



# News

Spruce Creek  
High School

# & Views



## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SPARGER

During the third nine weeks we had much to celebrate. Our **chorus, band, jazz band, orchestra and dance teams** competed in their **performance assessments**. Superior and excellent ratings were awarded to these outstanding groups. Our band was selected to perform at the **National Concert Band Festival** in Indiana. Only **two bands from Florida** and **twenty-two from the Nation** were selected to perform. The drama department had a very successful run of the musical **“Frozen.”** Three seniors earned a **Congressional nomination to a Military Academy**. Twenty-one seniors signed a letter of intent to continue to play their **sport at college**. Lastly, thank you also to the SGA for continuing the tradition of placing a **Valentine’s card on each student’s locker**.

For most students, the final quarter of the school year will be the most crucial as students must complete the **Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), End of Course Exams (EOC), Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, and semester final exams**. This school year, most of these tests will be administered **during the month of May**. As a result, it will be important for students to **be present on the day the test is administered** or make sure to **make up a missed test before the end of the school year**:

Beginning April 4	BEST Writing test 9th and 10th grade
Beginning May 7	Biology End of Course Exam
Beginning May 9	United States History End of Course Exam
Beginning May 14	FAST English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 9 Reading
Beginning May 15	FAST English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 10 Reading
Beginning May 16	Algebra 1 End of Course Exam
Beginning May 16	Geometry End of Course Exam
Month of May	IB exams at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Month of May	AP exams
May 6 – May 10	Senior Final Exams
May 28 – May 31	Underclassmen Final Exams

I would like to congratulate and celebrate with our seniors as they will be our **49th graduating class**. Seniors are reminded to stay current with the dates and times of the many senior events. Please check our **website (www.sprucecreekhigh.com)**, check your VCS2GO email each day, or inquire with **Chris Zablo our Activities Director (crzablo@volusia.k12.fl.us)** regarding the many exciting senior events.

As one group prepares to leave, the remainder of our student body is preparing for another year of high school. During the month of February, **current 9th, 10th, and 11th graders** selected classes for next school year. Parents are encouraged to **contact their student’s high school guidance counselor** with specific questions regarding **course selection for the 2024/25 school year**.

It is fun to celebrate all the wonderful things happening at our school. If you go to our school website at **sprucecreekhigh.com** you will see a **feed of all our social media accounts**. Visit that site often and follow us on these accounts. In today’s world, sometimes these positive messages get drowned out by other voices. Make a commitment to celebrate these positive stories and let those be the predominant messages shared.

I look forward to seeing you during the final nine weeks of school as we bring our **2023/24 school year to a close**. We will celebrate together the graduation of the **Class of 2024**. *It’s a Great Day to be a Hawk*





## PAPILLON

The past month for Papillon has been filled with exciting activities and many more are to follow this month.

Papillon participated in the Volusia County Dance Performance Assessment also known as VCDPA where dancers took three master classes and performed a contemporary group dance. Five of the dancers—Lindsey Larrimore, Bella DeMonico, Luna Brooke, Aliyah Spar, and Caydon Bell—got the honor of making All County. All County recipients were given the opportunity to learn a group piece from the well-known dance educator and choreographer Kim Ball, to be performed at the VCDPA showcase. Papillon dance ensemble was also awarded straight superiors at VCDPA again this year, continuing a long tradition of superior technique and performance.

This month, Papillon also had the opportunity to travel to Silver Sands Middle School and Creekside Middle School to teach dance classes throughout the day. Dancers prepared different combinations and technical skill practice for the middle schoolers. Both trips were an enormous success and provided an opportunity to further collaborate with our middle school counterparts.

Upcoming for Papillon is their Spring Show on Thursday, April 18th at 7 pm. Here, dancers get to perform for family and friends with dances that they choreographed themselves to songs from different movies for their theme “Night at the Movies.”

Along with Papillon’s Spring Show, Dance Tech classes will highlight what they have learned this year on Thursday, April 25th at 7 pm. A few Papillon dancers will make an appearance in some of the pieces as a part of the Advanced Performing Arts Program.

