



The Voice of the Tiger

5602 N. Lois Avenue , Tampa, FL 33614
(813)872-5395
<http://alexander.mysdhc.org/>

A Message from the Administration:

Whether you will be celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza, the month of December brings magic to households. Wide-eyed children of all ages, if given the chance, can read deep inside themselves and ponder the excitement of it all. I urge you to slow your pace, spend time with your family, create memories, celebrate traditions, and reach outside yourself to make the world better for one another. Besides the toys, the clothes, and the new TV games, give your children the gift of love, happiness, acceptance, courage and self-confidence and time them all with a ribbon of kisses, hugs, smiles and laughter. Please stay safe during this COVID season!

The Alexander Elementary faculty and staff wish you and yours a joyous and safe holiday season! We will see you on Monday, January 4, 2021!

Sincerely,
Kristina M. Alvarez Thesha Garcia
Principal Assistant Principal

Ya sea que esté celebrando la Navidad, Hanukkah o Kwanza, el mes de diciembre trae magia a los hogares. Los niños con los ojos abiertos de par en par de todas las edades, si se les da la oportunidad, pueden leer profundamente en sí mismos y reflexionar sobre la emoción de todo. Los insto a que disminuyan el ritmo, pasen tiempo con su familia, creen recuerdos, celebren las tradiciones y busquen fuera de ustedes mismos para hacer que el mundo sea mejor para los demás. Además de los juguetes, la ropa y los nuevos juegos de televisión, regala a tus hijos el regalo del amor, la alegría, la aceptación, el coraje y la confianza en sí mismos y cuéntelos a todos con una cinta de besos, abrazos, sonrisas y risas. ¡Manténgase a salvo durante esta temporada de COVID!

La facultad y el personal de la Primaria Alexander les desean a ustedes y a los suyos unas felices y seguras fiestas navideñas. ¡Nos vemos el lunes 4 de enero de 2021!

Sinceramente,
Kristina M. Alvarez Thesha Garcia
Principal Assistant Principal

UNIFORM POLICY

In the spring of last school year, Alexander parents voted, with an overwhelming majority, for mandatory school uniforms. Please note that your child **MUST** wear a red, white, or navy blue collared polo shirt with black, navy, or khaki pants (or jumpers/skirts for girls). If your child is out of dress code compliance, you are required to complete the Uniform Waiver and meet with the school administrator to discuss this. Please understand that in order to attend Alexander Elementary, students and parents must agree to comply with the uniform policy in place.

Upcoming Dates

January 2021

- 1/4 Students return to school
- 1/14 End of Grading Period
- 1/15 No school
- 1/18 Dr. MLK Jr. Day - no school
- 1/25–2/12 American Heart Challenge fundraiser
- 1/28 Chick-Fil-A Night

February 2021

- 2/8 Report Cards released
- 2/10 Conference Night (virtual)
- 2/12 No school
- 2/15 Presidents' Day - no school
- 2/25 Chick-Fil-A Night



Mark Your Calendars for Required Spring Testing!

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| April 6-7 | Gr. 3 Reading |
| April 6 | Gr. 4 & 5 Writing |
| May 3-4 | Gr. 4 & 5 Reading |
| May 5-6 | Gr. 3, 4, & 5 Math |
| May 12-13 | Gr. 5 Science |

All students are required to take state tests on-site on the dates listed above. Please do not make travel plans during this time.





Our Pre-K students have been working hard to learn letters T, I, N, C, O, and F! We enjoyed fall activities by going on a leaf hunt and categorizing leaves by their size and color! We wish everyone a safe and relaxing winter break and a very Happy New Year! Welcome back to a great year!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has continued to work hard on learning our sight words and letter sounds. In math, we have learned about sorting and are now learning addition! We are getting ready for our winter break and a positive and healthy 2021!

1st Grade

Reading: Students have been reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. They have been learning how to identify the main idea and retell the text using key details. They have especially loved learning about food chains and the life cycle of a butterfly! Math: Our first graders have been learning new strategies they can use to solve problems up to 20. They are becoming experts at reciting their doubles facts! Science: These scientists have been putting their knowledge to work! Students completed a STEM Fair project and loved conducting our experiments.

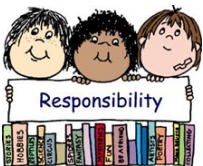


Hello second grade families! Our students have been busy, we have been learning so much! We have SIPPED through reading and are learning reading strategies to improve our understanding. Our mathematicians are shaping their way through two and three dimensional shapes and learning about graphing data. In addition we are exploring life through the states of matter. Our team wishes our families a healthy holiday season!



A Message from the Guidance Counselor -Mrs. Melendez

Did you know...? Our school has a Character Education Program. It is through this Character Education Program that we teach students about Respect, Responsibility, Kindness/Caring, and Honesty. This nine week our students will learn about RESPONSIBILITY. Responsibility is being accountable in work and deed, having a sense of duty to fulfill tasks with reliability, dependability and commitment. Talk with your child about what responsibility means to you. Then provide support and encouragement for your child when they demonstrate the character trait. If you have questions or would like more information about our school's Character Education Program, please call Mrs. Melendez, School Counselor. Together we can build student's skills that will help them become well rounded citizens.



