



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – February 2020

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Important Dates

- Th. Feb. 13 SAC Meeting – 3:00 pm
- F. Feb. 14 Valentine’s Day 
- M. Feb. 17 President’s Day–NO SCHOOL
- T. Feb. 18 PTA Meeting - 3:00 pm
- W. Feb. 19-27 Spring Book Fair
- W. Feb. 19 5th Grade Cade Museum
- Th. Feb. 20 Progress Reports Go Home
- Th. Feb. 20 Literacy Night 5:30 – 7:00 pm

PTA

Have you joined our Facebook page? Like us at Alachua Elementary PTA. It is a great way to keep up to date on all our plans and activities. Our next meeting will be February 18th at 3:00 pm. We want to thank you all for participating in our fundraisers for the school! We will have a table set up on Literacy night with t-shirts, bracelets, and hair bows for sale. We will have our next Domino’s night on March 10th. We will also have another Krispy Kreme fundraiser; look for the flyer to come home in March. We have two big events coming up. The first one is the Spring Carnival on April 16th. We will need lots of volunteers to pull this off! The second one is Teacher Appreciation Week which is May 4th – 8th. We would love to show our teachers and staff how much we love them. There will be more information regarding these events available next month.

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. The deadline to purchase an ad is February 28th. Reserve your yearbook today!

Citizen of the Month

The **January** Citizen of the Month for Alachua Elementary is **Erik Solis-Lopez** in Mrs. Boukari’s class.

Literacy Night

We will be hosting our Annual Title I Literacy Night Thursday, February 20th. We will be providing pizza for dinner at 5:30 pm, and we will have many different activities for you and your child to participate in as well as some informational sessions about FSA testing. The AES Book Fair will also be open that evening for you to purchase books for your child. Please look for a flyer coming home in the next few weeks that will provide more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

Media News

It is February and that means Black History Month! Read books by and about African-Americans 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 February, the media center will be celebrating Black History Month, National Library Lovers Month, and National Tell A Fairy Tale Day, and we will be hosting our Spring Book Fair from February 19th to the 27th. Finally, we will be hosting an Author’s Visit on February 28th from 1:45 – 2:45 pm; our own Johnny Bell will be here to give a talk on his new book *Take the Shot*. 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>).

Valentine’s Day Gifts

Just a reminder, if you are planning to send gifts to your child(ren) for Valentine’s Day, SBAC bus rules prohibit balloons on the bus.



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Third Grade News

Third grade is full steam ahead! We are working hard on learning new concepts in all subject areas, as well as reviewing previously taught standards in preparation for the Reading and Math FSA. At home, we recommend your child read at least 20 minutes every evening, continue practicing their math facts, and use the available online resources such as Istation (Reading and Math), IXL (Reading and Math), and Achieve 3000 (Reading). Another good resource in preparing for the FSA is to visit <https://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/paper-based-materials/paper-based-practice-test-materials.stml> to take a practice 3rd Grade ELA and Math FAS. Answer keys are available for both tests, as well.

We look forward to our upcoming field trip on February 13th to the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts to see “Ladybug: Action Hero.” For your child to attend, they will just need to turn in a completed permission slip (if your child already paid for the cancelled field trip to see “The Nutcracker,” your previously paid \$7 will be applied toward this trip). We look forward to a month full of learning and fun!

Fourth Grade News

Our fourth graders recently enjoyed a field trip to Morningside Nature Center and we are currently working on writing poems about the experience exploring Timucuan culture. The poems will be sent to the Poetry in the Parks committee who will score them for the Poetry in the Parks contest. We will be planning a Poetry Awards ceremony to present awards to the winning poems. Be on the lookout for more information! In Math, we are working on multiplying fractions and we will begin relating fractions and decimals next. In Writing, we are working on writing opinion essays using evidence to support an opinion from various texts. Letters and forms about our upcoming field trip to St. Augustine on March 19 have been sent home. Just a reminder that if you would like to split the payment for your child, the first payment of \$33.00 for students is due by Tuesday, February 4th. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

Fifth Grade News

Fifth grade wrapped up January with a trip to Mebane to tour the middle school! The students had a great time and were able to get an idea of what life will be like next year! February will be another busy month in fifth grade. We will take a trip to the Cade Museum to work in a business simulation called Biz Town. This trip allows students to practice balancing a checkbook, teaches them how to pay taxes, and incorporates many other practical life skills.

This year is halfway over, but it’s not time to slow down now! Encourage your child to continue reading at home and practicing the skills they learn in class. We are currently studying force and motion in Science, multiplying and dividing fractions in Math, and continuing to practice strategies and skills in Reading. Though we have a lot of great things coming up during the second half of the year, we want to make sure students focus on their academics and behavior so they will be able to participate in all the fun events!

Music and PE News

Music News:

In music class last month, students were able to organize and identify instruments and their families by ear. This month, they will be learning about other genres of music and specific people, especially African-American musicians who contributed so much to each genre. And yes, fifth grade parents, recorder season is starting now! Once they are shipped, a letter for purchasing recorders will be sent home. The after-school choir has gained five new members this semester! We have already worked on three songs as a group for our Music in Our Schools Month performance in March. Afraid you’ve missed out? There is still time to join, but sign up quickly! You can email Ms. Likamwa at likamwamf@gm.sbac.edu.

PE News:

The **Alligator All-Stars program** recognizes 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 **January**. This month’s winners are:

- 5th Grade: **Madison Payne** (Young) & **Erik Solis-Lopez** (Boukari)
- 4th Grade: **Trionna McBride** (Rudtke) & **River Jacobi** (Campbell)
- 3rd Grade: **Ryleigh Brown** (Heissenberg) & **Zhijay Armour** (Rudzitis)

Great Job! Keep up the positive attitudes, teamwork 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)