

# Southern Oaks Middle School

An "A" Rated School

*Home of the Mighty Hawks*



April/May/June 2012

**Mrs. Lisa Sullivan - Principal**

**Mrs. Mary Beth Forsyth - Assistant Principal**

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Office: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Students: 9:40 am - 4:10 pm

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Southern Oaks Middle School (SOM), in partnership with parents and community, will become a premier center of knowledge that is organized around students and the work provided to them. SOM's name will be synonymous with continuously improving student achievement and the success of each individual. Our school's promise is to move from good to great focusing on our core business; the creation of challenging, engaging and satisfying work for each student, every day.

## ADMINISTRATORS CORNER

Greetings Hawks!

It is hard to believe that we are sending home our final Newsletter of the 2011-2012 School Year. We have shared so many milestones and successes with your child this year-- we are looking forward to many more as the end of the year approaches. Please make sure that you pay close attention to all of the upcoming dates for May and June. We are looking forward to our Multicultural Day, FCAT Carnival - our very first Southern Oaks Dinner Theater-and many other exciting events. Next Week is FCAT Testing - our Hawks are so very ready!! Please make sure that your student is well rested and ready for these days. Thanks!!

*Lisa Sullivan*

*Mary Beth Forsyth*

Southern Oaks has its own Southern Oaks Blog. Please visit us at: <http://somsblog.edublogs.org>

**Please assist us in ensuring that your child is in dress code before they leave for school in the morning. Dress code is in your child's Planner, page 10.**

**SPIRIT T-SHIRT DAY** - Every *Friday* is Spirit Shirt Day - any shirt that has Southern Oaks on it may be worn with the exception of the Gym T-shirt. Let's show our HAWK pride!!

**No early pick-ups after 3:30 PM or 1:30 PM on Early Dismissal Days.**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Important Dates

April 16-24 *FCAT*  
April 20 - Report Cards  
April 27 - Good Behavior Dance 2:00PM  
May 2 - Honor Roll/Student Month 2:00PM  
May 4 - Early Release 2:10PM  
May 4 - War/Dodge Ball Tournament 6:00-8:30PM  
May 5 - Saturday - MOM's Day Out  
May 7 - Progress Reports Go Home  
May 11 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Grad Nite  
May 17 - Multicultural Day  
May 17 - Spring Band Concert 6:00PM  
May 18 - Early Release 2:10PM  
May 18 - Play and Spaghetti Dinner 5:30PM  
May 24 - SAC Meeting 8:30AM Media Center  
May 24 - Science Career Night 6:00PM  
May 25 - Staff/Student Basketball Tournament  
May 28 - Memorial Day Holiday  
June 1 - FCAT Carnival  
June 5 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards 10:00AM  
June 5 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards 2:00PM  
June 6 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards 10:00AM  
June 6, 7 & 8 - Early Release and Last Day of School

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### ***PLEASE NOTE***

Bus riders will not be permitted to walk off campus without prior parent written approval. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our students safe.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team News

### TALONS

Mr. Hibbard-Team Leader & Social Studies, Ms. Imhoff-Language Arts & Social Studies, Mr. Barrish-Language Arts, Mr. McInerney-Reading, Ms. Alexander-Science, Ms. Radler-Science, Ms. Peterson-Math, Ms. Babcock-Math, Mr. Robinson-Math, Mr. Hills-Inclusion

In Social Studies, Mr. Hibbard's students have completed several FCAT Reading Practice tests, some of which have been on-line and some were given the good old fashioned way! These tests have reinforced main idea, supporting details, author's purpose, inferencing, and other useful FCAT hints! Students have dissected the mind of the great philosopher Confucius and are now preparing to engage in the struggle of making moral decisions by doing a Reader's Theater of Julius Caesar. The quotation, "Men are sometimes masters of their own fates", will become the focal point of the class discussion for Julius Caesar! In Ms. Imhoff's World History class, they will be continuing to journey through Ancient Greece. In Language Arts students will be continuing their poetry unit, with a poetry portfolio project at the end. In Ms. Alexander's Science class, students are focusing on Life Science Big Ideas. They will be discussing the organization and development of living organisms; including the scientific theory of cells, chemical make-up of living things, and the important processes that organisms undergo to maintain stable internal conditions. Students will end the year learning the different structures and functions of the human body, including how they work together.

