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CELEBRATING 37 YEARS of ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

# FLiP Times

FLPS Student Newsletter

MARCH 2023  
3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### APRIL 2023

- Wed. 4/19 **End of 5<sup>th</sup> Marking**
- Thurs. 4/20 **School Closed**  
**Teacher Work Day**
- Fri. 4/21 **Dress as Book or**  
**Movie character.**
- Tues. 4/25 **Rising Star Award**  
**ceremony.**



#### NEWSLETTER STAFF

##### Faculty

- Mr. Hodge
- Mr. Almanzar
- Mr. Lonstein

##### Reporters

- Ethan Amedee
- Imani Burreis Cameron
- Zachee Casimir
- Job Celicourt
- Jovannah Charles
- Rahjada Gumbs
- Milcah Graham
- Malachi Johnson
- Madison Lewis
- Malachi Merchant
- Marsha Moreau
- Austin McLymont
- MicDyna Saimphar
- Akeem Simpson
- Messiah Soka
- Shannya Stone
- Zaria Thompson
- Vladimir Toussaint
- Saniyah Williams
- Kyandre Willie

## Athletes vs. Nerds

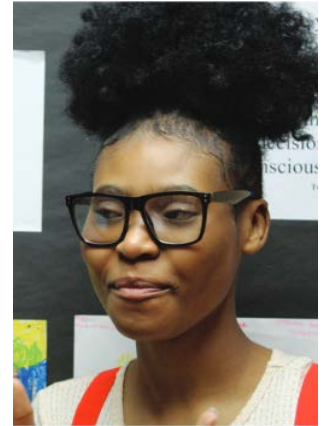
by Malachi Merchant



Spirit Week is a tradition that many public and private schools participate in to show their school spirit. As the name suggests, Spirit Week typically lasts an entire week and it consists of different activities such as Jersey Day, Pirate Day, and Pajama Day, etc... However at FLPS, we do things a little differently by stretching it throughout the school year so there are more than 5 spirit days. Our Headmistress Mrs. Kelly thought of this idea and decided to implement it, and it has been very successful. Among the many spirit day themes, one of the most fun, was Nerds v. Athletes Day.

Athletes vs. Nerds is a day dedicated to paying homage to both groups Nerds & Athletes. The students are able to express themselves through clothing and they have the option of dressing as either a nerd or athlete in their favorite sports or nerdiest attire. For the athletes, some wore the teams they supported or even the teams they played for. This opportunity gives sports fans a topic to talk about or even a little debate on which team is better. As for the nerds, they love to dress up in their suspenders and thick glasses. Some of the students even try to emulate famous scholars such as Albert Einstein, Carlton Banks, or the TV character Steve Erkel. Some of the teachers even got in the spirit and dressed up. Mrs. Dykens, the Science teacher, has two wonderful grandchildren who both play a sport, so to pay homage to them she decided to wear their team jersey to show her love and support for what they do.

As you can see, Spirit Week or as we call it here Spirit Days throughout the year is a great opportunity to break the monotony. So, on your next Spirit Day don't be boring and just sit there, participate and have fun.



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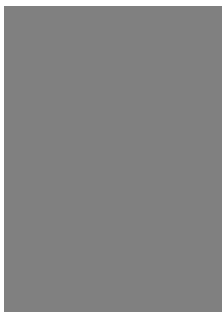
Fort Lauderdale Prep School's  
homework and daily assignments

\*Be sure to check out the links page on the site!



## Artificial Writing

by Zaria Thompson



Imagine not having to write an essay by yourself, ever again. Well, now you don't have to dream anymore it's a real thing. There is a new AI system called Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer (GPT). Chat GPT is a natural language processing tool driven by AI technology that allows you to have human-like conversations and much more with a chatbot. The language model can answer questions, and assist you with

tasks such as composing emails, essays, and code. It makes the process easier for those who find it difficult to compose a writing assignment. It will be completely unique so it won't count as plagiarism, which is a major problem in schools. The user can get very specific which makes it seem human-like. This system is revolutionary. Chat GPT was developed by Sam Altman. It came out about 3 months ago. Everything is typed out word by word. Some people say this is the biggest thing since cell phones. This system can change the way many places work. Also another good thing is that anyone can use it. Chat GPT can complete tasks like writing emails, blog articles, and fixing bugs. You can get very specific on how you want it to be typed. For example, you can ask it to write an essay about snowflakes by a 12th grade male that is Indian and lives in the UK. You can even ask for a poem about volcanoes written by a 7 year old German girl. Did I mention that it's free? Now people can have more free time.



