

Principal's Newsletter

OCTOBER 8, 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Panther Families,

I am pleased to announce that Sarasota Middle School raised just over \$4,000 for the Benjamin Gilkey Fund for Innovative Pediatric Cancer Research! We are so proud of this. Our Go Gold chairs will be meeting with Benji's mom to share photos, the winning art and essay from our school, and of course make our donation. Thank you again for your generous support and participation.

Our volleyball and tennis teams will compete this week in the playoffs. Volleyball will be at Riverview High School on October 9th starting at 6:00 PM. Tennis will be at Venice High School on October 10th beginning at 3:00 PM. We wish our SMS players the best!

Lastly, please remember we are looking for:

- Dads to join our All Pro Dad's chapter
- Parents to join our 8th Grade Events committee

You do not have to be an 8th grade parent to participate in these groups. All are welcome! If you are interested, please contact our PTOS at ptsopanthers@gmail.com.

Best,

Mrs. Nzeza 🌿

IMPORTANT DATES

10/9 - Volleyball Playoffs @ RHS - 6:00 PM

10/10 - Tennis Playoffs @ VHS - 3:00 PM

10/13 - SAC Meeting 8:15 AM in the Art room

10/16 - Professional Day - No School
10/17-10/20 - Kindness Week - More to come
10/19 - NJHS Induction @ 6:00 PM - See attached fliers and below
10/20 - 6th Grade Glow Party - see flier below
10/25 - NJHS Meeting @ 8:30 AM in the Cafeteria (Students only)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND CAMPUS?

SPONSOR SHOUT OUT

Milam Bogart Dermatology is keeping us glowing! Thank you for your continued support and sponsorship of Sarasota Middle School.



WELCOME OUR NEW SRO

We are thrilled to welcome our new School Resource Officer, Macy Lamastra. Officer Lamastra comes to the Sarasota County Schools Police Department with prior law enforcement experience and is currently assigned to Sarasota Middle School. Prior to law enforcement, Ms. Lamastra was a 6th grade English teacher. She went to Union College in Kentucky, where she obtained her Bachelor's degree and played college basketball as a shooting guard! We'll be calling on her to play in our Panther Pounce fundraiser this year for sure!! Ms. Lamastra is a cancer survivor. Please welcome SRO Lamastra when you see her!



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Dear Parents,

Applications for NJHS went out mid September. If your child is accepted into NJHS, you will be notified via email. Our **SMS Induction Ceremony is Thursday, October 19, at 6:00 PM** in the cafeteria.

One-time dues are \$25, payable **at the first meeting at 8:30 AM, Wednesday, October 25** in the SMS Cafeteria. Please contact your counselor or another trusted adult on campus if you would like to know more about a scholarship to cover these dues; we do not want the dues to limit anyone's access!

NJHS students in 7th grade work toward 10 hours of service learning and 8th graders aim toward 20 hours; however, we understand that middle schoolers are less mobile than high schoolers (and usually involved in 10 different things), so we "ask" and "aim". Students are encouraged to do their best to reach these goals as they do need to be ready for the much higher expectations in high school. Students may go beyond these as well.

We will accept almost anything for hours; on campus, off campus, helping sports teams outside of regular practice hours, youth group activities, etc. Even things students do in other clubs, such as the many SWAT activities, count.

Right now on Schoology is an opportunity to volunteer at Ashton's Fall Festival. Upcoming, we have the Daffodil Garden planting, Thanksgiving food drive, Toys for Tots, and another Coastal Cleanup at Philippi Estate.

Mr. Parker relies on email and Schoology for communication as all students have access. If you have any questions, please reach out directly at Paul.Parker@sarasotacountyschools.net.

WEAR PINK DAY

Wear Pink Day, held Friday, October 6, is part of Breast Cancer Awareness month. This annual campaign raises awareness of the disease. According to SageWest Health Care "The first Breast Cancer Awareness Month kicked off in October 1985 with former First Lady and breast cancer survivor Betty Ford, who helped launch a call to action for women across the country." We were proud to participate. Some of our students and staff are featured below.



6TH GRADE GLOW PARTY!

Our wonderful PTSO is hosting a 6th Grade Glow Party on October 20. Please see below and attached for details and permission slip.