### ACCIPITERS

Mrs. MacLachlan-Team Leader & Math, Ms. Kirk-Math, Mrs. Ciccarelli-Reading, Mrs. Neil-Language Arts, Mr. Vessels-Science, Mrs. Kennedy-Social Studies, Mrs. Gavoni-Inclusion

The Accipiter's are ready for their FCAT. Your child has been preparing for and working hard. Please encourage them to do their BEST on their FCAT. Mrs. MacLachlan is crunching in the last bit of review to help them all feel confident. PLEASE make sure your child is in attendance on these very important dates. They know what day they will be taking Math and Reading. In Math they are practicing using the formulas from their reference sheets to solve Geometry problems. This is not an easy task and we will continue to practice through the end of the year. In Mrs. MacLachlan's class your child will need to demonstrate mastery of many skills that they will be using in 7th grade. The students need to come to school prepared for working hard the last nine weeks in order to prove their mastered skills. Ms. Kennedy's World Culture classes will continue the study of ancient civilizations with a unit on the ancient Greeks. They will concentrate on the following; how the geography of Greece affected the growth of their civilization, their amazing achievements, the government and the important people of ancient Greece. In addition, to enrich the unit they will read about some of the world's first super heroes through our study of Greek mythology. Students will be required to do a special Greek project which will be explained, in detail, during class time and in addition, as usual, students are offered a wide choice of extra credit opportunities in the subject area. For example many students have expressed interest in characters from Greek mythology such as Hercules. An extra credit assignment could be to make a mini book of one of the labors of Hercules including a drawing and a caption retelling the story. Another idea is to research one example of Greek art or architecture, draw a diagram and briefly tell about the art. Simply making a copy from a web site is not acceptable. Mr. Vessels' Science classes will be studying the structures of animal and plant cells and classification of living organisms in Quarter 4. They will finish the year studying an overview of the major organ systems in the human body. Students will be making Semester 2 exam study sheets weekly. Students should be studying these regularly. Please remember that your child will be taking FINAL EXAMS in ALL of their classes. This is 20% of their Semester grade and needs to be taken seriously. As we get closer to the end of the year, study guides and review will be given in class or as a handout. Your child needs to be responsible and study for these exams. It has been a pleasure to have your child as part of our Team. Please keep your child in some type of review mode throughout the summer so they are not behind when we restart in August. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call and speak to Mrs. MacLachlan, the Team Leader, at 785-5640,

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team News

### OSPREYS

Mr. DeLaPena-Team Leader & Math, Ms. Italiano-Language Arts, Mr. Wright Jr.-Social Studies,  
Mr. Rivero-Math, Ms. Campbell-Reading, Ms. Thompson-Science, Mrs. Howard-Inclusion

In Miss Italiano's Language Arts class, students are finishing up a unit on poetry. After FCAT students will begin their final novel for the year "Stones in Water". In Mr. De La Pena's and Mr. Rivero's Math classes, students will begin their study of Geometry and Spatial Reasoning. Moreover, students will complete a class project detailing the relationships of angles and lines.

### THUNDERHAWKS

Mr. Annis-Team Leader & Social Studies, Ms. Davis-Science, Mrs. Bennett-Math, Mrs. Wick-Math, Ms. Conti-Math,  
Mr. Wright, Sr.-Language Arts, Ms. Asselin-Language Arts, Ms. Conrad-Reading, Mrs. Howard-Inclusion

