



THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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Principal's Corner

Can you believe it's the last week of January? Literacy Week is done and auditions for the spring musical as well as the fifth grade March play are finished. Congratulations to all of the students who auditioned. As Mrs. Julie says, you are superb! I certainly don't think I could have stood up and performed in front of professional theater people and my peers at that age!

We are pleased to see the number of students who have re-enrolled for 2014-15. Several new students have started since the beginning of January and we want to extend a warm welcome to all of those families. We have new students in 7th, 6th, 5th, 4th, and 3rd grades.

This week marks the end of benchmark and FAIR testing until the next round starts in March and after Tuesday, students will return to regular schedules in computer and art. Please encourage them to work on IXL for math and FCAT Explorer at home for reading, math, and science. The program not only reviews information, but also exposes students to the types and format of questions asked. Sometimes, success depends on knowing "how" to take the test as well as knowing the material. Since we have so many students who have never participated in this type of testing, they need the opportunity to practice before the "real" test gets here. Fourth and eighth graders take the FCAT Writing February 25 with make-up testing on the 26th. Both Ms. Bassler and Mrs. LaRose are emphasizing writing in the weekly assignments. The reading, math and science tests are not until April. We know that not all students have access to the Internet at home, so some computer class time will be devoted to this review. (See information about Texcellence program on the home page of the website. Our first family received their computer last week.) Third through eighth grades will take the FCAT Reading and Math. Fifth and eighth graders only will take the FCAT Science. Then in May the seventh graders will take the Civics EOC exam and eighth graders taking Algebra will take the Algebra EOC exam.

With all of the talk about testing, you'd think that's all we do. But, thankfully, it's not! Last week the 3rd graders held a "Readers' Theater" for their parents. The Middle School Drama students are preparing for an afternoon of dining and drama for their parents on February 22. The Middle School science students have been harvesting tomatoes from their garden. And the kindergartners had a special afternoon of science activities with a visiting scientist!

We are still in need of a tutor for math two afternoons a week. High school students who are advanced in math and looking for community service hours would be welcome.

Report cards are scheduled to be delivered on or about January 31. We will send them home as soon as we can after that date. The Honor Roll awards will be February 21.

The SAC (School Advisory Committee) met last Thursday and discussed, among other things, how to recognize students for excellence in areas other than academics. If you have past experience with this or just an idea that can be developed, please get in touch with one of the committee members: Joe Solano, Sabrina Lugo, Jeff Kolowith, Leyanit Barron-Moreno, Kathy Bechtel and me. The student member on the SAC is Slade Williams.

February 6 is the next PTO meeting. We still don't have confirmation but are counting on the presentation on bullying and cyberbullying. Hopefully, I will have that confirmation this week and be able to send out definite details about times and provisions for watching the students while the parents are in the meeting.

You will receive an email about the current boxtops campaign this week.

Have a wonderful week!

Upcoming Dates:

- Enrollment Period: Jan. 1st - Feb. 14, 2014
- February 3 – 21st: Pasta for Pennies! Please send in your loose change!
- February 6th @ 8:00am – SAA Board Mtg.
- February 6th @ 6:00pm - Guest Speaker on Internet Safety & Cyber Bullying / PTO Meeting
- Friday, February 7th is SPIRIT DAY!
- February 14th: Valentine's Parties (K-5)
- February 14th: Middle School Dance from 7:00-10:00pm.
- February 17th: President's Day - No School
- February 18th - Class / Groups / Teams & Panorama Picture Day
- February 20th from 6:00-8:00pm: Family Fun Night at Jump n Fun!
- February 21st: Honor Roll Ice Cream Social



VOLUNTEER SPOT GROUP PAGE:

There are a number of ways you can complete your required volunteer hours, and we have created a group page for SAA on the Volunteer Spot website (<http://vols.pt/jginqw>).

This is a great way to list many of our upcoming volunteer opportunities, and you can sign up at your convenience. It lists many activities now through the end of April, including our newsletter distribution which happens every Monday, our upcoming Ice Cream Social for the 2nd quarter, Car line Duty, laundering the Spring Fling show costumes, field trips, Picture Days, the Book fair in April, etc.

The Volunteer Spots are on a first come basis, so be sure and sign up ASAP. Also, if you commit to volunteering, we are counting on you to be there, and you could be taking the opportunity away from someone else, so please remember to mark your calendar – we look forward to your participation. We will continually add more things to the group page as they come available, so check back often. :-)

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

KUDOS!

Congratulations to the following volunteers for recently completing and logging 10 – 30 volunteer hours!



Lori Camp, Lynne Burg, Anita Martinez, Sherrill Brown, Sabrina Lugo, Lisbet Rodriguez, Jacosta Melendez, Doug Zolla, Jennifer Hull, Terry Curry, Leyanit Barron-Moreno, and Tara Green.

And lastly, a special thank you to *Troy Basista*, and *Nicholas Caruso* for completing their hours by chaperoning the Tennessee Trip and recently logging in 70+ hours in PALS!! We appreciate the time and support you have given us!

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.

 On Thursday, February 6th at 6:00pm, we will be having a guest speaker **meeting** to discuss internet safety and cyber bullying. This discussion is for parents only, so we will have a movie set up in the elementary building for your students. We will then discuss upcoming PTO events and topics related to our goals for this year.