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 22nd. I want to thank our 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. Take a break from the video games and iPhones by reading a good book or completing a few iStation or Dreambox lessons.

We encourage all of our students to participate in the MyOn Fall Reading Challenge that runs until November 30th and our Dreambox Thanksgiving Challenge by completing at least two Dreambox lessons during the Thanksgiving break. See MyOn flyer attached.

Veterans Day Program

It was great seeing so many of our Seminole parents and families last Friday for our annual Veterans Day program. Thank you to the VFW, Commander Bill Fagerquist, Dave SanSouci, the Seminole HS Band students, Steve Sola, Ms. Marr and the Seminole Chorus for being a huge part of our Veterans Day program as we honored our Veterans and active duty military. Thank you for your service.

FAST Assessments (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking)

All students in grade K-5 complete an online assessment three times a year know as FAST Assessments. assessments are used to measure a student’s growth in Mathematics and Reading. The Fall assessment gathers baseline. The Winter and Spring assessments measures progress. It is used to chart a student’s academic growth from year to year. The data from the FAST assessments helps the teachers carefully monitor the student’s academic progress and provide remediation and enrichment when needed. Students will be taking their Winter FAST Assessments December 5- December 16.


All of our Seminole families are invited to our Winter Fest Family Night on Thursday, December 15 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.

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 an Accelerated Reader test to earn AR points.

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

100 Points:  Evangeline Nkomeje, Vuk Veljkovic
50 points:  Lillian Soles

Congratulations to 1st Quarter Principal’s List Students

These students have received all As in academics and S and above in conduct

Kristine Tardif  Vuk Veljkovic  Bryce Henshaw  Noah Hoang  Elise Carlson
Abigail Turner  Amya Auten  Layla Eversole  Sean Kier  Julius Morales
Laime Gamache  Carson Richmond  Reagan Stanton  Colton Taylor  Makenna Buchans
John Fitzpatrick  Katie Fitzpatrick  Macy Davies  Caden Drake  Sebastian Hock
Shelby Kessler  Havoc Morrison  Elijah Postma  Jace Drake  Piper Plomatos
A Message from Assistant Principal
Dr. Jennifer McCafferty

Dear Families,

Does your child have a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP)? A PMP is a specific, detailed plan tailored to identify individual assistance that will be given to remedy a student’s individually diagnosed deficiencies. The PMP is an active working document that reflects what is being done to help remediate a student’s deficiencies. The PMP intervention process is a continual process that occurs at four times during a school year (August, Cycle 1, Cycle 2, and Cycle 3). Families of students with a PMP from their last year’s data already had a PMP generated, shared, and signed.

Students with data that generates a PMP from Cycle 1 data, will begin to have these PMPs shared with families for review and signatures. Once a student generates a PMP during a school year, the PMP will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year even if a student is no longer deficient in any content areas.

To support your child’s success in reading, math, and science proficiency, please ensure they are reading for their required minutes, practicing their math facts, and exploring the fascinating world around us!

Please contact your child’s teacher or me, Dr. McCafferty, if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Dr. McCafferty

SEMINOLE STAFF SHOUT OUTS!

Has a staff member gone above and beyond for you and your child? Do you want to show your appreciation and put a smile on their face? Now you can. Visit https://bit.ly/seminoleshoutout

By completing the quick form the staff member will be recognized by Mr. Cerreta or Dr. McCafferty at our next Hawk Huddle.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our awesome staff at Seminole Elementary.

Thank you to all of the presenters of this Years Great American Teach-In

Pre-K and Kindergarten Parade

November Character Kids

Pre-K
Jost/Hock – Katherine Johnson
Scott – Andre Loeffler
Piper – Blake Vieno
Green – Ayla Aldrich

Kindergarten
Conde – Olivia Diaz
D’Altiiio – Bella Chau
Horton – Khyla Holland
Schuler – Salma Halawe

1st Grade
Brady – Christian Losada
Luczaj - Beryl Yi
Mucerino – Ethen Perez & Victoria Vanguela
Calzadillas

2nd Grade
Calhoun – Alice Abbott
Carlson – Jaymi Dunlop
Patterson – Bryce Hvizdzak
Poolson – Kalena Griffin

3rd Grade
Sadock – Savanah Parks
Kopkau – Ajna Goxhaj
Rudolph – Hailee Smith

4th Grade
Crose – Sean Kien
Harty – Harper Palmese & Andres Pineros
Rongey – Madison Dumas

5th Grade
Gorman – Jordan Seibert
Lentz – Owen Stancill
Sanders – Jace Drake
Napoli – Isabella Reinhardt

EBD
Capitosti – Ryder Patterson

2022-23 Battle of the Books List

1. Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston
2. The Beast and the Bethany by Jack Meggitt-Phillips
3. Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom by Matthew Swanson
4. J.D. and the Great Barber Battle by J. Dillard
5. Julieta and the Diamond Enigma by Luisana Duarte Armendariz
6. Katie the Catsitter by Colleen AF Venable
7. pLeonard (My Life as a Cat) by Carlie Sorosiak
8. The Lion of Mars by Jennifer L. Holm
9. Measuring Up by Lily LaMotte
10. The Million Dollar Race by Matthew Ross Smith
11. Mystery on Magnolia Circle by Kate Klise
12. Shirley and Jamila Save Their Summer by Gillian Goerz
13. Stella by McCall Hoyle

Reading Expectations

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

• 30 minutes minimum for grades K-2
• 45 minutes minimum for grades 3-5
Ms. Art (Barth) is happy to report she was granted funding through Pinellas County Schools Art Department to beautify our school grounds through various projects with a student Public Art Club! This is only possible because of taxpayers (you) approving the PCS Referendum, thank you! She has plans to upcycle repurposed colored bottle caps she received to create both sculptures for our gardens, and mosaics to label the building numbers! Stay tuned for progress pictures and applications for 4th and 5th graders to help out.

