

Jaguar Journal

NOVEMBER 2017

WORDS FROM MELISSA KING-KNOWLES

Hi there Jag Community and Happy Fall! We have had a very exciting kick-off to the 2017-2018 school year and I am happy to report SMS is in the throes of our school routine.

I wish I could say this for everyone in our area. We count our blessings every day that the difficulty we encountered during Hurricane Harvey was, for the most part, short-lived. Many of our families faced the stress of mandatory evacuations along with the fear and uncertainty that comes with not knowing what the future has in store. Thankfully, we escaped the potential flooding of our neighborhood and school! However, not too far down the road, there are families and schools impacted. They still have a long journey ahead. While we are appreciative of how we fared, it is with a heavy heart that we consider others' situations. As a result, SMS has adopted a school from Spring Branch ISD. Spring Woods MS had a large group of families that experienced damage to homes, loss of property, and loss of income. We

have been working since our community event 9/8 to collect donated supplies, funds, and words of support for our sister school. Our PTO is even preparing hot meals to bring to families in the coming weeks. We plan to assist as we can throughout the course of the year in order to provide some relief. If you have already assisted in some way, we thank you for your contribution. If not, please consider helping out. You can contact our awesome PTO, Ms. Garcia, or me for additional information.

This is just one way that we are embracing being World Class. The 2017-2018 school year is the kick-off to this focus. We are taking the district mission to inspire and equip all students to pursue futures beyond what they can imagine, and the district's vision to graduate students who exhibit the attributes of the District's Profile of a Graduate seriously. This year we are defining what it means to be world class and how this aligns to our overarching FBISD Vision and Mission. Do not be surprised if you hear this common theme or if you

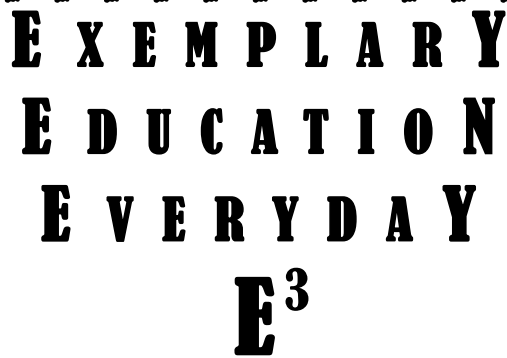
see it as a hashtag on our twitter page. I even encourage you to talk with your child about what they think it means to be world class as this is an ongoing discussion among everyone here at SMS.

Being world class is more than high achievement. It is also being aware of oneself and others, being compassionate and kind, being creative and articulate, and able to collaborate and work as a team to solve problems. We know that our students are capable of surpassing that which we can imagine for them, if provided with the tools to dream, to plan, and to act. It is always our intent to partner with our families to guide our children in this direction.

Thank you for your continued support! Speaking of support, I want to thank those of you who have been visible here at school- whether you attended our community welcome back event or whether through our PTO. Perhaps it is by supporting one of our numerous activities your child is involved with or by attending events like our games or performances. You might have come for

a meeting or a parent workshop, or even simply to have lunch with your child. We recently held our fall dance and I was so pleased to see our parents present. However you have chosen to be involved, know we are grateful. When we reference being World Class, our parents are a large part of the equation. Thank you for helping make Sartartia a World Class school!

As we move through the fall semester, please continue to stay involved and engaged. Check out our website for the calendar of events and come and participate with us; let us celebrate the wonderful experiences the students are having! Keep reading the weekly newsletter we are sending electronically each Thursday. Reach out to us if you have questions or concerns. Know we are here to work with you in educating our children.



EXEMPLARY EDUCATION EVERYDAY E³

ELA ADVENTURES

Coming up next for 6th grade in ELA is our fall novel study. We will be reading *The Watson's Go to Birmingham -1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis. In addition, we will read non-fiction and poetry that is thematically linked. Students will also read and write a persuasive piece.

Coming up for 7th grade, we will be continuing to examine expository texts and respond to them. We will also be starting our novel, *Redwall*, on November 10th. We will also write a persuasive essay this term.

In 8th grade, we're starting our novels this 9-weeks. Academic classes will be reading *The Giver*, and Pre-AP classes will be reading *Night*. We'll use these novels to connect to our persuasive unit and writing our persuasive essay. We're having a great year in 8th grade ELA!

MATH SOLUTIONS

The Math department is in full swing this fall! We are excited about our new math elective, Contest Math, taught by Ms. Hawco! We are also excited about our new Learning Management System, Schoology!

All math students recently took an assessment in the computer lab from Renaissance 360. The results of the assessment will be used to help determine the best path to your child's math success. Results will be sent home soon.

Don't forget about your child's online textbook resources! The online resources are a great way to find extra practice and tutorials for your child. The log in directions are as follows:

After students go to the FBISD textbook website and select their book, they will need to log into Clever first. This is a NEW step from last year.

