









MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SPARGER

I hope this letter finds you healthy and happy and enjoying the New Year. As strange as it may sound, we are already thinking about the next school year. Over the next several weeks, students will meet with their school counselor to begin the process of selecting classes for next school year. These meetings will take place during the school day during the month of February, mainly through English classes. Please reach out to your student's school counselor with questions on the registration process. For our seniors, they will begin to finalize their plans for life after high school. All seniors are encouraged to stay current with graduation dates and deadlines and to look for the next edition of the senior letter. We anxiously await celebrating with the Class of 2024 at their graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 23rd at 7:00pm at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center.

Please be reminded of the district policy limiting **cell phone use to before and after school, at lunch** and during **class changes**. We are still finding that students are distracted by their **cell phones during class time**. In some cases, students are **responding to text messages and taking phone calls from parents during class**. This impacts a student's ability to concentrate and focus completely on the instruction taking place. In the end, this lack of focus impacts the student's learning and their grade in the class. *Parents, please be mindful of this and limit contact with students to before and after school and during lunch*. If you find your student reaching out to you during class time, remind him or her of the responsible use of the cell phone and impose family consequences for a lack of compliance.

This semester, students in **grades 9 and 10** are scheduled to take the **Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)** which will measure the student's understanding of the **Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (BEST) in Reading and Writing**. Our **ninth and tenth grade students** will take the **FAST-Writing** on **April 4** and the **FAST-Reading** assessment on **May 14**. The dates for the required **End of Course** (EOC) tests for all students currently enrolled in: **Biology – May 7**, **United States History – May 9**, **Algebra – May 16**, and **Geometry – May 16**. Students will need a **fully charged laptop and charger** for all State tests. Students currently enrolled in **AP** and **IB classes**, those exams are scheduled to be administered during the month of May. For more information about these assessments visit our school's website www.sprucecreekhigh.com and click on the Testing Tab.

As a result of the collective efforts of our students, faculty and community, the Hawks continue to soar.

Our **on-time graduation exceeded 98%** and over **1,800** of our students earned **honor roll status** for the first semester. Nearly **250 students** earned **straight "A" grades** for the first semester. **Conference, district,** and **regional championships** were won by both teams and individuals for our **fall** and **winter sports**. *It's truly a great time to be a Hawk!*

In an effort to **stay informed** with events on campus, please visit our school's **website** at <u>www.sprucecreekhigh.com</u> and follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter @GreatDay2BAHawk** and **Instagram** at **sprucecreekhighhawks**.

It's a Great Day to be a Hawk







SGA Class Of 2027

This year SGA's freshmen class has worked on various campaigns including fundraising and after-school functions. At the beginning of the year, SGA helped set up the Homecoming Dance along with the clean-up after the dance. The freshmen class gathered the morning of the dance and worked around the school. SGA has also hosted an "antibullying" campaign promoting inclusivity. The freshmen class board spread this by wearing orange shirts stating, "It's a great day to be united." During the school's carnival, a day is given to clubs to promote their clubs and raise money. SGA sold snacks and beverages raising over 200 dollars to help support club funds.

Some future things the freshman SGA is going to work on include a unity campaign that will be held on March 6th, for this campaign the board will make banners and hand out goodies to everybody to advocate for the campaign "Spread the Word to End the Word" and increase unity. The freshman SGA along with other members of SGA are also going to partake in a Special Olympics held at Mainland High School on April 6th to also help spread awareness on the same topic.

NHS

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY REPORT - January 2024

Our commitment to community service and camaraderie has shone through various activities in the past quarter. From the longstanding Sugar Mill Gardens restoration to the lively R.J. Longstreet Carnival, our Basket Brigade drive, our teacher celebrations in Muffin Mania, or our group bonding events like our Pickleball tournaments, we've been busy making a positive impact and growing as a team. The annual Door Decorating Competition brought out our creative spirits, adding a festive touch to the season. Congrats to the Best of Show winning door: Gallon's C-23!

Looking ahead, we will have had our upcoming district meeting at Mainland High School. It's an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow National Honor Society members from the district and share experiences. I hope to see a big turnout and to see everyone as we work together to effect change.

In this past quarter, our focus has been on service and unity, so as we step into the New Year, let's embrace the continual growth we have experienced by embracing the act of doing. Remember, "the wisdom's in the trees, not the glass windows." Let's make the most of the coming year by going out and creating positive change in our community whether with a Bushman Park cleanup or collecting food items for the needy at Easter or donating books at our NHS District meeting in January.

We hope to witness continued growth in our impact around us and the growth of all of our members as individuals. Together, let's strive for excellence and make a lasting difference. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm! Wishing everyone a Happy New Year filled with purpose and positivity.

