



# Gator Gazette

Volume 6, Issue 6  
January 22, 2018

**Alston Ridge Elementary**

11555 Green Level Church Road, Cary, NC 27519

Phone: 919-544-2474 Fax: 919-544-6545

Principal: Teresa Caswell  
Assistant Principal: Ben Cline  
Assistant Principal: Niko Schutte

## *Welcome Back Gators!*



The Alston Ridge PTA hopes everyone enjoyed the winter break and are ready to start the second half of this exciting school year!

# Caswell's Corner

## *Greetings Gator Families!*

I hope all are having a great start to the New Year – and even though it may mess up our schedules, has enjoyed the winter weather! Personally, I love snow. In addition to celebrating frozen precipitation, I would like to also celebrate and congratulate the two newest National Board Certified teachers at Alston Ridge: Ms. Heidi Cousley (Kindergarten) and Ms. Jodi Damrauer (Counselor)! I am so proud of their hard work and their contribution to our school and community!

In October I wrote about the Project Approach Work is beginning in different grade levels. The Project Approach is a specific form of project based learning based on the work of Chard and Katz who wrote, “Engaging Children’s Minds: The Project Approach.” The Project Approach is a systematic way of engaging students in their interests as they investigate aspects of standards-aligned learning. Many of your students have engaged in field experiences, interact with guest experts, and research questions they pose in connection to a topic (again, a topic aligned to the NC and Common Core standards). Currently the entire first grade team is beginning a project on Grocery Stores tied to their economics social studies unit. I have seen so much student **GROWTH** since beginning the Project Approach and am consistently excited and impressed by the instruction and depth of student learning that is occurring school wide. If you haven’t followed the school or me on twitter (TeresaLky3), please do as I am often tweeting or retweeting Project Work for all to see! The Project Approach is a focus that will not only support every student at Alston Ridge but could be a beacon of great student-focused learning for the whole county (or beyond!). Go Gators!

Finally, as you discuss with your student(s) the great work that is happening in their classroom, join us after school hours for some wonderful PTA family night and curriculum-focused events! In February we will have our second annual **Wellness Night** where we see fun and healthy habits collide! In early March, Science rules with our **Science Expos** AND later in the month our student council will demonstrate their organization skills as they present our first **ARES Talent Show**! To finish the year, join us in May as we will have an entire evening of all things **ART – Band, Chorus, Drama, Visual Arts, etc.** As you can see, there’s a lot of amazing happening at Alston Ridge Elementary where A>4 and we go beyond the expected as a community.

Thank you for that and for your partnership year round.

Cheers!

*Teresa Caswell, Principal*



## Join Alston Ridge PTA

### **Become a member of the PTA today!**

Partner with the PTA via MemberHub. The PTA aids with the book fair, movie night, Reflections program, Science Olympiad, teacher treats, etc.

Without parent help, these programs cannot exist.

---

## ARE Teachers Celebrating Birthdays in January

Jennifer Worley, - Kindergarten  
Kim Crow, Kindergarten  
Maryann Schroeder, Kindergarten  
Jennifer Dudley, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Julie Harrington, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Sandra Siegel, TA - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
LaShonna Smith, CCR  
Aneesah Thomas, Counselor  
Gail Pelletier, Lead Secretary  
Ron Morin, PE  
Chris Tufts, Psych



---

## **ARE Wellness Fair 2018**

Please join us for an evening of Wellness, with vendors, healthy food trucks, and fitness activities! There will be lots of chances to win great prizes!

(Children welcome with parental supervision, please note allergens may be present)

**When: Thursday Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 2018 6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Where: ARE Gym and Cafeteria**

# ARE TALENT SHOW

*Do you have talent?*

***ARE Student Council announces the Alston Ridge Student Talent Show!***

**Interested in showcasing your talent? Pick up entry forms in Ms. Madlon and Ms. Wackerman's rooms.**

**Forms due:**

**Tracks 1, 2, 4 - February 1**

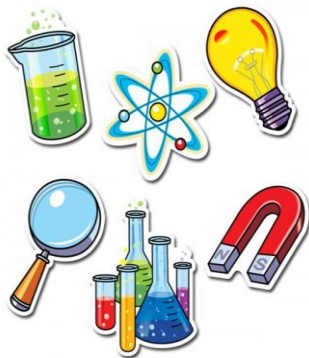
**Track 3 - February 1, but will take on Feb 12**

**Talent show:**

**March 22, 2018 in the evening**

---

## SCIENCE EXPO



Join us on ...

March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30-7pm for Tracks 1 and 3.

March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7pm for tracks 2 and 4.

The deadline for registration is February 23.

---

## Healthy Gators Yoga



The PTA & Healthy Gators committee are pleased to announce the continuation of weekly Kids Morning Yoga! You may sign your child up for each Monday during her/his assigned track time at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f48afa929a75-healthy>





Remember to register at [rcityrocks.com](http://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](http://harristeeter.com).



# WHERE TO GO, TO BE IN THE KNOW!

Like "Alston Ridge PTA" on  
Facebook to get all the  
latest updates  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
AlstonRidgePTA](https://www.facebook.com/AlstonRidgePTA)



Alston Ridge  
MemberHub  
[alstonridgeelementary  
.memberhub.com](http://alstonridgeelementary.memberhub.com)

Alston Ridge Elementary  
Website:

[wcpss.net/alstonridgees](http://wcpss.net/alstonridgees)

Follow Us on Twitter At:  
Teresa Caswell, Principal  
**@TeresaLky3** and Alston  
Ridge Elementary  
**@AlstonRidgeES**

Alston Ridge Elementary  
PTA Website:

<https://alstonridgepta.com/>

## Alston Ridge Elementary

11555 Green Level Church Rd.

Cary, NC 27519

Principal: Teresa Caswell

Assistant Principal: Ben Cline

Assistant Principal: Niko Schutte

Phone: 919-544-2474

Fax: 919-544-6545

[wcpss.net/alstonridgees](http://wcpss.net/alstonridgees)



2017-18 PTA Board

President - Reneta Tracy

Treasurer - Antoine Johnston

Secretary - Stephanie Jasper

VP of Communications - Kim Fogg

VP of Academic Programs - Allison Lundstrom

VP of Social Programs - Teachers - Stephanie Roether

VP of Social Programs - Families - Heather O'Donohue

VP of Wellness Programs - Holly Tibbo-Valeriate

VP of Major Fundraising - Kelia Cain