The Bullpup Press

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

Bullpups Take Win Against Baker

By Allison Johnson and Julie Romulo-Vazquez

The Suwannee Middle School Bullpups football team started an amazing season, playing their first game against Baker County Middle School on August 29. The team had many supporters including cheerleaders, coaches, students, and parents to encourage them.

Coach Scarborough explains how the team can keep the momentum going: "After the first game, getting the right people in the right positions and time management will definitely improve how the team plays." By practicing every day, they will have trained enough to crush their next opponent.

The SMS Bullpups defeated the BCMS Bobcats on their own turf. With only two minutes left to score, the team managed to have a nice comeback. With unyielding motivation, SMS took the lead with a punt return for a touchdown, which brought them to victory with a final score of 18-14.

Cole Humphries, SMS football player, states, "I personally think we could have done better as a team, but it was only our first game. We could have done a better job at blocking and catching the ball. The team needs to set a tempo from beginning to end and have no mercy on the opposing team. It's not about the size of the dog, but the fight in the dog."

This first win has given the team enthusiasm to work hard and play to their best ability. With teamwork and perseverance, they are sure to pull off their best season yet!

Coach Scarborough expresses his expectations about this year's football team, saying he is "confident that no one will last with this set of dogs!"



Dr. Jimmy Wilkerson with SMS Students
Photo Credit Emily Gamble

SMS Welcomes New Principal

By Brianna Jenkins, Shamira Mendoza, and Mel Rodriguez

This school year, Dr. Jimmy Wilkerson greeted the Suwannee Middle School faculty, staff, and students as the new SMS Principal. Affectionately known as "Doc," he has been welcomed with open arms.

"I enjoy the challenge and have enjoyed the move to Suwannee Middle School," shares Wilkerson. "I want it to be better than it already is."

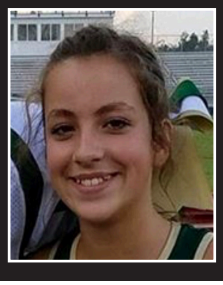
See Principal on Page 2

What goals do you want to achieve this school year?



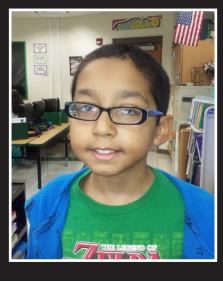
"I want to make the A honor roll and make the SMS softball team."

Ali McMillan



"I would like to make good grades and the track team."

Macy Bowers



"I want to make good grades, do good in sports, and be the best typist."

Jessie Valero



"I really hope to make the SMS softball team and achieve A honor roll."

Gracie Williams

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Having served as a principal for six years, Wilkerson prefers being a principal more than a teacher, so he can have a greater impact on the entire student body. Furthermore, he hopes he can influence students to achieve a higher education.

This experienced principal has many innovative and motivational ideas on how to improve the school. He may give the students more privileges because he believes that everyone deserves a chance.

One of the things he loves the most about SMS is the positive atmosphere and how much the faculty and staff care about the students. He believes teachers always have the best interest in mind for students and everyone works together as a team to achieve a common goal.

If he could change one thing about SMS, Wilkerson says he would like "all children to have a loving family to go home to."

Wilkerson has been married for 15 years and has two daughters. In his spare time, his hobbies include scuba diving and spear fishing.

ANNOUNCING 2017-18 SMS NEWSPAPER STAFF



By Jennifer Campbell

Suwannee Middle School is proud to announce the 2017-18 SMS Newspaper Staff. All of the staff members have been working hard to ensure the first 2017 edition of The Bullpup Press will be a shining success.

We hope you will enjoy reading each issue. From monthly mainstays such as the Teacher Spotlight to special features covering major events like Future Now, The Bullpup Press promises to be an exciting, informative source for all things relating to SMS!

If you would like to suggest a future news topic, or if you would like to purchase advertisement space, please e-mail jennifer.campbell@suwannee.k12.fl.us.

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



Future Now Director Chris Musgrove with SMS Students
Photo Credit SMS Facebook Page

Your Future Starts Now

By Keanna Hascue and Natalie Smith

Future Now brought motivation to the max at Suwannee Middle School during the first major student body assembly of the 2017-18 school year, held on August 30. Chris Musgrove, Future Now Director, visited his hometown of Live Oak, bringing a positive message to Suwannee Middle School, Suwannee High School, and the Suwannee County Coliseum.