Despite all the pros of the program, some may find it to be very detrimental especially in schools. All schools want student work to be original and they use certain software programs to check for plagiarism to uphold academic honesty. However the program makes it almost impossible for them to use that old system when students are using this new software. Teachers will have to find other ways to check students' writing. Soon

students will have to hand write almost everything and do it in the classroom. Mr. Hodge, the English teacher, at FLPS stated that the program is making it hard for educators to assess the student's growth and development as writers. It has the potential to take away the students creative ability to produce good writing.

Chat GPT is one of a kind, new amazing new software. It's a little scary how detailed you can explain how you want it to write something. But the true question is, is it worth never spending your time writing an essay or losing your ability to think for yourself?

## Athletic Award Testing Results

### HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS - Grades 9-12

#### 1 MILE RUN

1st Boys	Latevien Tharpe
1st Girls	Messiah Soka

#### 1/3 MILE RUN

1st Boys	Latevien Tharpe
1st Girls	Shannya Stone

#### SIT & REACH TEST

1st Boys	Ethan Amedee
1st Girls	Zaria Thompson

#### FLEXED ARM HANG

1st Boys	Ethan Amedee
1st Girls	Zaria Thompson



### MIDDLE SCHOOL RESULTS - Grades 7-8

#### 1 MILE RUN

1st Boys	Gemini Merchant
1st Girls	Isidra Garay

#### 1/3 MILE RUN

1st Boys	Samson Myrtill
1st Girls	Paige Herard

#### SHUTTLE RUN

1st Boys	Samson Myrtill
1st Girls	Santina Augustine



#### SIT UPS (per minute)

1st Boys	Wildo Vedrine
1st Girls	Santina Augustine

#### FLEXED ARM HANG

1st Boys	Ovondre Forth
1st Girls	Paige Herard

### ELEMENTARY RESULTS - Grades K-6

#### 1 MILE RUN

1st Boys	Jyren Barzey-Brooks
1st Girls	Noe Soka

#### 1/2 MILE RUN

1st Boys	Princeton Camille
1st Girls	Tanzania Randell



#### 1/3 MILE RUN

1st Boys	Jeremiah Richemond
1st Girls	Nia Fishley

#### FLEXED ARM HANG

1st Boys	Noe Soka
1st Girls	Lamarr Joseph

## 100th Day of School

by Akeem Simpson



Starting school in August is very exciting as students anticipate reuniting with old classmates and meeting new ones. As FLP students meet at the patio, they engage in conversations about summer. However, after the first two weeks, the

excitement fades, as students are bombarded with school work. As the school days progress, the work gets more difficult. The students anticipate the upcoming holidays and breaks to alleviate the stress. Weeks become months and the students begin to wish that the school year would end. This is the burden that students deal with throughout the school year. However, at FLPS the school has implemented spirit days to help time to pass faster and days go by smoother.



One of the many school spirit days is known as 100 Days of School. 100 Days of School is a great time to celebrate the milestone of successfully completing 100 days of learning. On this day, students are allowed to dress up and act as if they were 100 years old. As you walk around the school campus you can find student in the classes with canes, gray beards, gray hair, and more. A majority of the

lower level students dress up and a few of the upper grades participate. One student from room 4, who wanted to remain anonymous, stated that, "It makes me feel like adult. This is the one day that I felt even older than my sibling".



The 100<sup>th</sup> day of school is to celebrate coming to school for 100 days. There weren't really many activities, beyond dressing up for upper school students but our elementary and younger students brought 100 items, had special art projects and sweets at the end of the day, while counting their 100 items. This special day is also a day to reflect on how it feels to be old and what we may go through as we get older. We usually wear

gray, blue, and white clothes for our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. All of us FLPS students come together and have fun being old, like our grandparents. I recommend FLPS create more spirit days, like 100th day of School, because of how much we could learn. Our 100th day is a special day for our students at FLPS.

