



# BFA NEWS

BRIGHT FUTURES ACADEMY

## ST. AUGUSTINE EXPLORERS MAKE MEMORIES

Before dawn Saturday, 4/30, 34 sleepy but excited 4<sup>th</sup> graders boarded a comfortable charter bus and embarked on their capstone field trip to the oldest continuous European settlement in the United States, St. Augustine. They were accompanied by 9 equally tired, but excited parent volunteers and three teachers prepared for almost any eventuality. The weather cooperated delightfully; it was a beautiful day with a slight breeze, and the troupe made it to St. Augustine in about 3.5 hours, ahead of our scheduled arrival time.

After a brief shopping experience where students got to purchase some memorabilia to help saturate their impressions, we began our tour of the city. First stop was to a Native American museum where the students got tattoos on their arms and their faces painted as they viewed relics dating back to the 1500's. The experience also afforded them an opportunity to make Native American dangle necklaces out of shells and watch Ms. Bayer good naturedly allow herself to be adorned in traditional Native American attire. The group visited cool attractions, such as the Fountain of Youth. There they got to sample a taste of the fabled waters; the consensus was that the taste left a lot to be desired, despite its presumed age-defying properties. One of the most popular attractions was a tour of the Castillo de

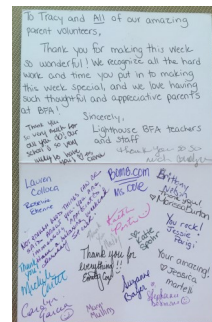


San Marcos, a coquina fortress built by the Spanish as a military post. Students were transported back hundreds of years as they surveyed the historic city gates, which served as an imposing reminder of the Spanish empire that once ruled the cobblestone streets. Our group of curious explorers asked probing questions of the living historians, resplendent in their late 16<sup>th</sup> century garb, and watched in wonder as the 6-pound cannon belched smoke and fire. Breezy tram rides periodically afforded them opportunities to relax and enjoy a tour of the city as they passed along some of the oldest streets in the US. They caught glimpses of the oldest schoolhouse, a spiraling light-house, and several hotels, including the Flagler hotel which is now Flagler College.

After enjoying a pizza dinner in the park, we boarded the bus for the trip home. The tired ones drifted off to sleep as the bus smoothly traveled back to school while others recounted their favorite memories of the day. Everyone slept well that night, but they still continue to fondly re-visit their favorite highlights of this capstone trip, one of the last of their elementary school year experiences before they enter middle school.

Thank you to all the families and students for all of your help and contributions that you made to show our Teachers and Staff how much we appreciate them! On Tuesday, we were able to deliver to each classroom a yummy hot breakfast sandwich. On Wednesday, they had a Mexican Feast for lunch. On Thursday, we closed our celebration with Snowballs from Bahama Bucks served in their new Tervis Tumblers! We were able to do this because of your donations and funds raised through our Tie Dye T-Shirt Fundraiser. A special thanks to the Hoekstra family for bringing lunch and the Cortes family for bringing cheesecakes for the entire Lighthouse staff on Thursday!

BFA has the very best families!



**FIELD DAYS!**  
K-4 May 13  
5-8 May 26

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## VOLUNTEER NEWS

Field Days are coming! The Lighthouse Field Day is May 13, and don't forget that Monday, May 9th is the deadline to order and pay for hot dog meal and/or Kona Ice Fundraiser. Permission slips are also due as no student will be allowed to participate without a signed permission slip. We are going to need lots of help on those days so if you have the interest and time and want to work on your requested 15 hours of volunteer service, if you haven't already done so, please contact Tracy Romp at [tracy.romp@brightfuturesacademy.com](mailto:tracy.romp@brightfuturesacademy.com) or 561-628-9238.

