

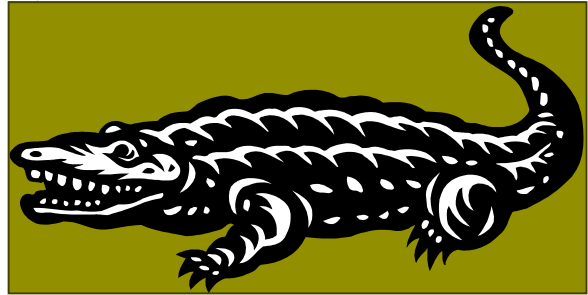
Gator Tales

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SAC Committee 2007 Meeting Dates

February 21, 2007

March 21, 2007

April 25, 2007

May 16, 2007

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES! MAY 2007 BRING EVERYONE HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND JOY THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Parents are encouraged to have their children attend our CARE tutoring program. CARE is a before and after school program where students are tutored in reading, math and science using a computer based interactive program. CARE is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays with hours from 7:45 – 8:45 in the mornings and 3:40 – 4:40 in the afternoons.

Please remember school hours are from 9:00am to 3:35pm and students should not be on campus before 8:15am and after 4:00pm unless they are in a sponsored school activity, involved in the CARE program or participating on a SSMS sports team.

Mark your calendars for Saturday February 24 when SSMS celebrates their 10th anniversary since the school's opening in 1997. The carnival celebration starts at noon and runs until 5pm. There will be games, rides, food and beverage as well as sports and crafts. SEE A BROCHURE FOR MORE INFO!

SSMS January/February Calendar

January 30	I-Zone Meeting	Coral Springs Elementary	9:00am
February 6	Florida FCAT Writing+ Testing		
February 9	Nature Lecture Series	Cafeteria	7:00pm
February 15	NJHS Induction Ceremony	Media Center	3:45pm
February 19	President's Day	No School	
February 21	SAC meeting	Media Center	8:00am
February 22	Black History Assembly	Media Center	7:00pm
February 24	10th Anniversary Carnival Celebration	SSMS	12-5:00pm
February 28	PTA meeting		9:30am

Guidance Department News

Ron Pearlman, Director and 7th Grade Counselor
Susan Barbakoff, 8th Grade Counselor
John White, 6th Grade Counselor
Vicky Shaw, Guidance Data Specialist

2007FCAT Schedule

February 6	Writing Assessment	Grade 8 only
Feb. 26-27	Reading & Math SSS	Grades 6-8
March 5	Science SSS	Grade 8 only
March 7	Reading & Math NRT	Grades 6-8

- To help improve your child's test performance, we recommend that all students get plenty of rest the night before the test, eat a good breakfast, be on time and bring two No. 2 pencils.

ACCESS TO ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

❖ FCAT QUESTIONS POSTED ONLINE

In a recent newspaper article, the Sun-Sentinel published that students and parents now may go online to view select versions of last March's FCAT. Most of the questions for grades 7 and 8 are posted and can be viewed at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcatrelease.html> and http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/nb_fcatrelease.html. While sample questions have been available for years, **this year an interactive addition allows visitors to the site to take the tests online and view results IMMEDIATELY.** The exams are approximately 40-50 questions each which are 10 less than the students answered last March.

❖ LIVE HOMEWORK HELP

Don't forget that there are real tutors online free for all kids. While students must go to the library to use this valuable resource, I understand that the quality is exceptional. For more information, students and parents may call or visit their local library branch or visit www.broward.org/library for more information.

❖ **HOMEWORK HOTLINE**

The Homework Hotline program provides homework assistance to Broward County students in grades 1-12 by way of a telephone communication network. Teachers staff phones on Mondays through Thursdays from 4:00-8:00 p.m. The program is housed at Plantation Community School. The phone number is (754) 322-1970. For more information on this program visit <http://www.browardeducator.com/homeworkhotline.htm>.

❖ **TUTORING BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons our CARE Program assists students who are in need of FCAT Math and Reading assistance. Contact Mrs. Allman, CARE Program Director, for placement information and more details.

❖ **FCAT SATURDAY ACADEMY**

This program is similar to the Tuesday/Thursday CARE Program, although we offer it twice each month on Saturday morning, from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Teachers will use the FCAT EXPLORER program in our computer lab to help students prepare for the FCAT Math and Reading Assessments. Please call for dates and make a reservation for your child.

