



# FLiP Times

FLPS Student Newsletter

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 2022

- 10/5 School Closed  
Yom Kippur
- 10/10-14 Fire Prevention Week
- 10/10 School Closed  
Columbus Day
- 10/12 PSAT Test  
Grade 11 ONLY
- 10/14 School Picture  
MAKE-UP Day

### NOVEMBER 2022

- 11/7-8 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period  
Exam Reviews
- 11/9-10 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period  
Exams  
**No Homework Help**
- 11/10 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking P.
- 11/11 School Closed  
Veterans Day
- 11/14 School Closed  
Teacher Work Day
- 11/21-25 School Closed  
Thanksgiving Holiday

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**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER**  
**1<sup>st</sup> edition / 2022-2023**

## What happened to the Leopard?

By Vladimir Toussaint

Over the summer, a school stuffed animal snow leopard, went mysteriously missing. It is still an ongoing mystery. The stuffed animal, one of the 'Big Cats' elementary learning groups are named after at Fort Lauderdale Prep, had been on display for quite a few years and this one disappeared over the summer. It could not be found, and there was no explanation as to where it may be. Was it misplaced? Was it stolen? Was it inadvertently thrown away? These questions all remained unanswered.

It went missing in July, close to the beginning of the school year. Only the year-round staff were here over the summer. A majority of the staff reported that they walked past the stuffed animals on a regular basis and did not even notice that it was gone. A few stated that it took them some time to realize that the snow leopard was missing.

There's no culprit at this time, however, the snow leopard remains missing. One could conclude that it may have gotten up and walked out the school or the other stuffed animal was jealous of his rich beautiful white fur so they decided to take measures in their own hands. People in the school may never know what happened.

The snow leopard was replaced with a new snow leopard, before school started.

The mystery of the missing leopard still remains unsolved. Even though the new Leopard cannot replace the old one, it will be great addition to the family here at FLPS. So with that being said, welcome new leopard!



## Giving back - with a purpose

By Kyandre Willie

Have you ever wondered what community service is and why students do it? Or even wondered how the students felt about it? Community service allows students to apply academic lessons in the real world and to do their duties as a young citizen by giving back to their community. To receive a Florida high school diploma one of the things you need is 160 hours of community service. Community service is work done by a person or group of people that benefits others. Community service allows students to be active within their community while making a positive impact on society.



Students were questioned about the community service process at their school, if they enjoyed working and helping others, and how big of an impact did working and helping others has had on their own life. A majority of the students at the school students don't work as most students do, however, they stated that once they started they were elated. The students who were assigned to community service stated that they would help teachers and staff in the school by assisting the teacher in the classroom with the younger students. The students all stated that would help assist students with the assignments in the class room or work with the students on their behavior. These students felt that the younger students look up to them as a role model. Some students at the school who have not begun to complete their hours are eager to start. They went on to say that it helps then gain a sense of responsibility and makes them feel more mature.

It is imperative that students not only have lessons in the classroom but can transfer what they have learned in their lectures in the real world. When the students participate it not now helps them grow, it also helps our community.

## New kids... A welcoming change of environment

By Job Celicourt

"Hey what's your name?" That's what many new kids hear when they attend a new school. Starting at new school can be scary and nerve-racking. I too was once a new student and I know the feeling that comes over you when being place in an unfamiliar environment. Being new, one must become familiar with the rules at the school, how to maneuver through the day, and not feel odd. It takes time to adjust to a new environment and for some students it takes longer.

Although most student return year after year there are always a few new faces each year.



It is easy to identify them as they stand out, or tend to start off sitting by themselves.

Because I have been here for years it was easy for me to identify them and I took the time to speak with a few of them for this article. Some of the students stated it felt awkward at first but that they were adjusting to the new school. A majority expressed that they missed their old school but were willing to give this new school a chance. One of the students commented that "they feel as if the people and students are really helpful and nice." Another one felt as if the school rules were great, and the uniform is better than the other schools in the area." Despite the mix emotions all were excited to see what the new school year has to offer.

In conclusion, our new students are still adapting to their new school and some have even began to make new friends. As a returning student, and FLP Student Ambassador at times, I have begun to speak with them, trying to help them feel more comfortable. So the next time you pass a new student in the hallway or see them sitting by themselves, make an effort to welcome them to FLPS. We are all family here!

