

SLA Scoop

Student Leadership Academy

Venice, FL

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All the SLA News: By the Students, For the Students

Fifty try out; Eighteen Make SLA Soccer Team

By Mackenzie Combs and Molly Stone

On January 6, 2010, soccer tryouts were held. About 50 students came to try out, but only 18 people could make the team. Coach Paul and Mrs. Carolyn had at hard time determining which students to select. Everyone demonstrated their soccer skills by dribbling through cones, drilling one on one, and passing from one to another. They also demonstrated endurance by running. A week later the team list was announced. **Mackenzie Combs, Alex Kotti, Marcus Laurin, Sami Laurin, Rebecca Leibbrandt, Paul Lesko, Jacob Manders, Jakin McCorkle, Gaelan McLean, Noah Montgomery, Dayana Murcia, Ashlee Ramnarine, Dalton Robson, Rory Shortt, Molly Stone, Jesse Tinkler, Paul Tomasi, and Winston Wheat** all made the team.

Jakin McCorkle has been playing soccer for three years. His favorite part of practice was running because he thinks its fun. He thinks the team is getting better at working together. His favorite position to play is forward and that is where he played in the first game. **Dayana Murcia** has been playing for one year. She was very excited to be one of the few 6th graders to make the team. Her favorite part of practice is scrimmaging because she gets to handle the ball. She thinks the team plays really well. Her favorite position to play is midfield. **Marcus Laurin** has been playing soccer for ten years. His favorite part is running because it builds his endurance. His favorite position to play is offense and that's where he started for the first game as well. He thinks we are working together pretty well, but they still need to bond more. He was absolutely thrilled to score four goals in the first game of the season.

The first game was held on February 16th. SLA won six to zero. Marcus Laurin scored four of the six; Mackenzie Combs scored one; and Alex Kotti scored the last goal. Everyone worked hard and the effort paid off; our goalie only had to stop about five shots. The second game was cancelled. We lost the third game against New Gate School 2-0. The team is working well and is looking forward to a winning season.



Jesse Tinkler and Mackenzie Combs demonstrate some mad soccer skills!!



Snow Ball Was Fun for All

By Mary Chrystal and Stephanie Martinez

The Snow Ball was held on December 19, 2009. The National Junior Honor Society sponsored the dance and they did a wonderful job turning the cafeteria into a winter wonderland! Members of Student Council helped out by making paper mache snowmen and the art classes helped by making snowflakes.

Everyone looked great in their formal attire. It was great to get together and have fun just before Winter Break. We even had a professional photographer there to take pictures.

Everyone loved the music, especially "Party in the USA". Other favorites included "Soulja Boy" and "Cha Cha Slide". But the dancing really started when they played "Jump on it".

The food was amazing. Once again, Mrs. Aker got pizza from Luna's and nachos, desserts and drinks. **Winston Wheat** said, "Go pizza" and **Myranda Nekic** said, "I like nachos! We think the dances are a great deal; we get great food, great music, and great fun with our friends for just \$5.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped out, especially **Mrs. Willmore** who was an awesome DJ. Our next dance is the Spring Fling, which will be held on March 19th from 6:00-9:00 p.m.



Mackenzie Schemenauer, Stephanie Martinez, Isabella Gee, and Victoria Antonova loved the dance!



Alina Naismith, Emilee McKay, Brooke Treat, and Lizzie Kopperman had a great time at the dance!



Seventh graders Carly Briandi, Delaney Frazier, Sami Clark, Brianna Deemer, and Alana Soodak also loved the dance!



Sixth grade girls love to dress up! Front row, l to r - Kelly Antini, Myranda Nekic, Kelsey Worth, and Katie Hutchison
Back row, l to r - Mary Chrystal, Katie Thornton, Lexi McCorkle, Courtney Purcell, and Jasmine Beaulieu



Eighth graders enjoyed the dance! Front row - Cheyenne Koontz, Gracelyn Perry, Aja Brown, and Deborah Harding
Back row - Charlie Tilford, Ben Holmes Devin Berry, Joey Falcetta, Ross Morris and Walker Hill



Sixth graders AJ Davison, Jessie Goetz, Donald Adams, Jacob Shelton, Zach Donelan, Caleb Wong, Michael Battaglia, and Chris Somers enjoyed hanging out with their friends at the dance



Tori Pechin, Melissa Baratta, Jasmine Beaulieu, and Laura Benavides are all smiles at the dance!



