



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – January 2020

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Important Dates

- M. Jan 6 Student/Teacher Holiday
- T. Jan 7 Classes Resume
- F. Jan 10 End of First Semester
- M. Jan 13 Second Semester Begins
- F. Jan 17 Student Holiday/Teacher Workday
- M. Jan 20 NO SCHOOL: ML King Day
- W. Jan 22 District Spelling Bee
- T. Jan 28 100th Day of School

Citizen of the Month

The **December** Citizen of the Month for Alachua Elementary is **Melody Watson** in Mrs. Cole’s class.

Media News

It is January and that means New Year’s resolutions! A great New Year’s resolution is to read! Read to your child(ren) and with your child(ren). Remember, there is a direct correlation between reading and student achievement; students who read just 30 minutes per day, score, on average, in the 90th percentile on standardized tests. Please continue to remind your child(ren) to be working on Media activities, like the WBA activity (ask your student what it is) and our monthly literacy activities. Not only do these assignments benefit student literacy, but they also allow students to earn points and prizes in the media center. There is more information about both activities on the media center website. During January, the media center will be celebrating National Science Fiction Day, National Thesaurus Day, and National Puzzle Day, as well as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Remember, you can always find circulation updates, student literacy activities, and even a slide show at the AES Media Center website (<https://www.sbac.edu/domain/577>).

Welcome New Faculty & Staff

We are so excited to have the following new teachers and staff members working at Alachua Elementary. They each bring talent and expertise to an already incredible group of educators. Please join us in welcoming them aboard!

Taelor Hartley–Fifth Grade Teacher

LaShanda Rosario-Morrison–Head Custodian

Maximillian Williams–Lead Custodian

Yearbooks

Yearbooks for the 2019-2020 school year are on sale now! For only \$20 you can purchase a copy of the yearbook and have memories to cherish forever. Yearbooks can be purchased with check or cash or you can visit www.swiphoto.com/yb to purchase one online. Also, fifth grade parents, if you would like to purchase an ad for your child for the back of the yearbook, please contact Mrs. Cole at coleba@gm.sbac.edu or Mrs. Boukari at boukarikr@gm.sbac.edu. This is a great way to send your child off to middle school with a precious memory. Reserve your yearbook today!

radKIDS Program

We are proud and honored to announce that another **98** third grade students have completed the radKIDS program here at Alachua Elementary! This brings the total number of **radKIDS** students at AES to **192**, or two-thirds, of our student body. As you may remember, Coach Pigott and Officer Hunt taught this safety education program during PE class. Within the **radKIDS** program, students learn about phone, internet, electrical, fire and gun safety, as well as how to be safe at public places such as grocery stores, drug stores, parks, beaches, sporting events and any public areas with a large crowd of people. In addition to increasing the safety of each student, this program is also playing a positive role in our school culture and on student morale! We’d like to thank our parents for your ongoing support of the **radKIDS** personal empowerment and safety education program.



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Third Grade News

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful winter break! It's hard to believe that we are already coming to the end of the first semester. As we move into the third nine weeks, students will begin working on the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, and measurement in math. During science, students will move into Unit 6, Heat Sources, and Unit 7, Plants and the Environment. In reading, we will continue to focus on informational and literature standards. We will also be working on comparing and contrasting two texts. Reading tests during the third nine weeks will have 15 questions, instead of 10. We will also continue to review previously taught standards in preparation for the Reading and Math FSA. At home we recommend your child to read at least 20 minutes every evening, continue practicing their multiplication facts, and use the online resources such as Istation (Reading and Math), IXL (Reading and Math), and Achieve 3000 (Reading). We look forward to a successful new year!

Fourth Grade News

Happy New Year! In December, fourth grade had another visit from an archaeologist! He showed our students how the Timucuan made fire and what natural resources they used to cook with. Ask your child all about it! It was so interesting. In ELA, we have finished up our unit on technical and scientific texts. Students are learning how important it is to be able to read and follow the directions to complete a process or understand cause and effect in the real world. In Math, we are adding and subtracting fractions. Fourth grade will be heading to Morningside Nature Center the week of January 20th to explore the Native American culture of the Timucuan. When we return from our trip, students will be writing poetry about their experiences at Morningside. Please be on the lookout for more information from your child.

Fifth Grade News

Welcome back from Winter Break! Our fifth grade has many fun learning opportunities upcoming such as a visit to Mebane, Cade Museum, Fifth Grade Field Day, and Wild Adventures. Be on the lookout for permission slips and information to be coming home soon. Our students have been working hard in ELA using text features to gather information; in math adding and subtracting fractions; in science understanding electricity and forces; and in social studies learning about the colonization of America. Good practices to start at home would be to study one subject with your student for 15 minutes each school day.

Music and PE News

Music News:

In music class, we're kicking off the new year by learning and reviewing the instruments of the orchestra. Fourth graders will also be continuing to study genres and composers, and fifth graders will be getting recorders soon!

The Tuesday afternoon choir returns on January 14 from 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm! It's not too late to join – forms will be passed out by classroom teachers to interested students, or you can email me at likamwamf@gm.sbac.edu with your student's name. We will be preparing for the Music in Our Schools Month performance on March 12, which will be a collaboration with 3-4 other elementary schools.

Fifth graders, there will also be an opportunity for ten of you to represent Alachua Elementary in the district Honor Choir in April. If you're interested, but not in the after-school choir, please let me know so that I can finalize the group, complete the paperwork and begin those rehearsals soon!

PE News:

The **Alligator All-Stars program** is to recognize AES students who have excelled in the area of Physical Education and have displayed the **traits of great effort, listening, teamwork and sportsmanship** during PE class for the month of **December**. This month's winners are:

- 5th Grade: **Deasia Fleming** (Thomas) & **Tison Thomas** (Young)
- 4th Grade: **Kyla Richey** (Dallaportas) & **Jeron Guerrero** (Hamm)
- 3rd Grade: **Zoe LaBree** (Pirie) & **Shade McNeer** (Pirie)

Great Job! Keep up the positive attitudes and excellent effort.

Morning Mile is off and running! Bring your sneakers and join friends and Coach Pigott as we get our day started on "**the right foot**"! The Morning Mile is held daily from 7:00-7:30 a.m. each morning on the soccer field.

Our current student Morning Mile leaders are:

- River Jacobi** (Campbell): **Overall & 4th grade leader with 36 miles**
- Carlos Martinez** (Proud): **5th grade leader with 27-1/4 miles**
- Kamarion Young** (Ward): **3rd grade leader with 26-3/4 miles**

Members of the 30 Mile Club
Demetrus Johnson (Hamm)

Members of the 25 Mile Club
Kaiden Curtis (Dallaportas)

Members of the 15 Mile Club
Ryleigh Bush (Campbell)
Ed Curry (Long)
Connor Deasey (Campbell)
Darrell Merriex, Jr. (Long)
Brandon Mulberry (Cole)