

SLA Scoop

Student Leadership Academy
Venice, FL

October 12, 2009
Volume 2, Issue 2

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

Coastal Cleanup is a Huge Success

By Julia Lesko and Mackenzie Schemenauer

On September 19th, students, parents and faculty from Student Leadership Academy participated in the Sarasota County Coastal Cleanup. This is the 2nd year SLA has been involved with this event. It was a huge success. Seventy one people, 44 students and 27 adults, joined SLA faculty members Mrs. Amy Grim, Mrs. Chelsie Jacob, and Mr. Stephen Waite. The group met at the South Jetty at 8:00 a.m. They collected many bags of garbage from the beach and the rocks along the jetty. Some of the more unusual items were large slabs of plastic and long lengths of rope

Mrs. Jacob said that this cleanup had a huge impact on the environment. "The South Jetty is a busy place for fishing and for people who like to watch the sunset and the people out on the water. Things that are left behind can be harmful to the animals that live in the environment."

Eighth grader Paul Tomasi attended the event to get his service hours. He said, "I came just to get the hours, but once I got there it was fun. Plus it was amazing how much garbage people leave behind. People need to take their junk with them when they leave!"

All in all, the day was great for everyone who participated and it was great for the environment!



Dylan Highfield, Mr. Waite, Jacob Shelton, Jacob McHenry, Dante Guarino, and Isaac McHenry worked hard at the jetties.



Some members of the SLA Coastal Cleanup team take a moment to pose with the garbage they collected.

Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest is Fun for All

By Kelley Mayo

College and NFL football seasons have started. Mrs. Ferretti decided to get us into the spirit by having a punt, pass, and kick contest in P.E. The contest was just-for-fun to see who could punt, pass, and kick the farthest. The college and pro players make it look easy, but it's definitely harder than it looks!

To punt, we drop kicked the ball, to kick we put a football on a tee and kicked it off, and to pass we threw the ball. If the ball was not thrown or kicked straight, Mrs. Ferretti subtracted yardage from your original score. Everyone had fun and did well.

The 6th grade winners were **Marianna Obermeier**, who had a total of 50 yards, and **Tyler Tornese**, who had a total of 78 yards. The 7th grade winners were **Kelley Mayo**, who had a total of 67 yards, and **Tyler Gauthier**, who had a total of 84 yards. The 8th grade winners were **Jennifer Cameron**, who had a total of 42 yards, and **Tyler Cain**, who had the highest total in the school - 98 yards! And speaking of the best in the school, **Franklin Smith** passed the farthest, 37 yards! Congratulations to all the winners and good job to everyone who participated!



Back Row L to R: Tyler Tornese, Tyler Cain, Tyler Gauthier and Franklin Smith Front Row L to R: Marianna Obermeier, Jennifer Cameron, and Kelley Mayo

Pinwheels for Peace

By Mackenzie Allen, Alexis Riley, and Kelsey Worth

Art students at SLA participated in National Peace Day on September 21, 2009 by making Pinwheels for Peace. "We got to express our feelings toward peace in a fun and creative way" said **Alexis Riley**, a 6th grader who enjoyed the project. **Ms. Weed** explained, "Students started off by coloring and designing the pinwheels. Then they folded the papers and hooked the pinwheel to the eraser of a pencil." Students made a pinwheel garden in the front of the school. Unfortunately, the pinwheels were soaked by an afternoon thundershower before the parents got to see them. Fortunately, we did get a few good photos before Mother Nature interfered.



Pinwheels for Peace Garden



Basketball Season Begins

By Mary Chrystal and Liz Mogford

Basketball season has begun and the SLA Eagles are working hard. In spite of the challenges of having to practice outside and losing players to injury, the team is improving all the time. **Coach Nate Patton** is impressed with the perseverance of the team.

Jakin McCorkle and **Rory Shortt** are showing great leadership as team captain and co-captain. High scorers are **Jakin McCorkle**, **Devin Berry**, **Rory Shortt**, and **Christian Whitted**. **Austin Shroyer** is a great ball handler and does a great job moving the ball down the court. **Ian Brewer**, **Paul Lesko**, **Kaleb Kern**, and **Genesis Vazquez** are the team's passers. **Rory Shortt** is the king of the free throw line. **Sean Kerrigan**, **Devin Berry**, **Lucy Janusz**, and **Gracelyn Perry** show great rebounding skills. The team is looking forward to the return of **Nick Turkovics**, who will be moving off the injured list for the last four games.