NHS President Tiffani Tallman and mom Sandi look great even after setting up for the dance!



Gracelyn Perry, Linda Antonova, Olivia and Ava Doraisamy are the picture of loveliness.

Students in Millionaires Club Learn to Manage Money

By Hope Cross, Julia Lesko, and Stephanie Martinez

In Millionaires Club, you learn about money - how to make money and how to manage money. Students who take this class generally learn to start investing early and learn the benefits and downsides of investing in certain things.

Mrs. Porter is the teacher of this class; she is definitely qualified as her degree is in business. "My favorite part is hearing the creative ideas students come up with in regards to business. We have a few young entrepreneurs at SLA!"

Tyshanna Douglas likes talking about money. "If I could change anything about it, I wouldn't." Tanner Sande likes playing the games. "My favorite game is Hot Company; it is a cross between Life and Monopoly." The club members play other games such as "Lingo Bingo" and "Five in a Row Dough".



Lexi Riley, Tori Pechin, and Marianna Obermeier



Christian Nickerson and Austin Saul

Students Earn Fitness Awards

By Mackenzie Combs and Kelley Mayo

During the first two quarters of the school year, all the P.E. classes took part in the presidential and national fitness tests. The events included: a shuttle run, sit and reach, mile run, sit ups, push ups and others. It took a week to complete all the events. The American Council on Physical Fitness has established certain standards that students must achieve in order to earn the Presidential or National Physical Fitness awards. The times and numbers are based on your age and gender.

The Presidential Physical Fitness Award goes to students in each grade who achieve the highest level in each category. Winners for 6th grade were **Dominick Burns, Mackenzie Combs, Chloe DeVries, and Emily Lowery**. The 7th grade winners were **Kelley Mayo** and **Tanner Sande**. The 8th grade winner was **Jakin McCorkle**.

Emily Lowery's favorite part was doing the shuttle runs because it was short. She enjoyed doing it because it made her feel good and it made her feel proud. She thought that the mile run was the hardest because it was tiring. The easiest for her was doing the push-ups. **Mackenzie Combs'** favorite part was doing the shuttle runs because it was fun. She was proud to get this award. The hardest test for her was Sit N' Reach because she isn't flexible! The easiest was push-ups. She has never won this award before. She plays soccer so that probably influenced the outcome. **Tanner Sande's** favorite part was the mile run. He was very proud to win the award. The hardest test for him was sit-ups and the easiest was doing shuttle runs.

The National Physical Fitness Award is given to students who achieve excellence in each area, but miss the Presidential standards. The winners for 6th grade were **Mackenzie Allen, Jarrod Hewitt, Dylan Highfield, Jacob Jansen, Rebecca Leibbrandt, Jacob Manders, Liz Mogford, Dayanna Murcia, Marianna Obermeier, and Krystal Raymond**. The 7th grade winners were **Alex Hoag, Alina Naismith, and Bristol Rimes**. The winners in 8th grade were **Taylor Finsted, Jordan Rosa** and **Nick Turkovics**.

Congratulations to all recipients of these awards. Keep up the good work!

Drama Room Gets a Makeover

By Mackenzie Allen and Laura Benavides

Mrs. Francis is really excited about teaching drama this year. In order to make the room more like a real theatre, she decided to paint it black so that it resembled a small "black box" theatre. She got the idea from her sons' schools; both Booker High school and USF have black box theatres. With the help of **Mr. Pechin, Tori's** dad and owner of **Pechin Painting**, over 30 students and 6 parents painted the walls and ceiling black.

