



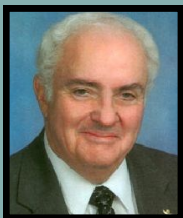
District 3 News

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Over the past few weeks, I have received a number of inquiries as to the action being taken to address security concerns within our schools. I can assure you that considerable time is being taken to review all school safety and security plans. This issue is of major concern to the school board, the Superintendent and district staff.

Mr. Tim Forson, Deputy Superintendent for Operational Services has advised me of the following: "With the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn. the St. Johns County School District has taken the time to review and reflect upon the issue of school safety. Annually, each school reviews and updates its Emergency Operations Plan and convenes meetings of its safety team committees. Schools continue to hold lockdown drills and each school has reviewed its evacuation procedures. The district continues to work closely with local law enforcement on improving emergency preparedness and communications, and enhancing safety for all students and staff. I will keep you advised of the progress that is made and the action taken to enhance school safety and security. This is a top priority for all of us in the St. Johns County School System."

We are thankful for the continued support of our local law enforcement agencies as they have provided an increased presence at our schools. We will continue to plan for future improvements to facilities and school campuses to enhance school security.

The St. Johns County School District's Health Services Department is participating in a collaborative initiative with the St. Johns County Fire Rescue and the American Heart Association that will result in the training of every graduating senior in the district in Hands Only Bystander CPR. The American Heart Association reports that 89% of people, who suffer sudden cardiac arrest, die because they don't receive immediate CPR from someone on the scene. Because time is critical in the interval of collapse to CPR, it is the most powerful factor in determining survival from cardiac arrest. This year so far, seniors from NHS, BTHS, SJTHS, and PMHS have been trained in Hands Only CPR. Not only will these seniors graduate and receive their diploma, but they will also graduate with the knowledge and training to possibly save a life.

Bill Mignon
School Board Member
District 3



I wish to extend my sincere condolences to the students, faculty and staff at Pedro Menendez High School. Within the past two weeks, they have experienced the passing of two of their students. This loss has been traumatic for many, especially for the parents of these two young men. My thoughts and prayers go out to them at this darkest of times. I cannot begin to imagine the grief that these parents feel. To lose a child, as these parents have, is beyond my comprehension. It is an occurrence that no parent ever wants to experience. How does one face an event of this magnitude? How does one cope with the deep anguish that they are experiencing? All any of us can offer is a prayer, a prayer for strength, a renewal of faith and hope for the years that are ahead. These young men will never be forgotten by those close to them. Hold on to the fond memories of the years gone by.

Insurance Plan

Frequently Asked Questions



Do the SJCS D Health Centers take walk-ins?

The Health Centers do not take walk-ins in the same fashion as an urgent care center. Employees can not just show up at a clinic and wait to be seen by a physician. The clinics run on 20 minute appointments and they are at an average of over a 90% fill rate every day.

To arrange to "walk-in" to a clinic when no appointments are available on-line, employees may call 1-877-423-1330 to speak to a CareHere operator. The operator will collect information from the employee, such as their medical issue, the clinic preference and contact information. The operator will then work with the clinic to find the possibility of working in the employee and the time. In many instances, the clinic will call the employee back directly to discuss options. If the clinic of choice is not available, the operator will work to see if there are possibilities at the two other centers.

Information provided by:

Cathy Weber

Director for Human Resources

CareHere!

Manatee News

Otis A. Mason Elementary School's Exciting Events



Celebrating Literacy!



"Literacy Week at Mason Elementary was filled with exciting activities! Students were delighted with drawings for free books all week, as part of a literature trivia contest. A Library Card Drive Initiative in collaboration with St. Johns County Public Library resulted in many Manatees with their first library cards and visits to the public library. A Fractured Fairytales Presentation for grades K-5 with St. Johns County Public Library Youth Services was held in the Media Center and students were able to get involved by acting out the parts in one of their favorite fairytales. Another special treat included one of St. Johns County's own deputies coming to read to classes as a special community guest reader. Our week was topped off on Friday when our school had a book character dress up day and character parade led by Chum, the Jacksonville Sharks mascot."



