



# FCA Parent Newsletter

## October 2023



Dear Falcon Families,

**Happy Fall!!** What an incredible month we had! Kicking it off with the PTO Boosterthon, recognition of our Teachers of the Year, Rookie Teachers of the Year and Non-Instructional Employee of the year to Rock Your School Day and the culminating FCAs World Changers donations drive!

### BOOSTERTHON

Thank you to our PTO and FCA Families for your contributions for our annual Boosterthon Fund Raiser. The event raised just over \$ 100,000 meeting our goal. Teachers get a percentage of the proceeds to invest back into their classrooms and our students. Funds are donated to the school for technology needs and school improvements. Over the past few years, we have been able to increase the number of computers in the elementary classrooms to allow teachers to support students with 5 computers per classroom center. We have also been working to increase our computer carts that are utilized in Middle School.

One of my favorite improvements has been the outdoor classroom with a covering to allow for shade. Our next goal is to add whiteboards to this area. These improvements directly impact our classrooms and student learning. Thank you again for your generosity!!



So apparently, I agreed to kiss a snake if we met our goal! Here are a few clips of Mrs. Fonseca holding Karen and kissing Jimmy the Snake! Also, my reptile friends helped me with a public service announcement asking our students to PLEASE keep their Crocs in sports mode (backs on) as I am signing too many accident reports 😊 Thank you to PTO member Dani LaBare for teaching Mrs. Elhence's winning class about the reptiles.

### ELEMENTARY BOOSTERTHON RUN





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### Toy, Roy and Employ of the Year

Congratulations to the FCA Teachers of the Year:

Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> grade Teacher Kim Denny  
Middle School Science Teacher Zach Sharpe

Congratulations to FCA Rookie Teachers of the Year:

Elementary Art Teacher Amie Banion  
Middle School English Teacher Alexys Troyer

Congratulations to FCA's Non-Instruct Employee of the year:

Elementary Computer Operator Ellen Albano



So very proud to have all of these amazing  
Falcons represent FCA!!



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### GOOD NEWS

What an opportunity our students experienced by learning to give and make a difference in our community, our nation and our world! I could not have been prouder of our teachers, staff and parent volunteers who helped to make Rock Your School Day's World Changers, so incredible. I made it a goal to try and visit every classroom. The morning was full of activities and themed learning in the elementary classes, and I truly loved visiting our middle school classes too! The students were engaged and learning and were proud to share their knowledge with me. Thank you for making FCA a wonderful place to learn, give and grow. I am so honored and proud to work with such extraordinary educators and staff!

### Rock Your School Day -World Changers



Darlene Prisco's class 4<sup>th</sup> grade!  
We will be decorating our rocks with positive affirmations/Inspirational Quotes. Then our students will be placing them in their communities, or they can give it to someone special to help spread positive vibes!



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### FCA WORLD CHANGERS Grades 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Coin Drive to Fight Hunger

The last two weeks, we have been collecting coins in the cafeteria to donate to Heifer International, a world-wide non-profit organization. By donating these coins, we will be able to gift an animal to a rural farming community in developing countries that struggle to grow enough food for their own families.

Mrs. Troyer and her Leadership students helped to count the coins. With your help, Falcons, we raised, \$165.93!

The animal with the most coins was **THE GOAT!** FCA will purchase a goat to donate to a community, but not only that, we raised so much, that we will also be able to purchase 2 flocks of chicks!

### FCA WORLD CHANGERS Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> National Military Care Packages





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*FCA WORLD CHANGERS Grades K - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Working with Two Men and a Truck to support  
Pie in the Sky, Local Food Pantry.*



### World Changing Doors!





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More.....

**GOOD NEWS**

We collected donations for Southwoods Elementary School during the Home Volleyball games. Thank you so much for your snack donations! Southwoods sends their appreciation to the Falcon Family! #WorldChangers.




## FCA Important New Yearbook Information

*Leonard's*  
**YEARBOOK**

**ATTENTION PARENTS:  
Recognize your 8th Grader in the  
FREEDOM CROSSING ACADEMY  
2024 yearbook!**

Don't miss out on the chance to design your child's page in the yearbook! This page is dedicated to you, your family and your child's accomplishments and memories.  
Go online today to purchase your ad and take part in this special tradition.

Visit Leonard's Pictavo Community at  
**BuyTheYearbook.com**  
Find your school or enter school ID# **717818**

 **1/8 Page \$25**

**Ad Submission Deadline 2/14/2024**





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### Media Center News

The graphic features a dark blue background with a large light blue oval in the center. Inside the oval, the text reads "IT'S TIME FOR A... MONSTROUSLY GOOD BOOK FAIR FROM LITERATI!". The text is surrounded by colorful, fuzzy monster characters: a blue one on the left, a yellow one on the right, and a purple one sitting on an open book at the bottom. There are also yellow stars and starburst shapes scattered around the central text.

**IT'S TIME FOR A...**

**MONSTROUSLY  
GOOD BOOK FAIR  
FROM LITERATI!**

**OCTOBER 12TH-OCTOBER 20TH**

Attention FCA Families...

Get ready for new books from a new company for this year's book fair. Be sure to check out the new website, classroom flyers and gift card options as they are different from previous years!

