

## Upcoming Events

### March

- 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - . K-Kids 3pm
- 4<sup>th</sup>
  - . Girlfriends (during lunch)
- 10<sup>th</sup>
  - . FT 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Enterprise Village
- 12<sup>th</sup>
  - . PMAC Multicultural Festival 5:30pm
  - . 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Performance 5:30pm
- 13<sup>th</sup>
  - . End of Grading Period
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - . Spring Break – No School
- 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - . School Reopens
  - . Summer Bridge Letters go Home
- 25<sup>th</sup>
  - . Summer Bridge Registration Opens
- 27<sup>th</sup>
  - . Hawk Huddle
  - . AR Assembly 10am-1pm

### AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS (3pm)

- . K-Kids – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month (starting October)
- . Girl Scouts – Every Tuesday 3:15pm-4:15
- . STEM Club Every STEM 3:15pm-4:00
- . Beach Club – Every Thursday

### If You See Something Say Something



[www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern](http://www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern)

Look for Warning Signs. If you see something suspicious Say Something.

Report by going to [www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern](http://www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern)



<https://www.facebook.com/SeminoleElementaryHawks>

<https://www.instagram.com/seminoleelementaryhawks/>



### Message From Mr. Cerreta

Dear Families,

As we welcome the month of March, our school is buzzing with energy, growth, and excitement for learning. This time of year brings a blend of academic momentum and meaningful opportunities to celebrate our students' hard work.

**Classrooms are deeply engaged** in hands-on projects, reading challenges, and spring-themed learning experiences. It's wonderful to see students applying new skills with confidence and curiosity. Please continue encouraging reading at home—just 30- 45 minutes each night makes a remarkable difference.

March also brings several important school events, including our **Multicultural Festival on March 12**, where many of our families and local businesses partner with us to share their cultures, customs, and foods.

With only two weeks of school remaining before Spring Break, I hope everyone is anticipating a restful and fun spring break. When our students return from spring break, our classroom teachers and part time hourly teachers will continue their work with students daily on specific skills. The during the day interventions and our before and after school tutoring programs will help our students gain the additional minutes of learning and engagement in their daily lessons. I am confident that our students will continue to show tremendous academic gains. As I visit classrooms, I know how hard the teachers and students have been working this year. Thank you for supporting your child's education and our school. Seminole Elementary is a wonderful school because of the dedicated staff and all of you. We truly value the shared commitment between home and school that helps every student succeed. Thank you for your continued support, kindness, and involvement. Our school community remains strong because of you.

Wishing everyone a joyful March filled with growth, gratitude, and great learning!

**Summer Bridge & Rising Kindergarten** – Please note that Summer Bridge and Rising K Programs are ½ day programs. (8:00-12:00)

Summer bridge & Rising K programs will be held at Seminole Elementary School June 1-25 Monday – Thursday (8:00-12:00) Please note that Summer Bridge is only for students who have demonstrated a need for extra support in reading based on state reading criteria. We will be contacting families to let them know if their children are eligible for this year's Summer Bridge program. Summer Bridge registration opens after Spring Break. Rising Kindergarten criteria remains the same. All incoming kindergarten students are eligible to attend this program. Rising K Registration opens March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Birthdays and Snacks

Children's birthdays will be recognized weekly on the morning show. In order to protect the instructional day, cupcakes and cookies etc. will not be distributed during class time, but may be distributed to their classmates during recess time. Any items brought in must be store bought. A special Seminole Elementary Birthday song and students name on the marquee can be purchased for \$10.00.

### Congratulations To Our Outstanding Readers:

One aspect of our School Wide Reading Program is for the students to read 45 minutes for Grades 3-5 and 20- 30 minutes grades K-2. After students read a book or have a book read to them, they take a Reading Counts test to earn Reading Counts points.