The next three games are at home at the Boys and Girls Club at 4:00 p.m. Come support the team October 13th against St. Martha's, October 15th against Goldie Feldman, and October 20th against Incarnacion.



Back row L to R: Sean Kerrigan, Devin Berry, Rory Shortt, Coach Nate Patton, Kaleb Kern, Gracelyn Perry, Lucy Janusz. Front Row L to R: Austin Shroyer, Paul Lesko, Jakin McCorkle, Ian Brewer, Christian Whitted, and Genesis Vazquez

Cheerleaders Have Spirit

By Liz Mogford

SLA's cheerleaders are working really hard this year. **Mrs. Clark**, the faculty advisor, states that she loves to see the self-esteem of all the girls improve. **Mrs. Thompson**, the coach, adores the energy the cheerleaders have.

Mrs. Thompson has been coaching for almost ten years, eight years with other teams and almost two years at SLA. She says coaching this team is a challenge because the girls are at such different levels. "We have girls who have never cheered before and girls who have been cheering for years."

The captain of the squad is **Lauren Walsh** and the co-captain is **Victoria Thompson**. They have both cheered for years. **Lauren** says, "I love cheering for SLA. The girls are great." She says her favorite cheer is *Power*. **Victoria** says, "I love hanging out with the cheerleaders and the coaches and learning new cheers." Sixth grader **Lily Carmichael** says "My favorite thing about cheerleading is cheering for the basketball games. My favorite cheer is *Victory!*" Eighth grader **Anna Carter** says, "I can't tell you how much fun cheerleading is. I love to dance so my favorite cheer is *Fired Up!*"

You can see the cheerleaders at all of the home basketball games.



Back row L to R: Claire Brophy, Kaitlyn Curtis, Bethany Beachy, Callie Thompson, Alyssa Chalaire, and Olivia Hodgson Middle Row L to R: Lily Carmichael, Mackenzie Frenze, Bianca Megna Front Row L to R: Victoria Thompson, Anna Carter, and Lauren Walsh Not pictured: Casey Stutzman

SLA Scene

Candid Shots from the Halls of SLA



SLA cheerleaders show their spirit at the basketball game



R to L - Mrs. Jacob and her students Palmer Francis, Katie Thornton, Cassidy Stormer, Tyshanna Douglas, Anastasia Antipov, and Jade Patterson enjoy cooking in Personal Wellness

See You at the Pole

By Mackenzie Allen and Liz Mogford

On Wednesday September 22, 2009 student and teachers participated in See You at the Pole (SYATP). SYATP is a student led program, which occurs on the fourth Wednesday of September at schools all over the country.

The organizers for SLA's event were **Dylan Kona, Tyler Cain, Destanie Enloe, Jordan Faughn, Olivia Gray, Brandon O'Malley, and Caleb Owens**. They invited students and teachers to meet at the flagpole in front of the school for prayer, scripture reading, and hymn singing. **Dylan Kona** first got the idea from his church. "I am a Christian; every Friday some kids from my church meet and talk about situations that happen in school, and how we can be spiritual leaders," explained **Dylan**.



Three groups meet before school to pray for the teachers, students and the school.

They decided that See you at the Pole was a great way to support the school. **Destanie** told us, "After meeting together for some singing, we broke up into three groups." **Dylan, Destanie** and **Tyler** led their group in praying for the students at SLA. **Caleb, Brandon, and Jordan** led their grouping praying for the teachers at the school. **Olivia and Bethany** led their group in praying for the school as a whole. The theme for this year's event was Engage: Go and Pray, which came from 2 KINGS 22:13a: "Go and pray for me and for the people..."



Dylan Kona, Jordan Faughn, Olivia Gray, and Destanie Enloe helped organize See you at the Pole

Students Learn CPR and More In Health Occupations Club

By Ryley Kvamme

The Health Occupations Club is taught by Mrs. Grim. She introduces students to all different types of jobs that are health related. There are tons of jobs in the health field including nurses, physicians, physical therapists, x-ray technicians, paramedics and EMTs, chiropractors, and dentists. In addition to learning about different jobs, Mrs. Grim is also covering other topics such as: CPR, First Aid, examining ADD, physiology, and medical education.

