

this issue

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

Character Kids / Message from Dr. McCafferty **P.2**

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

Winterfest & Business Partners **P.4**



Message From Mr.

Dear Seminole Elementary Families,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the first semester and are anxiously anticipating the upcoming winter holidays. It has been a pleasure watching the students grow, learn and mature. As I review each of the students FAST results from the FAST test that was recently given to the students, I am pleased to say that our students are making great academic progress and Seminole Elementary has a large population of very smart and capable students. Based on the recent FAST Assessment results, the students in grades 3-5 are making greater gains in reading when compared to the district averages. Your continued interest in education and encouragement is very important regarding your child's attitude towards school. The more interested and enthused you are about what they are learning in school, the more eager your child will be to study, read and do their best. While we want our students to enjoy the time with their family and friends during the winter break, we would also like for learning to continue. We strongly encourage our students to continue reading, complete their weekly Dream Box Lessons and participate in the MyOn Winter Reading Challenge & PCS Winter Challenge for their grade level. Students completing both challenges will receive a certificate of completion and a "Free Kids Meal" at Cracker Barrel and they will also have the opportunity to be included in the raffle for a laptop or tablet. Congratulations to Savva Lysikov for completing the Thanksgiving MyOn Challenge and winning a Tablet. Please take the time this holiday season to rest and enjoy family moments and friendships. Peace, love and a Happy New Year to all.

ELP/Promise Time Tutoring & STEM

Promise Time/ELP Tutoring will resume the week of January 6th.

Our STEM program for students in grades 2/3 & 4/5 will resume Tuesday, January 14th.

Important Dates:

December 21-January 5 Winter Holidays

January 6- Students Return to School

January 15- All Pro Dads Breakfast in Centennial Building 7:30

January 16- Report Cards Distributed

January 17- Grades 3-5 Awards Program in Centennial Building

- o 1:15- Grade 3 1:45- Grade 4 2:15- Grade 5

January 20- Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday-No School for Students

January 22- Principal's List Breakfast Grades 3-5

January 24-31- Book Fair

Winter Concert

Thank you to Mr. Visnage and all of our students that performed in our Winter Concert Tuesday evening at Freedom Square. What an amazing show!!! You all did a super job and are all very talented.

Continue on page 2

Upcoming Events

December

23rd – Jan 3rd

- Winter Break

January

6th

- Return to School

9th

- PMAC 3pm

15th

- All Pro Dad's 7:30am Centennial
- Girl Friends Meeting Centennial
- Rotary Students of the Month 12pm

16th

- Report Cards Distributed

17th

- Awards Assembl
 - o 1:15- Grade 3
 - o 1:45- Grade 4
 - o 2:15 Grade 5

20th

- MLK Day – No School

21st

- Boys Battle of the Books Semi-finals Virtual

23rd

- PMAC 3pm
- PTA General Meeting and Movie Night 6pm

24th – 31st

- Book Fair Media Center

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

K-Kids - 1st Monday of the Month

Band - Mondays Music 8am

Girl Scouts-Tuesdays Centennial 3pm

4th & 5th Grade Chorus - Wednesdays 8am

Ball Hockey - PE Court Wednesdays 3pm

Beach Club – Thursdays 3pm

If You See Something Say



Something www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

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

Report by going to

www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern



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

Character Kids for December

PREK

Scott/Bolden – Samira Sanchez-Castellanos

Mucerino – Everly Knapp

Piper/Green – Jordan Grossman

Piper/Green – Levi Allen

KG

Horton – Vanessa Lemus-

MartinezConde – Julian Fix

Schuler – Jordyn Obermeier

Schuler – Dontarius Woods

1st

Luczaj –

Benjamin – Marley Green

Mucerino – Evander Grassl

Mucerino – Alana Aldrich

2nd

Brady – Cannon Knapp

Calhoun – Kailani Rivera

Vidak – Zachary Daniels

Sadock – Sebastian Murchake

3rd

Kopkau – Xion Leshore

Kopkau – Caydan Stancik

Rudolph – Mckinley Prater

Rudolph - Victoria Vanguela

Morgan – Taylor Palmese

4th

Cröse – Olivia Khvorostov

Rongey –

Campbell – Salvador Espinal

5th

Gorman – Spencer Bonner

Georgiadis –

Moses –

Clinic Minute:



Please make sure your students are bringing a water bottle to school everyday to stay hydrated. Please speak with your student about taking off their sweatshirt/hoodie when it is warm outside.

