

# Cougar Tracks



**L.A. AINGER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## Message from the Principal

245 Cougar Way  
Rotonda West, FL 33947

**Phone:**  
941-697-5800

**Office Hours:**  
8:00a.m. to 4:15p.m.

**Principal:**  
Bruce Fourman

**Assistant Principals:**  
Nicole Davel  
Matina Pulliam

**Guidance Counselors:**  
Angela Brough  
Kelly Gilbert

**School Resource Officer:**  
Officer Tameris

**ESE Liason:**  
Jennifer Delluomo



Dear L.A. Ainger Families,

It is difficult to believe that the school year is coming to a close. With all of the challenges faced this year, I am very proud of some of the outstanding accomplishments of our students this year. We have won superiors in band, we have finalists in the science fair, we have had outstanding performances in math, art, and in computer certifications.

Again, as we approach the end of the school year, this is the time for our students to focus and finish Ainger STRONG!!! We ask that you check your child's Focus for grades, attendance, and to help us reinforce successful habits for a positive end to the school year.

We do have two sporting seasons left, wrestling (which will end in May) and Track and Field to follow. We also have our Spring Concert coming up, National Junior Honor Society inductions, and the dance for the 8th graders. We will send out dates and time via Remind and School Messenger.

Please take some time to look through the newsletter to see all the wonderful things going on at L.A. Ainger. I am immensely proud to be your principal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us anytime. Your student's success is our priority here at L.A. Ainger.

Sincerely,

Mr. Fourman, *Principal*

***We Are Ainger Strong***





## 'Cougar Tracks'

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Charlotte County Public Schools

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## G1 News

Maureen Cerbone

Students in G1 have been very productive in all academic areas. We run a Classroom Economy program that mirrors real-life financial skills, we hold auctions quarterly, with earned funds. Each year our class hosts Earth Day activities. This year we have been gifted many tree seedlings from Sandhill Nursery located in Arcadia, Florida. All students have an opportunity to have a free tree seedling to plant at their home. Our school garden is in its glory, we have been able to send home all garden participants with fresh produce to bring home and enjoy with their families. Presently we have eggplant, peppers, tomatoes (several varieties) assorted types of lettuce, radishes, string beans, strawberries, cantaloupe melon and herbs. Students started sunflowers from seeds, they have thrived many sunflowers are over 6 feet tall. The birds are enjoying the seeds. Gardening incorporates math, science, critical thinking and life skills.



## Computer News

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

A select group of Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB) students in Mrs. Lytle's 8th grade class challenged themselves to prepare and take the ESB Certification Exam. "This certification from Certiport, sponsored by Intuit and the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, ensures tomorrow's leaders are prepared with the toolkit they need to get ahead in today's competitive landscape. Whether you are starting a bakery or launching the next billion-dollar startup, ESB validates a students' understanding of core business principles, including the essentials needed to launch and maintain a successful business." - certiport.pearsonvue.com



"This class will allow these students to obtain a high school credit. I am so proud of all the students who studied and took the exam." - Mrs. Lytle.

Certificates will be given during the awards ceremony to the following students: Erika Alvarez, Elijah Bates, Cameron Drotar, Caleb Fandrei, Michael Galynsky, Paige Gifford, Peyton Horn, Gianna Le, Isabella Maglio, Sihara Padrino Di Pietro, Atticus Randall, Willow Reidling and Sophia Siligato.



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# Band News



## Dallas Brass Performance!

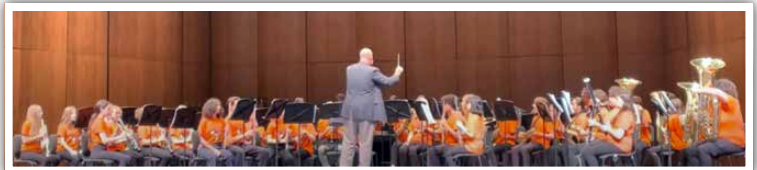
On Thursday, February 23rd, seventy-nine 7th and 8th grade band students had the opportunity of a lifetime to perform alongside the world-famous Dallas Brass. During the school day, students were bused over to LBHS to rehearse and clinic with the LBHS band and the professional brass sextet. Students learned proper audience and stage etiquette, worked on their musical selection to be performed later in the evening, and discovered and discussed what a career as a professional musician looks like.

