



FCA Parent Newsletter

December 2023



Dear Falcon Families,

As the semester comes to a close, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your unwavering support of our teachers and staff at FCA. Thank you to the countless parent volunteers who help in the classrooms, on field trips and with the many PTO events. The dances and events for the students, food for the faculty and extra treats you have provided during this holiday season is greatly appreciated. As we wrap up the semester, we are reminded how fortunate we are to share our love for education with our students.

May this festive season bring you joy, laughter and precious moments with family and friends. It's a time to unwind, reflect and recharge for the challenges and adventures that await us in 2024. Take time to relax and enjoy the simple pleasures life has to offer.

May your holidays be filled with warmth and love,
Gina Fonseca



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 22-23 FCA STUDENTS AND STAFF AS SCHOOLGRADE IS AN "A" !!

As always, I am so honored to serve as a leader at this incredible school! I am very proud of our teachers and staff for all the efforts and work that goes into maintain a school grade of an "A"

FCA Important Dates and News

- December 21, 2023 - Second Quarter / First Semester Ends *
- Dec. 22, 2023 - Jan. 3, 2024 - Winter Break - Student/Teacher Holiday
- January 8, 2024 - Classes Resume for Students / Second Semester Begins





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District News

Instructional Resources and Media Services

Family Technology Workshop – January 30

Please see the attached flyer



The 4th Grade Nature Club
Presenting



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More Good News



Some Elves
visiting FCA



Middle School Pot Luck



Mrs. Gregg's
Class and an art
project

Even more Good News



The Grinch visits Ms.
Gaston's class



Here comes the Gingerbread Man



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It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas on the 3rd Floor!



Feliz Navidad

Mrs. Casella's Spanish students visited La Nopalera for an "out of the box" learning experience to apply their language skills. So cool!



A photograph of a large group of students posing in front of the La Nopalera restaurant. The building has a sign that says "LANOPALERA" and "NAIL SPOT".



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Lego Competition
Table in MS Robotics

A photograph of a Lego competition table in a classroom. The table is covered with a colorful mat that has the words "MISERABLE PIECE" written on it. Various Lego structures and pieces are scattered on the table. The background shows a classroom setting with a chalkboard and some posters on the wall.

