

Bear Paw Times

Volume 15, Issue 4 - December 1, 2023



December News

Hello NCMS Families,

I wanted to take this time to send all our Black Bear families well wishes during this holiday season. We hope you use this time to spend time with your family and friends, and to remember

what is truly important in life. To me, it is time to spend with my wife and kids, and to make sure that I take a minute to stop and enjoy the little things. From Narcoossee Middle, we sent you a big Black Bear hug and embrace. Happy Holidays!

Dr. Rivera,
Principal of Narcoossee Middle School

AVID News



It's never too early to think about your future, to set goals, or to build a tomorrow that's as bright as your imagination! In AVID, we are beginning to map out a master plan toward success beyond middle school. With school choice, the options for high school are wider than ever before. If you have not already taken a peek at the Osceola high school choices, we encourage you to begin to explore all of the various options & programs available and to hold conversations with your child about their interests and passions. In AVID, we are in the exploration process as well. Students are beginning to plan for their future career paths as early as 6th grade! We are visiting with guest speakers from Junior

Achievement, community leaders, and various career models to expose our AVID students to real world applications and opportunities beyond high school. We are researching careers & colleges along with their entrance requirements to plan from the future backward. We are learning about financial literacy and how college expenses can be managed with scholarships and other methods of funding. Our goal is for EVERY AVID STUDENT to be prepared to make decisions about their future & have all the information necessary to select the right fit for their dreams. Please join us in the journey and visit <https://www.osceolaschools.net/choice>. It's never too early in AVID!

Attention Parents

We are still collecting wrapped gifts for our NCMS Christmas Toy Drive!

Please consider donating a gift for an unfortunate child this Christmas.



Media Center News

MEDIA CENTER REMINDER:

It is very important that all overdue books be returned to the library asap. We currently have over 1400 books overdue! Please check your home for any NCMS library books and return them before Winter Break.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Fall Book Fair a success. I was able to purchase 20 new books for the library!



NCMS Counseling Corner

On Nov 30th, we received Ms. Jazmin, Assistant Principal of Neo City, who delivered an orientation about NEO City Academic Programs and their admission process. Thank you, Ms. Jasmin!

During the next week, our 8th-grade students will participate in the Xello Lesson Course Planner. This exercise will help them submit their preferences regarding their classes for 9th grade. The

time flies; they are almost High Schoolers!



Sports News

Basketball Open Gym

Boys & Girls come join us!

We will have basketball open gym on December 5th, 7th, & 12th from 4:30-5:30 PM for the first 40 students to sign up and return form.

Students may pick up form in the gym. Must return form to PE coaches.



Boys Basketball Tryouts

Make sure you are cleared through Aktivite before you tryout.

For more information: <mailto:chase.fitzgerald@osceolaschools.net>

NARCOOSSEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

FOR BOYS GRADES 6TH-8TH

6TH GRADE- DEC. 8TH 4:30-6PM
 7TH GRADE- DEC. 11TH 4:30-6PM
 8TH GRADE- DEC. 14TH 4:30-6PM
 CALL BACKS- JAN. 4TH 4:30-6PM

COACH FITZGERALD

Make sure you are cleared through Aktivate before tryouts!

Mark Your Calendar

- 12/1 - Orchestra 5-8 PM
- 12/2 - Saturday Cheer at TOHO HS 12-4 PM
- 12/2 - VEX Robotics Competition
- 12/6 - Bear Awards (1st semester)
- 12/7 - PTO & SAC Meeting 5 PM
- 12/7 - AVID Showcase
- 12/7 - Jeremiah Ice Spirit Night (all day)
- 12/8, 12/9, 12/11, 12/12: A Christmas Carol Production
- 12/13 - Winter Band Concert 6-8 PM
- 12/13 - Domino's Spirit Night (all day at Narcoossee/St. Cloud)
- 12/14 - NCMS STEM Mars Open House 6-8 PM
- 12/14 - Chorus Concert Dress Rehearsal 4:30-6 PM
- 12/15 - Chorus Concert 6-8 PM
- 12/15 - Dress Down Day (holiday theme)
- 12/18, 12/19, 12/20: VEX Robotics Signature Event (3-day event)
- 12/18/23-1/1/24: Winter Break - Teacher/Student Holiday (NO SCHOOL)
- 12/25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- 1/1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 1/2 - Teacher Workday/Student Holiday (NO SCHOOL)

