



# The Shining Star Chronicle

Parent Newsletter December 2014

FKS an "A" School 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010,  
2011, 2012, 2013  
Met Federal Criteria 2004, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 2010

Frances K. Sweet  
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[www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/fks/](http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/fks/)

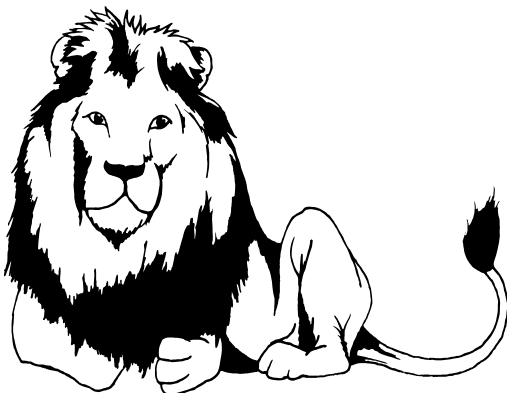
## News from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Mrs. Cox and I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your continuous support of our fantastic school! We appreciate everything you do to assist your children, teachers and all of us at FKS! The Book Fair was a huge success. Thank you for your support and to all of you who assisted. Enjoy your winter holidays with your family. Have a very Happy Holiday to each and every one of you from the FKS family.

Sincerely,

Juanita Wright  
Principal



## Nuclear Evacuation Procedure

In the event of a nuclear disaster, Frances K. Sweet will be evacuating ALL students and personnel, by bus to our "Safe Zone". Our safe zone is the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, 15601 West Midway Road, Fort Pierce. As a precaution, the evacuation of schools may be considered prior to any general public action. Once the school receives notification of an evacuation order from at least one of the following: Genelle Yost, Brian Reuter, Marty Sanders, Don Carter, or the 800 mega-hertz radio in the executive secretary office, we will follow our Nuclear Evacuation Plan.

Parents are not to come to the school to pick up their children. St. Lucie County Public Safety & Communications, in coordination with the St. Lucie County School District, will issue press releases to local radio and television stations informing when parents may pick up their children. The pickup location is the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, 15601 West Midway Road, Fort Pierce, Florida.

## Business Partners

We would like to thank our Business partners.  
**Your assistance is greatly appreciated!**

Nelson's Family Farm  
Pepsi

Mr. and Mrs. Urquhart  
Dr. Dana Juillerat

Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Gould  
Mr. and Mrs. Busby  
The Sperber Family

## Student Council News

The Student Council will be sponsoring a "Breakfast with Santa" again this year on December 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Breakfast is just \$4.00 and pictures with Santa will be \$5.00. Santa, Christmas art projects and breakfast are all part of the agenda! Please mark your calendar, look for the flyer, and plan on joining us for this fun filled event.

### From the Media Center...

Kindergarten students have really enjoyed studying the author Mo Willems, as well as the popular "Pete the Cat" books. After Christmas, kindergarteners will be given the opportunity to check out a book each week when they visit the media center. First and second graders have been listening to the Florida Reading Association's award books for 2014-2015. Third graders have learned how to use our online catalog (destiny) to search for books in the media center. They are also learning how to use World Book Online, a wonderful resource for research projects. Bookmarks are available in the media center with information on how to access World Book from home. Fourth and fifth graders completed a genre study and learned a new feature of our online catalog called "Destiny Quest". We have 25 students who have read at least five Florida state sunshine books this year. We have a sun on the wall to represent each of those students. This year we have added "reading counts stars" to our wall. To earn a star on the wall, a student needs to have at least 100 reading counts points. I am proud to announce that we already have 26 stars on our wall!

### Kindergarten

Thank you to all of the families who donated items to help make our Thanksgiving breakfast a huge success. Our little pilgrims and Native Americans loved sharing special time together to represent the spirit of giving. A big thanks also goes out to Mrs. Fulwood and the cafeteria staff for preparing some of the food.

We now move forward in the month of December and continue to work on the skills to help make all of us better readers. Happy Holidays to all!

## First Grade

Our first grade students have made it through the first nine weeks of school. In reading, we are continuing to work on building reading comprehension and fluency skills. Also, the students are focusing on describing characters, setting, and the key events in a story. Thank you for reading with your child every child.

In math, we have been learning about how to solve and represent addition and subtraction problems using two color counters and ten frames to help solve the problems. Students also demonstrated how to count on, use doubles and doubles plus and minus one to help add numbers.

In writing, the teacher is continuing to help guide students to brainstorm and organize their thoughts to write on a topic, supply some facts about the topic and provide a closure. Students are also able to use thinking maps to organize their thoughts and ideas.

In social studies, we have been learning about how to use a map and classroom globe, exploring their similarities and differences. Students were able to locate the continents and oceans on the map and resources, Earth in space and time, observed rocks using a magnifying glass.

Finally, we would like to thank each one of you for supporting our first grade Thanksgiving Feast. The food that was prepared was *delicious* and students enjoyed having their parents "dine-in" with them. Thank you for all of your continued support, we couldn't do it without such wonderful and SWEET parents like you!

