



The Bullpup Press

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

Tremendous Technology

By Keri Marshall

Suwannee Middle School's IT Academy strives for student success, teaching important computer skills that can benefit students in their future endeavors.

Students enrolled in the IT Academy have the opportunity to earn Microsoft industry certifications, which are identical to certifications obtained by working professionals. Students can achieve certification in Microsoft Office

programs and other areas as well.

"Technology is always changing and advancing. I love sharing with my students things I've learned or seen," stated Jennifer Byrd, one of the technology educators at SMS.

Byrd teaches 6th and 7th grade computer applications and digital information technology as a high school credit to 8th graders. Melissa Francisco teaches applied business applications

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Following Christ on Campus

By Daisy De La Cruz-Vazquez

Mark 16:15 (NIV) says, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Members of the Suwannee Middle School Fellowship of Christian Athletes are striving to do this every day.

"FCA gives Christians and interested people a chance to meet at school," stated Al Johnson, SMS FCA co-sponsor and 7th

grade history teacher.

FCA gives students the opportunity to come and learn about the Word of God. This organization is also a way students can interact with others, talk about God, and share how he has changed their lives.

Christianity is not just a religion, but it is the way we can interact with God and be

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How do you celebrate Easter?



"Usually at Easter, I'm with my family and we eat together."

Allyson Potter



"Every year we go to see my aunt and eat chocolate candy."

Levi Rolollison



"I hang out with my family and pick up eggs. We also make an event for little kids."

Dixie Corbin



"I go to my grandma's. Also, we do a big Easter egg hunt."

Austin Howard

SLIDING INTO THE SEASON

By Emma Brown

The Suwannee Middle School softball and baseball teams have had an off the charts season!

Terry Mixon, the head coach for the SMS softball team, stated, "I feel like this has been a successful season, not based solely on wins and losses, but on learning the game of softball and being able to build on that as our players move forward."

The Lady Pups softball team has a record of nine total wins and seven losses. The Bullpups baseball team has a total record of fourteen wins and four losses.

"Baseball and softball has been a big part of the SMS family for a long time," said Emily Gamble, a 7th grade student.

The Lady Pups traveled to Hamilton County to participate in the East Side Tourney, April 2-3, 2018. They defeated the Taylor County softball team on April 2.

Andrew Chapman, SMS baseball head coach, said, "We have gotten bigger, faster and stronger. We have gelled as a team."

The Lady Pups also overtook the Madison County softball team on April 3, winning their fourth district championship in a row, giving them an opportunity to play in the Big Bend



ABOVE: THE SMS LADY PUPS SOFTBALL TEAM WINS DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

PHOTO CREDIT SMS FACEBOOK

Conference Championship against Marianna. They lost in Marianna with a close score of 6-2.

"It has been extremely enjoyable working with a great group of girls wanting to get better. As a coach, seeing improvement in the different aspects of the game is rewarding. I look forward to seeing what they achieve as individuals and as a team down the road," stated Mixon.

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A FEW OF THE SMS CERTIFIED MICROSOFT SPECIALISTS

PHOTO CREDIT SMS FACEBOOK

and gaming as well as simulation foundation for a high school credit. Jennifer Campbell teaches business keyboarding and journalism.

"The goal of the IT Academy is to strengthen student's skills in the field of technology. We want to not only help them in their academic coursework, but better prepare them for entering the workforce as well," stated Campbell.

Campbell also serves as SMS newspaper adviser, working with her journalism students to produce the school newspaper, *The Bullpup Press*, which is featured every third Friday of the month in the *Suwannee Democrat*.

The SMS technology program exposes students to a wide range of technological skills, which will help them succeed in an ever-changing digital world.

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

LOCAL NEWS

Into the Jungle

By Allison Johnson

Mystic Jungle Educational Facility, Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Live Oak, Florida, and is home to many endangered and exotic species.

Mystic Jungle's mission is "to educate young and old on the importance of conservation and preservation of all native and exotic species," according to the Mystic Jungle website.

They have a wide range of different animals including multiple breeds of tigers, Asian and Indian leopards, Ring Tailed lemurs, Florida panthers, an African caracal, and many other exotic and domestic species. They are not open to the general public daily, but do give private tours by appointment with no fees.

On Saturday, April 14, 2018, Mystic Jungle hosted the Jungle Jam fundraiser to raise money for the animals and the facility. Special musical performances, animal presentations, and other events were held throughout the day. The fundraiser was held from 10:00



a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets were available for advance purchase.

