



# THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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## Principal's Corner

I had the opportunity to spend the last three days at a leadership conference with

district and building administrators from all parts of North America and the Pacific Islands. It was truly an uplifting and invigorating weekend. I look forward to sharing what I learned with our teachers and students, but I'll be glad to be back at SAA tomorrow.

I hope you are making plans to attend the Literacy Night next Tuesday, Nov. 11. The Literacy Team is putting together an evening of food and discussion that should benefit students, parents, and teachers. It is so important that our students are reading every chance they get - at least 20 minutes per day outside of class. Research shows that reading on the correct level increases achievement in every subject. We hope you and your children will join us for an evening where parents can learn and share with us and each other. More information will be coming home. Please RSVP here!

This is a busy week - field trips (2nd, 3rd, and 5th), benchmark tests in math for 1st through 8th grades, and the Fall Festival on Friday. The first day that report cards will be delivered to the school is Thursday. We will send them home as soon as we can. You can still go online through the parent portal to see your child's grades. The report cards have changed for the elementary students so you may not see a "real" letter grade in all subject areas. If you have questions after you receive the report card, please call us.

Have a great week!

Cecilia Blankenship, Principal

## Upcoming Dates:

- 11/4 - 5th Grade to Ringling Museum of Art (9:30am - 12:00pm)
- 11/5 - Advanced Show Choir at Bay Village (9:30am - 12:00pm)
- 11/5 - Advanced Show Choir at Woodland Village (5:00pm - 7:45pm) (Students will need to stay after school that day, we will provide dinner then go on the bus to Woodland Village) Parents should pick up students back at school at 7:45pm.
- 11/6 - SAA Board Meeting at 8:00am
- 11/7 - Fall Festival (1:00pm - 5:00pm)
- 11/8 - Broken Egg (7:30am - 2:00pm) - Broken Egg on Clark Road is planning on getting extra help that day to accommodate our awesome supporters on Saturday morning so please join us!

Want to sign up to volunteer your time at SAA? Please follow the link below to see spots available. There are TONS this time of year so don't delay meeting your required hours.

<http://vols.pt/Jgjnqw>



### Ice Cream Social Postponed

We will be postponing the Honor Roll Ice Cream Social as we do not have report cards available yet to determine our Honor Roll students and it will take some time to get the certificates put together. Keep a lookout for the future date!

Thanks for your understanding and your patience!



## Volunteer Requirements

The parent volunteer requirements at SAA are a minimum of 10 hours (5 hours for single parent households). We have many opportunities this time of year that may not be available in the Spring so don't delay in meeting your volunteer requirements.

In order for you to volunteer at any Sarasota County Public School, you are required to sign up on the PALS system, which is available in the front office of SAA. This is a system available at almost every Sarasota County Public school, whereby you will need to fill out some background information in the PALS computer system. Following a criminal background check and approval (which usually takes 2 weeks), we will then contact you to let you know that you've been PALS approved.

If you have been PALS approved the prior school year, you will just need to REACTIVATE your PALS account each school year. If you have been approved for Level 2 clearance before, please note that is it good for 5 years from the time you received the initial approval, as long as you renew your PALS account every school year.

Please note, that if you are not PALS approved, then you will not be allowed to volunteer for any school event, and therefore be unable to fulfill your required volunteer hours.

Also if you are planning on going on any out-of-county field trips, you will need a additional Level 2 clearance and will need to obtain PALS approval prior to scheduling fingerprinting. For more information on Level 2 clearance instructions, please visit our website.

### Fall Festival is Friday!

Sarasota Academy of the Arts invites you to join us at our Fall Festival on Friday, November 7th from 1:00pm - 5:00pm. We will need TONS of PALS APPROVED volunteers throughout the day as well as some cakes for the cake walk and donated baked goods!

Please sign up! <http://vols.pt/Dpxdy8>

If we do not have all the needed volunteer spots filled by Monday at 5:00pm, we will have no choice but to cancel the Fall Festival to avoid losing our deposits.

### Literacy Workshop

November 11th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Please RSVP on the SAA website!**

- Join the SAA Literacy Leadership Team to find out how to help your child become a better reader.
- Literacy Activities for Children
- Get advice from SAA staff on how to help your child find the right book!
- Interact with other parents and find out how they help their children be GREAT readers!
- Dinner and Dessert Provided