

# MANE EVENTS

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VOLUME I, ISSUE I

OCTOBER 2009

## Shoal River Richbourg Middle School

### A LETTER FROM MR. JONES

Dear Parents,

After two years of dreaming, planning, and watching our school being built, Shoal River Middle School is open! It is really great to see students walking our halls and learning in our classrooms. I am in the halls every day and have visited every classroom since school started and two things have become very apparent to me. First, we have a great bunch of students! I see manners, good behavior, and students anxious to get to class. Second, we have an outstanding faculty and staff. When I am in classrooms, I see teachers are teaching, learning objectives are on the board, assignments are posted, and rooms look like places where learning comes first.

One important thing I'd like to share with you concerns the changes going on in education. As the saying goes, "This is not your daddy's classroom." In 38 years, I have never seen changes like we are having now. This is not a "trend," but is a quantum leap into educating our children to be ready for careers in a global economy. Teachers are becoming facilitators who provide students with the tools to learn, the resources to find what they need to learn, and then guide them in their learning. Differentiated education is a new term which means teachers adapt strategies that help each child learn instead of the "cookie cutter" style of one size fits all that most of us grew up with. I am very proud of how our faculty has embraced the changes and adapted to the way education is going to be.

In this first newsletter of the year, I want to encourage you to be involved in your child's education. Together, you and your child's teachers become a team with the student's future as the goal. Research has shown that children of involved parents do better in the classroom and on tests. We have many tools to help you now with Parent Internet Viewer so you can check grades online, email notification on grades, classroom phones with voicemail, and a great school web site with links to teachers' pages where assignments and teacher notes can be found. Please use these tools to stay involved.

Go Mustangs!  
Mr. Jones

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### S.A.C.

The Shoal River Middle School School Advisory Council (SAC) had its first meeting on September 22. Pat Connolly is the chairperson and Cindy Critcher is the new secretary. The next SAC meeting will be on October 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Shoal River media center. Parents and community members are urged to attend. The SAC is a state-mandated organization which is tasked with helping determine the direction and focus of the school. The School Performance Plan and budget must be approved by SAC each year as well as other items such as cheer and dance bi-laws and athletic tryout policies. To join, simply attend the next meeting.

## MANE EVENTS

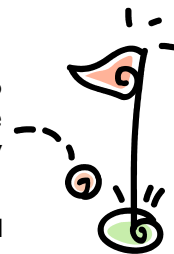
### SHOAL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2009-2010 Shoal River Middle School Boys Basketball team is sponsoring a golf tournament to be played at Foxwood Country Club on October 2 at 11:00 a.m. We would like your support through the purchase of a hole sponsorship. The hole sponsorship would display your business name on a tee box to show your support for our program. The cost of sponsorship is \$100.

Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. , with tee-off at 12:00 p.m. The format will be Florida low-ball consisting of four (4) person teams. Lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m.

Cost per player will be \$45 (\$30 for Foxwood members). Each hole sponsorship will receive one free player. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be given. All participants will be given a ticket for a chance to win a door prize.

Your support through a hole sponsorship or donation will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Coach Buckelew at 689-2597. Call and register your team as soon as possible so we can have plenty of good food!



### LOST AND FOUND

When you send your child to school in his coat or jacket for the first time this year, please check to make sure his name is clearly printed in the jacket. Each year we donate dozens of unidentifiable, unclaimed jackets to charity. If an item is turned in to lost and found and your child's name is in it, we will be able to return the item to him. Lost and found is located in the cafeteria and unclaimed items are donated to charity on a regular basis.



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. Please make every endeavor to communicate with your child before she leaves home each day as to how she will be going home. Messages taken to be delivered to students during the day run the risk of being undelivered, forgotten by the student or causing a classroom disruption. Help encourage responsibility on the part of your student.

## Notes from Guidance

### Pinnacle Internet Viewer

The Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV) provides grade and attendance information parents need to stay fully involved with their student's academic progress. The link is found on the SRMS home page under *Important Links*. To access your student's grades, you will need two numbers. The first number is the 10 digit student identification number. The second number is the Personal Identification Number (PIN). You can request that the school send the number home with the student. If you should have any questions concerning your student's grades, please contact your student's teacher.

### Email Notification Is Available

A feature within the Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV) allows parents to keep track of their child's grades by email notification. Simply sign up for the "PIV Email Notification" after you log in to the Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV). After receiving a verification email, you can download the Parent Email Authorization Form, sign it and return it to SRMS Guidance to complete the registration process. Please be aware that both the online request and the form must be completed in order for you to begin receiving emails. Contact Ms. Lamb in guidance at 689-7229 or [lambt@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us](mailto:lambt@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us) if you have questions.

