



The Bullpup Press

Volume 2 Issue 4

Happy New Year from The Bullpup Press Staff!

January 2018

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

McDonald's Grants Tech Upgrade

By Bridget Daniels

Thanks to Melissa the McDonald's Francisco, one of the Corporation. technology teachers at Suwannee Middle School, the SMS technology department was awarded a \$1,000 grant, which was sponsored by

the McDonald's Corporation. "I wrote an essay about why SMS needs the grant and it was humorous," stated Francisco, concerning the essay she wrote in order



MELISSA FRANCISCO WITH SOME OF HER STUDENTS
PHOTO CREDIT JENNIFER BYRD

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Artistic Expressions

By Natalie Smith

During the week of December 11-15, 2017, students displayed their artistic expressions at the Suwannee Middle School Winter Art Show, coordinated by Melissa Cameron, SMS Art Teacher.

Timmia Gillyard, a 6th grade SMS student, expressed her thoughts on the show: "I loved the art show, and my favorite one was the little tea cup from *Beauty and the Beast*."

The vibrant display, which filled the entire Vocational Wing, drew crowds from every grade level. Teachers, students, and community members alike all wanted to get a glimpse of the latest creations from our student body.

"My favorite part about art is getting to choose what you are going to make," said Evan Moore, an SMS student.

Everyone who viewed the artwork had the opportunity to be a part of the People's Choice Award selection process. Haley Smythe received the People's Choice Best of Show Award for her piece titled, "Polka Dot



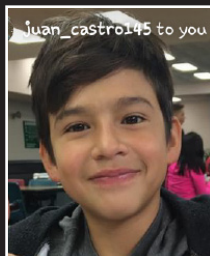
SMS ART TEACHER MELISSA CAMERON WITH THREE OF HER ART STUDENTS AT THE ART SHOW
PHOTO CREDIT EMILY GAMBLE

Tiger." The Best of Show Award recipient, an honor awarded by art teacher extraordinaire, Cameron, was Corbin Anastasio's pen drawing titled, "Sailing Around."

"What I have learned in art class are a lot of important life lessons from Mrs. Cameron and many other techniques," said Matthew Gill, an

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What are your New Year's resolutions?



"My goal for 2018 is having all A's in my classes."

Juan Castro



"I want to get a better time in track."

Tyra Kalandyk



"I hope to get better grades."

Nellie Lamb



"I plan to work hard and get more fit."

Andrew Brown



SOCCER GOALS ACHIEVED

By Allison Johnson

The Suwannee Middle School soccer teams played against Florida High for the first time this year.

Julie Romulo took a penalty kick, the goalie stopped it, and she followed up on her shot and scored, placing the team ahead of Florida High. The SMS girls' soccer team gave it their all and took the win with a score of 1-0.

"I feel great about this season. We have a great team and

a lot of talent. I think we're going to play our games very well," explained Lee Willis, SMS girls' soccer coach, at the beginning of the season.

The SMS boys' soccer team had an unbelievable game, playing against Florida High, with a goal scored in the first five minutes by Carson Palmer. Coby Campbell scored the final goal leaving the score at 2-1. Both teams played aggressively and SMS took the win.

"My joys come from watching my boys enjoy themselves and the game," stated Brantly Helvenston, SMS boys' soccer coach. "We need to work on



communication on the field. The players need to work on calling for the ball and passes, spreading the field, getting open for passes, and making runs for the ball," Willis said as he explained their strategy for improving their game next season.

"My expectations for the next game are for the girls to give 100%, play their positions, and trust their teammates," Willis stated.

The SMS boys' soccer team finished the season by being named the Big Bend Conference Champions.



UGLY SWEATERS, GREAT DANCING

By Keri Marshall

The SMS Student Government Association and the SMS Spanish Club hosted the "Get Yer Ugly On" Christmas dance at SMS on December 15th.

"The dance was a lot of fun, and I really liked the chicharrones," said Karen Aldama concerning the snacks available at the dance.

Decorations included a wide assortment of colorful Christmas lights, a dazzling Christmas tree, and festive inflatable characters.

The dance DJ was Amanda Ramirez, SMS paraprofessional. Ramirez played all kinds of music from all types of music genres, including recording artists such as Rihanna and Ed Sheeran.

Concessions and a photo booth served as a fundraiser for both student organizations, while providing an exciting time of socialization for students.

"The dance was great! It was amazing. I am surprised I was

able to help decorate and transform the multipurpose room into a Christmas land," stated Julie Romulo, Spanish Club President.



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

LOCAL NEWS

Beta Club Brings Joy to the Surrey Place

By Emma Brown

The Suwannee Middle School Beta Club visited the Surrey Place in Live Oak, Florida, on December 16, 2017, to give the residents a Christmas party.

"The visit to the Surrey place was fun," said David Esco. "I really enjoyed learning from these well informed, experienced people. The stories they told were informing, yet exciting, and many of them were very humorous. The staff was very accommodating and kind. The residence really felt like a home and was extremely clean."

