

# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

October 28, 2023 🎃



## Dear Families,

As we near the end of October, for those who participate in Halloween festivities, please know that we do not allow students to dress up in costumes at school on Halloween. That includes face paint, wigs, accessories, and of course face masks. Please know that students will be asked to change into appropriate school attire if they come to school dressed inappropriately. We will have a Spirit Week for students during which they can dress up in various fun outfits coming soon.

Now is the time to review your child's progress towards grade-level expectations in every class by reviewing his or her report card. If you feel you need to, please connect with your child's teachers for questions or concerns you may have. We suggest face-to-face conferences to ensure communication is clear.

As we move into November, we are looking forward to celebrating our SMS families with Veterans. Please find the flier below regarding our Veterans Day celebration, which will be held on November 10th. We invite all SMS students with a family member who is a Veteran, and their immediate family members. It is important to RSVP for this event. We have student speeches, live performances, and a few sweet treats for you to enjoy.

I am pleased to be able to share so many positive stories in this week's newsletter. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Nzeza 🐼

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## Important Dates

## Please mark your calendars

**11/1 - NJHS Meeting - 8:30 in the Media Center - New Date!!**

11/2 - PTSO Meeting

11/10 - SAC Meeting

11/10 - Veteran's Day Celebration - See flier below

11/13 - Basketball @ SMS

11/15 - Basketball @ Booker

11/20 - 11/24 - Thanksgiving Break - No School

11/29 - Basketball @ SMS

12/4 - Basketball @ HCMS

12/6 - Basketball @ SMS

12/7 - PTSO Meeting

12/8 - SAC Meeting

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## What's Happening Around Campus?

### Welcome Mr. Robison

We are pleased to introduce our new Behavior Specialist, Maureik Robison. He writes:

"I'm so glad to be a part of the team at Sarasota Middle! I'm a native of Sarasota and attended Gocio Elementary and Booker Middle and Booker High. After graduating from Florida State, I returned to Sarasota and worked as a 4th grade teacher. My beautiful wife, Taylor, and I have a daughter, Bradley, who keeps us moving. When I'm not working or playing with Bradley, you can either find me helping my wife with her mobile plant shop around the area or playing music."

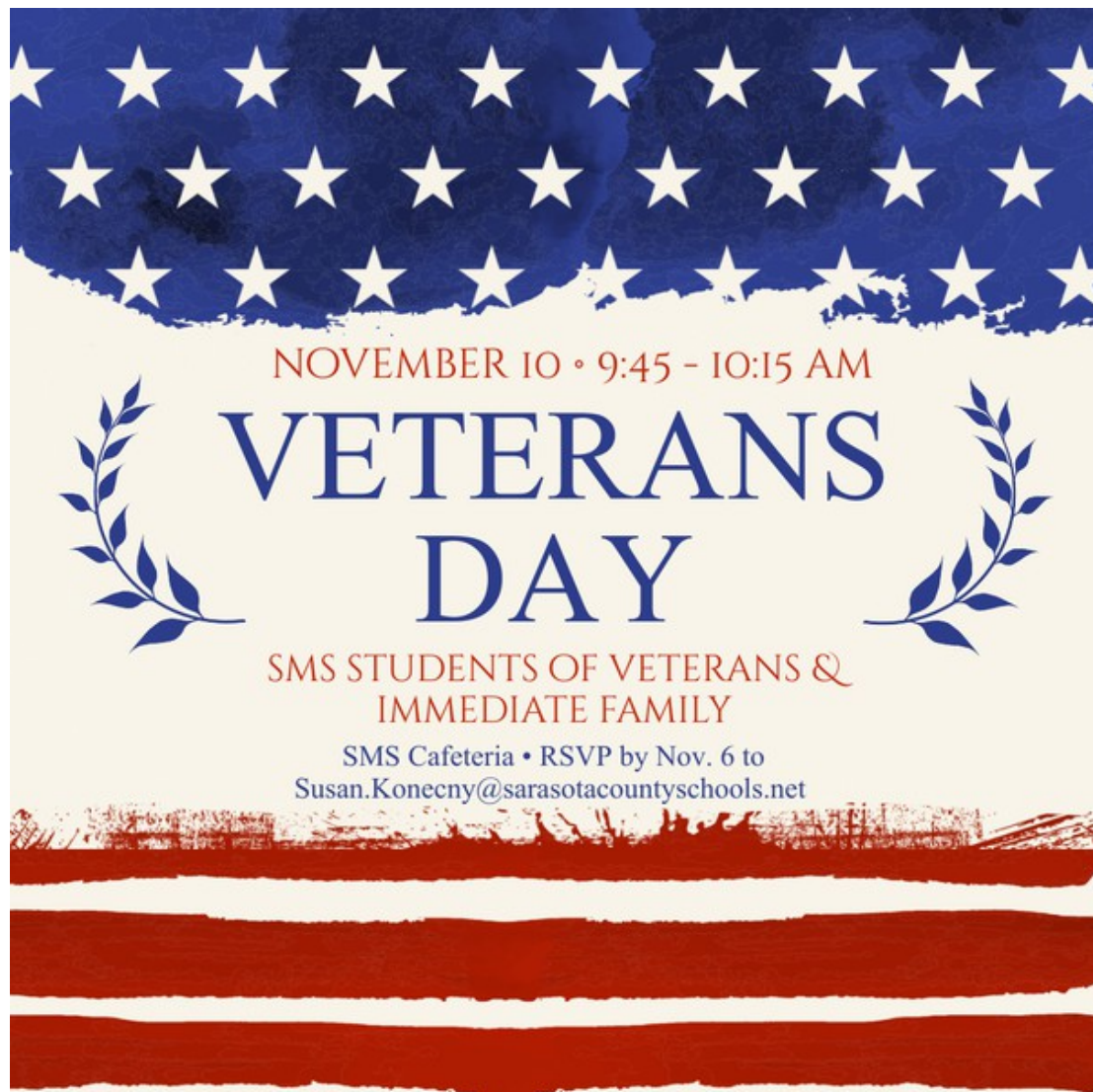
Welcome to the SMS Team, Mr. Robison!