## Rising to the Top

by Malachi Johnson

In every school, there are always a few students who are not doing as well as they could be. Whether it is because of their conduct, or their academics, they simply struggle to meet the academic and behavioral criteria. However, it isn't impossible for them to change and better their behavior and/or grades. Everyone wants to be acknowledged for completing a positive turn in school. At FLPS we acknowledge change and growth in our students. The Rising Star Award acknowledges these changes and provides the students with help and better opportunities to keep them on the right path in school.



The Rising Star Award is also intended to recognize an emerging leader in higher education whose record reflects ongoing and exceptional growth in increased levels of leadership, responsibility, and sphere of impact. Those who are eligible for this award are from all grade levels, with outstanding academics and conduct.

There are 3 categories of which only 3 students per school can be nominated:

1. High Achieving Student Award
2. Turnaround Student Award
3. Outstanding Student Character Award
4. Superior Senior Award

This year FLP recognized the following students:

1. Saby Eugene –Turnaround Student Award
2. Dylan Lewis –Outstanding Student Character Award
3. Marsha Moreau –Superior Senior.

Only students receiving a School Choice Scholarship can be nominated.



## The Real Beginning of your Life

by Austin McLymont



Have you ever wondered what you were going to do with your life after high school? Few students have a perfectly clear path as to which direction they will take after graduating high school. Most follow the lead of their parents and what they think would be best for them, be that going

to college or entering into the workforce. However here at FPLS we foster an environment where students begin to think about their future. The administration even has a special Junior/Senior Seminar where students meet once a week to discuss plans after high school. In addition to student taking a personal profile, discussing ways to pay for college and high paying non-college degree jobs, as well as life hacks to stay happy and healthy, students had to write a thoughtful summary on their intended plans for their future.

The class of 2023 consists of 10 seniors, all set on different paths. I was able to speak with several of the seniors as to their future endeavors. Most of them had the same plans in mind perusing higher education or making money. Two seniors, who wanted to not be named, both said that after they graduate they want to work, so they can have a comfortable amount of money, and then attend college. Another senior reported that over the summer after they graduate they continue to read to expand their view of the world. There was another senior who informed me that after they graduate they want to apply to be a 911 dispatch phone operator. Vladimir said after he graduated he has plans to join the Army. Elijah stated, "after he graduates he wants to take a year off from college to gain basic life skills and work to save money".

As you can see, the possibilities are endless when you are deciding what to do after high school. It's worthwhile to assess both your short-term and long-term needs and goals. While it can be an overwhelming exercise to think about, you can take comfort in knowing that you can always change course or adjust your choice as needed.

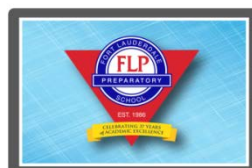
## A Joyful Winter Break

by Zachee Casimir



Most students in Florida are off school the week of Thanksgiving, and then less than a month after that, schools are out for the longer winter holiday break. That can leave parents scrambling trying to figure out how to keep their kids safe and entertained. Broward Schools give students two weeks off at the end of December to the beginning of January. During this time students celebrate the holidays and New Years.

At Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School, students are overwhelmed with work; especially for the reason that right before break, they have to do multiple exams. Winter break is crucial because it provides a mental break for students. Most of the students feel conflicted about the time of the break. Some may think that it is too short, while others think that it is a sufficient amount of time off. Despite the many opinions, all students look forward to the break. Austin McLymont stated that, "the break is a perfect time and students are able to relax". One of the seniors at FLPS, Marsha, stated that she had a lot of fun and that she tried Thai tea for the first time. Throughout the break students loved celebrating Christmas and receiving gifts. Some even said that they got everything they wanted for Christmas; some lounged at home, others played outside. During winter break you can go to the mall, the park, or Christmas fairs. It is a time to enjoy company with friends and family. Over the break students had time to rejuvenate, so when they return back to school they were energized. Winter break came at a perfect time especially for our FLPS students. They enjoyed the two weeks off and now are looking forward to the next break which is Spring Break.



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Fort Lauderdale Prep School's  
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## Standardized Testing

by Saniyah Williams

Most, if not all, schools are required to test students to demonstrate what they have learned. But why not use the opportunity to take our learning to the next level? This is what our school, Fort Lauderdale Prep does. To heighten our learning experience, our faculty and staff track our progress throughout the year using Map Growth @ NWEA.org, a non-profit organization that produces student diagnostics to measure educational growth. FLPS has these tests for grades 2 – 11, two times a year. Once at the beginning of the year, and once again in the 5th marking period. The intricacy of this system is what makes private school worthwhile.