Students join the Health Occupations club for a variety of reasons. **Morgan Crimi** joined because "I want to be a chiropractor when I'm older so it's great to start learning about the human body now." She is excited to get her CPR certification. **Lily Elliott** said she is most excited about getting CPR certification so she is more qualified to baby sit. She also enjoys watching the videos on various health issues. One new topic for her is learning First Aid. **Ryan Capdarest** said his favorite part of Health Club is watching movies and getting his CPR certification. The activity he's excited for is getting his certification.



Lily Elliot and Toni Verost practice their compressions as they learn CPR

Homework Helper

By Mackenzie Allen

You may think math is stupid or unnecessary, but in truth it's not. You will use math every day of your life. One thing some students struggle with is the order of operation. It may seem hard, but you can use the acronym PEMDAS to help you remember. If you think of the phrase: Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally, it will help you remember the order: Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication, Division, Addition, and Subtraction. This is very important, especially when you get to high school algebra.

Let's use PEMDAS to solve a problem:

$$3 \times 12 - 6 \div 3 = ??$$

1. *First we look at P. Are there any parentheses? No there are none.*
2. *Next, let's look at E. Are there any exponents? No there are none.*
3. *What about M? Yes there is multiplication, so let's solve: $3 \times 12 = 36$*
4. *What about division? Yes, we need to divide $6 \div 3 = 2$*
5. *So now we have $36 - 2 = 34$*

That's a very different answer than we would get if we solved left to right like we read. $3 \times 12 = 36 - 6 = 30 \div 3 = 10$. So, you can see that knowing the order of operations is an important skill after all.



Mackenzie Allen and Liz Mogford practice PEMDAS

8th Grade News

By Niki Bedell and Brianna Deemer

The eighth graders are enjoying being the oldest kids on campus. It seems like yesterday that we were coming into middle school. Things are going well so far this year.

Academics are much harder this year! Teachers are trying to prepare us for the FCAT. We have to take FCAT in reading, math, writing and science - ugh!! The teachers are trying to find fun ways to teach us the material. If you've seen kids running around the school with yardsticks, you can blame Mrs. Hunt. She is teaching us about proportion and percentages by having us measure the tibia, radius and humerus to see which one was the best predictor of height. Most results indicated that the length of the radius was the best predictor of height. We also did a fun project in Mr. Waite's class; we made explorer newsletters. It's always nice to take a break from the textbook for these fun projects.

Several eighth graders have birthdays this month. Happy birthday to: Ben Roman, Casey Stutzman, Eric Beasley, Olivia Doraisamy, Kyle Chamberlain, Franklin Smith, Ian Brewer, Austin Shroyer, Alex Galanty, and Ashlyn Woodruff! The eighth grade newspaper staff wishes you the best birthday!



Stephan Drozd and Rory Shortt measure the length of their bones in Mrs. Hunt's class

7th Grade News

By Hope Cross, Ryley Kvamme, Kelley Mayo, Mackenzie Schemenauer, and Molly Stone

In Mrs. Willmore and Mrs. Turkovics' science classes, students constructed their own cells. Students could choose whether they wanted to make plant or animal cells. The cells were made of play dough. **Hope Cross** modeled an animal cell. **Stephanie Martinez** modeled an animal cell. **Brianna Deemer** modeled an animal cell. Brianna loved this project because she got to play with play dough. **Ryley Kvamme** modeled an animal cell; she had fun and was happy she got to take the play dough home. Even though not everyone loved playing with play dough, everyone agrees that it's fun to take a break from the textbook every now and then.



Delaney Frazier and Alex Hoag enjoyed the cell project

This year the science fair has begun to come into play. In honors classes, science fair is mandatory. **Mackenzie Schemenauer** plans to do her project on how much light it takes for caterpillars to form their cocoons. Mackenzie is using monarch caterpillars. Mackenzie likes to do the science fair because she likes to learn from her own experiences. **Molly Stone** is doing her project on the spontaneous generation of flies on meat. Her project is called Meat the Maggots. **Kelley Mayo** project will examine what product cleans pennies the most.

6th Grade News

By Alexis Riley, Savannah Walker, and Kelsey Worth

The 6th graders are going strong; it's hard to believe we're in our eighth week of school! We have been starting various projects and have gotten to know each other easily.