Warm regards, Logan Matthew Dain, NHS President

















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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.

It's a GREAT day to be a Hawk!





HAPPY NEW YEAR HAWKS!

We hope this newsletter finds you well as our Asian Association heads into the new year of 2024. Here's a recap of the exciting activities and events we've had from November to January: In November we hosted a meeting focused on Japan. We explored its rich culture and traditions. Members enjoyed a delightful meal of Japanese chicken katsu and in the spirit of friendly competition, the senior class emerged victorious in the Japanese game of

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200 N Clara Ave, DeLand, FL 32720

Konpira Fune Fune. It was also a privilege to fill two Basket Brigade Boxes for the community's Thanksgiving Giveaway.

Our December meeting shone a spotlight on the wonders of Korea, with discussions on its history and customs. Attendees also enjoyed the flavors of delicious kimchi and chicken fried rice. Our members came together just in time for the holiday season to create small gifts for our new teachers and help welcome them to our Hawk Family. The freshman class celebrated a triumph in the Korean game of Cham Cham.

We had a great start to the year this January having the privilege of hosting guest speaker Mr. Liebman who shared with us his experiences in the thriving nation of Singapore and taught us about its fascinating history

and culture. Mei Fun was on the menu, offering a taste of Singaporean cuisine and the junior class claimed victory in the thrilling marble game of Boli.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th, in room C-09. Join us as we celebrate the Lunar New Year. We will immerse ourselves in the history and traditions of China. We look forward to seeing our members there for enjoyable activities and some delicious food as we welcome in another new year. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to join our Remind to receive updates by texting code @creekaa to 81010.









Samantha Grendreau Wins 2023 Youth Writing Contest

Samantha "Sam" Grendreau won top honors for the SMA Healthcare Youth Writing Contest, which was open to middle and high school students in Volusia and Flager counties, for her poem, "A Second Chance." Sam was awarded \$50 in December for her submission, which describes her older brother's struggles with drug addiction.

At an early age, Sam said she understood her brother "was on the wrong track" and realized how his addiction was negatively "affecting him and the people around him," particularly her family. Her brother's struggles have given Sam the courage to "speak up and reach out to other people and spread as much awareness as I can about drug addiction." She hopes that her poem will inspire more teens to resist the urge to experiment with drugs.



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Creek Reads

"Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury is a short story that really challenges people's perspectives. It is a short story, yet it is filled with many different genres. It is a science fiction-based story yet has action and adventure elements as well. But it also discusses people's actions which may seem small but cause a big impact, normally known as the butterfly effect, which is discussed in this short story a decent amount. I find it is a remarkably easy book to read and comprehend, and you probably won't want to put it down!

-Desiree Garrison









German

Frohes neus Jahr! We at Spruce Creek's German Club hope you all had a great 2023, and we are looking forward to the new year! 2023 was filled with so many activities and events: we welcomed our new members and officers, participated in fun carnivals and parties, and made a difference with our service projects! During the holiday season, our Advent calendar fundraiser was a massive success, we completely sold out. Finally, to close off the year, we had a Christmas party! Members had fun playing games, decorating the German classroom door, eating snacks, and enjoying each other's company. In 2024, we're striving to do even more. We're planning great things like a beach cleanup, a pet drive, and other fun activities like parties and carnivals. On Tuesday the 16th, we are having a campus clean-up, picking up trash that fellow Hawks have left behind. With this clean-up and all our other activities, we strive to make Spruce Creek a cleaner, diverse, and positive environment - we hope you'll join us!

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!

NEHS

NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

Spruce Creek High School's Synonym Rolls Chapter of the National English Honor Society is gearing up for the second semester! During the Thanksgiving season, our chapter participated in the annual Volusia County Basket Brigade as a way to give back to our community. We initially intended to complete 2 dinner baskets for families in need. However, thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to complete 9 whole baskets!!

For our final gathering before winter break, the members had a successful and festive holiday meeting, complete with trivia and snacks. After a restful winter vacation, the Synonym Rolls are busier than ever leading volunteer projects for the upcoming quarter. "Poetry Out Loud" is coming up on January 26th at 6 PM in the Spruce Creek Media Center. Each participant in the competition must prepare a chosen poem to be recited aloud from memory. The poems must be sourced from the Poetry Out Loud website, but the options are nearly limitless. On the night of the event, each participant will perform for a panel of judges grading on accuracy, physical presence, voice and articulation, interpretation, and dramatic appropriateness. By the end of the night, we will have heard a variety of poem recitations, and have decided on a schoolwide winner who will continue on to the state-wide competition, where contestants will have a chance to go to the national competition in Washington D. C. where they have a chance to win up to \$20,000!

Looking a little further out, we have several committees organizing book drives, English tutoring projects, and groups who plan to read to residents at local nursing homes. Remember that many of the NEHS volunteer projects are open to all students! Keep an eye out around campus for informational posters, or visit C-13 for more information as these events draw nearer. These projects are a great way to earn some community service hours and spread our love of the English language and make a positive impact on our

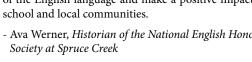
- Ava Werner, Historian of the National English Honor













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JROTC

The Hawk Battalion has had a busy past couple of months. Spruce Creek High School and the Hawk Battalion hosted our local Veterans at our annual Veterans Day ceremony. We recognized our own Veterans of Spruce Creek High School with a touching tribute, as well as our local Veterans and Veterans' Organizations. Then our own Hawk Battalion

Executive Officer, C/Major Allison Rodriguez provided a moving speech to the crowd about what Veterans Day means to her. We closed out the ceremony with our top-selected Cadets competing in a close-order drill competition, more commonly known as a Knockout Drill. The top three finishers:

- 3rd Place: Freshman, Cadet Skyla Sciarrillo
- 2nd Place: Senior, C/2LT Anmar Baghdadi
- 1st place: Sophomore, C/SGT Ryan Taylor

Our winners were awarded medals for their skill and performance. In addition, the Battalion also placed miniature flags along the fence line bordering the school to show our community support for Veterans. The Hawk Battalion expertly coordinated, planned and executed our annual Battalion Military Formal, conducted at the Shores Resort and Spa. The night began with proper introductions of our dignitaries and special guests, Dr. Sparger, Dr. and Mr. Hammond, and of course, Colonel (Retired) and Mrs Clark.





After posting the National Colors, our National Anthem was sung by Gabrielle Flynn followed by a moving POW/MIA ceremony, conducted to remember Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsman that are missing in action or prisoners of war. We were joined by our distinguished guest speaker, Sheriff Mike Chitwood, who provided an invigorating speech to our Cadets and guests. The Sheriff then stayed to take photos with all of our great Cadets, family and friends. As the night came to a close, our winter break began. Upon return to a new year, our Drill team is beginning to prepare for this season's training. We have two specific teams, consisting of Color Guard (male and female teams) and an Unarmed Platoon that will train specifically to a precise format. Each team will be following a sequence with precision to a specified standard competing against other schools within our district and region. We look forward to our Cadets' performance and thank them for taking the challenge upon themselves.







SOFTBALL

Follow Spruce Creek Softball on Facebook and Instagram!

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

2024 Spruce Creek Softball

2024 Spruce Creek Softball						
	Date	Weekday	Opponent	Site	JV	Varsity
	1/30	Tuesday	Parent Meeting		6:00	
March	2/8	Thursday	Dollars for Dingers Fundraiser Orange & Black Scrimmage		5:00	
	2/13	Tuesday	Pine Ridge	Home	${} =$	5:00
	2/15	Thursday	PR vs Viera Viera	Home	${} > $	5:00 7:00
	2/20	Tuesday	Matanzas	Matanzas HS	4:30	6:30
	2/22	Thursday	University	Home	4:30	6:30
	2/27	Tuesday	FPC	FPC HS		6:30
	2/2/	Thursday	Taylor	Pierson Taylor HS	4:30 4:30	6:30
	3/1	Friday	Mainland	Home	4.30	
	3/1	Saturday	TBD	Matanzas HS	TBA	4:30
		Tuesday	Sebastian River	Home	1 DA	<u> </u>
	3/5	Thursday			_	6:00
	3/7	Friday	Apopka Pine Ridge	Apopka HS Home	5:00	7:00 6:00
					4:00	
	3/13	Wednesday	Melbourne DeLand	Melbourne HS	5:00	7:00
	3/15	Friday		Home	5:00	7:00
	3/19	Tuesday	Rockledge	Home	4:30	6:30
	3/21	Thursday	Elizabeth Forward (PA)	Home	4:00	2:00
			New Smyrna Beach			6:00
April	4/2	Tuesday	Eustis	Home	5:00	7:00
	4/4	Thursday	Oviedo	Home	5:00	7:00
	4/5	Friday	FPC (Senior Night)	Home	\sim	6:00
	4/9	Tuesday	Lake Mary	Home	5:00	7:00
	4/12	Friday	Lake Brantley	Forest City Elem	5:00	7:00
	4/13	Saturday	5-Star	Seabreeze	촏	TBA
	4/16	Tuesday	5-Star	Seabreeze	촏	TBA
					$\geq \leq$	TBA
					➣	6:00
		Thursday			➣	6:00
			District Tournament		$\geq \leq$	TBA
May			Regional Quarterfinals		$>\!\!<$	TBA
	5/14	Tuesday	Regional Semifinals		$>\!<$	TBA
	5/17	Friday	Regional Final		$>\!\!<$	TBA
	5/20-5/25		State Semifinal		$>\!\!<$	TBA
	5/20-5/25		State Championship		$>\!\!<$	TBA
May	5/17 5/20-5/25 5/20-5/25		Regional Regiona Regio State State Ch	Quarterfinals I Semifinals onal Final Semifinal	andow	

