SWEETWATER Pelican Press

Sweetwater Elementary, the highest performing elementary school in Port Orange
http://schools.volusia.k12.fl.us/sweetwater/
386-322-6230 school phone #
386-506-0012 school fax #

November 2026

Volume 32, issue 3

November is here, bringing cooler weather, fall festivities, and a wonderful season to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for! As we welcome this special time of year, I hope your family finds opportunities to slow down, enjoy time together, share delicious food, make memories with friends, and perhaps catch a little football (or your favorite sport)!

November is shaping up to be an exciting and busy month at Sweetwater! From our PTA-sponsored events, including the Pumpkin Patch and Turkey Trot 5K, to field trips, after-school activities, and special experiences throughout the school, there are plenty of opportunities for our Pelicans and their families to connect, celebrate, and create lasting memories. We are especially grateful for our incredible PTA, dedicated staff, and supportive families who help make these experiences possible.

As we move into the Thanksgiving season, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the families who make Sweetwater such a special place. Your partnership, encouragement, and involvement mean so much to our school community. We are truly fortunate to work alongside you in helping our students learn, grow, and thrive each day.

The season of giving is also upon us! One of the many things that makes our Sweetwater community so special is the generosity and kindness of our families. This November, we invite everyone to participate in our Thanksgiving Basket Brigade, where each grade level will collect designated food items to help provide Thanksgiving meals for families in need. In addition to food donations, Ms. Howard will be accepting $10–$15 gift cards to grocery and retail stores such as Publix, Target, Walmart, Aldi, or anywhere a turkey or ham can be purchased. These gift cards will be included in the baskets to help families complete their holiday meals. Please deliver all gift card donations directly to Ms. Howard no later than November 11. Every contribution, big or small, is an opportunity to share kindness, spread joy, and remind our children of the importance of caring for others. Thank you for helping make the Thanksgiving season a little brighter for families in our community!

A few important calendar reminders:

· Wednesday, November 11: No School – Veterans Day

· Monday, November 23 – Friday, November 27: No School – Thanksgiving Break

· Monday, November 30: Students and staff return to school

As Thanksgiving approaches, I encourage everyone to embrace the little moments that make this season so meaningful. Whether you're gathering around the dinner table, cheering from the sidelines, enjoying the outdoors, or simply spending quality time with loved ones, may your November be filled with gratitude, laughter, and togetherness.

From our Sweetwater family to yours, wishing you a wonderful November and a happy, healthy, and restful Thanksgiving season!

Alisha K. Zarko

Sweetwater Mission Statement

We, the caring community of learners at Sweetwater Elementary, strive toward a lifetime of achieving our "personal best", guided by a positive attitude in a nurturing environment.

Volusia County Schools Mission Statement

"Through the individual commitment of all, our students will graduate with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be successful contributors to our democratic society."

November PTA News

We are so THANKFUL for our Pelicans and excited for FALL FUN!



Sweetwater Pumpkin Patch- *Sponsored by Perrine's Produce*

PTA will be hosting an in-school pumpkin patch for all classes on November 9th and 10th during the school day. Every student will be able to select a pumpkin and decorate it. There will also be fun fall games and snacks for all! If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please reach out to sweetwaterelementarypta@gmail.com for more information.

Turkey Trot 5K Color Run



Our Annual 5K Turkey Trot Color Run is right around the corner on Saturday morning, November 14th! Race starts at 9am ,with a Tot Trot to follow. Individual entry for the 5K is $30 each if paid in advance and Family 4 packs are $100 in advance. The Tot Trot (for racers 6 and under) is $15. **Race day prices are higher, so get your registrations in today!** The $5 Pancake Picnic returns this year. Wristbands for the Pancake Picnic can be purchased in advance online, or in person the morning of the event. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Santa's Secret Shop Coming Soon!

