



Panther News



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Make a Note!



Upcoming Early Release Days: January 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

NO SCHOOL: Monday, January 16th, Martin Luther King Day

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's Attitudes Reflect Happy Memories and Bright New Beginnings

~Being open to new ideas can produce surprising results~

Samsula Academy ended the year with many festive activities. The Jolly Old Elf showed up and had his picture taken with the kindergarten, first and second grades. The children shopped at the school's Santa Shop, and laughter filled the hallways. It was fun to watch them and share their excitement over the season's surprises that were put under the Christmas tree. Our thanks go out to Jessica Meeks and all the volunteers who participated in selling small wrapped gifts to the children. The true gift was the sharing attitude.

The Samsula community again demonstrated their willingness to share what they have by thinking of others. Their response to help those less fortunate was evident when the Giving Tree was up in the front office. All the Gingerbread men were selected within a few days, and packages started arriving from the North Pole. Thank you for making our children's wishes come true.

The songs from the Christmas play still echo in the Cafetorium. Samsula Academy had a very successful play featuring our kindergarten, first and second grade singing Christmas songs. The performance of "Camel Lot" by the third, fourth and fifth grade chorus was a great success. We especially thank Mrs. Elliott and the volunteers who helped her with this production.

We hope that whatever the new year brings, the bright memory of this season will stay in our minds during the new year. At Samsula Academy we will strive to keep up the pace of F.A.I.R. Testing, FCAT practice, and to research new strategies and techniques that bring our students success. Our attitude at Samsula Academy will be that our children must always come first. The new year promises to be filled with happy memories and bright new beginnings with an attitude of gratitude.

Samsula Academy Administration

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Safety & Security Corner

Did you know—?

- Visitors are welcome, but they are expected to sign in at the front office and get a visitor's badge that is returned before leaving campus.
- When you are late picking up your child after school, they can be found at extended day. Please go to the **lunch room and pick them up.**

Have an Idea for this Newsletter?

Contact Deb Schlageter, debbie2012@gmail.com

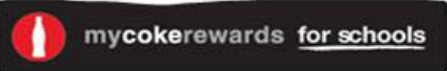
Ins and Outs at Samsula



Our first order from MyCokeRewards points was made! The school ordered:

- Make Your Own Jump Rope Kit
- Fitness Spots (Set of 10)
- Healthy Hurdles" Nutrition Games
- Multicultural Storybook Set

Keep the points coming! Thank you for supporting the MyCoke Rewards program on behalf of Samsula.



Cookbook Sales are Underway! We have sold well over 100 books, with all proceeds now going back to Samsula Academy. The price of the cookbooks is \$12.00. 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! They make great gifts!



Seeking Grants: We still need TEACHER input on items needed for the school, so we can continue to match items with grants. Please email Deb Schlageter and Lari Nealon with those lists. Thank you!



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.

Parents Raise a Reader School Challenge, Win \$5,000 for School Media Center!

Parents/guardians may still log reading minutes for their students. Reading to be logged is limited to 100 minutes per day maximum per student. Only after school and recreational reading qualifies. All other reading, such as for homework and/or as part of a homeschool curriculum will not be accepted. Contest ends at 11:59 p.m., January 30, 2012. Here is the link: www.parents.com/reading/samsulaacademynewfl

Keep Those Box Tops Coming! Bring them in and make them count! Fourth Grade is the collector of Box Tops this year; see Miss Vola and Mrs. Conaway-Henley's article for more information!



Radio Panthers

Wow! What an exciting time we have had in Radio Panthers this last month. The 2nd year Radio Panthers spent the last meeting learning how to solder (with, I might add, no burned fingers!). The 1st year Radio Panthers spent the time with Mr. Silver (from the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association) learning about circuits, volts, amps and ohms. Mr. Bestwick has finished building the Morse Code Oscillators and will be coming in to conduct his lesson on wireless communications. In upcoming meetings, the students will draft one-line messages and send them via Morse Code to each other. They will then decode the message they receive and, time permitting, reply to it. The upcoming Radio Panthers meetings are as follows: January 9th and 23rd; February 6th and 27th. The Radio Panthers is open to 4th and 5th graders and is held in Miss Vola's portable from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. on the above dates.



SUPERWASH EXPRESS FUNDRAISER

to Benefit Samsula Academy

You can get your car washed and 10% of the total sale will be donated to our school!

CODE: 2013

Superwash Express is located at 1786 Dunlawton Avenue in Port Orange across from Target.

New Smyrna Speedway, Program Advertisement Fundraiser

Deadline for Ad Sales: January 13, 2012

Parents can get 5 hrs of volunteer hours for each ad sold Here is the summary:

Center or Inside Back Cover (Color)	\$600
Full Page (Color)	\$450
Full Page (B & W)	\$400
Half Page (Color)	\$250
Half Page (B & W)	\$200
Quarter Page (Color)	\$150
Quarter Page (B & W)	\$100
Eighth Page (Color)	\$125
Eighth Page (B & W)	\$75

Questions? Call Sandi Wines at 386-478-1588.

