



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – January 2022

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Important Dates

- M. Jan 10 COVID Vaccine for Students Dose 2
- M. Jan 10 End of First Semester
- T. Jan 11 Second Semester Begins
- F. Jan 14 Student Holiday/Teacher Workday
- S. Jan 15 Santa Fe College Basketball Game
- M. Jan 17 Holiday – M.L. King, Jr. Day
- Th. Jan 20 Report Cards Go Home
- W. Jan 26 100th Day of School
- F. Jan 28 PBIS Fun Day # 2

Clinic News

On Monday, January 10, 2022 the Department of Health will be at AES offering COVID vaccinations for students. They will be here from 7:30 to 9:30 am. Consent forms are available at <http://www.sbac.edu/vaccines> The consent form will be needed for the first or second dose.

Front Office News

Santa Fe College Athletics is starting a program where they are honoring their local elementary schools by having Elementary School Game Nights. AES will be recognized at the January 15 game that starts at 4 pm at Santa Fe College. This program is open to all students. SFCA is offering free admission for the students and one adult accompanying the student. In addition, the student will receive a free popcorn. At half-time, SFCA will honor our school by asking the children and their families to stand. They will also have games and prizes.

PTA News

January meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, January 13 at 6:00 pm. Please email kellywynns@gmail.com for the link. The Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser is coming soon. Stay tuned! Help support our PTA and shop for AES spirit wear and more at Alachua.MemberHub.com

Citizen of the Month

Congratulations to our December Citizen of the Month, **Serenity Holmes** in Mrs. Norris' class. We are so very proud of you!

Media News

Greetings from the Media Center! Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had a good break. This month, we will be discussing New Years, Martin Luther King Jr. and the different seasons. Students will be learning about New Year's resolutions, why we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. and refresh their memory on the seasons. We want to give everyone a heads up that the book fair will be next month, February 7-11. More information will be provided as it gets closer. We were so excited to have so many books returned before break! Remember, if your student has library books that are overdue, please return them as soon as possible. Lost books may be paid for to clear student accounts and allow them the opportunity to enjoy new books. If you have any questions or concerns about checking out books or lost books, please contact Ms. Zednek or Mrs. Sirdevan at the school.

STEAM News

In STEAM for January we are finishing our first big design project with our mazes. Our next project will deal with forces and gravity: designing a model parachute. Students will work to see how changing the size of their parachute affects the drop, as well as how the amount of load in the parachute affects drop. They have worked very hard breaking out of their comfort zones with helming their own projects, and I look forward to seeing what they are able to come up with as they hone their design and engineering skills!



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Third Grade News

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed their winter holiday break, but now we are back and working hard. Here is what's going on in third grade. We are now in our fifth unit in ELA "Advancements in Technology." This unit is focusing on drawing inferences and distinguishing between important and unimportant information. We will continue to practice how to be "Power Readers." Asking questions as we read, annotating our texts, are "power reading" strategies. In math we are getting more into multiplication and division. Math is moving towards more multi step problems which require reading and understanding. Acaletics is in full swing and we will be having another Green Party. In science we are learning about energy. As you know reading is an important part of being successful in third grade, so your student should be reading daily at home. Ask them questions about what they are reading, and have them predict what may come next in their book. Please be sure to check your child's agendas nightly and initial each day.

Fourth Grade News

Happy 2022! As quarter two ends, our students are taking the district AIMS assessment to demonstrate what they have learned in the last nine weeks in reading, math, and science. As quarter three begins, we will continue with fractions by learning to multiply whole numbers and fractions. With your child, continue to look for ways you can identify and use fractions in the real world! In ELA, we are currently explaining how authors use reasons and evidence to support claims. Next, we will determine and compare the themes (moral/lesson) of stories, myths, and folktales. To practice this at home, have your child identify themes of books, movies, and episodes of TV shows. Continue to read at home for thirty minutes each night! We are improving our informational and opinion essay writing through working on integrating evidence and organizing our ideas. In science, fourth grade is learning about heat energy and how it moves. Fourth grade's fall crops are being harvested and will be prepared in school lunches soon. We will be planting spring crops very soon. We hope you have a great start to your year!

Fifth Grade News

In fifth grade we are back and ready to work hard in 2022! On January 24 and 25 we are honored to participate in a series of lessons, hosted by Next Generation, teaching about the Holocaust. In ELA we will begin a new unit asking "What compels us to survive?" During this unit we will read and analyze a number of texts focused on survival in the wild. In science we will continue to learn about electricity. In math we are busy studying fractions. As you can see, January will prove to be a month filled with learning and fun!

Art, Music, and PE News

Art News:

Welcome back! In art, third graders will be learning about careers in art and doing an illustration of a sunflower. Our fourth graders will be creating a collage with geometric shapes and will then be learning about printmaking. In fifth grade, students will be doing pieces for a mini-mural inspired by the street artist "Thankyou X." Art club students will be working on colored pencil techniques and "Saving My Alachua." Artists of the month for January will be announced soon.

Music News:

We finished off 2021 by studying Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* in music class. Ask your child to share what they saw in the *The Nutcracker*. Third and fifth grade students played a passing game to my favorite holiday song "Sleigh Ride." Ask your child what the trumpet did at the end of the song. Fourth grade students decoded words on the music staff and some even began writing their own words on the music staff. In January we will be studying some classical composers and begin being composers ourselves.

PE News:

Proper Shoes: Please make sure your child is wearing proper shoes to school each day and especially on PE day. The ACPS dress code calls for closed toe and closed heel/athletic shoes. Sandals, flip flops, crocs and slides are not safe for school activities. Physical education class is designed to be safe and fun and improper shoes are a safety hazard for students. Students will not participate during PE class with improper footwear. Thank you for your support!

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 December. The winners are:

- 5th Grade: **Marialita Jimenez-Andres** (Cole)
Noah Califf (Bellucci)
- 4th Grade: **Addilyn Harris** (McKinzie)
Jehson Francisco-Andres (Lake)
- 3rd Grade: **Chloe Penny** (Hamm)
Nolan Reed (Ruopoli)

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