



November 2023

FCA Parent Newsletter



Dear Falcon Families,

Happy November! As we move through this month of gratitude and reflection, I find myself appreciating the multitude of events and activities that have unfolded in the past weeks. My heart is filled with gratitude for the incredible community of teachers, staff, and dedicated parent volunteers who collectively contribute to making FCA a wonderful place to learn. Together, our school community collaborates in reaching our learning targets and goals, giving students the feeling of accomplishment and joy that comes with the learning process.

Our administration is currently visiting classroom after classroom, to evaluate and support teachers throughout the school. Teacher teams called PLCs - Professional Learning Communities work together to ensure all our students are receiving the best education, using best practice and high yield strategies. I marvel at the skill it takes teachers to plan, differentiate, engage, and help students make gains. I also have enjoyed visiting our resource classes such as music, art, media, stem, computers and PE. What an incredible group of educators!

I hope you and your family enjoy Thanksgiving break! Enjoy pictures from this past month events and activities at the end of the newsletter!

FCA Important Dates and News

- Marking period 2 Interims are now posted in HAC (Home Access Center). Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) for any additional questions about your child's progress.
- Wednesday - Friday November 22 - 24, 2023 - Thanksgiving Break
- Basket ball tryouts for Middle School boys and girls begins the week of December 4th. Students must sign up to participate. More information posted on Schoology.
- Thursday - December 7, 2023, Musical Theater present "Susessical Kids" at 6:30PM.
- Thursday December 21, 2023, Second Quarter / First Semester Ends *
- Friday - Wednesday Dec. 22, 2023 - Jan. 3, 2024 - Winter Break
- Classes Resume Monday - January 8, 2024 - Start of second semester



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Time is running out to purchase a school year book see the flyer below:

Leonard's **FCA**
YEARBOOK
YOUR OWN PERSONAL
TIME CAPSULE
ENTER SCHOOL CODE
717818
ORDER ONLINE TODAY
BuyTheYearbook.com



FCA was awarded the distinction of being named a **GOLD LEVEL** FLPBIS- Florida Positive Behavior Intervention Model School. We all take pride in this accomplishment, and credit our school community for supporting our school culture. Thank you to Vice Principal Lime and the FCA PBIS team for leading our school working tirelessly to focus on positive behavior intervention using PBIS and CKHs (Capturing Kids Hearts) best practices.



Certificate of PBIS Success
THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO
FREEDOM CROSSING ACADEMY
IN RECOGNITION OF BEING:
GOLD LEVEL
MODEL PBIS SCHOOL FOR 2022-2023
Don Kincaid *Heather George*
Don Kincaid, Project Director Heather George, Project Co-Director
Florida PBIS Florida's Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Project
A Multi-Tiered System of Supports UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA



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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.

This week the PBIS Team sponsored Grateful Week:

Today is **Meaningful Monday**- Give a genuine compliment to someone on our staff today. Check out the CKH Affirmation Starters and Affirmative Words handout. These affirmation starters can help your students learn to give affirmations.



Today is **TEAMWORK TUESDAY**-Make an effort to do something thoughtful for a teammate today. Cover their class for a bathroom break, write them a letter of encouragement, anything that you think will brighten their day!
Teamwork in the Classroom- Recognize your superstar students today with the Capturing Kids Hearts Teamwork Certificate.



Today is **WELCOME WEDNESDAY**-Have you passed an unfamiliar face in the hall so many times that you feel it's too late to ask who they are? Introduce yourself! Go meet someone new today. **PLC MVP**- During your PLC today, take nominations for a team member who exemplifies a specific Social Contract word and ask meeting members to share ways this teammate has modeled the identified trait.

Today is **Thankful Thursday**- Say or do something kind for yourself today!



Today is **Pay it Forward Friday!** Repay a kindness received with a good deed to someone on our staff today.





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SAFETY CONCERNS – PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE

The following has been brought to our attention by concerned parents and district staff:

Parents, we are respectfully asking that you **Please, Please** do not use the streets near the front of the school to park, drop off and pick up your children. Not only is this a **huge safety issue**, but it is also preventing people who actually live on this road to get by and get to work. If you want to park, and walk your child in, you can park by the baseball field. Otherwise, kindly use the parent drop off loop. We are moving the lines much more efficiently now, so please adhere to this safety request.

We are also experiencing growth in students and parents using motorized scooters, boards, and bikes. While we appreciate these unique modes of transportation, we ask that safety recommendation utilized.

This is an example sent to me by a concerned community member:

I observed a parent riding a scooter this am in flip flops with her elementary student aboard headed to FCA on the sidewalk in the established walk zone. No helmets. Backpack.