This year's Santa shop will be held November 30th-December 4th, including a shopping night for families on December 3rd. Information will be distributed in the coming weeks. This is a great opportunity for students to shop for presents for all of their loved ones. The Santa Shop teaches kids how to plan, budget, and make thoughtful choices while spreading holiday cheer. Our elves will be ready to assist them and it's sure to be a jolly good time!

For any PTA purchases, including membership, spirit shirts, Kona bands and more, please visit our shop at: http://sweetwater.givebacks.com/store or use the QR code below.

Counselor Corner



News from Mrs. Howard
November 2026

SGA
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
YOURSCHOOL.YOURVOICE.

5th GRADE CLASS LEADER ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd. STAY TUNED FOR THE RESULTS!



Sweetwater is proud to honor Veterans with a special tribute video of all the Veterans in our lives. Look for the video link to be posted by your teacher or on our Facebook pages.



LAST CALL FOR HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE

If you find that your family could use some assistance with food, clothing, or holiday gifts for your children, please contact the Guidance Office at 386-322-6230 ext. 33497. When leaving a message, please provide your child's name and teacher. The deadline to request assistance is **November 6, 2025.**

Coffee Talk

Coffee Talk is an informal time to meet with the school counselor and guest speakers to talk about things that are important to you and your child. Is there a topic you would like to hear about? Please call the guidance office if you would like to share any ideas for upcoming topics.



UPCOMING Mental and Emotional Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Lesson

Florida Statutes section 1003.42(2)(n) requires public school districts to provide comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate K-12 health education that addresses mental and emotional health and substance abuse prevention.

At Sweetwater Elementary this lesson will be delivered by Ms. Howard Wednesday, November 4th, through your child's special area class. If you have any questions about the lesson, please call Ms. Howard in the guidance office at 386-322-6230 ext. 33497.

To reach the guidance office, please call 386-322-6230 extension 33497 (Howard) or email tmhoward@volusia.k12.fl.us .

Volusia County Basket Brigade



Our School would like to do something to give back to the community.

Our goal is to donate 25 complete Thanksgiving meals.

Donations are due by Friday, 11/13.

Please consider donating one of the items listed for your students' grade.
If everyone does a little, we all could do so much!!!

KINDERGARTEN:	Mini marshmallows, crispy onions, gravy packets
FIRST GRADE:	canned corn, corn bread mix, stuffing mix
SECOND GRADE:	canned yams, mac & cheese, pie crust/shell (premade or box)
THIRD GRADE:	mashed or scalloped potatoes, Cream of mushroom soup, ramen noodles – 6 or 12 packets (not cups)
FOURTH GRADE:	brownie mix, cookie mix, canned green beans
FIFTH GRADE:	canned pumpkin, sweetened condensed milk, canned cranberry sauce
Extra donations we would love to have: 	Thanksgiving paper napkins/plates Thanksgiving tablecloth or decorations for table $10-15 gift cards for Publix, Winn Dixie or Walmart (for turkey) Individually wrapped kid's snacks: crackers, cookies, fruit gummies, granola bars, etc.

Support our Special Area Teachers!

Music with Mr. Sita

Our Sweetwater musicians have been having lots of fun trying out new instruments and activities! If you would like to help fulfill the music room wish list, click on the link. Thank you in advance!

Art with Mrs. Clark

Our Sweetwater artists have been hard at work and could use any of the following donations: paper plates, Elmer's glue, baby wipes, & Lysol wipes.

There are also more items on the Amazon wish list below. Thank you in advance!

PE with Coach Cooney

Our Sweetwater athletes have been hard at work and having fun! If you would like to help fulfill the PE room wish list, click on the link. Thank you in advance!