Grade 8 News**High School Freshman /Curriculum Night and 8th Grade Articulation Programs for 2007-2008**

Counselors from the following high schools will be visiting SSMS eighth grade students in their social studies classes on the dates below to discuss and distribute course card selection and curriculum guides. Students entering high school next year will be required to choose a "Major" course of study and choose their courses accordingly.

March 19th - Douglas High School – Media Center
March 19 - Taravella High School – Media Center
March 20th - Coral Glades High School - Classrooms

Parents are invited to attend the Freshman Curriculum/Orientation Night at the high school they will be attending next school year. Please contact Ms. Shaw or Ms. Gubilee in the Guidance department if you are unsure of the high school your child will be attending next school year.

March 20th - Coral Glades High School
March 21st - Douglas High School - 7:00 pm
March 22nd - Taravella High School H.S. 6:00 pm

Florida Scholarships and Grants

Will you need money for college in four years? The Florida Department of Education offers a wide variety of student financial aid. Some websites of interest include: www.facts.org www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org www.fafsa.ed.gov <http://studentaid.ed.gov> www.fastweb.com www.petersons.com www.finaid.org. Visit the Guidance department for additional information on select state grants, scholarships and applications. If you have any other questions, call 1-888-827-2004.

Straight "A" Principal's Recognition Program

On January 26, 2007 all students in Grades 6, 7, and 8, who earned a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. for the second quarter were recognized for this accomplishment in an awards program in the cafetorium. Congratulations to the students and their families. The students recognized at this ceremony are listed below.

Grade 8: DANIELLE BAUMGARTEN, RAVEN COE, ELIZABETH DAILEY, GILBERT FEIG, GREGORY FOSTER, ROBERT GARBARZ, ADAM GILBERT, CAMILA GUILLEN, AMY HUANG, ALEXANDRA KAPLAN, NICHOLAS LABARBERA, PETER MANN, NYKOLE MCLEOD, COLLEEN MCTIERNAN, CORINNE MORRIS, JONATHAN MULLER, ROHAN NADKARNI, BENJAMIN NEUBAUER, CHEYENNE O'NEILL, NICHOLAS ROSADO, SCOTT RUBIN, ALBERTT SCALONE, OMAR SEVERING, KYLE SHEPARD, ROBERT SHORT, LAUREN SIMMS, EMILY SINGROSSI, OMAIRA SOSA-CHANG, JACKSON SUAREZ, SHIRA URIM, ADAM WATERS, MATTHEW WATKINS, RONIQUÉ WHITTAKER, MELISSA WINTER

Grade 7: PATRICK BESANA, ALANNA BROWDY, NICHOLAS FERREIRO, MICHELLE FUTO, LORENA GEILEN, GABRIEL GROSSMAN, VINCENT GUIBOTOSI, CHELSIE KAZANJIAN, ALLEGRA LEWISON, ALYSSA MAYAR, INGRID MILERA, SHANNEN MITCHELL, SARAH NEWMAN, WEN OW, JARRED PAUROWSKI, MELISSA SANDLER, JOSEPH SCHAT, MOLLY SCHULSON, SARA SHERMAN, CHRISTOPHER TALAVERA, JESSICA FOSTER

Grade 6: MINJI BAN, OSCAR BERGERONOAKES, ELLIOTT BROWN, ISABELLA BRUCKER, SUJIN CHO, COURTNEY COSTELLO, ZACHARY DAILY, MIA DEGIROLMO, MARISA HOLSTE, ASHLEY JEAN, SUZANA JURDI, JORDAN LAPORTA, RONALD LARACUENTE, JIA MING LIANG, DEANNA NORIEGA, CEDRIC ORBAN, NATALIE RAMIREZ, ADAM RANIERI, KRISTYNA SCHLENK, KRISTEN SLAPPEY, DAVID STARR, KHIE TON, ASHLEY WOOD, ALEX YUEN, DIANA ZERDA

Kids Of Character 2nd Quarter Awards

The following students were nominated by their teachers for meeting one or more of the following criteria:

Responsibility, Citizenship, Kindness, Respect, Honesty, Self-Control, and Cooperation. This

prestigious award is presented each marking period.

