

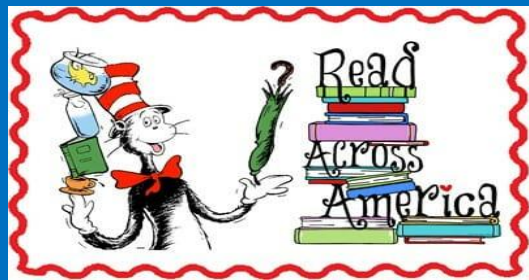


2026

# Panther Tales



- March 2-6 Read Across America
- March 5 Spring Pictures
- March 5 Shining Star Awards
- March 6 Roy Hyatt Night of Nature 5:30-8:00 pm
- March 6, 13, 27 PTA School Spirit Store
- March 7 Math & Science Stem Showdown
- March 7 National Day of Unplugging
- March 8 Daylight Savings Time- Spring Forward!
- March 9-13 Swim & Dive Program Registration
- March 13 Kona Ice
- March 15 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks
- March 16-20 Spring Break
- March 23 PTA Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night
- March 27, 30, 31 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Roy Hyatt Field Trip
- March 30 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Boot Camp
- March 30 Report Cards in FOCUS
- March 31 BEST Writing Test for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
  
- April 1-2 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Fieldtrip to the Farm
- April 2 Kindergarten Easter Egg Hunt
- April 3 Teacher Work Day
- April 6-10 Mobile Dental Unit
- April 19 Pine Meadow's Blue Wahoo's Game
- April 24 PTA Cupcakes with Mom
- April 25 Battle of the Books



## March 2-6



March 2 - Mixed Up Monday  
Wear mixed up clothes/crazy socks!



March 3 - Thing Tuesday  
Dress Like a Thing!



March 4 - Wacky Wednesday  
Dress Wacky!



March 5 - Top Hat Thursday  
Wear a hat/ Dress as the Cat!



March 6 – Favorite Friday  
Teacher Choice Day

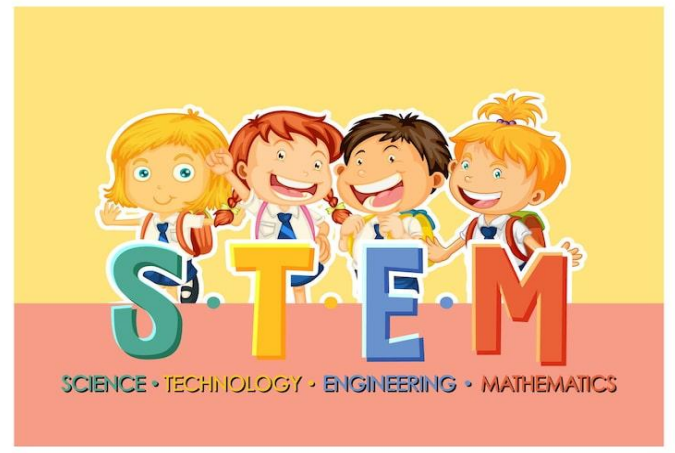


March 5, 2026

Shining Star students are honored for their good citizenship, leadership, and adherence to the core values of the Escambia County School District:

- ✓ Equality
- ✓ Responsibility
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Honor
- ✓ Patriotism

Nolan is one of the hardest working 5<sup>th</sup> graders who exceeds all expectations a teacher could have. He reads every question multiple times, works every problem more than once, asks for help when he doesn't understand, and when he turns in an assignment he has given it 150%. He is a great friend to all his classmates and is honest in every situation, easy or hard.



**Escambia County Elementary  
STEM Showdown  
March 7<sup>th</sup> from 7am - 3 pm  
West Florida High School**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Team**

<b>Madeline Castellanos</b>	<b>Grant Flory</b>
<b>Rylan Hardy</b>	<b>Liana Martin</b>
<b>Paxton Rawlins</b>	<b>Wyatt Westerfield</b>

**Events: Stem Bowl, Save the Ice, Write it! Do it!**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team**

<b>Lucas Albano</b>	<b>John Butler</b>
<b>Annabella Castellanos</b>	<b>Draper Dupree</b>
<b>James Harris</b>	<b>Natalie Smith</b>

**Events: Stem Bowl, Grasp A Graph, What Did It Eat?**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team**

<b>Dowling Butler</b>	<b>Beatriz Diniz</b>
<b>Melody Godwin</b>	<b>Evelyn Rowley</b>
<b>Daniel Ryan</b>	<b>Connor Stradley</b>

**Events: Stem Bowl, Metric Mastery, Mystery Powders**

**Robotics Team**

<b>Rhett Edgars</b>	<b>Kora Hardrett</b>
<b>Craig Macks</b>	
<b>Ryker Griggs (Alternate)</b>	
<b>Ethan Schmidt (Alternate)</b>	

## Elementary Swim and Dive Program



The Aquatic Center at Booker T. Washington High School will host a free Elementary Swim and Dive Program this Spring.

