



The Bullpup Press

Volume 2 Issue 5

The Bullpup Press Staff invites you to the
SMS Dairy Queen Fundraiser on February 20, from 5-9 p.m.

February 2018

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



REWARDING READERS

By Keri Marshall & Mel Rodriguez

Suwannee Middle School students who earned 50 AR points or more recently received a reward for their reading achievements.

Nikki Jackson, SMS Media Specialist, has hosted this special party for seven years now, including a celebration every nine weeks and an extra special bash to reward readers on their accomplishments for the entire school year.

Thanks to the SMS Media Center, students received invitations to a special celebration, which included lunch from Pizza Hut and cookies for dessert. Additionally, they had giveaways for the attendees, including books, cups, bracelets, and gift cards.

The top three readers each received an award. The first place winner was Shelby Crossno

with 283.2 AR points, the second place winner was Natalie Dunn with 175.1 AR points, and the third place winner was Daniel Johnson with 172.9 AR points. The first place winner won books valued at \$35, second place won books valued at \$25, and third place won books valued at \$15.

Jackson stated that her favorite part of the celebration was "interacting with the kids and rewarding their hard work."

Assuredly, the SMS faculty and staff will continue to encourage students to read, so they may reach their fullest potential. Reading can introduce students to a whole new world!



SHELBY CROSSNO,
1ST PLACE WINNER
PHOTO CREDIT NIKKI JACKSON



SMS STUDENTS WHO EARNED 50 AR POINTS OR MORE DURING THE 2ND NINE WEEKS GRADING PERIOD

PHOTO CREDIT SMS FACEBOOK

BUILDING FUNDS

By Aden Johns

SMS students are building picnic tables to raise funds for the on-campus construction program.

Students work hard, as they measure, cut, and assemble the boards, finishing the entire table in just two days.

Picnic tables come in three sizes, a standard 6-foot table made of pressure-treated 2x6 boards for \$120, a junior 4-foot table made of pressure-treated 2x4 boards for \$80, and a kids' 4-foot table made of pressure-treated split deck boards for \$60.

Michael Meek, SMS

construction teacher, said, "We don't just make picnic tables. There are other projects, like corn-hole games, chicken coops, and more."

All of the proceeds will go directly to the SMS building construction program, to purchase additional materials and tools needed.



Why is Valentine's Day special to you?



"A day of love and spend time with family."

Avery Horan



"The sharing of love between everyone."

Seth Boston



"It is special to me because of loved ones and to cherish precious moments."

Arizona Daughtry



"Enjoying time with friends and being a human with emotions you can share."

Alex Descarreaux

The Bullpup Press

NO PAIN, NO GAIN

By Emily Gamble

The Suwannee Middle School wrestling team had an amazing season, finishing with a consistent top five team score at every tournament.

"Overall, I would say this has been a successful season," said head coach Bryan Wainwright.

Wainwright and assistant coach Charles Bean are the ones who helped lead the team to victory. Wainwright is in his first year of coaching at SMS and enjoys teaching new techniques to younger wrestlers.

SMS wrestlers, Brody Boehm, Austin McKinney, Charles Jennings, and Mauri Roberts earned the title of 2018 Middle School State Wrestling Champions. Xaedynd Kirkland, Austin Howard and Garriss Reed were State Runner Ups and Tyson Musgrove finished in fourth place. The Bullpups finished the State Championship Tournament in second place overall.

Wainwright stated, "We had a lot of injuries and we were a young team trying to rebuild. However, we managed to come together and pull off a seven and four dual record and had several qualify for the North Florida Championship."

"Every year we learn a little more and improve on what we already know. The competition gets better each year, so we have to improve with it," said Wainwright.

SERVING THROUGH THE SEASON

By Emma Brown

On January 22, 2018, the Suwannee Middle School volleyball team celebrated their successes throughout the season at a special banquet to honor their achievements.

Natalie Robinson, an 8th-grade SMS volleyball player, stated, "I had a great time playing with my teammates. We

grew together and saw lots of improvements. I would like to thank Coach Nicole for all of the work she put into us. I will miss all my teammates and hope I get to play with them again."

Led by head coach Nicole Williamson and assistant coach Kevin Lewis, the team performed

very well. One of the team's biggest accomplishments was when Robinson scored 25-0 against the Trenton Middle School volleyball team.

Great things are in store for next season, as SMS continues serving up some fierce competition on the court!

DISTRICT HONOREES NAMED

By Keri Marshall

The Suwannee Education Foundation held a banquet at the Advent Christian Village, on January 16, 2018, to honor the Teachers of the Year and School Related Employees of the Year.

Stephanie Williams, a teacher at Suwannee Primary School, received the title of District School-Related Employee of the Year. She stated, "I am honored and humbled to receive an award for a job I love doing!"

Buddy Williams, a member of the

Suwannee Education Foundation Board, announced this year's District Teacher of the Year, Lynsee Dicks, a Branford Elementary School teacher.

"In the world of education, it is a blessing to serve alongside teachers here in Suwannee County. They are an exemplary faculty who pour heart and soul into our children. Each instructor is a 'Teacher of the Year' to his or her students," stated Dicks.

Suwannee High School Principal Malcolm Hines received the honor of

Principal of the Year and SHS Assistant Principal Tammy Boggus received the Assistant Principal of the Year award.

