

Words of Wisdom



THE NEWSLETTER OF LORETTO ELEMENTARY PTA

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PRINCIPAL
THERESA ROGERS
PTA PRESIDENT

Welcome Mr. Miller, Goodbye Ms. Derby

We hope that this letter finds you and your family blessed and well. There are many positive things happening at Loretto Elementary and we as administration, faculty and staff are very blessed to be a part of your student's life. Sometimes the beginning of a new calendar year brings unexpected changes. This is the case for Loretto Elementary's Administration.



We would like to inform you that as of today, Ms. Derby has accepted a transfer to West Jacksonville Elementary. Ms. Derby's previous principal was moved to a school where she needed help in bringing the school from an F to an A. Ms. Derby had previously worked with this principal and had done just that; so she was called on again for her help. We appreciate all of the work and love that Ms. Derby has put into Loretto. We will miss her and will always wish her well on this new endeavor.

Beginning February 3, Mr. John Miller will take over for Ms. Derby. Mr. Miller graduated from Claflin University in South Carolina with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. He earned his Master's Degree from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Georgia and is currently working on his PhD in Educational Leadership from Capella University. He has experience in many grade levels. He has taught 5th grade science along with many other grade level science courses. He has been a guidance counselor and a dean of students. One of Mr. Miller's strengths is working with students and families as well as instructional integration of technology. He should quickly become a beloved member of the Loretto family as his personality is outgoing and energetic.

Our first and most important objective is to make sure that your child knows of the change ahead of time so they can discuss it openly before school resumes Monday. With your help, we want our Loretto children to realize that change happens sometimes in the career of adults and that change may not be driven by anything they have done or not done. In other words, Ms. Derby

Stay Connected with the Loretto PTA

[http://lorettapta.weebly.com/
index.html](http://lorettapta.weebly.com/index.html)

You can also find us on
[Facebook!](#)

Parking Lot Safety

Please observe all traffic signs and rules when driving on and around campus. Children are NEVER to be dropped off anywhere other than the designated drop off circles. Please remember that the driveway that encircles the school is a "No Cell Phone" zone and that the speed limit on campus is an extra slow 5 mph. Thanks for helping keep our children safe!

Make a resolution to not talk or text and drive when you drop off or pick up at Loretto!!



SPIRIT DAY next Friday, February 4th. Wear **Blue or Yellow** or your Loretto shirt!!

is not leaving because of anything the children have done. Ms. Derby loves your children and so will Mr. Miller. Another objective of this letter is to ask that you make an effort to make Mr. Miller feel welcome and supported only as Loretto parents can do. I know you will give him a warm and receptive welcome.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Miller at millerjrj.duvalschools.org to encourage him in the task of taking over his mid-year responsibilities. I am sure he would welcome your support. Mr. Miller's first day will be Monday, February 3rd.

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PARENTS: We want your feedback! Please take a few minutes to take our survey about fundraising and let your voices be heard. Please take the following link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JSVPB3D>



Mark your Calendars

- February 4, Tuesday 6:00pm
Mandarin Middle Parent Night
- February 6, Thursday 5:00-8:00pm
Chick-fil-A
- February 25-26
FCAT Writing 4th Grade
- February 5, Wednesday
Early Dismissal
- February 19, Wednesday
Early Dismissal
- March, 12, Wednesday
Early Dismissal
- March 17-21, Spring Break
- March 26, Wednesday
Early Dismissal
- April 22-May 7
FCAT Reading, Math, and Science
3rd-5th Grade

Accreditation

As promised, we are sharing more information about accreditation with you and all of our stakeholders. In January, we provided information about Standards 1 and 2.

Duval County Public Schools are going through the accreditation process this year. You might be familiar with the previous SACS Accreditations. In a technological age, SACS is using AdvancED as their portal. Last year, there were surveys that you might have filled out asking questions about the school. The students and faculty were also asked to fill out surveys. All stakeholders are an integral part of the ongoing continuous improvement process. This year we are in the process of self-assessment on five standards for "quality practice and conditions that research and best practice indicate are necessary for schools to achieve quality student performance results and organizational effectiveness. The indicators are operational definitions or descriptions of exemplary practices and process. When seen together, the indicators provide a comprehensive picture of each standard."

"Each indicator provides four performance levels that describe varying degrees to which a school is able to verify its assessment of the question." We use the performance levels as an opportunity to ask the "stakeholders challenging questions and respond with accurate answers geared toward improvement of our school."

Standard 3 is on Teaching and Assessing for Learning. We believe we have achieved a level 4 because we provide research-based curriculum and instructional methods with clear and measureable expectations for student learning that provides opportunities for all students to acquire requisite knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Teachers use proven instructional practices that actively engage students in the learning process. Teachers provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills to real world situations. Teachers give students feedback to improve their performance.