Congratulations to Our Outstanding Readers:

One aspect of our School Wide Reading Program is for the students to read 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 a Reading Counts test to earn Accelerated Reader points.

Congratulations to the following students for earning 100 points grades 3-5 and 50 points grades K-2:

50 Points 1st – 2nd Grade

Kevin Yang Evan Castellanos Kaliyah Lacy Aidenn Wikiera Zoey Khvorostov Aidenn Wikiera

100 Points 3rd – 5th Grade

Savva Lysikov Xion Leshore Joseph Gioeli

Like Us on Facebook

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

School Hours 8:45am-2:55pm

- Students cannot be dropped off before 8:10 in the morning.
- Students need to be seated in their classroom by 8:45 am.



RISE

Respect/Responsibility
Integrity
Self-Control

Guidance Corner

From Ms. Moore



Having vacation time together with family over breaks is a wonderful thing. Lots of time together can also include some conflicts. Here are conflict resolution steps I teach during classroom guidance lessons to help empower children to work through big emotions they may experience because of a conflict with someone they care about:

The first step is to calm down. If either party is still experiencing a strong emotion, they are not ready to talk through what happened. Taking deep breaths, getting a drink of water, coloring, or drawing, going outside for a quick walk, or having some alone time may help.

Once both parties are feeling calm, they can take turns sharing how they are feeling. Naming feelings accurately is such an important part of the process! Did they feel angry, sad, hurt, frustrated, embarrassed, or something else? Both parties should face each other and make eye contact. Using a "talking piece" to help remember whose turn it is to talk helps as well. This could be a stuffed animal or a marker or whatever is convenient.

To make it simpler, have them fill in the blanks:
"I feel _____ when you _____."
What I want is _____"

After each child shares how they're feeling, the other one repeats what they heard to make sure they were listening

If they don't want the same thing, they can brainstorm ideas for a compromise.

The conversation ends with each of them filling in the blank to this statement: "Let's agree to _____."

For fun, have them make up a special handshake they can do with each other for the rest of the day!

I hope you all make many wonderful memories this holiday season, with many conflict-free days. If conflicts do arise, don't worry, they can be wonderful opportunities to practice an important life skill. From my home to yours, Merry Christmas!! Your students are a gift to me every day.

Message From Dr. McCafferty

Assistant Principal

Dear Families,

Our FAST PM2 window closed 12/20, and our students worked very hard to show all they have learned so far this school year.

You received your child's scores reports this week which share how your child performed, or a way to find their scores. Please ensure you sign and return the paper indicating you have seen the report. If you have any questions for your child's teacher or for me, please write them on that paper as well.

The Department of Education has included levels for all grade levels so K-5 families will see a level included in the report. These levels are outlined below:

Level 1 - Substantially below proficiency

Level 2 - Below proficiency

Level 3 - Proficient

Level 4 and 5 - Above Proficiency

At Seminole Elementary, we work hard for everyone to be at or above proficiency (Level 3 or higher). If your child is a 3 or higher on PM2, that's great; they can still make growth within those levels and show even more learning gains. If your child is a level 1 or 2, please work with your child's teacher to see what you can do at home to support your child in achieving proficiency.

Sincerely,

Dr. McCafferty

Mccaffertyj@pcsb.org

727-547-7668

Art News



4th graders have been working hard on a mixed media art piece this last month. Artists studied parts of a landscape, and sketched, then painted their own on a small piece of upcycled cardboard. Then they learned how to wrap string to create their own loom (see photo). After that, they learned how to measure, tie knots, thread a needle, and weave yarn onto the loom. The projects will be coming home after winter break, we are all so excited to see how they turn out!