Danielle Tompkins introduced one of her former teachers, Stephanie Sampson, Suwannee Middle School Teacher of the Year, at the banquet.

Sampson shared, "I am very humbled and honored to represent SMS as Teacher of the Year. I truly love the faculty and staff. Thanks for being loyal to me. I am forever loyal to you. SMS support means the world to me."

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NATIONAL NEWS

Eagles Fly at Super Bowl LII

By Emily Peterson

On February 4, 2018, fans gathered from all over the country at the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to cheer on their favorite team at the Super Bowl LII.

Fans were on the edge of their seats to see which of the remarkable teams would win. The Philadelphia Eagles soared past former Super Bowl Champions, the New England Patriots, with a score of 41-33. This victory gives the Eagles their fourth NFL title.

Tieler Miller, a student at SMS, said, "I like watching football because it not only brings my family together, but it is a great way to get to know a great sport."

Although the games were fun to watch in person, it was not fun to pay for the tickets. With prices varying from 950 to 5000 dollars

for one ticket, many people would say that it is not worth it. For the Eagles fans in the stands on Super Bowl Sunday 2018, they would likely have a different opinion. Seeing the underdogs come out on top was a priceless moment for these loyal football supporters.

Floridians may just get a glimpse of Eagles Quarterback and Super Bowl MVP, Nick Foles, since he celebrated the win at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, on February 5. He rode atop a float in a special parade given in his honor at the Magic Kingdom, continuing a Disney tradition that began 31 years ago in 1987.



"I LOOK TO A DAY WHEN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER." - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Honoring Our Presidents

By Daisy De La Cruz Vazquez

Originally established as George Washington's Birthday in 1885, Presidents' Day is now a federal holiday held on the third Monday of February, to honor all of our U.S. presidents.

"I celebrate Presidents' Day because it pays tribute to our founding fathers. My favorite president is George

Washington because he was a brave war hero," stated Lesley Fry, SMS social studies teacher. Although this holiday recognizes

all of our presidents, the government officially names this holiday Washington's Birthday, to pay homage to our very first president, George Washington, who was

born on February 22, 1732.

"It is important so we can remember our two most important presidents that have served our country.

For example, George Washington was an honorable man in the eyes of many," said Herbert Hutchinson, SMS social studies teacher.



Art in the Capitol

Suwannee Middle School would like to congratulate SMS student, Taylor Paramore, for having her artwork featured at the Florida State Capitol Building in Tallahassee, FL.

Paramore competed and represented the Suwannee County School District in the Art in the Capitol Competition.



L-R: SMS PRINCIPAL JIMMY WILKERSON, TAYLOR PARAMORE, AND SMS ART TEACHER MELISSA CAMERON



Campus Beautification

Special thanks to the SMS Beta Club for their campus beautification project on February 1st.

Students worked hard, repainting the green paw prints on the sidewalks and cleaning other areas on campus.

Thanks for making SMS looking great!

Sanchez Places 4th in District

By Jennifer Campbell

The competition was intense on January 19, 2018, as the best student spellers in the county vied for the title of Champion.

SMS eighth grader Saige Sanchez placed fourth in the 2017-18 Suwannee County School District Spelling Bee. Both Sanchez and SMS runner-up Brody Argo were rewarded with breakfast at Dixie Grill following the competition.

Isabella Baldwin, a student at Melody Christian Academy, was crowned the winner when she correctly spelled the word, "necessary." First runner-up was Taylor Smith, a Branford High School student.

Baldwin and Smith will represent the Suwannee County School District at the Regional Bee on March 9, 2018, in Jacksonville, FL., at the Florida

Theatre. The regional bee will air live on channel 4. The time is to be announced.

The winner of the Regional Bee will be one step closer to advancing to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

We wish our Suwannee County students well as they try to spell their way into the national spelling bee spotlight!



L-R: LAURA WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL; SAIGE SANCHEZ; JOHN OLSON, DIRECTOR OF ELEMENTARY/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Photo Credit TJ Vickers

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Shamira Mendoza



ROBYN BONDS AND SHAMIRA MENDOZA

PHOTO CREDIT ANNETTE CHAUNCEY

Robyn Bonds is an 8th-grade science teacher at Suwannee Middle School. Proud to be a Suwannee County native, she has taught at SMS for 25 years. Bonds has taught various subjects, grades 7-12, including biology, physical science, consumer math, and general science. Her favorite physical science lab is the liquid and nitrogen lab, which is a favorite among students as well.

Although she loves teaching, Bonds did not originally plan to be a teacher. Bonds shared, "No, my first major was in the medical field. I quickly realized that I wanted to work with kids because I wanted to help them learn new skills."

Bonds has been married to Alan Bonds for 26 years and counting. They have two daughters, one son, and one grandson.

In her spare time, Bonds likes to read, go to her daughter's soccer games, her son's baseball games, and FaceTime her grandson. She has two cats, two goldfish, and one dog. One hidden talent she has is that she can flip and walk on her hands.

Bonds describes herself as a happy, hopeful, and hyperactive person. Teaching is definitely her passion because she likes to make a positive impact on all of her student's lives. We are blessed to have her on the SMS campus!

GO BULLPUPS!

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