## The New Keypad: Good or Bad investment?

By Malachi Merchant

This year we've got some new security features throughout the school building, some pretty advanced. There is now a keypad on the Rm. 2 door, new window covering, new cameras, and even new door handles on all of the classroom doors that work in an interesting way. But the most interesting of them all to me is the new key pad placed on the outside die door. Most of the teachers think that it's a great addition to the school, and they know it's for their safety and the safety of the students. Even some of the students think that it's a great added security to the school.



The new keypad was added by the school to add to the existing security features and to meet or exceed some new recommended additional safety features. The Broward County Sheriff's Office did their once a year walk through before school began and while they liked what they saw, they also had a few new recommendations, all of which the school put into place. From my interview with Mr. L and Mrs. Kelly they both were saying the same things about the importance of safety and security in schools. Ms. Dykens, the Science Teacher also made a good point when it they came to the door. She stated that "the keypad on the door is good for security but it also helps with the traffic coming in and out of the building by students. She said that it would help to reduce the number of students in that hallway at the same time".



I also did some research on the most recent school shooting that happened here in Florida. On February 14, 2018 an expelled student entered Parkland, Florida's Marjory Stillman Douglas High School and opened fire, killing 17 people and wounding 17 others, in what became at the time was the deadliest shooting at a high school in United States history but after that, sadly there have been an increase of shootings in a few different states. The most recent shooting happened at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. This shooting was so deadly that it was on par with the shooting that happened in 2012, when a gunman shot and killed 26 people as young as 6 years old at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Knowing these things many county offices and police organizations have taken a bigger lead in inspecting schools. With the increase in the school shooting around the country the preventative methods is need in all school, including FLPS.

The keypad is something we need for our safety even though some students think otherwise. School shootings are not a joke, they can happen anywhere and anytime. It can be totally unexpected. So it's good when schools make changes to increase student safety and security.





# FLiP Times

## BACK2SCHOOL NIGHT

By Saby Eugene

What is Back2School Night? Back2School Night is an event where parents and other family members have an opportunity to check out the classrooms, meet faculty members, and discover what's in store for the upcoming school year. This year open house took place in the evening of September 7<sup>th</sup>. The lower grades, K-6<sup>th</sup> were divided into two sections based on which 'big cat' group each student was in. The upper grades, 7-12<sup>th</sup>, had their own mini-class schedule to follow allowing those parents to see a full day of classes in under 90 minutes. While with those teachers, parents received a general overview of the curriculum and were told about the class rules and expectations. During this time the parents are following the child schedule and able to meet and interact with their child's teachers which helped them get a better idea of what their child's typical school day was like.

During Back2School night teachers do not meet individually with parents to discuss children. If parents want to have a Parent/Teacher conference, there was a signup sheet at the front desk for that. Parents are not required to attend, however attendance is strongly encouraged due to the fact they can benefit from meeting parents. Parents are informed via email and also get a courtesy call reminding them of the event.

The faculty were excited about the event for they are able to meet with the students' parents. Ms. Trujillo, a Kindergarten teacher at FPLS, stated: "I am excited to meet the families and for the parents to see their child's classroom and learn more about what their child has been doing."



This years Back2School night was a great success with almost 2/3rd of the parents in attendance.

Since the schools beginning in 1986 this has been a yearly tradition and the school plans on continuing with the event and hopes that every year it gets better and better. Parental involvement is important for their children to be successful. With everyone involved, parents and teachers students all have a better chance of achieving their dreams and goals.



## Technology & Learning

By Akeem Simpson

In this ever growing world, there has been a vast need for technology. From cell phones to computers, everyone uses technology on a regular basis. Schools have moved from regular chalk board smart boards and flat screens and from typewriters to computers. Here at FLPS we integrate technology in the curriculum. Students must have some sort of knowledge of computers and their uses. Students need a computer to access the school's homework website and to access their email for information from their teachers.

