



# THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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## Principal's Corner

Muchas gracias to everyone who participated in the Hispanic Heritage Fair last Friday! Mrs. North and Mrs. Tirota and their students outdid themselves in presenting art, dance, music, and country information. It was wonderful to see the kindergarten through fourth graders perform traditional songs and dances. Even the eighth graders got into the spirit showing the dances they had learned. Almost all of the students participated in some way - the fifth graders and middle school students displayed their art and decorations and acted as servers of the delicious food sent in by parents. The evening turned into an open-mic session with spontaneous performances by Mr. Koci and Mr. Upholz on their guitars, first grade magicians, fifth grade singers, and an eighth grade comedian! There was even an impromptu performance by "Spanish Rose" from "Bye, Bye, Birdie"! That's what happens at a school where the emphasis is on the performing arts! The students and teachers perform! I hope you were able to join us!

I sent a separate email to parents in each grade level reminding everyone of the FCAT schedule. We start Wednesday morning promptly at 8:00 for all third through eighth graders with the exception of the 6B class. Because of the number of computers needed at the middle school level, 6B students will have their first test (math) on Thursday. Just in case you haven't seen the marquee at the neighboring public schools or didn't read the email, we are attaching another copy of the schedule to the printed version of this letter that will go home Monday. It is best for the students to do as few make-up tests as possible. Students seem to score higher when the test is taken within the regular testing group. I am sure teachers will continue to review, but at this point the things to remember are to get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast, and try your best.

Please remember that when waiting to turn onto Tree Lane in the afternoon, you cannot pull so far to the right on Fruitville Road that you are blocking the bicycle lane. There is a Florida statute (F.S.S.316.1945(1)(b)6 that prohibits stopping, standing, or parking in specified places such as on an exclusive bicycle lane. The fine is \$116.00 (non-moving violation ticket). More importantly it is dangerous to you and any cyclists. If at all possible, it would

## Upcoming Dates:

- April 14th - Pick up your pre-ordered Rays tickets from the office.
- April 18th - Mini Break
- April 19th - Rays vs. Yankees @ 7:00pm
- April 22nd - K-2nd Grade Field Trip to "Bears"
- April 25th - Honor Roll Ice Cream Social
- April 30th - Van Wezel Field Trip
- May 1st - 8:00am SAA Board Meeting
- May 1st - 6:00pm PTO Meeting & 2014-2015 Committee Sign Ups
- May 2nd - SPIRIT DAY

## Need Volunteer Hours?

Here is the Volunteer Spot Group Page that lists many opportunities, including the upcoming FCAT activities. We have only 14 of the 60 spots filled and we need your help!

Please sign up today!

<http://vols.pt/jgjnqw>



**Principal's Corner (continued):**

be better to pull around to the office area if traffic is backed up and get your child rather than to block Fruitville. Parents in the front of the line could pull all the way down to Garrison to allow a little more waiting space. Please don't block the bus lanes; we have a new afternoon driver so sometimes the schedule is a little off.

Please let Kathy know if you did not receive your child's report card. There were some errors on the cards as some numbers were changed from what appeared in the second quarter. We are looking into what happened. If you received the notice that your child is considered truant, please send in the written excuses for absences. We must have the absence excused by you in writing. Kathy will accept emails, faxes, notes from home, but it has to be in writing. That is a district policy. All absences are marked unexcused until we receive that note.

Have a wonderful week. Take a look at the calendar to see what field trips and events are coming up!

**A special SHOUT OUT goes to Lee Roy Selmon's for providing the delicious meals for our Family Fun Night. We look forward to many more events like that in the Fall.**

**RAYS vs YANKEES:**

Pre-ordered tickets for the Rays Spirit Night will be available for pickup from Kathy in the office on Monday, April 14th. Please note that these will NOT be sent home with your student, so if you purchased tickets, parents/guardians will need to pick them up in person.



**SPECIAL KUDOS:**

We would like to thank all of our wonderful families who have completed their volunteer hours, and then some! You will find a link on the Parent's Page of families who have completed their hours so check back often.