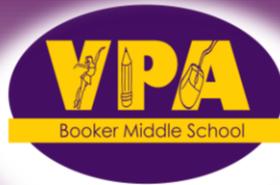


J U N E 2 0 1 7



## Booker Middle School VPA Newsletter

# 2017: A Year of Creation!



## See You Next Year!!

Thank you all so much for a fantastic school year! We are incredibly proud of all the work our students have done this year and look forward to seeing what's in store for us next year. The excitement is accompanied by some sadness, though as we say goodbye to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and send them off to marvelous adventures in High School. Please keep in touch 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 8<sup>th</sup> grader's parents, and let us know what you are up to! Just because you leave our halls doesn't mean you aren't still a member of our Booker Middle VPA family! Have a wonderful summer everyone!!!!

NOTE: It would be impossible to have any of these events and activities without the tireless fundraising efforts of our teachers, students, and administrators. If you love the work that we do and would like to help support our programs visit <http://bookermiddleschoolvpa.weebly.com/donate> or email [bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com](mailto:bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com).

## STAY INFORMED!

Website: [www.BookerMiddleSchoolVPA.weebly.com](http://www.BookerMiddleSchoolVPA.weebly.com)

Facebook: Booker Middle School VPA

Instagram: @BookerMiddleVPA

Twitter: @bookermiddlevpa

## Coming up in June

### **DANCE INFORMAL**

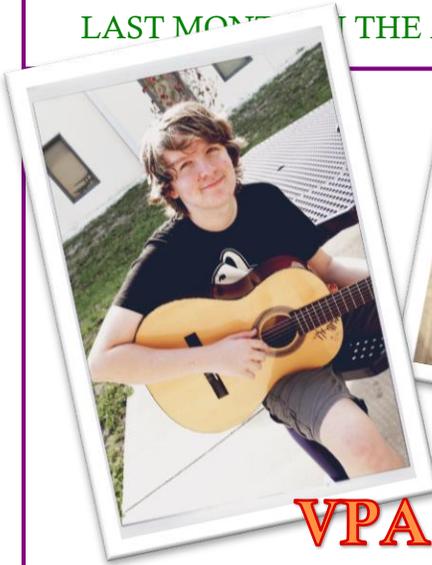
Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 PM @ BMS

### **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>

### **FIRST DAY OF 2017/2018 YEAR!**

Monday August 14<sup>th</sup>



## VPA's Student of the Month Is...

### Chase Trefz-Barker

8<sup>th</sup> Grader Chase Trefz-Barker is one of two VPA Students of the Month for our final newsletter of the 2016/2017 school year. He has participated in guitar all three years. "I started out as an absolute beginner," he said, adding, "It's just fun." Chase said he likes playing all kinds of songs but a couple of his favorites are "Lean on Me" and "Hey Jude."

Chase has lived in Sarasota all his life and went to Gocio Elementary before attending Booker Middle School. He really enjoys his VPA classes here stating, "you get to meet different types of people. I've made great friends." He said it has been cool to bond with people over the guitar.

His guitar teacher Mrs. Heinz told us, "Chase possesses a strong eagerness to learn guitar. This, combined with his innate talent,

intelligence, great effort, and fun, quirky personality makes him an awesome addition to any musical ensemble. I feel very fortunate to have him as part of our VPA Guitar Ensemble." Sounds like he will be very missed!

This summer he plans to hang out with his friends and visit some family in Illinois while he prepares to start Suncoast Polytechnical High in the fall. To incoming students, he advises, "Give it a try. I had to take guitar, and I didn't know what to expect. I found out it was fascinating and I love it, which is why I kept taking it."

Congratulations on all your wonderful achievements in Booker Middle School! You will absolutely be missed! Don't forget to keep us updated on all your high school adventures!

## Chase's Artist to Check Out

### The Beach Boys: Rock Band

Formed in Hawthorne, California, in 1961. The group's original lineup consisted of brothers Brian, Dennis, and Carl Wilson; their cousin Mike Love; and their friend Al Jardine. Distinguished by their vocal harmonies and early surf songs, they are one of the most influential acts of the rock era.<sup>[1]</sup> The group, led by their principal songwriter and producer Brian, pioneered novel approaches to popular music form and production, combining their affinities for jazz-based vocal groups, 1950s rock and roll, and black R&B to create their unique sound.