Teachers, staff and administrators all use technology on a regular basis. They utilized technology to communicate with our parents; they also rely on the technology to input grades, provide attendance, and daily (behavior) and progress reports. Teachers find that the technology makes teaching less stressful. Teachers reported that despite the students writing in their planner, the use of the technology for homework posting is a great idea. It is an added resource for students as well as parents to know what is required for the students while they are at home. Technology can also be used by staff at teachers to show content on the large flat screen TVs in all classrooms and to present lessons to the class.



It is beneficial for students to have access to technology. The school provides each classroom with as many laptops as they need. Some of the students have Florida Virtual School as a course and the students are able to work on them during the period that is assigned. This allows the students who do not have access to computer at home to complete the needed assignments. There are also students who stay after for homework help and they are also able to use the computers during the time. The students at the school find that technology in school and having access to it benefits them tremendously.

The school also offers a course in Computer Science taught by the technology teacher Mr. Almanzar. His curriculum consists of teaching the students how to type for speed and accuracy, how to create documents using Microsoft Office, as well as to introducing the students to virtual reality assimilation where students are able to experience the world without leaving the classroom. Once those basic skill are in place, students next learn PowerPoint so they can create presentations. Mr. Almanzar expresses that "technology is used to enhance the learning by adding other elements that can make it more interesting and fun".



Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School is moving in the right direction when it comes to the use of technology in classrooms. They are at the forefront of learning and are preparing the students for the future. When students leave the school that are not only prepared for the real world but also are equipped with the tools to be successful.



## Food for the soul!

by Pre'Niya Green



For students, lunch time is the second best part of the day, aside from going home or physical education class. For most students it is where you have the time to socialize or just stay to yourself and give your brain a break from previous classes. However, the main purpose of lunch is for you the student to provide nourishment to the body and rejuvenate the mind. After you eat, some students use this time to talk with their friends while other use it as a way to secretly complete homework that's due that same day for the upcoming class. Either way, lunch is pivotal and necessary for the students' health and well being.

Traditionally, some schools provide the students with lunch. However, since the pandemic, schools have cut back on providing lunches to avoid the students having close contact and potential exposure to COVID viruses. Students at FLP either bring their lunch from home or they can buy it from the school food trailer. The school offers pizza on Fridays. The students at the school enjoy that as an alternative to them bringing their own food.

Since the beginning of the 2022 -2023 school year, the school is again allowing students to use microwaves to heat up their food. Moreover, the students have a variety of options to choose when purchasing food from the school. These purchases ranging from the pizza, to hot pockets, to breakfast sandwiches, to Jamaica Patties, ice-cream, chips, etc. \$6 gets you 2 slices of pizza, snack and a beverage. "We do not participate in any federal food programs so we don't provide free lunch" said Ms. Dykens. In the past the food was provided by a catering company and a list was sent out to the parents. The parents would select the food for the child and would pay in advance. However, this way of providing lunch faded away due the child not eating the food that was being provided. Students like that they are able to bring their own food to school. It's their own choice of food so they are more likely to eat it. So with that in mind, next time you are having your lunch, "bon appétit"!

## Wakanda Forever by Zaria Thompson

On January 29, 2018, the world was introduced to the first black superhero, Black Panther. It was huge success and broke box office records. Since then, there was huge anticipation for the sequel. With the passing of the actor Chadwick Boseman, it was unknown if the sequel was going to be released. To all the fans surprise, they released the trailer for the sequel and announce the date that the movie would hit the theaters.



In the trailer there is someone wearing the suit, but they don't say if it's Black Panther or not. It also shows that there is new villain and the celebration of life for the actor who played the Black Panther. Suspense is high as everyone wants to know who the next Black Panther will be. Someone wearing the suit, but they don't show if its Black Panther is a male or female. Some speculate that it may be his sister Suri or that they might resurrect the Killmonger character. After watching the trailer, the new movie looks like it will be good. In the teasers it shows a new plot in the movie and lots of action.

The first movie's villain was Killmonger, but now it seems like its other tribal groups and the government. There is a lot going on in the trailer and a lot to take in. They may have moved places or there are new areas of Wakanda that they are showing us, also a lot of new characters and places we haven't seen. A good amount of familiar faces can also be seen too. Like the last movie, there is are a lot of fighting and intense scenes. The technology looks like it has improved a lot and there might be new suits. I'm not sure if I'm more excited or disappointed that Chadwick isn't in the new movie, but I know that it won't ever be as good as it could be without him. I'm not sure why they still released it, maybe it's to make more money off of it, or if it's to release it just because they feel like it. There were a lot of unexpected events happening in the trailer. This movie will definitely keep you entertained and at the edge of your seats.

