

A NOTE FROM MR. JONES

Dear Parents:

As we near the halfway point in our first year at Shoal River we are entering a very busy time. With the holidays coming, our students are getting excited about celebrating Christmas and getting a two week break. However, this is a very important academic time and we have to try to keep them focused on their work. This year, the state is requiring us to assess all students in reading, math, writing, and science at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. These assessments are in addition to FCAT. Between now and Christmas break, we will be giving the mid-year assessments to the student in math, writing, and science. The reading assessment, called FAIR, will be given when we return in January. Please encourage your child to do their best on these assessments as the data from these will be used to help provide individualized instruction for our students. One thing we have done to help lighten their load is to eliminate semester exams in January except for those classes being taken for high school credit.

I urge each of you to take advantage of the opportunities to keep up with your child's work at school. The easiest is Parent Internet Viewer, which you can access by going to the school district web site: www.okaloosaschools.com and clicking on the "grades online" link under "Quick Links" on the left of the page or you can go to our web site: <http://www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/shoalriver/>, click on "parents" then "Check grades online." You must have your child's student number which appears on their report card. You can also sign up for email notification on grades. This is available on the "Grades Online" page under "email notification is available." Please follow the directions carefully.

I want to thank everyone for your patience with us as we have gone through the "growing pains" of opening a new school. There have been, and continue to be, a few glitches which have to be worked out. Thanks to Jacobs Titan and L3, our school district partners in construction, the bugs are getting worked out and most issues have little effect on our daily operations. As for the staff, we are elated to be here in a brand new school and every day is a gift.

In closing, let me say that, in addition to being happy in our new building, we are also very happy with our student population. So far, this has been a very pleasant year with the vast majority of our students working hard in class and showing respect for each other and their teachers. We are very proud of our Mustangs.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

The Shoal River School Advisory Council (SAC) needs more parents! SAC is a state-mandated organization that is legally responsible to oversee and advise the school in areas of budget and curriculum. It is an excellent way for parents to have a voice in the current operation and future direction of our school. Our SAC meets several times a year and is a vital part of our school leadership plan. Please plan to join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, January 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the media center.** Meetings usually last about an hour. A bonus of SAC membership is the opportunity to have "inside information" on current activities and future plans of our school.

PARENTS BEWARE!

Recently, one of our parents came to me with a frightening story. Her child had "borrowed" her credit card and signed up for a pornographic web site. In addition, he purchased software to erase any record of what sites had been visited so he would not get caught. Fortunately, she did catch him. As a very concerned parent, she asked me to pass this information on to other parents. Please monitor your child's computer activities. It is very easy for them to gain access to inappropriate sites as well as to get into chat rooms with people whom they do not know. As parents, we are responsible for our children's safety and must protect them from the predators who roam the Internet. It is extremely important to know what your child is doing on the computer and where he or she is going on the Internet.

Students in the CHOICE Information Technology classes have been taking their IC3 Certification Test. The following students have passed all three parts of the test and are now fully certified: Koji Tilley, Christian Zoppina, Justin Witt, Charles Newton and Walter Jagielski. Congratulations to these students for their hard work in demonstrating their outstanding computer skills!



Technology Tips: Students in the Year 2 CHOICE IT class have been posting Technology Tips in the main hall. The purpose of these tips is to educate the SRMS community on current computer tips, hints and information. Stop by the board, located across from the computer lab – room 601 – and pick up some great pointers!

Web 2.0 Link on the SRMS Site: Look for the new page – Web 2.0 – which includes a list of interactive, educational and fun websites that are being used at SRMS. These sites can also be accessed from home.

8th Grade Disney Trip

The 8th grade class will be going to Orlando May 5-7 for the end of the year trip . The cost is \$400.00. This includes a 3 day park hopper to all the Disney parks, a Youth Education Series Programs, all meals excluding snacks, charter bus transportation and lodging at a Disney Resort. A \$100.00 deposit (\$80.00 is non-refundable) is due by Tuesday, Dec. 15. A payment of \$100.00 will then be due on Jan. 15, Feb. 15 and March 15.

Students may not attend if he or she has been suspended or have 2 more Discipline Actions or Referrals sent to the office or if they have more than 1 F on a prior nine weeks report. For more information on the 8th grade Disney trip, you may go to the Shoal River website. You may also contact Mrs. Caraway at carawayh@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us or 689-7229.

When you need to have a message delivered to your child or if you are checking your child out of school, please make these arrangements in the attendance office before 2:00 p.m. This helps reduce the possibility of missing your student and ease the confusion of the last minute rush. Thank you for helping SRMS run smoothly each day.



Thank you for your patience! Recently we have been experiencing ongoing difficulties with our phone system. We are working with Embarq to correct this situation. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

The Shoal River Middle School Miss Shoal River Pageant will be held at Crestview High School on January 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Entry forms are available online at the SRMS website, in the front foyer of the school, or from Mrs. Buis or Mrs. Caraway. Rehearsal for the pageant will be held after school on January 22 in the SRMS café.



The SRMS Student Talent Show will be held February 26. Entry fee is \$5 per contestant, \$10 for groups. Entry forms may be obtained from Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Clendennin or Mrs. Buis, or in the front foyer of the school.

The full color, hard cover first edition SRMS Yearbook is on sale for \$48.00. PDA ads (personal display of affection ads) are also on sale now. Order forms and the online ordering link can be found on the SRMS website.



