

Upcoming Events

- September
- 2nd Labor Day - No School
 - 3rd
 - PTA Pizza Fundraiser begins
 - Girl Scouts 3:15pm
 - 5th
 - Volunteer Orientation 5:30pm
 - 10th
 - Mid Period Reports go home
 - Grandparents Breakfast A-H 8:15am
 - 11th
 - Grandparents Breakfast I-O 8:15am
 - 12th
 - Grandparents Breakfast P-Z 8:15am
 - Astro Skate Party 3pm-5:30pm
 - 16th – 20th
 - Start with Hello Week
 - 17th
 - PTA General Meeting 6pm
 - 23rd
 - Teacher Planning Day – No School
 - 26th
 - PMAC
 - 27th
 - Hawk Huddle 8:45am

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

K-Kids – 1st Monday of the month (starting October)

Girl Scouts – Every Tuesday

Beach Club – Every Thursday



this issue

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Message From Mr. Cerreta

Our first few weeks of school have been wonderful! We heard many positive comments from the children and the parents. It is amazing at how quickly the students have become acclimated to their classes and the high level of academics. Our teachers did not waste any time delving into instruction and will continue to provide your child with the opportunity to reach their highest potential. We are thrilled to be celebrating Seminole Elementary's highest proficiency levels in ELA. Our students showed tremendous gains last year! We look forward to continuing our work ahead. We are raising the bar by increasing the academic rigor in the upcoming school year with before and after school ELP (Extended Learning Program) school wide reading incentives to promote independent reading and class schedules that help us to maximize time on task and student engagement. Thanks to the support from our parents, community, our teachers and the students.

The month of September is a busy month with many activities planned. To recognize our grandparents, we have our grandparent's breakfast taking place the week of September 9th . To better accommodate the many grandparents that join us, we spread the event over three days.

Tuesday, September 10- grandparents of students' last name starting with the letters A-H

Wednesday, September 11- grandparents of students' last name starting with the letters I-O

Thursday, September 12- grandparents of students' last name starting with the letters P-Z

Cafeteria News

No charge breakfast is served every day from 8:10-8:30. Please be sure to have your child arrive at school between 8:10 and 8:30 so that they can participate in the breakfast program. All students must be in their class by 8:45. Instruction starts promptly at 8:45 each day.

School Home Communication

Each week I send home a weekly e-mail update to all Seminole parents. If you are not receiving these weekend updates or our phone calls, please log into FOCUS and update your contact information. If you don't know your log in, please call us at 547-7668 for assistance.

School Agenda Planners

School Agenda Planners are a vital part of home and school communication and are required for all students. Please be sure to check your child's agenda planner and sign it daily.

Reading and Accelerated Reader

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.

2024-25 Accelerated Reader Individual Recognitions

Recognitions	Grade 1-2	Grades 3-5
Bubbled on morning show	25 points	50 points
Name in the newsletter	50 points	100 points
Accelerated Reader certificate	75 points	150 points
Reading medallion	100 points	200 points
Handprint on wall	125 points	250 points
Gold star on sidewalk	250 points	500 points
Name/design ceiling tile	375 points	750 points
Name on plaque in office	500 points	1,000 points

If You See Something Say Something



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

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



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

2024-25 SSYRA 3rd -5th Grade

Battle of the Books List

1. The Aquanaut by Dan Santat
2. The Big Sting by Rachelle Delaney
3. Bound for Home by Meika Hashimoto
4. The Cursed Moon by Angela Cervantes
5. Finally Seen by Kelly Yang
6. The Girl Who Built a Spider by George Brewington
7. The Grip by Marcus Stroman
8. Home Away From Home by Cynthia Lord
9. Manatee Summer by Evan Griffith
10. Penny Draws a Best Friend by Sara Shephard
11. Race to Fire Mountain (Future Hero Book #1) by sRemi Blackwood
12. The Shelterlings by Sarah Beth Durst
13. Treasure in the Lake by Jason Pamment
14. The Ultimate Goal by Tommy Greenwald
15. When Sea Becomes Sky by Gillian McDunn

Character Words of the Month

August – Character Education
September – Citizenship
October – Tolerance
November – Patriotism
December – Charity
January – Caring
February – Cooperation
March – Responsibility
April – Honesty
May - Respect

Clinic Minute:



Please complete the clinic card for your student if you have not already done so. The clinic card is a digital version that can be found when you log in to your FOCUS account. Please make sure your student is bringing a water bottle to school so they can stay hydrated throughout the day.



Message From Dr. McCafferty Assistant Principal

Dear Families,

Our year at Seminole Elementary is off to a bright start! It was great to see so many of our students and families at Meet the Teacher earlier in the month and Open House this past week. We pride ourselves on working with families to support our students and we are so glad your family is part of our Seminole Elementary community.