Several students and staff have mentioned that they are excited for movie and cannot wait to watch it. With all the hype behind that the trailer it is expected to supersede the original and when it hits the theater.



## Student Clubs

by Imani Burris-Cameron



Student Clubs and extracurricular activities were created to allow students to become more comfortable with others. Also, it establishes better communication skills

and connections between the students and teachers. Extracurricular involvement will also look great on your school transcript. It will give colleges some insight into what the students like and dislike and what you like to do in their spare time which can also aid in finding a major in college. Fort Lauderdale Preparatory has had many different clubs over the years. Some of the clubs that Fort Lauderdale Preparatory has had are Speech & debate, jewelry making, drama and poetry, board games & bingo and a new one this year called the Harry Potter club.

Fort Lauderdale Preparatory started having clubs around fifteen years ago. Clubs are always on Wednesdays and they rotate between periods. Clubs usually start during 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period. They are a full period, once a week.

While interviewing students, many of them had the question of why student clubs were during the school time and not after. Mr. Lonstein stated that, "Many students would get picked up early and miss it, so it was decided that it would be best to have clubs during the school time." Another question I asked Mr. Lonstein was, "How did the teacher go about getting clubs assigned to them" and he stated teacher select a club they are interested in running and student get to choose between the clubs offered.

Some students were interviewed and asked about the clubs during the 2021-2022 school year. Most students said that clubs were something that they looked forward to and it was one of their most enjoyable parts of school. One student that was in science club said, "I liked science club and I learned how to build a rocket, which was really cool." "I can't wait to have it again." A jewelry club student stated, "I love jewelry so being able to spend a whole class period making jewelry with my friends was so fun." The students at Fort Lauderdale Preparatory enjoy clubs because it is a time for them to connect, learn new things and have fun all in one place. Many students are very excited for clubs to start back up again.

Being able to interview students and learn why they picked the club that they did the year prior was amazing. One student stated to me that they loved acting and being able to be in a space with other people that shared the same interest as them was great. As an FLPS student, I am so excited for this new school year and this year's clubs. This year's continuation of clubs will be great for both the students and teachers because they will be able to get the chance to connect and make memories.



## Honor Roll - What it Means to be an FLPS Scholar

By Messiah Soka

"Oh my G-d my baby got Honor Roll" says the proud parent of a Honor Roll student. Honor Roll can mean many things for different people. For some, getting on Honor Roll can get them money or a gift from teachers and staff. For others, it could help build their confidence and make them feel better about themselves. It can also mean that it can create an easier path when come to getting into college and finding a job. None the less, Honor Roll is an amazing accolade and a great achievement for students.



At FLPS, students have opportunity to earn several difference types of honors: Director's Honor Roll, Headmistress Honor Roll, and the Honor Roll. The Director's Honor roll is given to students who earn all grades of A's for the marking period. There is also the Headmistress Honor Roll for students with all

grades of A's plus one grade of a B. Then finally there is regular Honor Roll. all A's and B's. At FLPS we also acknowledge those who were close to making it and categorized by Honorable Mention. FLPS has 6 marking periods and one Honor Society ceremony towards the end of the school year. Ms. Kelly Lonstein, the Headmistress, stated "she likes to recognize students who do well even if they don't make all A's." I agree that is a good way for students to feel better for themselves especially if they get close. Earning Honor Roll though isn't easy. "You have to be consistent," says Vladimir Toussiant, one of FLPS seniors and 2021-2022 Honor Roll recipient.

With hard work and consistency students are able to earn a place on one of the school Honor Rolls. At FLPS, our teachers strive to push and motivate us to do our absolute best, no matter the circumstance. So no matter what gift you may receive, everyone should try to receive an Honor Roll, not only for 1 marking but for all 6.

## Mandatory or optional, the use of masks in school!

By Rahjada Gumbs

For the 2022-2023 school year at FLPS the policy is that mask are optional at school. With this decision the school has been split into two opposing sides. On one side there are the people who feel that masks are unnecessary or they just don't like to wear them. On the other side are the people that feel masks are very necessary because of the viruses that are going around or because they just feel more comfortable knowing they have it on. After interviewing both sides of students I've gathered much information about the masks vs. non-masks.

