



# Panther News



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May 2011

Samsula Academy  
248 N. Samsula Drive  
New Smyrna Beach, FL  
32168

P: 386.423.6650  
F: 386.423.6651

### Principal

*Mrs. Peggy Comardo*

### Assistant Principal

*Ms. Gail Conrad*

[www.samsulaacademy.org](http://www.samsulaacademy.org)

### Make a Note!



### Upcoming Early Release

**Days:** All Wednesdays in May. Check out the **May calendar** for all the end-of-year activities (*last page*)!

*Mrs. Castle* would like to congratulate the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on the FCAT!! GREAT JOB!

Also she is still in need of board games, flash cards, and computer games- if you have any, she extends her appreciation.

Donations count towards volunteer hours. :) Thanks!

### Don't Forget Coke Reward Points!

We have 4,140+ points! Thanks for your continued donations!

[www.mycokerewards.com/schools](http://www.mycokerewards.com/schools)

## Samsula Commitment—We Passed the Test

Samsula Academy has special students coming from fantastic families. This year when FCAT testing rolled around, it found everyone sitting at their desk ready to go. There was no make-up testing because there was 100 percent attendance and everyone was on time. We don't know how many other schools in Florida could brag that not one child out of the third, fourth or fifth grade missed the test. We know that the commitment was made by the students, parents and teachers as a joint effort.

The general feeling was that the school did well. Many students said that the practice tests were harder than the real thing. We liked the sound of that.

We liked the sounds of children answering questions in the classroom, the hum of them working in the art room, their sweet singing in the music classes and their joyful laughing on the playground. Everyone could agree that the year passed quickly. It was full of discovery and pride in the things that were learned. The end of the year found us celebrating FCAT night, eating Donuts with Dad, and enjoying a Morning with Mom. At last there will be the Fifth Grade Graduation, and the welcoming of the new kindergarten students that will be coming to look at our campus for the first time. Our reputation is one of pride because of our commitment. We will continue our great traditions. We passed the test.

*Samsula Academy Administration*

The **first Monday** of the Month is Samsula's **Beef O'Brady's Night!**

## PULL FOR THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

Way to go Samsula!!! Miss Vola took the tabs you have all been collecting to the recycle location on April 12. We had 92 pounds of tabs donated to the Ronald McDonald House!!! That's a 9% increase over last year (84 pounds last year). Let's try to collect over 100 pounds next year! Please continue collecting the tabs through the summer and bring them in when we return to school in August. Please remember to only collect the small tabs (i.e. Coke and Pepsi products). Please do not include the larger tabs such as are on soup cans and pet food cans.

## Music / Movement



The Talent Showcase is **Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria**. We will showcase many talent acts performed by Samsula and Reading Edge Academy students. There will also be a visual art display that night featuring art work from every student of Samsula Academy. I hope you will join us for this entertaining event.

*Mrs. Elliott*

# Ins and Outs at Samsula



## Radio Panthers

The Radio Panthers learned how to build electromagnets, and then got to play with them! Although we had a bunny hunt scheduled for April 18, it has been moved to May 2, due to a conflict in scheduling. Hopefully, the bunny will be free to join us on May 2!



We are having a field trip to the TV station at Daytona State College on May 16, from 2:15 to 4:00. Be sure to ask your Radio Panther for the permission slip! We will be in need of a few drivers for the trip there and back. We are anticipating a reporter from the News-Journal joining us and writing an article about the Radio Panthers. Your student has a Picture Release Form as well as the permission slip. Our last remaining meetings will be May 2 and May 16.

~ Ms. Vola

## Art Class ~ Mrs. Luedeke

I hope to see everyone at the Samsula Talent Showcase on May 6th at 6:30 p.m. Along with the wonderful talent on stage there will also be a visual art displays featuring work from every student. This is a great opportunity for the students to have their own little art show with everyone included. If anyone is looking for great art programs over the summer we have some wonderful choices in the New Smyrna area. Here is the contact information for the local art programs. I hope you have a great summer and keep up your creativity.