Congratulations to the following students for earning 100 points grades 3-5 and 50 points grades K-2:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (50 Points)

Kyee Anderson Taylor Corry Eli Thornton Ashton Bengston

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (100 Points)

Olivia Finical Savannah Holland Bennett Humphreys Xion Leshore Ella Paige Myla Webber Lopez  
 Maya Castellanos Jaidon Cunningham Tanner Highnote Arianna Kleynan Zaiona Rosado Quinn Sperling

### Bikes For Books

Gulf Beaches Masonic Lodge has partnered with Seminole Elementary by providing free bikes for the top readers in each grade level. The boy and girl in each grade level that has the highest Accelerated Reader points at the end of the year will receive the bikes.

Our current leaders for each grade level are:

**Grade 1-** Elly Yang Mohammad Halaweh  
**Grade 2-** Nora Bramlett Kevin Yang  
**Grade 3 –** Sophia Singhaophet Colton Voisin  
**Grade 4 –** Lillian Soles Brayden Martinez  
**Grade 5 –** Ivan Lysikov Mia Huang



### Multicultural Festival



March 12th 5:30pm PE Court

## this issue

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## Character Kids for February

### PREK:

Scott/Rivera - Madysson Monasteri Lopez  
Piper/Green - Marcus Nieves  
Williams/Bolden - Edwin Cherry

### KG:

Conde - Blake Hunter  
Schuler - Sophia Lysikova  
Schuler - Caroline Rongey  
Horton - Clairra Smith  
Horton - Erik Burnside

### 1st:

Benjamin - Kailer Leigh  
Luczaj - Myla Ahumada  
Luczaj - Xzavier Ward

### 2nd:

Calhoun - Emma Fishback  
Sadock - Anesia Yemchenko  
Brady - Sophia Holland

### 3rd:

Rudolph - Ashton Bengtson  
Morgan - Celeste Diaz Arroya  
Bramlett - Luke Yi  
Kopkau - Bianca Blau  
Kopkau - Arabella Bolden

### 4th:

Rongey - Marcus Colon  
Crose - Caydan Stancik

### 5th:

Gorman - Anastacia Lewarne  
Vidak - Saily Lopez  
Moses - Lucas Scholz

### EBD:

Campbell - Jamarion Benson



## Message From Dr. McCafferty Assistant Principal

Dear Families,

We will soon be beginning the end of the year testing season in which we find out how much your child has grown this year! The first test is for 4th and 5th grade students and is a writing test. 4th graders will test on April 7th and 5th graders will test on April 8th.

Letters will go home with more detailed information about your child's tests. Specific dates your child will test will be communicated to you by classroom teachers.

For the other year-end assessments, please find the dates for the Progress Monitoring 3 F.A.S.T state tests below. As with Progress monitoring cycles 1 and 2, all students, VPK - 5 grades will participate in this test. This 3rd cycle will determine student proficiency of grade level standards and will count in grades 3-5 toward our school grade.

Testing timeframes consist of:

**4th and 5th Grade** - Writing - April 7th and April 8th

**Kindergarten - 2nd Grade** Reading and Math FAST PM3 - April 13 - May 1

**VPK** FAST PM3 - April 20 - May 1

**Grades 3-5** Reading and Math FAST PM3 - May 1 - 29

**Grade 5** - Statewide Science - May 1 - 29

We are looking forward to our students showing all they have learned this year! Please note that, as mentioned above, when we get closer to these dates, teachers will let you know the specific dates your child will test.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. McCafferty

## Social Work Corner From Ms. Sullivan

### February Attendance Focus: Supporting Students with Anxiety

Some students may experience increased worry or anxiety about coming to school. Anxiety can sometimes show up as school avoidance, frequent nurse visits, stomachaches, headaches, or tearfulness in the morning. While these feelings are very real for children, consistent school attendance is one of the most important protective factors for both academic and emotional success.

### How Anxiety Impacts Attendance

When a child feels anxious, staying home may provide short-term relief. However, avoidance can actually increase anxiety over time and make returning to school even harder. Gentle encouragement, predictable routines, and supportive language can help children build confidence and resilience.