KNOW WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS AT SCHOOL



www.cdc.gov/handwashing

CDC

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 PTA – Board Meeting 9:00am Election Day	4 Early Release @ 1:30 Positivi-Tee Shirt Day FFEA (after school) Mid-Term Grades Due	5 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA – Kona Ice Good News Club 2:35pm	6 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm	7
8	9 PTA – Pumpkin Patch	10 PTA – Pumpkin Patch SAC Meeting 2:45pm	11 No School – Veteran's Day	12 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA – Kona Ice Good News Club 2:35pm	13 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm World Kindness Day	14 PTA – Turkey Trot 5K
15	16 1st Grade Field Trip – Cracker Creek (Kaney, Craun, Megge, Dodig) 9:45 am 5th Grade Field Trip – MOAS 9:30 am	17 Great American Teach In 1st Grade Field Trip – Cracker Creek (Coggin, Harris, Conard)	18 NO EARLY RELEASE! Positivi-Tee Shirt Day 5th Grade Field Trip – SCHS 9:30am KG – Thanksgiving Performance 8:50am	19 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA – Kona Ice Good News Club 2:35pm	20 Early Release Day @ 1:30pm Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm	21
22	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 PTA – Santa Secret Shop All Week					

DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PTA - Santa Shop Week		1 PTA - Door Decorating Contest Begins	2 Early Release @ 1:30pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day	3 Lion King Musical Tshirt Day PTA - Kona Ice PTA - Santa Shop Family Night & PTA Meeting VBA2 Math - 3/4/5 Good News Club 2:35	4 Spirt Shirt Day Pizza w/ the Principal	5 Musical Work Day
6	7	8 VBA2 ELA -3/4/5 PTA Board Meeting 9:00am	9 Early Release @ 1:30pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day	10 Lion King Musical Tshirt Day PTA - Kona Ice & Door Judging VBA2 Science - 5th Good News Club 2:35	11 Spirit Shirt Day 2nd Grade Winter Performance 6:30pm	12
13	14	15 3rd Grade Field Trip - Marine Science Center 9:45am	16 NOT Early Release Day! Positivi-Tee Shirt Day 4th Grade Field Trip - Biz Town (Cash/Muller/Willis)	17 Lion King Musical Tshirt day PTA - Kona Ice 4th Grade Field Trip - Biz Town (Grant, Tachney, Perry, Kathman) Good News Club 2:35	18 Early Release Day @ 1:30 Spirit Shirt Day 2nd 9 weeks ends	19
20	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26
27	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL	1/1/27 NO SCHOOL	

Elementary Breakfast

November 2026

*Menus are subject to change

Breakfast Prices:
Students: Complimentary
Adults and visiting children: $4.00
Prepay at MySchoolBucks.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Monday	2	Tuesday	3	Wednesday	4	Thursday	5	Friday	6
Sausage Griddle Powdered Donut Holes Blueberry Donut Holes Strawberry Pop Tart Cinnamon Pop Tart Pear Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		Chicken Biscuit Cinnamon Crumble Mocha Crumble Cocoa Cherry Bar Peach Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		Ham & Swiss Croissant Strawberry Yogurt Parfait Granola Cinnamon RS Glazed Dunkin Stick Mandarin Oranges Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		Bacon Egg & Cheese on a Sweet Bun Banana Bread Cinnamon Pop Tart Strawberry Pop Tart Mixed Fruit Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		French Toast Sticks Chocolate Chip Muffin Apple Cinnamon Muffin Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	
Monday	**9**	**Tuesday**	**10**	**Wednesday**	**11**	**Thursday**	**12**	**Friday**	**13**
Pancake Sausage Sandwich Blueberry Donut Holes Powdered Donut Holes Cinnamon Pop Tart Strawberry Pop Tart Peach Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		Chicken Griddle Banana Bread Glazed Dunkin Stick Pear Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit				Egg & Cheese on a Sweet Bun Cinnamon Muffin Square Cocoa Cherry Bar Peach Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		French Toast Sticks Cinnamon Pop Tart Strawberry Pop Tart Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	
Monday	**16**	**Tuesday**	**17**	**Wednesday**	**18**	**Thursday**	**19**	**Friday**	**20**
Chicken and Waffle Sticks Cinnamon Crumble Mocha Crumble Strawberry Pop Tart Cinnamon Pop Tart Peach Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		Sausage Biscuit Blueberry Donut Holes Powdered Donut Holes Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		Pancake Bites Strawberry Yogurt Parfait Granola Cinnamon RS Chocolate Chip Muffin Apple Cinnamon Muffin Pear Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		Bacon Egg & Cheese on a Sweet Bun Cinnamon Crumble Mocha Crumble Banana Bread Peach Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		French Toast Sticks Cinnamon Pop Tart Strawberry Pop Tart Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	
Monday	**30**	**Tuesday**	**1**	**Wednesday**	**2**	**Thursday**	**3**	**Friday**	**4**
Sausage Griddle Powdered Donut Holes Blueberry Donut Holes Strawberry Pop Tart Cinnamon Pop Tart Pear Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit									

