

The Fruit Cove Times

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Monthly News Flying to You

April 2013

Arts Café to Transform FCMS into an Arts Carnival

By Hope Killian and Ashley van der Does

On May 16, 2013 the Fruit Cove Middle School auditorium, hallways and cafeteria will be turned into a funky café and an art gallery for the ninth annual Arts Café. Hosted by Ms. Greening, the Arts Café helps raise money for art supplies. As part of the Arts Café event, an art show featuring the work of the FCMS art students will be on display in an art gallery. There will also be an auction for student art work.

The cafeteria will become a café where a number of items will be served. Items available include coffee, desserts, pizza and a spaghetti dinner. Right across the hall in the auditorium the FCMS Jazz Band will be performing.

Additionally, a number of art activities will be available. Some of the activities are face painting, sand art and jewelry.

“Past Art Cafés have been a blast,” said Ms. Greening, “It’s a night that you don’t want to miss! This event is a great evening for families and friends to enjoy being together.”

The annual art show, or “the Art Carnival” as Ms. Greening likes to call it, is the primary fundraiser for FCMS art supplies. Admission to the Arts Café, food purchases and money from games will all help en-



sure that enough supplies can be purchased for the next year.

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The Fruit Cove Times is a free monthly newspaper produced by the student newspaper club. The paper is distributed to the students of Fruit Cove Middle School. The writers' opinions do not reflect the opinion of Fruit Cove Middle School. A website and advertising opportunities will be available soon. Please contact student advisor, Mrs. Bourquin, at: Holly.Bourquin@stjohns.k12.fl.us with any questions.

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Kelly Cockerham Wins Tropicana Speech Contest

By Parker Jones, Lay Stokes, and Sophia Holloway-Tillis

Kelly Cockerham won the Tropicana Speech Contest with her speech, "The Power of a Positive Attitude!" Cockerham, a sixth grader, competed in the competition previously as an elementary school student. This will be her third year going from the school competition to the district county competition. The alternate speaker for FCMS is Todd

"Since I have been to the district county in the last two years, I am very familiar with what happens and I am very proud to have another chance to compete!"

Roy. He placed 2nd in the Fruit Cove Middle School competition with his speech, "Magic Kingdom."

Kelly is optimistic about her chances at placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd at the district competition. She stated, "Since I have been to the district county in the last two years, I am very familiar with what happens and I am very proud to have another chance to compete!" She is going against six other students, in this seven-school competition.

We asked Kelly some questions about how she feels about going to the district county competition. Kelly said, "I really hope I will win for school and make everyone happy."

If you want to see Kelly Cockerham compete and hear her speech, "The Power of a Positive Attitude," you can attend the district county competition



on Monday, April 29th at the Agricultural Center in St. Augustine at 6 p.m.

Please join us in congratulating Kelly.

Hoedown Throwdown for a Good Cause

By: Ryan Campbell and Austin Bennett

Bailey's Barn is hosting a Spring Roundup complete with barbecue and western throwdowns (actors reenacting western fights). The event takes place at the Bailey's barn (2202 Bishop Estates Road) on Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Horse Sense and Sensitivity program.

The Horse Sense and Sensitivity program helps the disabled. This program gives the participants a chance to bond with the animals and their instructors. It also helps the students strengthen muscles and improve balance and coordination. Students learn to follow instruction and increase the ability to focus and improve communication.

"We are a not for profit organization and usually not for profit organizations need a way to spread their word, and this is our way. We needed a way for families that like to do things with horses. And thus came the idea of the Spring Roundup." said Mrs. Yudow a therapeutic riding instructor.

The roundup will offer pony rides, hay rides, lassoing shows, hoedowns, games and more. Admission is free.



Catherine Yudow standing with Sky, a horse at The Bailey's Barn

Lunch can be purchased from \$3 to \$6. Activity tickets can be purchased for \$1 at any of the activity stations.

Please bring your picnic blankets and wear closed toes shoes.

Please RSVP at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HSSRoundup>.

To learn more about the Horse Sense and Sensitivity program, visit <http://www.horsesensejax.org/>

Student Council says:

“Dance Your way into Spring!”

By: Hope Killian and Ashley van der Does

If you love to dance or spend time with your friends, then come to the cafeteria on April 26, 2013. The Spring Fling will be from 2-4 p.m. Admission is \$5. Food and drinks will be available for an additional cost. The DJ is Dennis Miller, who you might remember from the “Back To School” dance. Just like last year, you can wear your flip-flops! “The kids always have fun because it is right after FCAT,” said Ms. Robinson.