**Atlantic Center for the Arts at the Harris House:** 386-423-1753 ~ **The Arthaus:** 386-767-0076

## Coach's Corner

Reminder that **Field Day is Thursday, May 26th!!!!** I need as many helpers as possible and this is a perfect opportunity to gain some last-minute volunteer hours. A flyer of what to wear, what to donate and where to volunteer will be going home with your students. Also, Field Day is a reward for students who continue to show respect and good behavior (SHINES). Students who are unable to demonstrate this behavior will not be invited to participate.

**SUNSCREEN CHALLENGE:** May is Skin Cancer Prevention Month and so I have a challenge for you!!!! Here are the rules:



- Every time you, your children or their friends wear sunscreen over the weekend (Fri/Sat/Sun) they get a point for their class
- Only 1 point, per person, per day – reappplies are GREAT but do not count
- In order to count it must be at least 15 SPF
- Your child will receive this form to take home Friday afternoon and must return it Monday morning to count.
- If I see a child that is sunburned I will TAKE POINTS AWAY from their class.

A note went home when the challenge began on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will end the weekend of May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that each slip must be turned in to the classroom teacher the following Monday. The class with the most points and healthiest skin :) will win a "crazy" party with Coach Carignan. The winner will be announced on May 11th and the party will be May 18th.

### Facts about Skin Cancer:

- ✓ It is the most common cancer in the United States.
- ✓ 1 in 5 people will develop skin cancer in their lifetime
- ✓ 20 people die every day from this type of cancer

## Tales from the Classroom



### Kindergaretn

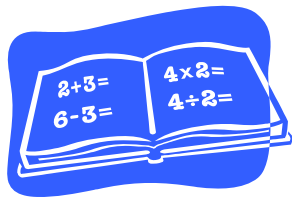
Can you believe the end is near? We are in the final stretch and we're ready to end the year with a bang! In May, we will be learning the short /u/ word families. In addition to our normal word families, we are also learning about letter combinations. Look for a short poem on how to remember the various letter combinations in your child's folder later this month. We are 15 sight words away from being finished! Can you believe your child will be able to recognize and read 150 words?

In Math, we just finished addition and subtraction. We will continue to review these concepts and all previously-learned math skills. We will review the following: patterns, ordinal numbers, odd/even numbers, money, time, and graphs. Please remember to review basic addition and subtraction facts with your child as often as possible.

The end of Kindergarten is a big accomplishment for both the children and parents. This year, we have themed celebration events in each classroom. Mr. Gibbs' class will be under the big top in a circus-inspired party. Mrs. Casper's class is going back to the Middle Ages in a knights and princess celebration. Information has already been sent home. If you are able to supply decorations, please let your teacher know. *Thanks, Mr. Gibbs and Mrs. Casper*

**Hello Samsula friends and families.** I cannot believe we find ourselves at the end of the school year already. Over the next month we will be reviewing and wrapping up the curriculum covered this year. We are eagerly awaiting our final field trip to the Ponce Inlet Marine Science Center on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for our field trip we will be learning about animals, their habitats, needs and behavior patterns.

In Social Studies, K-1 will look at what history is and the important life events that we have lived through and experienced. We will also study what makes a hero and some of the common characteristics they



share. In Mathematics, Kindergarten is learning a fun, hands/pencils-on approach to working with numbers called *Touch Math*. Each number is assigned a corresponding number of touches which makes adding and subtracting fun and easy, without moving objects or counting on fingers. The student's numbers on a page and their pencils do all the work for them while they either count up or down using their pencil touches. First graders continue to work with regrouping, focusing on subtraction and may even start adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers before the end of the school year.

In our Writer's Workshop we have learned how to write cooperatively in groups and partnerships and plan on creating our final writing project using all of the skills we have learned to create a multi-genre book. This book will have one overarching theme or topic and many different types of writing on that theme. It will most likely incorporate short stories, non-fictional selections, poetry and some collaborative writing. In Reading both K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are building stamina and expanding the skills they use while reading. At the end of the year we are planning and looking forward to our classroom award and promotion ceremony from K and 1<sup>st</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. As always, if you want more up-to-date information on the happenings of our classroom, check out our blog at [www.whenwelearnwegrow.blogspot.com](http://www.whenwelearnwegrow.blogspot.com).

