



The Bullpup Press

Volume 2 Issue 6

March 2018

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

A Sweet Night for SMS

By Aden Johns

On February 20, 2018, Dairy Queen hosted a special fundraiser night to benefit Suwannee Middle School.

Laura Williams, SMS Assistant Principal, organized the event for SMS. This was the second event of its kind this year. Although the exact number of dollars raised is yet to be determined for the February 20th

fundraiser, SMS raised \$400.00 at the first Dairy Queen fundraiser on November 6, 2017.

All funds received will go toward the purchase of student supplies.

During the evening hours, SMS

faculty, staff, and students help clear tables, deliver food, open doors, and welcome families. In return, Dairy Queen donates a percentage of all sales during this time to the school.

Williams shared, "Tim Alcorn came and wiped tables the entire evening as well. We appreciate his support for SMS Dairy Queen Night. We

also appreciate the Dunn family. They are great partners and supporters of our schools, and we are very lucky to have them in our community. They are always willing to help and be involved. And, we love Dairy Queen!"



FUTURE FARMERS IN ACTION

By Daisy De La Cruz Vazquez and Julie Romulo-Vazquez

The Suwannee Middle School FFA Chapter has been very busy, traveling across the state to promote agriculture.

SMS FFA has had many highlights this year, including an invitation to the state capital. Suwannee Middle School FFA members were invited for the first time to "Ag on the Hill" in Tallahassee. Many members were excited to attend this amazing event.

"I took four students. They got to hear from the Commissioner of Agriculture, and several

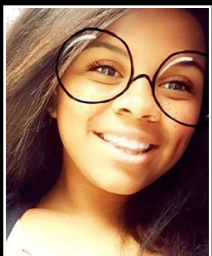


SMS FFA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AG ON THE HILL

members of the senate/congress about agriculture advocacy and the opportunities FFA members have today," Katie Quincy, SMS agriculture teach-

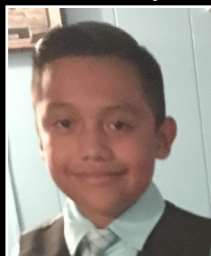
See FFA on Page 2

What are your plans for spring break?



"This spring break, I will go to Georgia to go visit family."

Veronica
Anderson



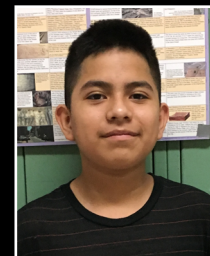
"I will be at my soccer games and be with my family."

Joel De La Cruz
Vazquez



"I plan to not worry about school, eat, and be with my family."

Lesly Cortes



"My spring break plans will be spending time with my family."

Giovani Cortes

SMS FFA, Continued from Page 1

er and FFA advisor. In addition to this incredible experience, SMS FFA members have been maintaining their competitive edge by competing in horse judging competitions. According to FFA.org, horse judging competitions involve evaluating and ranking horses based on breed characteristics, conformation, and performance. “These students are dedicated to the job. They came to the meeting prepared, ready to learn, and excited because we all share a passion for horses,” Mary Check

Cason, SMS language arts teacher and horse judging advisor. FFA members also competed at Districts, receiving first place and third place in parliamentary procedure. The 2017-18 SMS FFA officers are Grant Floyd, President; Bryan Bailey, Vice President; Layne Wood, Secretary; Jake Wooley, Treasurer; Maddie Carte, Reporter; Grant Baker, Sentinel. During National FFA Week, SMS FFA students, their parents, and FFA alumni members provided breakfast for SMS faculty and staff to show their appreciation.



ABOVE: SMS FFA HOSTS TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
BELOW: FFA MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS AT DISTRICTS
PHOTO CREDIT SMS FACEBOOK



RIVEROAK HOSTS CAREER FAIR

By Jennifer Campbell

Suwannee Middle School students had the opportunity to attend the Career Fair & Program Showcase, hosted by RIVEROAK Technical College, on February 28, from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Classes from the SMS Ag, Construction, and Technology programs were able to explore various career options, with over 60 organizations represented. Along with receiving information about the programs offered by RIVEROAK, students spoke with representatives from

the Live Oak Police and Fire Departments, Florida Highway



Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Suwannee County Airport, sev-

eral branches of military service, Advent Christian Village, Love, Inc., Suwannee County Health Department, Florida Gateway College, North Florida Community College, and many other agencies and organizations. During the morning hours, a Flight Medic helicopter landed nearby. Canine officers also performed a special K-9 demonstration on the front lawn. Thank you, RIVEROAK, for hosting such an educational event for our community!

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

LOCAL NEWS

Family Fun at the Fair

By Emma Brown and Natalie Smith

The Suwannee County Fair is returning to town, beginning March 16, at the Suwannee County Fairgrounds. It all began over 100 years ago and will hopefully continue for many more, as this annual event is one of Suwannee County’s most cherished traditions. Tim Alcorn wrote on the Fair website, “The Fair began 103 years ago



and even with the changing times it continues to meet the annual challenges of encouraging and celebrating the best in our community.” This year’s fair will include everything from fabulous food to outstanding music. There will be rides, entertainment, arts and crafts, and even innovative agriculture. All of the fun starts with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16, 2018, and ends on Saturday, March 24, 2018.

