



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – November 2021

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Important Dates

- W. Nov 3 October Green Party
- F. Nov 5 Last day of Book Fair
- W. Nov 10 Virtual Veteran's Day Ceremony
- Th. Nov 11 Veteran's Day – No School
- M. Nov 15 3rd Grade Dental Sealant Program
- Th. Nov 18 Progress Reports Go Home
- M. Nov 22 Student/Teacher Holiday
- T. Nov 23 Student/Teacher Holiday
- W. Nov 24 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School
- Th. Nov 25 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School
- F. Nov 26 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School

Citizen of the Month

Congratulations to our October Citizen of the Month Valeria Santamaria Bustamante, in Ms. Thomas' class. We are so very proud of you!

PTA News

Calling all local business owners! The AES PTA offers a business membership for just \$10. As a thank you for supporting us, we will post a shout out to your business on our social media pages. To purchase a business membership and much more, just go to Alachua.MemberHub.com

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, November 2 – Domino's Spirit Night

Thursday, November 4 – PTA Meeting on Zoom

Front Office News

To request a transportation change or to send in attendance notes, please email: aesoffice@gm.sbac.edu Please note per the Code of Conduct for the 2021-2022 school year, pages 4-5 regarding attendance, six unexcused tardies to school or unexcused early releases from school will result in one unexcused absence for purposes of determining truancy. Please try to have your child or children to school on time so they can make every minute count toward their education. Also, please try to limit checkouts for appointments other than doctor/dentist.

Media News

Greetings from the media center! November is National Family Literacy Month. We encourage you to snuggle up with your loved ones and open up a good book! It is also National Native American Heritage month which we will be briefly discussing. Our main focus will be Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Students will be writing a letter to a veteran as well as discussing things they are thankful for. Students have been able to check out the book fair when they come to the media center. Remember, the last day for the virtual and in person book fair will be Friday, November 5. We strongly encourage families to look at the virtual book fair because there are more options. Also, to use the E-wallet which can be found on the school book fair website, visit www.scholastic.com/bf/alachuaelementaryschool1

Every book bought helps our school's media center. Public library cards should have been distributed. If you have any questions feel free to contact Ms. Zednek.

STEAM News

In STEAM for November we will be working on activities that relate to properties of matter. For the STEAM challenge for this unit, students will use different materials to manipulate how much water can be held on different sized coins. They will work together to record and accurately chart their data to reinforce math and data analysis skills. Students will also be playing a game that relates to the different states of matter, as well as using typing.com games and quizzes to learn more typing and tech readiness skills. Last month, Mrs. McDonald's, Ms. McKinzie's, and Mrs. Cole's classes won the planet earth escape room reward for their respective grades. I look forward to seeing who wins for the second nine weeks!





ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – November 2021

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Third Grade News

Fall is here! We are now in our third unit in ELA “Government for the People.” We are learning about our rights, what it takes to be a good citizen, and our responsibilities. We are studying and understanding how to read timelines, and identify cause and effect. We are still practicing how to be “power readers,” ask questions as we read, annotate our texts, and other “power reading” strategies. In math we are learning multiplication and division. We are applying those inverse operations in this new chapter. Science is teaching us about the earth, stars and gravity. We will be moving into properties of matter in our next unit. Social studies is following along with our reading unit teaching us about government and citizenship, and our rights and responsibilities. We are getting ready to take our second Acaletics scrimmage test, so we are excited about another “Green Party.” Reading is an important part of being successful in third grade, so we should be reading daily at home. Please be sure to check your child(s) agendas nightly and initial each day.

Fourth Grade News

This month in math, we are working on multiples, factors, and understanding fractions. Keep practicing multiplication facts through twelve at home. For our current unit in ELA, we are studying “Government in Action.” For our grade-level theme board, we are looking for examples of government in our lives, such as social studies and literature. Make sure students are reading for thirty minutes each night. Children who read thirty minutes a day are being exposed to at least two million words per year and are twice as likely to be successful at their grade-level expectations. We are writing informative essays from provided passages, focusing on citing evidence and elaborating. In science, we are studying matter and its changes, then energy and its uses. Fourth graders are also getting to grow fresh produce for the cafeteria in our school garden. We have worked hard to weed, fertilize, and plant our fall crops. We will spend November caring for our crops: collards, lettuce, kale, carrots, and radishes. We cannot wait to harvest them!

Fifth Grade News

We have a lot to be thankful for in the month of November! We will begin with celebrating all of those students who met their goal on the math Acaletics scrimmage. We cannot wait for the glow-in-the-dark dance party! We will look for students to increase their score by ten percent for the next scrimmage. In science, we are continuing to learn about matter and all of the different ways we mix and separate the different forms. In reading, we are looking at different literary texts and really focusing on annotating the text while we read so we can get a better understanding of the story. Students are always encouraged to work on iStation and iXL at home. These are programs that are standards aligned and will help increase their achievement in school. The fifth grade spelling bee will take place at the beginning of December, so look for more information to come your way very soon. We are very thankful for each of our fifth grade students and their families!

Art, Music, and PE News

Art News:

In November third grade will make hearts for Veterans’ Day and also have a lesson on color. Fourth grade will be doing an eagle drawing and then a moonlight silhouette. Fifth grade will be finishing their posters and entries for the Veterans’ Day program contest. After that they will have a lesson on form, and will do a 3-D project. Art Club will be starting on October 28. Interested students can get an application from Ms. Robles. We have student artwork currently on display at City Hall. The student artists are: Azariah Hayes, Isabella Stump, Mackenzie Dillard, Mya’onna Curtis, Charlotte Clark, Jasmine Georges, Chase Wood, Charles Petty, Maricela Garcia-Alvarado Wyatt C. Goolsby, Ty Coon, Jehson Francisco-Andres, Tramond Williams, and Rae’ell Williams. Congratulations to our talented fourth graders! In October we had our first artist of the month winners. The artist of the month students are chosen for creativity, hard work, and positive attitude. My third grade winners were Madison Stein and Damarian Darling (Ms. Ruopoli). In fourth grade we had Dontae Baker and Anslee Reck (Ms. Lake). Finally, in fifth grade, we had Caitlyn Larrivee (Mrs. Cole) and Aiden Stein (Ms. Thomas).

Music News:

Music in October has been filled with spooky songs that we have learned to play on xylophones. Through our music of the day, we learned why music is so important in the movies. Ask your child who composed the music for the movie “Star Wars.” Third grade has learned and practiced verse and refrain form with the song Halloween night. Fourth grade has learned to read notes on the music staff and are composing their own rhythm using candy. Fifth grade has also been working hard to read notes on the treble clef music staff and are performing xylophone parts to the book “Straight Line Wonder.” We look forward to learning about folk music and performing our patriotic songs for Veterans Day.

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 September. The winners are:

- 5th Grade: **Peighton Peak** (Cole)
Alejandro Roman (English)
- 4th Grade: **Rae’ell Williams** (Falk)
Ty Coon (Dallaportas)
- 3rd Grade: **Z’nya Harmon** (Heissenberg)
Barry Lawson (McDonald)

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