October 6, 2024

Good Morning Chargers!

October is the season of “*all* the things!”  As many of our families know, October brings *all* the due dates, *all* the sporting events, *all* the tryouts, *all* the tournaments, *all* the tests, *all* the questions, and *all* the other happenings and, if we’re not careful, we will feel it all too! It is our responsibility to help you navigate this month with your children and families.  If there is ever anything you need, please let us know!

**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.”* This week, revisit the “golden rule” with your Charger.  Ask them how they want to be treated and then discuss what they can do to fairly treat their peers in the same way.

**School Safety Reminders**

This past week, we conducted an unannounced lock down drill during an inconvenient time of the day (elementary classes were outside and in transition, and middle school was at lunch).  The drill was a wonderful learning experience, and our students and staff are now more prepared to be safe because of it.  We have two reminders we ask for you to discuss with your families:

* During any drill, it is imperative that students remain silent.  This will keep students safe and help adults communicate quickly.
* During a lockdown, we have blinking lights that go off throughout the building: if lights blink *blue*, we’re conducting a drill; if lights are *red* we are going into a full lockdown.

**Dropping off items to the front office**

Once school starts, our staff is completely engaged in teaching and working with your students.  As of Monday, October 7, the front office will no longer accept any items for delivery other than lunches for students.  We appreciate your support and understanding.

**ChargerTHON continues to Rock ‘n Roll!**

ChargerTHON 2024 is here!!!

 We are Rockin’ with excitement to announce *Rock the Bank*! ChargerTHON 2024, PTO’s biggest fundraiser of the year starts now! Our goal is to raise $55,000 and we cannot do this without your support! We have exceeded this goal in the past, so we are hopeful we can reach it again! Meeting this goal helps us meet our budgeted responsibilities for this school year and allows us to continue funding amazing initiatives such as staff enrichment funds, school-wide movie license, technology items, AND our full calendar of over 20 events remaining this school year!

*If every student raises $39, we can reach our goal!*

Every elementary student who donates $39 (or more!) will have the opportunity to participate in games, drawings, and fun activities during school.  Every middle school student who donates $39 (or more!) will earn PBIS points to be redeemed later this year along with being eligible for lunchtime games and a drawing of their choice!

HOW TO DONATE?

All students have an individual fundraising page.  Visit [https://app.99pledges.com/fund/chargertho5](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FvRT8d3DBY9l5dAxv8DMpEA~~%2FAAAAAQA~%-gGYAmfQpj66UiBMZWlnaC5TY2hvdWVzdEBzdGpvaG5zLmsxMi5mbC51c1gEAAAAAQ~~&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C2d1d8cd8e7b94a4d65a308dce60f3fb8%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638638200403837144%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LdVn4hFOJ6gl6gLe2MYd8JQLeKCVYt4o3QJ8MnnGaxM%3D&reserved=0) to find your student’s pledge page. Share with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help your student raise money. Credit card donations need to be made through the link above; cash and check donations can be sent in with your student each day during the campaign. Please put cash or check in an envelope labeled “PTO - ChargerTHON” with the student’s name and homeroom teacher (make checks out to “POA PTO”).

Many companies also offer employee matching programs. Patriot Oaks Academy PTO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so check with your employer to see if your company participates!

WHAT ARE THE ROCK THE BANK PRIZES?

 Take a look at the full prize outline that is attached! We have items for individual students, staff and classes, plus our exciting school-wide incentives:

* $20,000 – Merch Day – students will be given their very own pair of rock star sunglasses.  Staff wears their favorite band or concert tee and jeans!
* $40,000 – Making the Band – Mr. Chiodo and our assistant principals and deans will dress up like the rock starts we know they are!  Staff gets coffee and donuts from Peace, Love, and Little Donuts!
* $55,000 - POA will celebrate like we have never have before!  Students will have their first ever pep rally to celebrate our ChargerTHON accomplishments.  Top fundraisers will be recognized on our “Chargers Court”.  Athletics and academics will be recognized as well as we look back on not only a successful fundraising week but, also, our 10 years as a school of excellence!

**Upcoming Open Houses**

Our Elementary Open Houses were a huge success!  Thank you to all our families who came and met with us last week.  On Thursday, October 10th, we will welcome back our Middle School Families.

**FREE Tutoring through Varsity Tutors**

Did you know that all SJCSD students can access FREE tutoring?  [Click here to learn how today!](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FWUD298sN6uArdKuTUXVckw~~%2FAAAAAQA~%2FRgRo48uBP0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPWg4b1o4U3RiQ2VrJm1hbD0yOWQ3NWNhMDQwZWE1NDc1YzRkYWJlYzJjZWQ0ZWIwODY3ZTA2NjUxMzFkMjA2ZGE3YjFhNDhlZWE3MDI4MDcyVwdzY2hvb2xtQgpm-gGYAmfQpj66UiBMZWlnaC5TY2hvdWVzdEBzdGpvaG5zLmsxMi5mbC51c1gEAAAAAQ~~&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C2d1d8cd8e7b94a4d65a308dce60f3fb8%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638638200403860569%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iYfOg5kQzbCMm795CJshsk4U5yZvIw50SIokyQmtXN4%3D&reserved=0)

**Resiliency Florida Initiative- Responsibility**

A poster of a parent resource

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**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.

**Battle of the Books Tryouts are coming!**

Battle of the Books (BOB) is a county competition that tests students on their knowledge of this year’s Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) books.  Students, third grade and up, who enjoy reading these books, may be interested in trying out for our BOB teams.

Both the third through fifth grade team and the middle school team will have seven members each (two of whom are alternates for the competition).  Practices for both teams will be held beginning in January, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45pm until 3:45pm.  The competitions will be held virtually in March.

Tryouts for the middle school team will be held Wednesday, November 6, at 7:50am in Room 613 (Ms. Stafford’s room). Third through fifth grade tryouts will be Thursday, November 7, at 7:50am in the library. If students are unable to arrive at school until 8am, please let Ms. Hudson or Ms. Stafford know. Students interested in trying out should stop by the media center for a permission slip/information packet.

**Week at a Glance, Week of October 7:**

* *Monday, October 7:* 
  + VBall Practice After School
  + Kreative Basketball After School
  + Girl Scout Meeting in Café Expansion

* *Tuesday, October 8:* 
  + Picture Retake Day
  + VBall Practice After School
  + PVA v. POA VBall

* *Wednesday, October 9:* 
  + VBall Practice after school
  + POA v LPA Football @ Beachside
  + Blue Chip BBall after School

* *Thursday, October 10:* 
  + VBall Practice after School
  + POA @ VRA VBall
  + Middle School Open House 6:00-7:30

* *Friday, October 11:* 
  + End of 1st Quarter
  + VBall Practice After School

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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