How Can Parents and Guardians Create a Language Enriched Environment at Home

Building a language enriched environment will help your child become avid readers as they grow. One way is to read newspapers, comic books, magazines, street signs, recipes, or directions to them every day. Create a special time in the evening or at night to read with your child, such as, before bed or while eating dinner. Encourage your child to talk about the book(s) they are reading. If they seem hesitant, ask them questions to help them get started. The more you do this, the more your child will get comfortable with the idea of discussing their books with you or anyone. Share poetry and rhymed books with your child. Identifying and using rhyming words will help them develop letter sound recognition which is important for reading readiness as they grow. Lastly, as you walk around outside, point out words on street signs, buildings or store fronts and have your child try to read it to you. The more they read the more confident they become with their reading skills.

If you are interested in volunteering at our school, please register at www.pcsb.org/volunteerregistrationparticipation will earn a prize.

Please bring your photo ID when you come into the school office to sign out your student, check in for conferences, or to meet your student for lunch. Families can eat lunch with their student on Wednesday’s and Friday’s.

The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m.. This is a great opportunity to get involved and meet other families.

Our November Spirit Night has been rescheduled. It will take place on Wednesday, November 30th at Tijuana Flats from 5-8 p.m. Please come and enjoy some dinner with other school families and staff. The class with the most participation will earn a prize.

Spirit Night:

Our lost and found is starting to grow a collection of jackets, lunch boxes, and water bottles. If your student is missing any of those items please have them check the lost and found in the front office.

Clothes Closet:

Please consider donating any gently used shorts to our clothes closet. We are still in need of shorts (sizes 6-14). We are also in need of girls shirts (sizes 8-10). You can bring donations to the front office.

The Fine Motor Corner-

by Kimberly Meyer, MS OTR/L our school based Occupational Therapist bring donations to the front office.

In coming newsletters, I will be highlighting chapters from the book BRAIN RULES by John Medina. He writes about what our children’s brains need. These are 12 principles that he writes about.

1. Survival- the human brain has changed over time.
2. Exercise- boosts brain power
3. Sleep- how sleeping helps us think.
4. Stress- stressed brains don’t learn the same way.
5. Wiring- every brain is wired differently.
6. Attention- we don’t pay attention to boring things.
7. Memory- repeat to remember.
8. Sensory integration - stimulating more of the senses.
9. Vision- trumps all other senses.
10. Music - study or listen to boost cognition.
11. Gender how female vs male brains differ.
12. Exploration - we are powerful and natural explorers.

Brain rule 1: survival.

Our brain is designed to solve problems and is related to surviving in an unstable outdoor environment and to do it while we are nearly constantly moving. We learn to solve problems, learn from our mistakes, and learn to work in a team to survive. If we don’t feel safe, we may not perform as well. If we feel misunderstood, we may isolate ourselves. The brain stem and limbic system are involved in survival and are the basis that needs to be developed first so that we can then layer on higher levels of emotional functioning. If we don’t develop this, there can be emotional immaturity and the initiation of the fight or flight responses of fear. Here is a great website to check out more information of this point.

Thank you, Anona United Methodist, for sponsoring our iMoms breakfast. Our next All Pro Dads breakfast will be December 13th in the Centennial Building. Please register beforehand at https://www.anona.com/apd-imom.

3-D Printers from Rotary Club

Thank you Mr. Outlaw from the Rotary Club of Seminole for purchasing 2 beautiful 3D printers for our school.

Business & Community Partners:

Seminole Elementary would like to thank the Hustle & Heart Group of Remax Collective for sponsoring our Girlfriends group. They are generously donating for all of the needs of this group for the entire school year and attending the meetings. The Girlfriends group is a group of girls nominated by their homeroom teachers for being great examples to other students. The Girlfriends is a Pinellas County Schools program that focuses on empowering girls to be leaders at their current school and in the future. Thank you to the Hustle & Heart Group of Remax Collective for making this possible.

If you would like more information on how your business or organization can partner with Seminole Elementary, please contact Heather Plankey in the front office plankeyh@pcsb.org

We would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their generous donations and support to Seminole Elementary:

- Pinellas Education Foundation
- Smuggler’s Cove
- Rotary Club of Seminole
- Publix (113th Street)
- Beall’s Outlet
- Seminole First Baptist Church
- Oakhurst United Methodist Church
- Vampire Penguin
- Pool Perfection Swimming Pool Builders
- Serafyn Salon
- Horace Mann Insurance
- Frankiewicz Financial
- The Hustle & Heart Group of Remax Collective
- Danielle Sapp - Berkshire Hathaway
- Northeast Orthodontics
- Seminole Elks Auxiliary
- Seminole Women’s Club
- VFW Post 9272
- Jessica Saydeh - Mary Kay
- Yard DeSign
- Spenga Fitness
- Coastal Dreams Events
- Seminole Fresh Market
- Mary Kay
- Seth Michael Photography
- Bay Dermatology