, voice, theater, digital arts, photography, cinematic, literary or visual arts.

Visit:
<https://stpeteartsalliance.org/education/funding-futures>

Rotary Students for the Month of May



Congratulations to May Rotary Students' of the Month Logan Harden, Ariana Danford, and Prestin Schroeder.



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
Panda Express

PDQ
Kiwanis Club of Seminole
Seminole Women's Club
El Jalisco
Anona United Methodist Church
Curlew Hills Memory Gardens
Enchanted Solutions & Engravings
Calvary Baptist Church

Horace Mann Insurance
5/3 Bank
Seminole Elementary PTA
The Backpack Lady Project
Sun Pubs Restaurant Group
Smuggler's Cove Mini Golf
Indian Rocks Baptist Church
Cold Stone Creamery



Thank you to Astro Skate for sponsoring our April Spirit Night. We appreciate the support from our community partners.



PLANNING TO MOVE OVER THE SUMMER??

Parents, If you are planning to move out of the county or out of the state before the start of the 2024-25 school year, please send in a signed note stating that your student will not be returning. In addition, you can request documents that you will need to enroll in your new school. Thank you for your help.

Yearbooks Now On Sale



If you have not ordered your yearbooks by the due date, you can still have a yearbook sent to your home.

To purchase and customize your yearbook go to:

www.treering.com/validate

School passcode : 1014920224433910
Cost \$17 for soft cover.

Yearbooks purchased after April 28th deadline may not be shipped before end of school.

Seminole Times Issue 09 April /May 2024

Office and PTA News



Seminole Elementary

10950 74th Ave N
Seminole FL 33772
(727)547-7668

www.pcsb.org/seminole-es

Louis Cerreta
Principal

Dr. Jennifer McCafferty
Assistant Principal

Dywayne Hinds
Area III Superintendent
(727)588-5020

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

Check our Lost & Found for missing jackets and sweatshirts. Our Lost & Found is getting overwhelmed with jackets. All items left at the end of the day May 29th will be donated.

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

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

The last General PTA meeting of the school year will be on Tuesday, May 14th at 6:00. The PTA has a Family Fun night planned where their will be a cooking activity that you can do with your student. There will also be a reading presentation. Please RSVP to the flyer that was sent home at <https://bit.ly/FamilyFunNightSES>

We will also be conducting the required PTA Board elections for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested in serving on the PTA Board for the 24-25 school year please contact Heather Plankey in the school office. We are looking for board members to fill the following positions: President and Secretary.

Accelerated Reader Students

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

1st Grade 35 Points

Jacinta Alincy Aubree Baut Bella Chau Zoey Khvorostov Cannon Knapp Sebastian Murchake Gabriel Young

2nd Grade 50 Points

Jenesis Arellano Amelia Glassmeyer Coleston Green Savannah Holland Christian Losada Isaac Lynx Rudenis Fisher Wilson

3rd – 5th Grade 100 Points

Brantley Heintz Noah Hoang Jared Martinez-Francisco Sierra Matczak Logan McKinley
Easton Myers Riley Smith Amya Auten Lainey Gamache Marian Losada