In pre-Covid times, our school used good ol' pencil and paper for standardized testing. But despite the pandemic's setbacks, using technology to do standardized testing was a great benefit to individualized learning. Using computers and analytical AI based software, teachers can more easily assess how far we've come throughout the school year, what we're struggling with, what our strengths are, and what type of additional practice and learning we may need. This ensures that we learn as much as we can, and complete high school as the best version of ourselves. After asking multiple teachers, I've learned that they actually prefer to test this new way. It's easier to utilize than paper and pencil, and the analytical summary results are available quicker. Asking students, I've learned that they appreciate the use of technology to test, as they feel it was easier to complete the test that way. Some complained, but kids never like tests much anyway. Here at FLPS, education is top-priority, and this is displayed through the teacher and the Administration's care and concern for us, as students.



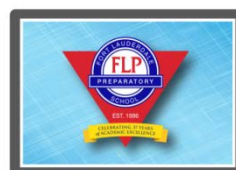
## Pinnacle Award Recipients

by Ethan Amedee

All students love to be recognized for their hard work in academics and behavior. Students strive to be on top and to be recognized with some form of accolade. The benefits for receiving praise, is that every then looks up to you and aspires to be like you. This is the case with the Pinnacle Award. Each year, the **Broward County Non-Public School Association** honors exceptional students. In addition, they excel in one or more of these areas: academics, community service, citizenship, fine arts, athletics, and student activities.



This year at Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School 3 seniors were selected to receive the award. Last year, we had one recipient, Tran Y Nhi Le, who was an exemplary student and is now in the Air Force. This year, the three students who were nominated for the award were: **Saby Eugene, Marsha Moreau, and Elijah Paige**. After speaking with the nominees, they expressed that they were excited just to be considered. All three seniors were elated and anxious for the ceremony. All expressed their appreciation for being selected. Saby, one of the seniors stated, "It's an honor to be able to receive such a reward and represent the school, but it was also a shocker, because it was unexpected." Elijah said "it's great to be nominated for this award." Marsha said "it's a great opportunity to show how hard I worked and how it actually paid off." All of this year's recipients worked hard to make sure that they did their best and are proud to receive this award. The Broward County Pinnacle Award is only presented to the best private school students. Congratulations! This year recipients all worked very hard and it paid off. We are very proud of our classmates. They put their best foot forward and gave 100%. They set an example of what should be done and what should be done if you want to be successful and do well in school.



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## Get Your Groove On

By Marsha Moreau



And... 5 6 7 8... is what you hear coming from the classrooms at Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School. Every student is with their grade level groups getting ready to compete in the annual FLPS Dance Competition. The dance competition started in spring of 2017 and because of its popularity has sustained the test of time. This ongoing event is interesting, fun and a fairly new thing at FLPS and the students love it. The incentive for winning motivates the students to participate. The winning team either gets a nice treat or goes somewhere fun with their class, and this is something fun and different. Each grade gets to see their classmates and friends try new things, dance, and find out talents and other things you probably never knew about each other. It's lovely seeing the students bond and get along.

This year's prize for the winning teams has yet to be revealed though, many of the children are wondering what it is and are excited to win it! Talking to many different new and old teachers and students, I discovered that some classes felt like they were supposed to win last year's competition. There were rivals between the grades levels as they felt that each grade deserved to win. When I asked students how they felt about last year's completion, this were some of the responses. "I would say that the 8th graders should've won and the thing was rigged, I don't care what anyone else has to say," says Ethan Amadee who's now in 9th grade. Kyla, a 9th grader from last year "said "she and her classmates gave the most effort and had the best props which give us a little edge over the other grades". Despite the rival between the grades, students enjoyed the competition.

There was a lot of good sportsmanship between the grades, and in the end everyone who participated had fun and walked away a winner. An administrator stated that, "Hmmm, how do I feel about the competition? Well, since my team won I think it went pretty well. I got to see my group be different, try new things, and bond. May the best team win, again ha-ha!" exclaimed Mrs. Kelly. She made that comment because her team won last year. As you can see, here at FLPS, the students and teachers take this quite seriously! So for any new teachers and students, better get ready for what's coming! "I honestly don't know what to expect, we've never done anything like this at my old school. I'm excited though." said Jaheim, a new student. Everyone is ready for this competition and not playing around this year! Let the games beginnnnn!

