

The Star Shining Chronicles

Message from the Principal

Dear Sweet Parents,

St. Lucie Public Schools is turning things around and making positive changes in student and District performance.

- B Rated District
- No Failing Schools
- Graduation Rate Among Florida’s Top 10
- FKS is recognized as a Five Star School for Parental Involvement We need your help to continue this momentum. We must recruit and retain our high-quality teachers like our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Traci Lott, who has served Frances K. Sweet for over 17 years and keep important programs alive in our public schools like the "Sweet Sounds, Chorale Ensemble" and our Percussion X Group who have both performed at SLPS Night of the Stars. Voters in surrounding counties recognized the importance of teacher pay and approved referendums that support paying teachers more and funding recruitment and retention of high quality teachers. Specifically, Martin and Palm Beach Counties passed referendums that will increase teacher pay from \$1,800 to \$10,000 per year. Just as important as teacher pay are mental health services and school security. Deputy Paulville, our school resource deputy, helps us maintain a safe and secure campus every day. He knows the students and staff and it is through this relationship that students feel comfortable sharing areas of concern.

In the coming months, we'll be coming to you -- our voters -- with an appeal for a one mill referendum for our students, for our teachers, for our community, and for our future.

Funds raised will be used to:

- Raise teacher pay to recruit and retain high quality teachers
**We can't continue to lose teachers to neighboring Districts offering higher salaries.*
 - Improve school safety and security with uniformed officers on every campus
 - Expand mental health services
- Layers of support will ensure that every dollar is spent as it should.
- State laws
 - St. Lucie School Board (directly accountable to the citizens)
 - Citizens Advisory Committee

We invite you to our School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. in the Media Center to discuss the proposed referendum. Please complete the registration information on the back of the newsletter and give to your child's teacher. We look forward to seeing you then.

Yours in Education,

D'Fion Jackson- Harris

Principal

February 1st, 2019

Frances K. Sweet Magnet School

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Fort Pierce, FL 34950

(772) 468-5330

(772) 468-5334 Fax

Website: www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/fks/

Or www.stlucieschools.org

Office Hours

Monday– Friday

7:30am– 4:00pm



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Title 1 News

A reminder for all parents: A copy of the Parent Involvement Plan and School Improvement Plan is available in the office for parents to view at any time.

Tardy and Early Pick Up Policy

Children entering school after 8:50 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 6th 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 Remember

For the safety of our students and staff, the district has installed a security feature. It is on the west entrance of the main entrance of the main office doors.

This feature allows office staff to release the door for all visitors. This will be your only way to enter the main office. The east entrance door will remain locked at all times. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Other Reminders:

- Please check your child’s planner daily. Your child has homework every night and is expected to read 15-30 minutes nightly (depending on the grade level.)
- If your child eats breakfast at school and is a parent drop off, please ensure that your child has enough time to eat before the 8:40 bell. Breakfast begins at 8:15.



Morning Policy

Student supervision begins at 8:10 a.m. **All students eating breakfast must report to the cafeteria.** If you bring your child to school and they eat breakfast, please be here no later than **8:30 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 to school after 8:45 a.m. must enter through the west front office door with parents to obtain a tardy 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 by 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.

REMINDERS

Lunch Date



We encourage parents to spend lunch time with their children.

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.

Business Partners



We would love to have parents, neighbors and friends to become a business partner.

Please see Mrs. Capas in the office to find out more information.

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.

- As the weather changes, a reminder when purchasing warm clothing, please check the dress code. Thank you for supporting and encouraging your student to follow the dress code.
- *Please read the Uniform Policy and consequences in the handbook that was sent home with your child the first day of school. Jackets and sweaters must be in dress code.

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

PBIS News

Our school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) 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 Dojo points 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!



Giving teachers the tools to educate our children starts with making it easy for members of the community to provide funding and support. Adopt-A-Class increases opportunity for student success by empowering teachers with community partners to purchase resources for their classroom. To find out more, please contact the Education Foundation at 772-429-5505.

Education Foundation Coupon Book



Coupon books are being sold for \$25.00. All proceeds will be used to support our students at FKS. Please contact the school if you would like to purchase a book. Thank you for your support!

Fundraiser Funds

Proceeds from the sales of school fundraisers will be used by Floresta Elementary School to enhance our school community - including parent involvement activities, staff development activities, student and staff recognition and other expenses deemed appropriate by the principal and/or school advisory committee, unless the fundraiser is designated for a specific activity.

Thank you for your support of our upcoming school fundraisers.



Microsoft's Student Advantage Program provides free downloads of the full version of Microsoft Office (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Publisher, Access, etc.) for all St. Lucie County students, in District operated schools, for use on their personal and mobile devices.

- District students can download the software on up to 5 devices.
- Download and activation requires a student network username and password which is provided to all actively enrolled students.

Here are the steps:

- 1) Download Office 365 ProPlus from the "Install Now" link below
- 2) Activate by signing in. The username is [*your student's unique Student ID#*]@stlucieschools.org
ex. 56xxxxxxxx@stlucieschools.org
- 3) The password is the same one students use at school to log in the network.

Lost and Found

Parents, we have a lost and found rack located in the cafeteria with all the jackets that have been found so far this year. Please take a moment to come and take a look to see if you are able to locate your child's jackets.



Early Release Days



2018- 2019

1/23, 2/13, 4/3, 6/3,
6/4(LAST DAY OF SCHOOL)

SPRING BREAK

03/18-3/22

Parents, please remember that on
early release days school ends at
1:15pm. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER UPDATE!

We love our Volunteers!

IMPORTANT: Applications will now have to be resubmitted every new school year. This application is good for volunteering and chaperoning for your child's field trips. Thank you!

Steps for Volunteer Application

- Go to the District Website: www.stlucie.k12.fl.us
- Click on the "Volunteers" tab on the top of the page.
- On the right side of the page, click on the "Click to register here" link.
- You will be prompted to create a username and password. Please keep this for your records.
- 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**.
- There are three mandatory sections that must be completed before the application will be accessible for clearance and approval. A government issued photo ID will need to be uploaded. When complete, submit the application. It will be reviewed, a background check completed, and an email will be sent.



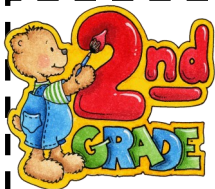
CLASSROOM NEWS



Happy New Year! Kindergarten students came back from the holiday break ready and eager to continue learning. We began really working on writing skills this month. Not only are we working on communicating by placing our thoughts on paper, but we are beginning to use lined paper and are placing more emphasis on the formation of letters, spacing, capital/lowercase placement, and punctuation. If your child is experiencing difficulty, you may want to try some fine motor activities to strengthen those hand muscles. Manipulating play dough, using hole punchers, tearing/crumpling/folding paper, and cutting are just a few ways to help. Let us know if you need more ideas.



Wow! We can't believe that the first semester is already over? In hopes that everyone had a joyous and restful break. Progress reports will be coming out 01/16 & 01/30. In Math, we are working on comparing numbers to show greater than or less than unit. Students should be able to tell you then tens, and ones for any given number. For example: 74. What number is in the tens place? How many sets of tens are there? Ones place? These are a few questions that make a good review for place value in comparing numbers. In addition, parents & guardians are encouraged to have a good time with your student building their fluency by practicing their math flashcards, comparing two numbers, and counting by 1's, 5's, and 10's. In Reading, We are still working on Unit 3 Changes Over Time in Wonders. We introduced the genre of drama and folktales. Our strategy skill was sequence and cause/effect. Phonics/ Structural Analysis areas concentrated on long "i" and silent "e". Grammar Mechanics introduced were present, past, and future tense verbs. Students are to practice Spelling words that are sent home weekly on the homework sheet. The spelling words are located on the left side of the sheet. We will take our I READY diagnostics test throughout the month. This is the first time the students will take the diagnostics since the fall semester, the beginning of school. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to please have their student practice reading out loud to them at home to help them gain confidence. In Social Studies, January was a month for special units. We spent the month studying force and motion. We also studied the importance of what Dr. Martin Luther King Junior did for our country. Important dates are: January 29th- 100th Day of School and January 31st- Super Bowl Sundaes.

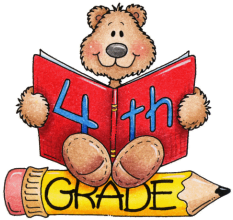


In January, students took the I-Ready Diagnostic in Reading and Math. The results will help us determine how much progress they have made so far this school year and identify areas where they may need additional instruction. Students continued to read a combination of Informational Text and Literature during their Reading Block which connected to our Science topic of Motion. Students asked and answered who, what, where, when, why and how questions to demonstrate their understanding of the key details of a text. They identified the focus of specific paragraphs in a text, as well as, the main idea of a multi-paragraph text. In Math, students reviewed place value to the hundreds place and learned about the thousands place. You can support your child's learning at home by having your child read for 15-30 minutes a day. The best way for them to become a better reader is by reading. Also, have your child practice the addition facts to 20, to improve their automaticity. ²

CLASSROOM & RESOURCE NEWS



February is here and we are officially in "crunch time" for the reading FSA! Teachers and students are working hard to meet individual and class goals based off of the reading and math i-Ready diagnostics as well as unit assessments. While we prepare for the reading portion of FSA, we are continuing our standards-based unit assessments in both subjects. These little readers have been hard at work, trying to master the 3rd grade standards, which are now spiraling back through informational and literature. Our "sweet" mathematicians have been working hard to finish up our fractions unit and begin graphs. Don't forget, our field trip to Sea World is on May 13th and permission slips have been sent home. Don't forget to send those slips back!



