



THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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Principal's Corner



Happy New Year to all of our students and their families! I hope you had a wonderful, relaxing, and healthy holiday! It's hard to believe the first semester is almost over, it's 2014, and we're beginning enrollment for our second SAA year! This first semester has gone by so quickly - it officially ends on next Friday, 1/10 - and it's been a joy getting to know the students. So please return your [re-enrollment form](#) as soon as you can. We want to make sure there's a spot for you! If you didn't get an email about this, please let us know. The re-enrollment form is in the email but we also have copies in the front office and on the website.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting second semester. Of course, we all know that means FCAT testing in February and April. All students should be working on the FCAT Explorer website to get ready. Just log in with the "N" number and pin number. If you need help, please call Kathy (377-2278) or your teacher. Before we get to FCATs, though, we have a month of testing to get all of the math and science benchmark tests completed and the reading (FAIR) tests done. Since we'll be using the computer lab for the testing, we'll have alternate schedules on many days.

Enough of that!!! We know how busy everyone is and that it is difficult to get those volunteer hours so we will send out a list with more opportunities. Some of you may have completed hours, but not logged them into the PALS computer; so please stop by the office. You can earn an hour for each PTO meeting (the next one in this Thursday, 1/9) between now and May. The week of January 13 - 17 is Literacy Week at SAA. Students will be participating in activities in each class daily that week and parents and students are invited to [Literacy Night on the 16th](#). This will be another opportunity for volunteer hours. You'll have an opportunity to help out or just attend the event with your child. There will be a speaker and a Book Exchange. If you have books you're ready to get rid of, we'd love to have them. We'll separate them into categories by interest and age (from 2 to 92). Look for a flyer later this week, but please mark the date on your calendar for January 16th. We really want you to be here! And a great big thank you goes to all of those families that have completed their hours, you are awesome and our school truly can't be all that it can be without your help!!

We are trying to arrange for a speaker on bullying and cyber-bullying for February. This event will be for parents only. Stay tuned for more information. If you have another topic for a speaker, please let us know. Finally, look for a letter from Mrs. Julie. She will really need help from parents with the March shows and the big Broadway musical at the end of the year. If you're signed up to help with either of those events, your hours will count even if it is after May 1. We need you!

If you know anyone who wants to tutor in math or reading a day or two after school; we would love to hear from you. It doesn't have to be a parent or guardian of a current

Upcoming Dates:

- Enrollment Period:
Jan. 1st - Feb. 14, 2014
- January 6th - School's back in session.
- January 9th - PTO Meeting at 6:00pm
- January 13th - 17th - Literacy Week
- January 16th - Literacy Night
- January 20th - MLK - No School
- January 21st - Professional Day - No School
- January 23rd - Play Auditions

student. As long as you are PALS approved and have completed a background check, come talk to us.

Last of all, I'd really like to hear from you about the first semester. What's good? What's not so good? We want to be the best school possible for your child. We can only do that if we know if we're hitting the mark or not. Let us know how we're doing.

Have a wonderful week!



We believe that you, our parents and guardians, are partners of our school and we appreciate your support so much. Research shows that parent involvement in children's learning positively impacts student achievement levels. Your participation at Sarasota Academy of the Arts will really make a difference and will positively impact your child's academic progress.

There are a number of ways you can volunteer and help support our school, here are just a few examples of some volunteer opportunities. There is a list posted on the SAA website of all of our opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Marsh at 941-350-3767 or email: kmarsh@sarasotaacademyofthearts.com

- Arrival and Dismissal Assistance with the car line
- Lunch help
- Media Center Assistance
- Family Fun Night Planning and coordination
- Field Trip Chaperones
- Parent Teacher Organization
- Fundraising Activities
- Classroom photographers for the yearbook
- Leadership Activities such as room parents, school advisory council, Committee Heads
- Classroom Support
- Honor Roll Ice Cream Social
- Business Partners

We truly appreciate your participation as a parent volunteer as we work together as partners in your child's education.

Special Kudos!

We would like to thank the following volunteers for completing their volunteer hours, and for their amazing support of our school. Congratulations to the following volunteers for completing and logging 10 – 25 volunteer hours!

Kari Baldwin, The Barron-Morena Family, Sharon Boyas, The Brown Family, Denise Gagne, The Knowlton Family, Sabrina Lugo, Lisa Martinez, Elunda Morrison, Leila Newcomb, Ali Nieman, The Squire Family, Christine Worthley, and Leah Zook

And lastly, a VERY special thank you to these amazing volunteers that have gone above and beyond to help support our school logging between 50 – 100 hours on PALS!! You are all wonderful, and we appreciate all your time, effort and support!

Amanda Leuck, Kelly Marsh, The Solano Family, Idalia Thompson, Marc Turgeon, and The Whitley Family

If you feel as though you have met your required hours, but you don't see your name on this list, it could be because you have not logged your hours in on the PALS system, therefore we are unaware of your hours. Please stop by the office anytime and update your status. If you have any questions regarding logging in your hours, please contact Kelly Marsh at kmarsh@sarasotaacademyofthearts.com or call her at 941-350-3767.

meeting

Our next meeting will be held this coming Thursday, January 9th at 6:00pm at Sarasota Academy of the Arts, in the middle school classroom. We will be discussing the upcoming re-enrollment process, future volunteer opportunities and upcoming events, including Literacy Week. Please mark your calendars and we look forward to your participation at our next meeting!