



# CUDA CHRONICLE

For the parents, staff, students, and community of  
New Smyrna Beach High School

Volume 22 / Issue 4

April 2024



Greetings Cuda Families,

As we enter the fourth quarter, we will be regularly updating information about school events, particularly those for our seniors. Daily announcements are made to the students at 9:24 am and emailed to the teachers if students have questions later. Our website and school phone messages are the primary avenues for families to find information. Our Activities Director, Heather Roberts, can provide details on these events if you have questions. She can be reached at 386-424-2555, extension 38510 or [harobert@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:harobert@volusia.k12.fl.us).

Parents and families, please continue to monitor your students' grades and attendance through Parent Portal. We are in the home stretch and it's important for everyone to continue to stay diligent in the classroom working on assignments as well as follow the safety guidelines on campus and at various events. Regular student attendance is paramount for success. All teachers provide office hours from 12:03 p.m. to 12:18 p.m. for students to receive additional assistance. Our teachers' email addresses are on our website. Please contact the teacher if you have questions or concerns about your student's progress.

We are looking forward to a fast-paced fourth quarter full of state assessments, final performances, sporting events, and many other events. Plans for various senior events are in the process of being finalized to close out the school year. Once these plans are completed, we will be sharing that information along with graduation information. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Merrick, Principal  
[trmerric@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:trmerric@volusia.k12.fl.us)  
[www.nsbhigh.com](http://www.nsbhigh.com)

### NSBHS Mission Statement:

Working together with parents, school personnel and community members, New Smyrna Beach High School students will graduate with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be positive contributors to society.



# CONGRATULATIONS

## Staff Member of the Month



Mr. Dugay, December 2023



Ms. McDonald, January 2024



Ms. Corr, February 2024



Mr. Scrivano, March 2024

## Students of the Month

### JANUARY, 2024



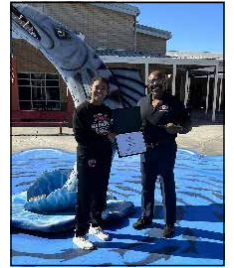
Kyla Kavanaugh,  
Scholar of the Month



Baylee Cameron,  
Citizen of the Month



Jake Larson,  
Athlete of the Month



Mopelola Tofade,  
Athlete of the Month

### FEBRUARY, 2024



Madison Hilserecop,  
Scholar of the Month



Emily Dowdell,  
Citizen of the Month

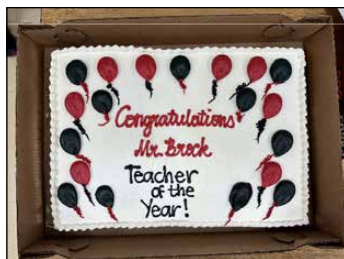


Sawyer Van Rider,  
Athlete of the Month

Olivia Bond-West  
(not pictured)  
Athlete of the Month

## Teacher of the Year

Celebrating our TOTY at our Faculty Meeting. Edgewater Rotary Club presented Mr. Brock with a check.




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 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

# C U D A S

## Cambridge Awards

Congratulations! The students below received a prestigious award from Cambridge International Education, a part of the University of Cambridge, for their outstanding performance on the June 2023 Cambridge examinations. Twenty-three New Smyrna Beach students received scholar awards based on their exam grades.

The following students received a scholar award (earning a C grade or higher on 3 or more exams):

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Avery Clark      | Jackson Callanan  |
| Brooke Frey      | Jensen Terry      |
| Cameron Patel    | Leonardo Repyneck |
| Cymone Hesselton | Lincoln Holl      |
| Eden Broomall    | Quinn Kraljic     |
| Esme Schliske    | Samuael Heckler   |
| Ethen Bolton     | Viviana Pacini    |
| Fletcher Newell  |                   |
| Gavin Wiese      |                   |

The following students received a scholar award with distinction (earning an A grade or higher on 3 or more exams):

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Kyla Kavanaugh | Leah Ursini |
|----------------|-------------|

## Academic Team

We are now the three-time back-to-back league champions and undefeated this year.