In 7th grade Reading class, Ms. Conard's students have been working hard on text complexity skills. The students know what the title tells, the deck or introductory paragraph conveys, that captions under the illustrations will answer questions, and that boldfaced typed words signal important vocabulary. They have read about the endangered wolves and the controversy over their return. The students studied diversity and immigrants and inquired as to who their ancestors might be! They compared and contrasted Ellis Island, in New York, with Angel Island, in California during 1880-1940. The students learned how to read maps in more detail and have been reading fiction novels and summarizing in reports as well. Ms. Davis' Science class will begin working on Ecology and the History of living things this last nine weeks. The class has two labs scheduled for the rest of April after FCAT; the first one is "Survival of the Chocolate" and the second is "Adaptation at its Best". The Science students have been doing a math or problem solving bell ringer every morning in preparation for the FCAT. One of the Science classes will be working on a Southern Oaks beautification project. The students will be planting flowers in flower boxes that they will paint and begin to plant a garden. Please be sure your student is prepared for class every day with something to write with and something to write on as my supplies of paper and pencils are dwindling down. Mr. Annis' Civics classes are continuing with a study of the branches of the U.S. Government. The classes are currently examining the third and final branch, the Judicial Branch. The final nine weeks is very fast paced with a review of the U.S. state capitals, and a unit on the economics and budgeting. The Civics classes have been very busy for these nine weeks. Please encourage students to attend each day; all days are important as we begin to prepare for final exams. Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Conti, and Mrs Wick's Math classes are focused on test taking strategies to help the students with FCAT. After FCAT, all Math classes will start work on some math projects to help tie in the concepts learned during the year. Mrs. Asselin's 7th grade Language Arts classes have begun reading "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins. The movie is currently number one at the box office and the students have been very excited about reading the book. It is a powerful story set hundreds of years in the future. The heroine steps up to replace her sister in the annual Hungers Games contest and how she survives the challenge. We are using lessons with the novel to help the students work on vocabulary, literary devices, and the elements of a story.

### BUSINESS PARTNERS

Southern Oaks Middle School would like to thank all of our Business Partners  
for "making a difference" and supporting our school.

McDonald's St. James Drive  
Antonio's Pizza on Arioso Blvd  
Custom Monogramming  
Subway-St. James Drive

Coca Cola  
ProMed Solutions, LLC  
Tami Karol Agency  
St. Lucie Lanes

Golden Corral  
Huntington Learning Center  
Big Apple Pizza on Bayshore

If you would like to become a Business Partner, please contact Mrs. Forsyth at 785-5640.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team News**

### **HARRIERS**

Ms. Barrett-Team Leader & Social Studies, Mrs. Farrell-Language Arts, Mr. Snure-Math, Ms. Walsh-Math, Mrs. Vessels-Science, Ms. Mojica-Reading, Mrs. Sauls-Inclusion

In Language Arts, we have completed our lessons on poetry and reading strategies preparing us for the upcoming FCAT tests. In Social Studies, students have just finished a center rotation on Manifest Destiny. Students rotated through centers on The Texas Revolution, The War with Mexico and the California Gold Rush. We are spending the next week polishing our reading skills and preparing for the FCAT by reading sample passages, determining authors purpose, and identifying context clues. After FCAT, we will begin our unit studying the Holocaust and will be reading the novel, "The Devil's Arithmetic". Students will be able to determine the lessons learned from WWII, as well as, evaluate the consequences of the Holocaust and how it has changed our Society today. Ms. Walsh's class has been reviewing hard for the FCAT. After the FCAT, we will complete chapters 11, 12 and finally 10. These chapters focus on Algebra 1 and Geometry skills. They will allow your child to have a great head start for the high school curriculum. Remember, in high school, all grades will count for their GPA that will determine to which college your child is accepted. Also, in high school math, students must take end of course exams and pass them in order to get course credit. The end of course exams will count toward 30% of the course grade.

### **RAPTORS**

Mr. Plowden-Team Leader & Math, Mr. St. Rose-Math, Mrs. McNally-Science, Mr. Maxon-Social Studies, Ms. Nichols-Language Arts, Ms. Gehrt-Math, Ms. Nichols-Reading, Ms. Granger-Reading, Ms. Francis-Social Studies 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Flores-Science 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>,

In Ms. Granger's Reading class, the students are making final preparations for the FCAT 2.0. In addition to practicing test taking skills and sharpening our reading comprehension skills, the students are enjoying the novel "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas. Please encourage your child to read at home on their own for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. Mathematics: Mr. Plowden will be viewing different math lessons to prepare all students for the FCAT Math. We are playing math games, solving problems, and individual assessments.

