



Panther News



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February finds Samsula Academy on a Fast Track with an Attitude of Pride

~ Firmly rooted values provide a strong foundation for lasting success~

We were halfway through the school year on January 23rd. This marks our 90th day of school and so much is being accomplished.

We can thank Coach Sue Carignan for bringing the Pedometer Parent Challenge to Samsula Academy. The program, designed to encourage our parents to get out and walk or run, was a winning success. When the pedometers were offered in the traffic loop, within 15 minutes all were distributed. The strategy was that the parent with the most steps was the winner. That challenge was won by Dolly Mott with a total of 87,658 steps. We hope to offer this record up for next year's Pedometer Parent Challenge.

We were glad to bring the gymnastics of the Chinese Acrobats in early January to Samsula Academy. These performers entertained and amazed our students with their agility and balance.

We are proud to announce that Samsula Academy will again offer FCAT classes on most early release Wednesdays. These classes are to prepare our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students for the FCAT testing that will be given in the spring. The classes will start on February 1st and will be on early most release Wednesdays from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM until March 28, 2012.

We need volunteers to help reorganize the books in the media center. Delores Maylone, who has graciously taken on this task to head the reorganizing, is ready to send books home for cataloging. She will also need help in the center restocking shelves and stamping books. This is an opportunity to earn volunteer hours needed for those who work, as well as those who can dedicate time during school hours. Please contact Arlene for further details.

We look forward to the races that will be the week of February 17th through the 25th. This is one of our biggest fund raisers. Again, we thank Sandi Wines for selling ads for the programs and heading the volunteers who made the sales of the ads such a success. We will be looking for our students and their families to help with sales of the programs on race week nights.

We are on the fast track to better health and bright, educated minds with an attitude of pride. Samsula Academy continues to set the bar higher for the days ahead.

Samsula Academy Administration

Make a Note!

Upcoming Early Release Days:

February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

NO SCHOOL: Monday, February 20th, Presidents Day



See Last Page for February Calendar!

Safety & Security Corner

Hazardous weather awareness week is January 30th through February 3rd. Samsula Academy will participate in a statewide Tornado Drill on February 1st.

Ins and Outs at Samsula



All families are required to volunteer 30 hours by the end of the school year (May 2011). That is just three hours a month!

Samsula Academy Supports Rotary Sales Raffle

The Rotary Club of New Smyrna Beach, which has supported Samsula Academy by supplying all third grade students with dictionaries every year, is now asking our participation in their worthwhile fundraiser. The Rotary Club will use the proceeds from raffle ticket sales to fund scholarships at New Smyrna Beach High School and sponsor the Interact Club, which awards plaques for the most improved student of the year at the elementary and middle school level. Raffle tickets are available for \$20.00 at the Samsula Academy office. The first place prize is an iPad2, and second place is a \$100 gift certificate for Publix. The drawing will be held on March 27th.

The Captain Planet Foundation Awards Grant for N.A.T.I.V.E.S. Project

The Captain Planet Foundation, an international environmental education foundation, is pleased to inform you that Samsula Academy has recently been awarded an educational grant in the amount of \$1,847. These funds will be used toward our N.A.T.I.V.E.S. (Naturally Advancing Today's Investment – Valuing our Environment in Samsula!) Project.

With these funds, Samsula Academy's K-5th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities to gain knowledge about native plants and grasses home to Florida. N.A.T.I.V.E.S. will provide students with learning opportunities in the classroom and outside of the classroom by learning what the plants are, examining them (seeds, leaves, etc.) through the requested microscopes and directly planting them in the Spring 2012, to be coordinated as a Family Planting Day on the school campus. The N.A.T.I.V.E.S. Project is an environmental and educational project with anticipated sustainability.

Family Planting Day, scheduled for Saturday, March 31st starting at 9 a.m. will provide an opportunity to learn about plants and grasses native to Florida as well as an opportunity to earn volunteer hours! More to come in the March newsletter.

The Captain Planet Foundation (CPF) was founded in 1991 to support hands-on, environmental projects for youth. CPF's objective is to encourage innovative projects that empower today's children as environmental stewards. CPF is committed to making a global impact with projects throughout the United States and around the world including Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, the kingdom of Bhutan and the US Virgin Islands.

The Captain Planet Foundation is looking forward to seeing and hearing about Samsula's project at the end of the school year. It is their hope that our combined efforts will educate, empower, involve and invest today's youth and provide them with a healthy environment in which they can live.



"There are a million little things each of us can do to save the planet and pretty soon all of those little things will add up to a tidal wave of change."

- Captain Planet

Have an Idea for this Newsletter?

Email debbie2012@gmail.com

Save the Date for Relay For Life!



Relay for life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everyone in the community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Samsula Academy has created a team to raise money and participate in this exciting event. We all know someone who has been affected by cancer in some way or another and this is a wonderful opportunity to give back and remember our loved ones. The theme of this year's Relay for Life is "Strike Out Cancer".

Saturday, April 21st

Riverside Park, New Smyrna Beach

Fundraising: We will be doing a variety of fundraising activities this year. We are planning on holding a few bake sales. This is a great way for parents to earn some more volunteer hours so keep an eye out for more information coming home soon.

Coin Competition: We will be having our annual class coin competition. Students will be able to bring in spare change to collect in a milk jug, and the class with the most money raised will earn a party. Start saving your coins! Thank you for your support!



Yearbook Pictures Needed: We are in need of any pictures from the fall festival, Storybook Parade, Christmas program, tractor parade, etc. or just fun pictures from this year. Thank you for emailing them to Ms. Gondek at egondek@readingedgeacademy.org or putting them on a CD or on your USB stick (can be quickly uploaded and USB returned to you!).

Cookbooks Still Available! Only \$12, the books are available at the school office during school hours and will be on sale from now through the end of the school year.



Labels for Education: Remember to clip and save UPCs and beverage caps from participating Labels for Education products. Please turn your UPCs into the collection bin near the front office, or give to your child's teacher. If you have any questions, please contact our program coordinator Nadine Slucher at (386) 690-6211 or visit www.labelsforeducation.com.

Keep Those Box Tops Coming! Bring them in and make them count! Fourth Grade is the collector of Box Tops this year so if there are questions or you need sheets for placing your box tops and sending them in, please send a note to fourth grade!



SAMSULA'S GROWING PRIDE: We will begin our school wide garden this month! The school was awarded to grant to grow an organic garden and what we grow we can serve for lunch in the cafeteria. So our students will have preservative free, organically grown, freshly picked food for lunch. Perhaps they will eat more greens because they grew them. We are going to grow vertically so we need less space and have fewer pests. Mrs. Comardo chose the spot by the cafeteria so that the children can watch their garden grow every day!



Thank you to all parents and members of the community who are ready to take on this project. I still have the green papers you filled out, I will be in touch! Thank you to Mary Mott for tilling the land for us! We will need volunteers to help in several ways. The students will be part of this project so you can volunteer to work with your child's class. We will need volunteers to shovel, weed, plant, and water over Easter break. If you are interested in volunteering in the garden please let Mrs. Jordan know.

Radio Panthers

Dah-dit-dah-dah. The Radio Panthers are learning Morse Code! We spent one session decoding messages from Miss Vola and next we will send messages to each other using our oscillators. We have also been having fun exploring electric circuits by using the Snap Kits. In upcoming months, we will continue learning about wireless communication. The Radio Panthers is open to 4th and 5th graders and is held in Miss Vola's portable from 2:15 to 3:15 on the above dates. The upcoming Radio Panthers meetings are as follows:

- February 6 & February 27
- March 12 & March 26



Music / Movement, Mrs. Elliott



Samsula Academy will be participating in the 2012 All County Elementary Music Showcase. This showcase is made up of students from all over Volusia County, representing the finest musical talent. This year, two 5th grade students have been selected to represent our school in the Chorus: Daniel Elliott and Jordan Vaughn. I want to thank them for all of their hard work during rehearsals. I know they will represent us well. The performance is Friday, February 17, 2012 at DeLand High School at 7:00 PM.