(L-R) Keegan Osterman, Caleb Lewis, Gavin Wiese, Wiley Sokota, Mr. Weisheimer, Ryan Puckett, Serenity Mettler, Kyla Kavanaugh, Leah Ursini, Ethan Puckett and Mr. Merrick



The following students received a scholar award with merit (earning a B grade or higher on 3 or more exams):

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Isabella Petkaitis    | Noa Dodge    |
| Katherine Ratliff     | Ryan Puckett |
| Madalyn Fischer Carne |              |

## CTE Teacher Nomination

Congratulations, Mark Fletcher, CTE Teacher Nomination



## Outstanding Seniors 2024

Brooks Beeman, Christina Desimone, Weston DeSoto, Simjay Engberg, Madalyn Fischer-Carne, Brooke Frey, Franchesca Gonzalez, Jade Henderson, Ava Hudson, Samantha Jolley, Alyssa Kornegay, Jake Larson, Brianna Luoma, Gracie Migonis, Libby Nickels, Katherine Ratliff, Jayle Smith, Joel Smith, Lydia Spencer, Dushuna Stephens, Mopelola Tofade and Miracle Williams



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Chelsea E. Heck, OD



Robert Routh, MD



Justin Knuckles, OD

As an Alumni of NSBHS, Dr. Robert "Hank" Routh is truly a LOCAL serving LOCALS

**Culinary**

Chef Stach visits  
Ms. Luff's  
Culinary Class



**Travel with Everidge**

*Travel the World! New Smyrna Beach High School is excited to announce upcoming opportunities to travel abroad.*

**Summer 2025-Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii:** From afar, New Zealand and Australia may seem similar. An up-close look reveals distinct cultures and personalities. Both descend from the same British colonial family tree, so you may struggle to tell the accents apart in the streets of Auckland and Sydney. But as you dig deeper in the Māori culture in Rotorua and Aboriginal roots along the Great Barrier Reef in Cairns, each country's individual identity becomes clear.

If you are interested in traveling, students can stop by Mrs. Everidge's office (1-107) for more information or email [eaeverid@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:eaeverid@volusia.k12.fl.us).

*\*This is not a school-sponsored activity\**



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## Construction

On the week of January 25th, our construction and engineering classes participated in the Central Florida Construction Career Days job expo. The Expo is sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The students were exposed to different trades and jobs with in FDOT from outsourced jobs in communications, public relations, and equal opportunity to trades like The Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and pipefitter's unions to railway and equipment operations. All of which have starting wages of over \$18/hour to \$30/hour depending on experience.

Our students were also able to use tools, light and medium equipment and experiment in paving (which we missed) with a lunch of pizza and lots of candy provided by the vendors.

In upcoming months the Construction and Engineering classes will be having some guest speakers in enlightening our graduating students in careers that do NOT require a formal post-secondary education

with some having tuition reimbursement as well as paid internships or apprenticeships.



## Chili Competition

New Smyrna Beach High had their 9th Annual Chili and Cornbread competition. All proceeds went to the UNCF.

### CHILI & CORNBREAD COOK-OFF CONTEST RESULTS

#### CORNBREAD RESULTS:

**Third Place:** (There was a tie):  
Sweet Potato Cornbread-Mrs. Luffs  
Strawberry Cornbread-Ms. Dukes

**Second Place:**  
Jalapeno Honey Butter- Mrs. Outlaw

**First Place:**  
"Goes to the Oak Hill Bum Dignity Cornbread" made by yours truly -  
**Mr. Merrick**

#### CHILI RESULTS:

**Third Place:**  
Bison Chili - Ms. Dukes

**Second Place:**  
Assassin Chili - Mr. Merrick

**First Place:**  
"Better than Merricks Chili"  
The 2023-2024 Chili Cook-Off Champion  
- **Kristen Schwartz**



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## Powerhouse Trio: Dominating the State Weightlifting Championships!

Olivia Bond-West, Mopelola Tofade and Ash-Mahri Manzueta



### Mopelola "Lola" Tofade

Mopelola "Lola" Tofade! As a senior at New Smyrna Beach High School, Lola has showcased her exceptional athleticism and versatility by excelling in not one, not two, but three sports!

Lola recently made Cuda Nation proud by clinching state championships in both the Olympic and traditional weightlifting categories in the 169-pound division! Her dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and her achievements on the weightlifting platform are a testament to her outstanding talent and determination!



But that's not all—Lola is also a force to be reckoned with on the competitive cheerleading team, helping them secure a 3rd place finish at states! And if that weren't impressive enough, she's also a key player on our flag football team, demonstrating her prowess on the field with every game!