The painting is just the beginning. **Mrs. Francis** has big plans for the drama room. She wants to put in raised seats, renovate the bathroom into a dressing room, put curtains in front of her desk, get storage for costumes and put in hardwood flooring. She estimates it will take over a year to complete those projects. But for now **Mrs. Francis** would like to say "I really appreciate the students and parents of SLA!!!"



Tyler Kling, Mrs. Francis, and Rebecca Liebbrandt were just a few of the volunteers who helped paint the drama room.



Environmental Club Makes SLA Greener

By Liz Mogford and Kelsey Worth

Environmental club is about making SLA "greener". They try to accomplish this task by cleaning up, cleaning out, and helping the earth. **Lindsey Johnson** said, "We like to clean up because it helps our school look nice and neat." **Austin Shroyer** stated that his favorite things about environmental is "recycling the trash and working outside with the plants and trees". **Sean Kerrigan** said he enjoys going class to class to get all there recyclables. "Not only does it help the environment, it makes the room not so cluttered too!" Environmental Club recently took a field trip to G-Wiz to learn about the water cycle. One of the things they learn was when you flush your toilet you loose 16 gallons of water every time! Members of the Environmental club stated that one of the best things about it is that Mrs. Oliver is fun and nice, recycling does not only help the earth it helps us too. They also enjoy planting plants in the courtyard because they get to be outside.

SLA Students Helps Haiti

By Laura Benavides and Alexis Riley

We all know about the massive earthquake that occurred in Haiti. Even though it seems very far away, there are ways we can help the survivors. *Kids to Kids* is a relief effort that was organized by **Ms. Weed** and her mother, **Dianne**. They decided to organize a local effort to collect jars of peanut butter to send to Haiti. When asked, "Why peanut butter?" Ms. Weed said, "Peanut butter doesn't go bad, you don't need a can opener to open it, and you can eat it with your hands."

She told us Agape Flights have agreed to fly the supplies over to Haiti. The Venice community collected over 2700 jars of peanut butter; over 300 jars came from SLA!!

It's good to know we can all make a difference.

SLA Becomes a Community of Caring School

By Raven Gruelich, Mackenzie Schemenauer, and Madi Thornton

Community of caring is a program created by a woman named Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Mrs. Shriver intended for this program to bring the values of caring, respect, responsibility, trust, and family into schools across the United States. Community of Caring schools strive to expose students to the five core values of on a daily basis. Eventually, Community of Caring schools become safe havens for students where they can be comfortable and never feel threatened or bullied.

The Community of Caring program has made a difference in hundreds of schools across the nation. Students not only know the five core values, but are starting to use them with at school, at home, and even in the community. This Program creates a positive school environment that becomes the students' own "community of caring."

Even though **Mrs. Hart** had heard of the program, it was **Ms. Marble's** idea to bring Community of Caring to SLA. The five core values work hand-in-hand with SLA's mission of "Scholarship, Leadership, and Service." **Ms. Marble** knew that the teachers and students were ready to take the next step to greatness!

Each month, each staff member will recognize one student who best demonstrated the monthly core value. January's core value was caring. The following students were recognized for demonstrating caring: **Kelly Antini, Victoria Antonova, Hayley Denham, Josh DeVaughn, Joey Falcetta, Palmer Francis, Dante Guarino, Marcus Hanna, Natalie Johnson, Paul Kelly, Dylan Kona, Nathalie Martinez, Isaac McHenry, Bianca Megna, Patrick Moore, Rachel Nowak, Jade Patterson, Gracelyn Perry, Ashlee Ramnarine, Bristol Rimes, Brent Smallwood, Brentyn Szalbirak, Katie Thornton, Charlie Tilford, Rileigh West, and Ashlyn Woodruff.**



8th Grade News

By Madison Martin, Brittany Potts, and Gigi Taddeo

This year is flying by. It's almost over and it seems just like yesterday we were walking into our first period classes getting all the classroom rules told to us. But it's been a great year!

