

# Cougar Tracks



**L.A. AINGER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## Message from the Principal

Dear L.A. Ainger Families,

We have wrapped up our first quarter of the school year. Once again, I am immensely proud of the students and staff for making the best out of not having a gym as well as our continued construction.

We are hoping to have our gym back by this month. Also Phase VI of our construction is proposed to be completed by winter break. I am delighted that our wounds from Hurricane Ian are healing.

With December rapidly approaching, we look forward to another phenomenal concert from Mr. Ostrow and the Ainger band. This is always an exciting event for our students. I invite you to come and support your Ainger band.

Volleyball has started. We are looking forward to a successful season this year. We also are offering intramurals after school as well as all of our clubs. It is great to see our students involved in all that we have to offer. Please check our website for more details.

The PTO has put on another successful golf tournament. We are so thankful for their support. Since the tournament was on November 11th, we also celebrated Veterans and thanked them for their service.

Please take some time to look through the newsletter to see all of the wonderful things going on at L.A. Ainger. As I have said, 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, *Your Proud Principal*

**One Team, One Vision: Ainger**

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:**  
Kelly Gilbert  
Kevin Skavhaug

**School Resource Officer:**  
Officer Tameris

**ESE Liason:**  
Lucinda Kelley





## Scholastic Book Fair



**THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING  
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'Cougar Tracks'

November 2023 • Issue # 2  
Published Four Times Per Year  
Charlotte County Public Schools  
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Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052



## Student Council News

### Student Council Club

The Student Council Club has been taking initiatives to give back to our community. We ended October by joining forces with the Cougar Interact Club in holding a Car Wash to raise money for the Special Needs Halloween Party. In November, our club started our annual "Sock it to Cancer" campaign to raise awareness and funds for one of our own Ainger students who is battling cancer. All proceeds were donated to #LexisLeague. Additionally, we collaborated with NJHS to collect non-perishable food items to donate to our local food bank for Thanksgiving. We have a strong commitment to our school and our community.

The upcoming winter dance with the theme "Met Gala" is in full planning mode. Planning such activities not only provides a fun and enjoyable experience for students but also contributes to a positive school culture.

For students attending the winter dance, it's good to know that pre-sale tickets are available from December 11th to December 14th during lunch hours for \$15.00. It's always a good idea to take advantage of pre-sale prices. For those who may miss the pre-sale period, tickets can still be purchased at the door on Friday for \$20.00. Any parents that would like to volunteer please see the sign-up sheet on our Ainger PTO Facebook Page or reach out to shawntel.dausy@yourcharlotteschools.net We will need volunteers for setup, chaperoning, food service, and clean up.

The Student Council has been working hard to make a positive impact in our school and community!

## School Social Work

Kids needs is a local non-profit in Englewood that assists with clothing, school supplies and hygiene products to families in need. Their hours are Thursdays 4-6pm and Saturdays 10am-noon. If you would like additional information regarding Kids Needs, please reach out to the School Social Worker at 941-697-5800 x5002.



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## Yearbook News

We still have 2022- 2023 yearbooks for purchase. If you would like to purchase last year's yearbook, send the \$35.00 by cash or check made payable to LA Ainger Middle School to room D5.

2023-2024 yearbooks are on sale ONLINE only at [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com) for \$30.00 until December 31st. After December 31st, the price will be \$35.00. You may also purchase personal ads for your child. If you are a business owner, you may also purchase business ads.

If you would like to add pictures to the yearbook, download the app: yearbook snap. Our school access code: Cougar. Upload your photos to the appropriate photo category. If you are unable to do this, please email photos to [jennifer.harris@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:jennifer.harris@yourcharlotteschools.net).

## L.A. Ainger Middle School Bell Schedule

2023 - 2024



7 Class Periods	
Announcements:	9:05-9:10
1st period	9:10-10:01
2nd period	10:05-10:56
3rd period	11:00-11:51
4th period (lunch)	11:51-1:23
5th period	1:27-2:18
6th period	2:22-3:13
7th period	3:17-4:10

### Lunch

A Lunch 11:51- 12:21 4th Hour 12:25-1:23
4th Hour 11:55-12:22 B Lunch 12:22-12:52 4th Hour 12:56-1:23
4th Hour 11:55-12:53 C Lunch 12:53-1:23



L.A. Ainger uses the Remind App to communicate with the stakeholders in our community by sending text messages to their phones. To subscribe to any of the classes, simple text the "@ code" listed below to the number 81010.