Most of the money the Student Council earns is going to be used for a present for the school that will benefit everyone. After the Spring Fling, the student council will vote on what to purchase for the present for the school. The rest of the money raised will benefit the Dreams Come True Club.

“The dance has always been a success, everyone’s ready to blow off some



steam after FCAT,” said Ms. Deasy.

Nice Shot!

By Isha Chekuri

This season, Fruit Cove Middle School has two tennis teams with ten players on each team. The players of these two teams play and train at the Julington Creek Plantation’s Recreation Center. Most of the kids that are on the tennis team take classes two-three times a week in addition to practicing as a school team.

The main coaches who train the team are Scott Miller and Michael Arrigo. Other coaches, who help out, are Miguel Chacon and Scott Lefteris.

The teams are working on being able to extend their rallies on a constant basis. The players on the team are very competitive and the outlook for this team for the season is to reach the top four in the competition. Scott Miller says that the competition will be tough.

When asked how Scott Miller feels training the team he said, “It is really fun being a coach and a good learning experience for me too.”

The next match is at the Julington Creek Plantation Recreation Center tennis complex on May 2, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

Study Strategies and Test Taking Tips

By Mallory McLean

Students encounter tests almost every day. The students of FCMS take tests in every subject. To do well on these tests you need use study strategies and test taking tips. These tips can help you study and help you make better scores on tests.

Studying strategies help you know what you need to study for a test and how to study. When you are studying use these strategies to focus on the most important details.

Here are some study strategies:

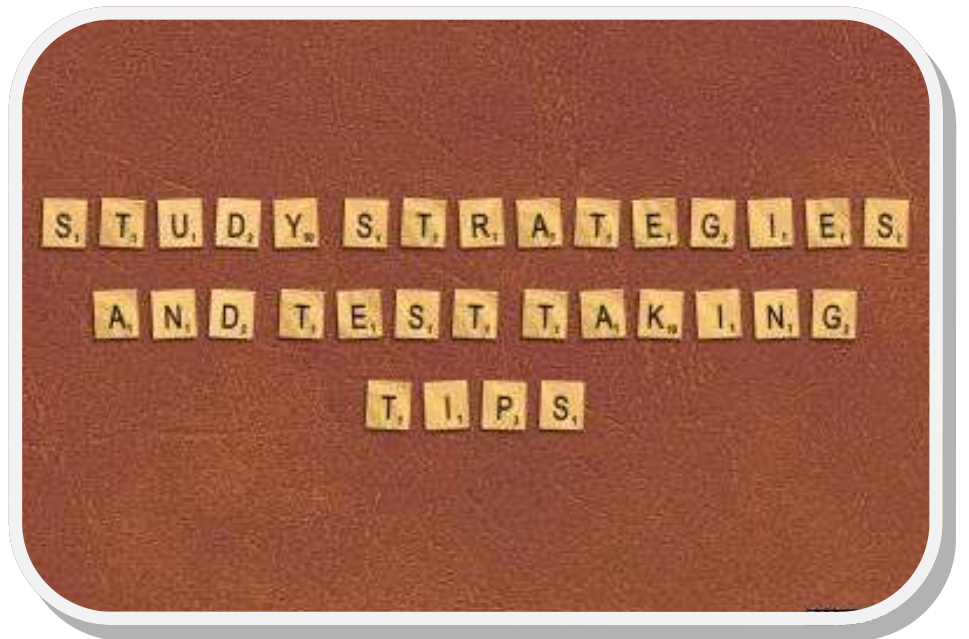
- Try not to do all your studying the night before the test, instead, try to space it out.
- Find a comfortable and quiet place to study. Make sure there is enough light in the room.
- Start by studying what you think are the most important details.
- Take notes and make flash cards so you can study with your friends and not have to carry around a heavy text book!
- If you are studying with a group, make sure everybody is serious about studying for the test.
- Listen to classical or jazz music while you are studying.

Test taking tips can help you do better on tests. You can use these tips and strategies at school when you are taking a written quiz or test on the computer. “Preview the test,” Mrs. Sisson says, “See if the stories are nonfiction or fiction and see how many questions there are.”

You should use these tips to help you do better on tests, so you can get a better grade and maybe a reward from your parents—like dessert!

Here are some basic test taking tips:

- Eat a good breakfast and get lots of sleep the night before.
- Stay relaxed. If you get nervous, take some deep breathes before continuing the test.
- Don’t look at another student’s test. You might be caught and you might be accused of cheating.
- Review or skim over the whole test



before you start.

