



The Shining Star Chronicle

Parent Newsletter November 2014

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

Frances K. Sweet
Magnet School
1400 Avenue Q
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Main number: 468-5330
Fax: 468-5334
www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/fks/

News from the Principal

Dear Parents,

It is such a pleasure to work with the highly professional staff at Frances K. Sweet, and we appreciate the continued support of our wonderful parents. October was a great month at FKS. Our teachers worked diligently with your children and provided engaging and challenging work for every student, every day.

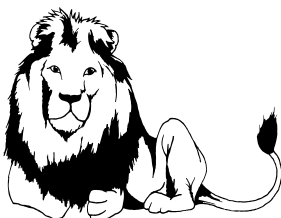
We had such a huge turnout of fathers bringing their children to school on October 7. We had 172 awesome dads join us for this event. Our shining stars were so excited to have their dads come with them to school. We are planning more events throughout the school year where dads will be invited to come to school.

Again, it is our excellent teachers, shining star students, and parental support that allows F. K. Sweet to shine!

As always, we continue to reach for the stars with the BEST teachers, parents, and students in the state of Florida!

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

Kindergarten

Spiders, bats, and pigs, oh my! Kindergarten had a fantastic October! We loved studying spiders and bats, as well as farm life. Our trip to Green Meadows Farm was awesome.

We concluded the month by having our Sense Celebration, where the students were able to participate in fun activities that explored our senses.

Thank you to all parents who volunteered or donated items to help make fabulous memories.

First Grade

Our first grade students have been very busy this past month. In reading, we are continuing the focus on finding key details in a story and story structure. The children are becoming more fluent in reading. Reading nightly is an important component to becoming a successful reader. Thank you for reading with your child every night.

In math, we have been learning about 2 dimensional shapes. We learned how many sides a shape has and how to decompose a shape. We will begin another unit on addition and subtraction shortly. Please practice addition and subtraction facts to 20 with your child.

In science, we have been discussing motion and an object can move for one direction to another direction. The children also learned about matter and how matter is all around us. We even completed a sink or float experiment. We think all the children enjoyed this experiment!

Finally, we would like to thank each one of you for coming out to our Storybook Parade. All of the children looked adorable parading around FKS that day.

Thank you for all that you do for your child. FKS had the best parents!

Second Grade

Second graders have been working extremely hard this 1st nine weeks. Please keep up the great work and please continue to work with your child nightly.

In reading, we are continuing to explore many different story genres, including non-fiction, realistic fiction, and fiction. Please read with your child every single day and always ask your child questions about the book he or she is reading. It is

very important that students are not only reading the words, but comprehending and thinking about their reading.

We finished our place value chapter in math and have started our addition and subtraction chapter. Students are expected to be fluent in the addition and subtraction problems we have been practicing. A great way to practice basic addition and subtraction problems at home is by using flashcards. If you do not have flashcards at home, your child can create his or her own flashcards using index cards.

In writing and language, we are continuing to study writing complete sentences with capital letters and punctuation and learning about all sorts of nouns and narrative writing. Thank you for sending us the very best students! We love working with your children every day!

2nd Grade PTO Program
Let's Be Thankful
November 20th at 7:00 pm

Third Grade

Our terrific third graders are working hard in all areas of instruction. In reading, we are learning strategies that will enhance our reading abilities. We have been practicing how to identify story elements, cause and effect relationships, the main idea, supporting details, and text and graphic features of a story. We've also analyzed characters, inferred to draw conclusions, and sequenced events of a story. Please read with your child nightly and ask questions about what they have read. This will help to improve fluency and comprehension.

We are learning all about multiplication in math. The students have learned about the properties of multiplication and strategies to help them solve problems. It is very important that these facts are practiced and memorized. Students will be expected to master all facts to 100.

In science, we are exploring the different states of matter. The students will be participating in a variety of activities that will help to strengthen their understanding of the properties of matter.