### **YEARBOOKS**

**2011-2012 Yearbooks are *STILL* on sale. Don't wait until the last minute to buy yours or there might not be any available! The cost is now \$40.00. There are three ways to pay: [ybpay.com](http://ybpay.com) will take a credit card; you may mail a check to Lifetouch or pay cash to Mrs. Robinson in room 503. Call Mrs. Robinson at 785-5640 for more information and the possibility of a payment plan. You won't want to miss this incredible book, made by students for students. Pay for your copy today and keep the memories forever. The finished books should be available on or before the first week of June.**

## Elective News

### GYRFALCONS

Mrs. Lugo-Team Leader & Spanish, Mrs. Robinson-Business Education, Mr. Jones-Industrial Technology, Ms. Kinder-Band, Mrs. Mathews-Physical Education, Mr. Mathews-Physical Education, Ms. Jackson-Credit Retrieval

*¡hola!* From the SOMS "Kiosko de Español". It's hard to believe that the end of the year is already here but, we certainly have a lot to show for it. Our Spanish students have come a long way since learning the Spanish vowels and awkward pronunciations. Spanish students have learned how to conjugate verbs and are mastering the very difficult task of sentence structure. Students can convey information about their school day, schedule, classes and favorite people and activities in Spanish. The end is near and now it is very important to practice, practice, practice! We are getting ready for our final, and must stay sharp. On the cultural side, we are looking forward to "*El Cinco De Mayo*" where we will learn about the victory of Puebla in 1862, and our annual Southern Oaks Multicultural Day, coming up fast on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Students will research and learn about many fascinating countries that surround us, and cultures that enrich our lives. Let's keep the Spanish coming! *¡Hasta la proxima!...Sra. Lugo* Band NEWS!!! ALL band students are working hard towards our Spring Concert on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Our theme this year is Movies, T.V. and Toons. This type of music is a much, much harder style for middle school students to perform. It employs more difficult rhythm and chromatics, as well as faster tempos. Think about your favorite movie themes, TV show themes and all of those cartoon themes you listened to as a kid. You don't want to miss this concert!!! News from the Hawk's Nest - Physical Education students have moved into the 4th nine weeks showing much personal improvement in strength and endurance. Way to go Hawks! P.E. activities for this last quarter of the year include (but is not limited to): Flag Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Capture the Flag, Warball, The President's Fitness Test, and last but not least... the SLCSB End of the Semester Exam. This test is a written exam, of which every P.E. student should have thorough notes. Parents, please encourage your child to spend a few minutes each week **reviewing and preparing for this important Semester Exam**. Summer is around the corner - Don't forget the sunscreen!

### Other News

Our **Boys A Basketball Team** won the semifinals and will be in the Championship at Fort Pierce Central on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Great job Coach Plowden and the Hawk Team!

Our **Hawk Band** brought home an Excellent Rating from the Music Performance Assessment band competition at St. Lucie West Centennial. It is the band's music FCAT equivalent! Congratulations Ms. Kinder and the Hawk Band!

#### Intramural Sports

Boys and Girls

Students must have a Physical packet and signed Permission Slip

Track Tuesday and Thursday - 4:30-5:30

Flag Football begins Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> - 4:30-6:00.

Softball Monday begins Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 4:30-6:00.

**ANY DAY TO DAY CANCELLATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

### PTO

PTO meetings are at 8:30AM the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month in the Media Center. If you would like to become a member or are able to help out on the various projects we will have going forth, please contact Hilda at 561-723-9878 or [munozmiranda@aol.com](mailto:munozmiranda@aol.com)

The PTO is continuing to collect BOX TOPS. At the end of the school year the class with the most CUMULATIVE Box Tops will receive a pizza party!! As you know, Box Tops bring money to our school.