Clever login:

username: lunchnumber

password: their computer password

(This is how they log into the computer labs at school.)

THEN they get to the textbook login:

username: FBISDlunchnumber

password: FBISDlunchnumber

SOCIAL STUDIES JOURNEYS

Texas History – 7th Grade

We started the year by studying the Geography of Texas and then moved into the Native Americans that once lived in Texas. We finished the 1st nine-weeks by studying the Spanish Conquistadors who came to explore and then conquer Texas. All students should have a 3-5 subject spiral to use exclusively for Texas History. It is best to have a plastic cover so that it will hold up all year in the lockers and backpacks of the students. We have two new Texas History teachers. Both have previous experience teaching Texas History. We all look forward to a great year!

6th graders in World Cultures and Geography are beginning their unit on culture, discovering what makes each culture so unique and their impact on each other.



Nurse News

Hey Jags! We had an awesome turnout at our annual flu shot clinic this year! Ninety-four flu shots were given!! If you were not able to take advantage of receiving your flu shot at SMS, don't forget to take the time to get yours. Remember Jag parents, if your student is ill please keep them home until they are well and free from fever less than 100 degrees before sending them back to school to minimize the spread of illness on our campus.

What is the difference between a cold and the flu?

The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. Because these two types of illnesses have similar symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms are more common and intense. Colds are usually milder than the flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations. Flu can have very serious associated complications.

How can you tell the difference between a cold and the flu?

Because colds and flu share many symptoms, it can be difficult (or even impossible) to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. Special tests that usually must be done within the first few days of illness can tell if a person has the flu.

What are the symptoms of the flu versus the symptoms of a cold?

The symptoms of flu can include fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue. Cold symptoms are usually milder than the symptoms of flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems.

Stay healthy and safe and don't forget to wash your hands!

Nurse Ferguson



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LORI'S COLUMN

**Lori Schweikhardt, Sartartia's
PTO President**



Welcome to the SMS PTO!

I would like to thank all of our parents who have volunteered in so many ways this year already. It is not too late to get involved! Look for the many Sign-up Geniuses that are sent out through email and sign-up to help whenever you are able. Interested in being on a committee? Please contact Hemali Rathod, our VIPS Coordinator, at hbrathod@yahoo.com to find out about our different committees.

Our incredible committee chairs have been hard at work helping SMS run smoothly. Thanks to Cecilia Yoon-Lee who has done an amazing job with PAWS for the Cause, our annual cash drive. Our hospitality team, made up of Cammie Delaune, Nichole Cole, Priya Vishwanath and Maha Ghazala hosted a wonderful back-to-school luncheon for our fabulous staff. Thank you to Saba Hussain for working hard to earn money for our school with Sartartia PTO merchandise sales at Jag Camp and throughout September. Jenn Pao is the planner behind our Spirit Nights including Freddy's and Panera. Our Fall Food Truck Night is coming up on October 24 and is organized by Susan Bourgeois. Chitra Krishnamurthy is our Shared Dream's coordinator and she is making a huge difference for FBISD students in need by collecting gently used clothing. The SMS PTO website is a wealth of information thanks to our webmaster, Sue Councill. Visit <http://sms-pto.org/> and take a look. A big thank you to Vibha Chopra, she is taking on a new position that seeks out corporate sponsorships for the PTO. I could go on forever listing volunteers to thank, but just know that however you volunteer to help, you are appreciated!

There are some easy ways to donate to the SMS PTO. Save your Box Tops and Coca-Cola codes! We collect them. Please cut out your box tops and bring them to the front office with your student's name and grade level and enter your Coca-Cola codes online. If you don't have time to enter them, turn them in too and we will enter them for you! The grade level with the most Box Tops will win a spe-

cial reward! The contest ends on October 27 and we will have another one in February. Consider participating in the Randall's Good Neighbor Program (SMS is #12137) and Target RED card program, who give back a portion of your purchases to the school. The Amazon Smile program is another easy way to help. Log into <http://smile.amazon.com/> and select Sartartia Middle School PTO. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchases back to the PTO. Click the following link to sign up for Shoparoo: <http://www.shoparoo.com/r/kunk8752> You just need to take pictures of your grocery receipts and Sartartia will receive money!

Our next PTO meeting is Tuesday, November 14, at 1:00pm in the PTO Room, 314. Everyone is welcome. Meetings are usually the second Tuesday of each month.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our PAWS for the Cause fundraiser, so far. It is our only big fall fundraiser! We don't ask you to sell anything or pay to be a member of the PTO, but we do ask that everyone donate whatever they can to our PAWS for the Cause cash drive fundraiser. 100% of your donation stays at SMS and will be used to fund the programs that the SMS PTO regularly pays for. It is definitely not too late! Please bring your form to the front desk at SMS or donate via PayPal using this link: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=28DVVR3TUM26E.

