Gator Gazette

Volume 4, Issue 4
September 15, 2015

Alston Ridge Elementary
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Principal: Teresa Caswell
Assistant Principal: Ben Cline
Assistant Principal: Niko Schutte

Look what's Happening At Alston Ridge

There are so many things happening right now at Alston Ridge! Welcome back Track 2 - hope you had a great break! Coming up, there are several Family Fun Nights planned, a Fall Family Movie Night, and so much more! Take a look at all that is happening in our school, so you won't miss a single thing!!

Transition Team:

Transition Team is looking for movers! We are splitting up the moving into two days this time around: Tuesday, September 29 and Wednesday, September 30. We are looking for movers to help teachers Track in and out of classrooms. Some teachers will be moving to or from a classroom, a car, or maybe even storage. Some teachers may need more help setting up their space. Please JOIN the fun!

Thank you to the following Transition Team movers from September 4th!
Mona Agrawal
Neeraja Ganesh
Keiko Karlson
Julia Tang
Aditi Verma

Caswell's Corner

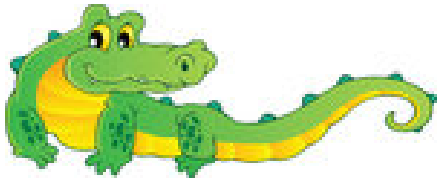
Greetings Gators! We were able to wave a fond, "have a restful break" to our Track 1 teachers and families on September 4th. After the long transition (3 days of break in 18 weeks between school years), I know that they are enjoying some fun and relaxation. With that, we are now fully integrated into the year-round calendar! From here on out the rotations of tracking in and out should be good for everyone!

In my last Gator Gazette letter I explained how this year's new remediation and enrichment programs (flex scheduling in the media center and with technology facilitators, a literacy coach focused on enrichment, a dedicated science teacher and incoming K-3 math specialists, additional interventionists, etc.) have been implemented, "to ensure that no matter the level of our students on day 1, that they all demonstrate a year ***or more*** of academic growth. Additionally, they will be applying what they've learned through writing, discussions, and other rigorously integrated activities focused on critical thinking and creativity." In receiving our achievement and growth scores, this focus has become a true blessing.

As always, our students are highly proficient, above both the district and the state. However, for the second year, ARES did not meet our growth standard. It is important to note that this doesn't mean our students did not grow academically – they did! Our proficiency scores demonstrate that! However, they all didn't grow to their fullest capacity and that is something I take very seriously! The great news is that in analyzing our data, it is our highest level students that need the extra push and I have put in place the above noted resources to support that from the start of the year (2 full months of a head start!). All this while not ignoring those students who need support at other levels. It is my focus that every student grow to their fullest potential each and every year. I have no doubts that the excellent teachers and new resources will result in those results! Again, it is going to be an amazing year!

Finally, our next Parent Chat will be Monday, September 28th at 5:30pm. I have been very pleased with the turn out and open discussions we have had over the past few months. Thank you for your continued interest, partnership and support! Cheers!

Teresa Caswell, Principal.



2015 Annual Alligator Fund

Our originally planned Donation Drive is taking on a new name – the 2015 Annual Alligator Fund!

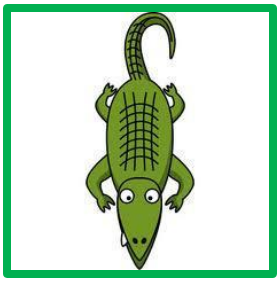
Please welcome Mary Morvan, our new VP of Fundraising, and Chad Jemison, our Donation Drive Chair. They have been working hard to relaunch our major fundraiser of the year over the last couple weeks!

Details will be coming home in the next week and the website will be up to date in the next few days. Thank you for your patience!

Stay Up To Date & See What is Happening at Alston Ridge Elementary

Follow our up to date calendar HERE

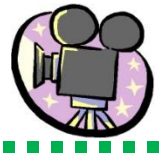
Look for us on FaceBook: https://www.facebook.com/AlstonRidgePTA



Mark Your Calendar!

SAVE THE DATE....for our Fall Family Movie Night on Saturday, October 17th!

