



THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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Principal's Corner

Thank you all for helping to make the first week back a smooth one! And thanks to all of you who attended

the first PTO meeting last Thursday. Don't forget to sign in your volunteer hour in the PALS program. A note about pick-up...Classes are dismissed at 4:00. If you could arrive closer to that time to pick up between 4 - 4:15, it may make it go more smoothly.

Tomorrow (Monday) is the first "restaurant" fundraising event. This one is at Yoder's Restaurant on Bahia Vista. You can go to the restaurant any time between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM (breakfast, lunch or dinner). You don't need a flyer but you do need to mention you are from SAA **before** you pay. The proceeds from this event go towards student transportation for musical performances by all students in grades K-8. Also, please remember tomorrow is the last day for the first Box Top contest. So far the winning classroom is first grade with 219 "tops", but kindergarten is right behind them with 169. Every class has about the same number of students this year, so the percentages will be equivalent.

The **technology meetings** for 5th through 8th grades have been **canceled** for this week. We will reschedule when all of the student names are in the correct Crosspointe grades and when we have the SuccessMaker and resources from the district downloaded. We will be getting Microsoft 365 for all students and teachers. This can be accessed at home as well as at school with no cost to the student's family. The program has been paid for but it takes a while for Microsoft to actually grant us the site license.

The construction is moving along and the fourth through sixth graders should be in classrooms by the next couple of weeks. Once that is done, we can have the new sidewalks and awnings installed. Because of the high heat index, students up through 5th grade have been eating lunch inside. A parent asked about the air conditioning in the classroom; all classrooms have had air conditioning continuously except for K - 2nd classrooms one afternoon Tuesday for about an hour. The compressor stopped working but we had a repair person out and he had it running again very quickly. It's hard to cool these rooms with the high heat index and number of bodies in the room so it may have felt like there was no air conditioning. Another parent asked if he could send a hand-held fan for his child to use in the afternoon. Certainly, as long as the fan does not become a distraction or cause disruption in the classroom. Send a water bottle, too.

Our main goal this year is related to literacy. We want everyone to be a successful reader. Students in all grade levels should have a book - any kind - to read when work is complete or there is a silent reading period. All students should be reading nightly; this could be silently, aloud, or with a partner taking turns. Twenty minutes is the recommended amount of time and bedtime stories are a great way to do this with younger children. Students can read from a book or an ereader. We just want them to read! 70% of our students participated in the summer reading assignments. Thank you to all of you (and your parents) who completed their assignments and shared in class. Students will be reading and writing in every class - even math. They will be reading more non-fiction than in previous years and looking deeper into the meaning of the written word. Some new vocabulary that you, as parents, might be hearing include: close reading,

Upcoming Dates:

- 8/25: Yoder's Fundraiser (8am - 6pm)
- 8/25: - Box Tops DUE!
- 9/2: 3rd and 4th Grade Technology Night -@ 6:30pm
- 9/3: Kindergarten - 2nd Grade Technology Night @ 6:30pm
- 9/5: Charleston Wrap Fundraiser DUE
- 9/5: Spirit Day
- 9/11: Picture Day
- 9/18: PTO Mtg @ 6:00pm
- 9/21: Day with the Rays

text complexity, and text evidence. Essentially what they mean is that the student needs to really focus on the text (words), possibly rereading several times to gain understanding. We know many students will have difficulty with this at first, but that's what we are here for - to teach and support them as they work through the process. It will take all of us - teachers, students, AND parents.

Watch for information from your child's teacher regarding reading assignments. Some of the teacher websites are interactive so you can leave a comment if you have questions or curriculum concerns. You're always welcome, of course, to contact me.



Business Partnership Coordinator

We are looking for a volunteer to handle and coordinate Business Partnerships. Please contact Kelly Marsh at 941-350-3767 if you are interested.



Bus Schedule - Effective 08/18/14

Be sure to check the SAA website for the latest bus schedule. It lists the stops, pick up and drop off times, and bus numbers.



Sarasota Academy of the Arts is starting an after school book club this year. Be sure and check the SAA website for the details, on the "After School Activities" page.

VOLUNTEER INFO /PALS

The Volunteer Sign up sheet is due - Have you turned yours in yet?

Also, please be sure and register as an SAA volunteer on the PALS computer. If you were PALS approved last year, you will just need to reactivate your account. If you are new to Sarasota County public school, you will need to register and obtain Level I approval through PALS in order to be able to volunteer at Sarasota Academy of the Arts.

Box Tops



Earn Cash for Our School!

The first Box Tops for Education drive this year starts NOW and ends August 25th.

The class with the most Box Tops turned in by the end of the day August 25th will get to choose between a pizza party and ice cream party! Please be sure your Box Tops are not expired!!



ATHLETICS

Volleyball tryouts for 6-8 graders begins on Tuesday after school and runs until 5:30. Be sure to check out the [Volleyball schedule](#) that is posted on the Sports page of the SAA website.



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