



THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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Principal's Corner



I hope you are enjoying the 4-day weekend. Remember that Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It's hard for me to believe it's been almost 51 years since his "I Have a Dream" speech was given in Washington and I was a high school student. Some of the classes talked about who he was and his importance last week and other classes will be discussing it this week.

Monday and Tuesday are holidays for the students. School is closed. On Tuesday teachers will be involved in professional development on various topics either at Sarasota Military Academy or here at SAA. This is an opportunity for them to develop specialized skills helpful to them and the students.

Literacy Week is over and it was GREAT! Thank you to all of the parents who donated books, read to students, cooked and served hotdogs, donated desserts, helped students redeem books, and attended the Thursday night event. Students participated in the Million Minute Marathon, reading over 25,000 extra minutes between Monday and Thursday. We had 89 families represented at the Literacy Night. Parents had the opportunity to hear Katie Graddy, our reading specialist, give suggestions for reading at home with their children and "growing" better readers. Meanwhile, the students (about 70 of them) were treated to a movie while the parents were listening to Mrs. Graddy. (Mr. Kolowith and Mrs. Julie were with the students and I heard the student behavior was exemplary!) A special "thank you" goes to Mr. Kolowith for organizing so many activities during the week. I have sent photos of the assemblies to Kelly Marsh so she can post them in the photo gallery. Nine (9) Barnes and Noble gift cards for \$15.00 each were given to students during the week. Use them well! We also want to thank Publix for the \$250.00 donation to cover the cost of the food for the Thursday evening.

Our next parent event is February 6 with a short PTO meeting and the speaker on bullying/cyberbullying. We again will have a movie for students since the SRO who coordinates the speakers said the topic is only appropriate for adults, not the students. We will schedule another session for students during the school day.

Wednesday, January 22, is hearing test day for kindergarten, first and sixth graders. The computer lab will be closed from 8:00 - 2:00 so there can be silence for the test. We will also be using the lab to finish benchmark and FAIR testing. Next week we have only Monday and Tuesday to complete make-up tests, so please try to be here this week. Please continue to encourage your child to utilize the FCAT Explorer site for review.

Thursday night, January 23, is audition night for "Bye Bye Birdie."

The Student Council collected coats for the homeless and Mr. Swilley took about 20 down to the Salvation Army Center on Friday. Thank you to all who donated. If you still want to send coats in, we can deliver them, especially since it looks like we will have another cold week.

Please continue to send in your re-enrollment forms. If you live in Manatee, DeSoto, or

Upcoming Dates:

- Enrollment Period:
Jan. 1st - Feb. 14, 2014
- January 20th - MLK - No School
- January 21st - Professional Day - No School
- January 23rd - School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting at 5:30pm
- January 23rd - Play Auditions for Middle School
- February 6 @ 6:00pm - PTO Mtg.

Charlotte counties, you must have the out-of-county form signed each year. If you do it this early, please be sure the person receiving it knows it is for 2014-15.

Check out the list of upcoming events. Thank you, again, to all of those who have come in to update their PALS volunteer hours and who have recently donated their time. We appreciate your help so much. Also, look for a letter this week regarding our new BoxTops campaign.

Have a great week!