October 20, 2024

Good Morning Chargers!

It is Red Ribbon Week! Please join us to celebrate “Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free!”  This week will be filled with fun days of dress up and important lessons with all our students to make them make healthy choices.  We look forward to a great week and for all the fun that will be had!

A screenshot of a movie schedule

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**Come Charge Ahead with Us**

**C –** *“Come on time, each day, ready to learn!”* (August)

**H-** *“Hold tight to kindness and caring.”* (September)

**A-** *“Anchor yourself in Honesty and Fairness.”* Who is the most important person to be honest with?  The answer: yourself! This week, talk to your Charger about what it means to be honest and fair to themselves before anyone else.

**Quarter 1 Report Cards**

Quarter 1 Report Cards will be released on October 23rd.  Please check your student’s report card in Home Access Center (HAC).

**Halloween is Coming Up at Patriot Oaks!**

Patriot Oaks Academy is gearing up for the Annual Halloween Parade- a parade as part of our fall celebrations for our elementary grades.

Our Halloween parade and class activities will be on Thursday, October 31st. The parade will begin at 8:45am and will conclude by about 9:15. Parents are welcome to watch the parade and are asked to gather in the drop off/pick up loops as all students will pass this way. No sign in at the office will be necessary. In case of inclement weather, we will have parents in the gym to watch. Classroom activities will begin after the parade and be completed before lunch unless otherwise communicated by your child’s teacher.

Parents who do not want their children to participate may bring children to school after the parade and parties are over, approximately 10:30am. Children will not be counted tardy, but we would ask that parents notify the office if this will be the case.

Elementary students may come dressed in a costume, but it is completely optional. Students must be able to maneuver safely in the classroom and not interfere with other's space. Costumes need to be non-violent and adhere to the school dress code. Costumes must be worn **OVER** school clothes so they can be removed and placed in a sack or backpack once the celebrations are over.

The following will NOT be allowed:

* face make-up
* dyed hair
* depiction of blood or guts
* masks (sports helmets are ok)
* racist or promiscuous dress
* weapons or facsimile of weapons (plastic swords, knives, guns, etc.)

A costume deemed inappropriate by a teacher or administrator will result in having the student remove the costume.

Middle School Students will have a “spirit day,” with details to follow.  They will also be able to cash in their PBIS points to attend the parade!

We are excited to continue this tradition with our students. We believe whole-heartedly that school is a place to learn, grow and celebrate being young! This will be a fun day for kids that I think they will remember for years to come.

See you at the parade!

**Middle School Open House**

With the school closures, we have cancelled our In-Person Middle School Open House previously scheduled for last week. We will send more information out soon regarding a virtual open house in the coming weeks.

**A note for 8th Grade Families**

Parents of 8th grade students: Be sure to check out the updated information with dates and informational links for all things high school academy related on our 8th Grade Parent Information webpage: [https://www-poa.stjohns.k12.fl.us/8th-grade-parent-information/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FIE6HLx2ZIUiMrcsW7D9ptA~~%2FAAAAAQA~%~~&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7Cc50ee3e12e5c44364fbb08dcf10f93a3%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638650296448848595%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9rkgDWm3T8D9%2F73r0h5vsf1obRWWinG3eeJrHyKYfZo%3D&reserved=0)

**Brave Buddies Group**

POA school counselors will soon begin the Brave Buddies Group. The group aims to create a sense of community and belonging for children, helping them navigate the joys and challenges of having a military parent/s while having fun and making lasting friendships. This group will provide a space where children can connect with others who share similar experiences. If you are interested in having your child participate you can email one of the POA school counselors.

**Honoring our Veterans & Families at POA**

Dear Patriot Oaks Families,

As we approach Veterans Day, we would love to honor and recognize the veterans in our school community.  If you have a veteran in your family, we invite you to share their photo with us.  Please include the following information:

*Name of Veteran*

*Name of student or faculty (relation to the veteran)*

*Branch of service*

 Please send pictures by November 5 to our PTO at [patriotoakspto@gmail.com](mailto:patriotoakspto@gmail.com).

Thank you for helping us pay tribute to those who have served!

**A Note from our PTO (**[**patriooakspto@gmail.com**](mailto:patriooakspto@gmail.com)**)**

* 8th Grade Families
  + PTO will be covering the cost of several items for your 8th grade student! This includes a class shirt, a class photo, and class treats at least six times throughout the school year. This is due to the generosity of our families and business partners each year through their support of our initiatives such as ChargerTHON and PTO membership, to name a few.  The first 8th grade class treat was offered in October.  The next treat will be in November.
  + *8th grade Class Shirts*: Class shirts, we are collecting shirt size as well as each student’s name (first and last) as you would like it to appear on the back of the shirt.  Please complete this [form](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FUcB3VbnYDoTuqQhu-l67Yg~~%2FAAAAAQA~%) by October 25.  If you do not fill this form out by the designated deadline, your student’s name will be listed as per enrollment and he/she will be given a generic size (adult medium or large).
  + *8th grade Yearbook Ads*: A new tradition begins!  POA is excited to announce the addition 8th grade tribute ads in the yearbook.  It is the perfect way to celebrate your child’s milestone of finishing middle school and heading to high school.  Please visit [www.yearbookordercenter.com](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2F8HitiA8M_k_P5qhXU5w_eQ~~%2FAAAAAQA~%&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7Cc50ee3e12e5c44364fbb08dcf10f93a3%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638650296448907858%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FDfLg5SHnuptSZOW2nAtT0cYRpxi5TJ151cdF2URKiQ%3D&reserved=0) and use the school code 14848.  Yearbook ads will be featured on the top right of your screen.  The deadline for ads is December 1.
  + *Please note*: The PTO will be hosting a semi-formal 8th grade dance. It will be held on April 13, 2025 and will be an off-site dance.  The cost of the dance will not be covered by the PTO.  Tickets will be sold.

**Week at a Glance, Week of October 21:**

* *Monday, October 21:* 
  + Red Ribbon Week: “Moana Monday” with your Hawaiian Flare!
  + MS Career Planning Lessons with Ms. Giannotta

* *Tuesday, October 22:* 
  + Red Ribbon Week: “Trolls Tuesday” with your wacky, mismatched fashion!
  + MS Career Planning Lessons with Ms. Giannotta
  + 5th Grade Marine Bioscience Research Center Field Trip
  + POA @ LA VBall

* *Wednesday, October 23:* 
  + Red Robbon Week: “Wish Wednesday” with your school appropriate Pajamas!
  + MS Character Chats during 2nd Period
  + VBall Practice after school

* *Thursday, October 24:* 
  + Red Ribbon Week: “Lion King Thursday” with your best Jags swag or animal print
  + Kindie 50th Day Celebration
  + 5th Grade Marine Bioscience Research Center Field Trip
  + MCA @ POA VBall

* *Friday, October 25:* 
  + Red Ribbon Week: “Red Carpet Ready Friday” with your best celebrity garb… or just wear red!
  + 3rd Grade MOSH Field Trip

That’s all for now Chargers.  Work Hard. Learn Something. Be Kind.

Respectfully,

A close up of a signature

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Drew Chiodo, Principal

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