If you have not had a chance to volunteer yet, we will have plenty of opportunities coming in the next few months. If you have any questions about the PTO, please contact Lori Schweikhardt at Lschweikhardt@comcast.net

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SartartiaPTO/





Library News

Welcome all Jag Readers! The Sartartia library welcomes all of you! The library opens at 8:20 each morning. Students who want to read, complete homework, or work in small groups find a place in the front area. We also have a seating area with couches. Library visits are on a two week schedule for sixth grade Jag Discovery classes coming every other week. Seventh and eighth graders will visit the library once a month with their ELA classes. Students may have three books checked out on their accounts at any one time. Students with even one overdue book cannot check out at all, so I encourage students to keep up with their books.

We began the first week of school with sixth grade orientation. It's always great to see our new sixth graders look in wonder at how big our middle school library is compared to their elementary libraries. Seventh and eighth grade classes had a short orientation. After orientation, they scatter among the shelves to find a book or two to check out. It's so much fun to observe them browsing and selecting books.

All groups will be given lessons on how to use Destiny Discover, our new online catalog. In addition, we will highlight our databases. Usernames and passwords for home use of our databases will be posted on Schoology for several classes. Some exciting things are happening this year, especially with Gale databases "talking" to One Drive. Students also have access to an online bibliography aide, Noodletools. Students may register at <https://my.noodletoos.com/logon.signin?group=18757&cide=1977>

To register. User name: sartartiams Password: jaguars

Social Studies GT and Pre-AP classes have been coming to the library to work on their NHD projects. Each class schedules several library visits for either a research lesson or research. This year we are working to help students become "electronically organized" for NHD research. NHD keeps us in the library busy, but we love it! We learn so much as we help students with their research. I am always amazed at how well our students turn their research into such great projects.

In addition to our daily schedule, both before and after school, the library keeps busy. Before school on Wednesdays, the SMS Chess Club meets in the research area. On Fridays, the SMS Book Club meets. After school is busy as well. Mondays is reserved for robotics and coding, Tuesday and Thursday is reserved for Homework Help Lab, Fridays is reserved for Gaming Guild. On the first and third Wednesday afternoons, students from AHS Social Studies Honor Club will be here to assist students with their NHD projects. As you can see, we are ALWAYS a busy library! We wouldn't have it any other way.

Thanks to moms who support the library each week by volunteering in the library or the copy room! Our library workers are fantastic this year too! It takes a lot of people in a library that serves almost 1300 students each day from 8:20 until 4:20!



ORCHESTRA NOTES



The Fall Semester of the Sartartia Orchestra is off with a bang!

Our Beginning Orchestra classes have already begun playing songs and teaching their new skills to their parents.

We have an upcoming concert on November 2nd featuring the Sinfonia, Philharmonic, Espresso and Symphony Orchestras. It will take place at SMS 7:00 PM.

We wish our Orchestra Region Student best of luck at the Region 13 Honor Orchestra competition on October 21, 2017!

The SMS Symphony Orchestra was selected as one of two middle string orchestras to perform at the Midwest International Music Clinic in Chicago this December. We will be featuring our very own Andy Jiang as solo bassist. We are very excited to have Mr. James Drew, FBISD Fine Arts Director and Dr. Charles Dupre, FBISD Superintendent join us as guest conductors of this unique event. We will perform several of our pieces on the November 2 concert as well as the full program on our Farewell Concert on December 15, 2017, 7:00 PM at Austin High School. It is free and open to the pub-

lic. We hope you can join us.

Band Booms



Members of the Jaguar Band have been working non-stop since September 12 in preparation for their many performances and upcoming contests. On September 28, members of the band performed with the Clements HS band at the CHS vs. THS game, where they had a wonderful time despite a rainy end to the night. Since then, we have participated in both FBISD Band Nights as well as a master class in preparation for the upcoming region band auditions. On Saturday, October 21, all AHS and THS zoned students will participate in the AHS vs. THS game at Mercer Stadium, and on November 3-4, we will have Region Band auditions at Baines, followed by the region clinic and concert on November 11-12 for those who qualify.

The Beginner Band is making strides every day! All students are working on instruments now and should be practicing a minimum of 30 minutes a day at home.

We are anxiously looking forward to a great Winter Concert!

Art Corner



The artists are off! Our students have been busy exploring and creating and are jumping into fall with projects to match the season. Our 6th graders are getting crazy about pumpkins as they learn to draw and paint from observation. Our 7th and 8th grade students are almost ready to begin creating projects for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Contest. We have had students enter the FBISD Bus Poster Contest and the PBK Architectural Drawing Contest. We have many more contests on the horizon and are looking forward to another amazing year filled with fun, imagination, and amazing art.