Later that evening, students and their families enjoyed a tremendously entertaining performance by the Dallas Brass, performed a cool disco version of Star Wars, and watched the LBHS band perform an American medley.

## MPA Update

MPA stands for "Music Performance Assessment". In the months of February and early March, our 8th graders (and some 7th graders) attended the three MPA events listed below. The judges at these events are experienced professional musicians that grade the students' performance. Using a music rubric, the judge's grade and then afterwards average the scores for an overall rating. The ratings include: "Superior" = A, "Excellent" = B, "Good" = C, "Fair" = D, and "Poor" = F. Students are judged on fundamentals, technical accuracy and musicality.

- We had 55 students participate in Solo and Ensemble and **all** of them earned a "**Superior**" or "**A**" rating.
- We had 27 students participate in Jazz MPA and the Jazz Band earned straight "**Superior**" or "**A**" ratings.
- We had 57 students participate in Concert Band MPA and the Advanced Band earned **straight "Superior" or "A" ratings** from all three stage judges as well as the sight-reading judge.
- With this year's assessment achievements, at the state music convention in January 2024, Mr. Ostrow will be receiving a third "**Five-Year Superior Award**" to bring back to Ainger.
- Congratulations to our AMAZING student musicians for another great year at MPA's!



## Upcoming Band Events for April and May

Tuesday, April 11th . . . . . **BB and JB Rehearsal** in the LAMS Cafeteria on Tuesday after school until 5:30pm

Thursday, April 13th . . . . . **Band Pictures** for All Ensembles during band classes

Tuesday, April 18th beginning at 7pm . . **BB and JB Spring Concert** at Lemon Bay HS

Tuesday, April 25th beginning at 7pm . **IB and AB Spring Concert** and Awards at Lemon Bay HS

Saturday, May 6th ALL DAY . . . . . **All Bands EOY Trip to Busch Gardens!**



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FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

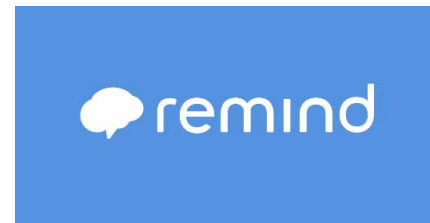
## #FORTIFYFL

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### Remind APP

L.A. Ainger uses the Remind App to communicate with the stakeholders in our community by sending text messages to their phones. Some L.A. Ainger families are already receiving information periodically via the Remind App. To subscribe to any of the classes, simply text the "@ code" listed below to the number **81010**.

**"L.A. Ainger Middle School Families"** text: @laaingermi

**"L.A. Ainger Middle School Charlotte Buses"** text: @g33g3g

**"L.A. Ainger Middle School Sarasota Buses"** text: @kk43ga

**"L.A. Ainger Middle School PTO"** text: @laaingerp

You may un-subscribe from any of the classes listed above at any time.





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## S.T.E.A.M.

Our 6th graders have started our robotic unit but will continue to design and engineer a few more projects. We are **ALWAYS** in need of large hot glue sticks, pipe cleaners, toilet paper rolls, and raw pasta of all shapes and sizes (we will be designing, building, and racing pasta cars). If you would like to add a fish addition to your home, please send a sealable container with your student and I am **HAPPY** to send home a few fish friends.

## Student Council

It is never too late to join the Student Council. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month in room E2 at 8:15AM.

The 8th grade only dance, "**Woodland Wonderland**", will be Friday night May 5th from 6-8pm. Tickets will go on sale Monday, May 1st during lunch for \$10.00.

Our 6th and 7th graders will get to enjoy an evening "**Glow Social**" on Friday night May 12th from 6-8pm. Tickets will go on sale Wednesday May 10th and Thursday May 11th during lunch for \$5.00.

