

Words of Wisdom



THE NEWSLETTER OF LORETTO ELEMENTARY PTA

Volume 28, Issue 25
February 28, 2014

FCAT is approaching!

FCAT time is right around the corner!!!

We wanted to inform you that testing will be:

April 14th-April 23rd for FCAT Reading, Math and Science for 3rd- 5th grade.

Make-up testing period extends until April 30th.

These are newly revised dates and differ from previously published dates.

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.

Please be mindful that even if your child is in a non-testing grade he/she will not be able to join their class if tardy to school or be dismissed early as we are under testing conditions school-wide. Thank you in advance!

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.

Stay Connected with the Loretto PTA

<http://lorettopta.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!

CHRISTOPHER BEGLEY
PRINCIPAL

THERESA ROGERS
PTA PRESIDENT

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YOUR LORETTO PTA AT WORK!

What has YOUR Loretto PTA been up to so far this year? Here's a brief overview of just some of what we've been able to accomplish because of your help through volunteering and participation in our fundraiser!!

Back to School breakfast for faculty, administration, and staff

Boo Hoo/Woo Hoo breakfast for incoming Kindergarten parents

No talking or texting while driving on campus campaign including distribution of free magnets and two signs posted on campus

Car rider sign project (signs given free to car riding families)

Facilitate "Walk to School Day"

Reflections Art Contest

First AR Store of the year

Purchase of yearly subscription for entire school to the AR Renaissance Program and STAR test

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Provide programs at General Meetings including a Common Core presentation, Duval County School Choice presentation, and 4th and 5th grade talent show

Check out our new and improved "Links" page on the Loretto PTA website:

<http://lorettopta.weebly.com/links.html>

We are working to bring you more useful and relevant information so



Coordinate volunteers and provide financial support for Art Appreciation, Campus Watch, Character in Action, Homeroom Parents, Sunshine Math, and Where in the World

New ponchos for safety patrols

Acquirement of two new bike racks (installation date coming)

New key card swipe system to keep cafeteria doors secure during lunches

Family Outreach program funded by our Family Nights

Facilitate the school's bookfair which supports the library and school

Coordinate Hearing and Vision screenings

We're just a little more than half way through this school year. There's A LOT more coming soon!

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

- **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 14-April 23**
FCAT Reading, Math, and Science
3rd-5th Grade

Teacher of the Year

The Rotary Club of Mandarin held a breakfast honoring the Mandarin Area's Teachers of the Year. Pictured here are Ms. Tarabishi (Loretto's Teacher of the Year - center) with Principal, Mr. Begley (right) and the President of the Mandarin Rotary (left).



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.

Sunshine Math Incentive Drawing

First Grade winners:

Sarah P - Kim
Leo - Lucciola

Second Grade winners:

Morgan - Petrich
Owen M - Rosenblum (Chester)

Third Grade winners:

Lauren K - Bacon
Griffin N - Vondrasek

Fourth Grade winners:

John W - Beltz
Eric L - Fountain

Fifth Grade winners:

Sara - Kusmirek
Faith - Kusmirek

Congratulations!!!

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.

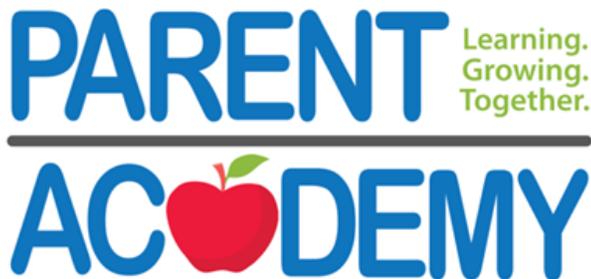
Parenting & Advocacy: Workshops and activities provide tools to more effectively enhance parenting, advocacy and leadership skills.

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.

Characters in Action Awards

Tolerance

We would like to recognize the Character in Action students of the month. Each month one student per class who best represents the character trait of the month is nominated by his/her teacher. The following students received a certificate and had their pictures taken with Mr. Begley. These photos are displayed on the Character in Action bulletin board located in the main hallway. Congratulations students and keep up the good work!

Kindergarten

Malakai D.
Amogh H.
Vishnith A.
Sean L.
Maddie L.
Madison P.

First Grade

Kaitlynn E.
Mitchel C.
Hailee H.
Everett S.

Second Grade

Madison Q.
Dayshaun B.
Isabella A.
Elisa H.
Hermes H.
Christian K.

Third Grade

Jeremy U.
Mikayla R.
Malachi M.
Taliah S.
Ty H.
Aryette C.
Param G.
Jenicah D.

Fourth Grade

Sebastian B.
Channing C.
Kimberly K.
Adam E.

Fifth Grade

Devon B.
Ryleigh C.
Sean R.
Jacob C.
Zoe G.
Jaden K.



February Character Trait

Charity

March

Honesty



SPECIAL INVITATION:

Beauderc, Crown Point, Loretto, Mandarin Oaks, Greenland Pines and Mandarin Middle Families:

**The PTA in Partnership with Duval County Public Schools
Presents
Parent Academy Workshops**

Saturday, March 1st
9 AM—Noon



9:00

- Helping My Kid: Organization & Time Management
- Intentional Parenting & Teaching Moments
- Parenting Under Stress

10:00

- Academic Milestones: Testing & Progression
- Online With Your Kids: What You Need To Know
- Money Matters at Home

11:00

- The ABCs of ESE
- Parent-to-Parent: Middle School Realities
- Problem Child Jr. (for Elementary-Age Parents)

St. Vincent's Mobile Unit will also be on-site! Come check it out & find out more about their services.

FREE workshops! Help for you & your child!

There will be activities for elementary aged children, allowing parents to visit sessions without distraction.

QUESTIONS:

president@mandarinmiddleptsa.org

LOCATION:

Christian Family Chapel, Bldg. D
10365 Old. St. Augustine Road, 32257





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.colleenwhite.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.eatsteamin.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

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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