



THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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Principal's Corner

Another beautiful weekend and another short week coming up!

Yesterday (Saturday) seventeen of our middle school students took part in the Sarasota Art Fest with a number of other public and private schools. The students participated in the multi-school "Cups" number based on *Pitch Perfect's* "When I'm Gone" and then performed excerpts from *Bye, Bye, Birdie* on the "Clock" stage. We were very proud of them and appreciate the parents who took the time to bring the students on a Saturday morning and who stayed to watch the performance. Students who performed were Jai Heckman, Cameron Kiser-Gilmore, Martin Leone, Hayley Walding, Mya Webb, Lauren Weble, Beau Basista, Emma Burg, Carmela Moedano, Austin Rozelle, Molly Boyas, Camille Golden, Lucille Lawrence, Kathryn Lisman, Zoie McDonald, Jasmine Podolak, and Delaney Swain. Thanks, students, for representing SAA!

Letters were sent home last week to parents of all students in 3rd through 8th grade regarding the regulations surrounding the FCAT testing. Please return the bottom portion of the letter if you have not already done so. If you are concerned about the FCAT and have questions about the format, how much is enough when it comes to preparation, or what are ramifications of the scores, please contact me or your child's homeroom teacher for answers. This is an important assessment - important to the student, the teacher, and the school grade; but, we cannot allow it to become so overwhelming that students "freeze up" when they see it. Encourage them to work on FCAT Explorer, to take their time, and think positively about the whole process. Read with them and ask questions to see if they understand what they read. Talk about your own testing experiences and how they look in hind-sight. I always tell students how I froze when I was first handed the three questions for my master's degree written exam. But once I talked myself out of panicking, I realized I did know the material and was able to successfully complete the exam. The teachers are reviewing the material at school and students will have an opportunity to take practice tests on paper and electronically. Parents can encourage at home. And students can try their best. That's the way we all will have a successful FCAT experience!

Upcoming Dates:

- March 25 - Referendum Voting Day - Get out there and VOTE!!
- March 25th - Last day to order a yearbook!
- 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
- April 19th - Rays vs. Yankees @ 7:00pm

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>



If you received a similar notice relating to the CELLA testing (which is almost completed) and have not returned the signed portion, please send that in as well. This week, look for letters regarding the Hispanic Heritage Night on April 11.

Boxtops has been completed for this year, but you are encouraged to keep on collecting them for the fall turn-in. We raised another \$350.00 for upgrading the art room. Students will have a chance soon to use their "Star Bucks." Thank you for your help.

Congratulations again to the kindergartners for collecting the most money per student for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Campaign. Their Olive Gardens luncheon is this Tuesday. Tuesday is also the very last day yearbooks can be ordered. They are \$45 each. Remember to save the date for April 3. There are a number of things planned for that evening - PTO, PTO elections, Leroy Selman dinner fundraiser, the Spring Book Fair, and the Student Art and Fashion Show. Please plan to attend to support your child and SAA!

Most importantly, don't forget to VOTE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25! Thank you to Kristina Swain for heading up the grassroots committee and to the parents and students who have been helping her get the word out.

Have a great week! School will be closed Friday for a teacher inservice day.

SPIRIT WEEK:

Next week (March 31st - April 4th) is Spirit Week!!

Here are the themes for the week . . . Get creative and have fun!

- Monday - Country Western Day
- Tuesday - Sports Team / Jersey Day
- Wednesday - Costume Day
- Thursday - Neon Day
- Friday - Mismatched Day

RAYS vs. YANKEES:

We have been given an amazing opportunity and hope you'll join us for our Spirit Night on Saturday, April 19th at 7:00pm as the Rays go up against the NY Yankees.

An order form is being sent home this week, so be sure and pre-order your tickets ASAP. Once the deadline passes, we will be unable to get that special pricing anymore.