Standard 4 is on Resources and Support Services. We believe we have achieved a level 4 because we have the resources and services necessary to support its vision and purpose and to ensure achievement for all students. We have sufficient human, material, and fiscal resources to implement a curriculum that enables students to achieve expectations for student learning, to meet special needs, and to comply with applicable regulations. The school employs and allocates staff that are well qualified for their assignments. The school provides ongoing learning opportunities for all staff to improve their effectiveness. The school ensures compliance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Thank you for being a part of the success of our school and being a part of the process of continuing our accreditation. If you have any questions, please feel free to email any member of the administrative team.

FCAT is approaching

FCAT time is right around the corner!!!

We wanted to remind you that testing will be:

- February 25th -26th for 4th grade FCAT Writing and
- April 22nd - May 7th for FCAT Reading, Math and Science for 3rd- 5th grade.

Please make sure that your schedule is clear of any appointments or family trips, so that your child will be able to complete their tests in a timely fashion.

Even if your child is in a non-testing grade they will not be able to join their class or be dismissed early as we are under testing conditions school-wide.

Parent volunteers/visitors are welcome after 11:30 am each testing day.

Testing will begin promptly at 9:00 am and continue through the morning.

SPRING PICTURES

Spring pictures will be taken on Thursday, Feb. 27. Beginning this year a new procedure will be in place for "spring" pictures. Only students who **"Prepay"** for pictures and send in their money **before 2/27 will be photographed.** Along with individual pictures being prepaid, the student's **class group picture will be prepaid.** Leonard's studio will only produce enough class pictures as ordered. If anyone can volunteer and help with "Spring" pictures, please call 260-5800 - ext. 2101 and ask for Marti.





Music Notes

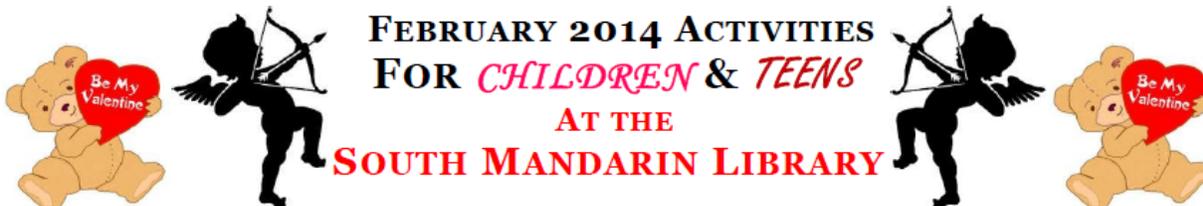
Congratulations to the following Loretto 4th grade young ladies selected to the prestigious First Coast Elementary Honor Choir: Emma M., Michaela S., Rachel S., and Alexis G. We wish them a wonderful performance on February 1st!

Thank you for representing our fine school so well.

The Jacksonville Symphony Guild graciously awarded our school not one but three \$500 Grants for new instruments including an African djembe, a cajon from Mexico, a set of bass Joia tubes, and four Caribbean steel drums.



Thank you Symphony Guild!"



FEBRUARY 2014 ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN & TEENS AT THE SOUTH MANDARIN LIBRARY

Sun	Mon	Tue (10-6)	Wed (1-9)	Thu (1-9)	Fri (10-6)	Sat (10-6)
CLOSED						1 11:00 AM Storybook Art (story and a craft)
2 CLOSED	3	4 10:30 AM Bilingual Stories for Babies & Toddlers	5 3:30 PM Early Out Fun Lego Club! (For grades K-6)	6 7:00 PM Teen Advisory Board	7 10:30 Stories for Young Children 11:00 Art For Young Children	8
9 CLOSED	10	11 10:30 AM Bilingual Stories for Babies & Toddlers	12	13	14 10:30 Stories for Young Children 11:00 Art For Young Children	15 11:00 AM Storybook Art (story and a craft)
16 CLOSED	17	18 10:30 AM Bilingual Stories for Babies & Toddlers	19 3:00 PM Doggone Safe Dog Bite Prevention (For grades K-6)	20 7:00 PM Teen Advisory Board	21 10:30 Stories for Young Children 11:00 Art For Young Children	22 3:00 PM Fun with Balloon Twisting
23 South Mandarin Branch Library 12125 San Jose Blvd. 904-288-6385	24	25 10:30 AM Bilingual Stories for Babies & Toddlers	26	27 7:00 PM Mother Daughter Book Club	28 10:30 Stories for Young Children 11:00 Art For Young Children	



Chick-fil-A®

On Southside at the Avenues
9980 Southside Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 519-0505

Show your school spirit and help raise money for
Loretto PTA by simply eating at
Chick-fil-A® on Southside Blvd.
just outside the Avenues Mall in front of Best Buy on
Thursday, February 6th from 5PM-8PM.

*Please let your cashier know that you are with
Loretto and we will credit your order to your Spirit Night®
event.*

15% of the subtotal sales* will be donated back to the school.
In addition, we will donate a medium Nuggets Tray** to
the Class*** with the most participation.(pick-up only)

WHEN: Thursday, February 6th 5p-8p

WHERE: Chick-fil-A® on Southside Blvd. at the Avenues

*Subtotal, before tax.