We will be showing Big Hero 6 on the field to continue to amp up the excitement about our Science Lab! This event will be FREE to Alston Ridge families! More details will be coming, along with a courtesy Sign Up on September 28th so that we can track our expected attendance.



Yearbook Orders!

2015-2016 Yearbooks will be available for purchase online starting Monday, September 14th. If you order prior to December 12th, the price will be $16.00. After that, the price will go up to $20. You can order the yearbook at www.strawbridge.net. Questions can be directed to Ellen Martin at socialfamily.arpta@gmail.com

Fall Grounds Beautification Day!

We invite you to join us on Sunday, October 11th between 1:00 and 5:00PM in the carpool circle. The focus of this day will be to spread large quantities of mulch! So, bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, gloves, etc., but most of all your energy and muscle! A sign up will go out prior to the event so that we can ensure sufficient supplies. The rain date (or continuing work day if needed) will be on Sunday, October 25th. Questions can be directed to socialfamily.arpta@gmail.com

Family Fun Nights

Save the Dates for the next Upcoming Family Fun Nights:

Triangle Rock Club and Jay's Italian Ice will be our next sponsors with TRC-40% and Jay's 10% of the sales coming back to Alston Ridge! *Sunday Sept 20th* will be for Tracks 3 & 4 and Sunday Nov. 8th will be for Tracks 1 & 2. Everyone in the Track with the most climbers each night will win a coupon for $125 off of track-out camp! Registration link can be found on Membership Toolkit.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 5th for all tracks!

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for Pre-K -12th grade students. It offers these students opportunities to express themselves creatively in six different art categories and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme.

Please use the following link to view the promotional flyer.

https://alstonridgepta.membershiptoolkit.com/assets/00331/2015-Reflections-Promotional-Flyer.pdf

Thanks,
PTA Reflections Committee

Fundraising

Boxtops - Harris Teeter VIC - Tyson A+ - Labels for Education – Target – Shoparoo

The Fall collection drive for Boxtops, Labels for Education & Tyson's Project A+ labels has begun. Please start sending in your **clipped** labels to your student's teacher. Tracks 2-4 are due on September 24th. The drive will continue until September 24th. Then, the labels will be sorted, counted & turned into cash and supplies for our school. We are in need of volunteers for the sorting days on September 28th and 29th look out for the Volunteer Form on MTK. The classrooms with the highest counts will receive rewards. Thanks for your support!

Include the **UPC Code** with each Label for Education submission. Some product caps (V8 beverages) and lids (Pace salsas) are also valid submissions. For a complete listing of participating products click on the following links:

http://www.labelsforeducation.com/Earn-Points/Participating-Products

http://www.boxtops4education.com/participating-products

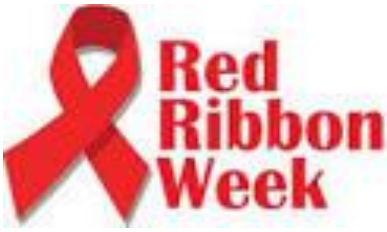
RE-LINK YOUR VIC

Harris Teeter's 2015-2016 Together In Education program helps raise funds for our school. It's easy and it's FREE. Last year our school earned $2,126.00 from this program through the support of 258 participants! Simply ask the cashier to link your VIC card when you check out and your card will be linked for the entire school year or click on the link here and enter our account #8396.

http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx

*Remember to ask family, friends and neighbors to do the same. Thank you to the 102 participants who have re-linked their VIC cards already!

The students and staff at Alston Ridge Elementary will celebrate **National Red Ribbon Week** and pledge to live a healthy lifestyle, the week of October 19, 2015. The theme will be, "I Have the Power to be Drug and Bully Free". We have planned themed days throughout the week to help students become further committed to live a healthy lifestyle.



Schedule of Events:

Monday, October 19 (Tracks 1, 2, 3)
"RED"Y To Be Drug and Bully Free!
Wear red to kick-off Red Ribbon Week.

Tuesday, October 20 (Tracks 1, 2, 3)
Don't Let Drugs Mix You Up!
Wear mix matched clothes!

Wednesday, October 21 (Tracks 1, 2, 3)
Think Of All You Can Be When You Stay Drug Free!
What do you want to be when you grow up? Dress for the role at school today.