### New "Healthy Relationships" Group Beginning

Shelter House, Inc., along with Ms. Lamb, will be facilitating a primary prevention program with a group of our SRMS students this fall. The group will meet on Mondays for nine weeks beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>. In order to minimize missed class time, the bulk of the meeting will be held during HORSE. The purpose of this group is to educate our students about healthy relationships and personal boundaries. If you would like for your student to participate or if you have questions about this group, please contact Ms. Lamb, our school counselor, at 689-7229 or [lambt@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us](mailto:lambt@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us).

## News from Shoal River's Science Department

All SRMS students are required to do a science fair project. The majority of the work for these projects must be done at home. Students will go through the scientific processes in class, before the projects are due. Projects should reflect student effort and understanding. A good project requires both time and planning. To encourage this planning a timeline has been established which breaks the task into smaller, more manageable tasks. **Each of these benchmarks will be part of your child's science grade. The science project assignments will be a part of both the first and second nine weeks grades.**

**Due: Wednesday, September 9th - Benchmark 1: Topic selected and approved**

**Due Wednesday, September 23rd - Benchmark 2: Research from at least 5 sources (Wikipedia is not a valid source).**

**Write 5 paragraphs about your topic your science project is about. Also, your Research Plan and Purpose is due.**

**Due: Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> - Benchmark 3: Variables & Materials List**

**Due: Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - Benchmark 4: Collecting Data – Data Table and Graphs**

**Due: Wednesday, December 2nd - Benchmark 5: Conclusion & Abstract - a summary that is no longer than 250 words**

**Due: Wednesday, December 9th - Data Book and Backboard**

**Part I: Data Book:** Your Data Book must be arranged in order according to science fair packet layout with titles on top of each page.

**Option 1:** It can be a bound composition book and written in blue or black ink. If you make a mistake when writing draw one line through the word or words. No white out is allowed.

**Option 2:** You may type it on the computer and put it into a folder. If you type it you may only use Times Roman or Comic Sans MS font style, font size is 12 and black ink. **The Daily Log section must be hand written in blue or black ink.**

### Part II: Backboard:

Your backboard should have color to make it stand out. Too many colors will make it look busy. It must be put on a tri-fold project display board **36 inches wide and 48 inches high**. It is suggested that all information be typed in a dark colored font and it be big enough to read from a distance. If you do not have access to a computer you can print the information neatly in blue or black ink. When gluing the information on your board Elmer's Rubber Cement is a good choice. If you use white glue be careful not to use too much since it will make it bead up.

### Backboard Layout on 36" X 48" Project Board

Purpose	Title/Question	Procedure
Hypothesis	Pictures (Minimum of 4)	Variables
Materials	Data Tables	Conclusion

National Junior Honor Society would like your help. We are collecting Box Tops for Education. We would like to raise funds to purchase books for our HORSE classrooms. Each coupon is worth 10¢. Please make sure coupons don't expire before June 2010. Clip Box Tops from your favorite brands which include General Mills products, Ziploc® and Kleenex® products. So tell your friends, family and neighbors to start clipping box tops. For a complete list of participating products visit the Box Tops Website at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com).



**MANE EVENTS****TESTING AND DATA**

This year, the state has initiated a reading test for all students who may be struggling readers. The FAIR (Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading) test is given to all students who scored Level 1, 2, or 3 on last year's FCAT. Students whose score indicates they are on or above grade level will have no further test. Students scoring below grade level will have a plan developed for providing additional assistance and will be closely monitored throughout the year. The FAIR is given online and the baseline test will be administered during late September and early October.

In math, there is also a baseline test given to determine if students need additional support. Like FAIR, this math test will help teachers develop a differentiated instruction plan for their students.

These tests, along with last year's FCAT scores and this year's classroom assessments give teachers and administrators a lot of data on student performance. We use this data to insure that each student is getting what they need to learn on their grade level. Information on struggling students is shared by teachers as well as strategies that work in the classroom. Data is being used to improve how we teach our students and student performance is the most important factor in decisions on how we run our schools.

**DIFFERENTIATED ACCOUNTABILITY**

Differentiated Accountability (DA for short) is a new term you will be hearing in our school system. Schools in DA have to meet certain requirements for analyzing student data, classroom instruction, and professional development. This is a part of No Child Left Behind and applies to schools that have not met the requirements of NCLB for two consecutive years. These requirements involve students making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and are not just applied to the entire student body as a whole, but students in each sub group. Subgroups include students in minority ethnic groups, students in poverty, and students in exceptional education programs. Every subgroup must make AYP for a school to make AYP.

While Shoal River is a DA school, we did make AYP last year. Therefore, if we make AYP this school year, we will no longer be a DA school. For more information on this, you may go to the DOE website.

**AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS**

While the traffic flow in the mornings and afternoons is going well, there are some issues with after-school activities including athletic. Please keep a couple of things in mind concerning after school pick-up:

1. Athletics cheer, and dance should be picked up at the gym entrance on the north end of the parking lot.
2. Band, chorus, and clubs may be picked up at the front of the school.
3. No one should use the bus ramp at any time to pick up or drop off students.

