

The PATRIOT PRESS

Patriot Oaks Academy Newsletter

May 8, 2015

Principal's Post

It has been another wonderful week at Patriot Oaks Academy! Summer seems to be looming ahead for me as we enter our final weeks of school. While the summer will be short, I know that I will miss the constant thrum of activity and energy that permeates our building daily! I cannot express enough how much I enjoy seeing your children every day! They tell funny stories, smile in greeting, express thrills in learning, are abundantly creative and they are overtly enthusiastic about being here! To this end, I must thank our teachers for providing such a warm and friendly environment focused on learning! They are truly making learning meaningful and fun!

I would like to thank our PTO for all of the staff appreciation gifts delivered this week, along with their continuous support of our school and our staff each and every week. We simply could not do as great of a job without our supportive parents and community. We are so fortunate to have such meaningful partnerships.

I also would like to thank our school dean, Mr. Wetjen for arranging an informational parent meeting on cyber safety this week. If you have questions about this presentation, please contact Mr. Wetjen and he can review valuable information with you. As an advocate of our children's safety and well-being, Mr. Wetjen is always looking for opportunities to be proactive in safety measures. We are fortunate to have such a valuable resource on campus! If you ever have a safety concern, please contact Mr. Wetjen. He will discuss your concerns and work with administration, teachers and staff to provide a safe environment for all of our children.

Congratulations to our "Battle of the Books" team for coming in second place! Their diligent reading was rewarded with a success to be proud of! Also, congratulations to the newest recipients of the Digital Tools certificate in Multimedia! We know Mr. Greco and Ms. Meringolo are also extremely proud of their students' accomplishments!

The next edition of the Patriot Press will provide updates on the Visible Learning process and activities at Patriot Oaks Academy. The teachers have provided summaries at each level along with pictures of students and learning artifacts. I am looking forward to sharing this great news!

Lastly, there are updates on café and clinic procedures located in this edition of our newsletter. There will also be new information continuously posted on our website as we close out the year. Please check the website weekly to be informed of updates. If you do not already receive our text messages, please sign up for this communication tool as well as the information we post through our Twitter feed.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and a **Happy Mother's Day** as well!

Your Lead Learner,

Mrs. Harrison

GO CHARGERS!!!



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Building a Tradition of Excellence, Together!



The Patriot Oaks Academy Elementary Battle of the Books team tied for second place in the district competition on Tuesday May 5th. The competition was held at the First Coast Technical College. Team members were Vanessa Esposito, Maddie Bryan, Henner Harvey, Briella Gross, Amelia Wood and alternates were Isabella Murphy and Autumn Davis. Students were given a quote and had thirty seconds to determine which of the fifteen books the quote was in. Eighteen third through fifth grade students participated in the Battle of the Books club which met every Tuesday since January. During the five weeks prior to the competition students used the CPS clicker system to record answers. Students with the highest number of points made the team. Students who are interested in participating next year should join our Battle of the Books club.

Mark your calendar! Patriot Oaks Academy is hosting a **Summer Band Camp**. The camp will take place June 8th -11th at POA. Each day we will be providing instruction for Beginning Band, Advanced Band and Jazz Band students.

What will Beginners (rising 6th graders and beginning 7th graders) learn at Band Camp?

- How to put your instrument together
- How to hold your instrument properly
- How to sit with excellent posture
- Where to put your fingers on your instrument
- How to hold your mouth to create a good sound
- How to read and understand a fingering chart
- How to play 3-5 notes on your instrument
- How to play your first song by ear



What will Continuing Band Students learn at Band Camp?

At Band Camp, Continuing Band students will work on sharpening their rhythmic skills, strengthening their tone and playing technique, and polishing their music reading skills in preparation for the demands of Advanced Band.

Flyers will be available at the front office or you may contact Mrs. Vance for additional information.