Auditions for the 24/25 school year will take place on Saturday, April 27th from 10-1 pm. Dancers should wear tights, a leotard, their hair pulled back, and bring jazz and ballet shoes.

Bella DeMonico, Papillon Secretary – Class of 2025

## FRESHMAN SGA

The Freshman SGA recently finished their unity campaign which was a huge success! The campaign was about spreading inclusivity and kindness and was focused on the negative effect of derogatory language used against people with disabilities. The Freshman SGA held a banner-signing event and had an immense number of student signatures. These students from all grades were willing to pledge their kindness and positivity to people with all abilities. The freshman SGA also handed out candy with slogans related to inclusivity and showing positivity and helped spread the ideas more. Some examples of the slogans were “Crunch the hate and spread more love,” “Be a smartie and spread kindness,” and “Be a dove and spread the love.” The SGA Class of 2027 and all other boards are looking forward to volunteering at the Regional Special Olympic Games held at Mainland High School on April 6. They will also be cheering on our Spruce Creek Hawks Unified Basketball Team!



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## AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT NOTE from Ms. Batten and Dr. Sparger:

Hello Hawks,

It is **essential to check your vcs2go.net email account daily.**

Your teachers, administration, and testing coordinator use this communication method to **give you important updates and information.** Checking your vcs2go.net email daily will allow you to keep current with school events, clubs, sports, and essential testing information you may need.

**Please check your email daily.**

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## SCHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the cast and crew of *Disney's Frozen Jr.* We had over 1700 tickets sold—our 2nd highest! In addition, we welcomed over 1200 students from Volusia County Schools for two free special in-school performances, sharing live theatre with the next generation. The Theatre Department also hosted Frozen Fest: an afternoon of fun activities, meet and greets and food trucks! We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the theatre next season.

Congratulations to our new Technical Theatre Director, Dylan Molitor on being named the New Teacher of the Year Nominee for Spruce Creek High School.

In March we will be traveling to the Big Apple to explore New York City and see five Broadway performances with our upperclassmen. In addition, we have field studies planned for our students to attend live theatre throughout Central Florida over the coming months.

We are planning our goodbyes to the Class of 2024 and welcoming our incoming APA students in May.

Thank you to all our community and family supporters for making this year so successful. We could not do it without you!

### Mr. and Miss SCHS Contest – April 12th

Mark your calendars for the Mr. and Miss Spruce Creek Contest on Friday April 12th at 6:30pm. Tickets will go on sale April 1st at [www.teachtix.com/sprucecreek](http://www.teachtix.com/sprucecreek).



Break a leg!

Troupe 2461

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Volusia County School Board  
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## NHS

### NHS NEWS AND VIEWS BY LOGAN M. DAIN

As we traverse through the end of the year, I trust this newsletter finds you all in high spirits and brimming with excitement for the journey that lies ahead. In recent weeks, we've embarked on an important journey: the election process for next year's leadership. It's a pivotal moment where we come together to identify individuals who will guide our organization with passion and integrity.

As President, I am immensely proud of the dedication and hard work displayed by each of our NHS members this year. Together, we've orchestrated over 88 service events in three quarters alone, leaving an indelible mark on our community. We will continue to help at Sugar Mill each Saturday, tutor at Sweetwater, and collect items to donate to the needy. Your commitment to service and excellence is truly inspiring and fuels our collective ambition for change.

As always, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication. Let's continue to make meaningful differences and strive for excellence in all our endeavors. In the words of Jack Johnson, "Times like these and times like those. What will be will be." Let us embrace each moment with purpose and determination, taking every opportunity afforded to us for we are "Better Together!" Warm regards,  
Logan Matthew Dain  
President of NHS





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## CREATIVE WRITING CORNER

This quarter Honors Creative Writing 3 worked on writing some miniature nonfiction pieces in the form of micro-reviews of local businesses! Students were encouraged to be positive and witty in their reviews and were limited to just 50 words. It was quite a fun challenge. Enjoy!