Club members visited each of the resident's rooms, singing Christmas carols and spending time with every one of them. They also provided refreshments for the residents, nurses, and students.

Maddie McMillan stated, "I liked visiting with

the elderly and passing the food out." Another student said, "It was fun spending time with the residents at the Surrey place."

The SMS Drama Club, sponsored by Heather Dean, SMS science teacher, gave a performance and all of the students sang songs, such as "Deck the Halls," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

"I think it is very nice that kids are visiting elderly people at the Surrey Place and were singing carols to them. I think the elderly people enjoyed teens coming and singing to them," said an 8th grade student.

The SMS Beta Club is planning to visit the Surrey Place again at some point in the future, and they will be holding a spring formal for the eighth grade class.



Art Show, Continued from Page 1



BEST OF SHOW WINNER "SAILING AROUND" BY CORBIN ANASTASIO

PHOTO CREDIT EMILY GAMBLE

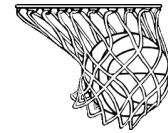
SMS student.

Cameron has been serving as an art teacher for 15 years. She said, "I love teaching the kids to break through their fears, the growth from 6th-8th grade, and helping build confidence that they are the boss of their own artwork and can control what they show."

Make plans to attend the next SMS Art Show, where you will be amazed at the creativity and talent of the students on campus.

Nothing But Net

By Allison Johnson



The SMS basketball teams have shown off their skills on the court this year.

The SMS girls' basketball team protected the doghouse by winning on their home court on December 11, defeating Madison with a score of 36-17. Team Captains Dy'shanti Vance and Gorgeous Ward helped guide the team to success.

For the season, the SMS girls' basketball team had seven wins and four losses.

"I feel we like we did great

on every game. We capitalized on the other teams' weaknesses and used them to our advantages," said Nicole Williamson, SMS girls' basketball coach.

The SMS boys' basketball team finished their season strong as well, with a win against Madison.

"We started out pretty rough, but we have grown as a team and the players are still young and are still learning more technique," stated Kevin Lewis, SMS boys' basketball coach.

Grant, Continued from Page 1

to receive the grant.

The funds will allow Francisco to upgrade old equipment in her computer lab, including a class set of new headphones and mice for the computers.

"This will help the students become more successful," said Francisco. "The thing that makes a classroom successful is constant interaction with the students."

"When technology works, it's great, and when it doesn't work,

we are sad," expressed Francisco.

"Mrs. Francisco is an amazing teacher and she knows the importance of teaching technology. She is very funny and she loves to joke around with the students. She is truly the best teacher ever," stated Emily Bowen.

The grant will help technology students tremendously by improving the learning process. SMS would like to thank the McDonald's Corporation for this generous grant.

SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

By Jennifer Campbell

"F-l-u-o-r-e-s-c-e-n-t."

Those were the eleven letters eighth grader Saige Sanchez delivered, making him the 2017-18 SMS Spelling Bee Champion.

The competition was intense on December 15, 2017, as 35 students, grades 6-8, competed for the title of Champion.

Sanchez came out on top, earning the opportunity to represent SMS at the District Spelling Bee on January 19, 2018. He could earn the right to compete at the Regional Bee in Jacksonville and possibly go on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

First runner-up was eighth grader Brody Argo and second runner-up was seventh grader Leyana Torres.

Spelling Bee Coordinator, Jennifer Campbell, said she was impressed with the level to which

the top three spellers progressed.

Special thanks to the pronouncer, Carla Blalock, SHS Media Clerk, and the judges, Angie Hester, District Blended Support Colleague and RIVEROAK/SVS Instructor; Janene Fitzpatrick, SCSB Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; and Renee Bass, SCSB Coordinator of Data, Assessments, and Accountability. SMS appreciates their support!



L-R: JENNIFER CAMPBELL, SPELLING BEE COORDINATOR; SAIGE SANCHEZ, CHAMPION; LAURA WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Photo Credit Carla Williams

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Mel Rodriguez



GLEN GREEN

PHOTO CREDIT MEL RODRIGUEZ

As a 7th grade Mathematics teacher, Glen Green has made a positive impact on the entire student body at Suwannee Middle School.

Green loves this school and enjoys spending time with the SMS faculty, staff, and students. He said he likes being with them on a daily basis. His main goal for his classroom is that he wants his students to enjoy math and

not be scared of the subject which some people find challenging.

"To be honest, Coach Green has been my favorite math teacher so far," stated Albert Cornavaca, an 8th grade student who was in Green's class last year.

Outside of school, Green enjoys spending time with family and going to church. His two resolutions for the New Year are to start exercising more and continuing to improve his relationship with Christ.

Green's favorite holiday is Christmas, since he gets to celebrate Jesus' birth. This Christmas break, he enjoyed spending time with his family and sitting by the bonfire.

Green always puts a smile on people's faces with his awesome personality. He is always doing his best to help his students. SMS is grateful to have such a passionate teacher who is a role model for students.

GO BULLPUPS!

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