Thursday, October 22 (Tracks 1, 2, 4)
Team Together To Make Good Choices
Wear your favorite sports theme!

Friday, October 23 (Tracks 1, 2, 4)
I Have the Power To Be Drug and Bully Free!
Dress up like a super hero!

Thank you for your commitment and participation!

Jodi Damrauer & Aneesah Thomas, School Counselors

How to Support Literacy & Math Skills at Home During Track Out:

Litereacy at Home: Reading Comprehension

Comprehension is a crucial component of literacy. Reading comprehension involves constructing meaning from written material. Asking questions about the story, the characters and the author's message helps develop reading comprehension. Theme-based books provide a starting point for discussion and practice in reading comprehension. Families can read books based on holidays or seasons to discuss with their children. The National Center for Family Literacy provides an activity guide for families based on historic events and a Celebrate Literacy calendar that offers a seasonal activity ideas throughout the year. Have fun with your children and the holidays...READ!!!

Read more: http://www.ehow.com/info_7883260_family-literacy-activities-parents-children.html#ixzz2jqfzmgH9

Math at Home

1. A gallon of gas costs $1.24 a gallon. What does it cost for 5 gallons? 10 gallons? 15 gallons? 20 gallons? What is an easy way to figure this out? How can you estimate the cost by rounding the cost per gallon?

2. The speed limit is 55 miles per hour. How far will you go in one hour? Two hours? Three hours? How long will it take to travel 500 miles?

Website Source: http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math/mathhome.html

Stacey Daniels, M.Ed
K-5 Literacy Coach/AIG Teacher

Thank You First Grade Families!

Thanks to your generous donations, we provided a "Super Snack" for the teachers and staff on Friday, September 4th after Early Release. We had sandwiches, chex mix, veggies, and gourmet caramel apple slices that the teachers could enjoy during their meetings in the afternoon. Over 65 families supported our fundraising efforts! A heartfelt thank you to all who participated!

A BIG THANK YOU to the following volunteers who have stepped up to be Room Parents this school year. There are many activities which the PTA plans but cannot accomplish without the great volunteers throughout our school. These Room Parents will be the representative between the PTA, the classroom teachers, and the classroom parents.

Grade	Track	Teacher	Room Parent Name
Pre-K	4	Stephanie Agurs	Krishina Priya
			Malini Inderdeo
			Kavitha Akinapalli
K	1	Genetta McManus	Diana McKnight
			Jayanthi Neelamegan
	1	Amanda Shaffer	Trista Palmer
			Sharon Mayes
	1	Kelly Dickerson	Nicole Morgan
			Sara Pastoor
	2	Danielle Dodson	Malini Inderdeo
			Tessa Caldwell
	2	Jennifer Worley	Stephanie Owens
	2	Sarah Baxter	Anne Paquet
			Stephanie White-Hunt
	3	Cindy Marsh	Leah Rupert
	3	Maryann Schroeder	Holly Tibbo-Valeriote
	4	Heidi Plunkard	Edna Graham
			Huixuan Zheng
	4	Chelsy Davis	Darcie Ina
	4	Jodi Gipp	Ranjini JohnBull
		Monica Severt	Yongjun Wei
1	1	Marcie Nelson	Rebecca Roper
	1	Tara Surratt	Kelly Bullock
	2	Elizabeth Yoder	Jyotika Sharma
	2	Annie Deans	Kim Stewart
	3	Katherine Davis	Nicky Boyer
			Lindy O'Connor
	3	Gelsey Kiser	Kelsey Walker
			Dong Xiaoxi
			Latacha DeOliveira
	4	Phillipa Weatherburne	Beth Neumann
	4	Dana Hurley	Naama Shaked
			Gwen Norman
			Jennifer & William Trotman