 **Book Fair Website**

<https://efairs.literati.com/?school=freedom-crossing-academy-saint-johns-fl>



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### Curriculum News:

**Report Cards go LIVE in HAC - Home Access Center on Tuesday 10/24/23**

### On the Horizon:

- **Book Fair 10 /12 - 10/20**
- **National Character Counts Week 10/15 – 10/21**
- **Unity Day - 10/18 National Wear Orange Day**
- **Red Ribbon Week Activities 10/23 - 10/ 31 (more information to come)**
- **Character Parade 10/31 - Grades K-5**
- **Trunk or Treat 10/21 4PM ( PTO Sponsored)**



### Important Message from the SJCS D Superintendent

**Please see the message recently sent to all parents by our superintendent Tim Forson**

**I would like to take this opportunity to share the continued commitment of the school district to the safety of all students and staff. We have recently experienced behavior on social media and phones that is unacceptable. There appears to be a lack of understanding of the serious nature of threatening statements that have been made.**

**I would like to remind us, as parents, to review the activity of our children on social media and online activities. I am appreciative of the partnership the school district has with the St. Johns Sheriff's Office and the addition of investigative resources to assist in our schools.**

**We have an excellent school community because we all work together to provide the best for students. Thank you for supporting each other. Please remind your children to speak up when they see something that concerns them.**

**Together, Tim**



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### FCA's School Culture and Expectations:

Freedom Crossing Academy is dedicated towards increasing positive student behavioral outcomes and fostering positive relationships. Parents, please talk to your student about our **FCA School Culture**. Inquire about **Good News** shared and the **Class Social Contract**. I also implore parents to talk about appropriate behavior including how students treat and talk to each other, especially when in non-structured environments like lunch and recess.

#### F-Focus on Safety

#### C -Committed to Responsibility

#### A -Always Respectful

Please talk to your students about the following:

It is expected that students understand that any conduct or behavior that demeans, degrades, antagonizes, humiliates or embarrasses a person or group of persons, including racial slurs or derogatory comments is unacceptable and our outlined in our student code of conduct as a Level II and Level III offense. FCA does not take this lightly and will follow the [SJCS Student Code of Conduct 23-24](#)

### Cell Phone/Technology Policy

Students may possess cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at school, on and at school functions. However, they must be turned off, **stored in student's backpack, purse, locker**. The device shall not be used during the school day without administrative approval or on school buses. to and from school. Students may not use a wireless communication device during instructional time except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Failure to comply may result in the device being confiscated. Repeated failure to comply will be considered defiance of school. Please see the student code of conduct for more detailed information. For medical conditions, you can reach out to Nurse Lauri Frost at [lauri.frost@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:lauri.frost@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

[SJCS Student Code of Conduct 23-24](#)



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### **Breakfast Hours: 7:40-8:00**

**It is very important to start the day with a full belly and energized. All students can start their day directly in the cafeteria and enjoy breakfast daily. If your child wants to eat breakfast at school, please be sure they know they should start their day in the cafeteria first before going to class.**

### **Safety -Arrival and Dismissal**

#### **School start time is 8:00AM.**

We appreciate your help in getting your students to school on time. Please be mindful that students that arrive after 8:00AM are tardy and missing valuable class time. Additionally, we are so thankful to have our amazing **Patrols** on duty each morning and afternoon. Please know that patrols and staff members will begin unloading students at **7:40AM**.

#### **Please note the arrival and dismissal safety concern that was recently brought to my attention:**

Parents have been using streets near the front of the school to park on to drop off their children and pick up their children. It's a main issue on street, Codona Glen Dr., closest to the school entrance and near the townhomes.

Residents have expressed concern with the safety of students crossing where there is no crossing guard. We also want to respect the roadway as residents have to get to and from work.

***Thank you for helping us keep all our students safe. Please use the parent drop off and pick up loop that is at the front of the school.***

A few things that can help us move the car lines and keep everyone safe.

In the morning:

- For safety, always exist on the right passenger side of the vehicle.
- Remind students to walk on the right side of the sidewalk.
- Students backpacks and items should be ready to grab upon exit.
- Staff and patrols will assist with younger students exiting the vehicles.
- Please pull all the way up and follow the directions of staff directing cars.
- Please be mindful of cell phone use during this time.
- No cars should pull into the bus loop for any reason. Drop Off and Pickup should be in the Parent/Pickup and Drop Off location in the front of the school.



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In afternoon: **PLEASE NOTE THE SAFETY CONCERN BELOW**

- School Crossing Guards will be posted at Longleaf and Shetland Dr. from **7:25AM to 8:00AM** and in the afternoon **2:23PM to 2:53PM**. It has been brought to our attention that students are crossing to the school before the PSAs/Crossing Guards take their posts and not making use of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon.
- Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade Biker/Walkers must be picked up by a parents, guardian or sibling and should have a red lanyard to show staff members.
- Biker and Walkers should **ONLY** cross where there is a Crossing Guard. Please talk to your older children about this safety concern.
- Bikers should always wear a helmet for safety.
- When in the Parent Pickup line, please pull all the way up even if the cone number called does not match up. This is improving the efficiency of our lines.

### Fortify Florida:

FortifyFL is a website and app developed at the direction of the Florida Legislature. Any student, educator, parent or member of the public can report school safety concerns directly to law enforcement and school administrators anonymously and easily through the FortifyFL app or [getfortifyfl.com](http://getfortifyfl.com).

### Transportation Changes

Please email transportation changes to [FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

*Capturing Kids Heart's Launch*

“

**THE SMALLEST ACT  
OF KINDNESS IS WORTH  
MORE THAN THE  
GRANDEST INTENTION,**

”

– OSCAR WILDE



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**Freedom  
Crossing  
Academy**

### **Vision**

- F- Focus
- L- Leadership
- I-Imagination
- G-Grit
- H-Heart
- T-Team



### **Mission**

- **Break Barriers**

*Gina R. Fonseca, Principal*  
*Take Flight and Break Barriers*