



Seminole Elementary Times

November/December 2021

Issue 4

www.pcsb.org/Seminole_es

Dates to Remember

November 30th – December 16th

- MAP Cycle 2 Testing

November 30th

- Picture Retakes

December 1st – 3rd

- PTA Holiday Shoppe

December

6th

- K-Kids – 3pm Centennial

7th

- All Pro Dads 7:30a Centennial

8th

- Seminole Middle Chorus visits 5th Grade

14th

- PTA/SAC Meeting 6pm Centennial

16th

- Enterprise Village 5th Grade
- PMAC 3pm
- Winter Fest 6-8pm
- Chorus Performance 5:30pm

17th

- End of 2nd Quarter

December 19th – January 3rd

- Winter Break

STEM

- Every Tuesday 2:55-3:55pm

5th Grade Chorus

- Every Tuesday 8:00-8:40am Centennial

4th Grade Chorus

- Every Thursday 8:00-8:40am Centennial

K-Kids

- First Monday of the Month 3:15pm Centennial

Beach Club

- Every Thursday 3:15pm in Centennial

If You See Something Say Something



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

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

Report by going to

www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

A Note from Principal Cerreta



Dear Seminole Elementary families,

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the end of the 2nd grading period which ends on December 17. I want to thank parents for continuing to support their child's education by having them read every night, signing their reading logs, completing 5-10 Dream Box Lessons and Istation on Clever. While we want our students to enjoy the time with their family and friends during the Thanksgiving Break, we would also like for learning to continue. The myON Fall Reading Challenge runs until November 28th. We encourage all of our students to take part in the challenge and "Ramp Up Their Reading". See link below.

<https://pinellas.renaissance.com/2021-fall-reading-challenge/>

MAP Assessments

All students in grade K-5 complete an online assessment three times a year known as MAP Assessments. MAP assessments are used to measure a student's growth in mathematics and reading. The Fall assessment gathers baseline data. The Winter and Spring assessments measure progress. They are used to chart a student's academic growth from year to year. The data from the MAP assessments helps the teachers carefully monitor the student's academic progress and provide remediation and enrichment when needed. Students will be taking their Winter MAP Assessments from November 30th - December 16th.

Seminole Elementary Celebrates Holidays Around the World (Winter Fest) December 16.

All of our Seminole families are invited to our Winter Fest Family Night on Thursday, December 16 for an evening of holiday fun. Participants will have an opportunity to make holiday ornaments, decorate cookies, tour the school and see the Holidays Around the World, have hot cocoa and watch a holiday movie. Our evening will kick off with dinner (optional) followed by a holiday performance by our chorus students. See attached flyer for details and information for ordering dinner.

5:00-6:00– Pizza and hot dogs at picnic tables

5:30– 6:00- Grades 4/5 Chorus Performance, Kindergarten & Grade 1 Performance

6:00– 8:00 Winter Fest

Congratulations to Our Outstanding Readers:

One aspect of our school wide reading program is for the students to read 45 minutes in Grades 3-5 and 20-30 minutes in grades K-2. After students read a book or have a book read to them, they take a Accelerated Reader test to earn Accelerated Reader points. Congratulations to the following students for earning 100 points in grades 3-5 and 50 points in grades K-2:

3rd Grade

Lainey Gamache Samantha Johnson Harper Palmese Reagan Stanton Isabella Tatham

4th Grade

Jordan Seibert Katie Fitzpatrick

5th Grade

Autumn Johnson

PMAC Salvation Army Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who brought in cans for our canned food drive. We collected 1,260 cans. Our winning class was Mrs. Misener's class who brought in 128 items.

Picture Retakes



November 30th will be PICTURE RETAKE DAY. Any student that did not have their picture taken in October will need to have a picture taken.

Parents, if you purchased a package and would like your child to have a retake, they WILL need to bring their package with them to the photographer the day of pictures.

Holiday Shoppe at Seminole

December 1st – 3rd Students can purchase special gifts ranging from \$1-\$5 for family and friends for the holidays.

The Holiday Shoppe will be opened from December 1st – 3rd in the morning at the car circle.