Lola, your ability to thrive as a three-sport athlete is truly remarkable, and we are in awe of your dedication, skill, and passion for sports! Thank you for representing Cuda Nation with such grace and excellence in everything you do! #CudaPride #TripleThreat #LolaTofade #3SportAthlete

### GIRLS WEIGHTLIFTING HAD 5 STATE QUALIFIERS

(L-R) Mr. Merrick, Franchesca Gonzalez, Olivia Bond-West, Asha-Marhri Manzueta, Carlie Hall, Mopelola Tofade and Coach McRae



### Asha Mahri-Manzueta

Asha Mahri-Manzueta, a junior girls weightlifter, has achieved an incredible feat by clinching back-to-back state championships in both the Olympic and traditional weightlifting categories! Not only that, but Asha has left her mark in the record books by breaking the FHSAA bench press record for the 199-pound division with an astonishing 310-pound lift!



Asha's dedication, perseverance, and unwavering determination have propelled her to the top of her sport, and we couldn't be prouder of her remarkable accomplishment! Her relentless pursuit of excellence serves as an inspiration to us all, and her achievements bring immense pride to Cuda Nation.

Join us in celebrating Asha's outstanding. Asha, your resilience and passion are truly commendable, and we are honored to have you represent Cuda Nation Athletics! #CudaPride #StateChampion #AshaMahriManzueta #CudaNation

### Olivia Bond-West

Olivia Bond-West, a sophomore girls weightlifter at New Smyrna Beach High School, has clinched back-to-back state championships in both the Olympic and traditional weightlifting categories! Not only that, but Olivia shattered records with her incredible performance, breaking the FHSAA clean and jerk record for the 183-pound division with an astonishing 260-pound lift!



Olivia's dedication, hard work, and passion for her sport have propelled her to the pinnacle of success, and we couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate her remarkable achievements. Her determination and talent serve as an inspiration to us all, and we are immensely proud to have her represent our school.

Join us in congratulating Olivia on this incredible accomplishment! Let's shower her with support and applause as she continues to reach new heights in her weightlifting journey. Olivia, you are a true champion, and we are honored to have you as part of our NSBHS family! #ProudCoach #ChampionAthlete #NSBHSStrong

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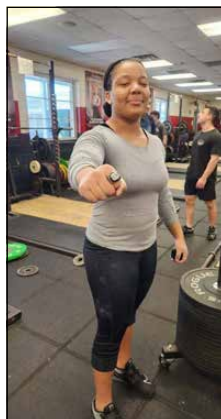


## KEISER

### UNIVERSITY

## Wrestling Group Getting Their Rings

Ryan Geary,  
Isaiah McCloud,  
Asha-Mahri Manzueta  
and Olivia Bond



## PBIS

Donald Bond-West and Audrey Gibbens, received multiple nominations for positive behavior and academic performance at school. They were recognized and given two tickets each to the Rolex 24.



## Sweeping Success

### GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM CLINCHES COACH AND PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

We're thrilled to announce that our girls basketball team has secured not one, but two prestigious honors from the Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA)!

**\*\*Coach Aisha Patrick\*\***: Named FACA District Coach of the Year! With only 8 players, Coach Patrick's leadership and dedication propelled our team to their first district championship in 7 years! Her strategic guidance and unwavering support have inspired our players to reach new heights on and off the court. Congratulations, Coach Patrick!

**\*\*Hailee Mokwe\*\***: Awarded FACA District Player of the Year! Hailee has been the defensive anchor of our team all season, leading the team in rebounds and blocks. Her exceptional talent, determination,

and leadership were instrumental in our district championship victory over Lake Howell. Congratulations, Hailee, on this well-deserved recognition!

Join us in celebrating Coach Aisha Patrick and Hailee Mokwe for their outstanding achievements and for bringing glory to Cuda Nation! #DoubleVictory #CoachAndPlayerOfTheYear #CudaPride




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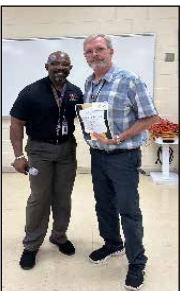
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**20 Years**  
 Mr. Dugay



**25 Years**  
 Ms. Croak and Ms. Outlaw



**Congratulations!**

**FUTURES First Year Teacher 2023-2024**

Congratulation Colton Cameron for being nominated for FUTURES First Year Teacher 2023-2024.

Colton Cameron is a 9th Grade ELA and Pre-AICE English teacher.

L-R Ms. Pezza, Ms. Fuhr, Ms. Everidge, Mr. Colton Cameron, Mr. Merrick, Ms. Croak and Mr. Eschen