Words for this Quarter:

Dependable – Capable of being depended on
Obligation – An act of making oneself responsible for doing something
Thoughtful – Considerate of the needs of others



In math, we have been able to fluently add and subtract within 1,000, round numbers to the nearest ten and hundred, and use estimating to help solve one/two step word problems. In science, we have been comparing objects by their physical properties and identifying how water can change states. In reading, we've been working on using context clues to find the meaning of unknown words, using details to determine author's point of view, and identifying text features to learn new information. In writing, we have been identifying the task purpose, and audience of a writing prompt, brainstorming topics, and identifying evidence in a text to write an essay. To support your child at home, have your child practice their multiplication facts at home to build fluency, read independently 20 minutes daily, and log on to iReady reading and math.



Happy Holidays!

Our fourth graders have been hard at work with their STEM Fair projects that they will be finishing up in the coming weeks. As we go into winter break, keeping students academically active is very important! Students can use the iReady program as a private tutor during the two weeks off. iReady is very beneficial because it knows exactly what each student needs to help fill academic gaps. Students can also take this time to read independently and grow their love of reading for FUN! Another idea would be to practice their math facts and writing skills with creative writing. Thank you for all you do and we hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday!

5th Grade

Fifth grade students have finally completed the unit on Multiplying Fractions. They are currently working on Dividing Whole Numbers and Unit Fractions. In this unit, students need to know the difference between dividing whole numbers by unit fractions and dividing unit fractions by whole numbers. They are also learning to draw models to match each type of division problem. After Winter Break, we will start the unit on Comparing and Rounding Decimals.

In ELA, students just wrapped up a literature unit covering subjects like King Arthur and the knights of the round table, Ellis Island, the Great Depression, and Amelia Earhart. During this unit, students read a variety of texts including dramas, poems, folktales, science fiction stories, and legends. While reading, students focused on comparing and contrasting characters and settings, determining themes, summarizing stories and plays, and making inferences. This week, we kicked off Unit 3 with science articles about astronauts in space, and are looking forward to reading other texts in this unit like journals and speeches.

Quote for this Quarter:

"It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do" ~ Moliere

Mrs. Lipstein's Book Nook



During the month of November, students learned about Veteran's Day through read alouds. Native American and Alaskan Heritage Month was recognized by researching different tribes with a focus on the Seminole Indians. In December, students enjoyed learning all about reindeer.

Please encourage your child to read during winter break. It is the perfect time to practice and catch up on reading. MyON is having a Winter Reading Challenge. Students can win great prizes! Information can be found at ReadonmyON.com

Have a happy holiday season!



Exceptional Student Education

Child Find is a free service assisting parents and schools with early identification of children who have, or are at risk of having, a disability. Every child develops at his or her own pace. However, some children experience disabilities that can hinder their potential progress. Child Find assists families of children, birth to age 5, exhibiting developmental delays by offering services to parents helping in identifying, screening, evaluating, and finding resources. If you have concerns about your child's development, visit the FDLRS Child Find website <http://fdlrs.mysdhc.org/> or call (813)837-7723 for information about a Developmental Screening.



News from Student Support

Assist your child with good study habits, creating good study habits now it will hopefully carry over to middle school, high school, and advance education. Children should have an assigned quiet place with good lighting in the home to complete homework. Teach your child how to plan for what is needed and organize their materials. Teach your child to be aware of what materials are needed to complete the homework. Materials should be laid out on the table where homework is completed. Discuss with your child how long it will take he/she to complete homework. Ask the child after the work was completed if he/she was correct in estimating how long it took to complete the homework. Have your child explain the skill of the homework assignment with you, while you review the work. This will reinforce learning and what was taught to the child.

Shannon McCullough, Psy.S.
School Psychologist

Jessica Karwoski
School Social Worker

If you have a child between the ages of
BIRTH—5 years of age. . .

PLEASE CALL 813-837-7723 (English) or 813-837-7714 (Spanish) to schedule an appointment for a developmental screening. SERVICES ARE FREE!



MUSIC NOTES

Alexander musicians have been hard at work this year learning about composers, conductors, the instruments of the orchestra and the elements of music. This past November, our 4th and 5th graders attended a virtual concert featuring The Florida Orchestra! E-learners... remember to complete your weekly lessons and quizzes and don't forget to attend our weekly live Zoom. All the information you need is on your Canvas Music Homepage! Stay tuned for more from the music department...

Mr. Q



Coach's Corner

Here we are already in the 2nd quarter of school. Students have been very busy working on some of our basic skills. We worked on underhand throwing with a game of horseshoes. We then used targets to work on our overhand throwing accuracy. We then moved on to some dodging, fleeing, and chasing skills used in our game of Turkey Roundup. This game also focuses on agility, cardiorespiratory endurance, teamwork, and strategies to win a game. We have now moved on to working on our tennis skills. We have covered a lot so far and the students are doing well. Elearning is also going well. Students have been very creative when coming up with their own PE equipment using objects from around their house to get the job done. No excuses. Great job!