Students will receive a certificate and a picture will be

displayed on the Guidance bulletin board. All students

will be entered into the final Sun-Sentinel (Broward

County) Award, at the end of the year. All these students

prove that **CHARACTER COUNTS at SSMS!**

Congratulations to the winners below:

Grade 6: Deanna Noriega, Olivia Piper, Eric Fongran, Khiet Ton, Katherine Rodriguez, Mercedes Corvil, Ashely Jean, Maurice Facey, Riley Penagos, Matt Wuensch, Tatyana Moodie, Mauricio Cabrera, Jessica Crispo, Allie Dehen, Cedric Orban, Natalia Ramirez, Julia Sutton, Natalie Burley, Matthew Sullivan

Grade 7: Cassandra Au, Keith Mc Adam, Shannen Mitchell, Fernando Montenegro, Justin Ajayi, Rebeca Otero, Lars Finlay, Richard Friel, Kayla Dlubac, Tori Hartstein, Chad Thaler, Anicia Dominguez, Victor Chaviest-Trotman, Jarred Paurowski, Ingrid Milera, Cameryn Glass, Dario Coral, Lauren Fleites.

Grade 8: Matthew Lamb, Ashley Auborg, Stephanie Barrios, David Rodriguez, Jennifer Rojas, Elizabeth Yuen, Brett Rabinovitch, Jerick Rojas, Kadeen Tracey, Andres Garcia, Marissa Thomas, Eric Miloszewski, Colleen McTiernan, Nicholas Rosado, Samantha Rojas, Jackson Suarez, Bryan Goldin, Samantha Brown.

Please send them to Room 368. They will be used by a group of people to make projects. Instead of throwing away old and used stamps, let's put them to good use in our community. It doesn't cost you anything, except the time to cut them out and bring them in. Thanks for your help!

GLADES MEDIA CENTER

- ✓ Keep an eye out for the new look of the media center. A fresh new painting has the media center looking brand new. Come and check it out once we have gotten everything put back in order from the painting that was done.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ESL Tip of the Month

Difficulties with English

- Although written English is alphabetic, irregular spelling and pronunciation often prevent a one-to-one relationship between the sounds students hear and the letters students see.
- Also, a single word can be used in many ways to indicate different things and have multiple meanings. Or words can sound the same but be spelled differently and have different meanings. These words are called homophones. Consider the following examples:
 - The whole tree fit into the hole.
 - A fly can fly great distances during the summer.
 - The farm was used to produce produce.
 - He could lead if he would get the lead out.
 - The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
 - I did not object to the object.

Adapted from [The 5 Components of Reading Development: A Classroom Teacher's Guide to Scaffolding Reading Instruction for ELL Students](#), page 24.

Volunteer Recognition

Sawgrass Springs Middle School appreciates all our volunteers. Each year we must select one person in each of four categories to nominate as "Outstanding School Volunteer." We had to make some very difficult choices, but listed below are our winners:

Student Volunteer: Derek Rhodes

Adult Volunteer: Jane Garbarz

Senior Volunteer: Elka Loiben

Volunteer Program Organizer: Alice Holbrook

Congratulations to our winners as well as all our volunteers!

NOTE: All volunteers, please record the hours you have volunteered since July 1, 2006. We need to have a log for every hour donated to our school. If you haven't logged in on STAR, please record your hours in the Volunteer Log Book in the front office. All hours count. Thank you again for your help and support!

ART NEWS

- On Wednesday evening January 23 at Wings Plus in Coral Springs, three of our SSMS students were honored by the Coral Springs Downtown Lions Club. Emily Bolinsky, Krista Jones and Christine Cho were given \$100 Saving Bonds, restaurant certificates and the best prize - a small stuffed Coral Springs Downtown Lion. All the students and their parents were treated to dinner as well. 75 students created wonderful Peace Posters which is a national art contest associated with this club. The three girls listed above were award winners chosen by the Lions Club for their wonderful posters.
- The Lions Club does great things for the community of Coral Springs. Currently they are collecting used postage stamps.

Chorus and Orchestra News

- ❖ Congratulations to our "16" All County Chorus members. They performed to a full house at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts on Thursday January 25. Bravo to our fabulous singers for a FANTASTIC job!
- ❖ Seventh and Eighth Grade Orchestra students will be performing for Solo Ensemble Festival. This event takes place on Saturday February 24th at Ramblewood Middle School.
- ❖ Come hear our outstanding Eighth Grade Chorus performing in concert at the SSMS African American History program on Thursday February 22nd.
- ❖ Chorus and Orchestra students will be participating in our Annual Fundraiser. The sale will run from February 7 - 21. We appreciate all your support!

