



# THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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## Principal's Corner

At the PTO meeting last Thursday, I presented the School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals for 2014-15. Every public school is required to write a SIP

each year based on the previous year's test scores and, in the case of charter schools, the purpose of the school. Our goals relate to improvement in math and English language arts (reading and writing), participation in the arts, and improvement in attendance. You will be able to see all of our plan as soon as it is approved by the district.

You should have received an email Friday regarding attendance. (A copy is included with this week's information packet.) We want students to be present because we know there is a positive relationship between attendance and achievement. We also know we have to provide a school environment where students *want* to be present. That's not always easy. Students and parents are an integral part of the solution. Please read the attendance policy carefully. We certainly want students to stay home if they are sick, but otherwise we want them here.

Two goals were directed towards increasing math proficiency. Previous letters referred to academic perseverance - students should be able to make sense of a problem and persevere through the task. To do this, they need enough basic knowledge to be able to figure out what the question is asking and what the best way of solving is. This involves reading, math facts, and thinking strategies. Knowing math facts is absolutely necessary and that comes through drill. The concepts are important but fluency in math is critical. Look at this chart that shows the minimum facts they should know and when:

Kindergarten - add/subtract within 5

1st grade - add/subtract within 10

2nd grade - add/subtract within 20 *and* using paper and pencil, add/subtract within 100

3rd grade - multiply/divide within 100 and add/subtract within 1000

4th grade - add/subtract within 1,000,000

5th grade - multi-digit multiplication

6th grade - multi-digit division and multi-digit decimal operations

In 7th and 8th grade they need to be able to apply these basic operations to solving equations. We have added intensive math classes to support intervention and the teachers incorporate more intervention within the classroom. This ties back to the attendance. Teachers instruct and help students practice the "hard stuff" in the classroom, then the students have homework to reinforce. If they aren't present for the instruction, the homework is harder. Finally, it all ties to reading - if a student cannot read and understand the question, the math problem seems impossible to them. This is why we say read at least 20 minutes per night and practice those math facts. Everything and everyone must work together to reach success. Thank you so much for entrusting your children to us and for supporting them - and the SAA staff - as you do.

## Upcoming Dates:

- 10/20: Stellar Force at Consulate Health Care and Cabot Reserve
- 10/20 - 5th - 8th Grade Show at Glenridge
- 10/21: Chilis Fundraiser
- 10/23 - 10/26: Fall Trip
- 10/24 - Professional Day
- 10/29 - 5th Grade at Woodlands Village Field Trip
- 10/29 - Secret Garden Show for 3rd Graders
- 10/29 - Blood Drive at SAA (11:00am - 2:00pm)
- 10/30 - ChickFila Fundraiser

As a reminder - 5th through 8th grade concerts are tomorrow (Monday) night at Glenridge Performing Arts Center. Times and directions were sent home last week. Thursday, some of the middle school students will be leaving for their fall trip. There will be classes for those students not going on the trip. Friday is a professional work day for teachers so there will be no classes. The Chili's restaurant fundraiser is Tuesday night; coupons were sent home. finally, remember to send in those box tops.

Have a great week!



SAA is pleased to announce that we were awarded the 5 Star School Award! Thanks to everyone involved for working so hard this past school year to make that happen, including Kelly Marsh, 5 Star Coordinator, Cecilia Blankenship (Principal), and the SAA Board of Directors for all their support!



**The Five Star School Award** was created by the Commissioner's Community Involvement Council and is presented annually to those schools that have shown evidence of exemplary community involvement. In order to earn Five Star school recognition, a school must show documentation that it has achieved 100% of the established criteria in the categories of Business partnerships, Family Involvement, Volunteerism, Student Community Service, and School Advisory Councils.

### Calling all Middle School Families

We are excited to present the official SAA Middle school T-shirt for the 2014 - 2015 school year. Please help us in congratulating Erik Martinez, 6th grader. He was the winner for this year's middle school shirt design!



We will need to order a minimum of 48 shirts so please get your order in by October 31st. They are \$10 each and will be printed on a royal blue T shirt.

**If any of our K-5 families want to order the shirt as well, just note that smaller YOUTH sizes are not listed on the order form, but you can just write in the size you want, just make sure you note somewhere that it is YOUTH size that you want. The same goes for shirts on the larger size. Please note that there may be an additional charge for larger sizes.**

We will use these shirts on Spirit Days, various school events, and field trips throughout the year.

[Click HERE to order.](#) Please turn in the order form, with payment (cash or check) payable to SAA.



### Run Club

Beginning October 28<sup>th</sup>, Run Club will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:15. No more Wednesdays after 10/22.

Also, be sure to mark your calendar . . . Run Club will participate in the Frosty 5K at Twin Lakes Park on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### IMAGINATION IN THE ARTS

Each week in art we infuse literacy through writing and discussing art. In art, we view the painting or sculpture as our text. We analyze the art looking for text evidence to base our thoughts on. This is an example of a weekly writing about a Monet painting. Student's were to imagine they were inside the painting and were asked to write about what they saw.

Short writing by Jessica Bennington . . .

*"I see flowers on a green bush. I feel fantastic spring air and a breeze. I hear birds singing in perfect harmony. Love is in the air."*