Fourth Grade

We can't believe we just finished the first quarter of the 2014 – 2015 school year! Fourth graders have been extremely busy!

In Science, students are exploring and experimenting with matter and properties of matter. Last week we actually explored density by pouring Karo syrup and vegetable oil in water. After the liquids settled, we dropped various items in to test density. Later that week we figured out the percentage of a banana that is edible by finding the mass of the whole banana, the mass of the peel, and the mass of the edible part. Did you know 66% of a banana is edible?

In reading, we are practicing various comprehension strategies such as look back, visualizing, analyzing author's purpose, and so much more. We are finishing our first Document Based Questioning on Hurricanes.

In Social Studies, we are studying the various Native Floridian tribes that once inhabited Florida.

Finally, in math, students are multiplying and dividing whole numbers while investigating vocabulary words such as multiples, factors, quotients, products, etc. We are getting ready for algebraic thinking.

We are also so excited for our trip to St. Augustine. We will leave FKS at 6 a.m. on November 25th and return at 7:30 p.m.

Fifth Grade

Students have been busy reading and testing on books; they are doing a fantastic job in the Reading Counts program. Thank you for encouraging your child to read.

In social studies, we are continuing to study the four Native American groups and how they impacted North America.

In math, we have finished our chapter on adding and subtracting decimals. We are now focusing on multiplying and dividing decimals.

In science, we have finished our unit on the Solar System. We are now studying weather and climate.

Challenge Program

Students in the Challenge program have been actively engaged in high level Science activities. Second grade students completed a unit on Simple Machines. Students learned to use a spring scale to measure force and experimented with machines to reduce the amount of force needed to do work. Second graders are currently learning about the tropical rainforest.

Fourth and fifth graders are practicing Science inquiry skills. Students learned to use measuring tools precisely and completed a measurement lab.

Fifth graders performed controlled experiment with using salt to melt ice and bouncing a rubber ball on different surfaces. Each fifth grader also completed a project researching the career of a type of scientist.

Fourth graders made two dimensional and three dimensional models of different areas of our school. These projects are on display outside our classroom. Fourth grade learned about Native Floridians in Social Studies and fifth grade completed a unit on Space.



November 17th – 21st

**9:15 – 3:30 in the Media Center
Open November 19th after dismissal
with a parent.**

**Please sign up at the front office to
volunteer. Your help is greatly
appreciated!**

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!
Mrs. DuPell

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.

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. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

PBS News

November 13, 2014

K-2 Aesop's Fables

1:30 -2:30

November 24, 2014

3-5 Treasure Island

1:30 – 2:30

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
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
2. Parents and Students
3. Florida Standards Portal
 - Florida Standards
 - College and Career Ready

South Florida Commuter Services



Program of FDOT

SchoolPool



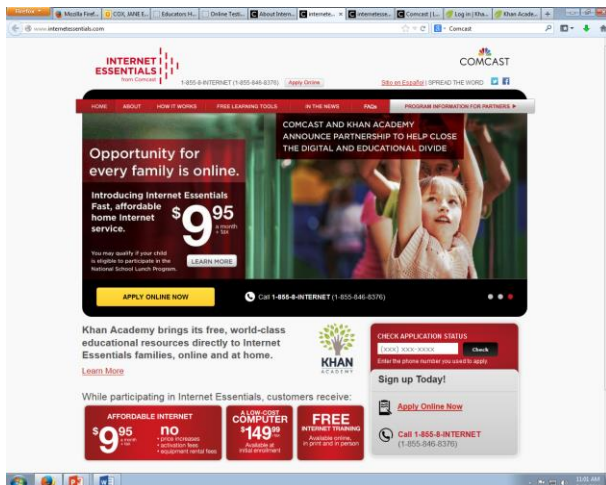
The SchoolPool program is a free transportation matching and participation program offered by the Florida Department of Transportation. The goal is to encourage students and families to carpool, bike, or walk to and from school.

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 and apply online.



Steps for Volunteer Application

- Go to the District Website:
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!