I would like to close by saying how incredibly proud I am of all of my students for all the growth they have made in their learning over this past year.

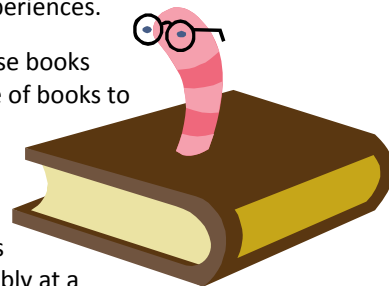
Miss Ellis

## First Grade

*Mrs. Meeks and Mr. Sweeney*

It's hard to believe that summer is just around the corner! First graders have grown so much this year. It is incredible that in such a short time, boys and girls change from teacher-dependent learners to confident, self-reliant students. Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Meeks are so proud of the progress the students have made and want to encourage parents to continue feeding your child's desire to learn throughout the summer. Teachers and literacy experts agree that children of all ages need to be read to or to read by themselves and to talk about books over the summer. When you read or talk to your young child about books, he/she develops important language skills, understandings about books and print, and knowledge about how stories are constructed that will help him/her to become a strong reader and writer. Your child's summer reading and book discussions will help him/her maintain reading skills, improve reading fluency, and learn new vocabulary and concepts. Following are a few tips for weaving language and literacy activities into your child's summer days:

- **Be a reader yourself.** When you spend time reading books on the beach or even directions for how to put together the grill this summer, you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.
- **Set aside a consistent time each day for reading.** Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon, or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around trips and special family events is OK.
- **Connect read-aloud choices to summer activities.** Before or after a camping trip, read your child a book about camping. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help your child learn important vocabulary and extend understanding of experiences.
- **Visit library.** Get your child a library card and allow him or her to choose books that interest him/her. Visit regularly so your child never has a shortage of books to read.
- **Allow your child to choose books for summer reading that are a comfortable level.** It is important for children to read about topics that interest them. Listen to your child read. If he reads smoothly, uses expression, and can accurately tell you what he read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. If you are having troubling judging, consult your local children's librarian, who is likely to be an expert at matching books to readers. In addition, teach your child to use the "Rule of Thumb" in selecting books: If he makes 5 or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.



- **Read a book and watch a video together.** Many books have been made into movies. When you finish reading and viewing, discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer.
- **Take books along on outings.** Instead of the DS or portable DVD player, pack books in your beach bag or picnic basket, and bring a stack on long car rides. You and your child can enjoy books together anywhere you go this summer.

Thank you for entrusting your child's education to us. It has been an honor and privilege to instruct them. Have a safe summer!

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## Spectacular Second Grade!

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It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. It is amazing to think how much we have grown in just one short year. This year we had the opportunity to be scientists, world travelers, authors, reading buddies, and much more. We have all grown tremendously in our abilities and we know that we are ready for what comes next.

Thank you to all of the parents for your support this year. You are your child's first teacher and we appreciate that you make school a priority for your child. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you and thank you for allowing us to spend this year with your children.

Even though the school year may be over, we know that we should never stop learning. It has been wonderful teaching a class that loves to be challenged, so we hope that you all will continue to challenge yourselves over the summer so the learning never stops.

This has been a school year we will never forget and we hope that it has been memorable for all of you as well. Remember that the website, [www.samsulasecondgrade.weebly.com](http://www.samsulasecondgrade.weebly.com), is always available as a digital scrapbook of the fun we had during the 2010-2011 school year. Have a fabulous summer vacation and we hope to see you all next year!