Grade	Track	Teacher	Room Parent Name
2	1	Lindsay Moser	Mona Agrawal
			April Buompane
	1	Suzanne Caudle	Jennifer Andersen
	1	Becky Swann	Danielle Burkett
			Cortney Kinahan
	2	Kimberly Bossman	Wendy Stough
	2	Amy Campbell	Lisa Jemison
	3	Lyndsay Semling	Swati Bhargava
			Mary Jane Reyes-Ford
	3	Jennifer Dudley	Robin Chan
	4	Evelyn Greenman	Carla Reanos
			Ila Ludford
	4	Stacy Glover	Lakshmi Shridhar
			Inez Kendall
			Simone Luporini
	4	Abby Reeves	Naomi Levinthal
			Mary Batrouni
3	1	Karen Niemi	Paige Ossman
			Shivangi Pandya
	1	Angela Wilson	Bingxue Yang
	2	Colleen Wackerman	Anubha Sinha
			Marie Wright
			Soni Philip
	2	Alysia Himbry	Gudrun Johnsen
			Kim Stewart
	3	Megan Madlon	Stacy Davis
			Kelli Edwards
	3	Lisa Kaszycki	Latacha DeOliveira
	4	Erika Emelle	Jaime Doran
	4	Meghan Martin	Toral Mota
			Tarisha Parikh
4	1	Maria Wolf	Ellen Martin
			Viviam Rodriguez
	1	Tracy Atwater	Kerrie Eisenman
			Siri Yarida
			Kristie Reid
	2	Erica Villanueva	Angela Sentosa
	3	Molly Fitzgerald	Jill Huselton
	3	Abby Butler	Becky Joslin
			Corinne Nicoara
	4	Saswati Mukherjee	Mary Batrouni
			Naama Shaked
	4	Elizabeth Bloodworth	Christin Daniels
			Naama Shaked
			Gwen Norman
5	1	Troy Blanchard	Mary Morvan
	2	Daniel Swain	
	3	Erin Cole	Donna Bingen
			Karen Smit
			Mary Jane Reyes-Ford
	4	Noelle Murdy	Anita Taylor
			Lakshmi Shridhar
			Amy McCallum
	4	Cari Lewis	Dawn Smith
			Mary Jafri
			Christine Arndt

SPIRITWEAR

New ARE Gator logo spirit wear now available in a variety of new color tees, hoodies, & magnets. Shop online at alstonridgepta.membershiptoolkit.com/Open_Forms with convenient delivery to your child's classroom.

SEPTEMBER STOCK THE LOUNGE IS UNDERWAY. 3RD GRADE FAMILIES ARE PROVIDING SNACKS FOR THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE THIS MONTH. PLEASE GO TO THIS LINK TO SIGN UP TO SHOW IN A SMALL WAY HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF: HTTPS://ALSTONRIDGEPTA.MEMBERSHIPTOOLKIT.COM/VOLUNTEER/3622

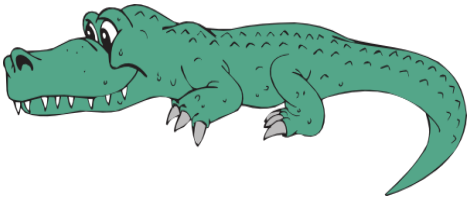
DONATIONS SHOULD BE DROPPED OFF IN THE FRONT OFFICE.

The National Parent Teacher Association developed the State Laws on Family Engagement in Education National PTA Reference Guide as a guide to promote and increase family involvement in public schools across the nation. The National PTA recognizes that family engagement is crucial in each child's education from elementary school through high school graduation based on clear evidence from studies in children and adolescents. While the guide references laws for each state, the North Carolina specific General Statutes can be found on page 97 and clearly encourages schools to provide a comprehensive parent involvement plan. Here at Alston Ridge Elementary, we have an incredible PTA that offers many opportunities for families to volunteer, be a part of the community, and ultimately help each of our students succeed to the best of their abilities! The Reference Guide can be found here http://www.pta.org/files/State_Laws_Report.pdf.

Have You Joined the PTA Yet?

Everyone should join the PTA! We are always looking for talented and dedicated parents to help with all of the PTA's programs and events. We have so many opportunities throughout the year to help in small or big ways, time at home or school, donation of money or items, everything is appreciated!

Click HERE
to
Join the PTA Today!



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2015-16 PTA Board
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Pakita Lee - Treasurer
Tiffany Malory - Secretary
Lakshmi Shridhar- VP-Academic Programs
Heather Ng - VP-Social Programs Teachers
Ellen Martin – VP – Social Programs Parents
Heather O'Donohue - VP-Major Fundraisers
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