**Beaches-n-Cream** is an ice cream truck that parks on Daytona Beach. They serve mind-boggling ice cream and other special treats for affordable prices. They make the beach a much better experience for everyone in Daytona, especially ice cream lovers. 100% check them out! ~ Judgeamiah's Reviews

## NEHS

Happy Spring everyone!

National English Honor Society has been on a roll this past quarter, with a variety of service projects underway. Throughout the past quarter, our members collected 132 books to donate to Spruce Creek Elementary School. These books will be given to kids in need, to foster a love of reading among all ages. There is also an ongoing Kindergarten supply drive accepting donations of school supplies in classrooms around campus. Pop Tarts and Poetry was this quarter, and everyone had a great time reciting and chatting about famous poetry while enjoying some tasty Pop Tarts (disclaimer: NEHS is not sponsored by Kellogg's and can neither confirm nor deny which flavor is the most tasty).

Next up on the NEHS calendar is the senior banquet! Our members have been fundraising and planning for this exciting event, which included hosting a highly successful bake sale.

Be sure to follow our NEHS Instagram at [schs.synonymrolls](https://www.instagram.com/schs.synonymrolls) and join our Remind @CREEKNEHS to stay up to date with all of our latest projects and service opportunities.

-Ava Werner (Historian of NEHS)

Self-declared the fastest half-mile dirt oval in the country, **Volusia Speedway Park** is a thrilling facility filled with some of the best racing any short track can offer. The earth-quaking roar of engines is incredible as the two-ton hunks of metal fly across the track at over 100 miles an hour. ~ Lightning McQueen

**Tropical Smoothie Cafe** - I love the beach, and there is nothing I like more than a bowl or a smoothie after getting out of the water. The entire menu at this restaurant is of good quality and healthy. The perfect place for a summer day. ~ Iara

**Jeremiah's** is a place where you can order mouth-watering gelatis quick and easy, and get away with the most ridiculous orders ever known to mankind, like root beer and mint with chocolate and vanilla ice cream. The ice-flavoring tastes EXACTLY like the real thing. Writing this is making me hungry... ~ Mr. Gelato

**Copperline** is my go-to coffee shop. I love the environment. It is perfect for studying or hanging out with friends. It has a relaxed vibe but gives you motivation. I would recommend Copperline to anyone who likes to be in calm, yet productive, environments with the added bonus of being able to get a coffee. ~ Coffee Time ~ Macchiato Maniac

**Malibu Beach Grill** is an elegant yet comfortable restaurant. Among its variety of freshly cooked meat, fish and fried dishes, my favorite is the Chicken Pomodoro! Although pricey, ranging from \$20-\$40 per entree, the spacious and polished environment and impressive service provide a pleasant dining experience. I highly recommend it! ~ Cal A. Marie

**Houligans** is genuinely one of the best meals I've had. As we kids say, the menu is "valid." I would recommend any type of wings or burgers. But what really makes the place so good is the ranch they have. The way they make their ranch makes me SO happy. ~ L.G.

**Zen Nails and Spa** - Polite, humorous, and efficient. Employees are kind and skilled workers who deliver excellent results. Technicians always have new jokes to crack. Gentle with skin, they take great care to make sure a client is well taken care of. 10/10 service. ~ Perpetually Pleased

**Causalbird** offers a wide variety of breakfast, lunch, and brunch items. Their food and coffee are fresh, high quality, and affordable. The restaurant is cute and beachy, and the staff is kind. Casualbird is the perfect weekend brunch spot. Their French toast is amazing! ~ A little birdie

**Neighbors Ice Cream** is a good place for a quick ice cream. It is so colorful and just has a happy vibe. The ice cream is amazing. They have so many different flavors. There is definitely something for everyone. They also offer food if you're hungry! It's delicious! ~ Ice Cream Lover

**Roundhouse South Electric Trains** is the perfect place for your O-scale needs. Personally, I do HO-scale but even for modelers like me, they gave the best service. I'm very happy with my purchases, but I don't like how my wallet ends up with no money every time I go in. ~ Tommy D. Tankengine