We have five new students **James Dolan**, **Forrest Hosten**, **Lindsey Johnson**, **Patrick Moore**, and **Brittany Potts**. **James**, **Lindsey**, **Forrest**, and **Brittany** all came from Laurel Nokomis School. They all like this school a lot, they say "it's better than Laurel because it's smaller and has less drama!" **Patrick** was home schooled his whole life, and this is his first year of school. Sadly, we also lost some students. **Casey Stutzman** and **Justin Macholz** both left. **Casey** moved to Maine, and **Justin** went to VMS. We miss them both dearly and wish them the best of luck!

We have all been working really hard in all of our classes. The writing FCAT is over! One down; three more to go! Now we have reading, science, and math FCAT. We are doing FCAT preparation in Science, Language Arts, and Science. We can't wait for FCAT to be over!!!

Eighth graders in High School Spanish enjoyed making piñatas. They constructed them, decorated them, and then filled them with candy. They were especially excited when it came time to break them open because they gathered tons of candy. As you can imagine, they were pretty popular with their peers for the rest of the day.

Hayley Denham, **Karina McLaughlin**, **Gaelan McLean**, **Ashlee Ramnarine**, **Victor Smith**, **Jesse Tinkler**, and **Nick Turkovics** all celebrated birthdays in February.



Emily Curtis, **Emily Monaghan**, **Ashlyn Woodruff**, and **Allison Bowman** show their very appropriate snowman piñata. It was almost cold enough for snow the day they broke the piñatas!!

7th Grade News

By Kelley Mayo and Molly Stone

The second half of the year promises to be just as exciting as the first for seventh graders. Mrs. Turkovics' Honors Science class dissected owl pellets. Some kids enjoyed this activity but others strongly disliked it. **Amanda Brockner** said, "I loved the dissection. The most interesting thing I found was a rat skull. The only thing I didn't really like is the thought that owl pellets are basically owl vomit." **Garret Clark** said, "It was fun! I liked when **Alex Hoag** pretended to eat one of the bones." **Garret** found over three skulls and many different bones. Students found mole, vole, bird, and shrew remains.

In **Mrs. Turkovics'** and **Mrs. Porter's** classes, students are making dioramas for landmarks and national monuments. **Nicole Carney** did her project on Gatlinburg, Tennessee. She said her favorite part of making her diorama was creating the buildings and aquarium. Her favorite part of presenting was telling interesting facts about her diorama. **Brandon O'Malley** did his project on the Everglades and his favorite part about his diorama was making it look as realistic as possible. And his favorite part of presenting was showing everyone how hard he worked.



Garrett Clark shares his diorama.

6th Grade News

By Mackenzie Allen

On January 20, 2010 all the 6th graders with 7th period science and the entire environmental club went on a field trip to G-Wiz to learn about Water Wonders! Before they went **Julia Lesko** said, "I think it is going to be fun to learn about water and everything it affects." Most students agree with Lesko including **Mackenzie Combs** who stated, "I think it will be interesting because water is so cool!" The students left at 8:45am and got back at 1:30pm. There were 3 groups of students each group went to a station for 30 minutes then they switched to another station. When they got back to S.L.A **Laura Benavides** said she felt "tired but I had an awesome time!" Most students agree with her. The students who could not go to G-Wiz also had an awesome time in art. Miss Weed helped them design "cakes" which were actually crackers "The best part is getting to eat them," said **Rachel Nowak**. Also, in math Mrs. Grim did a cool hands-on activity with Skittles. They used them for fractions, decimals, percents, and graphs. Wherever we were on January 20, 2010, we had an awesome time.

SLA Sends Six to Regional Science Fair

Six students represented SLA at the Regional Science Fair. Jacob Janssen, Palmer Francis, Katie Thornton, Nathan Phillips, Jacob Shelton and Caleb Wong won first through fifth places at our school fair and qualified for the Regional Fair.

Each student stood beside his/her project and explained the project and the scientific process to the judges. When we asked Palmer Francis what she thought, she said, "I'm not sure; one of the judges was really great, but I don't think the other one liked my project." She must have impressed them, because she won first place in the Mathematics division for her project "Popping for Popcorn". Congratulations to Palmer and all of the contestants.