### How Parents Can Help at Home

#### 1. Create Predictable Morning Routines

- Prepare backpacks, clothes, and lunches the night before
- Allow extra time in the morning to reduce rushing
- Keep consistent bedtime and wake-up times
- Limit screen time before bed

Consistency helps reduce uncertainty, which lowers anxiety.

#### 2. What to Say When Your Child Says, "I Don't Want to Go to School"

Children need empathy and confidence from adults. Try:

- "I can see you're feeling worried. I'm proud of you for talking about it."
- "Feelings come and go, but school is important."
- "It's okay to feel nervous. You can handle this."
- "Let's make a plan for today."
- "I believe in you."

Avoid long negotiations or allowing anxiety to decide the plan for the day. Calm, confident reassurance from caregivers is powerful.

#### 3. Teach Simple Coping Skills

Practice these when your child is calm:

- Deep breathing (inhale 4 seconds, exhale 4 seconds)
- Positive self-talk ("I can do hard things.")
- Visualizing a successful school day
- Identifying a "safe person" at school (teacher, counselor, social worker)



### Normal Wear and Tear

**Examples** - Faded Keyboards, Battery Degradation, Minor Scuffs **Criteria** - Age of Device, Usage History, Manufacturer Guidelines **COST** - No Obligation

### Accidental Damage

**Examples** - Fall Damage, Drop Damage **Criteria** - Physical Inspection, Student Explanation **Cost** - \$50 Service fee (per repair)

### Intentional Damage

**Examples** - Vandalism, Missing Parts **Criteria** - Signs of Tampering, Deliberate Misuse, Repeated Incidents

**Cost** - Depreciated Value

FOR MORE INFORMATION Student obligations associated with PCS Connects can be viewed in [FOCUS](#) under Fees & Fines. If you have any questions about student obligations, please contact your student's school for assistance.

## AVID NEWS

### Healthy Study Habits for Elementary Students

Building strong study habits early helps children become confident, independent learners. Start by creating a quiet, clutter-free homework spot with good lighting and supplies nearby. Encourage students to set a small daily routine, like reading for 15 minutes after school or practicing spelling before dinner.

Break big assignments into short, manageable steps with quick stretch or water breaks in between. Use fun tools like colorful checklists, timers, or stickers to track progress. A good night's sleep and healthy snacks also help young minds stay focused.

Most importantly, celebrate effort! Praise your child for trying their best, asking questions, and staying organized. With patience and consistency, healthy study habits can turn learning into a lifelong love.

### Guidance Corner

From Ms. Moore



This month we have been talking about cooperation in classroom guidance. In the story *The Golden Acorn*, by Katy Hudson, squirrel and his friends are supposed to work together to find the golden acorn and get it to the finish line faster than the other teams. Squirrel gets impatient and thinks he can win the race by himself. He does get to the acorn first, but it's too heavy for him to move.

Although we may not be trying to move a big acorn by ourselves, how often do we try to carry heavy burdens alone? The longer we try to carry them throughout our day, the more worn out we get. This does not have to be the case! One of my goals as the school counselor at Seminole Elementary is to make sure students know that they do not have to carry the big emotions of their burdens all by themselves. Through feelings checks and lunch bunches, I hope students are learning the value of naming how the heavy parts of their day make them feel and then having a friend say "I am here for you," or "You are not alone," or "I am sorry that happened," or "let me know how I can help." Even if they don't say anything and just listen or play a game with them, the load of a big emotion can feel lighter.

We usually think of cooperation in terms of completing a task, but cooperation can also mean working together to carry the heavy loads of life. As one of our students wisely advised this week, "if you see someone having a hard time you should ask them if they're ok and then ask them if they need a hug." The amazing thing is, looking for opportunities to help lift the burdens of others often makes our burdens feel lighter at the same time—cooperation at its finest.

### Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow!