Elementary Lunch

November 2026

*Menus are subject to chang

Lunch Price
Students: Complimentar
Adults and visiting children: $5.0
Prepay at MySchoolBucks.cor

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Monday	2	Tuesday	3	Wednesday	4	Thursday	5	Friday	6
Teriyaki Chicken Tangerine Chicken Teriyaki Noodles Grape PBJ Uncrustable Steamed Broccoli Carrots Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookies Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Turkey & Cheese Croissant Side Salad Sweet Potato Crinkle Fries Grape Tomatoes Pear Cup Strawberry and Cream Sidekick Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheeseburger PB & Crackers Side Salad Baked Beans Grape Tomatoes Frozen Pineapple Wedges Choice of Fresh Fruit		Stuffed Cheese Sticks Cobb Salad Elementary Rolls Steamed Broccoli Cucumber & Tomato Dippers Strawberry-Kiwi Slushie Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Texas Toast Boneless Chicken Salad Elementary Rolls Green Beans w/Bacon Celery Sticks Peach Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit	
Monday	**9**	**Tuesday**	**10**	**Wednesday**	**11**	**Thursday**	**12**	**Friday**	**13**
Chicken & Waffles Grilled Cheese Mashed Potatoes Carrots Pear Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Mozzarella Bites Grape PBJ Uncrustable Green Beans w/Bacon Grape Tomatoes Strawberry and Cream Sidekick Peach Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit				Beef Nachos Tortilla Chips Cheese Sauce Ham & Cheese Salad Elementary Rolls Cheesey Refried Beans Carrots Strawberry-Kiwi Slushie Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Chicken Alfredo Texas Toast Taco Salad Tortilla Chips Steamed Broccoli Celery Sticks Mixed Fruit Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit	
Monday	**16**	**Tuesday**	**17**	**Wednesday**	**18**	**Thursday**	**19**	**Friday**	**20**
Macaroni & Cheese Texas Toast Grape PBJ Uncrustable Green Beans w/Bacon Carrots Strawberry-Kiwi Slushie Pear Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Turkey & Cheese on a bun Steamed Broccoli Grape Tomatoes Frozen Pineapple Wedges Choice of Fresh Fruit		Chicken Wings Chicken Wings-Teriyaki Sauce Biscuit PB & Crackers Baked Beans Cucumber & Tomato Dippers Strawberry and Cream Sidekick Mixed Fruit Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Hot Dog Turkey Breast Roast Slice Turkey Gravy Rolls Stuffing Mix (Holidays) Steamed Broccoli Carrots Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Chicken Sandwich Spicy Chicken Sandwich Cobb Salad Elementary Rolls Side Salad Corn Celery Sticks Peach Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit	

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Monday	30	Tuesday	1	Wednesday	2	Thursday	3	Friday	4
Teriyaki Chicken Tangerine Chicken Teriyaki Noodles Grape PBJ Uncrustable Steamed Broccoli Carrots Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookies Choice of Fresh Fruit									

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