The Beach Boys are one of the most critically acclaimed, commercially successful, and widely influential bands of all time. The group had over eighty songs chart worldwide, thirty-six of them US Top 40 hits (the most by an American rock band), four reaching number-one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The Beach Boys have sold in excess of 100 million records worldwide, making them one of the world's best-selling bands of all time and are listed at No. 12 on Rolling Stone magazine's 2004 list of the "100 Greatest Artists of All Time". The core quintet of the three Wilsons, Love and Jardine were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988. (Source: wikipedia.com)





“Changes is omnipresent. Where you stay or the environment you live in can hide the change from you, so you have to really look for it.”  
 - James Cook’s advice for incoming students

## VPA’s Student of the Month Is... James Cook

When this 8<sup>th</sup> grader came to Booker Middle School he never expected to find himself in Ms. Fox’s creative writing room. The decision to join the program was a practical one; “I was in PE, but got tired of being drenched with sweat after class every day,” James said. So into the cool welcoming walls of room 130 he went, and what he found would profoundly change him. “Being in Ms. Fox’s creative writing class changed a lot about me, and put me on a whole new trajectory. I used to be a more brute and hard person and Ms. Fox knocked that out of me.”

And it’s no wonder he had such thick skin, James grew up in a neighborhood rife with violence and abuse where he had to endure a lot of bullying. He said it has really helped him to communicate all of this in his art. “Ms. Fox is an amazing teacher and she really helped me revive my talent and love for writing poetry. I got back in touch with rapping, which I’d

completely abandoned,” said James. It appears the admiration is mutual, as Ms. Fox shared, “James found his voice through word play. He spins an idea that makes you stop and think about what he just said and how he said it. He parses the reality of the 21st century teen with language sharing his view of his world. He strengthens his skills performing at the Tea House on a regular basis applying the lessons of our classroom to the real world.”

So where does James go from here? Next year he will be attending Booker High, possibly in the Chorale or new Creative Writing program of which he said the teacher is, “awesome!” Further down the line James hopes to peruse a career in music, “I like song writing and rapping. One day I would like to be an MC or rapper, critically acclaimed, on a scale that makes me happy.” And we wish you all the happiness in the world, James!

### James’ Artists to Check Out



**Tupac Shakur: Rapper, Record Producer, Actor, Poet (1971-1996)**

[Tupac Wikipedia Page](#)



**J. Cole: Rapper, Record Producer, Singer, Song Writer (1985- )**

[J. Cole Wikipedia Page](#)

[J. Cole's Dreamville Record Label](#)

[J. Cole's The Dreamville Foundation](#)

**My Youth Without Green**

I bathe in the agony of this  
world without green.  
It burns like an Acid -  
Trees, Bushes, Grass, and Algae leaves.  
Worthy of contemplation,  
I forfeited this world  
because there was no greenery in the whirl.  
Summer soaked by any means under a money tree,  
Normal people shade under a breeze  
Want to see the purposeful coloring on a tea leaf.  
Life wouldn't be ok if there  
weren't a meaning.  
See this world falling to smoke and clouds.  
We are in danger  
of becoming a world without green.

- James Cook -

## Last Month In Arts Education

There have been an abundance of projects and activities in which our students and our teachers have been involved!!

### BitsNPieces

On Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Beginning and Intermediate VPA Drama students presented “Bits N Pieces X” which included scenes, monologues, and pantomime pieces performed on Florida Studio Theatre’s Keating Stage. This event is always an eclectic mix of material... chosen, rehearsed, and directed by the students themselves. The “potluck” dessert reception following the performance rounded out a wonderful evening with family and friends. We celebrated our fifth year of partnering with FST with this performance and look forward to our performances in this professional theatre space next year!

### Spring Dance Concert

On May 13<sup>th</sup> at Booker High School’s Performing Arts Center, Mr Batista’s students treated the audience to an eclectic and inspiring evening of dance. Along with pieces choreographed across many genres by Mr. Batista, the audience was also treated to an African dance piece created by Mia Redding who’s partnership is made possible by funds from the SAVE grant.

### Spring Joint Music Concert

Our Band, Orchestra and Guitar Joint Spring Concert was held on Tuesday evening, May 23rd. Selections ranged from standard jazz tunes such as “Here’s That Rainy Day” by Van Heusen and “Crimebusters,” arranged by Jennings to Lennon and McCartney’s Classic “Yesterday” and Vivaldi’s “Spring” from the Four Seasons. Eighth Grade Students graduating from the program were honored.



...but wait... there's more!

### Art/ Multimedia Show

Tornado Gallery's doors were wide open for the final Art and Multimedia show of the year. The show featured pieces from Ms. Herbert's 2D/3D Art classes and Ms. Burbridge's Graphic Design classes. The show included, among other projects, designs made by students for the Lithuania and Zimbabwe rowing teams posters and portraits created for The Memory Project of orphans from the D.R.C. It was an inspiring exhibition!



### Dragonfly Café Swansong

On May 25<sup>th</sup> in a packed room 130, we bade farewell to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade poets at the Dragonfly Café Swansong. It will certainly be sad to see some of our students leave us for their next chapter, but the mood was one of excitement and optimism for what lies ahead for them. A HUGE congratulations to Jailyn Gentile who was this year's poet laureate! Wonderful work and very well deserved!