“I am looking forward to the fair because it gives me time to spend with my friends,” shared Natalie Robinson, an 8th grade student. The Suwannee Valley

Youth Livestock Show and Sale will include many different events, beginning with the Dairy Show on March 16, at 7:30 p.m. Other events include the Pee Wee Dairy Show on March 17, Youth Hog Showmanship on March 19, Youth Hog Show on March 20, Steer Show on March 21, Youth Livestock Sale on March 22, Heifer Show on March 23, and the Goat Show on March 24. Many local entertainers will be performing each evening, including Suwannee Middle School’s own Jazz Band, who will perform on March 23, at 8:00 p.m. The Suwannee High School Band will also be performing this same evening. Other special events include the Demolition Derby on March 17, at 7:30 p.m. and the Rowdy Ranch Relay on March 24, at 8:00 p.m. The Hispanic Musical Heritage Night will be on March 18, and the Talent Show will highlight many talented performers on March 24, at 6:30 p.m.

SMS BAND HITS A HIGH NOTE

By Allison Johnson

The Suwannee Middle School Band struck a high note as they recently competed in Gainesville, where they had the opportunity to perform for a set of judges at Lincoln Middle School. The band members are dedicated to the art of music. They performed multiple concerts and committed seven weeks of hard work, practicing the tone, style, and technique of their music, in order to prepare for the competition. “Band isn’t just about one person. It’s about playing as a whole and making good quality music,” stated Morgan Williams, SMS band director. In addition to their concert in Gainesville, they had the opportunity to participate in the Pre-Music Band Performance Assessment Concert at Suwannee High School in front of a live audience on February 20, at 7 p.m. They played selections such as old Irish tunes, “Nottingham March,” and “Imperium.” Approximately 90 students play in the SMS Band, including

6th, 7th and 8th grade students. SMS would like to thank Suwannee Valley Electric and a local State Farm representative who donated funds to help cover their travel expenses. Students will definitely continue making strides in the world of music, as they practice and prepare for the next big event, Parent Night. On March 22, Williams and her students will host an informative concert at SMS especially for parents and guardians, so they can see what a day in the Band Room is really like. Students will have the chance to show their parents how they learn new rhythms, notes, and piece of music each week. “Being a part of the SMS band isn’t just about coming to school and playing music, it’s about playing with friends and having a good time,” said Williams. The SMS Jazz Band will perform at the Suwannee County Fair on March 23, at 8:00 p.m. Come out and support your Bullpup Band members!

All senior citizens are invited to a special luncheon with free admission to the fair on March 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Daisy De La Cruz, an eighth-grade student, stated, “I think it will be more eventful this year, even though

the fair was great last year, and I look forward to going with my friends and family.” Visit www.suwanneecountyfair.org for ride armband specials and information on all of the exciting events taking place at the Suwannee County Fair.



The Cupid Shuffle

By Mel Rodriguez

The Suwannee Middle School Beta Club hosted a Valentine's Dance on February 13, 2018, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the SMS multipurpose room.

Clay Murray, an 8th grade student, shared, "There was really good music and good lighting." Another 8th grader, Kendal Simpkins, said, "The dance was a great way to spend time with friends and enjoy some songs. I loved the dance."

The Beta Club raised approximately 700 dollars from ticket

and concession sales. Jeannie Harry, one of the Beta Club sponsors, said the club is planning to use the money to purchase new stage curtains for SMS.

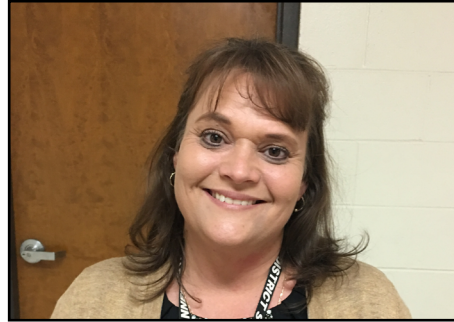
"The dance was a fun time to hang out with friends, but I got to say the candy beat it all," stated Mari Hughes, an 8th grade student.

The SMS guidance department will host the next middle school dance on March 22, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Tickets will be on sale for \$3.00 after spring break.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Alicia Hall and Shamira Mendoza



DARACE HAHN

PHOTO CREDIT SHAMIRA MENDOZA

Darace Hahn teaches 6th grade language arts at Suwannee Middle School. She has been working in the school system for 20 years and has been a teacher for 13 years.

Hahn was born on May 31, 1974. The first job she ever had was a dental assistant. Hahn then became a teacher after graduating from FAMU with a degree in education. She recalled, "The reason I became a teacher was because it was my dream job when I was a

child. I like inspiring students not only academically, but personally."

Hahn teaches because she likes the "rewarding experiences of teaching someone something new." She said if she could teach any other subject other than language arts, it would be science.

Hahn's favorite holiday is Christmas because she likes to go see the snow and the mountains. Hahn said that if she could travel anywhere, it would be Paris, since she would love to visit the Eiffel Tower.

Hahn has a full house with her husband, two kids, three dogs, four chickens, and a pony. She and her husband have been married for 20 years. Together, they have a 9-year-old son and a 16-year-old daughter.

When she is not in her classroom, Hahn enjoys reading, traveling, trying new recipes in her kitchen, boating and spending time with her family.

What a blessing to have such an amazing teacher on our campus!

GO BULLPUPS!

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