### **Veterans Day Celebration - Please Join Us**

We will be celebrating all SMS students with a Veteran in their immediate family on Friday, November 10th, 2023 in the SMS Cafeteria. Please consider joining us so we can show you the love and admiration you deserve for your dedication to our country and its citizens. We ask that you RSVP by November 6th to [Susan.Konecny@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:Susan.Konecny@sarasotacountyschools.net) so we can appropriately plan. Thank you and we hope to see you there!





### **Campfire Stories**

As a culminating event for their narrative writing unit, students in Mrs. Patt and Mrs. Kizziar's ELA classes participated in "Campfire Stories." Held in the media center, students practiced their speaking and listening skills as their scary stories were read aloud to their peers. Students' stories had to include figurative language, direct dialogue, and create a mood for the listeners. I heard some great similes, cliffhangers, and onomatopoeias while I was present. Great job students!





## TSA Leadership Conference 2023

Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Sims took students to the TSA Leadership Conference in Orlando this week. According to PVTSA, "this conference aims to equip student leaders with the ability to run a successful TSA chapter. Students are also able to network with students from all over the state, making valuable connections."

This year's SMS participants included:

President: Ava Valabek & in training, Ethan Freeman

Vice President: Leah Brown & in training, Aivy Le

Treasurer: Tim Zemler & in training, Charles Rex

Recorder: Kessya Losier

Sargent at Arms: Nicholas Ferreira & in training, Colton Guston

Secretary: Kai Trumble & in training, Thomas Heneen









## Florida School Counselor of the Year

Sarasota Middle School's very own, Dr. Carmen Larson, has been named the Florida School Counselor Association's (FSCA) 2024 Florida School Counselor of the Year!

A recent district press release notes that the School Counselor of the Year (SCOY) award was "created to recognize the life-changing impact that school counselors have on students and school communities, [and] honors school counselors who successfully manage comprehensive school counseling programs; innovatively work to advance the profession; and passionately advocate for the needs of their students, families, and school communities, among other important criteria."

For those who know and work with Dr. Larson, you know she is the perfect choice for this award. We are so proud.



## SMS Clubs in Full Swing

### List of Clubs

Is your child interested in participating in a club? See below for a list of active clubs.

