

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

American Heart Association
Kids Heart Challenge

5th

K Kids 3pm Centennial

6th

Ready Set Kindergarten 5pm
Media Center

7th -13th

PMAC Valentine Grams

7th

iMoms 7:30am Centennial
Spirit Night Panda Express
3pm-8pm

8th

PMAC 3pm Portable 1

15th

Daddy/Daughter Dance 5pm
Kids Café

16th

PD – No School for students

19th

DWT – No School for students

20th

Class & Group Pictures

21st

Girlfriends during lunch
Seminole Rotary Lunch

22nd

Bus Driver Appreciation Day
PMAC 3pm Centennial

CLUBS

Girl Scouts Every Tuesday
Centennial @ 3:00pm

Beach Club Every Thursday
Centennial @ 3:00pm



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Message From Mr. Cerreta

Dear Seminole Elementary Families,

Prior to the Winter Holidays, our students completed their F.A.S.T (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking). These assessments are given three times each year and is helpful for monitoring student academic progress and learning gains. Your child's classroom teacher sent home your child's F.A.S.T Parent prior to the Winter break. The FAST Parent reports also available in FOCUS under the Parent Portal. In addition to providing parents with information about their child's academic progress, the information from the FAST Assessments helps us identify students that would benefit from our before and after school tutor programs. Currently, over 40% of our students are taking advantage of the before and after school learning opportunities. We can't thank you enough for also emphasizing the importance of education and encouraging your children to do their best! What an impact it is making as we all work together and develop such successful students and great citizens. As always, I thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your children and am most appreciative of the support and interest in the Seminole Elementary School Community.

Stay Informed

Please take note of what is on our school marquee, our weekly newsletter and weekend updates, as well as the teacher notes in the student agendas. You may also like and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SeminoleElementaryHawks> for school updates. If your phone number changed, please be sure to update it in FOCUS. I regularly send out important updates via the School Messenger phone system.

Reading

Having all of our students reading at or above grade level is a huge priority at Seminole Elementary. All the research supports the fact that students that are proficient readers are more successful in school. One of the best ways to improve reading skills is by reading daily. The expectation is for all students to read every night and complete their reading logs. After students read a book, they log into Accelerated Reader and take a computer-based quiz. Students earn points for scoring 80% or higher on the quizzes. Every student in grades 1-5 have an individual quarterly reading goal. Please ask your child to share their reading goal with you and their progress towards achieving their goal.

Congratulations To Our Outstanding Readers:

1st Grade 35 Points

Oliver Brunk Savva Lysikov Adrianna Miller

Sophia Reily

2nd Grade 50 Points

Elle Amatuccio Robert Berry Sophia Singkhaophet

Amayah Smith

3rd – 5th Grade 100 Points

Rowan Plomatos Olivia Glassmeyer Jaidon Cunningham

Ajna Goxhaj Vuk Veljkovic Ariana Danford

Madison Dumas Harper Palmese

Rotary Students for the Month of January



Congratulations to Lyla Aguillard and Kadince Byrnes for being January Rotary Kids of the Month.



<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.

Charcter Kids for January

PREK:

Hayduke – Aviana Bladen
Green – Adrian Behani
Scott/Hock – Vanessa Lemus-Martinez
Piper – Sophie Ouellette

KG:

Schuler – Bobby Lyon
Conde – Ayla Aldrich
Horton – Sophia Holland
Horton – Laken Wentz

1st:

Benjamin – Nova Crowder
Luczaj – Bella Huntoon-Pickartz
Calhoun – Evan Castellanos
Calhoun – Kailani Rivera
Mucerino – Grantley Pedigo
Mucerino – Salma Halaweh

2nd:

Poolson – Beryl Yi
Sadock – Victoria Calzadillas
Patterson – Sophia Polski

3rd:

Rudolph – Kilyn White
Kopkau – Kamryn Smith
Morgan – Felicity Horne

4th:

Brady – Katy Aragon
Brady – Kylie Egulf
Crose – Maecy Walsh
Rongey – Lillian Moser

5th:

Gorman – Lainey Gamache
Lentz – Adelynn Reed
Georgiadis – Zoey Groves

Multi Grade

Steiner – Jamarion Benson

Boys Read Battle Students



Congratulations to Mrs. Rongey's Readers for representing Seminole Elementary in the Boys Read District Semi-Finals today. Mrs. Rongey's Readers placed 4th in the Group 9 semifinals. We are very proud of Mrs. Rongey, Vuk Veljkovic, Easton Myers, Justin Mock, and Isaiah Dillashaw for representing our school well.