This is Sponsored by our PTA

Parents of students with disabilities invited to make a difference at their child's school



The Exceptional Student Education department is launching the ESE Parent Connector program. The program empowers parents of students with disabilities to support Exceptional Student Education at the school level.

PCS is planning to have at least one Parent Connector at each school to expand ESE awareness and share resources with their school communities.

If you are interested in becoming an ESE Parent Connector or would like more information, please fill out an online

<https://www.pcsb.org/cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=687>

Level Up: Free online enrichment programs for students and families
Pinellas County Schools is continuing to provide free virtual resources. Level Up allows students and families to make the most of their PCS Connects digital learning devices. This week, students and parents can work through the steps of the informative writing process, learn about Math and ELA concordant scores on the road to graduation and take an art session with an artist at The James Museum.

• Home Nearpod for step-by-step informational essay

Students and parents will use Nearpod to work through the steps of the informative writing process. There will be step-by-step practice on writing skills such as, breaking down prompts, note taking, and student generated ideas. There is also an opportunity to take what you learn and write an entire informative essay from start to finish. This is a great way for parents to gain knowledge of the informative writing process as they work through this self-paced Nearpod with their student. Target Group: Students and Parents Grades 6-8. Date: Nov. 11-June 1. Link:

<https://app.nearpod.com/presentation?pin=QZUPD>

• All you need to know about concordant scores on the road to graduation

This Math and ELA Level Up to Graduation virtual workshop will introduce students and parents to an ELP course in Canvas where students can get support toward earning a concordant score on the ACT or SAT. Students' concordance scores will be reviewed, there will be a tour of the Canvas course and an explanation on how students can engage in the options to improve their chances for earning a concordant score. Target Group: Grades 9-12. Link:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/f5e15184-89ec-494c-9209-d3e913898ec9>

• The James Museum and artist Stan Natchez Virtual Art Field Trip

This interactive session will include stories of art-making adventures from a famous Native American Pop Artist with art exhibited in The James Museum. Online resources will be shared for students to create their own Pop Art!. Grades 4-

8. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bqkDum33Cs> Access the self-paced Nearpod interactive presentation with linked online resources with student code: zg5ic.



Thank you to all the families who contributed to our class this month! You are appreciated and I am thankful to have such a wonderful class with terrific kids! Ms. Conde

November Character Kids

Citizenship

PreK		
Green/Piper	Kailani Rivera	Matthew Wilder
Scott	Carson Traxler	
Calhoun	Colton Voisin	Luke Yi
KG		
Conde	Miguel Ferriera Marinho	
D'Altilio	Beryl Yi	Calvin Le
Horton	Rafael Espinal	Savanah Holland
Schuler	Max Wright	Avery Brookins
1st		
Brady	Caden Diamond	Salvador Espinal
Harty	Brantley Heintz	Leeah Franklin
Luczaj	Audrey Rankin	
Mucerino	Link Brunk	Mia Huang
2nd		
Misener	Sydney Vieno	Justin Mock
Patterson	Conner Ouelette	Liana Lee Coston
Sadock	Adrian Bailey	Clayton Johnson
3rd		
Carlson	Hugh Donati	Sofia Pridanova
Kopkau	Harper Palmese	Nathaniel Merdell
Poolson	Amya Auten	Kaiden McKinley
Rudolph	Bryce Nix	Nataly Morales
4th		
Croze	Alyssa Guptill	Adam Mribiha
Napoli	Lennon Faust	Chloe Proudlock-King
Rongey	Jordan Seibert	Phoebe Maye
Sanders	Shelby Kessler	Amy Tyler
5th		
Gorman	Weston Piver	
Grimm	Courtney Chen	Lailah Johnson
Lentz	Yanshan Yang	David Banyeretse
EBD		
Halpern	Leo Chen	

School Counselor News



Mrs. Holly Schultz, School Counselor

This month we observed Veteran's Day and have been focusing on showing good citizenship as our character trait. We are all part of our school community and are citizens where we live. So, remembering that we are part of that community and that we need to follow rules as well as do our part to serve and give back to others is very important. We do have a wonderful giving community. Let's teach our children to have a positive impact on their classmates, friends and neighbors as well as their family. Let us also continue that effort as we focus on **kindness** as our character trait for December. Let's model and teach our children to use kind words and to treat others as we would like to be treated. Take note of things that your children are doing that are particularly kind. Show them that you noticed and thank them for it.

The Fine Motor Corner-

by Kimberly Meyer, MS OTR/L our school based Occupational Therapist

Screen time overload!

Today's children ages 8 to 18 are spending an average of 4 to 6 hours or more per day on a computer playing games or watching videos. Research has shown, via brain scan studies, brain atrophy occurring in areas of the brain responsible for many important functions. Earlier onset of serious vision problems have also been reported. The American Academy of Pediatrics came out with guidelines for parents recommending no screen use for children under 2 years old and only an hour at most of screen time per day for kids ages 2 to 5. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents of children ages 6 and older to place consistent limits on the time spent using media, and not the types of media, and make sure media is not taking the place of getting enough rest, playing / physical activity, and other behaviors essential to health.

Visit [HealthyChildren.org/MediaUsePlan](https://www.HealthyChildren.org/MediaUsePlan) to create a **personalized Family Media Use Plan** that will work in your family situation. For more information on detrimental effects of screens, visit <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-moment-youth/201811/is-too-much-screen-time-affecting-your-child-s-health>

Art News Wheels on Wheels



We are Thankful! Words from Mrs. Whiteley



As we prepare to take a short break from school for Thanksgiving, we want to express our gratitude for everyone who makes it possible for as many students as possible to come to school every day, on time, ready to learn. We thank:

Our students and families for making daily attendance a priority since they know the habit of attendance will help them do well in the classroom and eventually in a job.

- Our wonderful teachers who pour their energy into making each classroom an exciting place for exploration and knowledge so children do not want to miss out on learning
- Our support staff and community volunteers who provide the extra hands and attention our children need

We appreciate each one of you so much. We look forward to seeing you after the Thanksgiving holiday. We also hope you will keep in mind that school is closed on Monday 11/22/2021 to Friday 11/26/2021 and reopens Monday 11/29/2021 at 8:15am.

We especially appreciate everyone's efforts to avoid taking extra days off during the Thanksgiving holiday. Just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and leave your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school.

Mrs. Marr's Musical Notes



Thanks to all those who could join us for the Veteran's Day Presentation. What a joy it was to be able to come together as a school family to honor our amazing veterans! As we head into the holiday season, all 4th and 5th Grade Chorus members will be meeting Tuesdays AND Thursdays for rehearsals leading up to our Winter Concert (Dec 16 @ 5:30PM). Rehearsals will still be in Centennial at 8am. We will resume our regularly scheduled, one day a week rehearsal once we return in the New Year.

Thanks! Mrs. Marr

Accelerated Reader

This year our school has purchased Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader (AR) is taking the place of Reading Counts. AR is a popular reading program used in schools. AR helps teachers track students' independent practice and progress with reading. Students take a short quiz to assess comprehension and vocabulary skills. Student will have individual goals based on their reading level to meet. We will have goals and recognitions for students who meet or exceed their goals.

Recognition	1 st – 2 nd Grade	3 rd – 5 th Grade
Bubbled on Morning Show	25 Points	50 Points
Name in the Newsletter	50 Points	100 Points
Accelerated Reader Certificate	75 Points	150 Points
Reading Medallion	100 Points	200 Points
Handprint on Wall	125 Points	250 Points
Gold Star on Sidewalk	250 Points	500 Points
Name on Ceiling Tile	375 Points	750 Points
Name on Plaque in Office	500 Points	1,000 Points

To find out if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz, go to

<https://www.arbookfind.com/>

Reading Expectations



Students are expected to read Monday - Thursday and parents should sign reading logs

