



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – October 2021

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Important Dates

- Th. Oct 7 PTA Meeting
- F. Oct 8 No School – UF Homecoming
- W. Oct 13 End of First Nine Weeks
- Th. Oct 14 PBIS Fun Day
- F. Oct 15 Student Holiday/Teacher Workday
- F. Oct 22 Picture Day
- T. Oct 26 Report Cards Go Home
- F. Oct 29 PTA Skate Station Night

Citizen of the Month

Congratulations to our September Citizen of the Month, **Cooper Edison** in Mrs. Norris' class. We are so very proud of you!

PTA News

Our PTA will be meeting Thursday, October 7 under the oak tree near the parking lot. Join us at 2:30 pm for a parent mingle and at 3:00 pm for our monthly meeting.

Upcoming spirit night: Friday, October 29 at Skate Station with Irby

Thank you to all of the parents and teachers who have joined our PTA so far!

Parents + Teachers = Successful Kids

Want to shop our PTA store?

<http://alachua.memberhub.com/>

Picture Day

School pictures will be taken on Friday, 10/22. Each student will have his/her picture taken to be used in the yearbook. Order forms will be sent home prior to picture day. You can order online at pictureday.swiphoto.com before picture day, or return the order form with payment on picture day.

Media News

Greetings from the media center! October is national book month. This month we will be discussing the importance of reading, writing, and literature. We will also be discussing fall, fire safety, Christopher Columbus, making a difference, and of course Halloween. The students will be rotating through activity centers to learn more about these different topics. Be on the lookout in your child's school email for their public library card. For more information, check out Alachua County Library District's YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/Wsz4EfgaFIM> Students can always check the Destiny program through MyPortal to see what books are in the library to make it easier to find books when coming to the media center. As a reminder, if your student has library books that are overdue, please return them as soon as possible. Lost books should be paid for to clear student accounts and allow them the opportunity to enjoy new books. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Zednek at the school.

STEAM News

In STEAM for October we will be working on activities that relate to the water cycle and weather. Students will work in groups playing a water cycle game and they will have a passage with questions and answers relating to the water cycle. Their STEAM challenge for this unit will be to build a wind sock that tells them how strong the wind is blowing using everyday materials like crepe paper and paper clips. We are also introducing typing and computer skills using <http://typing.com/> games and quizzes. This month marks the end of the first nine weeks, so each grade level class with the most points will be getting a reward!



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Third Grade News

Hello parents, here is what's going on in third grade. We are wrapping up our first ELA unit, animal adaptations. We are learning how to be "power readers," ask questions as we read, annotate our texts, and other strategies. We are learning how to find the main idea, identify supporting details, and compare and contrast two texts. In math we have finished rounding and are now learning multi-digit addition and subtraction, and finding math word clues in word problems to help us solve them. We will be moving into multiplication shortly. Science has taught us about the different tools scientist's use, as well as how and why they take/use their data. We have done a few classroom experiments. In social studies we are learning about where we are in the world, continents, and regional directions.

Fourth Grade News

We are so proud of our AES fourth graders! Many of our students made it to our first "Green Party" for achieving the benchmark percentage on their Acaletics math scrimmage for September. Our next scrimmage will take place October 25-26. This month in math, we are working on multiplying two-digit by two-digit numbers and dividing by one-digit numbers. In ELA, we are working on character's actions and reactions. Look for a letter to come home requesting students bring in an artifact reflecting a hobby or interest, such as a ballet slipper if your student enjoys ballet. For our first unit, we will be studying the topic of observing nature. We are working with every single student in small groups throughout IRLA time. To progress further, encourage your child to read for at least thirty minutes per night. We will take our first write score writing assessment on October 7. In science, we are studying matter and its properties. We also have our first quarterly AIMS assessment, which is a district-wide progress monitoring assessment that will include what we have learned during the first quarter. The dates are October 12-14 for ELA, math, and science. Finally, we will be holding a literacy week during the week of October 25-29. The week will end with students dressing up as a character from a book. Look for information to come home about literacy week in the next couple weeks. Happy Fall!

Fifth Grade News

Hello from fifth grade! We are working hard each and every day in fifth grade. In IRLA time, students have been continuing to work on reading stamina and are meeting regularly with their IRLA coaches. During ELA we have been studying informational text and recently started studying realistic fiction. Students recently took their first Acaletics scrimmage test and many of them earned a high enough score to be invited to the first monthly Green Party. We have focused on adding and subtracting decimals and multi-digit multiplication during math time. In science we have learned about the solar system and are currently learning about weather and the water cycle. As you can see, each day is jammed packed with learning. We would like to remind our families to please help students be present each day and to keep reading every night. We are looking forward to a wonderful fall season in fifth grade.

Art, Music, and PE News

Art News:

In October, third graders will be using watercolors and doing a project called Jazzy Jungle Cats. Fourth graders will be creating a sculpture using aluminum foil and metallic markers. Fifth grade will be using pastels and also will be starting a Veteran's Day project. Art from Alachua students will be on display in City Hall after October 7th (artists TBA).

Music News:

In music we have been studying Hispanic music, musicians and instruments to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. Ask your child about a Hispanic instrument they heard in music of the day. Third grade students analyzed their first piece of music Los Mariachis, identifying the form, the instruments and the texture of the music they heard. Fourth grade students learned a traditional Mexican dance "Los Machetes." Fifth grade students are reviewing how to identify notes on the music staff so we can perform Viva La Musica on the xylophones. We look forward to learning about music in the movies and singing some spooky songs in October.

PE News:

During physical education (PE) class, we will learn about teamwork, sportsmanship and giving 100% effort on and off the court or field of play. Programs include Alligator All-Stars (PE student of the month). We will learn and play lots of games and activities during PE class each week. Emphasis is on the importance of teamwork and winning with class and losing with grace.

Learning goals for AES Alligators:

- Learn the benefits of physical activity and regular exercise.
- Make healthy and balanced eating choices.
- Practice sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation.
- Give 100% effort and have fun!

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 August. The winners are:

5th Grade: **McKenzie Brown** (Bellucci)
Shade McNeer (English)

4th Grade: **Maricela Garcia-Alvarado** (Dallaportas)
Reyly Lopez-Rodriguez (Falk)

3rd Grade: **Makenzie Simmons** (Hamm)
Josiel Garcia (Rudzitis)

Great job! Keep up the positive attitudes, teamwork and excellent effort.