

Words of Wisdom



THE NEWSLETTER OF LORETTO ELEMENTARY PTA

Volume 28, Issue 23
February 14, 2014

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CHRISTOPHER BEGLEY
PRINCIPAL

THERESA ROGERS
PTA PRESIDENT

Food Drive

We are very blessed at Loretto to be an "A" school for many years. We are also blessed to have an active parent base that can afford to provide all that is needed to help our students be successful. However, that may not be the case for some of our partner schools in the county. Hunger is a big factor in student performance. To help schools that have Saturday school because of an "F" rating, the Loretto PTA is asking our parents to donate individually wrapped, normal size snack items.

The PTA will be collecting snacks beginning Monday and over the next 2 weeks, ending February 21st. Suggestions include animal crackers, chips, squeezable applesauce, Goldfish, granola bars, and Fruit by the Foot.



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!

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SPIRIT DAY next Friday, February 21st. Wear **Blue or Yellow** or your Loretto shirt!!



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.



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 19, Wednesday
Early Dismissal
- February 25-26
FCAT Writing 4th Grade
- February 27, Thursday
Spring Pictures
- March, 12, Wednesday
Early Dismissal
- March 17-21, Spring Break
- March 26, Wednesday
Early Dismissal
- April 9, Wednesday
Early Dismissal
- April 16, 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.

Box Tops News

It is almost time for our next Box Tops submission. Last time Loretto made over \$2,300.00. We are hoping to beat that number this time. The class on each grade level that turns in the most Box Tops will earn an ice cream celebration.

Please turn all your Box Tops in by Wednesday, **February 19th**.

You can send them in to your child's teacher or place them in the Box Tops box outside the mini auditorium.



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.

The Counselor's Corner

Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) has launched the Parent Academy to promote parental involvement and enhance student achievement. Academy classes are offered in schools, libraries, community centers, government offices, and faith-based institutions. The Parent Academy's focus is on three primary tracks: Student Achievement, Parenting and Advocacy, and Personal and Individual Growth.

Student Achievement: Workshops and activities provide parents and caregivers with tools to promote students' academic achievement and navigate the school system.

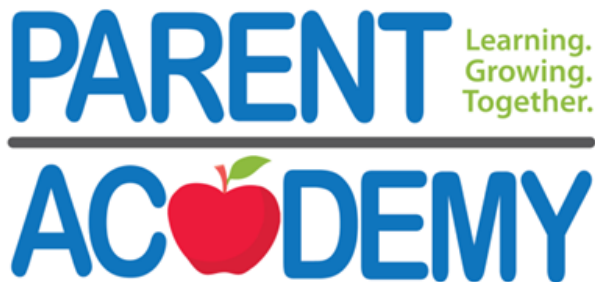
Parenting & Advocacy: Workshops and activities provide tools to more effectively enhance parenting, advocacy and leadership skills.

Personal & Individual Growth: Workshops and activities provide tools for supporting the personal and professional growth of parents and caregivers.

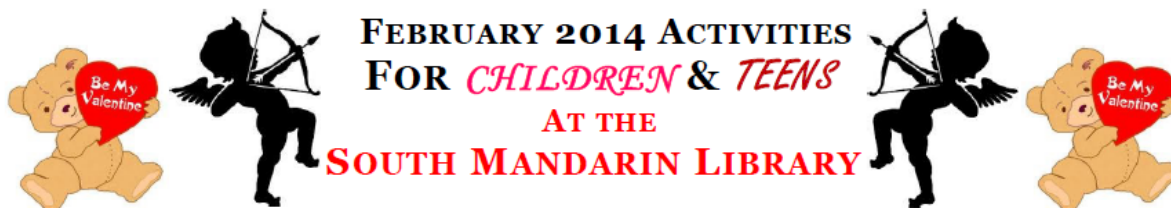
Parent Academy courses are also offered on two levels:

Foundation: Courses which address basic core concepts.

Advanced: Courses which explore concepts at a more in-depth level.



For more information, check it out on the DCPS web page.



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	



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
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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
Katie Garst, Tupperware, 904-405-7588, katiegarst@gmail.com
Ladybug Service Club, 318-3008, ladybugclub1@hotmail.com
Laura Brodehl, Independent Thirty-One Consultant, laurabrodehl@yahoo.com
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, laddonna8@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