Youth Media Awards



Mason Fifth Grade students recently gathered in the library to watch the Youth Media Awards on the BIG SCREEN. This event, streamed LIVE from Washington State during the annual Public Librarians Conference, showcased many of the awards that are given to outstanding books for youth. The popular Newbery Award for outstanding writing and Caldecott Medal for unique illustrating were among the awards given out that day. The Coretta Scott King Award and Young Adult Outstanding Nonfiction awards were also featured. Students enjoyed popcorn, drinks, streamers, beads and leis during the Awards Party. Since concluding the study on youth book awards, students have discovered over 20 books they are currently reading that have received one of these awards in years past. A special thanks to Mrs. Stephens and Mrs. Newland for hosting 5th grade students in the library.

Upcoming Event

at Osceola

DATE: Saturday, February 23, 2012 10 am-1 pm

CONTACT: Keepers of the Coast, Katrina Worthington, (904) 525-6713



KEEPERS OF THE COAST--4th ANNUAL TURTLE TROT

5K Run/Walk and Beach Clean-Up

SAINT AUGUSTINE ---Area non-profit, KEEPERS OF THE COAST and Osceola Elementary School, will host their 4th Annual Turtle Trot 5k Race and Fun Run on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Mary Street Beach Entrance. Before and during this event, we will host a beach clean-up from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 5K run/walk starts at 11 a.m. The Kids' One Mile Fun Run will start after the majority of runners finish. Pre-Registration fee is \$20.00 ends February 8. The registration fee will be \$25.00 after February 8. Registration for the Kids' Fun Run is \$10. Late registration is also available at the expo and on race day. The first 300 registered runners will receive a goodie bag.

The Turtle Trot Expo Family Night and Race Packet Pickup will be held on Friday, February 22 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Osceola Elementary School. The evening affair includes educational environmental exhibits for the kids, entertainment and a spaghetti dinner. Dinner will be served from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.; \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under. Registered runners may pick up their race packets from 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

To register or to learn more, please visit: www.turtletrot.com or keepersofthecoast.org.

Event Details:

Free, with the exception of the race fee

Race Expo and Family Night 4-7 p.m. on Friday, February 22 at Osceola Elementary; 1605 Osceola Elementary School Road, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Turtle Trot 5k and Kids' One Mile Fun Run starts at 11 a.m. Saturday February 23 at Mary Street Beach Ramp. Beach Clean Up will begin at 10 a.m. and continue throughout the race.

Gamble Rogers

News



Gamble Rogers Middle School celebrated Literacy Week with an exciting schedule of events earlier this month. Coordinated by Instructional Literacy Coach, Michelle Davis, students and staff enthusiastically participated in "Sock it to Reading" by wearing silly socks in honor of their favorite book or story. In preparation for Literacy Week, Art Teacher, Kathy James lead 7th grade art students as they created a Literacy-themed art gallery, complete with a paper "quilt" made of novel covers, acrylic paintings celebrating adventures through reading, and book jackets that were all displayed in the multi-purpose room for all to enjoy.

Science students got involved by reading science articles for 20 minutes as part of the "Million Minute Marathon", a Just Read Florida statewide initiative. Seven students who had completed a language arts project after reading "A Long Walk to Water" by Sue Park, attended the Bergamasco Book Bistro, hosted by Principal Greg Bergamasco, where they dined on Old City Subs and had an active discussion about the novel.

Student media aides got involved by reading children's stories to students with special needs, a popular part of the GRMS "Buddy Reading" program. The week culminated in a classroom door decorating contest centered around the Just Read Florida's theme of "Take the Lead and Read" as well as favorite student novels. Students, staff and administration alike actively participated all week and the pictures show that Literacy is an important daily part of learning at Gamble Rogers Middle School!



St. Johns Technical High School News



Time is surely moving quickly at St. Johns Technical High School. After school programs are expanding as well as club activities. Please continue to encourage your student to be active in all that SJTHS has to offer. February is lining up to be busy. Here are some highlights from January and the upcoming month of February:

Carlisle Interconnect Technologies: Sixteen SJTHS students are participating in a paid internship in manufacturing technologies. For two months, students will learn manufacturing basics. In March, interns will be actually learning the manufacturing process on the job with a Carlisle mentor. The internship program will prepare the students for future careers in manufacturing.