Success in school starts with being present daily and on time. Seminole Elementary's attendance goal is 95% Daily Attendance Rate. We are currently at 93.7% Daily Attendance.

Our Classroom Winners for the January Attendance Awareness Challenge are

Pre-K--VPK--Mrs. Scott

K-2-- Mrs. Calhoun (Winner 6 months in a row)

3-5 --Mrs. Rongey's homeroom

These classes will have a special attendance banner on their classroom door and will receive additional time at recess on



## SUGGESTED ORDER OF TEACHING MULTIPLICATION FACTS

From: <https://amberfromtgif.com/what-is-the-best-order-for-teaching-multiplication-facts/>

**Multiplying by 2:** Starting with 2s is a no-brainer. Most kids already know how to skip count by twos, so we just review it every day. Plus if they're familiar with their doubles addition facts, multiplying by 2 becomes a breeze. It's a great way to ease into multiplication without too much heavy lifting.

**Multiplying by 5:** Next up, the 5s. Students usually have skip counting by fives down pat; so we give it a quick review, and they're ready to roll. The patterns in the 5s are straightforward, which helps boost their confidence early on.

**Multiplying by 7:** Here's where things get interesting. Multiplying by 7 often feels like a huge leap for my students, so I like to tackle it early to show them they can conquer the "challenging numbers." We practice skip counting by 7s using this catchy [YouTube song](#). Before long, they realize it's not so hard after all!

**Multiplying by 3:** With the 7s under their belt, we move on to the 3s. Skip counting by threes can be tricky at first, but we use this fun [YouTube Skip Counting by 3s song](#) to practice, and it quickly becomes second nature.

**Multiplying by 0 & 1:** Now, I know some teachers start with multiplying by 0 and 1, but I like to introduce them a bit later. They're not really "multiples" in the traditional sense, but their important for understanding the basics of multiplication. We tackle these together and get them out of the way.

**Multiplying by 4:** For the 4s, we practice skip counting using another [YouTube song](#). I also have a video of my class (from years ago) practicing "disappearing skip counting," which makes it even more fun and engaging.

**Multiplying by 9:** Ah, the 9s! My mom taught me a trick for these when I was in 3rd grade, and I still use it today! Some teachers say you shouldn't count on your fingers, but I say, "Why not?" Fingers are a built-in calculator! Check out this adorable [YouTube video](#) that shows how to use your fingers for multiplying by 9. It's a game-changer.

**Multiplying by 6:** By the time we get to the 6s, students already know 0x6, 1x6, 2x6, 3x6, 4x6, 5x6, 7x6 and 9x6. That just leaves 6x6 and 8x6. To help students master these two facts, practice chanting "6x6 is 36" and "8x6 is 48" as attention-getters throughout the day. Practice writing it by having them write it every time they write their name on the paper for one day. It will eventually stick!

**Multiplying by 8:** At this point, the ONLY fact they haven't learned is 8x8=64. I turned this one into a chant as a call back attention getter. Here is how I use it throughout the days we practice.

Teacher: skate x skate = slicky floor

Students: 8 x 8 = 64

It's the final piece of the puzzle, and once they've got it, they're multiplication masters!

## Office News

If you need to come into the front office, please make sure you are parking in a visitor space or pull forward to the end of the car circle so you are not blocking people from pulling forward.

If you are planning on picking your student up early please notify the office in advance so we can have your student ready for you. Early pick up of students should occur before 2:15 p.m.

Just a reminder that there are no left turns entering and leaving the car circle entrance off of 70th Avenue.

Volunteering:

There have been many recent changes for volunteering. All volunteers will be required to be a Level 2 Volunteer beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. If you are a current active Level 1 volunteer, you will have until July 1st to update to the Level 2. Starting now all new volunteer registrations will be forced to go through the Level 2 fingerprinting process. Information will be going home soon with instructions for the process. Please reach out to Heather Plankey in the school office with any questions.

We would like to give a special thank you to the Seminole Women's Garden Club for their generous donation of classroom supplies to our school.