Margaret.vance@stjohns.k12.fl.us

ICT RECOGNITIONS

In conjunction with a business partner, Certification Partners LLC, the students in Mrs. Meringolo's ICT class had the opportunity to showcase the skills and knowledge they have gained this year by earning their first Digital Tool Certificate-- in Multimedia. Kudos to the following additional students who have achieved this distinguished certification! Our school and Mrs. Meringolo are very proud of your success! Students include: Rohan Bongu, Luis Martinez, Colin O'Brien, Connor Sunman, Kate Wagner



Odyssey of the Mind

The Patriot Oaks Academy fifth grade Odyssey of the Mind team is going to the World Finals in Michigan! We are the first ever elementary school team in this region (which consists of St. Johns County and 18 surrounding counties) to be invited to World Finals.

You have donated almost 20% of the needed funds to help the team cover travel expenses. If you have not made a donation, please visit <http://www.gofundme.com/s8xg9s>.

Any amount is appreciated!

PROCTORS ARE STILL NEEDED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY!

Everyone has been so wonderful volunteering their time to proctor over the past weeks. Our elementary DDA's, and all of our FSA and FCAT testing will be complete by the end of April.

May brings Discovery Education testing for our K-3rd graders as well as some middle school DDA and EOC assessments. We still need your help!

To sign up, please check out the SignUp Genius link:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4daaa92ca31-proctoring>

You do not need to be a parent -- everyone is welcome to help. However, you must be a registered volunteer with St. Johns County Schools. [If you are not currently a registered volunteer, we encourage you to apply now at this link:
<http://www.patriotoakspto.org/VolunteerRequirements>]

You cannot proctor in your child's classroom. Please sign up for an open proctor time in a classroom other than your child's.

CLINIC CORNER

End of Year Information



Parents, please come by the clinic to pick up your student's medication on the last day of school at the end of the day on Thursday June 4th. Our nurse will give you medication order sheets for the next school year at the time. You can also print the new medication order sheet from our school website. Please make sure to get your medication order signed by the doctor over the summer and any information we need from MD such as allergy or Asthma action plans, immunization forms ,etc. Please call me if you have any questions about this. Below is the medication policy for SJCSD, please take a moment to read it.

MEDICATION POLICY

Florida Statute 1006.062 authorizes school personnel to assist students in the administration of prescription medications. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to administer medications at home prior to or after school hours. The schools **do not** keep stock medicine in the clinic.

If your child needs medication during school hours, please note the following:

- ☐ All medications (prescription and over-the-counter) must have a medication form signed by both the parent/guardian and the physician ordering the medication.
- ☐ All medications must be received in the original container with current Rx label including student's name, dosage, frequency of administration, physician's name, and expiration date of medication. Over-the-counter medications must be in the original, un-opened container. **No medication will be given if**
- ☐ Medications must be brought to school by parent/guardian. Please do not send any medications with your child in their backpack. Medications **may not** be brought to school by the student.
- ☐ Medication brought to school by a student will be kept in the clinic until a parent/guardian comes to the school with the required paper work. Without the required authorization, the student will not be given the medication during school hours.
- ☐ Medications should not be transported between home and school on a daily basis. Separate containers should be kept at home and at school.
- ☐ Expired medications will be disposed of upon expiration date in accordance with local requirements.

The St. Johns County School clinics provide a vital service for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Save the date!

2015-2016 Cheerleading Clinic & Tryouts
SJMSAA Spirit Squad @ Patriot Oaks Academy, Grades 6-8

Cheer Clinic (Practice) after school until 4:45 on Monday, May 18th, Tuesday, May 19th, and Wednesday, May 20th. *There will be an optional practice day on Thursday, May 21st until 4.*

Tryouts will be held Friday, May 22nd after school until about 4:45

Required for Tryouts:

- ✓ Completed SJMSAA Registration Forms
(register online: http://www.sjmsaa.com/registrations/?sports_id=7, and submit required signed forms)
- ✓ 3 Teacher Recommendation Forms
- ✓ Copy of your most current report card

Interested students should pick up a registration packet with more information from Mrs. Brown in room 614. Email questions to krity.brown@stjohns.k12.fl.us

GO CHARGERS!



Thank you PTO!

A big thank you to PTO, Robyn Lilac and Amy Mendheim for providing much needed supplies for the clinic!!

THANK YOU PARENTS, PTO, AND BUSINESS PARTNERS FOR SPOILING US DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

You all were so very generous and thoughtful throughout the week in remembering all of our staff in many kind ways.