SSMS Sports

Basketball

The basketball season is coming to a close with the boys and girls playing their final couple games of the year. The girls are currently 4-3 overall and are in 3rd place in their division. The boys have played a lot of close games this year just coming up a little short in the end of games. Congratulations to both teams for a successful year.

Track & Field

Tryouts are set to begin the first week in February for both the girls and boys teams. The newly appointed coaches, Mrs. Menker and Ms. Aber, are looking forward to a great season. GOOD LUCK GATORS!

Soccer

The Lady Gator Soccer Team celebrated the end of a great season with an event held at Wings Plus in late January. Over 50 people attended including players, parents, family members and coaches. Everyone had a great time as we reflected on the past season. We also honored our corporate sponsors: Eastern Financial Florida Credit Union, Security 101, West Boca Medical Center, Chuck's Backhoe Service, Inc. and the Goldfarb Family. For more information on Lady Gator soccer or to view pictures, visit our website at <http://ladygatorsoccer.googlepages.com>.

Cheerleading

The girls will be cheering for the Gator boys and girls basketball teams throughout the season. In March, the girls will head to Orlando in hopes of bringing home their third national championship title!

If you would like information regarding sponsorship opportunities, performance schedules, cheer training or anything cheer-related, please contact Coach Jamie Costa at 754-322-4500 (ext. 3048) or see the cheerleading link on the school's website.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Environmental Magnet

Our exciting Environmental Lecture Series' is held on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 –8pm in the cafeteria. January's topic was exotic birds. In February, we will learn about anti-venom and upcoming in March we'll discuss "Global Warming and Alternative Fuels". Plan to join us both months.

Campus Beautification

On Saturday Jan. 20th, many students, teachers, parents, and business partners worked hard during our butterfly gardening beautification day. Thanks to all of you. Your efforts have made a big difference toward the completion of our project.

Science Clubs

Reminder Science club membership is open year round. Everyone is welcome to join and participate! Some of the clubs we offer include:

Critter Club
Nature Club
Save What's Left
Oceanography Club
First Lego League (Robotics club)

This is a very busy time for our science department as we prepare for the science FCAT exam as well as a variety of district competitions such as Science Fair, e-Cybermission, and Week of the Ocean.

Lego Club Competition

- ✓ The Lego Robotics team "TERMIGATORS" is comprised of 6th, 7th and 8th graders who enjoy academic challenges of applied sciences, technology, engineering, physics, mathematics, computer programming, and research. Students learn innovative engineering design applications and construction techniques.
- ✓ The "TERMIGATORS" placed 2nd in research and 4th overall in December's regional competition held at Crystal Lake Middle School.
- ✓ The team placed 2nd in research at the state competition in Melbourne, FL at the Florida Institute of Technology. Overall placement at the state meet has not been disclosed as of yet. The "TERMIGATORS" meet several times a week and 2 teams are planned for next year expanding with the "Lady Termigators."

Remembering the Holocaust

Since January is Holocaust Remembrance month, Team 701 traveled back in time to the years between 1933 and 1945. In Miss. Kilgore's Geography class they followed the Germans as they marched across Eastern Europe. They reviewed timelines and charts of this era. Mr. Henry's Language Arts class read Lois Lowry's first Newbery Award winner, Number the Stars, the story of the Johansen family who coped with the occupation of the Nazis. Finally in Reading with Mrs. Brand classes read about children of the Holocaust. From Erika's Story to the web pages of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, they used reading strategies to determine the essential messages. Poems were written and biographies were shared. As a culminating activity, the team created a Forget-Me-Not quilt highlighting children who did and did not survive their ordeal. We will be hanging our quilt in the Media center to share with the entire school. This entire unit was funded through a grant Mrs. Brand received from the Broward Education Foundation.

Martin Luther King Essay Winners

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATALIE HAILEY GRADE, 8th GRADER ON TEAM 803. HAILEY EARNED HONORABLE MENTION FOR HER ESSAY HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NATALIE WAS PRESENTED WITH A TROPHY AT THE CITY CENTER CELEBRATION FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ON JANUARY 12, 2007. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS FROM SSMS WHO ENTERED THE ESSAY CONTEST. NICE WRITING WAS DONE BY ALL CONTESTANTS.

F-CAT TESTING

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 9

Look to the next page

for F-CAT Support Opportunities!