## The Cold & Flu Season

by Imani Burris

The child sat in her class and began to cough and sneeze excessively. She was beginning to develop a cold due and the symptoms were showing. A common cold is an infection within your nose and respiratory system. The cold and flu season begins around December and continues into February. It is usually when the most students begin having the symptoms. Here at Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School, students sometimes come to school with the sniffles and cough. Some parents cannot afford to leave the children at home due to them working and or being a single parent. Because of the size of the school, the contact with students is inevitable as well as many students take classes and have lunch together. So the probability of any virus spreading is high.

However, at Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School, we take the cold virus seriously. We have many protocols in place to keep their students and staff members safe. When asked what the protocols are for when a child comes into the building with symptoms of the cold or flu, administration stated some of the things that they do. "First we make a call to the child's parent to see if they noticed anything off about their child and if they were around anyone that was showing signs of being sick or was sick", stated an administrator. According to another official, "when we call, most parents come to pick up their child to allow them to rest at home and to stop them from spreading germs."

Another great thing about Fort Lauderdale Prep is that at the end of the day, they take the necessary precautions to keep the school clean. Everyday everything gets wiped down and sanitized. The floors also get swept and mopped. Then the entire room, walls desks, chairs, doors, doorknobs, walls, bathrooms, water fountains etc., are all electrostatically sprayed with a solution that disinfects and kills all germs.

There are many ways that Fort Lauderdale Prep School students and staff keep their school clean and safe. There are also many ways that you can keep both you and your peers safe from getting the common cold or flu. The sweats, weak stomachs, and stuffy nose are not worth it at all. Keeping your hands clean and the environment around you clean and safe is important. Staying away from someone that you know is sick is one of the best things that you can do. Also, teaching your child to wear a mask when needed and to remain a safe distance from people when if they feel sick is also very important.

## After School Homework Help

by Kyandre Willie



At FLPS, there is an after-school homework help program that can be very useful for the students. It is from 2:45 – 3:30 PM. Students have the opportunity to ask teachers questions and the teachers are able to tutor and help them as needed. Not every school has a free after-school homework help program, so I find it very useful that FLPS does. After school homework help is available 4 days a week, Mondays-Thursdays.



After school homework help is for students to do their homework with the option of assistance from their teachers. Some teachers don't find it very useful because students just talk during homework help instead of doing their homework and asking for help. Other teachers think it's very beneficial that students have the opportunity to have assistance and they use it. Our computer teacher, Mr. Almanzar, has a good opinion on this topic. He believes that it is very effective, but also states that unfortunately some students do not take it seriously. But overall, it's very good for students, if they take advantage of it.

After school homework help is a great tool for students. Students are able to ask for help, and to go over class work. Students, who use the time to talk and not do their homework, are missing out. FLPS encourages all students to take advantage of this splendid opportunity.



## Spring Break

by Job Celicourt

"Chirp, Chirp!" That's the sound of birds on the beach surrounded by the warm rays of sunlight. Tourists are playing volleyball, surfing and having a good time. This is how Miami and Fort Lauderdale beach look during Spring Break. Many different genres of music were coming from many different restaurants along the strip. Some were playing Hip-Hop, Rap, and some Latin music. During Spring Break, thousands of tourists come from all over the country to visit Florida. I went around school and asked students and teachers what they did during their Spring Break, and this is what they said.



Our Headmistress Mrs. Kelly said "she looks forward to Spring Break. She likes to do her spring cleaning and have time to rest." I asked her why FLP's spring break in April, rather than the regular time of March? Mrs. Kelly said "it's because our school celebrates Spring Break during Easter & Passover". I also asked her how she feels about tourists coming to Florida during Spring Break." She said that "it's great because she always wanted to come to Florida as a kid who grew up in the Midwest.

I went around and asked other people and received many of the same answers. Most felt that the break is great and that it gives them time to rest and relax. Some said they would travel while others said they would sleep. One person said that they would be productive, work out, play basketball, and go to the park. Lastly, most said they didn't like having Spring Break in April because they don't have time to spend it with their other friends in other schools.

This article showed me that many people have different thoughts about Spring Break. Spring Break allows for people to get sleep or travel around the world. Some may prefer spring break in March rather than April, but we will still get a Spring Break regardless, so it doesn't really matter to me.