Calendar News

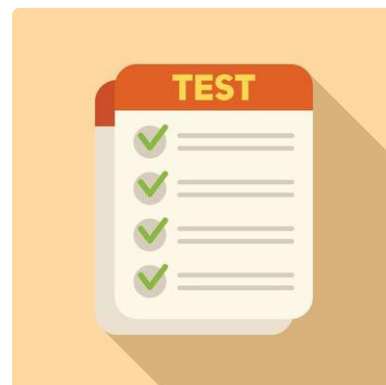
Testing Information

12/5: FAST ELA testing for most students. Students with an IEP, 504 or a language learner will get a card stating their testing date(s) on Friday, December 1st, in their 8th period class.

12/4-12/15: Biology Mid-Term test. Please reach out to Dr. Zuelke if you have questions regarding this assessment.

12/12: FAST Math testing for students NOT in Algebra or Geometry. Students with an IEP, 504 or a language learner will get a card stating their testing date(s) on Friday, December 1st, in their 8th period class.

Students will continue taking their post-tests their semester classes as well as the Science NWEA (not Biology students) until 12/15. Please reach out to your student's specific teacher for details.



Cheer News

Saturday cheer practice December 2nd at Tohopekaliga High School 12:00-4:00 PM.

Theatre News

Theatre students are performing "A Christmas Carol" on December 8th, 9th, 11th, and 12th at Narcoossee Middle School's Performance Cafe. Tickets are available on Ticket Spicket.



The Production has five performances:

Friday, 12/8 is Opening Night at 5 PM

Saturday, 12/9 at 12 PM & 6 PM

Monday, 12/11 at 6 PM

Tuesday, 12/12 at 6 PM

For more information, contact Mr. Beltley at <mailto:timothy.beltley@osceolaschools.net>

Christmas Spirit Days



Wednesday
12/13

Thursday
12/14

Friday
12/15

**Crocs with
Holiday Socks**



**Rock for grade colors
&
Christmas bling.**
6th grade: **White**
7th grade: **Green**
8th grade: **Red**



**Holiday Pajama
&
Crocs Day**

In support of the NCMS PBIS Program.
DONATION \$2 DOLLARS



Clubs

Book Club: Meets on Mondays 9:00-9:20 AM

Battle of the Books: Meets on Wednesdays 9:00-9:20 AM

Yearbook Club: Meets on Fridays 9:00-9:20 AM

For more information about these clubs, such as how to join and more, please contact:
Ms. Biela at 407-891-6600, ext. 32400 or <mailto:heather.biela@osceolaschools.net>

STEM Clubs

Sphero meetings are Mondays from 4:30-5:30 PM

Odyssey of the Mind meets on Tuesdays from 4:30-6:00 PM

VEX Robotics meets on Thursdays from 4:30-6:00 PM

For more information,

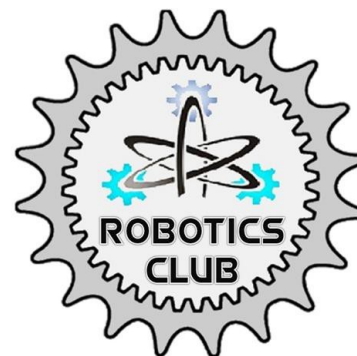
<mailto:Stephani.Mckeown@osceolaschools.net>



NCMS STEM Mars Open House will be on December 14th from 6:00-8:00 PM. Parents can drop in to view their student's Mars Colonies at any time during those two hours.

VEX Robotics competition will be held on December 2nd.

VEX Robotics Signature Event December 18th, 19th, 20th (it's a three-day event).



PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) Expectations

Our mission at NCMS is to build environments in which positive behavior is more effective and more appealing to students than problem behavior. Students are recognized and praised for positive behaviors (i.e. Bear Bucks, Golden Tickets, Positive Referrals, etc.). Students can spend their Bear Bucks at our PBIS events/activities, dress down days, and at our Bear's Den in the Cafeteria.



- Be Responsible
- Encourage Others
- Act Safely
- Respect All
- Strive For Success

DECEMBER PBIS NEWS

NCMS gave out 678 positive referrals so far this year, 268 this quarter. That's amazing! Keep it up black bears!


