



Mustang Messenger

February 2010

From the Director

Dear Academy Family,

We have completed the first semester and well into the 3rd quarter. If you think time is flying by, I can assure you for me it is approaching the sound barrier. Within a few weeks we are testing for FCAT. These are important tests on several levels.

The results are not only used to help determine your child's progress, but his/her classroom grade and the school. The scores are used to determine school grades and this can equate to additional funds to be used for you child. In some schools they live and die by the FCAT.

We too take the FCAT seriously. We think it is one of several valuable tools that can be used to help children. But, we do not live and die by the FCAT. We live and die for children. What is good for FCAT preparation is good for every day education. Eat well, exercise, get plenty of rest and work hard in school. This results in a good education that traditionally equates to a good FCAT scores.

Hopefully, I have put this into perspective.

Michael G. Rom, Ph. D.
Director

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
1	2	3	4	5
8	9 FCAT Writes	10	11	12
15 No School	16	17	18	19
22	23 Progress Reports	24	25	26

- Feb. 13th - Middle School Dance
- Wednesdays are Nature Club and Running Club
- Thursdays are Cheerleading Club

Math Night

We would like to offer a sincere thank you to all the parents who attended Math Night. Between the two nights, we had about 150 in attendance. Students and parents worked through centers to learn different techniques for learning multiplication facts. Please continue to have your child work on FCAT Explorer for additional practice. Your continued support will ensure success for your child.

Coming Soon!

Announcing our biggest school event of the year... The Shelby Hines 3rd Annual Make A Difference Walk. This campaign is instrumental in raising funds for our special needs program, including physical, occupational, and speech therapy that can cost more than \$80,000 per year.

The first year our walk raised \$12,500. Last year you blew us away by raising over \$23,000. With additional families now part of our school we've set a goal of \$40,000 this year. Accomplishing this goal, would pay for half of the years special needs expenses. What an amazing feat!

We are very excited about the kids being able to share the experience of walking for a great cause. Just like participating in a 3 day cancer walk or a rely for life, this experience shows them how they play a role in "making a difference" in the lives of those in need.

Shelby Hines, Honorary Chair, has been at the Academy for seven years. She has cerebral palsy due to an adverse reaction to her immunizations. Like many of our students, she requires regular therapy; including speech, occupational, and physical. Please help us continue to provide quality care to these very special children by participating in The 3rd Annual Academy at the Farm "Make A Difference Walk" which will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 9am in Dade City at the Judicial Complex Courthouse. After the walk we can all meet at Beef O'Bradys for lunch, they are donating 20% of the lunch profits back to the walk.

In the next month you will begin to hear more about the walk. Tools to help you reach out to friends and family include a website with a video from last year's walk and where donations can be made directly to the walk in your family's name. The Academy is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization so any donation is tax deductible. Business, Civic Club, and Corporate donations are also welcome.

We will have a pep rally the day before the walk at the school to talk about how important this cause is to our kids. Mark your calendars now for 3/27 so you can join us as we walk through downtown Dade City, FL to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



4-H at the Academy Heads to the Fair

Many of our students that participate in our 4-H club here at school will be showing animals at the Pasco County Fair the week of February 15th-21st. We hope you will be able to come out and support the children as they complete their 4-H projects. Many of the students have been working on their project for the past 6 months preparing their animals and record books, and they like to hear how proud others are of their hard work.

Chickens (Monday, February 15th - Sunday, February 21st)

Cara Dwyer – 4th grade
Cole Hatchell – 7th grade
Cassandra Nathe – 9th grade
Chad Nathe – 6th grade
Courtney Nathe – 7th grade
Megan Nathe – 2nd grade

Rabbits (Monday, February 15th - Sunday, February 21st)

Abby Hill – 3rd grade
Amanda Hill – 6th grade
Amber Hill – 8th grade
Justin Lethco – 7th grade
Montana Smith – 4th grade



Steers (Tuesday, February 16th - Thursday, February 18th)

Courtney Nathe – 7th grade

Hogs (Thursday, February 18th - Saturday, February 20th)

Brianna Bush – 5th grade
Brooke Forrester – 5th grade
Jacee Gouchenaur – 8th grade
Riley Gouchenaur – 5th grade

Goats (Sunday, February 21st)

Jessie Smith – 7th grade
Montana Smith – 4th grade

**Please note that there are many other 4-H students at our school participating with other 4-H clubs. We wish each student success.



Do Si Do- Here we go! **Gearing up for Cowboy Up!**

The Academy at the Farm Cowboy Up Auction Night planning is well underway! With the debut of a Live Teacher Auction sure to get everyone kicking up their heels, to the incredible amount of auction items offered- both live and silent, we are confident that our \$20K goal will be attained this year! We have a fun scratch card game for all who participate and the prize is a 5 day/4 night trip to an exotic location. Add to that 50/50 raffles, line dancing lessons from one of Dade City's best, scrumptious food, tropical drinks, and much more!

The Auction night will continue to benefit AATF, its teachers, staff, and students. This year we will dedicate the funds to purchase five more SmartBoards and the equipment necessary to operate them. As you may remember, the goal for last year's auction was to purchase SmartBoards which was accomplished. There are still a few classrooms without. Our goal is to fill each classroom with its own SmartBoard!

This event could not take place without the continued dedication and support from our PTO and its leaders. Let's take a moment to look back at the consistent success this event has had in the past thanks to Linda Forrester, Michelle Nutt, Christie Major, Kelly Smith, Kelley Gachenour, Tracy Sullivan, and many more. There is no doubt this event has had many hands in creating and shaping it to what it is today and what it will be tomorrow. From the teachers and para's putting together the most awesome and exquisite baskets to Dr. Rom's incredible auctioneering skills! You should all be proud! Thanks to all of you for what you have done and continue to do for the Academy at the Farm!

PTO Corner

Teachers Giddyup for "Cowboy Up" Auction Night

Have you ever had a teacher that you just adored? That one or two teachers that have made such an impact you will never forget them? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to "hang out" with your teacher say like on a Saturday afternoon? Or what it would be like to go for pizza and a movie and gather outside the classroom? No schedules, no math no moving your clip, no writing assignments and no homework- just pure fun! How would you like that chance for YOUR child? This year, our Auction Night is not only going to include incredible items for silent and live auction, but our teachers at AATF have offered up their services once again! This time outside the classroom! Each teacher has courageously volunteered to create a day of fun and adventure for your child. Some teachers will gather in a group, some will pair up, and some will be one on one with their own children as well. Ideas such as picnics, Busch Gardens for a day (pass provided by parent), movies, beach, pool parties, etc. have been tossed around these past few weeks. Whatever the game plan, all parents and students are welcome to bid on their teacher. Teachers will be sending information home with each student explaining what they will be offering. Parents are encouraged to come to the auction and bid LIVE on their teacher. It may get competitive, but it's all for a great cause! Keep May 22nd on your calendar and we will see you there for a little friendly competition! More info. to follow!

If you would like to get involved in the planning or execution of this event in any way, we need you! Please contact Linda Forrester at the school for volunteer opportunities or Kristin Pelletier at 813-326-2628 or kkpelletier@verizon.net for donations and/or sponsorships. As always, your contribution is tax deductible and we can provide you with our 501c3 form if necessary.
**Save the Date! Saturday, May 22, 2010
6:00 p.m.- Midnight**