



THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

November 27, 2017

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Principal's Corner

I hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving holiday and is not too exhausted from traveling, cooking, and shopping. It was such a delight for me to fly in from the colder weather at my Mom's house. Now we have three jam-packed weeks before the end of the semester and our winter break.

As a reminder, this week we have the PTO Breakfast on Tuesday from 7:30 to 8:30 AM and the SAC meeting Wednesday from 4:15 - 5:00 PM. We finish out the week with the Drama Club presentation on Saturday from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. You can find more information for these in flyers sent home and on the website.

As you may remember, we complete a School Improvement Plan every year as required by the Department of Education. One part of it is related to the goals the faculty and SAC set for the year, partially based on our students' proficiency rate as shown by the FSAs. This year we have set six (6) goals that have been approved by the school district:

Goal 1: By the year 2018, there will be a minimum of a four percentage point increase for all students when less than 70% are currently demonstrating proficiency on the grade 5 and grade 8 Science SSA. (This means we want to see at least 45% of our 5th and 8th graders scoring at level 3 or better. This is our area in which we are hopeful that with changes we have made, we will have the same improvement that we have had in math. We have a Business Partner who is assisting with goal.)

Goal 2: By the year 2018, there will be a minimum of a four percentage point increase for all students when less than 70% are currently demonstrating proficiency in reading. (We made good gains last year and want to continue that trend so at least 65% are proficient in grades 3 through 8. Your encouragement for students to read, read, read has such a positive impact.)

Goal 3: By 2018, there will be a four point percentage increase in learning gains in reading. (This goal refers to students showing progress - ALL of them... even if they don't score at level 3, they still should improve. Our score here last year was quite good - we increased by 6% in one category and 16% in another.)

Goal 4: By the year 2018, the gains achieved in the previous year will be increased for the general student population by 2%, while the goal for the targeted populations of English Language Learners (ELL) and Students with Disability (SWD) learners, will be to increase their proficiency levels in math by four percentage points. (73% of our students overall scored at levels 3, 4, or 5 and 77% overall showed improvement.)

Goal 5: A minimum of 85% of students who participate in the Business

Upcoming Dates:

Be sure to check the SAA Calendar on the school website frequently as that has the most current information!

Tuesday - 11/28/17

- 7:30am - PTO Breakfast

Wednesday - 11/29/17

- 10:30am - Flu Shots

- 4:15pm SAC Meeting

Saturday - 12/2/17

- 7:00pm - SAA Drama Showcase

Wednesday - 12/06/17

- 9:15am Girls Chorus @

Cabot Reserve

- 10:30am Advanced Chorus

@ The Pines

Thursday - 12/07/17

- 6:00pm Girls Chorus

Advanced Chorus Winter

Show (Glenridge)

Friday - 12/09/17

- Advanced Chorus to Disney





Partner incentive program will show improvement in math fluency as measured by fall to spring gains on the i-Ready and Xtra Math assessments. (This is a continuation from last year. It helped!)

Goal 6: Student attendance will be maintained and/or increase throughout the year. (We continue to work on this goal.)

All of these depend upon the combined efforts of the teaching staff, parents and the students. Together we can see the improvement in not just test scores, but in confidence and overall growth measured in many different ways. We want our students to be successful so that they are prepared for high school giving them more opportunities for choices in their adult life. And even though it is not explicitly stated because it cannot be quantitatively measured, we will continue to expand and improve our arts program so that our students will be able to participate in as well as enjoy the visual and performing arts.

Have a great week!

Cecilia Blankenship, Principal

Exam Weeks

Dec. 12 - Spanish 1

Dec 13 - Algebra 1 and Geometry

Dec 14 - Science - HS Physical Science and 8th grade

Dec 15 - Science - 6th & 7th grade

Dec 19 - Science - 5th grade; Civics - 8th grade!

SAA Drama Club Showcase

On Saturday December 2, 2017 the SAA Drama Club is proud to present a theater showcase of scenes and short plays featuring the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade acting class students, The show will be staged as a black box theater experience in the Middle School building. The show will begin at 7 P.M.

The Drama Club will provide food and beverages at intermission in the outdoor classroom, and although this is free, they will be very happy to accept donations toward the purchase of new wireless microphones for theater use.

Please come out and support our acting classes. They are ready to give you a wonderful evening of theater.

Seating is first come first served so make sure you come early. See you there!

Volunteer Hours

We will be pulling a report of volunteer hours on Friday, December 1st, so if you need to input any hours you have completed so far, please do so by Thursday, November 30th.

Inputting your volunteer hours is CRUCIAL for us to receive the Golden School Award and retain our 5 Star status, and to complete your volunteer hours for the school year. The parent volunteer requirements at SAA are a minimum of 10 hours / 5 hours for single parent households. A letter will be sent home a week or two later, indicating the hours you have volunteered so far, and the hours still yet to complete by April of 2018.

Thank you so much for your understanding and your assistance in bringing your hours up to date!

Kelly Marsh, Volunteer Coordinator