Concerns and observations:

1. Often no helmet use....high risk in my opinion for traumatic brain injury
2. No protective gear...riders wearing flip flops, etc.
3. Off balance with gear and backpacks
4. Parents riding double with their students on the scooters to/from our schools
5. Capable of speeds of 25 mph +
6. Electric bikes in particular are heavy
7. Physics: speed with mass equals significant momentum and force
8. Riders are using them on pedestrian sidewalks and crosswalks not just multi use trails...risk to pedestrians
9. Students are riding them onto and from school board properties





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SJCSD DISTRICT NEWS

Parents and Families Play a Big Role in Education!

During the month of November, SJCSD encourages parents, grandparents, guardians, and extended families, to stay engaged in their children’s education throughout the year. Contact your child’s school for ways to be inv



TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Join Our Dynamic & Growing Team of Professional Drivers



UP TO \$3,000 SIGN ON BONUS

- Up to \$25.98 hourly pay depending on experience
- Paid training time while acquiring your CDL endorsements
- Health, Dental, Vision Benefits and more for full time employees
- Florida Retirement System
- Life Insurance
- Full time employees work 30 to 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday
- Drive modern air-conditioned fleet buses



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www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/jobs



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Character Parade 2023



Awesome Costumes!





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Middle School Fun!



FRONT OFFICE STAFF: ALICE AND WONDERLAND



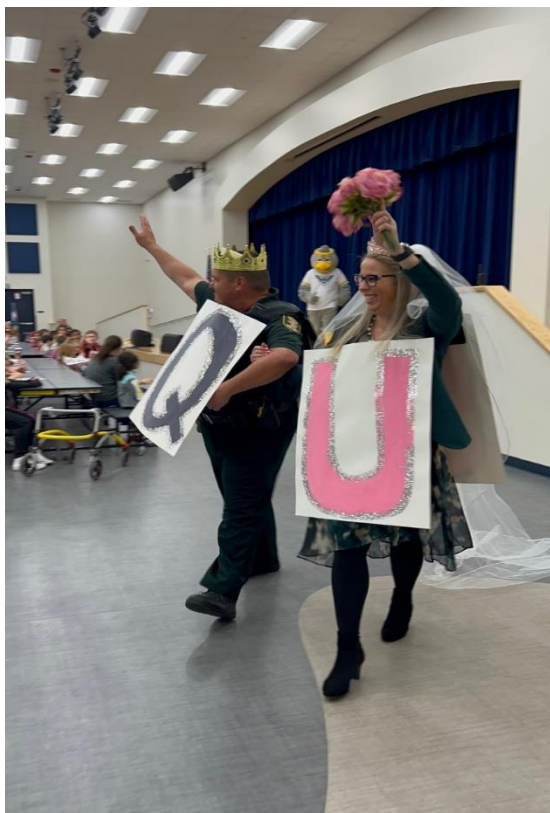


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FCA Q AND U WEDDING!!



**KINDERGARTENERS
ENJOY THE UNITING OF LETTERS
Q AND U TO MAKE THE SOUND OF
"QU" !!**



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Fire Safety- K & 1st Grade



DRAMA PERFORMANCE: THE BOXCAR CHILDREN





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Spelling Bee Champions

Take Flight and Break Barriers



5th Grade Final Round- Kian Bhosle, Nisha Gopinath (Champion); Camille Washington



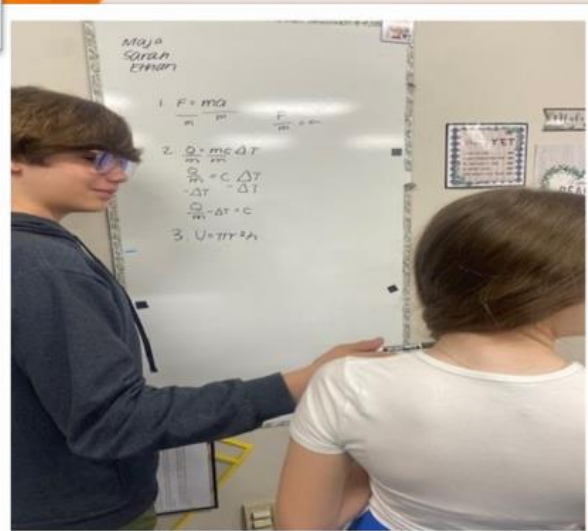
Nisha Gopinath- 5th grade Champion



Krinjal Majumdar- Middle School Champion



Cooperative Learning in Middle School Math Mrs. Story & Mrs. Stanfield's Class



Maja
Sarah
Ethar

$$1. F = ma$$

$$2. Q = mc \Delta T$$

$$3. U = mv^2/2$$



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Middle School Jazz Band Concert

Awesome performance!
Join us on Monday for performances
by Concert Band and Beginning Band.
Shout to Mrs. Zentz and Mr. Barry!



FCA PATROLS SUPPORT VETERANS DAY !





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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](#)

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.



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- 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.

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 Thanksgiving!
Gina R. Fonseca, Principal
Take Flight and Break Barrier