Anyone attending athletic games and any other events in the gym must enter through the gym lobby. The front doors of the school are locked at those times. If you are coming to an event in the lunchroom or media center, you may enter through the outside doors in front of the school. The band and chorus rooms have outside doors facing the front as well.

Please help us with this. We have only two night custodians to clean the entire building and the fewer people in the halls at night, the easier their job will be.

## **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

Should we have an actual emergency situation such as a fire, tornado, or lockdown, our campus will be closed until the emergency responders have determined the situation has ended or it is safe. This means you will not be allowed off of Redstone Avenue until they re-open our campus. We have a very specific and detailed plan to keep students safe during any emergency. You will be notified as to when and how you may make contact with your child depending on the situation. Please do not call or text your child's cell phone. During an emergency, students are forbidden from using their cell phones as this may hinder the emergency responders and may put them in danger.

### **Living with Children**

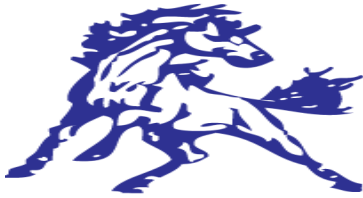
John Rosemond

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As this school year began, several teachers asked if I would reprint a column that first appeared about ten years ago. The subject is my five top back-to-school tips for parents.

Before you read, be informed that when I use the term "best students," I am not necessarily referring to those children who make the best grades. Rather, I mean those students who come to school prepared to pay attention, accept assignment and do their best, whatever their best may be. Here, then, are those tips:

1. Make it clear to your child that disobedience is not an option. Teachers consistently report that the best students are almost always among the most well behaved. Good behavior begins in the home, not at school and not even the best teacher can discipline a child who comes from home not already respectful of adult authority. Make the rules of proper behavior clear to your child, and when the rules are broken, enforce with a firm, even hand. New research finds that a child's level of self-control is positively associated with school achievement.
2. Assign your child a fair share of day-to-day housework. Again, teachers tell me that the best students are usually those who have daily chores at home. It makes sense, doesn't it, that a child who comes to school already accustomed to accepting adult assignment will have fewer problems accepting assignment from teachers? The more responsible a child is within his or her family, the more responsibility the child will demonstrate at school.
3. Limit electronic entertainment to nonschool days only, and even then allow no more than five total hours per week. The research is increasingly unequivocal: screen time of any sort decreases attention span. Learning from a real-life, flesh-and-blood teacher requires being ready to ask questions, being ready to answer questions, memorizing, conducting independent inquiry, transferring what you've learned to paper, listening to the teacher's feedback concerning your work and correcting your mistakes. As for television alone, a researcher once found that truly gifted children tended to watch no more than five hours of television a week. The national average is 25 hours per week per child, which is simply to say if you want your child to be average, let him watch a lot of television.
4. Be always interested in what and how your child is doing in school, but take care not to get involved in doing his work for him. There is a difference between interest and involvement. The interested parent says to the child, in effect, "I am concerned about your education, but it is ultimately your responsibility." The involved parent says, "Your education is my responsibility." Unfortunately, too many well-intentioned parents have unwittingly accepted/appropriated responsibility for their children's school work. The result of this parental benevolence is a child who has difficulty taking the proverbial bull by the horns. New research supports this low-involvement parenting model.
5. If and when your child's teacher reports a problem, give the teacher - not your child! - the benefit of the doubt. As a rule, teachers are more committed to bettering the welfare of children than any other class of professional. When a teacher says your child has a problem, academic or behavioral, it is with your child's best interest in mind. Curb the tendency to become defensive and listen with an open mind and an open heart. You may learn something that will help you become a better parent.



**SHOAL RIVER  
RICHBOURG MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Home of the Mustangs

Primary Business Address  
Your Address Line 2  
Your Address Line 3

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Fax: 555-555-5555  
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**www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/  
shoalriver**

## MEDIA CENTER NEWS

We are so excited about our new space! The new facility is beautiful. However, we are just as excited about our new books. Many new books were ordered last spring and over the summer and are now part of our collection. These new books include all fifteen titles off this year's Sunshine State Young Readers Award list. Students who read and pass the Accelerated Reader test on at least five of these books will be eligible to attend an ice cream sundae party in the spring. Check out the full list at <http://myssyra.org/> .



The list is also available for viewing on the media center page of the Shoal River website. To view our page, go to <http://www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/shoalriver/> . On the home page, click the Activities tab, then follow the link to the media center. Our page currently is displaying the policies for the media center, the Sunshine list, the Accelerated Reader prize list, and Suggested Series lists. In the near future, we'll be adding even more features to the media center page.

Our fall book fair is tentatively scheduled for the week of October 19. If you are interested in volunteering at the book fair, please call Mrs. Ward or Mrs. Lawrence at 689-7236.