We had our third PBIS event on November 17th. It was a huge success! The event featured many talented teachers and students performing Karaoke live.

December 15th will be our next PBIS event...Holiday Pajama & Crocs Day! See flyer below for details.

Students must continue to follow our B.E.A.R.S. Expectations and save those bear bucks for more upcoming PBIS events!

Holiday PBIS Event

December's NCMS PBIS event will be a Holiday Pajama & Crocs Day on the 15th!


NCMS PBIS
HOLIDAY PAJAMA & CROCS
Day
DONATION \$2 DOLLARS

In support of the NCMS PBIS Program

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2023**

Payment stations to obtain your bracelet will be at the school entrances.

NCMS Dress Code rules for coverage are still in effect.

School staff are invited to dress out too!

NCMS Business Partners in Education

Brue Family Dentistry 407-979-4170
 Domino's Pizza (Narcoossee/St. Cloud) 407-984-4777
 Dr. Sandra Mauro & Associates 407-505-2020
 Esteem Dental & Orthodontics 407-476-5650
 Hoffner Eye Care 407-207-2020
 HomePride Realty Services Inc. 407-846-0940
 Huntington Learning Center, St. Cloud 407-789-3688
 Jeremiah's Italian Ice 407-313-0782
 Lissette Sanchez, EXP Realty 407-603-5210
 Mansour Orthodontics 407-846-2150
 Peter Luu Signature Group w/Premier Sotheby's
 The Naked Cupcake 407-308-5736
 WAWA Gas Station on Narcoossee Rd/Boggy Creek
 Ur Learning Solution 407-658-7575



WELCOME OUR NEW PARTNERS IN EDUCATION!



The Naked Cupcake on Narcoossee Rd.
<https://thenakedcupcakeorlando.com>

If you would like to find out more about our Business Partners in Education (PIE) program, please contact Ms. Lowell at 407-891-6600 ext. 32121.

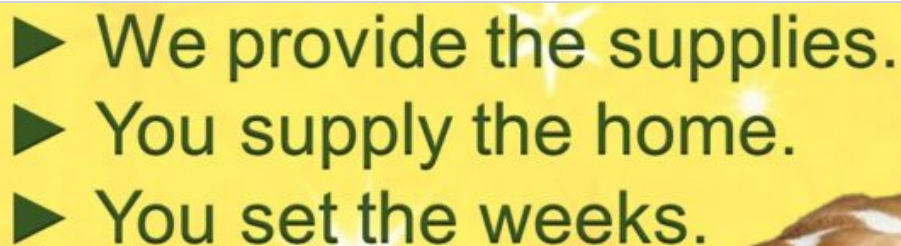
Tis the Season to Foster a Shelter Pet!

Foster volunteers open their hearts and homes to animals in need. They provide temporary care and comfort to cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies in their Osceola County homes.



Osceola County Animal Services provide all food, medication, & supplies. They also provide training, guidance, & support.

For more information: <https://www.osceolacountypets.com/volunteer/foster/>



▶ We provide the supplies.
▶ You supply the home.
▶ You set the weeks.

Holiday sleepover for shelter dogs

The upcoming holiday is a great opportunity to host a shelter dog for a short time.

🔗 osceolacountypets.com

Adopt a Pet and Save a Life this Holiday Season!

Animal shelters are in crisis mode. Consider adopting a pet for you and/or your family and save an animal in need. You should adopt instead of buying because you are saving a life! Shelters and rescue centers are filled and often turn pets away and often or have to euthanize pets. These temporary shelters are overcrowded and continue to receive more unwanted pets daily.

Things to consider before you adopt:

- Your lifestyle, time, and energy level
- Your living situation, space, and landlord's permission
- Your family situation, allergies, and feelings
- Your budget, expenses, and expertise
- The pet's personality, demands, and size
- The adoption procedure and the long-term commitment

- The walking, training, grooming, and cleaning needs
- The noise level, hair, and ick factor of the pet

Remember that owning a pet is a lifetime commitment. Be a hero, not a statistic.

For adopting a pet in Saint Cloud: <https://www.osceolacountypets.com/adoptable-pet-search/#>

Other News and Resources

Donations

NCMS is always looking for donations of school appropriate jeans for middle school students. Please drop off fairly used or new jeans that are NOT distressed with holes, tears, or frays.



