



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – March 2022

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Important Dates

- F. Mar 11 PTA Meeting – 6:00 pm
- F. Mar 11 PTA Movie on the Lawn – 6:30 pm
- S. Mar 13 Daylight Saving Time starts
- Th. Mar 17 End of Third Nine Weeks
- Th. Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- F. Mar 18 PBIS Fun Day
- M. Mar 21 Spring Break March 21- March 25
- M. Mar 28 Student Holiday/Teacher Workday

Front Office News

First United Methodist Church located at 14805 NW 140th Street in Alachua is hosting a free meal on March 16. Their youth will be preparing and serving a hot meal. Meals will be served from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm. It is a drive thru and registration is required. The following is the link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-drive-through-dinner-and-prayer-tickets-28857587217>

PTA News

Our PTA is so excited for our Movie on the Lawn Event coming up on Friday, March 11! Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy some free popcorn with other AES families. Would you like to sponsor our Movie on the Lawn Event? For \$50 we are offering advertising for local businesses during the event. To purchase your sponsorship, go to

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

Mark your calendars for our next spirit night with Irby on April 8th at Splitz Bowling Alley! Thank you to all the families that ordered from our recent fundraiser! Stay tuned for news about when your items will be delivered.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks can be purchased until Friday, April 8. You can pay online or send in cash/check in the provided envelope. Yearbooks are \$20. The website is:

<https://shop.yearbookmarket.com/alachuaelementary>

Fifth grade parents have the option to create an ad to be put in the yearbook. A half page ad is \$30 and a full page is \$35. The ad deadline is Friday, April 1.

Citizen of the Month

Congratulations to our February Citizen of the Month, **Josiah Rodriguez** in Mrs. Bellucci's class. We are so very proud of you!

Media News

Greetings from the media center! We will be kicking off the month with Dr. Seuss to promote Read Across America. Students will be incorporating STEAM into this lesson as they make creations for "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" To celebrate women's history month, we will be discussing different women who have impacted our history. We will also be discussing St. Patrick's Day. We will be incorporating prisms and how they create rainbows.

We have noticed that books are not being returned to the library in a timely manner. Please remind your students to return any books they have checked out so we can get them back in our library for other students to enjoy. We encourage students to read over the break.

STEAM News

This past month students learned about Katherine Johnson, the famous mathematician who worked for NASA, and how her early childhood and career started her off on a pioneering trajectory. Using Ms. Johnson as our model, we talked about how interdependent math and science are, and how perseverance is key to both learning and success. Ask your student one interesting fact they learned about Katherine Johnson or NASA in its early days. We started implementing math review at the beginning of every STEAM class to help our students prepare for the math FSA that is coming in May. In March, we will focus on forces and motion before we head off for Spring Break!



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – March 2022

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Third Grade News

Hello parents! Here is what's going on in third grade. We are finishing our seventh unit in ELA "Communities Then and Now." This unit is focusing on author's purpose, using key details to determine main idea, order of events, and comparing information. 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 finishing area and perimeter. We will be starting geometry and fractions next. Math is moving towards more multi-step problems, which requires reading and understanding. We finished our black history unit and enjoyed learning about ways history has been touched by so many memorable black figures from the past and present. Third graders should be reading daily at home. Ask your student questions about what they are reading, and have them predict what may come next. Please sign and return any form sent home, as well as check and sign agendas nightly. FSA is approaching and students need to use all of the strategies they are being taught and truly put forth their best effort. Please contact us any time you would like to meet or talk about your student.

Fourth Grade News

In March, fourth grade will be starting Unit 8 in ELA to continue our learning of perspectives, text structures, and central ideas through scientific informational texts. At home, continue to encourage your child to read for thirty minutes each night. In math, we will continue studying measurement and data with perimeter and area. We will then start exploring geometry by identifying and classifying lines and angles. For science, we are looking forward to all of our hands-on learning about life cycles and growth! In writing, we are buckling down to prepare for our FSA in April. We have our quarterly AIMS tests in March (ELA - 10th, Math – 11th, and Science – 15th). We appreciate your efforts in ensuring your child is present and well-rested on those days.

Fifth Grade News

Hello from fifth grade! We have been working hard this month and are looking forward to another month of learning. We had a wonderful visit to JA Biztown at the Cade Museum and had an opportunity to practice citizenship and financial literacy skills in a real life setting. On March 31, we will be attending our next field trip, Fifth Grade Fun Day at Citizen's Field. Look for information to come home about this fun event soon! We are learning so much every day and are getting close to beginning test preparation for the FSA. As always, please encourage your child to come to school well-rested, on time, and with a positive attitude each and every day.

Art, Music, and PE News

Art News:

Happy St. Patrick's Day! In March, third graders will be finishing their landscapes and reviewing the elements of art. In fourth grade, students will be working on a drawing of crystals. Our fifth graders will be participating in the yearbook cover contest. We will have a winner for the front cover and a runner up for the back. The competition will be tough this year with so many talented artists! We had two students show their work at the Thomas Center: Charles Petty in Ms. Lake's class and Chloe Penny in Mrs. Hamm's class. There will be another Thomas Center exhibit in May, so I am looking forward to having two more students in the show. The artists of the month were Makenzie Simmons and Nathan Jones in third grade, Zaylin Hill and Maricela Garcia-Alvarado in fourth grade, and Keyonna Foye and Michael Dudley in fifth grade. Art Club has resumed. We will be doing a still life and then we will start working on our end of the year project.

Music News:

Our Alligator Musicians celebrated Black History Month by studying different genres of music developed by black musicians. We started off with Spirituals, third grade students read "Follow the Drinking Gourd" and learned how slaves used spirituals as secret messages to help them escape on the Underground Railroad. Fourth grade students learned to sing two spirituals "Swing Low" and "When the Saint" and even sung them both at the same time as a partner song. Fourth grade students also learned about the instruments in the orchestra and went to see the Gainesville Orchestra perform at the Phillips Center. Then we learned about blues and jazz music. Fourth and fifth grade students learned to play the popular accompaniment known as the "12-Bar Blues"; some students even improvised over the 12-Bar Blues. March is Music in Our Schools Month, so be on the lookout for how we enjoy music in our school!

PE News:

Proper Shoes: Please make sure your child is wearing proper shoes to school each day, 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 February. The winners are:

- 5th Grade: **Valeria Santamaria Bustamante** (Thomas)
Xavier McCoy (Cole)
- 4th Grade: **Mackenzie Dillard** (Mckinzie)
Peyton Heitzman (Dallaportas)
- 3rd Grade: **Mayte Rodriguez Uribe** (Hamilton)
Matthew Ramos (Hamm)

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