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

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

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

23  
24

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# PTO News

It's hard to believe that we are already moving towards the end of the first semester! Thank you to everyone who supported our Fall Family Sponsorship Fundraiser! We raised just under \$1000 for our school! We are still accepting donations for our school, teachers and staff!

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, December 11th at 6:00pm in the Media Center. If you haven't attended, please consider joining in... and if you've been coming, please come again!

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

The LAAMS 10th Annual Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, November 11th at Rotonda Golf and Country Club - The Hills. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we appreciate the support of our sponsors and all of the players & teams that came out in support of our school!

## COUGAR COLOR RUN

This year's Cougar Color Run will be held on Friday, February 9th from 5-7pm. This Fun Run is open to all students and their families. A course will be set-up around campus and colored powder tossed to cover our runners...or walkers! We are looking for businesses to sponsor this event, so please let us know if you know of a business that would be interested in supporting this event!

For more information, please email Julie Lowder at [aingerpto@gmail.com](mailto:aingerpto@gmail.com). Event Information is also on the PTO Facebook page and the school website. We are also looking for volunteers and will be sending signup information by email, REMIND and posting on Facebook for anyone who would like to help at this fun event or contact us at the above email.

## Box Tops for Education

Download the Box Tops For Education App OR Send in your Box Tops for Education! Students can drop off Box Tops in the office or give to one of their teachers.

## Save the Date!

- PTO Meeting – Dec. 11th at 6:00pm, Media Center
- **WINTER DANCE – All Grades -- December 15th from 6-8pm - CHAPERONES NEEDED**
- PTO Meeting – January 8th at 6:00pm, Media Center
- PTO Meeting – February 14 at 6:00pm, Media Center
- **Cougar Color Run – Feb. 9th – 5-7pm VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
- PTO Meeting – March 11th at 6:00pm, Media Center
- PTO Meeting – April 8th at 6:00pm, Media Center
- **Teacher Appreciation Week at Ainger – April 22-26th**
- **End of the Year Field Days for 6th, 7th and 8th – TBA**
- **8th Grade ONLY DANCE – May 10th – more info to come**
- PTO Meeting – May 13th 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: @laaingerp

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

**SCHOOL WEBSITE** - <http://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/lam>

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You can also include photos or video with your tip report.

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FortifyFL automatically routes your tip report to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



### Your School Officials

The tip report goes to your local school officials when submitted.

### Local Law Enforcement

Your local police department or sheriff office receive copies of your tips automatically.

### State-Level Officials

State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.

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.

## Reporting Suspicious Activities or Threats

Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to schools. Any suspicious activity or threat shall be promptly reported to one of the following individuals, agencies or reporting tools:

- School Resource Officer or local law enforcement agencies.
- School Administrator or any available staff member.
- **The FortifyFL Reporting APP or to the Crimestoppers Tipline (1-800-780-TIPS).**
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1.

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## Athletics

### Basketball

The L.A. Ainger basketball teams have worked hard despite facing challenges such as rough practicing conditions and the unavailability of a home gym due to the gym renovations. Finishing 4th overall in the district for the boys' team and 3rd overall for the ladies' team is still an accomplishment, and it speaks to the resilience and teamwork of the players. With the dedication and perseverance demonstrated this season, there's no doubt that they'll continue to make strides and achieve success next year.

### Volleyball

The dedication and perseverance of the Lady Cougar volleyball team is inspiring, especially while facing less-than-ideal practicing conditions due to the ongoing gym renovations. The fact that they continued to work hard and finish strong speaks volumes about their commitment to the sport and their resilience in overcoming challenges. We are hopeful to end the season with a home game in our new gym. If not, we look forward to their playoff championship against the other middle school teams on Saturday, December 9th at Lemon Bay High School starting at 9AM. Go Cougars!

### Upcoming Sports

There's a lot of excitement for the upcoming sports season after winter break at Ainger! Track and Field, a Soccer mini-season, and Wrestling offer a diverse range of athletic opportunities for students.

It's important that athletes have their physicals up to date to ensure their health and safety while participating in these sports. This is a good reminder for both athletes and their parents to make sure all necessary paperwork and health checks are in order before the start of the new season.

Be sure to check for updates on the Ainger website for each upcoming sport season. Communication is key, and our website is a great way to see the timely and relevant information for students, parents, and the community.

Wishing all the athletes, coaches, and supporters a successful and enjoyable sports season ahead!