## Second Grade

As you many have noticed, a lot of our reading stories are nonfiction. Many kids love to read about science and nature as well as real people, places, and events. Nonfiction books present information in engaging and interesting ways and will have helpful features that are not a part of most fiction books. These parts include a table of contents, an index, a glossary, photographs and charts with captions. Sometimes students struggle with nonfiction. Please help your child's learning at home by sharing the purpose of the above features with your reader.

In math, we are working on subtraction with regrouping. This can be a difficult concept for some children. Please continue to practice these skills at home, along with basic addition and subtraction facts.

Our students did a phenomenal job in our performance, "We are Thankful!" What a terrific show and such a special message for all of us!

## Third Grade

Third Grade is well into the heart of our curriculum. We are diligently working in Reading and learning how to comprehend many genres. We are reading informational text, literature, poems, nonfiction, and fiction texts. Encourage your child to read every night and ask your child questions about what he/she has read. We are really working hard learning our multiplication tables. We have begun division and your child needs to know their multiplication facts in order to be successful with division. Reviewing the multiplication tables and facts at home each night will significantly help your child. In Science we are learning that MATTER is all around us. Students are enjoying a variety of experiments dealing with matter. Ask your child what the three states of matter are and have him/her give you some examples. As we study America and its neighbors, students are honing in on their researching skills, as they complete a plethora of projects on one or more of the sixteen countries in North America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

## Fourth Grade

Throughout the month of December, 4th grade will be focusing on fractions and decimals and continuing to learn how to break apart multi-step word problems in math.

Energy will be the focal point for science and in Social Studies students will learn about Colonial life in Florida.

In reading and writing students will be practicing strategies to help them locate and cite text evidence.

## Fifth Grade

Students are continuing to enhance their reading skills and set specific learning goals for each standard. Our first reading goal celebration was on Oct. 31. Our next reading goal celebration will be on Dec. 16. Students who have an average of 70% and above, and have earned an additional 30 points in reading counts will be invited to this event.

We just wrapped up Native Americans and are beginning our study on colonial America in social studies. Students will identify with early colonists and what life was like during the 1800's.

In math, we are continuing our work on fractions and mixed numbers. We will be multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. Then we will start our unit on geometry.

In science, we are continuing our unit on matter. We are learning about the three states of matter and physical and chemical changes in matter. After that, we will start our unit on all forms of energy and how they transform from one to another.

## Sweet Sounds and Strings

Our "Sweet Sounds" will be performing this holiday season at the following sites:

December 3<sup>rd</sup> Steve Hoskins

December 9<sup>th</sup> Sherriff's Office

**Students should wear Red Collared Shirts and Khaki pants.**

Both "Sweet Sounds" and "Sweet Strings" will perform their Holiday Concert on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at FK Sweet.

**Formal dress for the winter concert. Black formal slacks or skirts and white formal tops.**

## Sunshine State Readers Incentive Program

Each year a committee selects 15 sunshine books for grades 3 - 5 and 15 sunshine books for grades 6-8 for the state of Florida. We have 7 copies of each of the books for grades 3 - 5 in the media center for students and teachers to check out.

If a student reads 5 of the books (and passes with at least 70 percent on the reading counts test on the book) the student will have a "sun" on the wall in the media center and receive a bookmark, pencil and piece of candy. If a student reads 10 books they are invited to an ice cream party and if a student reads all 15 books they are invited to a big party at the end of the year. The party has a theme with lunch, prizes, and games.

Finally, we have a sunshine bowl in May. Students who have read 15 books can compete for a spot on a team. At the sunshine bowl, teams of three answer questions about the books and the winning team members receive Barnes and Noble gift cards. This year, the media specialist from Fairlawn would love for our winning team to compete against a team from Fairlawn.

I am looking forward to seeing lots of "suns" on the wall this year in the media center!

### Morning Policy

Student supervision begins at 8:10 a.m. **All students must report to the cafeteria.** If you bring your child to school and they eat breakfast, please be here no later than 8:15 a.m. Breakfast is served each day from 8:10 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. Breakfast will not be served after 8:40 a.m.

Also, all students arriving at school after 8:40 a.m. must enter through the west front office door with parents to sign them and in and they will obtain a pass from the office.

### Afternoon Dismissal

**Please remember that all students being picked up need to exit at the west side of the building.** For the safety of our students, we will continue to reinforce the policy that cars line up in a single line. Parents are asked to wait for their children to be brought to the car by a staff member. **In addition, we will not accept any dismissal changes after 2:30 p.m.**

## PICKING UP CHILDREN ON TIME



All parent pick-up children must be picked up at 3:15 p.m. If you are unable to pick your child up at this time, please consider making arrangements with the YMCA on campus for aftercare. There are registration forms in the office and cafeteria.

### Tardy and Early Pick Up Policy

Children entering school after 8:45 a.m. are considered tardy and must be escorted to the office by the parent. Students who are late to school in the morning and/or who are picked up from school early will be tardy for the day.