### Musical Theatre Cabaret

On March 30<sup>th</sup> our Musical Theatre students also put on their final performance of the year. Performed to a sold out audience in our BMS Black Box Theatre, the cabaret was a delightful evening full of song and dance pieces. Along with the performance there was also a presentation to say goodbye to the Musical Theatre 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who are all heading to high school next year.



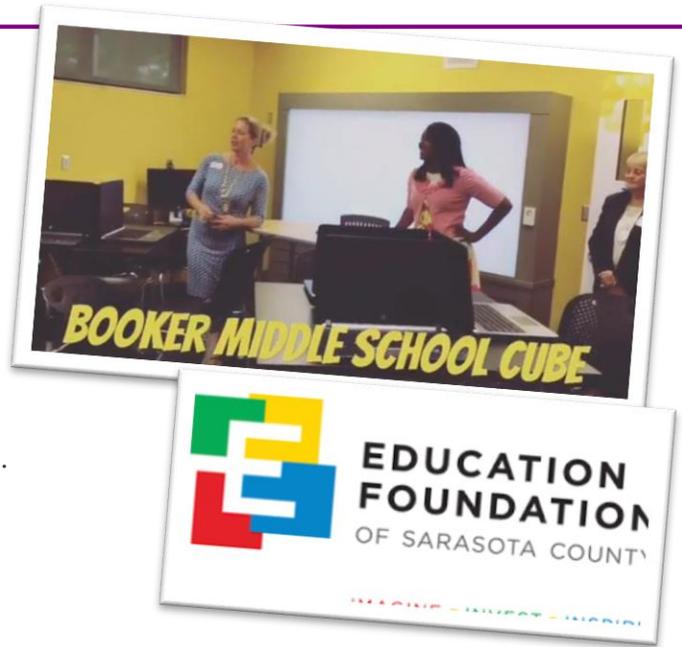
### Arts Education Task Force

We were just thrilled on May 4<sup>th</sup> to host the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota's Arts Education Task Force on our campus. This enthusiastic group of arts organization administrators and educational specialists toured our facilities and visited our classrooms. We are so excited to create partnerships with these individuals and organizations in the future!!



## ... and even more CUBE Soft Opening

The Cube opened on May 26<sup>th</sup> on the Booker Middle School campus, as part of a district initiative and funded by the Education Foundation of Sarasota. This brand new state of the art will be used as a college and career center: a place to take career assessments, research colleges, and attend lectures by guest speakers. Our VPA guitar and dance programs were present to help celebrate the occasion. Thanks students, for lending your talents!



## Salt & Light Productions

Over the course of the last year Salt & Light productions has been working on a short film about our program and our students. Last month they finished filming and interviewing some of our students and parents and now the film is in the editing room. We are chomping at the bit to see it and share it with you! Thank you Salt & Light for your diligence on the completion of this project!!



## Visit to Asolo

It's always a fantastic day when our students can experience the wonderful performances taking place at the Asolo Reparatory Theatre. This month *Beatsville* was on the boards and our students had a wonderful time watching the show and meeting some of the cast members including Andrew Chapelle (pictured). Thanks for a great performance cast and crew!



## 2017 Young Playwrights Festival Winners

Lena Savino (6th grade), Kaity Cairo, and Arianna Collins (both 8th grade) were celebrated at Florida Studio Theatre on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Lena won for her play entitled "What is Fire" and Kaity and Arianna received honorable mention for a piece they wrote together called "The Room Whither 't Happeneth". We are so proud of our multitalented students!

## SAVE GRANT

*Sarasota Against ViolencE (SAVE)* was funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the Project Prevent (P2). Funds to be provided by this additional P2 grant will be integrated with the existing VPA programs, but will supplement those activities to provide student-focused activities which align with P2 goals in general and with specific *SAVE* program goals.



U.S. Department of Education



## Digital Storytelling

Through funds provided to our program from the SAVE Grant, our school had the pleasure of working with Megan Altruz a theatre professor from The University of Texas at Austin on digital storytelling. Megan and her teaching assistants led our teachers through an exciting evening workshop and treated our students to a 4 day digital storytelling masterclass.



## Dance Piece in Front of Mural

In a fabulous multimedia presentation our dance program performed an African piece choreographed by Mia Redding in front of a mural created by Ritchie Brasil and our students. Both of these guest artists' collaborations were brought to our campus thanks to funds from the SAVE grant and are meant to raise awareness of the dangers of bullying. This performance was attended by some of our students and faculty as well as community members and members of the Education Foundation of Sarasota.



Thank you parents, business partners, volunteers, & donors!

THANK YOU RICK RAMON FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME!

