



# THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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## Principal's Corner

I hope everyone has had a restful spring break and is ready for the final push as we end the third quarter and look forward to the last part of the first school year for SAA. We will be busy from here until the end of April with FCATs and rehearsals for the spring musical.

Thank you to Mr. Goldman and the middle school drama classes for their performance at the March PTO meeting. The students presented a series of monologues on various topics that tweens and teens talk about today. They showed their talent and willingness to work on something extra. The students who performed chose to be a part of the drama class and worked very hard on learning their lines and how to show the emotional depth of the characters portrayed. We are very proud of them.

Students in third through eighth grades will begin review this week for the FCATs which start April 16. You will receive a letter regarding information you as a parent need before your child participates in the testing. One item of importance is the new rule regarding electronics. No student (or teacher) may have a cell phone, tablet, or e-reader in the classroom during a test. They will be asked to sign a form on the test acknowledging this restriction and the consequences if there is an infraction of the rule. Please look for the letter from your child regarding this and preparation for the assessments. The third graders will take math and reading assessments with the reading being a "gatekeeper." That means the student must pass the FCAT reading with a score of 3.0 or will be retained unless make-up work is successfully completed. Fourth graders take math and reading. (The fourth and eighth graders already completed the writing assessment.) Fifth and eighth graders take reading, math, and science. Sixth and seventh graders take the math and reading. Please help your child by having him/her work on the FCAT Explorer site to review the material and the process.

There are several events/fund raisers related to the performing arts program coming up in the next week. You should have received an email regarding the Pei Wei fundraiser on the 18th. Some of the middle schoolers will be performing at the Arts Fest downtown next Saturday. Please call the office (377-2278) if you need more information about these events. Please save the dates of April 2nd and 3rd for the spring Scholastic Book Fair. There will be a PTO meeting on the 3rd and the book fair will remain open that evening. Mrs. Quattro is also putting together a student art show for that same evening that will display exemplary work. April 11 will be the Hispanic Heritage Fair from 4:00 - 7:00 with all students taking part in performances and displays. Please plan to come support the students.

Finally, don't forget to vote on March 25 on the referendum about the extension of the 1 mill assessment. If you are a Sarasota County resident, you probably received a postcard regarding the referendum. You can also vote early through the 22nd.

Have a wonderful week!

## Upcoming Dates:

- March 18th - PEI WEI Fundraiser
- March 21st - Yearbook photos are due!
- March 25 - Referendum Voting Day
- March 26th: Florida Studio Theatre Field Trip (Kindergarten - 5th)
- March 28th: Professional Day
- March 31st- April 4th: SPIRIT WEEK!! Stay tuned for details.
- April 2nd & 3rd - Book Fair
- April 3rd - Board Meeting
- April 3rd - PTO Meeting
- April 11th - Hispanic Fair

## 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>



### Yearbook Love Notes:

*"Would you like to send a special message to your child in the yearbook?"*

**Example "Lauren, you are our shining star and make me so proud!**

**Love you, Mom & Dad"**

If so, please complete the Love Note Form (located on the Parent's Corner drop down menu on the SAA website) and return the bottom portion with your payment attached (\$5 per message). Cash or check payable to SAA PTO.

The form must be received in the office by Friday, March 21, 2014. Please note that there are no exceptions to this deadline, so don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of the 1st edition of the SAA yearbook!

### UPCOMING EVENT INFORMATION:

We have decided to postpone the Children's Consignment Sale that was planned for the end of March, but hope to be able to revive it in the Fall if we have enough people to help on the committee and interested in consigning.

#### PTO Elections:

Are you looking for a way to get more involved at SAA? If so, then the PTO needs you. We are hoping to have an official PTO Board for the next school year and will be electing a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions can also be shared, so if you and a friend want to share the responsibilities, we welcome your help! The elections will take place at the next PTO Meeting, (April 3rd at 6:00pm) so please come and be part of another amazing school year ahead! We are also looking for committee chairs for next year, so be sure and attend this important meeting. A form will be made available on the PTO page outlining the position responsibilities, and a nomination form for these positions.

#### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Please be sure and check out the SAA page on the Volunteer Spot website as we have several volunteer opportunities this week, including the referendum voting signage. We need helpers to carry the signs during the car line in the morning and afternoon. Click here to sign up: <http://vols.pt/UAJuIv>. Also, we need help on Tuesday at Pei Wei to hand out flyers to customers. We still have a few slots available from 8:00pm—9:00pm. Click here to sign up: <http://vols.pt/Vsvkud>