The year is off to a great start. Students should be using Schoology, Quizlet and Duolingo as resources to advance their language learning. I am excited to announce that starting in the second grading period, students will also be using Thisislanguage.com. The school district provides access to this website which will allow students to listen to a variety of authentic Spanish speakers and get students used to hearing Spanish from other countries. It is important to understand that Spanish is used in many places in Texas. I encourage all students to keep their ears and eyes open for Spanish that is used all around us. I also want the students to take chances and use the language where they can. Learning a language takes time, patience, and hard work. Remember to have fun while doing it!

Hasta pronto,

Señor Wasserman y Señora Quintela-Fernandez



DRAMA



Theatre 3 will present a double feature on October 25 and 27 @6:30 pm on the SMS stage. SMS Theatre would like to show our support for Spring Woods Middle School by offering a special deal: For every non-perishable food item or personal care item donated, we will take \$1 off your \$5 ticket price!

The SeussOdyssey, comedy by Don Zolidis, is a silly review of Homer's Odyssey that will perform first. After a brief intermission Alan Haehnel's The Case of Alex Hansen, a dark drama about learning to forgive yourself and move on with life, will perform. Each show will perform at a contest the after performing at

home. The SeussOdyssey will travel to the Renaissance Festival on Nov. 7 and The Case of Alex Hansen will compete in the FBISD One Act Play Competition on Nov. 4. Be sure to tell the cast and crew to break a leg!



Thank You!!

The Sartartia PTO is happy to thank our wonderful sponsors:

Platinum: Signature Care Emergency Center, Todd Harmon Orthodontics, Humtumdesi.com, A to Z Dental

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Counselor's Corner

Welcome Back Jags! We are so happy to finally be into the 1st nine weeks of school! Hopefully everyone is doing okay and right along.

Your counseling team is here for you! ♥♥

6th grade-Mrs. Katherine Friedel

7th grade/Lead Counselor- Mrs. Tamika Ewing

8th grade/ Mrs. Rachel McCune

Please email your grade level counselor if you have concerns about your child.

How to refer your student for social-emotional concerns:

If you have social-emotional concerns about your child, referring is easy. You may email your grade level counselor with your concern, request an appointment via email, or call the Student Center at 281-634-6411 to leave a message with our department secretary.

Schedule Change Requests:

Classes are well on their way and students are learning lots of great new things! 🧠 Therefore, with the exception of requesting to change levels for core area classes, schedule change requests (electives) can no longer be made. If you have a concern with a class, core area or elective, please contact the teacher to discuss your concerns. If a level change is necessary, students will need to pick up a form to make a formal written request to be completed and signed by parents, teachers, and themselves.

GT Assessment Window:

The gifted and talented referral window is now closed. The window for assessment will be October 30-November 10. If you referred your child, please be sure they are in attendance during the window to complete the assessment.

Counselor Guidance Lessons:

Each grade level counselor will spend a significant amount of time teaching social-emotional lessons, Naviance lessons (college and career readiness), mental health awareness, ect. through out the school year. These lessons will be done inside of your child's classrooms, they may be taken to the computer lab for activities to complete, or lessons may be given to advisory teachers for discussion and completion. The fall semester's focus is Naviance (college and career readiness), Goal setting, Introduction to the School Counselor, Mental Health Awareness, and any others that may need to be addressed.

PSAT

The PSAT was administered on October 11, 2017 to all 8th grade students. Students spent time with Mrs. McCune, the 8th grade counselor, on what to expect on the PSAT and how to link college board accounts with Khan Academy (a great resource). For more information on Khan Academy, please visit their website: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Duke Tip

For information on the ACT or SAT for Duke Tip, please see their website: <https://tip.duke.edu/>



Got Sports?

The volleyball season has gotten off to a great start! Both 8th grade teams are currently undefeated and hope to continue that throughout the rest of the season. 7th grade is standing strong with A team beginning the year with a winning record, and B team remaining undefeated.

Each week, a male and female Jag Athlete of the Week is chosen for 8th grade and 7th grade, and then posted outside of the girls' coaches' office. Stop by and check out who gets picked each week!

Follow us on Twitter to get the updates of the Jag Athletes of the Week, scores, and more!

@smsjagathletics

Girls Basketball tryouts for 2017 begin November 6th after school at 4:10. Tryouts will continue November 7th and 8th at 7:00am. Girls must attend all three tryout sessions, have a current physical on file, and all online forms completed to be eligible for the team. Any questions see a coach in the girls coaches office.



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<https://sweetwaterobgyn.com/>



Yearbook

You can now purchase the SMS yearbook online from our Sartartia Home page. The tab is on the left of the home page.

<https://www.fortbendisd.com/sms>

Share your images for the yearbook with Imageshare! See how below!

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