- 5/9-20 EOC Testing
- 5/16 Alumni/Staff vs Students BBall Game @ PBG Rec Ctr.
- 5/19 Town Hall Meeting 6PM @ Lighthouse - DATE CHANGED
- 5/20 End Of The Year Splash!
- 5/21 8th Grade EPCOT Trip
- 5/25 Talent Show
- 5/31 8th Grade Graduation
- 6/1 Volunteer Breakfast







# EDU-Garden® News



I saw a pair of red headed woodpeckers today as I drove down Riverside Dr. on my way to school. They were jumping up and down and back and forth across the sidewalk in a dance they were clearly enjoying. It was a momentary glimpse for me but it made me think about this thing called "mindfulness" and how extraordinary it can be. Now being mindful of the world that surrounds you does take practice but unlike playing a sport, or playing a musical instrument, you don't need props of any kind, no cell phone, no power cords, no apparatus playing Pandora, no books or briefcases or special equipment, nothing at all except what you are fortunate to have every day and everywhere you go! Whatever number of the five senses that you may possess, they will be sufficient to practice mindfulness!

The kids in the garden are taught to listen for the sound of a certain cluck that the chickens make when they have laid an egg, mindful as they concentrate and separate all the noise from that certain sound they wish to hear. If we can all learn the sound of quiet then our senses are magnified so that now when the chicken stops clucking you can hear

a blue jay squawking. Some days kids are led through the garden and they stop by a certain herb, usually rosemary is the favorite, and as they run their fingers through the dusty green needles and smell the pungent odor we encourage them to linger before moving on to the next fragrant herb. We tell them that their sense of smell is most tied to their memory and to close their eyes and remember favorite dinners. Basil is planted close by and when we invite them to taste it, most have an "a-ha" moment when they realize they have tasted it before on their favorite pizza.

You see, it is very simple, this mindfulness thing. You only need to slow down, close your eyes as you feel the life-giving sun on your face and the breeze as it cools you and perhaps if you are really quiet, the sound of a woodpecker or a cardinal calling to their mate.

We are glad to welcome Mrs. Ancona back to the garden, where every day she invites the kids to slow down to see, to touch, to smell, to feel and to hear the sounds of the garden!

*-Mrs. Pat*



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Questions? Contact **Julie Kulwicki** [timeflys1@earthlink.net](mailto:timeflys1@earthlink.net)

**For additional information  
go to [www.brightfuturesacademy.com](http://www.brightfuturesacademy.com)**

**FROZEN FRIDAYS ARE BACK AT LIGHTHOUSE!  
POPSICLES ARE 50 CENTS EVERY FRIDAY!**

**Students Must Be Fever Free For 24 Hours Without Fever Reducing Medication Before Returning To School!**

# MAY 2016

## COLOR CODING

**Blue– Days Off and Half Days**

**Yellow– Special Days**

**Purple– School Events**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 FSA  AUSTRALIA	3 FSA  AUSTRALIA	4 FSA  AUSTRALIA	5 FSA  CINCO DE MAYO AUSTRALIA	6 FSA  AUSTRALIA	7
8 MOTHERS DAY	9 ALG 1 & 2 EOC  AUSTRALIA	10 ALG 1 & 2 EOC  AUSTRALIA	11 GEO EOC  AUSTRALIA	12 GEO EOC  AUSTRALIA	13 EOC Makeups Lighthouse Field Day  AUSTRALIA	14
15	16 CIVICS EOC Staff vs Students BBall Game AUSTRALIA	17 CIVICS EOC  AUSTRALIA	18 CIVICS EOC  AUSTRALIA	19 BIO EOC Town Hall Meeting 6 PM @ Fellowship Hall - DATE CHANGED AUSTRALIA	20 EOC Makeups National Endangered Species Day End of Year Splash! AUSTRALIA	21 8th Grade EPCOT Trip
22  AUSTRALIA	23  AUSTRALIA	24  AUSTRALIA	25 TALENT SHOW- All Staff  AUSTRALIA	26 Riverside Field Day  AUSTRALIA	27  AUSTRALIA	28  AUSTRALIA
29	30 NO SCHOOL	31 GRADUATION– PBGHS-8th CHARTER WEEK Sports Day	June 1 Volunteer Breakfast	June 2 Last Day of School!		