**Botanical House New Smyrna** - There's a great cohesive 70s vibe present even in the names of menu items! Fantastic decor, (although seating is sparse). And if only their food was as flavorful as their drinks, they'd be a 10/10 café. Perfect for a quick dose of caffeine or a cozy brunch date! ~ Vibin' 4 Ventis

**Mary Jane's Ice Cream Parlor (South Daytona)** is the place to go for great ice cream, friendly service and a cheerful atmosphere. The owners always make me feel like family, starting conversation and encouraging me to sample flavors. There are more than 20 rich, creamy, out-of-this-world options to choose from! ~ Cook E. Sandcreem

**Cinnamon Tree Cafe** is a family-owned restaurant with endless breakfast and lunch options. There's a perfect meal for everyone there! The food is delectable and affordable, the staff is friendly, it's never too busy, and the decorations make for a cozy space. You won't regret trying it out! ~ John Cena(mon)

*(This ad endorsed by the SCHS Synonym Rolls chapter of NEHS;)*

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## JROTC

It's been a very busy past few months for the Hawk Battalion. Congratulations to our Hawk Precision Drill and Color Guard Teams as they competed in a local (area 4) Drill and Ceremonies Competition at East River High School. Entering three teams, the Hawk Battalion placed first in all three events. Our three competitive teams are the Unarmed Platoon Regulation 13 Cadets executing a specified scripted drill sequence, commanded by Cadet LTC Preston Bates. Our two Color Guard Teams, (Male and Female) also took first place honors for their events. Each four-man team consists of two Color Bearers and two Rifle Bearers. Color Guard teams also execute a specified scripted sequence. This train-up allowed near perfection as our three teams competed in the Area 4 (district/regional) State Qualifier at Umatilla High School. Competing against eleven other schools our Unarmed Platoon and Male Color Guard teams placed first, commanded by Cadet 2LT Wesley Johnston and our Female Color Guard Team placed second, commanded by Cadet 2LT Elianna Flores, achieving state-qualifying births. Our teams will represent Area 4 at the State of Florida Drill Competition, held at George Jenkins High School on April 6th, Good Luck Hawks!



You may have noticed the miniature US Flags on the perimeter fencing of the school during the week of 11-15 March. This was in recognition of K9 Veterans Day (13 March) honoring active-duty service dogs (and their handlers) for their valor, service, and sacrifice. Let us not forget to honor our Veterans on 25 March, Medal of Honor Day and 29 March Vietnam Veterans Day.

At the beginning of Spring Break, the Hawk Battalion participated in our annual JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC) at Camp LaNoChe in Paisley, Florida. Sixteen of our top Cadets were selected to attend the event, consisting of more than 250 Cadets from multiple schools from surrounding counties. Cadets participated in a number of physically and mentally challenging events ranging from Rappelling, Land Navigation, Water Confidence Training, obstacle courses and JROTC leadership and Academic Bowl competitions. The experience challenged and motivated the Cadets both physically and mentally, fostering leadership and camaraderie.

The Hawk Battalion participated in our annual fundraiser event during the month of February. Due to the conscious efforts of our Cadets, we achieved our fundraising goal. This will allow us to continue to purchase needed equipment and items that allow us to continue serving our local community, hosting and attending many events for our Battalion. We are truly grateful for the generosity and support of our donors!

## HOOAH!

## GERMAN

Guten Tag Hawks! Spruce Creek's German Club hopes you all enjoyed the weekend and are excited for Spring Break! In January, we had a successful campus cleanup on the 18th. During February, we hosted a Carnival party during 2 periods for our club members. During this celebration, we played games, had a variety of German snacks, and played German-themed card games. In early March, club members ran a booth for the World Languages Festival. We participated in Karaoke, hosted German Trivia, and sold donuts and cookies. We also had some of our junior and senior club members participate in many categories for their linguistic talents to win awards! Some honorable mentions were Elias Ramshaw, who won 3rd place in cultural comparison; Joshua Johnston, who won first in cultural comparison; and Grecia Prezzo, who won best of show in the graphic novel competition. Additionally, David Whalen won best of show for German Poem and Joan Wilkerson won 1st place for German Poem. On Thursday we had a booth that was open for upcoming freshmen who are interested in joining our club. In early April, we plan to do a beach clean-up, to help make Daytona Beach a cleaner place for everyone. We also plan on going to a rage room in April.

