

Good evening Shark Nation!

We were honored to celebrate our most recent **AICE Diploma recipients** this past Thursday at our 'Royal' Cambridge AICE Diploma Student Breakfast. We welcomed dignitaries from around the school district, including Chief of Staff Mrs. Jamie Wyatt, to help us congratulate our Sharks who completed this amazing accomplishment. We'd like to say a special thank you to **Ms. Calenzani and our AICE Ambassadors** for all the hard work they put in to make this event a success. This was a very special event for our students and we hope to share video footage with the parents of our students soon. **Two-hundred twenty-five** of our students now have the opportunity to earn the Bright Futures scholarship as long as they meet the other requirements. We look forward to honoring even more students next year!

Please join us for a **FAFSA presentation** on **Tuesday, January 30th at 6pm** in the theater. Representatives from Florida Atlantic University's Office of Student Financial Aid and our school counseling department will share information regarding the new FAFSA application, scholarships, grants, loans, and more. All parents and students interested in applying for financial aid for college and/or seeking the Bright Futures scholarship should attend if support is needed.

If you plan on working on your child's FAFSA in person at this event, it is important to make sure you know that the following will need to be with you at the event:

1. Students and parents must have an FSA ID. To create your FSA ID, please visit studentaid.gov.
2. Also, it is recommended to bring the following documents: parents' Social Security Numbers; 2022 tax returns; records of child support received; current balances of banking accounts; and net worth of investments and businesses. Please reach out to Ms Riggie (suzanne.riggie@palmbeachschools.org) with any questions.

Save the Date for our **Advanced Coursework Night** which will be held on February 6th. Current 9th-11th graders can hear more from our AP/AICE teachers and student ambassadors about our accelerated course offerings as we prepare for course selection next month.

We work hard to ensure you are informed but we can always do better. With your feedback celebrating what we do right and suggestions for improvement we can make Spanish River even better. The **School District of Palm Beach County** wants to hear from YOU! This year's **School Effectiveness Survey (SEQ)** measures the perception each stakeholder has in our schools. This information is vital to our school leaders to advance the mission of the school district - educate, affirm, and inspire each student in an equity-embedded school system. Academic excellence and growth, parental involvement, school climate, and many other topics are covered by the SEQ. The link to complete the SEQ is <http://l.sdpbc.net/zzhix>. The window to complete the SEQ will remain open until February 9. We have attached a copy of the flier with QR code to assist you in locating and completing the SEQ.

As many of you are aware the **School District** has purchased **metal detectors** for all high school campuses. The metal detectors have arrived and we are receiving training and direction on their implementation. While we await the delivery and implementation of the detectors themselves, we have adopted a gradual approach to prepare our students for this addition to school safety at Spanish River. This week we began scanning IDs at all three of the entrances to our campus. Early in the week took some calibration, but by the end of this week our Sharks had adjusted to the new procedures, coming a bit earlier and being ready with IDs. We thank you for your support in those efforts. The next step of this process is when we will debut the metal detectors; this step is still in the planning stage as we continue to finalize logistics on that last step.

Any student without ID can inquire with their Suites or main office to retrieve a replacement. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we seek to continue to maintain a safe and secure environment.

The **PTSA annual online fundraising auction** will take place February 5 - 12, 2024 at www.auction4sharks.com. Save the dates to go online to bid on VIP graduation tickets, reserved parking spots, Amazon gift card raffles and more! Thank you to some of the auction sponsors including Pet Supplies Plus located in Regency Court and Aronberg & Aronberg Law Firm.

The Galleon, our award winning newspaper, is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 staff. We are looking for talented **9th and 10th graders** who would like to have their voice heard. Please see the application in your child's English teacher's Google classroom. Applications will close February 6th. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Delaney at suzanne.delaney@palmbeachschools.org

All members of **National Honor Society**: Please review the Google Classroom, listen to the morning announcements, and check Remind. You must review the information from our video meeting and sign the acknowledgment that you understand the requirements. **Failure to meet requirements will impact your eligibility and membership.** See Ms Donnino with any questions or email angela.donnino@palmbeachschools.org

Do you need **Community Service hours**? Want to earn them while watching Netflix? Do you love helping animals? Blessing Blankets made with Love is a non-profit that makes fleece blankets for rescues. They are easy to make, no sew fleece blankets given to local rescues so that every animal is adopted with something of their own. Materials and directions are provided. Any questions, please email angela.donnino@palmbeachschools.org.