We appreciate your support . You made this week extra special for us all.

GO CHARGERS!



Creekside High School

Running of the Knights

MAY 15, 2015

One Mile Fun Run 6:15 PM
5K Run/ Walk 7:00PM

Family-friendly event with food, games, music and more!

Be sure to consider our Centipede Team event!

For more information, photos & online registration go to:
www.runningoftheknights.com

- It's a night of food, games, music and family fun! Registration proceeds will benefit Creekside Athletics Booster Club, Patriot Oaks Academy & Wolfson's Children's Hospital. **(If at least 25 students or faculty from POA register for the 5K, POA will receive \$5 for each participant!)**
- For more information on the Running of the Knights, including a course map, photos and information regarding the Centipede Team Race, visit www.runningoftheknights.com or pick up a flyer and registration form at the POA front office.
- The Centipede division is where five or more contestants run connected together as a unit. This is a really fun and unique experience and allows for some great pictures!

School Counselor Corner



Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Sierra

Building Your Child's Self-Esteem

A child with good self-esteem has better confidence and makes better choices.

Here are 10 ways to help build your child's self-esteem.

1. Be realistic. No one is "perfect." Don't think you have to be the best parent in the world.
2. Be the best role model you can be. Your child watches you every second you're together. He or she will do as you do, not as you say, so "do" the best you can.
3. Talk with your child, not at him or her. Show respect for your child's opinion
4. Openly give your love with hugs, kisses, and praise. The more a child feels loved, the more he or she will listen to you.
5. Lighten up. Allow yourself to laugh when things don't go as planned.
6. Get involved. Show your child you care about his or her life and education by taking an active role whenever possible.
7. Discipline with love. Treat your child fairly and firmly to establish a positive connection between the two of you. This will also give your child a foundation of solid values for life.
8. Spend quality time together. Schedule time to be together to talk, do chores, shop, watch TV, or any other activity that will bring greater understanding and togetherness.
9. Think positively. A positive attitude is contagious! If you start the day with optimism, so will your child.
10. Celebrate life! Acknowledge everything good that you and your child experience no matter how small. Praise can help your child learn to believe in himself or herself.

PARENT SURVEY!

The Florida Department of Education is working with school districts to gather information on how well parents think their child's school is partnering with parents of students with disabilities, and would like to include your input. Your responses will help guide efforts to improve services and results for children and families. All parents of children with disabilities and a current IEP (PK to 12th grade) are invited to participate in this survey. The survey is opened from February 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015. Please visit www.ESEsurvey.com to complete the survey.



Cafeteria End of Year Changes

As you have probably heard, there is a voluntary recall on all Blue Bell ice cream. St. Johns County Schools have taken all Blue Bell ice cream out of the school. We do still have other options available for the kids that include frozen juice cups and sherbet not associated with Blue Bell!

Since the end of the year is closing in on us fast, we in the cafeteria will not allow your children to go into debt purchasing a-la cart items. We will still allow them to owe up to \$5.00 but only by purchasing a school lunch. If they want a-la cart items they must have money in their accounts or bring in money daily.

If you would like to discuss limits, suggestions, questions or concerns please feel free to contact the cafeteria manager Katie Ade 904.547.4061 katie.ade@stjohns.k12.fl.us

WANTED

Ms. Meringolo is looking for guest speakers for her CAB with career planning classes during the last week or two of school. If you are willing to volunteer, or would like more information, please contact Ms. Meringolo at mary.meringolo@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



PTO NEWS!



HELP WANTED!

Possible Applicants:

Any enthusiastic parent

Job Description:

Many valued opportunities exist. Please see the list below. Even working parents can volunteer as we have opportunities for things to be done from home or in the evenings. You can be active without being up at school each week!

Salary:

You will be rewarded with many THANK YOUS and smiles!

Committee Chair Positions Open for the 2015-2016 School Year

Literacy Week

Donation Drive

Holiday Shop

School Supply Kits (to work on the order for 2016 starting in January)

Box Tops

Teacher & Staff Appreciation

The Charger Rock

Red Ribbon Week

Accelerated Reader

Patriotic Events

Art to Remember

Family Movie Night

Spring Event

Planners

Interested in becoming a committee chair?