I wanted to share that your students in VPK-5 grades will be participating in the FAST Progress Monitoring 1 test session. VPK-2nd grade students will begin Monday, 9/2 and 3-5th grade students will begin Tuesday, 9/10. Kindergarten through 5 grade students will take computerized math and reading tests. Please note that these assessments measure the entire year standards of your child's current grade level. Students are not expected to know all the content in which they were assessed as this test serves as a basis of knowledge for our teachers to know where and how to support. We take this assessment two additional times, once more in winter and again in spring. During these times, we expect to see growth as the content is being taught. Students will monitor their growth with their own student data folder! Please look for the letter and specific information related to the tests and dates your child will be assessed to be sent home soon. Dates may also be communicated in your child's planner, so as always, be sure to read and sign the planner daily. Finally, results will be sent home after your child has completed both tests and the information can also be found in your parent Focus account. If you have questions regarding the FAST tests or child's results, please contact your child's teacher or feel free to reach out to Dr. McCafferty at 727-547-7668 or mccaffertyj@pcsb.org.

Thank you for your continued support!

Art News

Greetings and I welcome my artists to another great year in the Art Studio at Seminole Elementary! There are a few art exhibitions coming up. Our 3rd and 4th graders are creating patriotic art influenced by original NYC street artist, Keith Haring, and showing the pieces at Curlew Hills 9/11 Memorial on September 11th from 10-11 am at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens- 1750 Curlew Rd, Palm Harbor, FL.

Also, the 5th graders have begun designing their "Art Car" themed license plates for Kids Tag Art, which is a fundraiser for our school's art program. Thank you to those of you that have returned the permission slips to have these tags be available for purchase online (if the work is completed within the timeline) Keep creating! -Ms. "Art"

RISE

Respect/Responsibility
Integrity
Self-Control
Empathy

Guidance Corner From Ms. Moore



At Seminole Elementary, we want students to know their feelings matter! This year, in our K-2 classrooms, students are doing a feelings check when they walk in the door each morning. They find their name or number on a chart and show their teacher how they are feeling by coloring in a space or moving their magnet to the appropriate column. They choose from happy, mad, sad, or ok. This gives the teacher and child a quick and easy way to connect. It is also teaching students to be feelings detectives in themselves.

Being able to name our feelings is important! It helps us cope, which builds resilience. This would be a great thing to do with your child when they come home from school as well. There could be a feelings chart on the refrigerator for the whole family to use!

While they are learning to name feelings, they are also learning about graphs. Through the morning feelings check, we are integrating math with social emotional learning, making learning fun and meaningful and making students feel seen and heard every day.

Music Happenings at Seminole

Hi, my name is Mr. Visnage (Mr. V) and I will be your child's music teacher this school year. I am not new to the Seminole community as I have lived here for 52 years and counting and been teaching in the district since 1994...I love Seminole and look forward to teaching music in the Seminole community which already has a rich history of music and arts for as long as I can remember. Fun fact...I was Mr. Madrinan's (Seminole HS band director) music teacher back in 1994 at Seminole MS.

In addition to chorus and drumming for 4th and 5th graders, I will also be starting a band in October. Information about these music ensembles will be coming home with your child in the coming weeks. All of these performing ensembles will be meeting in the morning before school at 8am and we will be getting started the week after Labor Day with our chorus, followed by our drumming group and then our band in October.

Ms. Marr will be a hard act to follow as she is the best of the best, but I am up to the task and look

PE Shorts

This year the PE Department will be introducing the Golden Shoe Award. This award is presented to the class that shows Good Sports Code. The class that upholds the Code the most will receive this award. The Good Sport Code Golden Shoe Award class will be added to the newsletter each month. Good Sports Code

- I am a good sport and respect my classmates.
- I give my 100% best and I will never give up.
- Win or Lose...I have fun and play hard.
- I congratulate my opponent when they win.
- I love to win, but I do not brag.

After all...it's just a game



Parent and Family Engagement Plan Summary

The 2024-2025 District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan states:

Parents of students in Pinellas County Title I schools will be involved in the joint development, annual review, and revision of district wide and school wide parent and family engagement plans and policies. The Title I plans and policies outline programs, services and funding that will be provided to students and parents at Title I schools. Parent representatives serving on the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and individual school parent groups will participate in the review and revision of the plans. The review will be used to determine the effectiveness of the plans in improving student achievement and to identify barriers that hinder parental participation. Revisions will be based on feedback from parental input and results from the Title I Annual Parent Survey. Each school will hold a Title I Annual Meeting to explain what it means to be a Title I school and the Title I requirements, including parents' right to be involved. Each school will jointly develop with parents a parent/school compact for learning which will be discussed at parent/teacher conferences. The District Title I Office and Title I schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies and activities with other agencies such as VPK. Parents of Title I students will be provided with training and materials to help them support the learning of their children at home.

A complete copy of the 2024-2025 District Parent and Family Engagement Plan is available in our front office and at www.pcsb.org/titleone, translation is available upon request.