The non-mask wearers who would like to remain anonymous appear to have the misconception or are just misinformed on the circumstances and the severity of the viruses going around. In most cases the student that do not have on mask may have be vaccinated. When asking them about opinion on the whole situation, many students have said, and I quote "Masks don't prevent monkey pox because it's from physical contact." Another student response was that, "COVID numbers are going down." Although there is no argument with the fact that monkey pox is spread through physical touch, COVID numbers aren't going down everywhere.



Moving on to our mask wearing side, these students feel that masks are necessary. After talking to a few of them, about their opinion they've all come to an agreement upon the term, "Masks may be optional but COVID is not."

These students feel that because we don't know who has what, so until they're diagnosed, masks are just a simple way of showing respect towards each other. Throughout interviewing the students of FLPS I proceeded to ask the question, "Do you feel that the school should make wearing masks mandatory, or to keep them optional", and the majority, if not all of the students agreed to keep them optional. They feel as though the students should be able to do what they feel most comfortable doing.



## Happy Feet at FLPS

By Mickaela Cox

Dance is something that some people use to express their emotions. Today's generation enjoys dancing and posting it on social media. Fort Lauderdale Prep found an interesting way to get children involved and active. They came up with a brilliant idea to have students compete against each other for fun in a dance competition. Teachers were assigned to each grade arbitrarily as advisors and the genre of music was picked by the students. Students had practice once a week for several weeks with the assigned teacher. The students competed against people around the same age and similar grade level. The day of the competition everyone was excited and was called into a room individually to perform in front of three judges. From each grade level three winners were selected.

I took the opportunity to speak to Ms. Kelly [The Headmistress] about what inspired her to create the dance competition and she said that "She came upon a video on YouTube and she chose to incorporate kids to do something to get them to have fun and socialize. The dance competition has been going strong for the past 5-6 years. They judge the competitors by their performance, their execution, appearance and their audience. An interview was conducted based on 2022 Dance Competition Winners. They enjoyed the competition. They felt that they work hard and dedicated a lot of time during and after school. According to some of the students they would join it back, but only if they have their crew dancing with again. They felt that it help them to get to know students that in a regular basis they don't communicate with. I also interviewed our English teacher, Mr. Hodge, and he felt that "it was a good opportunity for kids to express themselves. The competition also taught the student the ability to work with each other."

Overall the competition was a success. It was a fun activity for the children. Some anticipate the competition this year and so do I.



## Diving into summer vacation

By Dyna Saimphar

Summer break is a time for students to unwind and enjoy their freedom from school. It is a time to rest, spend time with family and friends, and discover new hobbies or interests. But how did summer originate? There was a period when Horace Mann, the renowned education reformer, became concerned that over stimulating children's minds may lead to stress, insanity, and mental breakdowns. So, in 1840, the summer vacation was established. Summer break is also a time for many students to learn more about themselves. Summer has changed over the years for some people. Due to the pandemic, children have spent 90% of their summer inside. As a result, children had to come up with creative ways to entertain themselves.



Some children didn't get to explore the full summer vacation because of siblings, parents having to work, and just simply being a homebody. I was interested on how students spent their time during the summer vacation. I was able to speak with some students and their responses were really interesting, "summer was boring, all I did was sleep and eat," said one student who wished to remain anonymous. There are many ways to enjoy summer while just being home or not physically going somewhere such as, working out, playing games/ sports, and simply going for a walk while listening to music. Some of the students utilized social media as a form of communicating with friends. Other found ways to hang out with each other by going to the movies and spending the night at their friend's home. Over all most of the students felt that the break was extremely short.

Everyone always looks forward to summer. Summer goes by in a flash; What's important is that we enjoy this time we have and make most of it.

## New school new rules... By Marsha Moreau

It is always difficult starting off in a new school as a student and a teacher. Each year we get about 20-30 new kids. When starting something new and different, there will be new things that you will like or not like and will have to adapt to them. As a new student, he or she would have to adjust the school routine and rules. Being that every teacher teaches in different ways, students will have to adapt to that as well. The teachers, on the other hand, will have to adapt to the new school rules and school structures.