We have joined forces with NJHS, Cougar Cares Club, and our teachers to help fundraise for **#Lexisleague**. All donations will go to the family. We will have spirit days for \$1, grade level coin competition, Walk-a-thon during 7th period for \$5 (includes a drink and snacks), and merchandise to bring awareness to brain cancer and support one of our Ainger families. If you would like to donate, there is a collection point in the front office.



## Athletics

**Co-Ed Wrestling Season** started March 27th through May 6th. We have 3 matches: Thursday: 4/20 at Murdock MS, 4/27 home against Port Charlotte MS, and 5/4 home against Punta Gorda MS starting at 5:30PM. The County Tournament will be held at Charlotte High School on Saturday, May 6th at 10AM. Doors will open at 8:45AM.

**Track & Field Season** will start on May 1st through May 20th. The County Meet will be held at Charlotte High School on Saturday, May 20th at 9AM. Gates will open at 7:30AM. The events include: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1600m, 4x100m relay, 4x400m relay and long jump. Be sure to have a current physical on file to participate. Stop by the front office for more information.

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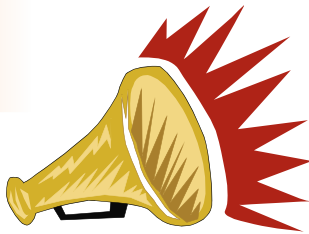
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## PTO Information

The PTO funds classroom equipment and supplies, educational trips, special events for students and teachers, and end-of-the-year class field trips. We are looking forward to seeing you at our next PTO meeting on Monday, April 10th at 6:00pm in the Media Center. If you haven't attended in the past, please attend this meeting...and if you've been coming, THANK YOU, and please come again! We are looking for new board members to take over for next year. Please come hear about how you can help and the open positions we have. Without volunteers and board members, the school doesn't have a PTO to be able to help our students and staff have a successful and fun year.

Thank you to everyone that attended our annual Cougar Color Run on February 4th! We appreciate all of the sponsors and everyone that helped make this event a success!

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### Save the Date! PTO Meetings

- March - NO MEETING
- April 10 at 6:00pm, Media Center
- May 8 at 6:00pm, Media Center

### Stay Informed!

**FACEBOOK** – Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LAAPTO/](http://www.facebook.com/LAAPTO/)

**REMIND** – to receive messages from PTO, Text to: 81010, Message: @aingerp

**EMAIL US** – [aingerpto@gmail.com](mailto:aingerpto@gmail.com) with questions or suggestions

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## L. A. Ainger Science Fair News

After months of hard work, 13 students were declared the winners of the school's annual science fair held on Jan. 10th. These 13 students were the top winners of their eighth-grade classes. Science fair coordinator and teacher Mrs. Debra Sullivan released the winners Jan. 13.

At the fair, students presented to four different judges from a panel consisting of science supervisor, STEM teachers and a doctor. Contestants were asked to explain their procedures and findings, before answering questions from each judge. The following students will be presented with ribbons at the annual awards ceremony.

Sophia Silgato – 1st place

Samantha McAskill/Isabella Maglio –  
2nd place

Emma Elfenbein – 3rd place

Jacob Allese/Atticus Randall – 4th place

Emily Atherholt/Aburn Smith – 5th place

Noah Mullins/Jacob Dawson – 6th place

Peyton Horn – 7th place

Thomas Dame – 8th place

Joey Howard – 9th place

Samantha McAskill/Isabella Maglio and Emma Elfenbein decided to go through the rigor of the Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair. These girls had to present their projects through a video and digital format. They competed amongst 168+ projects from Charlotte and Lee County. Samantha and Isabella place second with their project "Is There Lead in Our School". Emma Elfenbein place 1st with her project "The Effects of Compost on Plants". Emma has been selected to represent L. A. Ainger in the Jr. Division at the Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair at the 68th Annual State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida in Lakeland, FL (April 4-6, 2023). We wish her luck.



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