## The Wonders of Art

By Madison Lewis

Art is the most popular form of non-verbal communication. Art allows people to express themselves in many ways. There are many different types of art such as painting, abstract, and visual arts. At Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School, our Art program produces many different types and styles of artistic expression. Student art work fills the bulletin boards throughout our hallways for students and teacher to gaze upon. Intrigued by the displays, I could not help but to talk to the Art teacher



I was able to have a sit-down with Ms. Prieto, the Art teacher. She teaches art to students in grades K-6. She explained that the reason why she pursued art as a vocation was because her whole family is filled with artists and it follows through with her earliest remembrance of her first creation, when she was only four years old. The art that she teaches currently is mostly about drawings and how to analyze art. She also teaches them to emulate and recognize many of the masters of art such as Pablo Picasso, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Georgia O' Keefe. She has high expectations of her young and talented students and wants them all to learn about art and artists, to express feelings, ideas, and to have a voice in various mediums.

As you roam around the halls, you can notice the different types of art that she displays and the themes and descriptions that they have on them as well. The themes are imagery, patterns and dots, thaumatrope, and neoplasticism. All themes of which have artwork done by Yayoi Kesuma and Vincent van Gogh. The reason why she does this is because she wants her students to see their capabilities for themselves and to recognize their talent and individual point of view in the world. She encourages them to become artists themselves.

Meghan McLymont, one of Ms. Prieto's upper class student helpers, and one of the many artists of Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School, is who I interviewed as well. She has done many things for Ms. Prieto such as helping her organize majority of her materials where they are stored in the PE & Art trailer. Meghan will usually hang up stuff around the school or make drawings for her elementary classes. Here is her response as to why she helps out the art teacher, Ms. Prieto. "I help her out by putting things away or getting things ready for the next day. She see at least 4 different elementary groups a day, so she is always busy and on the run." Meghan has been interested in art ever since she was a child; here is her response as to why she finds art so interesting and why she partakes in it. "I was always interested in art. It was always one of my favorite things to do. Art appealed to me and was fun as a hobby. And since my sister started doing it, I wanted to learn to create art as well and to experience it and to experiment with it." I like making art and to helping those in need and working with someone who has the same interest.

## Honor Roll & What It Means To Our Students by Messiah Soka

"OH MY GOD 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, earning Honor Roll can get them money or a gift from family members and friends. For others, it can help build their confidence and make them feel better about themselves. In either case, Honor Roll is a way to acknowledge the hard work academically as well as their behavior. At Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School we believe honoring and recognizing those students who work hard to achieve the goal of being an honor student. The school has a few different categories of Honor Roll. This allows for students who have not made high honors, to still be recognized.

There are different categories and criteria for each: Director's Honor Roll which is the title for students with all A's. There is a Headmistress Honor Roll for students with all A's plus 1 B. Regular Honor Roll which is for those who earn all A's and B's, and finally Honorable Mention for students who were hard workers and almost made it.



Although we have 6 marking periods, we only have 4 Honor Roll ceremonies. You may be wondering "why so many categories?" As I, myself once did, I asked the staff. "We like to recognize students who do well, even if they don't make it to all A's,"

said Mrs. Kelly, Headmistress of the school. Most of the students who make it, feel that they have accomplished their goal as they worked hard to earn honor roll each marking period. I agree it is a good way for students to feel better about themselves especially if they were only off by a grade. Getting Honor Roll though isn't easy. "You have to be consistent," says Vladimir Touissant, one of FLPS seniors and 2021-2022 Honor Roll recipient This conclusion is that hard work and consistency help students get Honor Roll. At FLPS, our teachers push 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 quarter but for all 6.



## End of the School Year & Beginning of Summer

by Shannya Stone

Are you excited about the school year coming to an end? Or are you bummed? After the New Year comes we all begin to anticipate the end of the school year. A school year consists of 10 months, which is a very long time, and as of now we only have less than 2 months left.

Everybody has different feelings and opinions about the school year ending. Knowing this, I went around and asked some of the students, and teachers how they feel and what they think.