After speaking with the new students, they all echoed the feeling about attending FLPS. They felt that the school year is going good and that they like it thus far. They're enjoying making new friends and enjoy the separation. "Being in upper school is fun," quoted an elementary student now in upper school. The students feel that FLPS has a lot of structure and abides by a fairly strict rule policy. Even though some may feel that it could be a little more lenient they understand that that rules are necessary. One student stated that at his old school he was able to use his phone during his break. The students are not allowed to use phones at FLPS as they can be a distraction. With no cell phone use, it allows the students to be more social face to face.

The teachers on the other hand like it! Most of them said the same things, 'that as much as the structure of the school is a bit harder to adjust to, especially as a teacher, the teachers like it. Almost all appreciate the structure and discipline requirements. They believe that that will make us more responsible now and in the future. "I like the structure and discipline that are adhered to, "the no personal devices" rule is great, and I also like how they have the older kids help the little kids for community service, I really like that,".

Overall, attending FLPS as a new student or a new teacher has been good!

## Field of Dreams

By Austin McLymont

Field day!!! Field day!!! What's that? Well I thought you would never ask. Field day is fun day to experience with friends and compete with them to show off your athletic ability at certain activities such as Nukem (a version of) volley ball, basketball, Flag football and many others. This is both a fun competitive event. This event happens twice each the school year. The first one occurs in December before winter break, and next in the spring. During Field Days, the students do not have class as the day is dedicated to them enjoying the outdoors and sports. Everyone is encouraged to participate unless they have a medical issue that restricts them.

The children come to school that day in PE uniforms excited to participate. A week or so before student captains are selected for each team. The teams are red and blue. The Teams are picked buy the coach and by the administrative staff so that they are evenly divided by ability. Everyone in grades K-12 participates and all the teachers. The teams compete and receive points if the team wins. At the end of field day the points are calculated and like every sport, the team with the most points win. That teams get the bragging rights until the events happens again. Throughout the events one of the teachers makes sure that students display good sportsmanship. If students display poor sportsmanship, they lose points for their team. Once the event is over the students are get a pizza lunch sponsored by the school , ice pops and then its popcorn and a movie.



Mr. Lonstein (one of the Directors of the school) reported that 'field day' is a part the school experience. It gives the student a sense of belong and helps them learn the importance of working in groups." Most students wait in anticipation for Field Day and truly enjoy the day. They not only like the fact that they don't have class that that day, they also get to be outside and competing with their classmates.

You might think that I'm exaggerating how joyful I think the day is but I am not. I hope that my article sparks interest in Field Day. There is still several weeks before the first event so I hope to see you there.

## The Who's-Who of TV By Jovannah Charles



Bored of old shows? Want to find something to freshen up your TV palette? Not sure what your friends are into? This article will give the latest shows on TV, as well as students' opinions on them. TV is a staple of the

entertainment industry. Many individuals spend their time in front of the big screen. The new TV shows students are into explain why watching TV is such a popular hobby. Interviews with students show their most watched shows and channels.

Drama is one of television's most popular genres to date. Millions of people watch it, including the students at FLPS. Some students find *Manifest* to be a good drama, especially for those looking for a good mystery. I asked Dyna, an interviewee, about the new shows she watched. *Manifest* happened to be one of her favorites.

Students at FLPS have also taken a liking to anime. Several students carry manga in their book bags and express their enjoyment of the books and the anime adaptations from them. While interviewing the students at Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School, they mention their favorite anime to watch alongside other forms of media.

Comedy is a light-hearted genre that will have any person laughing away, puts a smile on the faces of many, and is a way to gather with friends --- its comedy! Interviews with students at FLPS have shown how much they LOVE comedy series. *Never Have I Ever* is a comedy show mentioned by many students at FLPS. With its 94% on Rotten Tomatoes, it is a promising outlook for TV watchers looking to get in on some fun-filled comedic drama. Jo, another interviewee, says "...I don't watch a lot of the new shows, besides *Never Have I Ever*, *Stranger Things*, and *Riverdale*."