Teacher Profile:

Mrs. Davis

By Alexis Riley and Kelsey Worth

Mrs. Davis is new to SLA this year. She taught at Oak Park South before coming to SLA. She is thrilled to be here; she says, "The staff is amazing. Everyone here is so committed to the students. I also love the kids!"

Speaking of kids, Mrs. Davis has three of her own. **Kylie** is 6, **Tyler** is 4, and **Camryn** just had her first birthday. When she isn't teaching, Mrs. Davis loves to spend time with her children and with her husband Jim, who coaches basketball at Venice High.

Mrs. Davis says her favorite thing about teaching is watching her students grow. She says, "It's so cool when they get it for the first time. I don't know who gets more excited, them or me!" Her grandfather inspired her to teach. When she was in 2nd grade, he told her that she would be a teacher one day. Her most embarrassing moment teaching came last year when she was pregnant. She was racing her students and slipped and fell on her stomach. She had to spend the evening in the hospital!



One thing you may not know about Mrs. Davis is that she earned straight A's while she was getting her bachelor's degree at USF! Also, other than the one year she spent in Tallahassee, she's been right here in Venice her whole life! Although her degree is from USF, she is a die-hard Seminoles fan. Be careful not to get her and **Mrs. Hunt** in the same room during football season!!

Her dream vacation is to go anywhere on a cruise. Some of her other favorites are: color - pink, food - pizza, movie - The Notebook, store - Target, animal - zebra, and holiday - Christmas. We are excited to have Mrs. Davis at SLA!!

Announcements/Reminders

- Yearbooks are on sale now; the price is \$30. Don't miss the chance to get a yearbook before the prices go up!
- FCAT Tests will be held March 9th-11th. Please make sure your child has a good night's sleep and a good breakfast.
- Relay for Life casual days may not be purchased or used March 1st-12th. They will resume after FCAT on March 15th.
- We have bake sales every Friday. This is a great way to earn service hours! If you bring in baked goods, PLEASE LABEL YOUR CONTAINERS.
- Only plain red, white, navy, or black sweatshirts or SLA sweatshirts are allowed. SLA sweatshirts are available for \$35. Please see Mrs. Aker before school or during 1st period.
- We strongly recommend that students wear a clean PE shirt each day. PE shirts are \$7; please see Mrs. Aker before school or during 1st period if you need PE shirts.

SLA Sleuths (Newspaper Staff)

Editors: Kelley Mayo and Molly Stone
Faculty Advisor: Trina Aker

Mackenzie Allen	Stephanie Martinez
Laura Benavides	Liz Mogford
Mary Chrystal	Brittany Potts
Mackenzie Combs	Alexis Riley
Hope Cross	Mackenzie Schemenauer
Raven Gruelich	Gigi Taddeo
Tori Hamrick	Madi Thornton
Ryley Kvamme	Savannah Walker
Julia Lesko	Kelsey Worth
Madison Martin	

Upcoming Events

- March 2nd - 3:45 p.m.**
Home Soccer Game vs. Venice Christian
- March 4th - 4:00 p.m.**
Away Soccer Game vs. Tabernacle
- March 5th-6th - 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.**
Venice Expo at Community Center
- March 9th**
FCAT Reading Test - All Grades
- March 9th - 4:00 p.m.**
Home Soccer Game vs. Epiphany
- March 10th**
FCAT Math Test - All Grades
- March 11th**
FCAT Science Test - 8th Grade Only
- March 11th - 4:00 p.m.**
Home Soccer Game vs. Arts and Sciences
- March 11th - 6:30 p.m.**
Parent Council Meeting
- March 16th - All Day**
Referendum Vote
- March 16th - 4:00 p.m.**
Home Soccer Game vs. Goldie Feldman
- March 19th - 6:00-9:00 p.m.**
Spring Fling Dance
- March 24th**
End of 3rd Quarter
- March 26th**
Professional Day - No School for Students
- March 29th - April 2nd**
Spring Break
- April 8th - 6:30 p.m.**
Parent Council Meeting
- April 12th - 6:30 p.m.**
Spring Glee Concert
- April 17th - 22nd**
8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.
- April 23rd - 24th**
Relay For Life