Remember, you do not have to be in German class to join German Club! To join, please contact BStrauts@volusia.k12.fl.us, or go to F-03 every first Tuesday of the month during lunch. We hope to see you soon!



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## SOCCKER

The 8th annual Creek Soccer Summer Camp will take place at Spruce Creek High School from June 10-28. The camp is open to boys and girls ages 7-17. Camp hours are 9 am to noon, Monday through Friday. Campers can attend one, two, or all three weeks of the camp. College and high school coaches run the camp, with assistance from former high school and college soccer players. Camp tuition is \$85 per week per camper, and there are discounts for siblings and multi-week campers. Please feel free to email Coach Costner at krcostne@volusia.k12.fl.us if you have any questions.



## YOUNG REPUBLICANS CLUB

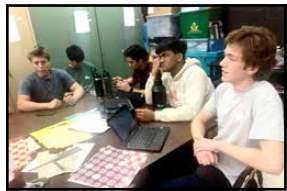
**THE YOUNG REPUBLICANS NEWS BY D. PULTZ MARCH 2024**

The school year has been prosperous for the Young Republicans at Spruce Creek High School. We displayed pictures of famous Black Republicans on our bulletin board for Black History Month in February. The pictures were printed out and provided by Anaya and Maren and were stapled on the bulletin board by Donny and Kyle. We also discussed the positions of officers and explained to the club members what each of the different officer spots were and asked if any of the club members were interested in any of the officer spots for next year.

At our March meeting, we discussed putting up famous and important Republican women for Women's History Month. We had various members of our club each bring in 1-2 pictures of different women to put up on the bulletin board. During this meeting, we also worked on the scrapbook that we will be making for this year and looked at the scrapbooks from previous years to be able to guide us on how to present and make the scrapbook.

The Young Republicans also participated in the Club Expo for the up-and-coming freshmen, who will be coming to Spruce Creek for the first time next year. Donny Pultz and Kyle Pultz worked the booth we set up in the main atrium from 5-6 PM on Thursday, March 14th and many students came up to the booth and asked us questions about our group and what we do.

We have two more meetings taking place. On April 5th we will vote for next year's officers and submit scholarship applications. We will also plan for our End of the Year celebration on May 3rd. We meet in room C-09. We will discuss how we can help those running for political office during the summer. We hope to see you attend these last few meetings.



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## ASIAN ASSOCIATION

### Greetings Hawks

March has arrived, and the end of the school year approaches! As we prepare for testing and prom season, let's look at the latest happenings within our club and what we can look forward to in the near future:

February was an eventful month for our association where we delved into the rich culture of China during our meeting and celebrated the Lunar New Year. Additionally, we savored the flavors of Chinese chicken and mushroom lo mein, adding a culinary delight to our cultural exploration. Congratulations to the Sophomore class for their victory in our monthly competitive game!

March brought further excitement as we shifted our focus to India for our annual crossover with the Southeast Asian Club. Thank you to their officers for having us. The meeting highlighted the unique background of India, offering insights into its traditions and culture. The Freshman class emerged victorious in our spinoff of the 7 Stones game, demonstrating agility and teamwork.

At this year's World Language Festival, our association actively participated by selling fried rice and promoting Asian cuisine and cultural exchange. Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our next meeting on Thursday, April 11th, in Room C-09. Participate in our yearly elections to shape the future direction of our association, and join us as we embark on an exploration of the enchanting nation of Laos. For those interested in running for a club position, you will be expected to create a presentation to persuade the club to vote for you with the stipulation that the role of President is reserved for members who have held a position on the board for at least a year.

We look forward to seeing you as we continue our mission of fostering cultural appreciation and community engagement. As always, feel free to join our Remind to receive updates or ask questions by texting code @creekaa to 81010.

*Written by Nathan Duffy*



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# News & Views

## Spruce Creek High School

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