Included will be a free orientation to basic water safety, and introduction to competitive swimming, with focus on freestyle and backstroke techniques, start and flip turns, and an intro to 1 meter springboard safety skills.

Interested students must have registration and consent/authorization form completed prior to pre-class swim test at registration. All applicants must be able to jump in deep water and swim 40 feet unassisted on the surface of the water, with out stopping, prior to acceptance in the program.

All participants must be registered students in Escambia County in grades K-5. Transportation must be provided by parent/legal guardian. Parent/ Guardian must remain on campus during child's session.

**Registration is open March 9-13 from 3:30 -7:00 pm at the Aquatic Center.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Session April 1-24**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session April 27- May 22**

*Please contact Megan Oberholtzer (Aquatics Director) at 850-494-5681 for more information.*

**REMINDER:  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**



Spring Forward!  
Set clocks ahead one hour.



## March 13 (Orders due by 3/11)

Hello Parents,

We are using an online payment system to simplify the process and make things easier on our staff. Please copy and paste the link into your browser to pay or use the attached QR code.

<https://customer.kona-ice.com/#/K2496309455>

- If you would like to provide a Kona for another student, please select the "Pay It Forward" option, and add the item to the cart. You may purchase as many as you like, but please select each Kona Ice separately (select one, then add to cart, then select next one and add to cart, and so on and so on....)!

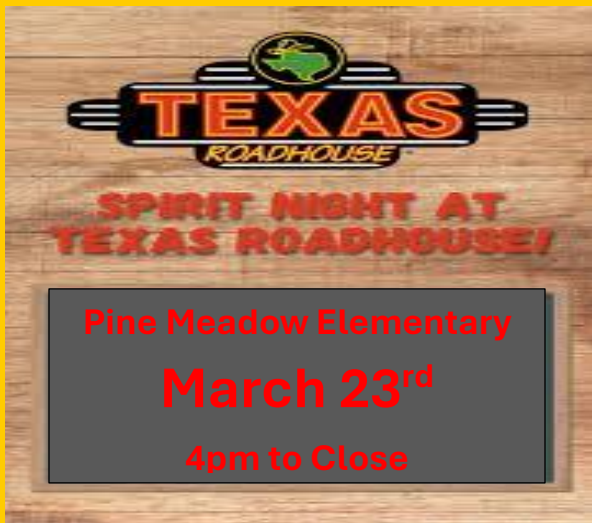
- If you have any questions about the prepay system contact [guynfrank@kona-ice.com](mailto:guynfrank@kona-ice.com).

## March 16-20





**March  
6, 13, 27**



**SCHOOL  
YEARBOOK**

To purchase and customize your yearbook:

\*Go to [treering.com/validate](http://treering.com/validate)

\*Enter your schools passcode:  
1012923600032466

Regular Price: \$ 21.59  
(does not include sales tax)

Create Custom Pages by April 17<sup>th</sup>

**Deadline to Order April 17**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Fieldtrip



Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> Crosby/ Harris

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Duncan/ Gunter

Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> Greene/ Melville

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Bootcamp  
Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>



**“We Have FSA Writing  
in Our Crosshairs!”**

Students will review:

Transitions Editing & Revising

Introductions & Conclusions

Text Evidence

RUB+ C prompt/ Attack the Prompt

Explosive Details

March 30

## Reports Cards in FOCUS



Watch this video to help you find your student's report card.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e99jizLGYgU>

### Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

March 31<sup>st</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students

**Sometimes you will  
never know the value  
of a moment until it  
becomes a memory.**

**-- Dr. Seuss**

*Newsletter created by Angie Stepherson*

## MARCH IS MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH!



Mrs. Guarino

Ms. Meyers

You've no doubt thought about what it takes to get students to perform at their absolute best—asking yourself, what teaching strategies might be employed to help them succeed? Well, here's a thought: What about music?

There's new research to suggest that the impacts of music on learning are worth considering. The research shows that playing an instrument engages the right and left sides of the brain simultaneously. As the chair of Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania put it: "Recent studies suggest that music may be a uniquely good form of exercising your brain." Other research efforts have led to similar conclusions. Scientists monitored subjects in real time using positron emission tomography, or PET, scanners, and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machines. They noticed increased brain activity when the subjects read or did math but saw "fireworks" when the subjects listened to music. But the activity increased still more when the subjects played an instrument, giving the brain "the equivalent of a full-body workout" as nearly every area became engaged. After observing this activity, scientists now think that playing an instrument can help improve memory function and enhance our ability to perform executive functions, such as planning and strategizing. Further, there is evidence to suggest that by practicing on the instrument, these effects are amplified.