One of our students replied and said, "I feel happy, and I feel sad." Her mixed emotions stem from the fact that she will miss her friends and but she is also excited that she gets take a break from school and the excessive amount of school work. Another student at the school who does not want to be named stated that "I feel ecstatic, because I won't have to do class work and homework anymore, and I can catch up on sleep." I feel the same way, but I also feel a bit sad because I will barely see many of my friends. Continuing to interview students, I got a lot of similar answers with most people expressing similar sentiments, "I feel great," "I'm excited about having no homework," "I'm happy because I don't have to wake up early," and I also heard, "I'm extra happy because of no more exams." One teacher I interviewed said, "I am happy and sad, I will miss my students but I do need a break." These responses use the word happy often, just as I expected.

I am looking forward to the end of the school year as much as many, but also have mixed feelings. The end of the school year marks the beginning of summer and fun; it also marks the beginning of a very stress-free life until August.

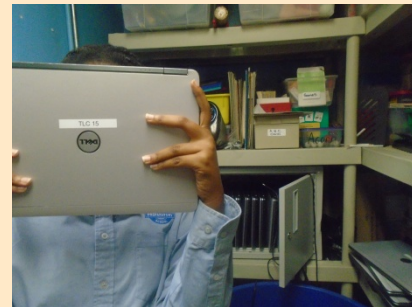


## TLC's New Computers!

by Jovannah Charles

Computers are at the pinnacle of the 21st century. Every day, people use computers for personal and business use. So, it is important that we teach younger students to use these to their advantage. As a result, the school purchased another 50 new laptops for the K- 2nd grades students here at FLPS.

The people whom I spoke with that had the most information about these new computers were Mr. L and Mr. Almanzar.



The origin of these 50 laptops traces back to another state. According to Mr. L, "the school purchased them from a computer supplier in Chicago". Mr. Almanzar added that they were purchased in mid-January. These 50 new laptops are for the exclusive use of the Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students and are stored and charged in those classrooms, not the computer lab.

The computers have Windows 10 as their operating system. They also have desktop icons installed for the school software age appropriate for these lower grades. Some of the programs include Brain- Pop Jr., Typing-Tutor programs and IXL. These new tools provided to the youngest students will assist them with better understanding and using technology in a safe and fun way.

All in all, the new computers greatly help FLPS and its students. With the helpful software programs provided, they are another way students can learn. Additionally, the operating system provides students with an easy interface to use.

## The 'Big 4' vs. The 'Big 6'

by Vladimir Toussaint



When it comes to taking exams, there are some schools that have four marking periods and exams every nine weeks or six marking periods and exams every six weeks. Most people would say that taking four exams is better than taking 5 exams, but who knows? Asking students, you'll hear them say "the fewer exams the better it is for us", but if you ask the teachers, they will say "taking 5 exams is the best thing for the students".

Some people say having 4 marking periods in school is good, but those people are the students who can retain information longer, while the other students struggle. The human mind can retain up to 2.5 petabytes, which is up to 1024 terabytes or a million gigabytes. Now you might think that there is a lot of space, but it all depends on the person and what information they want to keep in their head.

We don't take exams during the 5<sup>th</sup> marking period, but we do for the other marking periods. Students also have end of semester midterms and finals, same as other schools. Asking students, some say they don't know how to study and would prefer the four marking period exam over these exams, just to get the tests over with. Other students say it's the better way, because if they don't do well they can bring up their GPA's on the extra exam and more exams help you learn how to study and retain info.

Overall, both marking periods four and five are not so different from each other; They both are exams that are supposed to cover what information the students retain over the nine or six weeks of school. Both numbers of exams are just another way to help students. If I had to choose, the 6<sup>th</sup> marking period exams might be the better way to go. If you don't do well on one exam, don't worry you'll have 4 more chances to make it up.



## The Unknown Truth about Community Service

by Micdyna Saimphar

What is community service? Community service credit is needed to graduate. After speaking to Mrs. Bradley, she gave me a better understanding on what community service student aides do and how it works. Community service has been part of the curriculum at FLPS long before Mrs. Bradley was here. FLPS has provided community service credit hours for their students from the first year they started in 1986, as certain students were unable to do these required hours elsewhere. Community service is not just for credit, you can also volunteer to help in your free time. Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. Community service is essential to being a responsible member of society and helps create a sense of belonging and connection with others.