We also welcome other school appropriate clothing such as polo shirts, spirit shirts, kaki's, bermuda shorts, belts and sneakers.

In addition, the school accepts various donations of school supplies. We thank you in advance for your generosity!



Free Crisis Services

Does your child need social, emotional, or mental health stabilization? Devereux's Mobile Crisis Services, provides free crisis services with trained counselors. Services are available 24 hours a day, every day including weekends and holidays. Dial 2-1-1 or 407-839-HELP (4357).

ONE MORE CHILD Anti-Trafficking Mobile Team

If you or someone you know has been forced or coerced to perform sexual activities, or promised false opportunities, text or call us to set up a meeting with a mentor, advocate, or clinician.



YOU MAY BE A VICTIM IF:

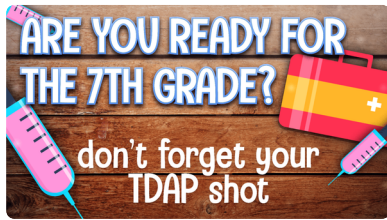
- You are not free to come and go as you wish.
- You are involved in the commercial sex industry (prostitution, stripping, pornography) with a trafficker, or you are under 18.
- You do not have control over your own personal documents/money.
- You were recruited to your job through false promises.
- You are forced to provide labor or commercial sex.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- trauma-informed counseling

- court accompaniment
- life skills
- mentorship
- case management
- free food boxes & hygiene items
- access to 24/7 hotline
- advocacy
- referrals to other providers
- interpreter services available

For more information: <https://onemorechild.org> or <mailto:antitrafficking@onemorechild.org>



Important Information for 7th Grade:

All students entering 7th grade must provide the school with an updated immunization record (FL form 680/white form). All 7th grade students must have (1) Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and all other required vaccines must be up-to-date.

After receiving the Tdap, please email the form to: <mailto:ncmsregistration@osceolaschools.net>
For FREE Vaccines, contact The Osceola County Health Department at 407-343-2066. Located on Fortune Road in Kissimmee.

Adult Learning Opportunity/Oportunidad de aprendizaje para adultos!

Nighttime English Classes for Adults at ALCO or at Narcoossee Middle School.

English Classes each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-8:30 PM.

For more information, contact Carolina Figueroa at NCMS 407-891-6600 or ALCO at 407-518-8140.



January classes begin the 9th and we are accepting applications for students.

You may apply at: <https://otech.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/apply/>

Clases de Ingles para Adultos en ALCO o Narcoossee Middle School.

Clases cada martes y jueves de 5:30-8:30 PM.

Contacte a Carolina Figueroa en NCMS al 407-891-6600 o ALCO al 407-518-8140 para mas información.

Las clases de enero comienzan la 9 y estamos aceptando solicitudes para estudiantes.

Puede presentar su solicitud en: <https://otech.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/apply/>

Narcoossee Middle School- Home of the Bears

AVID National Demonstration School



Mission Statement: Our number one priority is student achievement with high expectations being the responsibility of our entire school community.

Website: www.ncms.osceolaschools.net

Location: [2700 North Narcoossee Road, St. Cloud, FL, USA](#)

Phone: 407-891-6600, **Fax:** 407-891-6610

FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/NCMSbears>

Instagram: ncmsblackbears

Dr. Francisco Rivera Mieles, Principal

Lucille Schneider, Assistant Principal

Jamie Hopkins, Assistant Principal

Carolina Figueroa, 6th Dean

Marlenys Vargas-Ortiz, 7th Dean

Samantha Alfred, 8th Dean

Peter Swanson, Dean/MTSS

Ronaldo Ortiz, 6th Counselor

Brenda Lopez, 7th Counselor

Maria Morales, 8th Counselor

Dr. Gloria Martinez, Lead Counselor/FIT

Heather Biela, Media Specialist

Marisha Smalling, Literacy Coach

Gabrielle Tandlich, Math Coach

Leah Boyd, Testing Coordinator

Meg Hodge, RCS

Marianela Abreu DeJesus, ESOL Compliance

Kremsa Susla, Psychologist

Michelle Lauria, Social Worker

Marisol Losada, Occupational Therapist



Francisco Rivera

Francisco is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters