



The Bullpup Press

Volume 2 Issue 9

June 2018

Suwannee Middle School, 1730 SW Walker Avenue, Live Oak, Florida 32064

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

By Daisy De La Cruz-Vazquez and Julie Romulo-Vazquez

On May 14, 2018, SMS students were awarded Take Stock in Children scholarships at a special celebration to honor their academic achievements.

The SMS recipients of the Take Stock in Children Scholarships were Paris Hall, Savannah Long, Julie Romulo-Vazquez, and Daisy De La Cruz-Vazquez.

"I felt excited I was able to get a Take Stock scholarship," stated Long.

Take Stock in Children is a nonprofit organization founded by Don Pemberton in 1995. The organization aims to provide mentors and college scholar-

ships to help students graduate and successfully enter a career. Over 24,000 children have enrolled in the program, which is active in over 800 Florida schools.

Students receiving the scholarships must maintain good behavior, attend school regularly, meet with their mentor, remain crime and drug free, and have at least a C average in all their classes.

"When I received the scholarship, I felt really excited because that's when I knew someone believed in me," stated Hall.



TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

A Walk in Wonderland

By Mel Rodriguez

Suwannee Middle School theatre students were in the spotlight as they performed the stage play, *Dorothy in Wonderland*, May 14-15, in the SMS Multipurpose Room.

Natalie Haney, production director and SMS teacher, along with the entire cast, has been working hard since February to get everything prepared for the four performances, held for



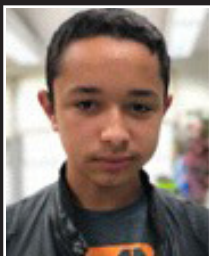
parents and students alike.

Haney picked the play, *Dorothy in Wonderland*, because many theatre students loved *The Wizard of Oz* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Of course, they also had some obstacles, from students not memorizing their lines to those who bowed out just

See Walk on Page 3

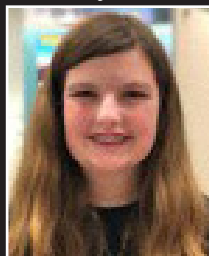


How do you plan to spend summer break?



"Eat and play video games. Sleeping is prohibited."

Saige
Sanchez



"We are going on a big trip this summer with my family."

Katie Skeen



"I want to get fit, get 100 wins on Fortnite, sleep, and work on my sports game."

Kaden McKire



"I want to go to the river, work with my steer, put my bearded dragon in the sun, play kickball, and practice for FFA."

McKayden Wilkerson

COLORFUL CREATIONS

By Allison Johnson



Suwannee Middle School hosted the Spring Art Show during the week of May 14-18, displaying colorful works of art ranging from 2D to 3D wonders.

Melissa Cameron, SMS art teacher, conducted the first SMS Art Show in 2001. She tries to

have an art show every semester to give more opportunities for students to show their art.

Approximately 300 pieces of art were in the art show this year. Pencil drawings, pen and ink drawings, oil pastel paintings, weavings, and woodwork were all displayed in this spring's show.

Evan Moore's string artwork titled, "Weaving," received the Best of the Show award.

"My 8th graders did a unit on weaving. Evan chose to complete an advanced technique, using a stick as his loom. His technique was very advanced! His piece was an all-around show-stopper," stated Cameron.

Taylor Paramore, student artist featured in the Florida State Capitol Building earli-

er this school year, won a first place ribbon for her *Game of Thrones* color pencil drawing.

Cameron shared what she enjoys most about putting on art shows: "I love showcasing the talent of my students! They deserve a pat on the back and acknowledgment from their peers, teachers, and parents. Some of our pieces are truly extraordinary."

If you missed this year's art shows, be sure to visit SMS next school year for another extraordinary season of colorful creations from Cameron's amazing student artists!



CELEBRATING FATHERS

By The Bullpup Press Staff

This month, in honor of Father's Day, *The Bullpup Press* staff would like to honor all dads by sharing just a few of the many reasons why the fathers and grandfathers in our lives are special.

"I am so thankful for my dad and all of the things he does for me. I love him with all of my heart." - Emma Brown

"My father is the best dad out there. He is intelligent, nice, and brave. He is always there for me and my family, and I love him so much." - Shamira Mendoza



"I thank God for my dad. I don't know what I would do if he wasn't in my life." - Key'Arah Gillyard

"I love my dad very much. He is always there for me and helps me with anything." - Natalie Smith

"My grandfather is a huge part of my life." - Emily Gamble

"I am grateful that my dad is my dad. Also, I am thankful for what he does and the sacrifices he makes for me. I love my dad." - Daisy De La Cruz-Vazquez

See Fathers on Page 3

THE BULLPUP PRESS 2017-18 STAFF

Editor/Newspaper Adviser
Jennifer Campbell

Managing Editor
Emily Gamble

News Editor
Daisy De La Cruz-Vazquez

Sports Editors
Allison Johnson
Julie Romulo-Vazquez

Copy Editors
Keri Marshall

Photo/Graphics Editor
Natalie Smith

Reporters
Emma Brown
Key'Arah Gillyard
Alicia Hall
Aden Johns
Shamira Mendoza
Emily Peterson
Mel Rodriguez

The Bullpup is a monthly publication of the SMS Journalism Department.

LOCAL NEWS

Wellborn Blueberry Festival

By Keri Marshall

The annual Wellborn Blueberry Festival has been occurring for 25 years now, and every year the festival just keeps getting better. This year was no different as people from all over Florida celebrated "Christmas in June," the theme of this year's event.

The festivities began at 7:00 a.m. and lasted until 3:00 p.m., in downtown Wellborn, Florida, at Andrews Square. Admission to the festival was free to all festival goers.

