



# ATMSA

## Family Newsletter

- 02/28-03/04 Read Across America / Dr. Seuss Week
- 03/01 Mardi Gras (Kindergarten)
- 03/01 School Choice Closes
- 03/01-04/01 March Madness
- 03/03 Strings 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Lincoln
- 03/05 Saturday School 8:30 – 11:00
- 03/05 North Florida Strings Festival at FSU
- 03/07 Youth Art Month Reception for Artists
- 03/07-03/11 Willi Wonka Jr. Spirit Week
- 03/08-03/11 Willi Wonka Jr. Play
- 03/09 Blended Lives Virtual 4th Grade Field Trip
- 03/09 Mina String Quartet School Visit (4th Grade)
- 03/11 End of Third Quarter
- 03/14-03/18 Spring Break - **School is Closed**
- 03/21 Teacher Planning Day – **School is Closed**
- 03/22 Students Return
- 03/24 Spring Pictures
- 03/25 PBIS Glow Party
- 03/26 Saturday School 8:30 – 11:00
- 03/26 Big Event / Campus Beautification Day #2
- 04/15 Spring Holiday - **School is Closed**
- 04/26 Spring Gala

Greeting Shining Star Families,

Thank you for the hard work that you put in to the Campus Beautification. Students have been more careful about placing their papers in the proper wastebaskets. We had many volunteers who came out to rake, pull up weeds and plant flowers. Our campus is really looking great!

Please join us for the Big Event / Campus Beautification Day # 2 on March 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to make it please consider contacting Selena McKinnie at [mckinnies@leonschools](mailto:mckinnies@leonschools) to arrange a donation of a gift card, gloves, tools, bottled water or other item to help make our event successful.

As we enter the Fourth Quarter, we will have several Progress Monitoring opportunities for students to Show What They Know. Thank you for making sure students are at school before 8:30 am, in uniform, and prepared for learning. Reminder- Breakfast ends at 8:20 am.

We appreciate your continued support of ATMSA! By working together, we can help our students achieve great things. Please schedule a conference with your child's teacher immediately if you have not done so already.

If you need additional assistance we have a team: Assistant Principal Dr. Yvonne Jones [Jonesy@leonschools.net](mailto:Jonesy@leonschools.net) Dean Samantha Love: [loves@leonschools.net](mailto:loves@leonschools.net) School Counselor Tomeka Bright [bright@leonschools.net](mailto:bright@leonschools.net) Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Tiffany Williams*

*Principal*

[williamst@leonschools.net](mailto:williamst@leonschools.net)

*"Champions keep playing until they get it right"*

Billie Jean King

## School Highlights

The **Valentine's Day** was a day a kindness and friendship. Thanks to Leadership Academy and Chorus. ATMSA students were able to send a note and piece of candy to a friend, teacher or staff member. The students made many smiles on February 14<sup>th</sup>! We encourage all of our students to take time to complete a random act of kindness.

**ELA, Math and Science:** Progress Monitoring is coming soon: Stay tuned for iReady Math and Reading, STAR, and Science Assessments. Please see FOCUS or contact your child's teacher for specific information.

**Vex Robotics** Mr. Green took the Robotics team to the Alfred Lawson Multipurpose Center at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU). This is the culmination of a two year grant from the Tallahassee Robotics Association.

**Black History Month-** At ATMSA, we take state required curricula and implement it with finesse. We studied the books, music, culture and history of the African American diaspora. We featured a Black history figure on the school news each day. The Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club visited to share the history of the 10<sup>th</sup> Calvary Regiment of the U.S. Army. Retired teacher Carucha Bowles spoke to the 4th and 5th Leadership Academy students. She spoke about her aunt, Aquilina Howell, and the skills that her aunt and other successful leaders have. Food was provided by 509 Caribbean Cuisine (@509Tally).

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Students created displays in the hallways and wowed us with a grand Black History Month performance on Friday of Black History Spirit Week. And Finally, Orchestra, Chorus, and Theater students performed at the Harambee Festival. In preparation, students learned about the meaning of Harambee, which is a Kiswahili slogan. It means **pulling together or working together**. ... The idea of Harambee embodies the ideals of assistance, joint effort, mutual social responsibility and community self-reliance.

**Media Center-** Mrs. Shorter held a Book Fair in February. Special thanks to the Media Graphic Arts students who helped with set up and advertising. Hundreds of students enjoyed shopping for books such as Dog Man and Unicorn Diaries. Stay Tuned: New graphic novels are coming to the media center!

## Covid Protocols

Students are strongly encouraged to wear masks properly, wash their hands, and practice social distancing. We ask that parents keep students home if they are sick and contact the school if they test positive for Covid. For more details on the latest Covid protocols visit: <https://www.leonschools.net/InClass>.

★★★      ★★★  
*Stars*



Mr. Green and the Vex Robotics Team @ FAMU.



Thanks to Mrs. Griffin from TC Federal Bank for partnering with Ms. Bruce's class for Read Across America Week as a Guest Reader. We appreciate the donation of the snacks and masks!



Stars work hard in Saturday School.



ATMSA cares about our Campus!

# Attendance

Florida law requires each parent of a child from five to sixteen years of age to be responsible for the child's school attendance. Florida Statutes, 1003.24 defines the responsibility of parents for the attendance of their child at school and requires them to provide an explanation for any absence from school.

## **EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

It is the parent/guardian responsibility to notify the school regarding the reason for a student's absence in a timely fashion.

The law allows absences for illness or medical care, death in the family, religious holidays, **prearranged absences** for educational purposes approved by an administrator, financial and certain other special circumstances or insurmountable conditions.

**Unexcused absenteeism** sufficient enough to jeopardize academic progress at the elementary and middle school levels is defined as a student being absent without an acceptable reason **five** (5) times in a calendar month or **ten** (10) times in a 90-calendar day period.

## **TARDINESS**

Tardiness is any arrival at school after the tardy bell **(8:30)** has sounded without an approved excuse. Likewise, students who leave school before the end of the school day **(2:50)** have their learning interrupted.

Tardiness and leaving early without an acceptable excuse are seen as a form of nonattendance, which is in violation of compulsory attendance statutes.

## **PTO NEEDS YOU!**

Apalachee's Parent-Teacher Organization would love to see more parents participate in monthly meetings. Meetings are held every third Wednesday at 5:30 pm via zoom. This a great opportunity to meet other parents and collaborate on school goals, fundraisers, and events. Questions? Contact PTO President Roshanna Beard at roshanna.beard@gmail.com.

Would you like to serve as a Mentor, Volunteer, or Community Partner? Contact Parent Liaison Selena McKinnie at mckinnies@leonschools.net Volunteer applications are located at <https://volunteers.leonschools.net/> and **must be updated annually before volunteers can enter campus**. Volunteers are required to wear masks while on campus.