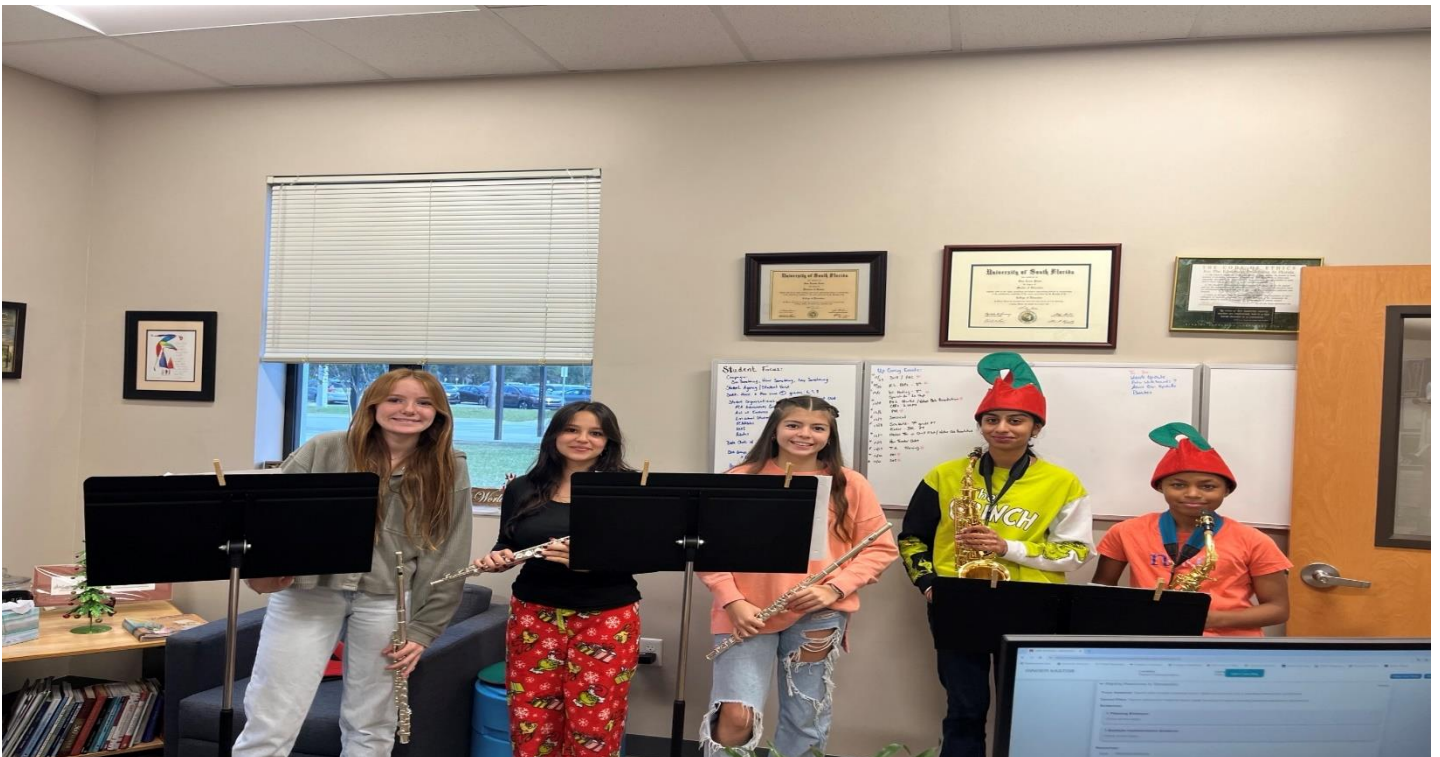
Happy Holidays from FCA





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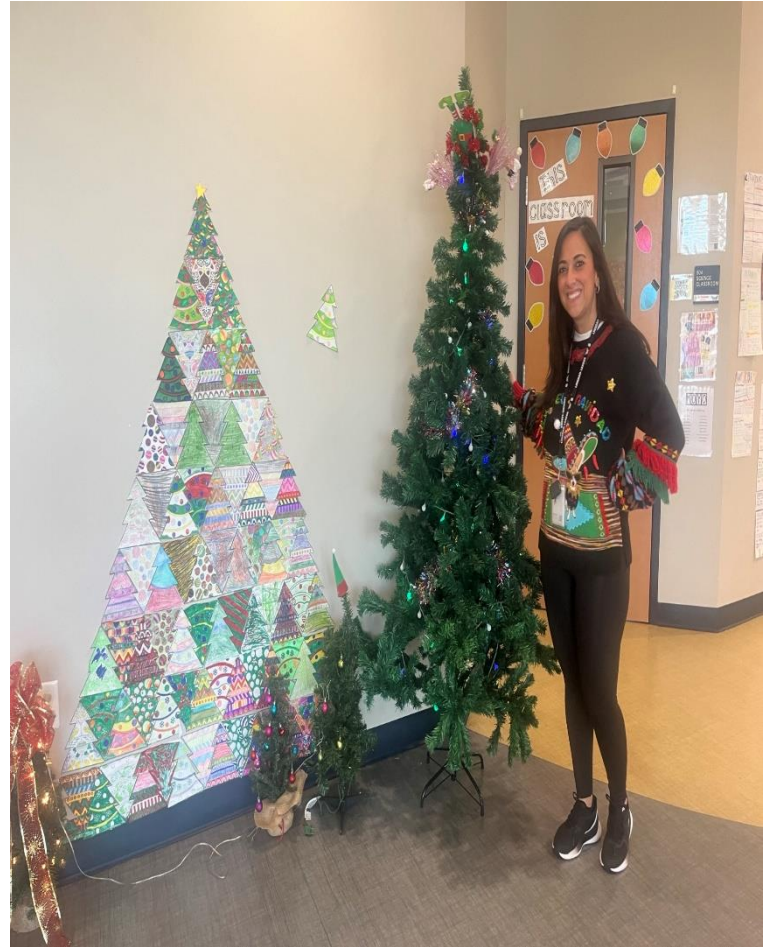
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Taking care of our school community- HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