The Academy of Coastal and Water Resources: Students visited St. Johns County Utilities Wastewater Treatment Plant and Wetlands on January 15th. They learned how wastewater is processed as well as how treated wastewater is released to a wetland. Students viewed how the county tests both groundwater and surface water. The students also performed their own water quality tests on the surface waters in the wetlands.



St. Johns Technical High School News



Student Ambassadors: We'd like to thank Tia Adkison, Eric Cedeno, and T.J. Smith, Jr. for their help for the MLK breakfast on January 21st.

CPR Certification: The Academy of Coastal and Water Resources students will be participating in First Aid/CPR training at SJTHS. The First Aid/CPR certification is a curriculum requirement of the State Frameworks for the Academy.

Oyster Reef Restoration and the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards: St. Johns Technical High School's (SJTHS) Academy of Coastal and Water Resources, in partnership with the GTMNERR, was awarded a SARP/NOAA grant to build living shorelines within the Reserve's boundaries. SJTHS Academy and Summer School students receive hands-on work relevant training in bagging oysters, collecting scientific data and building an oyster reef. The project's scope has further developed to include growing spartina grass to be planted at the restoration site. Through the North Florida Coastal Program grant, SJTHS students have collected seed and will cultivate the seed to plants that will be planted at the restoration site in the spring. Many of these students have never been exposed to the natural environment. Through these opportunities, the students have a true appreciation of the importance of protecting our coastal resources.

Principal King and Linda Krepp will be presenting "Oyster Reef and Living Shoreline Restoration: Developing the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards" at the GTM Research Reserve's State of the Reserve on February 1st.

PTO/SAC Meeting: Our next PTO/SAC meeting will be held February 20th at 8:30 a.m. Please join us and have a voice in your student's education. PTO is actively seeking parent participation. If you can help, please call Tammy Hardin at 547-8496.

FCAT Writes: 8th and 10th graders will test on February 26th & 27th. Please ensure your student receives a healthy breakfast on those days and a good night's rest.

Guest Speaker: Ernie Weiss will be reading an excerpt from his book Out of Vienna in Mr. Conner and Ms. Lane's class. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions about being a child during the Holocaust.

First Coast Technical College Happenings



From the streets to the stove to FCTC

First Coast Technical College welcomes nationally acclaimed culinarian, television personality and New York Times best-selling, author, Chef Jeff Henderson, on Wed., Feb. 20th at 7 p.m.

Chef Jeff seemed destined to become another unfortunate statistic. Instead, he overcame overwhelming odds and became a culinary genius and an inspiration to multitudes.

FCTC is thrilled to share his message that mirrors a personal struggle to rise “from the streets to the stove” as he features how food was his catalyst for professional success, followed by a signing of his best selling memoir, COOKED.

All proceeds benefit **FCTC’s Fresh Starts in Culinary Arts**, to provide training for are homeless. Graduates of Fresh Starts will be credentialed and ready for employment or they may transfer into FCTC’s award-winning School of Culinary Arts, for advanced training.

Open to the public, tickets are \$20 per person at www.fctc.edu 904-547-3386 or jill.miller@fctc.edu



First Coast Technical College Happenings



FCTC nursing ceremony

First Coast Technical College proudly recognized nineteen nursing students during a recent capping and pinning ceremony held in FCTC's Conference Center. This symbolic event signifies program completion and enables graduates to sit for state board of nursing exams to obtain Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) status.

Graduates represent St. Johns, Putnam, Duval, Flagler and Volusia counties. Each received a white cap with a blue stripe representing FCTC's school colors and name pins symbolizing a commitment and dedication to the health profession.

FCTC's nursing program is now 47 years old and many in our community credit the college with the origin of their profession. Students complete a stringent course of study including hands-on clinicals at BayView Care Center, Putnam Community Medical Center, Palatka Health Care Center, and Kindred Hospital in Green Cove Springs.

June 5th is the application deadline for the next class to begin August, 2013. Financial aid is available for those who qualify. Call 904-547-3471, email debra.warren@fctc.edu or go to www.fctc.edu (click programs) for an application.



