



# The Fisher Flyer

Official Newsletter of Fisher Island Day School

March 5, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, & Staff,

Following are this week's [FIDS](#) updates.



**Good Character Awards.** Congratulations go to our *Good Character Award* recipients for the month of February:

- **Peter Tully**, Pre-Kindergarten (Primary School)
- **Jack McMahan**, Grade 4 (Lower School); and
- **Maria Bernoldi**, Grade 7 (Middle School).

We are proud of Peter, Jack, and Maria for exemplifying FIDS's three Rs: Respecting Others, Respecting Your Community, and Responsibility.

**STEM Fair Expo.** As spring rapidly approaches, the FIDS community is excited to begin our annual deep dive into scientific exploration and discovery! The **2020 FIDS STEM Fair Expo** will take place on **Wednesday, April 22, 2020**. Early Learning through Grade 3 will complete classroom projects, while Grades 4-8 will complete individual projects. Please stay tuned as students will receive due dates for the various steps of their given project, as well as the opportunity to work on their projects during selected portions of the school week under the guidance of their classroom teachers.

Early Learning - Kindergarten	Classroom Open-Exploration Project
Grade 1	Classroom Focused-Exploration Project
Grades 2-3	Classroom STEM Project
Grade 4	Individual STEM Projects
Grades 5-8	Engineering Projects

**Athletics, Active Hours, & Extracurricular Programs.** FIDS’s Athletics, Active Hours, & Extracurricular Programs (after-school offerings) for the third trimester commence on Monday, March 9, 2020. Tried-and-true favorites are offered this trimester, as well as new classes— such as *Snapology*, *Fishing Club*, *Young Men’s and Young Women’s Health & Wellness*, *Jewelry Making*, *Ultimate Frisbee*, *Focused Movement Academy with a Gymnastics Component*, *Best Buddies (a community-service group)*, *Watercolor Club*, and *Flag-Football Club*. We have partnered with various community-based organizations to offer FIDS students a wide array of extracurricular activities. Course information and a schedule are available by clicking [here](#). Those parents interested in JCC Sports may complete the registration process directly with the JCC at this time. If you need assistance, please contact Ms. Burke, [rburke@fids.org](mailto:rburke@fids.org).

**Newsflash!** **Basketball Returns to FIDS.** We were unable to adjust the athletics schedule by press time, but we are very close to bringing Basketball back to FIDS for the last trimester. We will send out an update as soon as details are finalized. Stay tuned!



**Gala Silent Auction Catalog.** The [Gala Silent Auction Catalog](#) is now available online by clicking [here](#). An updated catalog—inclusive of new items and expanded descriptions—will be online tomorrow. Please check back frequently to plan your gala shopping experience. There are some great items in this year’s catalog!

**Last Call for Gala Tickets.** A few individual tickets may still be purchased by clicking [here](#). Please purchase your ticket(s) no later than tomorrow, Friday, March 6, 2020, as availability cannot be guaranteed on Saturday.

**Arsht Center Visits FIDS.** On Friday, February 28, 2020, the [Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts](#) sent visiting artist Ms. Arianna Rose for an up-close and personal musical theater experience with FIDS students. Ms. Rose led separate sessions for Primary, Lower, and Middle School students—involving acting, dancing, and singing—which provided children with a glimpse of the “triple threat” requirements of musical theater. Visiting artists are one of many benefits afforded FIDS students through our various partnerships with leading cultural organizations. FIDS’s partnership with the [Arsht Center](#) is one of many

**Read Across America Day.** On **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, in honor of [Read Across America Day](#) and Dr. Seuss’s birthday, FIDS participated in a school-wide, shared-reading event to promote the love of reading. Thanks go to Ms. Kimberly Cunningham, Lead Teacher, for organizing this collective initiative.

**Dates on the Horizon.**

- Sat., March 7, 2020                      FIDS Gala: White Hot Miami
- Fri., March 20, 2020                    Field Day
- March 21 – 29, 2020                    Spring Recess



**Coronavirus.** We are continuing to monitor the situation pertaining to the Coronavirus and are following all protocols advised by the [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC), which are consistent with standard practice at FIDS. Currently, there are no reported incidents of the Coronavirus at FIDS. Please refer to the following guidelines issued by the CDC for additional details. One of the important takeaways from the CDC guidelines is to “**Stay at home when you are sick.**”

Thoughts on how Coronavirus (COVID-19) spreads:

1. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person contact:
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
  - Via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
  - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
2. It may be spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects.
  - It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes—but this is NOT thought to be the main way the virus spreads.
3. When does the spread happen?
  - People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
  - Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this with this new coronavirus, but this is NOT thought to be the main way the virus spreads.
  - The incubation period for the virus is currently believed to be 14 days.

Prevention:

There is currently NO vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask.
  - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

For more information, the CDC has a hotline with extended hours dedicated to the Coronavirus. The phone number is 1-800-232-4636. The hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and Saturday/Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Expect a long wait time due to the high number of calls.

Additional Precautions at FIDS:

- **Field Trips:** Any previously planned field trips will remain scheduled as planned; however, if conditions change, these trips may be canceled or postponed. No new field trips will be planned for the interim.

- **Student Absenteeism:** Per FIDS policy, absences for illness may be excused if documented by a doctor’s note. Excused absences do not impact a student’s eligibility for the annual perfect attendance award.
- **Mitigation of Physical Contact:** In an effort to mitigate personal contact among FIDS’s stakeholders, we have adopted substitutions for greetings such as handshaking, high-fiving, and fist-bumping. In lieu of these actions, we advocate waving, winking, “air” high-fiving, “air” fist-bumping, and “air” hugs and kisses.
- **Stay Calm and Wash Your Hands.** Given the spate of information on the Corona Virus, it is important for us—collectively—to help ensure that our students feels safe and secure. Following are links to expert advice on guiding such conversations with children:

[Child Mind Institute  
Tweens and Teens.](#)

Please resist the urge to aggregate health information or understanding about COVID-19 from social media. Social media is an inconsistent, unorganized, unreliable, and unregulated platform. Using social media as a guiding source for information may not provide the accurate and vital information and data to protect you and your family. Instead, we recommend that you stay alert and up to date with information from the following sources:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)  
[World Health Organization](#)  
[State Department](#)  
[National Institute of Health](#)  
[Florida Department of Health](#)

We will continue to provide the FIDS community with updates as additional information becomes available. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support in making every week at FIDS a wonderful learning experience for our children. Your partnership is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,



Michael Bell  
Head of School  
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