In Music, all grades continue to work on tone color. Fifth grade began working on their Recorder Karate Unit. Students will learn and be tested on nine songs on the recorder during this unit. Each song will get progressively harder. As students master each one, they will earn a different color "belt" for their recorder.

In Movement we are continuing our yoga unit. K-1 and Miss Ellis' class really seem to enjoy our yoga zoo adventure together. Grades 2-5 continue developing concentration and focus as they learn more yoga poses. Ask your child what their favorite yoga pose is!

"Look for the music on all things, and life will be a symphony of joy."



Art News

Congratulations to the following artists who had their artwork displayed at IMAGES: Festival of the Arts in New Smyrna Beach:

Aniston Ellwood-K, Lilly Keckler-K, Jemison Casper-1st, Kaley Lariosa-1st, Ciana Raley-1st, Mckenzie Graham-2nd, Olivia Nichols-2nd, Zane Wood-2nd, Jayna Williams- 3rd, Melody Whitcomb-3rd, Daisy Looman-3rd, Megan Silvey-4th, Hope Rathburn-4th, Theresa Palmer-4th, Taylor Lane-5th, Katie Castle-5th, and Megan Smith-5th.

IMAGES is an annual art festival sponsored by Atlantic Center for the Arts and it was a wonderful venue to display some student work.

~ Mrs. Luedeke

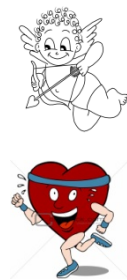
Coach's Corner

Wow, what a month! In January we completed the first ever Pedometer Parent Challenge and what a HUGE success: I ran out of 23 pedometers in 15 minutes! Due to the vast interest I will be spacing out the challenge, in between grades, so that I can offer this challenge to more parents next year. Here are the winners for the Pedometer Parent Challenge:

- 1st. place: 87,658 steps, Dolly Mott, grandmother of fifth grader John Mott
- 2nd place: 78, 622 steps, Patrick Dugger, father of kindergartener Payton Dugger
- 3rd place: 74, 558 steps, Stephanie Rice, mother of second grader Owen Williams

We have also begun our first ever Pedometer "Faculty/Staff" Challenge and the results will be posted in next month's newsletter.

The last **NUTRITION CHALLENGE** is back and it begins Monday, February 6th. This will be the 3rd and final challenge of the year so encourage your children to eat as many fruits, veggies, white milk, water & 100% juice during their school lunch from the 6th-24th. Mrs. Ledger and her 5th grade class have also been hard at work incorporating this challenge into their curriculum. So if you get the chance check out their detail graphs in the cafeteria.



Cupid Shuffle

When: Wednesday, February 15th @ 5pm

Where: Samsula Academy Pavillion (PE area)

Bring: (optional) water and a sack dinner for a short picnic afterwards, fast food is discouraged (Subway, Publix subs or rotisserie chickens are quick alternatives)

Fun Stuff: prizes, give- aways etc.

Hours: Families earn 1 volunteer hour for every adult family member that attends

Cupid Shuffle Supported by:



Thank you to everyone who came out to the January Jog, if you didn't make it I completely understood because the weather was not in our favor. We had about 60 people come out and overall had a great night!

More Fun Family Exercising Opportunities.....

Run with the Rangers 5k & Fun Run@ Canaveral National Seashore on Saturday, February 4th. This 5K is \$20 for adults and the Junior Ranger Fun Run is free for Kids. For more information, please contact Mrs. Jordan at ejordan@readingedgeacademy.org.