Coach's Corner

Just like our Turkey Trot the JANUARY JOG is coming up; we are inviting Samsula families to come out and walk/run for an hour. You don't have to sign up, just show up and you can earn 1 volunteer hour per adult family member. This coincides with the \$1,500 grant that we received from Fuel Up to Play 60 and the Florida Dairy Council where they encourage everyone to eat healthy and get at least 60 minutes of exercise daily.

When: Wednesday, January 18th @ 5pm (due to Daylight Savings)

Where: Samsula Academy Pavillion (PE area)

Bring: (optional) 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.



W.O.W. (word of the week) Words that we have learned:

Bones: cranium, mandible, scapula, vertebrae, pelvis, tibia, fibula, phalanges

Muscles: deltoid, bicep, tricep, abdominals, hamstring

1st Ever Pedometer Parent Challenge!



pe-dom-e-ter/pə'dämitər/ www.wikipedia-dictionary.com

Noun: An instrument for estimating the distance traveled on foot by recording the number of steps taken

Make your New Year's Resolution to have a happier, HEALTHIER New Year and sign up for my first-ever Pedometer Parent Challenge! This is first-come, first-serve until pedometers run out. Your challenge is to get out and walk/run; the pedometer will track your steps. The parents with the most steps win!

When: Monday, Jan. 9th – Friday, Jan. 13th

Sign up: Monday, Jan. 9th from 7:20am-7:50am@ parent pick up or after school from 2:10pm-2:30pm

Return: In order to count and not be charged, pedometers/counting sheets must be returned to Coach Carignan by Friday, Jan. 13th.

Cost: If your pedometer is lost or not returned you will owe \$10 to Coach.

Prizes: 1st, 2nd & 3rd place will be announced at the January Jog on the 18th - prizes vary: pedometers, gym memberships, magazines, towels, water bottles

Lastly, Samsula Academy is being recognized in *Think Healthy Magazine* for our great work with the Nutrition Challenge. The article is published in the January issue on page 8.

Samsula Pride is Hard to Hide! ☺ Coach Carignan

Music / Movement, Mrs. Elliott



In Music we will begin the new year exploring tone color. In this unit of study, students will learn to aurally and visually identify various musical instruments and classify them into instrument families. As always, we will continue to sing and play instruments, demonstrating appropriate vocal and instrumental techniques. In addition to that, 5th grade students will begin playing recorders in their Recorder Karate Unit.

In movement, all grades are beginning our Yoga Unit. Kindergarten, 1st grade, and Ms. Ellis' enrichment class will go on a yoga zoo adventure. While grades 2-5 will learn traditional yoga poses. There are many benefits to yoga. Yoga helps to improve concentration and focus. It promotes balance, flexibility, coordination, and strength. It sharpens and expands awareness, and helps to develop calmness. Happy New Year!



Art News



Thank you to everyone who purchased artwork from the Artsonia website. We were able to earn \$161.00 in funds for the artroom. Keep checking the Samsula online gallery for more to be loaded soon.

While you are online checking out Artsonia check out the website albrightknox.org click on the education link and at the bottom click on art games. There are lots of fun activities and introductions to artist and artwork. This would be a great way to enhance your child's art education.

We will be learning new drawing skills for the new year. Primary grades will be focusing on adding shapes inside of shapes to make details and the use of line and space in artwork. Secondary grades will be learning some new drawing exercises with line contour and blind contour.

Mrs. Luedeke

Tales from the Classroom



Happy Campers

Welcome back Happy Campers! December was an exciting month as we made our way through our holiday themes including caribou, gingerbread men, and Polar Express! We finished up our skip counting unit as well as our first set of Dolch and High Frequency words! We are starting this new year off with a blast as we move into learning long and short vowels, as well as beginning our new Social Studies and Science units to include the Solar System, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Chinese New year! Get ready Happy Campers, lots of fun and learning ahead! ~ Ms. Casper

Sunny Rays

December was a short but exciting month! We had a wonderful musical in which all grade levels performed great. We also had a fun and very casual (pajamas) polar express day where we enjoyed candy canes and hot chocolate. A big "thank you" goes out to all the parents who helped us so much on that day! We also breezed through most of our word families and are getting excited about learning long and short vowels in January. Our writing is continually improving by sharing our thoughts in our journals every morning. In Math we practiced skip counting by 10's, 5's and 2's as well as writing to 100. ~ Mr. P

First Grade Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Meeks

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful break. As we begin 2012, first grade will be kicking learning into high gear. Our focus will be on reading comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanding our

vocabulary. Students now know that to be a better reader they must practice, practice, practice. Please continue to read with your child daily. For those of you who are in need of volunteer hours, first grade could use

assistance during media center time on Thursdays from 1:00-2:00. We are looking forward to much learning and laughter as we begin 2012.



Hello Samsula Families and Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying the beginning of this New Year. In Reading we continue to work through our 3rd Unit. Reading skills will focus on making predictions as well as comparing and contrasting characters and settings in first grade, while second grade focuses on cause and effect as well as identifying main idea and supporting details. In Math we are finishing up our study of basic number sense as well as simple addition and subtraction. This month we will begin our study of traditional and nontraditional measurement. 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. In Science we will continue our study of properties of matter and how matter can be changed and/or altered. We will then move our focus of study to plants, animals and life cycles. This month in Social Studies we will start to learn about basic economic principles that will range from earning and saving money, buying and trading choices, to supply and demand. As always, for more up-to-date information and real life images from the classroom, check out our classroom blog at whenwelearnwegrow.blogspot.com.