State Cosmetology Board visits FCTC

First Coast Technical College's Cosmetology program recently hosted executives of the Florida Board of Cosmetology. Ginny Fincel, FCTC Cosmetology Instructor, serves as Board Vice Chair and lends guidance to the establishment and implementation of provisions set forth in the Board's statutes.

"We're delighted the Board made a FCTC visit a priority. They motivated students with news on Florida's licensure regulations," said Fincel.

"This is timely information for me because I'm graduating soon and will apply for my state license," said Joe Williams, FCTC Cosmetology student.

Cosmetology enrollment is accepted in St. Augustine and Palatka with an entry date of May 23rd. Both FCTC campuses have a full-service salon. These salons are open to the public and offer quality services at bargain prices.

Financial aid is available for students who qualify. For info call 904-547-3282 or e mail info@fctc.edu.



First Coast Technical College Happenings



FCTC AgriScience Adds Beauty and Bounty

First Coast Technical College's AgriScience students have been exploring the multi-faceted curriculum by designing and installing beautification projects and by growing premium vegetables.

Walter's Reef Café, FCTC's public restaurant, has been the benefactor of new landscaping and hundreds of pounds of fresh produce. AgriScience students designed and installed an inviting array of flowering plants to adorn the restaurant entrance and will soon add blueberries and fruit trees, in order to display how attractive landscapes can also be edible.

FCTC instruction goes beyond the typical classroom; students are challenged with hands-on learning, literally in the field, and now the winter crops of vegetables are being harvested and added to the Water's Reef menu.

Eddie Lambert, FCTC Agriscience instructor said, "Our curriculum must suit diverse interests. Some students are interested in sustainable landscapes, while others desire to learn irrigation installation. Some want to hone their creativity with avant-garde landscapes while others want to learn how to better feed the growing global population."

For info about FCTC's career programs, visit www.fctc.edu or call 547-3282.

From Hungary to St Augustine

Eva Franklin traveled from Hungary to the U.S. for a brief visit with her son in 2001. While here, Eva's son became ill so, she remained to care for him as he underwent chemo and radiation therapy.

Upon arrival, Eva didn't speak any English. In Hungary she was a registered nurse and radiology assistant; however, those credentials are not transferable to the U.S.

Eva enrolled in First Coast Technical College's English for Speakers of Other Languages class and the Nursing Assistant and Medical Terminology programs so that she could obtain employment. As she began working in the healthcare field, her son had an accident requiring surgery, and Eva resumed her caretaker role.

After finding employment with Flagler Hospital, Eva desired further career advancement so she turned to FCTC to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

Eva's eleven year pursuit of English fluency, U.S. citizenship, and nursing certification were celebrated in December at FCTC's LPN Capping and Pinning Ceremony.

"I'm very grateful to FCTC for opportunities leading to success in America," said Eva. "I'm almost 60 years old and very proud of my accomplishments."



Celebrating
Black History Month
The Tuskegee Airmen



The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators in the United States armed forces. During World War II, African Americans in many states were still subject to the Jim Crow laws. The American military was racially segregated, as was much of the federal government. The Tuskegee Airmen were subjected to racial discrimination, both within and outside the army. Despite these adversities, they trained and flew with distinction. All black military pilots who trained in the United States trained at Tuskegee, including five Haitians.

Although the 477th Bombardment Group “worked up” on North American B-25 Mitchell bombers, they never served in combat; The 332nd Fighter Group, was the only operational unit, first sent overseas as part of Operation Torch, then seeing action in Italy, before being deployed as bomber escorts in Europe, where they were very successful.

The 99th Fighter Squadron was initially equipped with Curtiss P-40 Warhawks fighter-bomber aircraft. The 332nd Fighter Group and its 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons were equipped for initial combat missions with Bell P-39 Airacobras (March 1944), later with Republic P-47 Thunderbolts (June–July 1944), and finally with the aircraft with which they became most commonly associated, the North American P-51 Mustang (July 1944). When the pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group painted the tails of their P-47s and later, P-51s, the nickname "Red Tails" was coined. Bomber crews applied a more effusive "Red-Tail Angels" sobriquet.