- 30 minutes minimally for grades K-2
- 45 minutes minimally for grades 3-5

2021-22 Battle of the Books List



1. **Amelia Six** by Kristin L. Gray **Lexile:** 570
2. **Black Brother, Black Brother** by Jewell Parker Rhodes
3. **Charlie & Frog** by Karen Kan **Lexile:** 590 **GRL:** V
4. **The Disaster Days** by Rebecca Behrens **Lexile:** 750
5. **A Field Guide to Getting Lost** by Joy McCullough **Lexile:** 760
6. **Following Baxter** by Barbara Kerley
7. **From the Desk of Zoe Washington** by Janae Marks **Lexile:** 660
8. **The Great Pet Heist** by Emily Ecton **Lexile:** 520
9. **How to Test a Friendship** by Theanne Griffith **Lexile:** 440
10. **The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter** by Aaron Reynolds
11. **Midnight at the Barclay Hotel** by Fleur Bradley **Lexile:** 650
12. **The Newspaper Club** by Beth Vrabel
13. **Roll with It** by Jamie Sumner **Lexile:** 740
14. **The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez** by Adrianna Cuevas **Lexile:** 740
15. **Wish Upon a Sleepover** by Suzanne Selfors **Lexile:** 600 **GRL:** T

Ms. Ward's Words



One of the greatest gifts we can give our children this time of year is to teach them the practice of daily gratitude. Often times we get hung up on the hustle and bustle of planning for the holidays and shopping for gifts, and we forget to take inventory of the gifts we already have. This time of year can be stressful, and can trigger big emotions in children and families for many reasons, but practicing daily gratitude is one small way to keep ourselves and our children centered and calm. It's as easy as using our five senses to name five things we are thankful for, or drawing a picture of something that makes us smile. Gratitude reminds us that there is always something in our lives to be grateful for, no matter what hardships we may face, even if it's just the air we breathe that day. Happy Thanksgiving Seminole families, I am so grateful for you! Thank you – Ms. Ward

Kindergarten Character Parade



Great American Teach In

The Great American Teach In was held November 17th. Students had the chance to learn about careers like being a firefighter, pharmacy tech, a nurse, and Veteran. They also learned about hobbies creating music, and music production. Presenters also came out and shared information on germs and ways to protect our aquifers and conservation. We would like to thank DJ Hite, Mr. O from the army, Ms. Fogal of Bay Care, Ms. Miller from the VA Hospital, Fire Fighter Le from Pasadena, Mr. Plamatos of Bay Care, Mr. Wilson, and all other parents and adults who participate in this year's Great American Teach In.



Speed Stacking at PE

Speed Stacks cup stacking is an amazing sport of fitness, agility, concentration, and quickness. Students were able to experience this at PE when a representative from Speed Stacks came and taught students how to do cup stacking and play games using their products. Cups, mats, and timers are available for purchase on their website in their group order store: <https://www.speedstacks.com/go/> Every purchase benefits our PE department to be able to also purchase materials to enrich your child's experience at PE. We have the materials in our classroom so there is no wait or charge for shipping. What a great gift for the holidays! We are able to bring the materials to you in the office if you would like to pick them up yourself to surprise your child later. Thank you for helping to make our PE department a fun experience for your child. Sales will end **Friday December 17th**.



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Your child's artwork

On a *real* front
 license plate



Proceeds
 benefit your
 school's art
 program!

Now on sale online!
KIDS TAG ART
www.kidstagartpinellas.org

Your 5th grader designed a
 unique vanity tag during art
 class. These metal tags can be
 displayed on the front of any
 vehicle. Your purchase supports
 art education in Pinellas County.



Kids Tag Art is a partnership between the Pinellas County Tax
 Collector's Office, School District, and community sponsors.
 Proceeds from tags and community donations go to your
 child's school to buy art supplies and fund art education.

Cost: \$16 + \$3.50 shipping and handling
Deadline to purchase in time for the holidays:
Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

Tag orders can be placed now through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
 Please note: All tags come printed with the top sponsor's logo as shown in the sample above.
 Por una versión en español de este folleto, por favor comuníquese con el maestro de arte de su hijo.

Thank you **Wilson Sounds** for providing quality
 sound production for our Veteran's Day Celebration