Fourth grade students have been working diligently. In writing, students are fine tuning their writing skills in preparation for the FSA exam. Students are learning the components of a complete and organized essay, how to cite evidence from a text and use it to support their writing. As students wrap up the science unit "The Motion of Objects," students will be exploring outer space as they learn about the rotation of Earth and the movement of the moon. Students have studied the relationship between fractions and decimals, as well as, adding and subtracting fractions. During this month, students will continue fractions by learning how to multiply a whole number and a fraction.



Wow! The first month of 2019 is already over! February is going to be a super exciting month for 5th grade! We are going to be celebrating Black History Month by having a 5th grade Bio/museum showcase! Talk to your student about this exciting event and find out who they are researching! The students have wrapped up their I-ready diagnostics and have new goals for the second half of 5th grade. Have you asked them what their reading or math goal is for the next unit? Tutoring has started and we are excited to see how many of our students are eager to make more learning gains. We continue to introduce new material in science and review older standards. Writing is 1/2 of our students FSA score so we are working on fine tuning those writing skills. In math we just finished up learning about geometric shapes and decimals. Please remind your students to continue to be in dress code and follow FKS expectations.



Music

What's the longest running musical in Broadway History? What's the highest grossing show in Broadway History? What is your favorite show tune? These are the questions we are asking and answering in Music Class. 5th Grade Classes are discovering the magic and history of Broadway. From Oklahoma to Hamilton, from Wicked to West Side Story, we are bring the art of Musical Theatre to the classroom. Who's the Queen of Soul? Who's was the 1st African American to win A Grammy Award? 4th Grade Classes are beginning to learn about the influences of African American Musicians in Music. There's never a dull moment in Mr. Ingram's Music Class.



Take advantage of parent-teacher conferences during the school year. Think of some questions and concerns you may have and write them down before your meeting. Keep track of your child's schoolwork to help you with your questions. You are in a position to share important information as well as ask questions.

Guidance

Remember, you can and should talk to your child's teacher throughout the year.

Here are some possible questions to ask your child's teacher in all grade levels:

Is my child performing at grade level? What are my child's strengths and weaknesses in reading, math, and science? How much time should my child spend on homework? Are my child's assignments completed accurately? Does my child have close friends? How well does my child get along with the other students? What can we do at home to support classroom learning?



This Spring your child can look forward to working on specific learning goals:

◆ Kindergarten through Second grades

Locomotor movement - walking, galloping, sliding, jumping, hopping, etc.

Non-locomotor movement – balance, twisting, bridging, bending, etc.

Equipment Manipulation – bounce and catch a ball with two hands, tossing, kicking a ball, using body or object to safely strike, tap, jump, or kick from a stationary position, etc.

Social Interactions – Sharing, respect of self and others, cooperation, exhibits physically active lifestyle, participation, outside play, and understanding the benefits of physical activity, participates in physical activity outside of school setting

◆ Third through Fifth grades

Locomotor movement – Traveling in a variety in a direction of patterns, dodging and fleeing

Non-locomotor – transfer weight from one body part to another

Equipment manipulation – Strike, dribble, catch, and kick a moving object, jumping a turned rope by self or others, overhand and underhand throw at a target

Social Integration – demonstrates appropriate behaviors in the classroom, cooperation in group activities, understands the value of equipment, and demonstrates concerns for others, exhibits physically active lifestyle, participates in physical activities outside of school that are interesting, engaging, and personally enjoyable

Bring your jackets daily!



Frances K. Sweet Elementary Magnet School

Presents

Our Fourth Annual Father Daughter Ball

February 8, 2019

5:30 pm—7:00 pm

Cost \$5.00 per family

You may also purchase a picture for \$5 at the dance.

Attire: Sunday's Best

Fathers come on out and enjoy this special date with your daughter.

Name _____

Teacher _____

of people attending _____

Please return with payment to Ms. Martin by February 6th.