Thank you to Chick-fil-a for sponsoring lunch for our Battle of the Books participants.

We are looking for donations for the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week in May. If you own or work for a business that would like to donate a raffle gift, gift card, or breakfast or lunch for the staff please reach out to Heather Plankey in the front office.

## Art News



Want to do a few days at PCS Art Summer Camp this summer?!

- Applications open on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 and close at 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 8, 2026.
- PCS Summer Enrichment Camps are open to current PCS students.
- Once you accept a camp seat, you will be prompted to pay the registration fee (\$100 per camp or \$25 per camp for students eligible for free and reduced lunch)
- For questions, please contact us at SummerCampHelp@pcsb.org
- To register and find out more info on these camps, go to:

[https://www.pcsb.org/learning/summer-programs/summer-enrichment-camps/all-2026-summer-camps?tag\\_id=49](https://www.pcsb.org/learning/summer-programs/summer-enrichment-camps/all-2026-summer-camps?tag_id=49)

These Elementary camps are from 8:30–2:30, at various schools around the county (see website for details)

Elementary 3-D Printing – June 1–4

Elementary Moviemaking– June 8–11

Elementary Interwoven Threads: Creating With Fibers – June 8–11

Elementary Digital Arts – June 22–25

Elementary 3-D Printing – June 22–25

Wall to WOW: Mural Making Camp – July 6–9

Elementary Creative Dimensions: Ceramics & Sculpture – July 13–16

Elementary From Museums to Masterpiece:

Field Trip Museum Hop – July 20–23

## PE News

### Bike and Pedestrian Safety Tips

**Wear a properly fitted helmet when riding**

- Always buckle your helmet
- Your helmet should fit snugly
- Wear your helmet level

**Be Seen, Be Safe:**

- Wear bright, light, or reflective clothing
- Use lights and reflectors
- Make eye contact with drivers

**Stop and look Left, Right, then Left again before crossing**

**Obey all traffic signs and signals**

- Ride on the right side with traffic
- Walk on the left side facing traffic
- Cross the street at corners and crosswalks

**No Distractions**

- Put down electronic devices and remove headphones

## OT News - Mrs. Myers

### Learning Through Play

Children learn best when they are actively engaged, curious, and having fun—and that's exactly what happens during play. Research shows that when learning feels joyful, meaningful, and hands-on, children remember more of what they experience. Playful learning increases motivation, attention, and problem-solving skills, helping strengthen memory and understanding. Studies also show that guided play—where children explore freely while adults gently connect activities to learning goals leads to deeper learning than traditional, teacher-directed instruction. This joyful, engaging approach helps children build stronger brain connections, fosters active involvement, and supports long-term learning retention.

Play also supports important thinking skills that help children retain learning over time. Through play, children practice executive function skills like planning, focusing, and self-regulation, and they build creativity, language skills, and social understanding...all of which make learning "stick." Research shows that because play allows children to explore ideas, experiment, and link new experiences to what they already know, it leads to deeper understanding and better memory. Since play is naturally meaningful and social, children stay engaged longer and develop stronger, more lasting learning. In short, play isn't just fun...it's one of the most effective, research-supported ways for young children to learn.

### Rotary Student of the Month



Congratulations to Arianna K. our February's Rotary Student of the Month.

## PTA News



We hope that every one of the girls and family who attended our "Golden" Daddy-Daughter dance had a fun evening!! We are thankful to all the help received by many to make it a successful night!! PTA is excited to host our first ever "Mom and Son Art Night" which will take place at the Centennial building on Thursday April 16, 2026, from 5:30-7:00pm. Cost will be \$5.00 per family and will include:

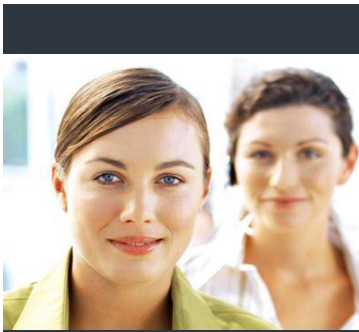
- Step-by-step painting session guided by our Art Teacher Ms. Barth
- All painting supplies provided
- Complimentary Snacks and drinks
- Fun, laughter, and a masterpiece to take home

We look forward to unleashing and celebrating your creativity. We are still selling Seminole Elementary shirts: Adults \$10 and Kids \$8. If you are interested, you can purchase at the front office.