Best Regards, Miss Ellis



Second Grade is Spectacular!!!

Welcome back! What a Dazzling December we had in second grade!! We have now mastered addition with regrouping and will move on to subtraction with regrouping in January. Speaking of January, we made New Year School Resolutions and put them in our Resolution Jar. We will check it from time to time to see if we are keeping to our resolutions. We learned a lot in Science this month. We learned about the seasons and climate changes. We also learned about different storms and how to stay safe. Next we will move on to Matter.

In Grammar we have learned about compound words, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones. We even learned the difference between homophones and multiple meaning words. They were a challenge at first, but we know our stuff now! Whew!! We learned a lot more than we did in November! Can we top it in January? Stay tuned. In Reading we are still doing our center and small group work. We love all the cool books we get to listen to in our listening center. In Language Arts we are ready to celebrate a winter wonderland theme. There will be many books, writing prompts and activities centered on winter. We are in January you know!

Have a Jolly January and stay warm! BRRRR!

Sincerely, Mrs. Roberts & Ms. Gondek

Third Grade

It's a new year and we are excited about all of the new things we will learn in 2012. In Reading we are continuing to learn new strategies to help us become better readers. We are also beginning monthly book reports that help us to present what we read to our classmates. This is a great way for us to share about books that we loved, and to get other students in the class excited about reading them too. It also helps teach us responsibility and time management, which are important life skills.

In writing this January we will be writing our own fantasy stories. We will start by reading literature examples and seeing how we can model our writing based on the writing of great authors. Then we will apply what we learned as we write our own fairy tales and tall tales. We will even get the chance to publish our work like real authors do!

In Math we are moving on to Geometry. We will be learning geometric figures, line segments

and angles. We will be looking at shapes in a whole new way. We will still be using multiplication, time, money, and graphs as a review to prepare us for FCAT.

In Social Studies we will be finishing up with Government and moving on to the economics, money, and supply and demand. We will start a classroom bank to understand money and income. We will

what consumers and producers are.

In Science we will continue to learn about energy, focusing on light and heat.

We will be doing experiments to better understand light and heat. Don't forget you can always check out the latest news from our class at

www.samsulathirdgrade.weebly.com.



~ Miss Carr and Miss Bellotti



Fourth Grade Rules!

4th grade is hard at work! On December 14, Miss Sue brought her therapy dogs, Jingles and Hydee, for an ice cream party with fourth grade. Fourth grade had decorated Christmas bags for Debra Ann's House, the facility where Jingles and Hydee volunteer. Since it was a nice day, we took our ice cream outside and had Jingles and Hydee show us their stuff – they work for carrots!

In Science, we finished up our unit on rocks and minerals and are starting our matter and electricity unit. During this unit, the students will get to explore circuits using the snap kits that the Radio Panthers utilize.



In Math, we have continued to work on graphs, including circle graphs, bar graphs, line graphs and double bar graphs. Students are getting

very good at deciding which graph is appropriate for the data and labeling them correctly.

In Social Studies, Group A is starting the book A Land Remembered during our break. Group B is continuing to follow the Social Studies curriculum, but will begin the book in February, while Group A moves on to the second volume.

Ask your student about the book he or she is writing. We began the books the week before break began and most of the students have almost finished their rough draft. Mrs. Conaway-Henley and Miss Vola will be burning the midnight oil to get them all edited! It has been fun listening to the ideas the students have for their book topics. The students AND the teachers are excited about this project.

It has been a very busy month, and we look forward to the New Year!

Miss Vola & Mrs. Conaway-Henley

Fifth Grade Journeys

The journey continues as we finish our vacation and greet the New Year. Fifth grade finished the school year of 2011 with a South African tasting party. Our parents made a variety of the mysterious foods we have been reading about in the Last Leopard, the White Giraffe and the Dolphin Song trilogy. Students sampled banana and bacon rolls, scones, condensed milk cookies, brown sugar tomatoes, maize meal porridge, butternut squash fritters and rooibos tea. The students were very adventuresome and tried all the foods. They found that many were to their liking and they enjoyed seeing and tasting foods we had only read about.



Our small reading groups have finished and we will be doing a final last writing assignment about the books that we read. We finish our Science unit on weather, climate and the water cycle when we return and will move on to the Physical Science unit. We have finished early explorers of the Americas and will begin the next chapter in American history studies at the settlements of the original thirteen colonies. In Math we are in the final stages of division, we will review briefly when we return and then move into decimals.

As we return in the New Year we will be continuing to prepare for FCAT testing. While we work all year to be ready, we always add skills and strategies to ensure all students are prepared to do their best on the tests. Another busy year is in the making, we will continue our journey to be the best we can be. We are looking forward to an outstanding 2012 for all our fifth graders.

Ms. Ledger