



The RAYS Review



Sarasota Lutheran School, "A Ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church"

December 2008

CALENDAR

December

- 6-Christmas Tree Delivery
- 10-PTO Christmas Tree Lighting 6:30 PM
7:00 PM Advent Service
- 12-Poinsettia Sale ends
17-7:00 PM Christmas Program 1-8
Poinsettia pick-up
- 18-9:30 AM PS-K Christmas Program
- 19-Dress Down Days
Christmas Parties
- 21-Winter Begins
- 22-Jan 4-Christmas Break
- Jan. 5-Classes Resume

January 2009

- 5-Classes Resume
- 8-2nd Quarter ends
6:30 PM-PTO/Science Fair
- 9-Noon Dismissal
No Aftercare
Professional Day
- 19- No School
Martin L. King Day
- 20-School Board Mtg.
- 30-Dress Down Day

From the Principal

Why should I send my child to a private school? Why should I send them to your school? These are two questions that we often hear. Well, the answer is easy. We will provide your child with a solid education, a firm foundation in Christ, and self-confidence that will last a lifetime.

I was recently reviewing last year's SAT scores. (Remember we don't have to take that nasty 'ole FCAT!) Guess what? Every class from 1st-8th grade scored well above grade level. The 8th grade class scored post-high school level. Why? Because we teach them the basics. We aren't concerned with impressing any state administrators. We aren't worried about whether the state will decrease or increase our funding. Our teachers aren't forced to be on the same page as the rest of the 2nd grades in the county. We are free to use teachable moments when they come. We are free to develop creative ways to approach lessons, and we are free to enjoy our jobs.

Recently, the initial findings from the eighth grade phase of the *Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99* show that students in religious and independent schools score above average in academic assessments, and when compared to students in government schools, devote more hours to homework, and participate more in school-sponsored activities. Despite the extra hours of homework, students in private school still manage to devote more time to extracurricular activities. 85% of eighth graders in private schools want to go to college and 42% are looking at post-graduate degrees. (CAPE Outlook Newsletter November 2008). This massive study was initiated in a nationally representative population of students in public and private schools who attended kindergarten in the 1998-1999 school year. Researchers

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Show your Stingray Pride-
Put a Stingray on your ride!

Get your car magnets in the office-\$2 donation

100/100 WOW!

Positive, positive, positive-

We are encouraging positive attitudes and positive behaviors this year at SLS. Every student is on a team. We have six teams including the Parrots, the Hurricanes, the Mustangs, the Tigers, the Panthers and the Gators.

As of 12-3:

Parrots	92	Tigers	116
Hurricanes	82	Panthers	78
Mustangs	117	Gators	266

Keep up the positive work!

Check the back hallway for weekly updates.



Wednesday, December 10

6:30 PM

PTO's Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us at 6:30 PM for cookies.

Tree lighting at 6:45 PM

Advent Service at 7:00 PM

CASH 4 CLASS update:

We took 3rd place in Westfield Sarasota Square's Cash 4 Class contest. Thank you for supporting our school. We won **\$2,500.**

are still continuing to collect data from this group.

ACT, the college admission examination company, compiled more data. Private schools outscored public schools in English, Math, Reading, and Science. Average ACT Composite scores for the class of 2008 showed that private schools outscored public schools by 1.5 points. Public schools averaged 20.9, while private schools averaged 22.4. On average, private school students are meeting the college benchmarks and are ready for college level work.

On our end, we definitely see this trend in our Middle School. We have 7th graders writing papers that would earn an "A" in a freshman college English class. All of our Middle School students plan on attending college and a few would even like to earn a Ph.D. one day. What I find most exciting as an educator is that they have learned one of the most important life lessons. They have learned to think for themselves.

Blessings,

Mrs. Owens

PS- Please return the Income Survey. This will help me gather information for possible funding for our school. :)

PTO Chili & Pie Contest

And the winners are...



Pie Contest: Michelle Thomsen

Chili Contest: Joan Moyer

All of the dishes were delicious. Thank you to all who participated. If you were at the last PTO meeting, don't forget to stop by the office and sign for a volunteer hour.

Christmas will be here soon!
SCRIP cards make great gifts. Place
your orders today @



www.shopwithscrip.com

Middle School Stock Market Madness

Wow! In this, our very first year playing the "stock market game" our teams are doing outstanding. Under the guidance of Algebra teacher, Mrs. Ellen Gaulke, students first thought through what kinds of investments would be wise to make in this poor economic climate. She helped them think about where money is still spent in tough financial times. We may not get a new iPod but we will continue to pay the electric bill and buy mom's medicine.

Playing against 1050 other teams in the state of Florida, most of which are high school teams, we have consistently been in the top 10% of all teams and last week the team comprised of Alex Woodham, Bennett Eppinger, and Austin Fralin, was ranked 50 out of all 1050 teams (the top 5%). This is quite a feat for middle schoolers who have never competed in this game before.

We'd like to offer more "brain" teams here at SLS. We currently are searching for a Chess coach who could teach and encourage those students interested in learning and succeeding in Chess. Please contact the school office if you or someone you know, might help us.

PS. Their secret investment strategy included Campbell's Soups!



Get **THEM** WHILE they're **HOT!**
Stingray Reusable Bags
1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5

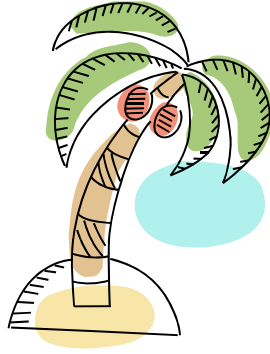


A Special Thank
You to Bill Blair
for painting the
middle school
room. It looks
great!

DON'T FORGET

Please turn in your Family Magazine Reader's Choice Surveys. This is free publicity for our school! You can answer the survey on-line @ www.floridafamilyliving.com

Save the Date



2009 Spring Gala
Silent and Live Auction

March 20, 2009

6:00-10:00

At the Polo Grill and Bar

Located on Main Street in Lakewood Ranch

Dress: Caribbean Casual



2008

annual poinsettia sale
november 24-december 12
pick up december 17

4.5-inch red or white flowers

\$7.00

6-inch red or white flowers

\$10.00



THE
STAFF
OF
SLS

WISHES YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR!