



What's New at Chi Chi's

May/June 2020

8th Grade Graduation A Celebration We Will Never Forget

With COVID-19 changing the ending of the 2019-2020 school year with virtual learning, the Foundation Team, Academy Teachers & Assistants wanted to celebrate our 8th graders in the best way possible. Without a true on campus "Graduation", the team put together Celebration Boxes, complete with an individualized cake, gift card for a family dinner, graduation gift, cards from all their teachers and a virtual graduation video with messages from teachers and assistants at the Academy. Then came the fun part. A caravan of 8 cars starting with the Chi Chi bus drove to each of our 8th graders homes to drop the box off and congratulate them in person. It was a celebration none of us will ever forget!

If you would like to watch a short video for what we are calling "Operation Graduation", go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=297479154978263>

Congratulations to our 8th grade class of 2020! We missed the end of the school year with you but will forever cherish our memories watching you grow. Can't wait to see what your futures hold!



Top Left: Academy Director Mr. Meurer shares with Javan that he earned a Higher Learning Scholarship (see page 2 for more details); Top Right: Katrina shows off her Scholarship Agreement; Middle: Daniel surrounded by his family and decorated house celebrating his graduation; Bottom Left: David shows off his cap and tassel; Bottom Right: Emmanuel along with his mom and little sister wave at Counselor Bobbie Hill; Right: Teachers, Assistants and Foundation Team Members cheering and honking for all of our graduates.

Upcoming Events

Chi Chi Charity Classic
November 8th - 9th
Chi Chi Golf Club

All other events are currently postponed. We will update on future dates as we have them.

Board of Directors

Thomas A. James, Board Chairman
Raymond James

Frank Chivas, Vice Chairman
Island Way Grill, Seaweed, Rumba,
Salt Rock Grill, and Marina Cantina

Robert D. Basham
Outback Steakhouse and
PDQ Restaurants

Griffith S. Braddock
Braddock Metallurgical, Inc.

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Valley Bank

Scott Curtis
Raymond James Financial

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The Ross Realty Group, Inc.

Eric E. Stewart
First Citizens Bank

Fred E. Whaley
Raymond James & Associates

Bill Wickett
Tampa Bay Lightning

Kendall M. Wilson
Holland & Knight

Academy Executive Committee

Elliott Ross - Chair
Scott Brown
Sophia Brown
Linda Damsky
Brett Dulaney
Daniel Etlinger
Carlos Guerrero
Stacy Gundry
Diana Homan
Bill Hurter

Andrew Ingersoll
John Kobasic
Monica Kobasic
Brian Krostue
Jessica Majeski
Brittany Maxwell
Chuck McGee
Pete Morell
Bob Passwaters
Leighton Peavler
Ian Peterson
Sam Rockwell
Jeremy Robinson
Scott Tobe
Sean Tobe
Richard Wegman

Higher Learning Scholarships Awarded to Three Academy 8th Graders

Academy Executive Committee Members Scott Brown and Linda Damsky joined in virtual graduation and awarded a Higher Learning Scholarship to three very deserving students this year: Luna, Katrina and Javan. The scholarship application process requires the students to fill out an application, write a short essay, collect recommendation letters and with no on campus mentoring, these students did this entirely on their own! The scholarship recipients receive up to \$4,000 for college or higher learning post-graduation. Congrats Luna, Katrina and Javan! We are so proud of you!



"Chi Chi's has helped me believe in myself and the young lady that I soon will become...They believed in me when nobody else would." ~Luna

"Chi Chi's helped me keep straight A's throughout my 6th-8th grade years. When I worked at the general store, it taught me responsibility, how to manage time and good customer service." ~Javan

"Chi Chi's has helped me mentally and emotionally with my confidence. Everyone has gone above and beyond to help me become the young lady I am today." ~Katrina

Photos: Luna in her first year at Chi Chi's (6th) and this past November

Photos: Javan in his first year at Chi Chi's (6th) and this past November

Photos: Katrina in her first year at Chi Chi's (5th) and this past November

Summer Care Packages Go Home to All Academy Students

With our students being away from campus from March through at least August, our Team really wanted to make their end of year and summer break special. Our community came together and provided all of our students with amazing summer bags! Big shout out to the Thunderbug for helping us hand them out!

Thank you to these amazing supporters for making this possible:

- Amplify Clearwater
- Bimbo Bakeries USA
- Clearwater Threshers
- Gasparilla Bowl
- Mike Alstott Family Foundation
- Simply Amazing
- Tampa Bay Lightning



Top Left: 7th grader Lara shows off her Bimbo Bakeries USA goodies; Top Right: 4th grader Elijah with a summer box from Simply Amazing; Bottom: 6th grader Hannah with the Tampa Bay Lightning's Thunderbug

Did You Know...?

AmazonSmile is now available on the Amazon Shopping App for your mobile phone!



Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process