



Gator Gazette

Volume 6, Issue 7
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Alston Ridge Elementary

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Principal: Teresa Caswell

Assistant Principal: Ben Cline

Assistant Principal: Niko Schutte

Great Things are Happening at Alston Ridge!

February 27 – Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A from 5-8pm

March 1 – Science Expo Tracks 1 & 3 from 5:30-7pm

March 8 – Science Expo Tracks 2 & 4 from 5:30-7pm

March 14 – Principal/Parent Chat (Homework, Grading, and Level 4s)

March 22 – Talent Show run by Student Council at 6:30pm

March TBD – Spirit Night at Randy's Pizza

April 24 – Principal/Parent Chat (Input for Parent Workshops for the coming year)

Mark Your Calendar!



Caswell's Corner

Greetings Gator Families!

It is hard to believe we are at the end of February/beginning of March! While it is the shortest month, February has felt very *long*. There has been a lot that has happened in our country and community that has us with heavy hearts and questions about our next steps. To that end, thank you **SO MUCH** for the amazing support you have shown Alston Ridge through it all. The changes being made for building entry, before care arrival, and aftercare/after school activity dismissals are timely, appropriate, and a change. Usually change can be difficult but I have heard nothing but positive feedback! To remind you of those changes:

- When arriving to school during the school day you will be asked to give your name and purpose before the door is opened and you go to the office to sign in.
- "Smooch and Scoot" will be fully implemented **March 7th**. Parents will not be able to walk into the building with their student but instead will smooch them at the door and scoot them inside for the day!
- Parents will enter the building through the front doors for before care arrival and after care dismissal. You will go to the office to sign in/out and your student will then go to their before care location or be called from their after care location (unless on the field where the parents will go to pick up after signing out). Parents will not be allowed into the interior of the building at any time during before/after care drop off/pick up.
- After school activities (Band, Young Rembrandts, and TGA) will bring students to the front doors (Band and Young Rembrandts) to meet parents waiting outside. TGA will dismiss from the back bus loop where they practice.
- All visitors with appointments will be confirmed with the teacher/staff member by office staff before leaving the office

Again, thank you so much for all the positive feedback of these changes and supporting tightened procedures to keep our students and staff safe!

On a very different note – we have some upcoming Principal-Parent Chats! Mark your calendar for the following: **Wednesday March 14th, 9:30am AND 6pm:** We will talk about Homework, Grading, and Level 4s. Will also have time for open Q&A including any additional support regarding school safety and how to support your kiddos. **Tuesday April 24th, 9:30am AND 6pm:** Focus on providing input on parent workshops for next year! We want to provide opportunities for parents to learn what their student is learning AS their student is learning it! Also looking to have input on specific cultural norms YOU would like staff to know about to make ARES as inclusive and equitable as possible. We are a large 'Gator Family with different traditions and beliefs about education. Let's learn from each other!

As I approach my **3 year anniversary as your Principal (March 2nd)**, I still feel incredible fortunate to have found the best school and community I could have dreamed of leading. Thank you for your continuous partnership and support. It's going to be a great end to the 2017-18 school year!

Cheers!

Teresa Caswell, Principal



Join Alston Ridge PTA

It's not too late to join the PTA!

Partner with the PTA via [MemberHub](#). The PTA sponsors many programs throughout the year, including the book fair, Science Expo, 5th Grade celebration, teacher treats, and more.

Without parent support, these programs cannot exist.

ARE Teachers Celebrating Birthdays in February

Taherra Brown - Kindergarten
Meghan Martin - 3rd Grade
Neveen Metry - Cafeteria
Stacey Daniels - Literacy / AIG
Tiara Shorts - CCR



SCIENCE EXPO

Come out and support students at this year's Science Expo at Alston Ridge.

Tracks 1 and 3: March 1st, 5:30-7:00pm

Tracks 2 and 4: March 8th, 5:30-7:00pm



BIG thanks to Zaniac for sponsoring the expo this year and providing lots of cool prizes. See you there!

ARE TALENT SHOW

The first ever Alston Ridge Talent Show is coming up soon! Mark your calendars for this student-planned, student-run event.

Thursday, March 22nd at 6:30pm

Alston Ridge Gym

Tickets: \$2 for adults, \$1 for kids

(proceeds benefiting a charity selected by the Student Council, to be announced soon)

Healthy Gators Yoga



Don't forget about weekly Gators Yoga on Mondays! There are a few spots left. Anyone from any track may now sign up for these dates.

Sign up here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f48afa929a75-healthy>



Spirit Nights

Show your Alston Ridge spirit and hang out with awesome Alston Ridge families at upcoming Spirit Nights.

Tues, February 27th

Chick-Fil-A

5-8pm

Parkside Town Commons in Cary

Mention "Alston Ridge" for a proceeds from your purchase to be given back to the school (dine in or drive-thru)

TBD March

Randy's Pizza

(we'll share the date soon)

There's still time to get your yearbook!

Yearbooks are now \$20. You can request an order form from areyearbook2017@gmail.com or go online to www.strawbridge.net (online code 109939). If you order online, please also email areyearbook2017@gmail.com and let them know your child's name, teacher's name, and online order number to ensure your child's yearbook is delivered correctly.



Remember to register at rcityrocks.com, visit [our local business partners](#), take a photo of your receipt and submit it to rcityrocks within two weeks, and they will donate 5% of your purchase to the PTA. Check out the latest contributing business partners, the list is growing!



If you shop at Harris Teeter, remember to link or re-link your VIC card to Alston Ridge Elementary. This must be done every year. Harris Teeter's Together in Education program helps raise funds for our school. It's easy and it's FREE. Simply give the cashier our code, 8396, and your VIC card when you check out and your card will be linked for the entire school year. That's it! You only have to link your VIC card once each school year. Once your card is linked, Alston Ridge PTA will receive a percentage of your Harris Teeter brand purchases. This program does not interfere with your VIC savings or cost you.

VIC cards may also be linked at the customer service desk or online at harristeeter.com.



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Website:

wcpss.net/alstonridgees

Alston Ridge Elementary
PTA Website:

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Follow Us on Twitter At:
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@TeresaLky3 and Alston
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