Presidential Club

This is the first year that I have had the opportunity to offer this club to our students. The Presidential Club is for 4th and 5th graders who intend to participate in the Fitness Festival held on March 16th. Students will be able to train for specific events that they would like to participate in at the Fitness Festival from 2:30-3pm every Thursday.

Morning Run/Walk Club

Every morning all students are able to run/walk from 7:20am-7:35am out at the PE warm up lap. There is no sign up or fee for this club, just eat breakfast first and jump in. I would like to say THANK YOU to the following ladies who have not only made this club possible but a success: Mrs. Ledger, Mrs. Roberts, Miss Vola, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Bellotti, Mrs. Kent and Mrs. Jordan.

Samsula Pride is Hard to Hide! ☺ *Coach Carignan*

Tales from the Classroom



Happy Campers

Greetings from the Happy Campers! We welcomed the new year with a few changes in our classrooms! We now have station hike rotations during Reading and Math, where students hike to different areas of the classroom to complete fun activities geared toward our reading and math goals. We also have started the "Star of the Week" where a student is chosen to be recognized on our behavior summit bulletin board. This student will have their own bulletin area, as well as enjoy other special privileges for the week! We just finished up word families and we are now beginning long vowels. We are looking forward to a busy month in February as we begin the study of time and money as well as many other exciting activities! Thanks to all of the parents who donated to our wish list, and thank you to our volunteers!

~ Ms. Casper

Sunny Rays

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Chinese New Year, and Acrobats!! What a busy and productive month. We learned so much about MLK and what he has accomplished. We also learned about the Chinese culture and compared how they celebrate their New Year to ours. Recognizing word families is becoming second nature to us and we are ready to move on to long and short vowels. Writing to 100 and skip counting is also becoming easier. We are just now diving into basic measurements and we are very excited about it. February brings Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and Presidents Day! So we expect another busy month.

~ Mr. P

First Grade

We are growing in first grade! Our new class pets are 12 Tiger Salamanders that are swimming happily in the tank. They are still in their larvae stage so they still have their gills. Salamanders are the wet lizards you find under rocks by water. Thank you to Isabella's family for our new class pets. In Math we are cruising through our money unit. If anyone has some foreign coins to bring in to show the class we would love it. Please write your name on the bag and tell which country it is from. In Grammar we will eat our way through the parts of speech. We are visiting the media center weekly on Thursdays to work on the computers and exchange our library books for new ones. We will begin work on our published books to be shared as a class. **Thank you to all our parent volunteers who do so much for the children and our school.** First grade is full of learning and laughter.

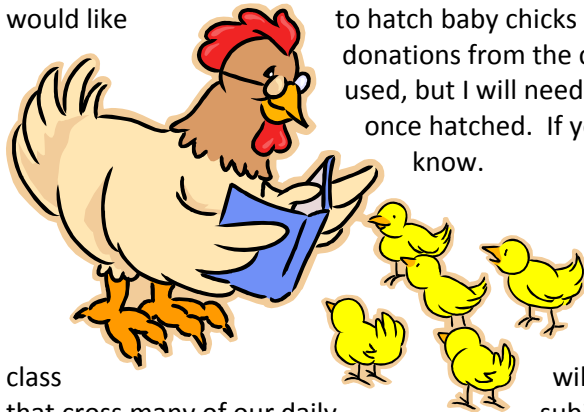


~ Mrs. Meeks and Mrs. Jordan

Hello Samsula Families and Friends,

Yet another month has arrived and a lot will be going on. In Reading we have begun our study in the 4th unit out of six. Reading skills will continue to focus on making predictions, drawing conclusions and comparing and contrasting in first grade, while second grade focuses on comparing and contrasting, identifying cause and effect relationships and identifying main idea and supporting details. In Math this month we will finish our study of tradition and nontraditional measurement of length, weight, capacity in both grade levels and second graders will also explore perimeter, area and volume. We will continue to practice our math facts through our daily Mad Minute. It is important that students practice their math facts daily at home. Students should know if they are working on addition or subtraction skills.