6th Grade Glow Party
Friday, October 20 • 6-7:30PM
SMS Cafeteria

\$5

- Pre-registration required
- Price includes admission, pizza, popcorn, soda and raffle ticket

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- 1) This document has been prepared in an attempt to provide a safe and socially appropriate environment for SMS students attending social activities
- 2) Registration **MUST** be made in advance. No door sales. Students must present the signed expectations slip below to be added to the registration list. No exceptions.
- 3) Only SMS students are allowed to attend SMS social events and may only attend their grade level event.
- 4) All school expectations apply for any school-sponsored function, including events held after school hours. If it is not appropriate at school, it is not appropriate at the social event.
- 5) Students must remain inside the cafeteria during the entire social event.
- 6) Students will be able to enter the middle gate of the bus loop (closest to the front office). Students will exit the same gate and remain under the blue awning until picked up by parent/guardian.

To attend, students must turn in this form and \$5 (cash or check) on or before 10/17. Forms and money are to be turned into the front office. Names will be held at the door for entry.

Student Name (please print)

Grade

Advisory Teacher

Please indicate how your child will be going home

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Phone # During Event

FIRST BAND CONCERT

We would like to thank all of our band parents for coming to our first band concert! According to one SMS parent, "After watching the band performances and reflecting with those around me, I felt it necessary to send a special kudos to SMS for supporting Mr. McKee's music program. He is a true gift 🎵" We agree!! Way to go Mr. McKee and students!



KINDNESS WEEK

Kindness week at SMS is October 17-20th. We will share more with you in next week's newsletter about our specific ways to get involved but we want to share this now: SMS has partnered with All Faiths Food Bank who will match any donation given to their Autumn Harvest Campaign (which supplies fresh produce for people in the community), so it will be doubled!

Sarasota Middle has set a goal of \$1300. We have just over 1300 students, so if every student donates a dollar we will meet our goal. If you would like to participate in this part of our Kindness Week activities, please click on the link below.

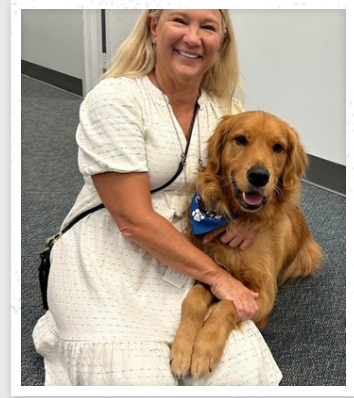
<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/AllFaithsFoodBank/HelpEndHungerwithSarasotaMiddleSchool>

Thank you!

-SMS Counselors

THERAPY DOGS ON CAMPUS FOR PICTURE DAY

Rebel, Pirate, and Winston were all on campus for Picture Day! Look in this year's Yearbook for their school photos!!



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

MESSAGE FROM MRS. ZOPPO – PBIS CHAIR

Dear Sarasota Middle School Families,

Here is the link to the Amazon wish list for our Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS): Link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/8DZHKOY8E6X6?ref_=wl_share

The SMS staff and PBIS team strive to teach students the character skills necessary for building a strong and positive community. Every day at SMS, students earn “Panther Paws” from teachers and staff, to both encourage and reward demonstrating key character traits outlined in our school Panther Pact (we ask students to be Polite, Prepared, Productive and have Safe Behaviors). Students can turn their “paws” in for a weekly raffle to win various rewards. Because of this system, we have seen a dramatic decrease in negative discipline.

When asking students what rewards they would be interested in winning at those weekly raffles, students constantly asked for gift cards to local businesses, restaurants, etc. In looking to expand our community further, the SMS PBIS team is asking for donations from the community, to recycle back into the community, and build partnerships between the community and SMS.

We have so many students doing the right thing every day, so in working with the community and any donation that can be provided, the PBIS team at SMS hopes that the positive behavior students demonstrate on campus can have a bigger and more positive impact outside of campus by supporting our local community businesses. SMS is looking to partner with local businesses to get donations such as gift cards, coupons, candy, snacks, etc. to use as rewards. We cannot accept cash donations.

Thank you for your consideration!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider becoming a Level 2 volunteer. This allows you to work any and all of our events at school, be in the classroom, and attend field trips. I'm told it takes about 5 minutes to register online and about 10 minutes to get your fingerprinting completed at the Landings.

Here is the link that will take you directly to the site. ☺

<https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/1369>

Thank you!!



ABOUT US

Facebook @smspanthers

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941-361-6464

sarasotacountyschools.net/sc...



6th Grade Glow Party 2023_Permission Slip.pdf

Download
770.8 KB



S S Saturday flyer 11.11.23 FINAL (1) 1.pdf

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371.4 KB



Super Sealant Saturday November 11th 2023 Espanol Final (1).pdf

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384.4 KB



NJHS Application packet 2023 -2024 Updated.pdf

Download
243.0 KB



NJHS Application INVITATION 2023-2024.docx

Download
51.4 KB