Assistant Nicole Sanclemente Coaches: Nick Years Kristina Henle

Principal: Todd Sparger

Updated:10/25/2023









Papillon Dance Team

Papillon held their annual winter showcase on December 8, 2023. Papillon team members performed pieces that were choreographed by themselves and Mrs. Storms in front of family and friends. The show had a variety of dances with styles including ballet, tap, jazz, and contemporary. The show featured holiday song favorites like "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch" by Jim Carrey and "Candy Cane Lane" by Sia. The dancers put on a wonderful show and had fun while doing it.

Additionally, this year the show featured a group of dancers from 6th period Dance Technique. They performed a ballet piece that was choreographed by Mrs. Storms. The show ended with a bang when the Papillon dance team performed "Jingle Bell Medley," which has been a tradition for over 10 years. Papillon now begins work on their adjudicated piece for the Volusia County dance performance assessment in February and their Spring Show, "At the Movies," which will be held in April. We hope to see you at a performance soon!

- Bella DeMonico

SCHS class of 2025 | Papillon Secretary

Young Republicans Club By D. Pultz - January 2024

The school year has continued to bear well for the Young Republicans at Spruce Creek High School. We have had many new members attend the monthly meetings these past few months and have discussed important club topics, such as our basket brigade for Thanksgiving during our November 3rd meeting. We proudly packed the box with green beans, canned corn, brownie mix, yams, boxed stuffing, gravy package mix, a bag of mini marshmallows, a box of cornbread mix, scalloped potatoes box, mashed potato mix, cranberry sauce, cream of mushroom soup, and a bag of fried onion strings.

We put up flags for Veterans Day on Monday November 8th during lunch and after school. We left them up along the fence of the school until Wednesday November 15th. We believe this promotes patriotism. We also decided to participate in the Door Decorating Contest for the Winter Movie Marathon Themed Competition in December. The Young Republicans came up with a skeleton holding an American flag from The Nightmare Before Christmas movie.

Our December meeting was well attended because we had a guest speaker, Kim Short. There were many new faces at the meeting where we reviewed the upcoming Wreaths Across America event at the Edgewater Cemetery. This year we attended Wreaths Across America on December 16th and were able to help distribute wreaths to people after the ceremony, and then we laid a few wreaths on veterans' graves and said their names out loud so that they will never be forgotten.

Our January general meeting was held on Friday, January 5th during lunch. We reviewed our Wreaths Across America project and made note to sell more wreaths. We discussed the future including club pictures for the yearbook. By consensus, the club voted to purchase a dozen large flags to add to the ones we already have. We have general club meetings monthly and welcome others who are conservative in thinking on the following dates: Feb 9, March 1, April 5, and May 3. We hope to see you there!









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Spruce Creek High School





Theatre Department News

Join us for the enchanting journey into Disney's Frozen Jr.! Shows will be February 9-18th. For more information and to reserve your tickets please visit www.teachtix.com/sprucecreek.

Celebrate our Theatre Club's achievements! In November, our talented students performed at the District Thespians festival, with 16 performances achieving top superior scores. Two performances earned Honorable Mention and one earned Critics Choice.

This year we added a Fall mainstage show, The Lightning Thief. It was a huge success bringing in an audience of over 1500 during our weekend run and earned nominations in all Applause Awards categories for the Dr. Phillips Center for the Arts. Congratulations to all involved!

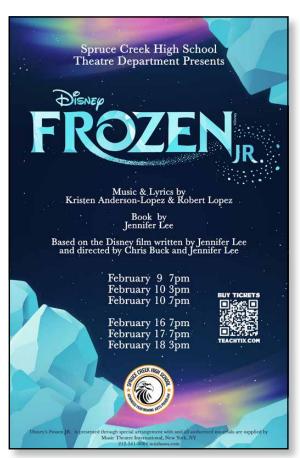
We concluded the year with a heartwarming Toy Drive, donating 115 new gifts to families in our community.

We can't wait for you to enjoy the magic in our upcoming production, Disney's Frozen Jr.

See you at the Theatre!

Break a Leg! Troupe 2461















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