



THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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Principal's Corner

What a week this was! We had picture day, all-school Writing day, pajama day, the Valentine's Day

dance for middle school, poster-winner recognition night, and the Variety Show. So many students, parents, and teachers deserve applause and thanks for all the work that went into these events. So, thank you!!

Wednesday morning, everyone in the school from kindergarten to eighth grade wrote responses to writing prompts. For the fourth through eighth graders, it is expected that they can read passages or look at a video or cartoon and write a response at least five paragraphs long. The response must fully address the topic and incorporate text evidence to support what they write AND use correct capitalization and punctuation. The kindergartners wrote at least two sentences with a picture (the students know that pictures are one example of a text feature that helps clarify the writer's intent) illustrating their response. First through third graders wrote page-long responses that included examples and sometimes illustrations. The chosen topic was empathy as it relates to how we view and treat one another in school. I am in the process of reading each student's response for content and a general idea of where we are in supporting good writing. The teachers will then get them back, not to assess a grade, but to evaluate our students' strengths and weaknesses in order to continue to develop our curriculum. So far, I've completed kindergarten through third grade and I can tell you that those students understand empathy and compassion - two character traits SAA is emphasizing this month. Their writing techniques are progressing nicely, too. I'll share a word garden with you when I am finished reading.

The Variety Show was wonderful! We have some very talented students who fearlessly showed what they could do. There was singing, dancing, tumbling, monologues, and joke telling, all set in the lovely fairy-lighted reading garden. You missed a great evening if you weren't there.

Ms. Julie asked me to include a correction to the performance schedules she sent home. The performance for the middle school choruses at the Sarasota County Fair is Sunday, March 18. The third/fourth grade Spring Show is Tuesday, May 1 at the Glenridge Theatre. Remember that Feb. 21 and 22 are the play pictures. Be sure you have the information regarding costumes and what parents have to provide. Get in touch with Ms. Julie if you need clarification.

Coming up this week is the February Governing Board meeting on Tuesday at 8:05 AM. (You can always access the agenda and minutes on the SAA website.) Valentine's Day activities for K - 5th grade are Wednesday. Thursday the 8th graders go to the Dali Museum in St. Pete. The K - 1st graders go to Jungle Gardens on Friday. Also on Friday is the Second Career Showcase for the middle school. Don't forget next Monday, Feb. 19 is a school holiday - Presidents' Day.

Have a wonderful week!
Cecilia Blankenship, Principal

Upcoming Dates:

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

Tuesday - 2/13/18

- 8:00am - Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday - 2/14/18

- Valentine's Day

Thursday - 2/15/18

- 8:00am 8th Grade Trip to Dali Museum

Friday - 2/16/18

- 9:15am - K/1st Jungle Gardens Field Trip
- Middle School Career Showcase

Monday - 2/19/18

President's Day - NO SCHOOL

Wednesday - 2/21/18

- K - 5th Play Pictures

Thursday - 2/22/18

- Middle School Play Pictures