**If your child has accumulated more than 5 tardies (excused/unexcused), they will not be recognized for Perfect Attendance.**

Tardies will be either excused or unexcused based on Board policy. It is recommended that the parent provide written documentation within 3-days.

If the student is either late to school or being picked up early due to a medical appointment, it is recommended that the parent provide the school with evidence of the appointment. In such cases, the tardy will be excused. **Every 5th unexcused tardy results in one unexcused absence.** These unexcused absences are given the same weight as any other unexcused absence and can effect perfect attendance and decisions to file a Truancy Petition.

**Please allow 48 hours for tardies and absences to be updated in the system**

## Lunch Date

We encourage parents to spend lunch time with their children. **However, if you are taking your child out to the picnic tables, they are not allowed to bring a friend.** They may only pick one friend to join them if you are having lunch on stage.

## I Dress Neat at F. K. Sweet

Your children look absolutely wonderful each day! Thank you for supporting and encouraging your children to follow the FKS mandatory uniform policy that was approved by the School Advisory Council.

**We would love to have your child's gently used uniform clothing that your child has out grown.**

\*Please read the Uniform Policy and consequences in the handbook that was sent home with your child the first day of school.

## Family Vacation

When planning your family vacations, please be mindful of the school calendar. There is a copy of the yearly calendar in the front office and online at [www.stlucieschools.org](http://www.stlucieschools.org). Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

## PBS News

Our school-wide Positive Behavior Support (PBS) initiative is:

- S - Stay Safe
- T - Take Responsibility
- A - Always Engaged
- R - Respect Others

Please encourage your child to work hard and obey the **STAR** Expectations so they may earn Starbucks to enjoy the events that we have planned for the school year. If you have any extra time and would like to help with the monthly event, please call the school at 468-5330 or attend the monthly PTO meetings.

**Your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated!**

## Florida announces new test to replace the FCAT

Florida Education Commissioner Pam Stewart announced March 17, 2014 that the state is approving a six-year contract with not-for-profit American Institutes for Research to develop the test. The contract is worth an estimated \$220 million. **The new test will be administered in the spring of 2015.**

After years of criticism and discussion, Florida has a new test expected to replace the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

The test will be based largely on Common Core State Standards, although Florida officials tweaked the standards somewhat earlier this year.

“The new assessment will measure each child’s progress and achievement on the Florida Standards, which were developed with an unprecedented amount of public input,” said Stewart.

To view a sample of the new assessment for grades 3-5 .....

1. [www.stlucieschools.org](http://www.stlucieschools.org)
2. Go to Parents and Students
3. Click on: Florida Standards Assessment Portal
4. Choose Students and Parents
5. Choose Training Tests
6. Click: Take the Training Test
7. Click: Sign in
8. Select your student’s grade level
9. Select yes
10. You will then have the options of sample tests that your child will take.

## Florida Standards

Parents please read the latest about the Florida Standards.

1. Go to the district website: [www.stlucie.k12.fl.us](http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us)
2. Parents and Students
3. Florida Standards Portal
  - Florida Standards
  - College and Career Ready

## South Florida Commuter Services



Program of FDOT

SchoolPool



The SchoolPool program is a free transportation matching and participation program offered by the Florida Department of Transportation. The goal is to encourage students and families to carpool, bike, or walk to and from school.

Whether you aren't eligible for the district's free school bus service or you're just looking for alternatives, the SchoolPool program can help.

SFCS has created a page on their website just for us for parents to register, which is <http://www.goschoolpool.com/stlucie/>.

## Do You Need Internet Access?

If you don't have internet access for your child, Comcast offers an opportunity for every family to have affordable home internet service. Just go to [www.internetessentials.com](http://www.internetessentials.com) and apply online.

Internet Essentials | Comcast

Opportunity for every family is online.

Introducing Internet Essentials. Fast, affordable home internet service. \$9.95 a month.

Apply Online Now | Call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-6378)

Khan Academy brings its free, world-class educational resources directly to Internet Essentials families, online and at home.

Check Application Status

Affordable Internet \$9.95 a month. No equipment. No activation fees. No installation fees.

Free Computer \$149. Available while supplies last.

Free Internet Training. Available online. Call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-6378).

## Steps for Volunteer Application

- Go to the District Website:  
[www.stlucie.k12.fl.us](http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us)
- Click on the **Jobs** tab across the top.
- Click on the **Click to Apply** box.
- Click on the link: **Click to view current job openings.**
- Under the **Position** heading, select **Volunteer.**
- Under the **Assignment** heading, select **Volunteer (Non-Paid).**
- Under the **Location** heading, select **St. Lucie Schools.**
- Click on the **Search for Posted Positions** button.
- Select **Volunteer** and click **Apply for Posted Position.**
- You will be prompted to create a username and password.  
Please keep this for your records.
- There are three mandatory sections that must be completed before the application will be accessible for clearance and approval.
- You will receive an e-mail notification when you have been approved to volunteer.

**We love our Volunteers!**