This past Friday, we paid tribute to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust with a video created by students as we do each year. This year the video's theme was connecting this tragic historical event to the Spanish River community. Students and teachers alike were included - we had three students, **Emelyn Greenfeld**, **Sydney Kreitman**, and **Lilah Minton** introduced our students and staff to their families stories as survivors and their legacies and teachers Ms. Kingham and Mr. Studley talked about their experiences visiting some of the camps in Europe and the lessons they learned. We also had poetry read by **Ariel Savitch** and **Adam Fernandez** and performances by our band and chorus. Thank you to all that participated in this important and impactful event.

This past weekend, our **student government leadership** took part in the District 5 (D5) Rally. Please congratulate our amazing Sharks for their wins at the D5 Rally:

Rita Okwor placed 2nd in the speech competition; **Claire Kain** placed 2nd for her hall of ideas project; **Citizenship Development project** led by **Jayden Loyacona** and **Raichel Weisheit** placed 1st; **Environmental Concerns** project led by **Carina Tomulescu** and **Stella Lodge** placed 2nd; **Faculty and Staff** project led by **Stamatia Zaperaegos** and **Talia Katz** placed 2nd; Fundraising project led by **Noam Erez** and **Allison Schapiro** placed 2nd; Health and Safety project led by **Dylan Moody** and **Matthew Portmess** placed 1st. On top of all of those recognitions - **for the second year in a row Spanish River was named as the D5 Council of the Year!**

Students interested in being a part of the **Psychology Honor Society** need to join the google classroom (class code: 43z3wnn) and complete the google form to apply by January 31st. If you were already accepted this year, you do not need to re-apply; however, if you were a member in past years and have not yet re-applied, you need to do so. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Salzman at jessica.salzman@palmbeachschools.org.

A general reminder to all **prospective spring sport athletes**: please make sure your Aktivite packets are complete. They can be accessed and completed at aktivite.com. Please reach out to AD Suarez or Asst. AD Youell with any questions.

Quick Glance this week at River - SPORTS

(Note - DH = doubleheader, TH = tripleheader)

Monday, January 29th - Girls Basketball DH hosts Garcia (JV 5:30, Varsity 7:00, HOME, John Jones Court)

Tuesday, January 30th - Water Polo DH visits Palm Beach Central (Girls 6:30, Boys 7:30, Wellington Aquatic Center)

Wednesday, January 31st - Boys Basketball DH visits Oxbridge (JV 5:30, Varsity 7:00); Girls Varsity Basketball hosts Somerset Academy (8:30 pm, John Jones Court); Wrestling Dual Meet at St Andrews

Thursday, February 1st - **NOTHING SCHEDULED**

Friday, February 2nd - Boys Basketball visits St Andrews (JV 5:00, Varsity 6:30); Wrestling at the County Tournament

Saturday, February 3rd - Water Polo DH hosts West Orange High School (Girls 12:00 pm, Boys 1:00, Boca High School pool)

Quick Glance this week at River - College Visits and Other School-Wide Events

Monday, January 29th - National History Day (all day)

Tuesday, January 30th - University of Albany visit (9:00 am); Nova Southeastern University visit (10:00 am)

Wednesday, January 31st - *NOTHING SCHEDULED*

Thursday, February 1st - Comillas Pontifical University Visit (11:00 am)

Friday, February 2nd - Second Quarter Honor Roll Celebration

Saturday, February 3rd - *NOTHING SCHEDULED*

***Instructions to attend our college visits: Juniors and seniors can sign up for college visits by joining the College Counseling Google Classroom. The code to join is zfhborc. Please complete the Google Form for the visit(s) you wish to attend.*

Let's make it a great week, Sharks!

Your proud principal,
Mrs.Castellano