



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – February 2022

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Important Dates

- W. Feb 2 January Green Party
- M. Feb 7 Write Score Writing # 3
- M. Feb 7 Spring Book Fair
- F. Feb 11 PTA Skate Station Night w/lrby
- M. Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- T. Feb 15 Progress Reports Go Home
- M. Feb 21 President's Day – No School
- F. Feb 25 JA Biztown – Fifth Grade

Val-O-Grams

Order a Val-O-Gram for your student(s) or buy one for every student in your child's class and save! Val-O-Grams are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 per class. Each Val-O-Gram will contain candy and a small toy. They will be delivered on Monday, February 14 to classrooms. All proceeds will benefit AES Safety Patrol. Payment can be made by check (payable to Alachua Elementary Safety Patrol) or cash. Payment is due by Thursday, February 10.

Front Office News

Please remember all transportation changes must be in writing. Please send a note to your child's teacher or you can email the front office at aesoffice@gm.sbac.edu.

PTA News

The PTA has lots of fun events coming up! Mark your calendars!

February 10: PTA Meeting on campus at 3:30
 February 11: Fundraiser order/payments due
 Monday, February 28: Sonny's Spirit Night
 Friday, March 11: Movie on the Lawn Night



Citizen of the Month

Congratulations to our January Citizen of the Month, **Ryleigh Brown** in Mrs. Bellucci's class. We are so very proud of you!

Media News

Greetings from the media center! There is a lot that is going on this month. February is "Library Lovers" month. We will be discussing biographies, Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and the presidents. Students will be able to identify key details about biographies and how they can be used to identify information about famous people in history.

The book fair is this month! It will run in person from February 7 until February 11. Volunteers are welcome! You may shop online until Sunday, February 20. We will be sending home more information about purchasing online. We encourage the use of e-wallet to make purchases. You can find out more information on our school's page:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/alachuaelementaryschool>

Students will also be receiving a wish list from their teachers for the book fair. All proceeds are used to purchase books for the media center. Remember, if your student has library books that are overdue, please return them as soon as possible. Lost books must 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.

STEAM News

In February, we will be exploring how mathematicians use the engineering design process by looking at and learning about Katherine Johnson's career with aerospace engineering.



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Third Grade News

Hello parents, your third grader is hard at work! Here is what's going on in third grade. We are finishing our fifth unit in ELA "Advancements in Technology." This unit focuses on drawing inferences, distinguishing between important and unimportant information and learning about cause and effect. We continue practicing how to be "power readers," by asking questions as we read, annotate our texts, and other "power reading" strategies. In math, we are working through patterns and fluency by using input/output tables. Math is moving towards more multi-step problems which require reading and understanding. Soon we will be learning area of figures. In science, we are learning about different types of energy such as: electrical, sound and heat. As you know reading is an important part of being successful in third grade, so we should be reading daily at home. Ask your child about what they are reading and have them predict what may come next in their book. Please sign and return any form sent home, as well as check and sign agendas nightly. We are monitoring student progress closely. Please contact us any time you would like to meet or talk about your student.

Fourth Grade News

Happy February! This month, we get to celebrate a very important part of American history: black history. We will read and learn about the challenges, triumphs, accomplishments, and more of influential black individuals and their history. In ELA, we are focusing on text structure, text features, and reasons and evidence for claims in informational text. We are using this knowledge to help us fine-tune our essay writing as we prepare for the FSA writing that is on April 5. In math, we are working on decimals and will be moving soon to understanding measurement equivalence. Students are more likely to do well on this if they are familiar with reasonable measurements and the tools you would use for each. Unit nine of science is about force and motion. We are looking forward to doing lots of hands-on practice with this! We are so excited to have the opportunity to go on a field trip on February 18 to hear the Gainesville Orchestra. Thank you to Mrs. Braue, our music teacher, for making this happen.

Fifth Grade News

Greetings from fifth grade! It has been a busy start to 2022 for our fifth graders! We have been working hard in all subject areas and we have spent time talking about setting new goals for the new year. In ELA, we have been reading and analyzing fiction and nonfiction text. We are focusing on annotating the text to better understand it. In math, we have focused on adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Science time has brought us lessons on electricity, force and motion. During writing time we are continuing to practice writing all of the steps that go into writing to a text-based prompt. In February, we will be taking a field trip to the Cade Museum to participate in JA Biztown – an experience that will immerse students in learning about the economy and being an active citizen. We are looking forward to learning more each day and becoming better students along the way!

Art, Music, and PE News

Art News:

In February both third and fourth grade students will be celebrating Black History Month by creating collages in the style of Alma Woodsey Thomas. Alma Thomas was a teacher for over thirty five years before retiring to become a full time artist. She developed a unique abstract style based on color theory. She was the first female African American artist to have her art hanging in the White House. In fifth grade, students will be doing gyotaku (Japanese fish prints), and learning about adaptations that allow fish to survive under water.

Art Club will be cancelled February 3rd and will resume the following week on February 10th. Artist of the month students for January are Respect Poitier-Solomon, and Koda Johnson in third grade; Lucille Smiley and Chase Woods in fourth grade; Xavier McCoy and Zoe Labree in fifth grade. Congratulations to our young artists!

Music News:

2022 started off marvelously in the music room. We have been studying some of the most famous composers of all time such as Ludwig van Beethoven and Joseph Haydn. Ask your students how Haydn "surprised" his audiences. All students begin the year with some drumming and we all had a lot of fun working together to perform a drumming piece. Third grade students began learning how to write melodies on the music staff while fourth and fifth grade students began composing their own rhythms. We look forward to celebrating Black History Month in February by learning about and listening to some of the most influential black musicians.

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 January. The winners are:

- 5th Grade: **Ryleigh Brown** (Bellucci)
James Boston (Swearingen)
- 4th Grade: **Jalayah Jones** (Dallaportas)
Cael Hudkins (McKinzie)
- 3rd Grade: **Aniya Burrowes** (Ward)
Elias Garcia (Hamilton)

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