Club	Teacher	Days	Time	Room
Anime Club	Mr. Lorenzo	Wednesday	8:45-9:15	626
Before School Band tutoring	Mr. McKee	Monday, Wednesday & Thursday	8:30-9:00	303
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Mrs. Joiner	Friday	8:30-9:00	702
Jazz Band	Mr. McKee	Tuesday & Friday	8:00-9:00	303
Technology Student Association	Ms. Murphy	Wednesday & Thursday	W 4:15-5:15 T 8:30- 9:15	408
Drama Club	Mr. Alexis	Wednesday	8:30-9:00	P. 5
Youth in Government	Mrs. Tackett	Wednesday	8:45-9:15	625
SWAT-Students Working Against Tobacco	Mrs. Patt	Wednesday or Thursdays (see schedule)	8:30-9:00	804
FBLA-Future Business Leaders of America	Mr. Akhmadullin	Thursday	8:15-9:15	403

### Basketball Teams Announced

We are so proud of all students who tried out for our girls and boys basketball teams this school year. As you would expect, there were many great players, but each team was limited in the number of players who could be on the team. We are pleased to share the rosters below, and are looking forward to a great season!





2023-2024

Kaya Leach
Maddie Majors
Hayden Bowles
Sophia Chacon
Aurora Ahern
Inula Hall
Maggie Rogers
Zara Noto
Ella Dabringhaus
Eden Martinez
Lauryn Taylor
Sofia Sanchez
Bia Mayrinck
Zara Chowdhury
Greta Kotasek
Leslie Foxworthy
Aivy Le
Head Coach- Coach Neal
Asst. Coach- Coach Hanna



2023-2024

Calum Davidson
Aiden Novak
Jace Lundquist
Wyatt Sheppard
Grayson Jones
Jaydin Miller
Noah Roessler
Ezequiel Santiago-Ferrer
Davtavius Parks
Dan Delgado
Ian Hatfield
Jonathan Schnaeidr
Ashton Clough
Ryan Dargham
Colin Robinson
Owen Sterling
Manager- Jax Lundquist
Manager- Jayden Liriano
Manager- Wyatt Roessler

## Friendly Reminders

### All Faith's Food Bank

Update:

Sarasota Middle School has reached its goal of \$1300 for All Faiths Food Bank's Autumn Harvest Campaign!!! Wow!! We want to thank all families who contributed to this wonderful cause. A special shout out goes to the Coccozza family for helping to push us over the top and reach our goal. Our community thanks you!



Give  
Thnks

As living costs increase, even more help is needed.

### Yearbook Sales have Begun

Believe it or not, it is time to begin thinking about purchasing a yearbook. You can also purchase a dedication page if interested. The information is posted below.



# Order your Yearbook

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## Dedication TODAY!



### HOW TO PURCHASE

Log Onto : [Ybpay.com](http://Ybpay.com)

Enter School Code:  
**13250524**

Share with your child  
how proud you are of  
his/her  
accomplishments!

**Yearbook \$40**

**Business Card size dedication \$40**

**Quarter Page dedication \$60**

**Half Page Dedications \$125**

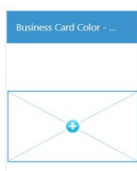
**Full Page dedications \$250**

**All Ads/Dedications must be purchased by 12/08/2023.**

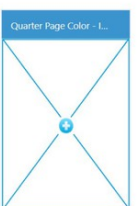
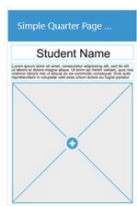
Quantities are limited. First come, first serve

Please send any questions to [robin.murphy@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:robin.murphy@sarasotacountyschools.net)

Business Card Dedication Options Cost \$40.00 8 per page



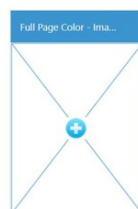
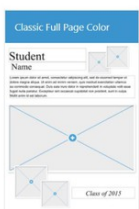
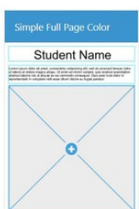
Quarter Page Dedication Options Cost \$60.00 4 per page



Half Page Dedication Options Cost \$ 125.00 2 per page



Full Page Dedication Options Cost \$250.00



Dedication/Ads available for Purchase Until Dec. 8 2023

[Ybpay.com](http://Ybpay.com) ID code: 13250524



**Smore Templates**

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