### Join PTA

If you are not a current PTA member, please consider joining this great organization. Simply scan the QR Code.





## Business Partnerships

Seminole Elementary has many opportunities to partner with the businesses and organizations in our community. To find out how your organization can partner with our school please contact Heather Plankey in the school office at (727)547-7668 or plankeyh@pcsb.org

**February Do Re Mi-mutes**  
 Please congratulate our K/1 students on an outstanding performance this month. We are so proud of their hard work! Please see below for the music rubric that I use in class. This will help you better understand your child's grade in music.  
**Music Calendar**  
 Every Thursday and Friday 8:10-8:40 AM - chorus rehearsal in the music room  
 Thursday, March 12th 4:45 PM call time for singers in Centennial Building - Multicultural Night (3rd grade: 5:45:00 PM performance on PE Court)  
 Tuesday, April 21st 5:15 PM call time for singers - Spring performance at Seminole High School (4th/5th grade chorus: performance 6:00 PM)  
 Reach out to robinsonrea@pcsb.org with any additional questions.  
 Sincerely,  
 Ms. Robinson and Realm

Your music teacher is looking for evidence of	UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRADE IN MUSIC CLASS				
	E	V	S	N	U
	Excellent	Very Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory
	<b>MUSIC GRADE</b>				
Understanding and Application	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞
Accuracy and Precision	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞
Expressiveness and Creativity	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞
	<b>CONDUCT GRADE</b>				
Responsibility and Work Habits	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞
Cooperation and Respect	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞
Growth Mindset and Effort	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞

Pinellas County Schools K-12 Performing Arts

**Unified Giving**  
**February: The Power of Teamwork**  
 Are you planning on watching the Winter Olympics? No doubt we'll see lots of examples of excited fans and stories about how the players must work together to win the game. As a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, we work together to cheer for one another. Take a few minutes this month to talk with your child about teamwork:  
 \*Talk with your child about a time when you were a member of a team. How did the teamwork make the group stronger? Has your child been on a team? What was the experience like?  
 \*The letters in "team" just happen to stand for "Together everyone achieves more." Talk with your child about how that saying applies to school.  
 \*Have you heard about Fans in the Stands? This program encourages students and families to attend a local Special Olympics event. Does this sound like something our family could do together to have fun and make a difference?



## Seminole Times Issue 07 Feb/March 2026



Please consider doing business with the business and community organizations that partner with our school. We would like to thank the following organizations for their support of our school:

- |                                    |                           |                               |                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Astro Skate                        | Seminole Lake Rotary      | Seminole First Baptist Church | Beach Pizza           |
| VFW Post 9272                      | Seminole Women's Club     | Seminole Elementary PTA       | Calvary Chapel Church |
| El Jalisco                         | The Backpack Lady Project | Oakhurst United Methodist     | Plumbing by Paul      |
| Apple Butter Café                  | Frios Gourmet Ice Pops    | Smuggler's Cove Mini Golf     | Oh's Taekwondo        |
| Kiwanis Club of Seminole Breakfast |                           |                               |                       |

### Daddy Daughter Dance



### iMoms



### Seminole Elementary

10950 74<sup>th</sup> Ave N  
 Seminole FL 33772  
 (727)547-7668

<https://seminole-es.pcsb.org/>

Mr. Louis Cerreta  
 Principal

Dr. Jennifer McCafferty  
 Assistant Principal

Ms. Paula Texel  
 Area IV Superintendent  
 (727)588-5022