Please email rklilac@gmail.com for more information!



2015 BFAST Kids Triathlon at NOCATEE!



sunday may 31 • 8am

NOCATEE
PONTE VEDRA • FLORIDA

nocatee aquatic center
245 little river road • ponte vedra, fl 32081

ages 7-14 (as of 12/31/15)
junior & senior distances



BFASRacing.org

the races:

Juniors (7-10)

Swim - 100 yards

Bike - 2 miles

Run - 1/2 mile



Seniors (11-14)

Swim - 200 yards

Bike - 4 miles

Run - 1 mile

- ★ Swim in the exciting new Junior Olympic Pool
- ★ Bike off-road on Nocatee's paved Greenway Trails
- ★ Run around Splash Water Park & surrounding areas

the fun stuff:

- ★ Cool Race Shirts
- ★ Awesome Finisher Medals
- ★ Surprising Goodie Bags
- ★ 1st - 3rd place awards for age groups + gender divisions

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!



NOCATEE
PONTE VEDRA • FLORIDA

Intrepid
Capital &
Funds

WALTON
WALTON

DIPOLOGI



BFASRacing.org

A 501c-3 non-profit organization that provides free medical educational outreach programs, including testing since 1972

USA TRIATHLON

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SHAMROCK SOCCER CAMPS

Residential and Day Camps
at **Flagler College** in St. Augustine

June 29-July 3
July 5-8 & 12-15
July 6-8 & 13-15

Day Camp
Residential
Commuter Camp

For Boys and Girls age 5-18

Camp Director John Lynch
Flagler College Soccer Coach

904-819-6254

for more info visit
shamrocksoccercamp.com
email - lynchj@flagler.edu



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IMPORTANT POA /SJMSAA FOOTBALL NEWS

All current 5th, 6th and 7th grade boys who want to play football next fall **MUST OFFICIALLY REGISTER ONLINE** so they know who needs to be fitted for equipment. Go to our school's athletics page for instructions on how to register OR pick up a flyer from the front office. **DON'T DELAY, DO THIS TODAY!**

www.sjmsaa.com/sports/football





CHS KNIGHTS

Knights Basketball Factory

The Knights Basketball Factory will be directed by Boys Head Basketball Coach Will Mayer who has over 200 career wins and led the Knights to the 2014 Suncoast Classic Tournament Championship and District Title game in his first season at Creekside this year. The camp will focus on individual skills, team offensive and defensive concepts and fundamentals in a fun, competitive environment open to both boys and girls. Camp staff will consist of current and former high school coaches and players. The highlight of camp will be **CHAMPIONSHIP THURSDAY** where all parents and fans are invited to watch all campers participate in individual and team playoffs, culminating in our **CAMP AWARDS CEREMONY** at the end of camp. We look forward to seeing you at the

KNIGHTS BASKETBALL FACTORY – "Where Great Players Are Made!"

Daily Schedule

9 – 9:15	Stretch / Warmup
9:15 – 10:15	Stations
10:15 – 10:30	Skill Competitions
10:30 – 11:00	5 on 5 Games
11:00 – 11:30	Skill Competitions
11:30 – 11:55	Lunch (Bring your own or buy pizza)
11:55 – 12:25	5 on 5 Games
12:25 – 12:55	3 on 3 / 1 on 1 Games
12:55 – 1:00	Camp Challenge / Camper of the Day

Creekside Athletics is proud to offer several summer camps for area youth. Visit www.chs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/athletics for more information and to register. Proceeds from all camps benefit CHS Athletics.

June 8 -11 Grades 1-5 Boys & Girls
@ Patriot Oaks Academy
9am – 1pm Cost \$100

June 15 – 18 Grades 5 – 9 Boys & Girls
@ Creekside HS
9am – 2pm Cost \$115

June 22 – 25 Grades 5 – 9 Boys & Girls
@ Creekside HS
9am – 2pm Cost \$115

Every Camper will receive a tee shirt, bag, basketball and report card. Pizza, drinks and snacks will be available for purchase at lunch break.

For more information, contact:
Head Coach Will Mayer at
coachwmayer@gmail.com

Cell (732) 533 - 3184