



THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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Principal's Corner

Good afternoon! I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful day today!

The calendar doesn't look too busy this week. Last week those of us who were able to make it had a great time bouncing or, in my case, watching the bouncing at Family Fun Night. We had about 30 students and families present. Kudos to Mr. Kolowich who was out there bouncing with the students! Friday was the Olympics for the kindergartners and 1st graders. Everyone went home with a gold medal although the 1st graders told me Russia beat out Italy and the United States in the medal count. (I heard that all of the kindergartners represented the United States.) Also on Friday were the ice cream socials for students earning 3.75 and above on report cards. Congratulations to those students. We have posted photos of last week's events in the photo gallery on the SAA website so be sure and take a look!

Your child should be bringing home a progress report Monday if there are any concerns about grades. In 4th through 8th grade, you will be sent a note saying there are no grades below a "C" or a "Progress Alert" if there are concerns. Please ask your child for the report or letter. I was able to look at each student's grades and review class averages. One of the advantages of a small school is that I can see how each child is progressing and can talk with the student and the teachers when there are low grades or missing work. I will be meeting with students this week to follow up on the progress reports. We want each child to be academically successful. Please remember to check agenda books and Cross Pointe so you are aware of what is happening.

We all know that not every student is going to be an honor roll student, but every student can try their best. Some students are excelling at choral music or drama or art and they will be recognized at a special awards assembly for the performing and visual arts. (Next week the students in the middle school drama program will present a series of monologues and one-act plays after the PTO meeting on March 6. In April there will be an art exhibit of outstanding art at the PTO meeting on April 3rd. The spring book fair wraps up that night too.) Students who have exhibited the character traits emphasized monthly will be recognized in another awards assembly.

Fourth and eighth graders have the FCAT Writes test Tuesday morning. Please be on time. A light breakfast will be served between 8:00 and 8:30 by the PTO with testing starting immediately after. We have not received all of the signed forms sent home last week regarding the security surrounding the test. **(continued on page 2).**

Upcoming Dates:

- February 25th: 4th & 8th Grade FCAT Writing
- March 4th –Spring Fling
- March 6th - Play Pictures
- March 6th - PTO Meeting at 6:00pm
- March 7th – Spirit Day
- March 10th-14th: SPRING BREAK!
- March 17 – 20th: SPIRIT WEEK!! Stay tuned for details.
- March 26th: Florida Studio Theatre Field Trip (Kindergarten - 5th)
- March 28th: Professional Day
- March 29th: Children's Consignment Sale (Be on the lookout for details coming soon)

Need Volunteer Hours?

Here is the Volunteer Spot Group Page that lists many opportunities now through the end of April.

Please sign up today!

<http://vols.pt/Jgjnqw>



Principal's Corner (continued from pg. 1)

Whether we like it or not, we are in an age of high stakes testing. That means money for schools, teacher salaries, and even student promotion in some cases is tied to levels of proficiency. Students will have to sign a promise not to discuss the writing prompt or post it anywhere electronically. Teachers will collect and hold all cell phones during testing. These measures were outlined in the letter sent home with students and the later email, only a few students have returned the signed acknowledgements. I hope everyone has read the information by now. Please return the information sheets sent home regarding the music program and performances. Students will perform at area assisted living facilities this week and next week during the day then perform in the evening on the 4th at Payne Park auditorium.

Traci Williams is still looking for students who want to start conditioning after school for basketball or just to get physically fit. You can sign up in the office. The Run Club will be participating in the Springfest Run this coming Saturday. We wish them luck! The Daisies will be selling Girl Scout cookies after school this coming Friday.

Finally, don't forget to register to vote by Monday, Feb. 24th so you can vote March 25 on the 1 mill referendum. You can get more information at www.yes4schools2014.com about how the money would be spent. (SAA would receive about \$184,000.) We encourage you to become informed and vote on March 25th!

Have a great week!

We would like to thank the various businesses that contributed reward coupons to our Honor Roll students this past week, including Applebees on Fruitville Road, Broken Egg on Clark Road, Chick-Fil-A Fruitville Road, Smugglers Cove Miniature Golf, and Stardust Skate Center. It would not have been possible without all of your contributions!



We would also like to send out a very big thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who came out on Friday to help dish out ice cream, toppings, etc. to our Honor Roll Students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade. We will have one last honor roll ice cream social planned for sometime in mid-April so be on the lookout for details on the Volunteer Spot website.

Our next big PTO event will be a Children's Consignment Sale that is planned for Saturday, March 29th. We will need tons of volunteers, but first we need to put a committee together to be able to put on an event like this so if you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Kelly Marsh at 941-350-3767 or via her email at kmarsh@sarasotaacademyofthearts.com.