"It was a very inspirational event. It really speaks to the kids that need it and hopefully gives them faith that they can be anything they want as long as they believe in themselves and put their heart in it. I can't wait for the next show to come to Suwannee County," said Emma Brown, an 8th grade student.

Students were singing along during the concert portion and they were listening intently during the drama and speaking segments. Future Now performed three songs, including "Hall of Fame" by The Script. Videos told stories of how people overcame obstacles in their lives and the incredible dramatic skits showed how to handle real-world situations students may face.

"This was my favorite event of all my two years of Suwannee Middle School," said Shamira Mendoza, an 8th grade student at Suwannee Middle School.

Future Now's special effects were out of this world! They had smoke machines, bright lights and projection screens. They also had a great sound system so everyone could hear.

Both of the school performances and the Coliseum event were amazing. Student Joel De La Cruz attended the evening show at the Coliseum, which was different from the school events, and he said, "It was an amazing night there, people accepting Jesus in their life and changing it."

Student Gabriel Montoya likely echoes the thoughts of many when he said, "It would be great if they came back again."

LOCAL NEWS

Irma Leaves Devastating Path

By Shamira Mendoza

In the wee hours of the morning on September 11, 2017, Suwannee County residents faced Hurricane Irma, the biggest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic Basin.

The storm was such a threat that Suwannee County Schools were cancelled for six school days, and public schools, universities, and colleges were even cancelled statewide by Governor Scott for two of those days.

Before and after the storm, people lined up at gas stations for hours. Grocery stores sold out of many staple food items, causing people to fight for bottled water, bread, and other necessary items. Many people evacuated to shelters for safety and protection. The winds were very dangerous.

Diego Gomez-Nieves, an 8th grade student, said, "Hurricane Irma blew all of my trees away."

After the hurricane, 91% of Suwannee County residents lost power. Members of the community banded together to help with clean-up efforts. Many families suffered extensive damage to their homes, where pine and oak trees fell due to high winds.

"A tree fell inches away from my house," said Key'Arah Gillyard, a 7th grade student.

Residents of Suwannee County

See Irma on Page 4

Start Building

By Daisy De La Cruz Vazquez



Michael Meek
Photo Credit Shamira Mendoza

This year, Suwannee Middle School students have the opportunity to have hands-on construction practice as they build sculptures and learn how to construct various types of projects.

Students enrolled in this class will receive a High School credit for this vocational class. Construction class involves more than just building things. Students will also learn skills such as planning, design, and financing.

"We get to build fascinating things like birdhouses, picnic tables and more," stated Sadira Mendoza, an SMS student.

Clay Murray, an eighth-grade student, said enthusiastically, "I'm happy we get to make sculptures and be creative in it. We also raise money to buy equipment."

SMS Construction teacher Mr. Michael Meek said, "I love teaching my classes. We get to earn a certification and we will be building projects."

Irma, Continued from Page 3

are grateful that the storm was not as severe as weather predictions originally stated.

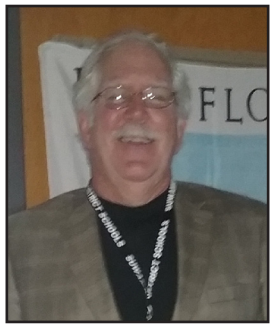
"We were fortunate. We only lost power for a day. We had some big trees that fell," said Jennifer Byrd, SMS Technology Teacher.

Hurricane Irma was a catastrophic storm, devastating the Florida Keys and parts of the Caribbean. More than 70 people lost their lives during this tragic hurricane.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Emily Peterson

Mr. Brantly Helvenston is one of the expert historians on the SMS campus, teaching 8th grade U.S. History. His SMS teaching career began ten years ago.



Brantly Helvenston
Photo Credit Emily Peterson

Helvenston has had several near death experiences, from lightning strikes and electrocutions to strokes, being hit by a car, and if that wasn't enough, he has been shot!

According to Helvenston, he was born in Live Oak, Florida in the year 1900. His hobbies include coin collecting, growing camellias, sailing and reading.

This Social Studies teacher definitely holds history in his heart. Helvenston said, "History books were some of the first books I learned to read."

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