Spring sports (softball, baseball, tennis, golf and track) will be here before you know it. In order to try for these teams, you must have a current physical and parent permission on file. Tryouts will begin after winter sporting events (basketball and soccer) conclude, sometime in the month of February. If your student has any questions regarding the sport for which they are interested in trying out, please contact that coach after the Christmas break to clarify any concerns. The coaches are as follows: Softball—Coach Tew; Baseball—Coach Gillis; Tennis—Mr. Moore; Golf—Mr. Barnes; and Track—Mr. Goulding.

The following SRMS Chorus students were chosen to participate in the Florida All-State Chorus: Eli Rogers, Amber Beach, Sophie Von Dem Bach, and Keidra Perdue. They will be travelling to Tampa on January 6th to sing with approximately 300 students chosen from around the State of Florida.

The following students performed in the Okaloosa All-County Chorus that was held at the Mattie Kellie Arts Center on November 2nd.

Treble Chorus

Madison Anderson	T1
Emily Jackson	T1
Sophie VonDemBach	T1
Taylor Adams	T2
Logan Alan	T2
Joslynn Aughtman	T2
Holley McDuffie	T2
Tiffany Odom	T3

7/8 Mixed

Victoria Wagner	S
Eli Rogers	S
Brooke Palmer	S
Amber Beach	A
Keidra Perdue	A
Brittany Pryor	A
Savannah Smith	A
Jeremy Phillippi	B
Donte' Arrington	T

The Shoal River Mustang Band is off to a great start in its inaugural year! We enjoyed supporting our football team throughout the season. Our final game with Davidson was a blast for us as we did a combined performance with Davidson and the Big Red Machine. There were approximately 500 musicians on the field!



Congratulations go out to 8th grade trumpet player Jacob Anderson who auditioned for and was selected to participate in this years' Florida All State Middle School Band. This is a huge honor for Jacob in that trumpeters from around the entire state auditioned for these 12 spots! In January, Jacob will travel to Tampa to perform in the All State Band. Also, the SRMS band had 5 members selected by audition for membership in this years' Okaloosa All County Middle School Honor Band. They are Jacob Anderson, trumpet; Joshua Williams, trumpet; Darren Smith, trumpet; Brandon Joseph, clarinet; and Ere Offley, percussion. Congratulations to these musicians!!

IS YOUR KID A GANG MEMBER? ONE CLUE: GANG CLOTHING...

The "gang look" is meant to intimidate those who are not in a gang. Children and teenagers who dress in clothing that resembles gang attire are showing an interest in gangs, will attract the attention of gangs, and could be putting themselves in extreme danger. In recent years children have been shot and killed by gangs simply for wearing gang related clothing. For the safety of your children, it is very important that you do not buy or allow your children to wear any item that gang members use to identify with the gang. Some of the current and traditional gang clothing and styles are listed below:

Gang Related Clothing and Styles - Boys

- Shaved, bald head or extremely short hair
- White oversized T-shirt creased in the middle
- White athletic type undershirt
- Polo type knit shirts (oversized) and usually worn buttoned to the top and not tucked in
- Oversized Dickie, Ben Davis or Solos pants
- Pants worn low, or "sagging" and cuffed inside at the bottom or dragging on the ground
- Baseball caps worn backwards (usually black and sometimes with the initials of the gang)
- Cut off under-the-knee, short pants worn with knee-high socks
- A predominance of dark or dull clothing, or clothing of one particular color
- Black oversized jackets, sweatshirts, jerseys, etc.
- Black stretch belt with chrome or silver gang initial belt buckle
- Oversized shirts
- Clothing a mixture of gang colors, black and silver or white

Gang Related Clothing and Styles - Girls

- Exaggerated use of mousse, gel or baby oil on hair
- Black or dark clothing and shoes
- Black oversized jackets, sweatshirts, athletic football jerseys, etc.
- Oversized shirts worn outside of the pants
- Oversized white T-shirts
- Dark jackets with lettering (cursive or Old English style)
- Baggy, long pants dragging on the ground
- Heavy make-up, dark excessive eye shadow, shaved eyebrows, dark lipstick, dark fingernail polish
- Tank tops or revealing blouses
- Stretch belts with initial on belt buckle
- Overalls not fastened



SHOAL RIVER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Non Profit
Organization
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Permit No. 49

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[www.okaloosa.k12.
fl.us/shoalriver](http://www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/shoalriver)

Media Center News

We had a fantastic fall book fair! Thanks to your support of our fair, we were able to get over \$1000 worth of new books for the media center. We were also able to purchase new Accelerated Reader prizes and order 53 new Accelerated Reader tests. For a list of the new tests, check out the media center page on the school website. Our page can be found under that Activities tab on the home page, or can be accessed directly at <http://shoalrivermediacenter.okalooschools.wikispaces.net/>. We'll be having another book fair in the spring. As soon as it is scheduled, the dates will be posted on our web page.



Our web page currently is displaying the policies for the media center, the Sunshine State Young Readers' Award book list, the Accelerated Reader prize list, a list of available Accelerated Reader quizzes and Suggested Series lists. We'll have links to reliable research sites added soon.

We are pleased with how many students are using our new facility. So many students are reading! Thirty five students already have at least 100 AR points, and over 500 students currently have books checked out. However, we are also having an epidemic of overdue items. Please encourage your student to be sure their checked out items are current with the media center before the holiday break.