Fine Motor Corner

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

It's an exciting time for most students when going back to school. Now is a great time to establish a plan that will build healthy habits which will help academically and otherwise. Here's some tips on making a solid plan. Collaborate! Let your student have a say in the plan. This will help them be more compliant with a plan when they feel they were part of the team making the decisions.

Plan should include at least the following....

- A daily check for communications from the teacher in folders or a planner.
- Daily checking into backpacks for extraneous items, taking out completed work that is no longer needed in folders and notebooks. This helps build organizational skills. Taking out trash from the bottom of backpacks. Staying organized solves many issues at school with lost work or not bringing home or turning in assignments. It's a 30 second task done daily and makes a difference.
- Collaborate /establish a designated time to sit and complete homework each day in a friendly, non stressful location. Some kids work well with music playing in the background but not the television which can be a distraction. Using crunchy snacks to increase alertness or using chewy snacks during work time which can be calming. You can decide what is needed. Some kids come home hyper while others come home sleepy. Hopefully homework time can be kept to 30 minutes.

-A few hours of rest between coming home from school and doing homework can be beneficial. The last thing I want to do after coming home from work is open up my work computer and get back to work. Maybe your student is the same. They are working all day. If there's no homework, maybe a quick look through of what they're learning by watching a video or listening to podcasts on the subject for 15- 20 min. Stuff you Should Know is a fun podcast with some educational stuff thrown in. YouTube of course has all kinds of videos your student can watch to just have a little extra if you know what particular area they are studying in science or math, etc. If they're learning multiplication tables, Schoolhouse Rocks can help with many catchy songs to remember those times tables. The homework time is daily whether they have an actual assignment. Physical exercise every day at a park or riding a bike or playing tag with friends for an hour each day at least. If they are in an organized sport like baseball or soccer or football, that's great too! -Sleep. Getting 8 hours of sleep using an established bedtime routine helps us fall asleep faster and get better sleep. You can find a routine that will work well for your family. Sticking to it is the hardest part so focusing on establishing the habit is the main objective for the first two weeks. It takes two weeks to establish a habit and only a few days to break the habit and we must start all over. It happens but please don't give up! Good luck.

Office and PTA News

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.

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.

Please plan on attending the Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, September 5th at 5:30 in the Centennial Building. We will be going over how volunteering at our school works and different volunteer opportunities that are available.

Clothing 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

PTA

PTA President Message

As we begin the school year, I'm thrilled to welcome you to our PTA Community. Your involvement makes a significant impact on our school, and together, we can achieve great things. We look forward to collaborating with you on exciting initiatives that benefit our students and foster a sense of unity.

Fundraising Events

"Slice the Price" Pizza Card Sales

September 3, 2024

Domino's Pizza cards good for 1 year gives you BOGO Large Pizzas

Upcoming Events

September 17th @ 6pm PTA General

Meeting

PTA Membership Rally – Class with 100% membership by the end of September gets an Ice Cream Party!

Stay Connected

Join social media channels to stay updated on news, events, and school activities

Facebook Seminole Elementary PTA



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

Summer Readers

Congratulations to our Summer Readers who completed their summer reading logs. Students received pizza, Kona Ice, a reading medal, and a poster for their achievement.



Brayden McCafferty	Spencer Bonner	Lyla Ballenger	Dory Rongey	Liam Hootman
Kailani Rivera	Ivan Lysikov	Savva Lysikov	Lillian Soles	Grantley Pedigo
Robbie Meade	Lily Meade	Jackson DiCarlo		

Please consider doing business with the business and community organizations that partner with our school. We would like to thank the following organizations for their support of our school:

Astro Skate	Frankiewicz Financial	Seminole First Baptist Church	Corebridge/Valic Financial
VFW Post 9272	Seminole Women's Club	Seminole Elementary PTA	Beach Pizza
El Jalisco	The Backpack Lady Project	Sugar Wingz	Plumbing by Paul
Treviso Grill	Frios Gourmet Ice Pops	Beauty Social Salon	Smuggler's Cove Mini Golf
Oh's Taekwondo	Seminole Garden Florist		

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Welcome to Our New Staff Members



Mr. Bates – Behavior Specialist



Ms. Minarik-Collins - Secretary



Ms. Moses – 5th Grade Teacher

Seminole Elementary

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Seminole FL 33772
(727)547-7668

www.pcsb.org/seminole-es

Mr. Louis Cerreta
Principal

Dr. Jennifer McCafferty
Assistant Principal

Dr. Dywayne Hinds
Area III Superintendent
(727)588-5020



Coach Romagna – PE



Ms. Vidak – 2nd Grade Teacher



Mr. Visnage – Music Teacher



Ms. Sullivan - Social Worker



Mr. DiMarco– Social Worker



Ms. Campbell – 4th Grade Teacher



Ms. Welch - Hourly Title 1



Ms. Nicholson– Hourly Title 1



Ms. Richards – School Nurse