Native Floridians, Vera and Mark Chaples, founded Mystic Jungle, which became a non-profit fully incorporated facility in 2010. V. Chaples is a veterinary technician with over 37 years of experience in the veterinary medical field. She was also a barrel racer, making it to the NBHA finals three consecutive years. M. Chaples has been a cattle rancher and has worked with domestic and exotic animals his entire life. He has also worked with land mitigation to help recover ecologically threatened areas. Together, they help educate the public about the importance of assisting endangered and threatened species.

For more information, visit the Mystic Jungle website at www.mysticjungle.org.

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able to praise his holy name and thank him for all the things he has done," said Julie Romulo-Vazquez, an 8th grade student.

The SMS FCA sponsors are Karen Braun, Katie Quincy, and Al Johnson. They meet every Friday morning on campus from 7:30-7:55 a.m. There are currently about 20-25 members. Anyone is invited to join and come in to hear about the Lord.



SERVING OTHERS

By Shamira Mendoza

The SMS Beta Club has been very active this school year, going out of their way to serve others in need, interacting with different people and helping the community in many ways.

Beta Club hosted a special Christmas party for the residents at the Surrey Place Care Center. They plan to return to the care center to conduct a Mother's Day project.

Julie Romulo-Vazquez, a Beta Club member, said, "Some of the elderly people do not have family to come see them, so it makes me feel good

when I go there, so they can know someone loves them."

Beta Club also made bags for children in El Salvador and participated in campus beautification, repainting the paw prints along the SMS sidewalks.

Additionally, they have hosted two school dances, including the Bootacular Bash and the Cupid Shuffle. They also hosted a 5K Shamrock Shuffle Walk/Run to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

"I love Beta Club because it gives me the chance to meet new people. The projects we complete are a big help to the community," said Daisy De La Cruz-Vazquez, an SMS student.

On April 28, they will host the Arabian Nights Student Social for 8th graders. Another upcoming venture will be a cyber safety project.

Some of the funds raised by Beta this year will go



toward the purchase of new water fountains and stage curtains for SMS.

To qualify for Beta Club membership,

students must achieve a 3.5 GPA in core classes, have no referrals, and obtain a positive teacher recommendation. Currently, there are 106 SMS Beta members. Students must perform five hours of community service a month to maintain membership, which can be obtained through Beta service projects. Contact one of the co-sponsors, Jeannie Harry or Deanna Horton, for more information.

Spring Fling

By Jennifer Campbell and Aden Johns

The Suwannee Middle School Guidance department hosted the Spring Fling Dance on March 22, 2018, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room.

This dance was held to not only provide a positive after-school activity, but to also raise funds for student incentives at SMS.

The three SMS guidance counselors, Shawn Herring, Kim Cohen, and Tim Burbridge, worked together to make this event possible.

Along with several other faculty and staff members, and approximately 100 students, this dance was surely a toe-tapping success.

Students were responsible for running the concession stand, selling water, soda, sports drinks, chips, and candy. All proceeds will go toward student rewards.

The next special after school event at SMS will be the Arabian Nights 8th Grade Social, on April 28, hosted by the SMS Beta Club.

Spring Art Show

Suwannee Middle School

May 14-18, 2018



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Emily Gamble



MELISSA CAMERON WITH TAYLOR
PARAMORE, SMS STUDENT ARTIST

PHOTO CREDIT EMILY GAMBLE

Melissa Cameron has been a part of the SMS family for 14 years and has been teaching for a total of 23 years, beginning with the elementary level.

Cameron is the only art teacher on campus, so she has the opportunity to teach all three grade levels, inspiring young artists every single day. She has enjoyed art ever since she was a little girl. Her favorite artist, John Rice, owns a frame shop in downtown Live Oak.

Cameron said, "I tried to use my gift God gave me to share with students."

Cameron has been married to her

husband, Tony Cameron, for 24 years. Her 20-year-old daughter, Denver, is a junior at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, majoring in marketing. Her 22-year-old son, Bo, is a senior at Florida State University and his major is computer science.

During Cameron's spare time, she likes to spend time with family, travel, and work on her artwork.

If you would like to view some of her student's artistic creations, make plans to attend the SMS Spring Art Show during the week of May 14-18. "It will be the biggest and best ever," said Cameron.

SMS is blessed to have such a compassionate teacher who not only has a passion for art, but also a passion for teaching. Cameron cares about her students, and she is always striving to make a difference.

Cameron said, "I'm thankful to the administration for continuing with the art program and supporting everything we do and for all the opportunities they give our school."

GO BULLPUPS!

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