On the morning of June 2, 2018, the day started with a blueberry pancake breakfast, followed by the annual parade featuring floats that celebrated "Christmas in June." Other special activities included the live animal show, "Scales and Tales," as well as the Classic Car and Truck Show.

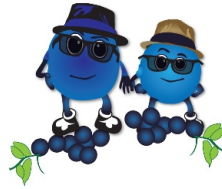
Local singers and musi-

cians provided entertainment throughout the day.

Of course, the star of this show will always be the sweet, succulent blueberry. One vendor, The Country Store, sold nearly everything blueberry flavor, including jams, jellies, bushes, cobbler, pie, and of course, blueberries! There were over 100 vendors.

This event is sure to continue to be a success for years to come. Although blueberries are the color of the day, people attending this greatly anticipated event are definitely NOT left feeling blue!

The Wellborn Community Association organizes the annual Blueberry Festival every year on the first Saturday of June. WCA is a non-profit organization, run by volunteers. Visit www.wellborncommunityassociation.com for more information.



A NIGHT IN ARABIA

By Keri Marshall

The SMS Beta Club sponsored an Arabian Nights 8th Grade Social on April 28, 2018.

Creating a scene from the Arabian Nights inspired by Pinterest, the Beta Club decorated the room with Arabian building cutouts, lights, and colorful fabric on the ceiling. There was even a cut-out of an Arabian

building with colorful fabric used as a photo backdrop.

Free food and beverages were included with the advanced purchase tickets. Students enjoyed mini hot-dogs, macaroni and cheese, chips, cookies, cupcakes, and sodas. The social was from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Attire for the social

was semi-formal; the girls wore dresses, while the boys wore dress pants and collared shirts.

During the dance, participants could request their

favorite songs played by DJ Deanna Horton, a SMS 7th grade science teacher.

Dr. Jimmy Wilkerson, SMS Principal, encouraged the SMS Beta

Club to host this special social, similar to one sponsored by Beta last spring.

The social was a great turnout for the BETA Club, providing a safe, fun environment for students to socialize while raising money for club activities. Thank you to everyone who had a part in this special event!



Walk, Continued from Page 1

before they were to go on stage. As they say in the world of entertainment, though, the show must go on!

Students persevered and made SMS proud as they walked across the stage as characters such as Dorothy, the Tin Man, Alice, the Cheshire Cat, and yes, Toto, too.

Terrance Williams, who played the part of the King of Hearts in the production, expressed his thoughts: "I was really nervous until I walked out and everyone cheered for me,

then I knew it was going to be perfect."

A former English teacher, Brian D. Taylor, wrote *Dorothy in Wonderland*. He wrote the script by compiling ideas found in the classic books, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

Haney stated, "It was a great learning experience for all involved."

Kudos to the SMS theatre troupe on a wonderful walk in Wonderland!

Fathers, Continued from Page 2

"My father is the best. He is always there for me and ready to help me." - Mel Rodriguez

"I am so grateful for my dad. He will always be there for me. I love you, dad!" - Julie Romulo-Vazquez

"My dad loves me unconditionally and he is such a special part of my life. From

teaching to traveling and baking to cooking, we share many common interests and enjoy spending time together. He is not only my father, but also my friend. Most of all, I am grateful for the way he shares the love of Jesus with others. I thank God for him every day. I love you, daddy!" - Jennifer Campbell

TROPICANA SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

By Jennifer Campbell

SMS students have been letting their public speaking skills shine as they competed in the 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest.

On May 4, McKayden Wilkerson placed 1st in the SMS Contest with her speech titled, "Mr. Jingles." The 2nd place winner was Tracey Shanes and the 3rd place winner was Cerinity Gerry.

Wilkerson earned the opportunity to compete at the County Contest on May 18, at the Suwannee County Extension Office, where she placed 1st in the 6th grade division.

Other winners in the 6th grade division of the County Contest were as follows: 2nd place, Lacey



PICTURED L-R: TRACEY SHANES, 2ND PLACE SMS WINNER; JENNIFER CAMPBELL, SMS TEACHER; MCKAYDEN WILKERSON, 1ST PLACE DISTRICT 6TH GRADE WINNER
PHOTO CREDIT AUBREY WILKERSON

Hermanson, Homeschool; 3rd place, Delaney Deadwyler, Branford High School; Honorable Mention, Emma Dyal, Westwood Christian School.

Special thanks to the SMS judges, Melissa Cameron, Jennifer Campbell, and Officer Lee Willis.

Congratulations to all of the Tropicana winners!

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Shamira Mendoza and Emily Peterson



JENNIFER BYRD,
TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

Jennifer Byrd is a 7th and 8th grade technology teacher at Suwannee Middle School.

Byrd was born on April 8 in Chicago,

Illinois. The first job she had was working at a candy counter while in high school. She went to college at the University of Florida. Her major was elementary school education.

The reason why Byrd became a teacher was that she loves being with kids. She has been in the school system for 30 years and plans on retiring sometime in the next 5-10 years.

Before coming to SMS, she was an elementary teacher in Cross City,

where she taught 3rd, 4th, and 6th grade. She then moved to the middle school level and taught 8th grade language arts. At SMS, she has taught 6th and 7th grade language arts, 6th grade advanced math, and now 7th and 8th grade technology.

If she could teach any other subject, Byrd said she would choose math.

Byrd stated, "I really like working with numbers."

She has two daughters and four puppies. Her oldest daughter recently married and her youngest became a teacher. Byrd has been married for 27 years.

Her students describe her as loyal, fair, loving, nice, and wonderful.

In her spare time, Byrd enjoys traveling, boating, and fishing.

Byrd stated, "I hope my students think that what I taught them is valuable to their future."

GO BULLPUPS!

Your Advertisement Could Appear Here

E-mail jennifer.campbell@suwannee.k12.fl.us for more information.