In **Mrs. Willis'** honors science class, students did an experiment about how to make topographic maps. Let's just say that got a little messy. Students in **Mrs. Jacobs'** 5th period Language Arts class are reading Island of the Blue Dolphins. They made maps of the island that are displayed outside her room in the 6th grade hallway. In **Mr. Shearer's** class, students have been tracking storms. But lately the tropics have been quiet. All of these hands-on projects help us learn. We know we have to work from textbooks, but it's nice to do projects, too.

Sixth graders are adjusting to SLA. Everyone likes different things about middle school. **Myranda Nelic** said, "I like making new friends and I like school." **Jasmine Beaulieu** said, "I like 6th grade because we get more freedom." **Tori Hamrick** said, "All the teachers are really nice." **Katie Hutchison** said "I like student council because you get to state your opinion." **Jacob Janssen** said "I really like PE."

Bake Sales Rock!

Bake Sales have been hugely successful this year. Each Friday, parents and students are bringing all sorts of wonderful goodies.

"Bake sales are a great way for parents and students to earn service hours and they help so many SLA programs," explained **Mrs. Aker**. Until February, the proceeds from the bake sales go toward the 8th grade field trip to Washington, D.C. From February to April, proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society through our Relay for Life Team. From February to May, proceeds benefit the Environmental Club.

Mrs. Aker requests that parents use disposable containers or that they label their containers so she can return them to the students.

Teacher Profile: Mrs. Turkovics

By Kelley Mayo

Mrs. Turkovics just recently moved back to SLA from Canada. She was sad to leave Florida but her husband needed to move to improve his business. They moved back to Florida to be closer family and friends. They're also glad to be back in the warmer climate. She and the children enjoyed all the outdoor snow activities, but they missed the beach and the warm weather.

This year Mrs. Turkovics made a change. She is teaching the 7th grade Honors Academy. She said it is a stretch to prepare for four different classes every day, but she loves her students. Her favorite subject to teach is math because she really likes numbers and solving for the unknown. Her favorite thing about teaching is the enthusiasm the students show after a good lesson.



When she isn't at SLA, **Mrs. Turkovics** enjoys going to the beach, boating, snorkeling, running and scrapbooking. True to her Italian heritage, her favorite food is pasta. Her favorite color is green. Her dream vacation is a cruise to Italy, Greece, and Spain. One thing you may not know about **Mrs. Turkovics**, is that she ran the Disney and Sarasota $\frac{1}{2}$ marathon and finished in the top half!

Mrs. Turkovics has five sisters! Her husband's name is **Randy**. She has two children. **Nick** is 13 and **Loran** is 8. Another cool thing that you may not know is that everyone in the family's birthday is two weeks apart!

Spirit Week Promises Fun for Everyone

The Student Council is busy working on plans for Spirit Week, which will be held the last week in October. Students can show their school spirit by dressing in theme each day. Students are looking forward to a break from uniforms for the week. However, if students choose not to dress in theme, they are to wear their uniforms. The themes are:

- Monday - Neon
- Tuesday - 60s, 70s, and 80s
(Sixth graders dress in 60s, 7th graders dress in 70s and 8th graders dress in 80s)
- Wednesday - Crazy Head and Feet Day
(Students must wear their uniforms)
- Thursday - Mix and Match Day

Spirit Week will culminate with our first dance of the year. The dance has a Masquerade theme. Tickets are on sale for \$5. Tickets include pizza, nachos, desserts, and drinks.

As a reminder, casual day attire applies to dances. Also, only SLA students are allowed to attend our dances.

Announcements/Reminders

- 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.

Upcoming Events

- October 13th - 4:00 p.m.**
Basketball Game vs. St. Martha's
Home at Boys and Girls Club
- October 15th - 4:00 p.m.**
Basketball Game vs. Goldie Feldman
Home at Boys and Girls Club
- October 20th - 4:00 p.m.**
Basketball Game vs. Incarnacion
Home at Boys and Girls Club
- October 16th**
Box Top Competition Ends
- October 17th - 10:00 a.m.**
Sun Fiesta Parade
- October 17th - 9:00 - 12:00**
Service Project at GUMC
- October 20th**
Red Wheel Orders are Due
- October 23rd**
Washington, D. C. payment due
- October 26**
End of 1st quarter
- October 26-29 - Spirit Week**
Monday - Neon Day
Tuesday - 60s, 70s, and 80s day
Wednesday - Crazy Head and Feet Day
Thursday - Mix and Match Day
- October 29 - 6:00-9:00**
School Dance
- October 30 - Professional Day**
No school for Students

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- | | |
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