



Freedom Crossing Academy

February 2022



Dear Falcon Families,

I hope you and your families are doing well! It has been a very busy February with many enriching activities and so much growth and learning happening at FCA. The following was shared with our teachers and staff from the *Capturing Kids Hearts Newsletter*. **Leading with Kindness is Bold!** Kindness empowers people to lead with positivity, purpose, and an open-mindedness that embraces new ideas and challenges. *A kind leader is a strong leader.* At the beginning of the year, focusing on relationships can be easy. Maintaining those relationships takes dedication and intentional effort. Think about "how can you lead with more kindness?" This resonates with me as it is important for me to reflect on my leadership and how it impacts everyone of our families. I recognize that it is hard to connect with so many, but I will continue to try to be present and there for our students, teachers and our families.

Thank you!

Town Hall Meeting

I want to thank the many families that were able to come out to our FCA Town Hall Meeting regarding the growth at FCA. The meeting was hosted by our School Board Representative Beverly Slough and our Superintendent Tim Forson. There were many questions answered and many questions asked regarding the growth of the area and the growth of FCA. I appreciate the parent support and the support of our district as we truly break barriers. More detailed information will be shared within the next few months.

Good News!

28 Days of Kindness Challenge

During the month of Feb, FCA participated in the "Capturing Kids Hearts 28 Days of Kindness Challenge." Our typical "Good News" became "Kind Things". Our students were able to share kind and compassionate things they did at home, at school, and in the community. Students were challenged with goal completing kind acts for all 28 days of the challenge.

FCA Band Valentine's Day Service Project

Thank you to our Amazing Band Families collected for their annual Valentine's Day Service Project for students in need at Suwannee Middle School. The following was collected.

- 150 Deodorants!
- 81 Bottles of Shampoo!
- 30 Packages of Goldfish!
- 80 boxes of cheese and peanut butter crackers!
- 180 granola bars and breakfast bars!
- 25 boxes of feminine products!
- 27 shirts, jackets, and packages of underwear!
- 45 Soaps and lotions!
- 41 packs of Chapstick!
- 44 packs of hair ties!
- + cash donations to cover shipping and more items!



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Spreading Kindness

Thank you to **Jill Loughran's** 1st period class for spreading kindness around the school giving out pencils and smiles. The Kindness Squad spread kindness all month long!

PTO Sponsored Daddy/Daughter Dance and Annual Book Fair

Thank you to our PTO for sponsoring a fun night at our Soft- Shoe Daddy-Daughter Dance. There was ice cream, cookies, balloons, photo ops and of course, dancing. This was also the kick off to our annual Scholastic Book Fair. We appreciate all the support with these events.

School News:

Black History Month

Excellent work by the 5th grade team and the Living Museum they presented for Black History Month. The kids were amazing and spread so much knowledge. Also, historian Mr. Joe Tillmon shared the history of the Buffalo Soldiers to our 5th grade team.

Learning on the News

The TV Pro Class got a visit from news anchor Anthony Austin!!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nMbkzdkvRX8QsY59>

Check out the 1:41 minutes of air time!

February Character Counts

In February, we focus the on the **Pillar of Caring** - Be compassionate and show you care, express gratitude, forgive others, help people in need and be charitable and altruistic. See our district website for more information on the Pillars of Character at <https://ccstjohns.com/>

COVID Update

The Department of Health released an update to their DOH Rule 64DER21-15. In DOH Rule 64DER21-15, a positive student is allowed to return to school after a 10-day quarantine, no fever, and symptoms are improving. This new DOH Rule adjusts that students may return to school after a **5**-day quarantine, no fever, and symptoms are improving.

Please see our district website for more information at

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/covid-19/>

Safety Update

Safety Drills

Last week we conducted "situational" fire drills and a live lock down drills. Situational drills are discussion-based conversations in the classrooms with teachers and students and live drills have students practice a lock down scenario.



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Fortify Florida

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows students or parents to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. By accessing FortifyFL at <https://getfortifyfl.com/> or <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/blog/fortifyfl-app/>, individuals can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The Office of Attorney General, Department of Education and Florida Department of Law Enforcement coordinated its development and rollout.

This information is being presented by Deputy Fornash at our Middle School Expectations Meetings.

Transportation Changes

Please email transportation changes to FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Please be mindful that we receive numerous requests for transportation changes each day. If it is possible to maintain your traditional method for afterschool pick up this would be helpful.

On the Horizon

- March 4: Spring Picture
- March 10: End of 3rd Quarter
- March 11: Teacher Planning Day
- March 14-18: Spring Break

Take Flight and Break Barriers!

Respectfully,

Gina R. Fonseca

Principal

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