Another great comedy show is *Bunk'd*. It first aired in 2015, and is still making episodes today! This teen sitcom features many laughs and cries alike, --- so it is great for any audience looking for a good chuckle. Malachi stated he watched it on TV, along with his other favorite shows.

All in all, the best new TV shows take up many students' free time, and it is understandable why. These were just a few of the shows that may be interesting to students. There is a plethora of shows to watch and new ones are coming out every day. I am sure that there are plenty of other shows that can be added to the list. However, the next time you turn on your TV and find a show that may be of interest, feel free to tell a friend so that it spreads and everyone can enjoy the show like you have.

## Dance Fever By Ethan Amedee



Since the dance competition was a great success last year, the administration felt that it would be a good idea to incorporate Dance as part of the curriculum. This year the dance program where the kids can learn all different types of styles. Usually we have computers, art, physical education, and karate, but it's nice to see something new and something that looks like the kids will enjoy very much. The pilot program has started with the lower grades and it's given a special. Walking by the class it seems that the children are really enjoying the class. They all seem to have smiles on their faces. I had the pleasure to speak with the new dance teacher Ms. Braynen and asked her a few questions about how it was like to be working at the school and how it was to be the first ever dance teacher at FLPS. Her response was that "it is a great opportunity and is looking forward to teaching the children. The arts in school are needed. It helps students build character." She has an extensive background in dance and has even choreographed for a music artist. However, she said that it is a total new love to see when the children's eyes light up when the music is on. Some of the teachers at the school said that the dance program is a great addition to the school. They said that it helps with them being focused and working as a group. The children can use what they have learned in dance in the classroom.



The students are elated and eager to attend dance class. Even the one who doesn't like to participate is taking part in the class.

One student said that she waits enthusiastically until dance. She went on to say that she likes learning new dances. None of the students expressed a dislike of the course.

Dance has always been a great way for someone to express how they feel without words. It is also a good physical workout. The student and staff are excited for the new addition to the school. So the next time you walk down the hallway and you hear music playing, know that it is not a party, but rather the student having fun during dance.



## Pet Mania!

By Malachi Johnson

Everyone loves animals, especially cats and dogs; however, here at FLPS we may do things a little different. Pets have many purposes, some are for service like emotional support, some are there to aid in practicing responsibility, and others are there just to be there. There are many reasons why everyone should have a pet and here at FLPS, we have taken the initiative to make it our own duty to bring pets like lizards and turtles into our school. In the school we have a great number of pets of all different kinds. Reptiles, birds, mammals, you name it, FLPS probably have it. "How will they take care of all these animals with the small number of teachers they have?" one might ask. That's where the student's come in. Ms. Dykens, a science teacher at FLPS, is in charge of a new club called "pet club". In this club she will be teaching students how to properly feed the pets and how to record data. What the students will be recording is its growth and weight and its eating habits. The pet club will be held on Wednesdays after school and grades 7+ are able to join.



The names of the pets are: Scotty, Sheldon, Shelly, McCoy, and Katniss. You may see a slight pattern in the names of these pets. Indeed they were named after Star Trek characters however; they are running out of names because they cannot keep up the tradition with the amount of pets they are getting. Scotty, who is a Red-eared Slider, has been at FLPS for 30+ years and is actually female. When she laid eggs she was forced to destroy them because there was no male to fertilize them. Sheldon is also a Red-eared slider. Shelly is a Florida Box turtle and has been at FLPS since June of 2022. She is Mr. L's personal turtle. Katniss is a cockateil caught outside the school. Although McCoy is unfortunately deceased, the school is going to get another green water dragon and name it McCoy 2 in his honor.

The school will be increasing its pet count only by a few. A bearded dragon and Beta fish will be joining the FLPS family. With all this going on, let's see how the brains behind this whole operation feel about it. Ms. Dykens says, "I enjoy taking care of the pets and teaching the students". An interactive, enthusiastic, and social teacher is what's needed to run an operation with animals, however, self control is also necessary. The green water dragon is not able to handle loud sounds; otherwise it would get a heart attack and die from shock. In our school, we strive for the best and for our students to learn properly. For the students that want to learn more about animals and/or help taking care of animals the pet club is the perfect place for you. So go to Ms. Dykens and ask for more information about the pet club.

Remember, pets are the best.