I've spoken to some people at FLPS who are involved in community service. I felt it was important to gather information and get a clear understanding from the student's point of view. A few students explained how it brings them joy; it's very entertaining, and fun to interact with others. Others stated how they built a connection with the kids, and helped them and enjoyed and even looked forward to the interaction and to help others. But some don't see the actual purpose of community service. Some others felt they just wanted the required credit, which is not wrong, but they need to consider how important it is to engage with others and to do good deeds as a part of a community.

At FLPS, they have a variety of different ways students can perform their community service hours. After interviewing the head of community service, Mrs. Bradley, she clarified the number of hours needed (160) for students to earn this credit. Some kids are assigned to work in our outdoor lunch area sweeping afterwards or putting the microwaves outside or back inside as needed, making sure the tables are clean and everything is in place after our breakfast and lunch breaks. Inside, the kids help with writing in the planners, filing graded student work, assisting the teachers or students as needed, helping the coach in P.E, to name some of the ways you can do your hours.

Community service helps kids expand their world view, develop empathy and leadership skills, and realize how their actions can have a positive impact on themselves and others. Community service allows students to apply academic lessons in the real world and to fulfill their duty as both upperclassmen and as young citizens by giving back to their school community. Skills such as time management and leadership are learned which are necessary in the real world. Let us continue to volunteer, to help out when needed and to keep our schools and our communities working well.



## Mid-Term Mania by Milcah Graham

Mid-terms are a time of the school year when the students get prepared to be assessed about what they have learned at the half way point and end of the 1st semester. It can be nerve-racking and stressful. Students all want to do well on the exams but it can become overwhelming as they are tested in all of their core subjects. The exams last three days

Here at Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School (FLPS), assessing student progress is important as it helps the school gather the needed data on student's progress and learning. Exams are a vital way to assess how much the students have learned throughout the marking period. At FLPS students must take exams at the end of each marking period which is then factored into their overall marking period and or semester grade. Then come finals.

FLPS encourages student success in the classroom, so to help them, teachers provide students with exam study guides several days in advance, so that the students can better prepare for the exams. Each day during exam review, students work both with their teachers and independently on their study guides. Deadlines are set so that the students complete the guides on time. Study guides are completed in class with teachers. Teachers even give quizzes during this time to ensure that the students are learning and practicing the material on the guides. The teachers also have students copy and re-copy certain information on the study guides more to foster retention through repetition to look at and work with the material. The task of studying helps ensure that students are successful.

Once the exams are over, the students breathe a sigh of relief. They are eager as they sit in anticipation waiting to know their grades. The teachers at our school grade the exams and then go over the exams with the class so students can see exactly what they got right and wrong. The exams are then collected and given to the administrative team so they review them and then file them in the front office. Students then return to regular classes and begin the process of getting prepared for their next 6 weeks of study followed by final exams at the end of the year.

## After-Care Help by Rahjada Gumbs

Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School has a wide variety of different accommodations for parents and students. One of the most used accommodations used at the schools is their aftercare program. This program was designed to help parents whose work does not permit them to come to get their child when the school day ends. School ends at 2:30 pm and the Aftercare program starts after the school provides an hour of free afterschool HW help and tutoring. Aftercare ends at 6:00 pm. Students who stay for aftercare go to the big room at 3:45 and can have a snack, continue to work on their HW, then they can partake in activities like playing board games, doing art, reading or watching a movie. Aftercare kids are separated by age. The younger children stay with Ms Paulette and the older children are with our PE teacher, Coach Christopher.



There is a cost for after care that parents pay. The parents are required to pick the children up no later than 6 pm. If the parent is late, they will be charged \$5 per minute after 6 pm. Parents

pick up their children from the front of the school, the child's name is called on a set of walkie-talkies all teachers carry and the child comes up to the front to go home. There is an allowed 'pick up' list for each student and if a person is not on the pickup list, they child is not released, the parent would then be called and informed. This is to ensure the safety of the child.

The aftercare instructors this year are Ms. Paulette and our PE teacher, Coach Christopher. After speaking with Ms. Paulette, who normally stays with the younger children, she said, "the majority of the children typically leave between 4:00 and 4:30.", she also said, "normally by 6:00 pm there are only 2-3 children left."

Most schools do not offer this accommodation to their parents and parents would have to pay extra for the child to be picked up by a bus and taken to center that offers aftercare. This is another reason why FLPS stands out among the private schools in the area.

# FLiP Times

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