THANK YOU BRIAN HERSH FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT!!!



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Thank you Sarasota Orchestra for funding the assistance of Christ Rudicille in the Beginning and Intermediate Orchestras!



Booker High School

Thank you Booker High and Dr. Shelley for generous use of your facilities!

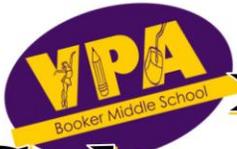
**CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!!!!**  
**Would YOU like to get the word out about your business, AND support children's arts education?**  
 Place an advertisement in the Booker Middle VPA Newsletter!  
 For more information, email [bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com](mailto:bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU!**  
 To the following parents who volunteered their time to help our VPA dance students:

- Rebecca Lockwood (Lead Parent)
- Andrea Justiniano
- Anneli Cristiani
- April Flakney
- Beth Bryon-Reasoner
- Cheryl Patrick-Martinez
- Colleen-Jim Duffy
- Curt Tellbuescher
- Deana Murillo
- Jenn Perez
- Judith Hall
- Kellie Menke
- Agnes Grantham
- Marion Grantham
- Naquila Gregory
- Pat Tellbuescher
- Susan Horowitz
- Tiffany Profita

Ms. Mia Redding for helping Mr. Batista with the students backstage and on!

Andy Reasoner for providing the dance students with dinner before the informal dance concert!



# Booker Middle School VPA Ads & Giving

## Luminary\*

\$30,000 and Up!  
One Year

## Muse\*

\$10,000 to \$29,999  
One Upgrade

## Benefactor\*

\$5,000 to \$9,999  
One Initiative

## Partner\*

\$2,500 to \$4,999  
One Discipline

## Patron

\$1000 to \$2,499  
One Performance

## Subscriber

\$250 to \$999  
One Student

## Member

\$50 to \$249

## Sponsorships

Student T-Shirt Sponsor(s) - \$3,000 (for the year)

Arts Moment Sponsor - \$300 (for a month)

VPA Student of the Month Sponsor - \$200

## Advertising

Newsletter Advertisement: \$150

Program Outside and Inside Covers: \$125

Program Full Page: \$100

Program Half Page: \$55

Program Quarter Page: \$30

Program Eighth Page: \$20

ASK ABOUT OUR  
ADVERTISING  
SUBSCRIPTIONS!

## Event Subscriptions

Access to all VPA events - \$50 (1 person)

VIP Access to all VPA events - \$250 (2 people)

TO FIND OUT MORE EMAIL [BOOKERMIDDLEVPA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BOOKERMIDDLEVPA@GMAIL.COM) OR CALL (504)813-2099

\*With the sponsorship of a specific discipline you will receive recognition and advertising opportunities specific to that discipline

## VPA Public Events/Performances 2016-2017

### October:

- 13 Fall Chorus Concert (7:00)
- 17-21 SAVE Grant Performances (in school)
- 18 Fall Band Concert (7:00)
- 20 Dragonfly Café (6:30) Rm. 130
- 27 Fall Orchestra Concert (7:00)

### November:

- 5 Inspire Sarasota
- 10 Drama Showcase (7:00) (amphitheater)
- 11 Drama Showcase (7:00)

### December:

- 8 Joint Winter Music Concert (7:00)
- 15 Art/Multimedia/Poetry Show (6:00)  
*(Gallery)*

### January:

- 7 Winter Dance Concert (7:00, at Booker High)
- 11 Magnet Night
- 12 Dragonfly Café (6:30) Rm. 130

### February:

- 4 External Auditions
- 16 Guitar & Orchestra Concert
- 25 Musical Rehearsal in café 9-4

### March:

- 3 Musical (Booker High 7:00)
- 4 Musical (Booker High 2:00 and 7:00)
- 9 Spring Band Concert (7:00)
- 23 Dragonfly Café (6:30) Rm. 130
- 24 VPA Gala/Fundraiser
- 30 Spring Chorus Concert (7:00)  
*And Art/Multimedia Show (6:00)*

### April:

- 6 Spring Drama Showcase (7:00)  
(amphitheater)
- 7 Spring Drama Showcase (7:00)
- 18 Instrumental Recital (Band) (7:00)
- 28 Dragonfly Café Away (6:30) Lido Beach

### May:

- 13 Spring Dance Concert (7:00 at Booker High)
- 23 Spring Joint Music Concert (7:00)
- 25 Art/Multimedia Show (6:00)  
*And Dragonfly Café Swan Song (6:30)*
- 30 Musical Theatre Cabaret (7:00) *(RM 407)*

### June:

- 1 Dance Concert, Informal (7:00)

**For more information on Booker Middle School Visual and Performing Arts events or admissions contact VPA coordinator Savannah Holds at [bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com](mailto:bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com)**