Coach Etherton

Art

A huge congratulations goes out to Yanet Alonso! She is representing Alexander Elementary for the Young @ Art exhibition at the Tampa Museum of Art in January 2021. She created a watercolor titled *Splash*. It is a painting depicting raindrops splashing in a puddle creating concentric circles. Way to go Yanet, keep up the excellent work!



Resource

Your child should read or be read to every day. The key is to have a routine that you and your child can look forward to thus, creating quality family time. Reading should be an enjoyable experience and children's interests should be considered when choosing books.



Kristin Manck
ELL Resource

Lorraine Campolung
Reading Resource

Mary Ellen Walker
Math Resource



A Note from the School Nurse

Dear Parents:

We are asking you for your continued cooperation in assisting us to control the spread of communicable diseases. Our goal is to make our school a healthy and safe place for both students and employees. We will call you immediately if your child becomes ill during school hours. You are expected to arrange for your child to be picked up as soon as possible. Our school clinic is not equipped or staffed to handle ill children for long periods of time.

Please inform us immediately if telephone numbers or other contact information on your child's emergency card changes. The information on this card is vital for the safety and well being of your child.

Please do not send your child to school if any signs/symptoms listed below are present:

1. Vomiting or diarrhea within past 24 hours
2. Fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}$ within past 24 hours
3. Chills
4. Sore/red throat and/or congestion
5. Persistent coughing, sneezing, or shortness of breath
6. Loss of taste or smell
7. Red watery eyes
8. Rash
9. Earache, drainage from ear
10. Excessive mucus from nose (runny nose), particularly greenish-yellow mucus

Your child may return to school as soon as all signs/symptoms are gone for 24 hours without the use of medication to treat the above signs/symptoms or when your healthcare provider provides a written statement indicating your child is ready to return to school.

If suspected COVID-19 exposure, please follow isolation or quarantine procedures as directed by your healthcare provider and/or the Department of Health. Please notify your school if you are tested or test positive for COVID-19.

If your child has a communicable disease, please call the school and tell us the nature of the illness and when we can expect his/her return to school.

Thank you for working with us.

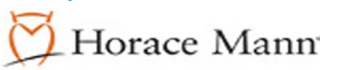
Sincerely,

The Office of School Health Services

Congratulations Students of the Month

Alexander students and staff express our appreciation for your continued partnerships...

October		November		December	
PK	Jhorvin M. Vida W. Christian V.	PK	Matthew R. Michael G. Arianna P.	PK	Maximus V. Legend G. Sammy G.
K	Kamilah C. Melissa D.	K	Valentina S. Melissa D. Sofia G.	K	Leonardo B. Emily O. & Lauren G. Daniela G. Emily R. Kaleb D.
1st	Sofia F. Izabella N. Angelo Rojas	1st	Sebastian D. Krystal R. Diego P. Christopher A.	1st	Jaelynn J. Silvia C. Analia M. Mia H.
2nd	Kaylee V. Kelsey G. Fabian O. London C.	2nd	Kimberly C. Lazaro H. Rafiel D. Allan L. Aiden P.	2nd	Melrose H. Lilisbeth S. Jaelyn J. Tatiana S. April V.
3rd	Yeleny L. Alicia M. Briana D.	3rd	Michael V. Diego C.	3rd	Amiya B. Amelia T. Elizabeth R. Da'iani S.
4th	Jazmin G. Natalie R.	4th	Amanda F. Matthew P. Anthony M. Yadiel D.	4th	Helen B. Henry G. Anyely S. Lina L.
5th	Darwin C. Alejandro V. Emmanuel R. Lily D.	5th	Sofia A.	5th	Yanet A. Correy A.



Did you know that you can purchase Alexander T-shirts all year long?
www.spiritandpride.com
 School# 143995
 1-800-418-8401



Connect to your child's grades, classroom assignments and teachers!

Continuous Notification of Nondiscrimination

The School District of Hillsborough County does not discriminate nor tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, genetic information or pregnancy in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices; and it will take immediate action to eliminate such harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boys Scout of America Equal Access Act. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Dr. Pansy Houghton, Executive Officer, HR Compliance
 Division of Human Resources
 901 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33602
 (813) 272-4097 pansy.houghton@sdhc.k12.us



SCHOOL VISION: Alexander will provide students with lifelong skills that promote creativity and foster independent thinking through an integrated curriculum in a safe environment.

SCHOOL MISSION: Alexander will create a caring and nurturing environment, motivating staff and students to work as a community to learn, grow and achieve their goals together. Our learning community will provide opportunities for personal growth and academic success for all students.

School Board

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 Stacy A. Hahn, Ph.D., Vice Chair
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 Melissa Snively
 Jessica Vaughn
 Henry "Shake" Washington
Superintendent of Schools
 Addison Davis