Also, are you looking for more Art for your student? Check out Children's Art Classes in Seminole for after school art activities!

Congratulations to 5th graders-

Connor O, Isaiah D
Lainey G Lillian M

for earning an award for their Kids Tag Art design! They were selected from many schools that participated across Pinellas county to attend the award ceremony in January, and Miss Art has already given them their paper invitations

PE Golden Shoe News



The PE department would like to recognize Ms. Benjamin's class for being the "Golden Shoe" winner for the month of November. The "Golden Shoe" award is given to one class each month that displays qualities listed in our "Good Sport Code." Congratulations Mrs. Benjamin's class!

Patrols of the Month



Congratulations to Lillian Moser and Olivia Glassmeyer for being Patrols of the Month for December.

Children's Art Classes (CAC)

Curriculum-Based Program for Students Ages 3+ Drawing, Painting, Design, Print-Making, and More

Register Now at

ChildrensArtClasses.com

At checkout click on "How did you hear about us?" and scroll down to Seminole Elementary School for your school to receive credit.



PT Corner – From Ms. Meyer

Research has shown that children who regularly do chores tend to develop stronger life skills and a greater sense of responsibility compared to those who do not participate in household tasks. A study published in the *Journal of Developmental Psychology* found that children who contribute to chores at home often show improved self-esteem, better time management, and a stronger work ethic. By performing chores, children learn the importance of completing tasks, taking ownership of their responsibilities, and understanding the value of contributing to the family unit. This involvement not only boosts their confidence but also teaches them practical skills, such as problem-solving, multitasking, and following through with commitments, which are all valuable as they grow older.

On the other hand, children who are not given chores may miss out on these critical developmental benefits. Without the regular experience of contributing to household duties, they might struggle with self-discipline and a sense of accountability. Research indicates that children who do not engage in chores are more likely to develop entitlement behaviors, expecting things to be done for them without taking initiative themselves. Furthermore, the lack of participation in chores may affect their social skills, as they may not have the opportunity to work collaboratively or understand the concept of shared responsibility. In contrast, involving children in chores helps them build essential life skills that promote independence, cooperation, and a strong work ethic, all of which can lead to greater success in school and later in life.



How to help kids become more fluent readers

<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/improve-reading-fluency-children>

Reading fluency is the ability to read at a good pace, with accuracy, and with the right expression. Fluent readers also understand what they're reading.

Here are some ways kids can improve their fluency:

- Listen to models of fluent reading, like read-alouds. Audiobooks can also be great models of reading fluency.
- Practice **sight words** so kids can automatically recognize words.
<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/what-are-sight-words>
- Have kids read a short text at their reading level several times. Count how many words they read correctly in one minute. Record the results on a graph. Repeat several times. (This is called "repeated readings.") Soon they'll see that their speed and accuracy improve.
- Read a sentence together. Then draw slash marks to "chunk" the text into meaningful phrases of three to five words. Kids should take a short pause at the slash marks when reading.

Music Happenings at Seminole



Band dates to remember....

Dec 16 Percussion 8am

Jan 6 Clarinet, flute, saxophone 8am

Jan 13 Trumpet and trombone 8am

Jan 27 Percussion 8am

Office 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.

We are starting to feel some cooler weather. PLEASE put your student's initials in their jackets/sweaters. This is the time of year that missing jackets end up in the Lost & Found.

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 next PTA General Meeting and Movie Night will be January 23, 2024 in the Centennial Building at 6 pm



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



Seminole Elementary

10950 74th Ave N
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



Winterfest



Enterprise Village



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 | Cold Stone Creamery |
| 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 | Sun Pubs Restaurant Group | Kiwanis Club of Seminole |
| Beach Pizza | Seminole's Best Before & After School Care | | |