**Pick-up only, no delivery. Minimum 24 hours notice. Closed on Sundays.

***Minimum of 10 person participation to be eligible.





Mandarin Middle School

School Choice Parent Night

Tuesday February 4, 2014 at 6pm

(Please park in the rear of the school and join us in the auditorium!)

Get the Scoop: Join us in the auditorium for a brief program as we welcome you to our school. You'll get the scoop on our featured programs AVID, Honors and ESE. We will provide application information for the AVID and Honor's program and highlight our unique electives.

Who should attend? Parents and students who will be in 6th grade or 7th grade during the 2014-2015 academic school year.

Meet and Greet: At 6:30 you will get an opportunity to go into the gym for our school choice fair. You'll get to meet teachers and students for every program and elective we offer. Tours of the school will be done at this time.

What should I bring? Be ready to get answers to your questions. Our clubs will set-up fundraising stations to sell goodies so bring a couple of dollars to grab a snack.

Contact Information:

Parent Night Coordinator: Cicely Tyson (Assistant Principal) tysonc@duvalschools.org

AVID Coordinator: Jennifer Duarte hayesj1@duvalschools.org

Honors Program Coordinator: Angela Galyan (Assistant Principal) galyana@duvalschools.org

ESE Department Chair: Jan Sexton sexton@duvalschools.org

Band Teacher: Wes Peters petersj@duvalschools.org

Chorus Teacher: Elizabeth Crumrine callahane1@duvalschools.org

Programs and Electives

AVID HONORS ESE BAND CHORUS SPANISH TV PRODUCTION ART
COMPUTERS ATHLETICS PHYSICAL EDUCATION HEALTH PTSA

NEWSPAPER YEARBOOK NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY CHESS CLUB
MANDARIN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CLUB



PTA Business Partners

Zaxby's zaxbys.com/FL/12301SanJoseBlvd-Mandarin.aspx
Red Elephant redelephantpizza.com
Baptist Pediatrics - facebook.com/BaptistPediatrics
Barnes and Noble www.barnesandnoble.com
Carolyn R. Jones, Associate, Colleen A. White Attorney at Law
www.colleenawhite.com
Champion Gymnastics www.championsgymnasticsofjax.com
Chick Fil-A www.chick-fil-a.com/southside
First Watch www.firstwatch.com
Huntington Learning Center - jacksonville.huntingtonhelps.com
Julington Academy of Martial Arts www.jamakick.com

Kessler Creative www.kesslercreative.com
Little Britches www.jaxlittlebritches.com
Main Street Haircuts www.mainstreethaircuts.com
Nemetz Dental www.nemetzdental.com
Newk's Eatery www.newks.com
Pink's Towing www.towtruckjacksonville.com
Seeking Sitters www.seekingsitters.com
Steamin Jax www.eatsteam.com
Suburban Turf - 904-226-3318
Tippi Toes Dance www.tippitoesdance.com/jacksonville-fl/
Watson Realty - Jennifer Cate www.jencate.watsonrealtycorp.com

PTA Business Members

Above All Ceilings, Inc., mike@aboveallceilings.com
Ann Marie Shrader, Infant and Toddler Developmental Specialist, annmarieshrader@yahoo.com
Ashcraft Marine Construction, Inc., ashcrafv@bellsouth.net
Copyright, shawn@copyrightjax.com
Eagle Home Buyers, Inc., 291-1127, wakthill@gmail.com
Fitness Together Mandarin, colinwoodmansee@fitnesstogether.com
Gourmet Aviator, gourmetaviator@yahoo.com
Json Creative, Jason@jsoncreative.com
Julington Creek Counseling, Noelle Pomeroy, 904-383-7613, noelle@julingtoncreekcounseling.com
Jack's Carpentry, 904-600-1965, drejireh@gmail.com
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Lorraine Inman, Independent Director Thirty-One Gifts, 352-275-2035, organizeU@mangocats.com
Laurie Kiddy, Independent Beauty Consultant, Mary Kay, lauriekiddy@att.net
Outdoor Kitchens and More LLC, stoneguy157@yahoo.com
OSSI Orthodontics, 268-7557, info@ossiorthodontics.com
Profound Radiology
Rodan & Fields Dermatologist, (904) 710-1922, annechapple.myrandf.com
Raza Care, admin@RazaHomeCare.com
RGM Construction, ladonna8@comcast.net
Solano Cycle, kymcodealer@gmail.com
Studio K Dance, 448-4026, info@studiokdance.biz
The Great Estate (Estate Sales), 904-220-0610, brandiericketts@bellsouth.net
Wunderlich Drywall Repair, johnnywunderlich@yahoo.com

PTA Newsletter

Are you interested in producing our weekly PTA newsletter? If you would like to be considered, please contact Theresa Rogers at lorettopta@gmail.com for more information.

Please Email newsletter submissions to:
Becky Geoghagan at AshBeDev@comcast.net
Due Date is each Tuesday by 5:00pm