- If you come to a problem that is difficult, skip it. Once you are finished with the test, go over all the questions you skipped.
- Don’t rush. Read the ENTIRE question before answering.
- Make sure your hand writing isn’t sloppy. It needs to be legible.
- When you are done with your test, check it. Make sure you choose the right answers and didn’t skip any questions.
- Underline or highlight what you think are the most important details.

Opinion: Student Council—How Should Your Representative Be Chosen?

By Shelby Wright, Abi Pelger, Miranda Nosse, and Chandler Palmer

Every year, student candidates across the country participate in student council elections. This is to give students a voice in their schools. However, many believe how representatives are chosen could be improved.

Student council elections usually take place in the form of a student democracy. Anyone who wants to run for a position in student council is allowed to. The only problem with a student democracy is that students often vote for their friends, which can affect the election.

To fix this problem many believe that teachers should make the decisions on who is on the student council. A teacher, who asked to remain anonymous said, “It would be better if we decide who our class representative is because middle school students, more often than not, vote for their friends.” Teachers are often a better judge when it comes to finding a responsible and mature representative. Teach-

ers will choose a student based on their character traits, while a student may choose someone based on who they know.

On the other hand, if teachers choose the student representative it could still be a biased election. “It is the students’ representative, so teachers should not be allowed to have a say in it,” said another teacher. It is possible for a teacher to not be aware of all of the students who are interested in representing their class. Yet, student council is supposed to be a democracy.

So how do we fix this problem? Teachers should choose five candidates, and the students should vote on who should represent the class out of those

five candidates. This way both the teachers and students will have a say in who will represent their class.

At Fruit Cove Middle School we have an outstanding student council, but there is always room for improvement.

At Fruit Cove Middle School we have an outstanding student council, but there is always room for improvement. And believe it or not, that one kid who always keeps quiet in class may be your school’s key to success.

What do you think? Email the newspaper advisor at:

holly.bourquin@stjohns.k12.fl.us and share your thoughts. Your letter may be printed in our next edition.

Talent Show to Showcase Many Student Talents

By Sarah Adams and Abbey Kennedy

On April 26th at 6 p.m. in Fruit Cove Middle School’s auditorium the 2013 Talent Show will take place. Admission is \$5.00. The money raised is for the Dreams Come True foundation.

Dreams Come True helps children with life-threatening diseases do things they have always wanted to do. It makes a child’s dream become a reality. The child our school is sponsoring will be announced at the end of the year.



Sarah Jacobs and Brook Jackson are performing in the talent show this Friday.

Mrs. Goss, the Talent Show Coordinator, said, “The Talent Show of 2012 was awesome!”

She hopes this year’s Talent Show will be sensational. Mrs. Calabrese has been a judge for the Talent Show three years in a row. She said, “Last year it was very hard to pick performers for the show and the show was great.” She is hoping this year’s show will be even better than last year’s show. Mrs. Tranquellino, a judge for the talent show, hopes to see good singing, dancing and variety. Mrs. Brown, a judge, said last year’s show was awesome and there was so much talent.

More than 22 groups of people tried out. The final lineup includes 15 performances. Mrs. Paul one of this year’s judges said, “This year’s auditions were

wonderful! We have so many talented students. Thank you all for sharing your amazing talents with us and keep up the good work!”

Brooke Jackson and Sarah Jacobs are two of the many students who tried out. They sang “For Good” from *Wicked*. They were chosen for the show and will perform this Friday. They said, “Congratulations to everyone that tried out and to everyone in the show!”

Pi-lots Program Takes Off at Fruit Cove!

By The Pi-lots Club

The Pi-lots Program at FCMS is made up of 7th and 8th grade Algebra and Geometry students. The program meets every Wednesday from 1 to 3 PM to solve real-world problems use math and engineering skills.

The first activity was to plan and budget a trip to Walt Disney World. Each team was given an allotted amount of money per person and was required to outline a trip, spending the most money and having the most fun without going over budget. After hours of research and calculations, the ideas were presented.

The program recently featured guest speakers from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command of Jacksonville. The engineers spoke with the students about the different fields of study involved in engineering, and encouraged them to consider making engineering a career. The students experimented with the structure and reinforcement of columns and explored aerodynamics in paper airplanes.

Ava, an 8th grader, said, “It’s a great way to apply your math skills in real life. It’s challenging, but rewarding.”

All of the Pi-lots members anticipate the meeting each week. Audrey, an eighth grader said, “It’s fun to take a challenge and make something out of it. It tests your intellectual abilities. Wednesdays are my favorite day of the week.”

Any 7th or 8th grade Algebra and Geometry students may join the program. Contact Ms. Dow or Mr. McNerney for more information.