In Science we are moving our focus of study to plants, animals and life cycles. As a long term study I would like



to hatch baby chicks in the classroom. In order to do this, I am seeking donations from the community. I believe I have an incubator that can be used, but I will need fertilized chicken eggs. Chicks will need a home to go to once hatched. If you can help in this scientific exploration please let me know.

class that cross many of our daily exchange Valentine's Day Cards and goodies please make sure that your child has enough for everyone in the class. More specific instructions will be coming home soon!

This month in Social Studies we will finish up our economics unit and begin to learn about citizenship and related concepts. The 100th school day is quickly approaching and will be Monday, February 6th. Our will have many activities that center on the number 100 subjects. As a final note if you would like your child to

Best Regards, Miss Ellis



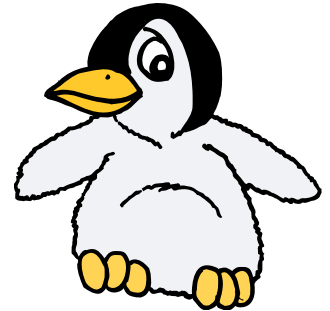


Second Grade is Spectacular!!!

January has zipped on by and February brings us wonderful holidays and activities to go along with them. Did you know that it is the Year of the Dragon? We celebrated the Chinese New Year on January 23rd and the celebration will continue for fifteen days! We enjoyed many craft activities and even made a Chinese Zodiac. We also will learn about Groundhog Day, President's Day and Valentine's Day. We will spend time studying our government and national symbols in Social Studies. In Math we have now mastered subtraction with regrouping. We will move on to a unit about Matter in Science.

In Grammar we have learned about contractions and verbs in the present and past tense. We have written about the perfect present, the life of a fly and a winter wonderland. This month our writing will center on holiday themes. In Reading we have been reading up a storm! We have improved so much that we are now ready to tackle chapter books. We love all the cool books we get to listen to in our listening center. We just listened to Tacky the Penguin. He is one strange bird! We checked our resolution jar. We are still keeping those resolutions!!! Well, have a Fabulous February Darlings!! You know love is in the air!

Sincerely, Mrs. Roberts & Ms. Gondek



Third Grade

It is hard to believe we are already more than halfway through 3rd grade. Time seems to fly by as we learn more and more each day. This month in Reading we will be learning new strategies to make us better readers and test taking tips to help us outsmart the test. We have also started a new after school club called Game Lab that allows us to learn strategy, following directions, and cooperation skills as we play games together.

This month in writing our main focus is creating our class book of Fairy Tales, Tall Tales, and Fractured Fairy Tales. We have been reading examples of each type of story to help us learn writing techniques and ideas from other authors. We can't wait to have our own stories published as a real book!

We are continuing to do Geometry in Math and we are loving it! We have memorized so many different shapes! We are going to be comparing shapes and learning about symmetry. Multiplication is always on our mind as we practice for Mad Minute weekly. Toward the end of February we will be learning patterns, number sequences, and algebraic expressions.



In Science we will be heating things up with light and heat energy. We have also been working hard on our science experiments at home and can't wait to present them to the class! In Social Studies we have learned so much about our government and the way it works! Economics is on our mind this month as we start to branch out. We will work on our classroom bank and master basic banking skills. We will be celebrating the 100th Day of School and can't believe how fast this year is going! We are 100 days smarter and loving every minute of third grade.

~ Miss Carr and Miss Bellotti

Fourth Grade Rules!

The Fourth graders continue to 'flutter' through Math, as they are gliding through multiplication facts. Multiples, factors, two-digit multiplication by one and two number multiplication are on the agenda for now! All of this...then... on to Division!!

What a great job the students are doing so far!! Practicing their multiplication facts is helping immensely!! Practice makes better!! Two helpful websites for learning multiplication facts are: softschools.com and multiplication.com. These websites have games, printable worksheets, and quizzes that the students can complete to help with retention of their multiplication facts!