Message From Dr. McCafferty Assistant Principal

Dear Families,

It has been a fun month celebrating our students' accomplishments of Positive Hawk, Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, Principal's List, and more! Our students and staff work hard each day to provide the best education for your child and we love celebrating their successes as a school family.

This week we had our January Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) celebration. Students who had zero referrals and one or less classroom think sheet participated in a picnic on the playground with a donut as a dessert and played with sidewalk chalk and bubbles.

Our next PBIS incentive is slated for February 28 and will be a picnic on the playground, a dance party on the PE court, and ice pops for students who have zero referrals and zero classroom think sheets for February.

Please encourage your child to follow our RISE expectations during the school day, as well as when they are in before and after school programs so they can attend and have fun at these monthly celebrations. We are striving for 100% participation!

RISE Expectations

- R- Respect, Responsibility
- I – Integrity
- S – Self-control
- E – Empathy

Thank you for your continued support!

Dr. McCafferty

Principal's List Students for 2nd Grading Period



Congratulations to the following students who have earned A in all academic areas for the 2nd grading period.

3rd Grade

Joby Brown	Jaidon Cunningham	Tanner Highnote
Rowan Plomatos	Lucas Scholz	Quinn Sperling

4th Grade

Katelyn Aragon	Elise Carlson	Layla Gauthier
Bryce Henshaw	Noah Hoang	Rory Lindberg
Mckenzie Tran Delacruz		Vuk Veljkovic

5th Grade

Lyla Aguillard	Amya Auten	Jacob Del Rio
Numan Demirel	Sean Kier	Carson Richmond
Elliot Sperling	Colton Taylor	Alessandro Loaiza-Garcia

Guidance Corner from Mrs. Moore



As the Restorative Practices lead at Seminole Elementary, I attend periodic trainings throughout the school year. This past week at our training, we were reminded of the importance of using affective statements with our students. I have been amazed at their effectiveness as I employ them around campus.

One of my favorite examples is in the cafeteria during lunch duty. Last year, I covered kindergarten and first grade lunch, and found myself almost constantly reminding students of our RISE expectations like sitting on their bottoms or keeping their hands to themselves. I must have repeated these directives a hundred times only to say them again. It wasn't until I used an affective statement that students began to change their behavior. Instead of saying "sit on your bottom," over the microphone, I said something like "I feel worried when you don't sit on your bottom because you might fall and hurt yourself and that would make me feel sad. Would you consider sitting on your bottom so that you stay safe?" I could not believe the immediate change in behavior. All students were sitting on their bottoms!

In an excerpt from The Restorative Practices Playbook, it lists the 5 steps to affective statements as follows:

1. Give a short description of the problem behavior without assigning blame (I saw that you were on your knees while you were eating lunch).
2. Share feelings you experienced because of the problem behavior (I felt worried when I saw that you weren't sitting on your bottoms).
3. Name the tangible effects the action had on you (I'm concerned if you are on your knees, you might slip and fall or bump into another student and someone might get hurt).
4. Name what you value and need (It's important to me that we are all safe).
5. State the plan or request (Would you consider sitting on your bottoms so that everyone can enjoy a safe lunch together?)

I encourage you to try using affective statements with your students at home as we continue to use them here at Seminole Elementary to redirect and set up students to reach their full potential. Affective statements ask us all to examine how situations that arise during the day make us feel which is an important and useful life skill.