At PME, students are taught about instruments and HOW to play instruments from kindergarten through 5th Grade! They learn non-pitched percussion such as hand drums, rhythm sticks and egg shakers, pitched instruments like the triangle, xylophone, metallophone, recorder, and ukulele. In 5th grade, students even have the opportunity to join violin class. Every year, every student can participate in a Musical on Stage. Each school year, we are working to expand the musical opportunities available to your child! Thank you for supporting your Pine Meadow Music Program!

## Habit #5

**SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND,  
THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD**

Listen before you speak

- I listen to others without interrupting.
- I raise my hand when I want to speak and I wait to be called on.
- I don't blurt out.
- I try to understand other people's views and feelings, even if they are different from my own.



It is better to listen first and talk second. By taking the time to listen to another person, you reach a higher level of communication.

**Here are some activities to practice at home:**

1. To better understand how listening can help or hurt a relationship, try "pretend listening" with your child for a few minutes. Your child will be frustrated. Explain what you were doing and discuss how your child felt. Now have your child ignore you when you are talking. Discuss how it makes you feel when you are ignored. Finish the discussion by thinking of ways to let the other person know when you feel you are not being truly listened to.
2. Body Language can be even more important than words. Play a game with your kids where you each try to guess the other's emotion (Sad, angry, frustrated, bored, etc.) without using words, just body language.
3. Demonstrate how saying the same phrase in a different tone of voice can give the phrase a completely different meaning. Try emphasizing different words in the phrase "I didn't say you did it" and then have your child tell you how the meaning changed.

**Outdoor Spring Break Activities**

- ~Plant an edible garden
- ~Go on a nature walk in your backyard or around the block
- ~Learn to fly a kite
- ~Sleep underneath the stars by camping in the backyard
- ~Plan an outdoor scavenger hunt
- ~Have a picnic in the park
- ~Break out the bonfire pit and make s'mores
- ~Decorate the driveway with chalk
- ~Shoot hoops or kick a soccer ball
- ~Take a bike ride

**Indoor Spring Break Activities**

- ~Build a fort with blankets and pillows
- ~Test out a new recipe
- ~Make a book report of your child's favorite story
- ~Host a fashion show to mix and match fun outfits
- ~Make a movie—develop the characters, story, and script, then film it
- ~Practice a new skill, whether it's making paper airplanes, juggling, or doing magic tricks
- ~Research a favorite topic and create a report
- ~Plan an at-home spa day
- ~Have a photo shoot throughout the house

**Crafty Spring Break Activities**

- ~Make a collage with nature (twigs, leaves, flowers, etc.)
- ~Make play dough
- ~Create collages using bits of paper, buttons, and other crafting materials
- ~Make jewelry with beads, string, shells, or clay
- ~Whip up some homemade slime
- ~Create paper bag puppets—then put on a puppet show for the whole family
- ~Build DIY bird feeders to hang in the yard
- ~Paint rocks to use as decorative paperweights
- ~Make a castle out of a cardboard box
- ~Create homemade cards for friends and relatives
- ~Design a time capsule about your family—then bury it in the backyard

**Energetic Spring Break Activities**

- ~Set up an obstacle course (indoors or outdoors)
- ~Throw a dance party with your family's favorite tunes
- ~Play yard games: Red Rover, Hopscotch, or Kick the Can

# EXPLORE THE NIGHT THE NIGHT OF NATURE

## Roy Hyatt Environmental Center

Friday,  
March 6, 2026  
5:30 – 8:30 pm  
1300 Tobias Rd  
Cantonment, Fl



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### FREE EVENT!

“Food trucks on Site”

(There is cost for food)

Kona Ice

Fire Dogs

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## Donations are Welcome

### Monetary Donations

#### Gift Cards:

Grocery Stores  
Pet Stores  
Lowe's  
Home Depot

#### Other Items:

Bleach  
Copy Paper

#### Food for Animals:

Strawberries  
Blueberries  
Blackberries  
Black Oil  
Sunflower seeds  
Fruit and nut seeds  
Turtle Sticks  
Kale/ Collard Greens

## FEATURING

Birds of Prey with the  
Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida

Creatures of the night with Sunset Wildlife  
Connection

Telescopes with the Escambia Amateur  
Astronomy Association

RHEC Resident Reptiles

Naturalist led Hikes in the Woods

Aquatic Creatures in our “Beach House”  
with UF/IFAS Sea Grant

A full dome planetarium movie (limited seating)  
Suggested Donation \$2

Francis M. Weston Audubon Society Activity  
Table

Science Fun with the M.E.S.S. Hall