We are very proud of our PBIS Gold status, and our teachers do an exemplary job implementing PBIS practices in the classroom. We are working on teaching our students to self-regulate behaviors in non-structured environments like lunch, recess and on the bus, but we need your help.

We encourage parents to talk to their children about the words they use with peers and keeping their hands to themselves. With these behaviors we do give age-appropriate consequences, per the St. Johns County School District Student Code of Conduct. Thank you for your support of this request.

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.

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



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Arrival and Dismissal

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**.

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.

In afternoon:

- 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 not making use of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon.
- Kindergarten and 1st 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.



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Safety – Required Drills

Below is a list of required drills to be held throughout the school year for the safety of our students, we do not advertise the dates and times of the drills. Teachers are notified to help prepare students. If you happen to get caught in a drill when arriving or picking up, we will be sure to include you in the safety protocols and ask for your patience during this time.

Required Drills:

- 1 fire drill with in the 1st 10 days of school**
- 1 fire drill per month w/ 2 occurring within the first 30 days of school**
- 1 active assailant drill per month**
- 1 bomb/evacuation drill per semester**
- 1 tornado/weather drill per semester**
- 2 bus evacuation drills**

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.

Transportation Changes

Please email transportation changes to FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us

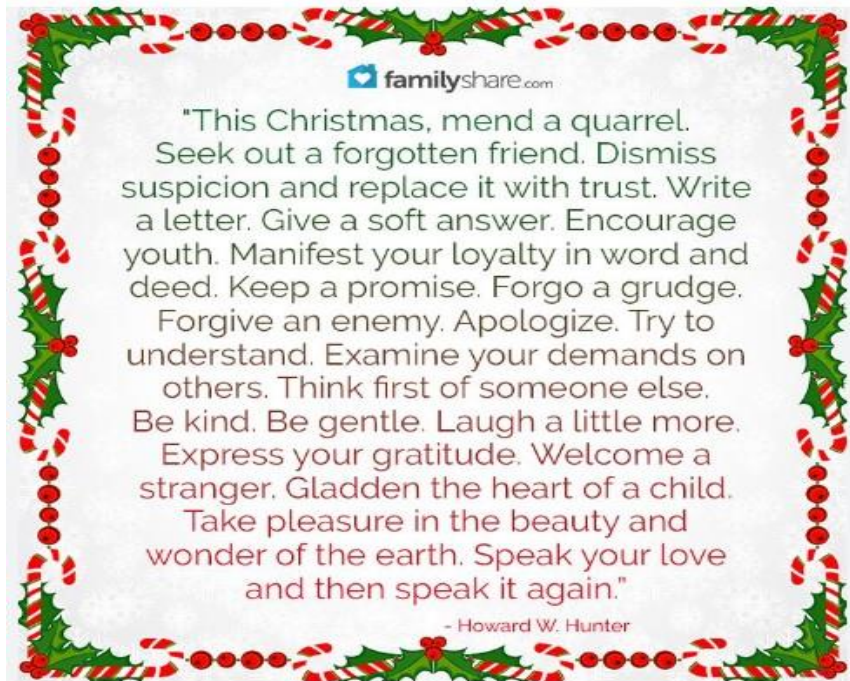


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Capturing Kids Heart's Launch:



Vision

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



Mission

- **Break Barriers**

Happy Holidays!

Gina R. Fonseca, Principal

Take Flight and Break Barrier