In Social Studies, Group A is 'havin' a right good time learnin' Florida History while reading the novel, A Land Remembered. Their enthusiasm is commendable! As they progress through the novel, they also have been enjoying tasting foods from the old Florida Cracker times. They laugh, they cry, they are sad and happy at times. It is so amazing to see the range of emotions involved with this novel while learning about the North and South

discrepancies, land ownership in old times, and the not-so-easy life in the times of old Florida Days.

Group B is continuing to learn Florida History through our Social Studies lessons. Right now, they are learning about how Florida became a state and early Florida government. They are doing a great job and they show great enthusiasm in class! They are anxiously awaiting their turn to read, A Land Remembered, which will happen in the near future.

In Science, Group B is learning about matter, its properties and states. Both Group A and Group B experienced the density of liquids by seeing a density column and by making a straw stack of colors (ask them about it). Group A is also making rock candy and exploring the characteristics of goop.

Fourth grade has entered a statewide Skin Cancer Essay Contest. If a student from our school wins, they will win a pavilion for our school, plus a weekend at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando, plus a day at Disney with Miss Vola. Good Luck!

Miss Vola & Mrs. Conaway-Henley

Fifth Grade Journeys

The new year is in full swing. We can't even remember the winter break, it seems so long ago. We are working hard on our decimals and will have encountered fractions in the next week. The students have completed the presentation boards and the large graphs for the Nutrition Challenge. We have hung our large graphs in our room to enjoy for a few days and then they will be hung in the cafe. The students created graphs that represent the same data as the last large graphs and will use both to do a comparison. This project has involved a lot of time but the students have enjoyed the process and gained much knowledge along the way.

In Reading we have completed the final story in Unit 3. The Interim Test for Unit 3 occurs this week and then we move into the next unit. Students are progressing nicely. All students watched the "City of Ember" movie during lunch. Then all students were grouped with a team leader that had both read the book and watched the movie. As everyone knows, the movie and the book are never exactly the same. Each group created a double bubble map to represent contrasts and comparisons for the story. It was interesting to see the different views of interest of each group.

Science really Matters!! We are studying the properties and characteristics of the building blocks of the world: matter. We begin our FCAT prep classes the first of February and will focus on bettering our 5th graders for Math and Science. We're very busy and will continue to stay that way until the end of the year. Smooth travels,

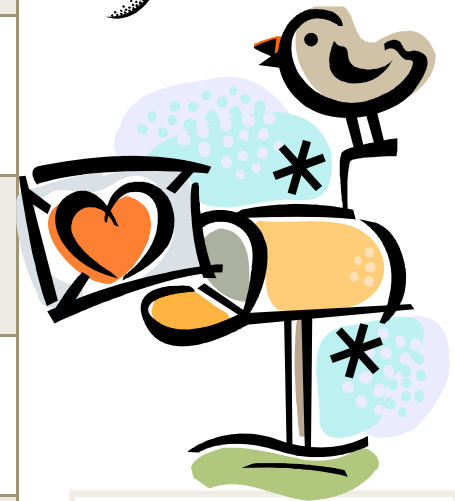
Ms. Ledger

FEBRUARY 2012



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 ERD FCAT Prep Testing Tornado Drill	2	3	4 5K Fun Run, Canaveral National Seashore	5
6 Nutrition Challenge Starts	7 Book Fair Starts, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 ERD Book Fair FCAT Prep Testing	9 Book Fair	10 Last Day of Book Fair	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day!	15 ERD FCAT Prep Testing Cupid Shuffle, 5 PM	16	17 New Smyrna Beach Speedway Races, Fundraiser Starts	18	19
20 No School, Presidents Day	21	22 ERD FCAT Prep Testing	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 ERD FCAT Prep Testing				
		NOTES: Looking Ahead: Family Planting Day is Saturday, March 21st; Relay for Life is April 21st; and More!				

Happy
Valentine's
Day



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