Some Important Things Your Child Needs to Know About Math

As a parent, you can help your child learn math by offering them insights into how to approach math. Your child will develop more confidence in their math ability if they understand the following:

1. There are many different ways to solve a problem. Even though most math problems have only one answer, there may be many ways to get to that answer. Learning math is more than finding the precise answer, it is also the process of solving the problem and applying what they have learned to new problems.
2. Wrong answers can be useful to help your child figure out where or why they made a mistake. Analyzing the wrong answer can help your child understand the concepts and learn to apply reasoning skills to arrive at the correct answer. Ask your child to explain how they solved the problem. This may help you discover the areas your child needs extra help with.
3. Take a risk. Help your child become a risk taker by showing them the value of trying to solve a problem, even if it is difficult. Give your child extra time to explore different methods to solving a difficult problem. As your child works, encourage them to talk about what they are thinking. This strategy will help your child strengthen their math skills.
4. Doing math in your head (mental math) is important. Math is not restricted to paper and pencil. Mental math is a valuable skill that comes in handy as they make quick calculations of costs in stores, restaurants, or gas stations. Let your child know that using mental math will allow their math skills to become stronger.
5. It is OK to use a calculator to solve mathematical problems. Knowing how to use a calculator correctly when allowed to use them in class is important. Let your child know that to use a calculator correctly and most efficiently, they will need a strong foundation in math operations, otherwise how will they know whether the answer they get is a reasonable answer. These are some examples of how to provide your child with help in math.

Art News



Congratulations to the 3 Fifth graders from SES who won Awards of Excellence for their Kids Tag Art designs- Mya Johnson, Carson Richmond and Lyla Aguillard! Ms. "Art" and Mr. Cerreta were at the awards ceremonies held at Largo High school on January 25th. Students of participating schools received honors presented by the Pinellas County Superintendent and Art supervisor along with the support of colleagues, families and community sponsors!

PRIDE Award Winners



Congratulations to our 2023-24 PRIDE Award winners:
 Lyla Aguillard-Writing
 Sean Keir-Math
 Spencer Garlin-Social Studies
 Carson Richmond-Science

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

Set Your Students Up For Success

Here are a few tips to help students with feel successful in classroom and home:

Self Esteem

Allow your students to demonstrate their strength in front of others

Transitions

Provide students with a definite purpose for activity. (We are going to the library to...)

Ask Questions

Assist students in preparation for starting tasks; ask "What do you need to be able to do this?"

Be Clear

Use multi-sensory approach with both visual an oral instructions – ask student to describe to you what the assignment is. Allow time for processing.

Be Positive

Stress effort and enjoyment for self, rather than competition with others.

To learn more, visit
[pinterest.com/adhdcanada](https://www.pinterest.com/adhdcanada)

The Clinic Minute from Nurse Leslie



Our weather is starting to warm up and we have seen students in the clinic after PE and Recess that are complaining of headache, nausea, stomachaches and their faces are flushed.

Please make sure your student has a water bottle at school and is drinking their water. We have water stations where they can refill it throughout the day.

It's also a good idea to have your student drink a big glass of water when they wake up so they are not coming to school already dehydrated. It's important to stay ahead of dehydration to avoid serious complications.

Daddy Daughter Dance



February 15th @ 5pm
 In the Kids Café
 \$5 per family

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.

PTA

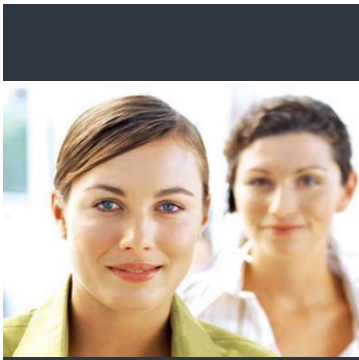
There will not be a PTA meeting in February.

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

We want to say a BIG thank you to our volunteers who helped at the book fair. The students were excited to see all of the books available. Our volunteers helped students with counting their money and showing them the books that were available. They helped make this a successful event for our school! 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.



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

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

Business Partners & Community Partners:



Thank you Vampire Penguin for sponsoring our January Spirit Night. We appreciate all of the support they have given our school.



Our next Spirit Night will be at Panda Express in the Seminole City Center on February 7th from 3pm-8pm. Our Spirit Nights are a great time to have dinner and hang out with other families and staff and helping our school raise money. Flyers will be sent home with more information.

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 Assistant Principal

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 Area III Superintendent
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Literacy Night



All Pro Dads for the Month of January



Kona Ice Accelerated Reader Celebration