## Beginning Band Update

Beginners met in August after school for "Basic Training" to receive their instruments and go over fundamentals with professionals. During the first school quarter, students fine-tuned their skills and learned to assemble, hold, produce a tone, play five notes, articulate, and connect notes so they can perform melodies like the infamous "Hot Cross Buns!" For the second quarter, beginners have been honing their skills and learning to read music in preparation for their first performance at the Winter Concert in December!

This year we have 12 flutes, 30 clarinets, 20 trumpets, 17 trombones, 9 euphoniums, and 11 percussionists. Some of these students will be transferring to similar "pathway instruments" like french horn and tuba in January and later double reeds and saxophone in August!

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*Our clinicians for the day included: Allison Deal for trumpet, Beth Morrison for flute, David Wing for trombone, Ian Ackroyd for clarinet, Shawn Marren for trumpet, Philip Eyrich for euphonium, Tammy Tran for percussion and Kenneth Carter for clarinet*

### Future Marching Manta Night

The Advanced Band was well-received for the first performance of the year for a pre-game performance of the National Anthem at the LBHS football game on Friday, October 20th. Students met the Thursday before to rehearse with the LBHS Band. On Friday, they marched from the band room to the field together to the drum cadence titled "Beach Bum", performed the National Anthem with the ROTC presenting The Colors, then immediately performed the LBHS Fight Song (Same as Notre Dame!) to get the crowd, cheerleaders, and football players pumped for the game!

Band members then enjoyed the HS Band experience by playing songs in the stands including "We Will Rock You", the "FSU War Chant", "Mission Impossible", and "Land of 1000 Dances" and "Baby Shark". At halftime, band members enjoyed watching the LBHS Marching Mantas show and then took the famous 3rd quarter break to get food from concessions.



### F.A.M.E. Music Festival

The local non-profit organization "Friends for the Advancement of Musical Education" or FAME, hosted "Music City" at Pioneer Plaza on Friday and Saturday November 10-11th. In addition to sponsors and a silent auction, local musicians donate their time and talent to raise money for instrument purchases. Over the years, FAME has

purchased many instruments for our local music programs including L.A. Ainger Middle and LBHS which allowed us to grow our programs before there was a fine arts referendum. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support as they branch out of the area and support other schools including Woodland Middle School who are in desperate need of instruments. They had not hosted this festival since 2019 due to the pandemic, street construction, and Hurricane Ian last year. We also had many band parents and students assisting throughout the festival.



THANK YOU parents for helping to make this a successful event!

To show our support, the Ainger Jazz Cats students

kicked off the music festival Saturday followed by the Woodland Middle Wild Cats Jazz Band and the LBHS Jazz Band.

Later that night, Mr. Ostrow organized a special medley performance by current and former Ainger and LBHS students with Grammy considered hometown hero John Salaway. The performance was VERY WELL received! A special shout out to current Ainger band members Charlie Cooke on Tenor Sax and Nik Vadura on Trombone.



### Upcoming Rehearsals and Performances

#### Beginning Band & Jazz Band Rehearsal

- Monday, December 4th directly after school until 5:30pm in the Cafeteria.

#### Beginning Band & Jazz Band Winter Concert

- Tuesday, December 5th at 7pm at the LBHS Auditorium

#### Intermediate & Advanced Band Winter Concert

- Tuesday, December 12th at 7pm at the LBHS Auditorium

Scan the QR code with your phone to see the calendar and newsletters. Paper copies are handed out to all band students and Remind text messages are sent out at least two weeks in advance of an event.



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## GO COUGARS!

### Art News

#### LAM Student Artists – Congratulations!!

Congratulations *Art in the Capital* Winner, for Charlotte County, 8th grader Arianna Jacobs. Her artwork will hang in Representative Roach's office at the FL State Capital throughout the legislation session.



Congratulations *BEALLS Live Life Local* Winner, 6th grader Alexandria Wells. Her art work was selected from Englewood area schools and is on a special edition stainless steel cup, which is available for purchase at Englewood Bealls' stores.



Congratulations Lion's Club *Dear to Dream PEACE* Poster contest winners. Alexandra's 1st place art work will go on to represent Lion's Club Charlotte County at the FL state level.

Good luck, moving forward! All artists were announced and celebrated at a special awards dinner on November 28th.



1st Place  
Alexandra Kassimova



2nd Place  
Gabriella Stephen



3rd Place  
Lynelle Krueger