*Sincerely, Miss Bellotti and Ms. Gondek*

## Grade Three is the Place to Be!



Spring is in full bloom. Just look at the new butterfly garden! We had a great time last week learning all about ways we can reduce, reuse and recycle. We celebrated Earth Day with hands-on science activities: planting an extended butterfly garden, making posters, participating in guided inquires and making bird feeders. We have been enlightened and pledged to do our best to make our planet the best place it can be! In Science this month we will learn all about force and motion. Social Studies will bring a better understanding of the regions of the United States. We are also busy at work on our state posters.

In Grammar we are learning how to expand our sentences by using sensory words and adjectives. We will write about mud, design a new ice cream flavor and write an "Ode to a Shoe." In Math we are working division and will move on to geometry.

It is hard to believe that in a few weeks we will be coming to the close of awesome school year. The children have grown so much this year and have brightened our days. Each day has been a new adventure and we have shared a lot of laughs. We will miss you and wish you well on your journey through fourth grade!

Have a Magnificent May, Joyful June, and a Jazzy July!!! We are looking forward to seeing you in Awesome August!

*Sincerely, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Jordan*

## Fourth Grade Rules!

Wow! The last newsletter of the year! Where does the time go??!!

FCAT testing went very smoothly, with no absences – Woo Hoo! No make-up testing! During the week of FCAT, we watched “The Indian in the Cupboard” and are now involved with a creative writing project describing what we would put into a magic cupboard and the adventures we would have with our living item. We have some wildly imaginative ideas, such as a robot, Tinkerbell, a money tree and a math book. Make sure you read your child’s story!

We also watched the pilot episode of “Little House on the Prairie”. After spending so much time reading about and discussing pioneer life (The McIveys in [A Land Remembered](#)), it was interesting to see how pioneers lived and the hardships they faced.

We have also read [Bridge to Terabithia](#) and anticipate watching that movie during the last week of school.

We will be having some visitors to our classroom during the month of May, including Joel Wooster from the Marine Discovery Center to do a lesson on mollusks, and Sue Raichel and her therapy dog, Heidi. We are also looking forward to the Talent Show on May 6.

I would like to thank the parents and the 4th graders – you have all been so supportive this year. I have enjoyed the time I spent with the students and look forward to seeing them on campus next year. This has been a fun-filled, rewarding year.

Ms. Vola



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Happenings

Well the end of the FCAT monster was seen heading out of town, running like crazy trying to figure out how those kids at Samsula Academy could all be at school every day of testing. That monster thought it was going to hang around a few more days. We told him “head on, out, we’re finished with you until next year”. Fifth graders rocked the house on testing and we can’t wait to see our results.

Our Science Fair projects have been presented and the student that will represent our school at the Science Expo on May 13 is Loren Hill. We had a great variety of projects that were very well done this year. Congratulations to Loren and all the students on jobs well done.

Simple machines are found all over the school and the students spent one afternoon finding as many as possible in small groups. They had fun and learned how we use simple machines every day. Look for the roller coasters we will be constructing over the next week or so. The students are really looking forward to this assignment.

Our class has just finished reading the story [Avalanche](#) by Arthur Roth. It is a very exciting story and keeps you on the edge of your seat, waiting to see what happens next. After a few activities relating to the book we move on to another adventure story, [Castaway](#). The deadline for the Forty Book Challenge is May 13th. All the 5th grades that meet the challenge will have pizza with Ms. Ledger. Everyone is scurrying to finish in time. Hurry, you don’t want to miss a party.


Speaking of parties, the FCAT celebration for all the students that gave extra time and effort was a huge success. Lots of good times, good food and good fun. I am proud of all of you for making a commitment and following through. Way to go all of the FCAT prep participants!

As we wind down to the last of the year activities, students, take a long look at the friends you have, the memories you made and all the things that will be here to welcome you when you visit from middle school.

Happy last few weeks of school and enjoy your summer!!

*Ms. Ledger*

# May 2011

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8 Mother's Day	9 SAT 10 Testing	10 SAT 10 Testing	11 ERD SAT 10 Testing	12 SAT 10 Testing	13 Kindergarten Roundup 8-10 AM SAT 10 Testing	14																																																																																				
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