











### 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 the next school year. These meetings will take place during the school day during the month of February, mainly during 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 eagerly await celebrating with the Class of 2025 at their graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 29th at 7:30pm at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center.

Please be reminded of the district policy based on recent legislation limiting cell phone use to before and after school, at lunch and during class changes. We still find 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 on 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 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 students' understanding of the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) in Reading and Writing. Our ninth and tenth grade students will take the BEST Writing on April 3 and the BEST Reading assessment on May 6 and 8. The dates for the required End of Course (EOC) tests for all students currently enrolled in: Biology - May 13, United States History - May 14, Algebra - May 15, and Geometry - May 15. Students will need a fully charged laptop and charger for all State tests. For 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 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 95% 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 order to stay informed with events on campus, please visit our school's website at www.sprucecreekhigh. com and follow us on Facebook and Twitter @GreatDay2BAHawk and Instagram at sprucecreekhighhawks. It's a Great Day to be a Hawk

Spruce Creek

. High School

# AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT NOTE

#### 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!

#### NHS

NHS and SGA worked together on the Thanksgiving basket Brigade, as NHS reached its pledge of 11 boxes. We had members of both SGA and NHS packing and organizing boxes in an efficient and enthusiastic fashion. Continuing NHS's work with other clubs in our school, Beta Club and NHS held a great beach cleanup, a true expression of commitment to our community.

NHS is also looking out for our local animals at the Halifax Humane Society where members helped entertain and clean up after the dogs and cats under B. Wiener's leadership. Furthermore, as Sugar Mill Gardens has recovered, NHS is getting back into the motions of regular visits led by Treasurer Riley Nelson.

At the first NHS pickleball tournament, Ken Bui and Parker Alexander went home as champions. They had a clutch game-three performance to bring it home, beating other finalists, Quinn Daly and Gavin Getgen. Ken and Parker claimed to be inspired by "the chase for greatness" and will look forward to the next tournament.

NHS collected 130 sweatshirts and hoodies under the District service project with Boo-Boo Cow. We also helped Beta Club fundraise with a car wash at Ritter's. Additionally, during winter break, NHS members helped with a massive Christmas gift-wrapping project.

We closed off the quarter with our newest members submitting their hours for the first time and our fierce Door Decorating Competition. Huge shout out to Ms. Cooney for being the winner and Best Overall. Kudos to Mrs. Keith, for her door of Best Use of Theme; Mr. Rohol for Most Comical; Mrs. Kohl for Most Creative; and Coach Davies for Best Quality. We look to keep moving



lity. We look to keep moving strong into the 3rd quarter as we continue our pursuit of awesomeness. -A.Bhuiyan, President

**Helpful Contacts:** 

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News & Views • February 2025 • Issue #2 Published Five Times Per Year Spruce Creek High School Volusia County School Board 200 N Clara Ave, DeLand, FL 32720

#### Asian Association

The Asian Association of Spruce Creek High School had an awesome first semester and is excited for the 3rd quarter!

We have had two more meetings this year since the last newsletter: Korea (November) and Taiwan (December), and our most popular meeting was on Thursday, January 9th during lunch (China). We will be discussing this ancient and exotic country, plus celebrating an early Chinese New Year with everyone in the club.

Our popular "Game Time" was such fun. The class of 2025 (Seniors) won the Korean game of Kahoot and the class of 2027 (Sophomores) won the Taiwan game, which was a Boba Challenge.

We are also happy to say that we were able to complete our second service project of the year: donating to the Toys for Tots Drive. Our third service project of the year will be a campus clean up on February 19 at lunch. Stay tuned to Remind for updates: @creekaa to 81010 to stay connected.

Join us by attending our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month in room C-09. Follow us on social media at @asianassociation\_sc. Our \$15 dues for the year provide paying members access to monthly meetings, a shirt, and the Club Photo for 2024-2025. Pay online at osp.osmsinc.com/Volusia by selecting Spruce Creek High. -Tori Huynh, President

#### Speech and Debate Team

The Spruce Creek Debate Team (FCDI affiliate) got off to a slow start this season because of hurricane delays and scheduling conflicts. Nonetheless, several new members have already taken part in events. Thanks are due to our captain,

Ariana Khan, who has taken on judging duties in debate sections, and Ms. Jenny Belinsky who has helped with transport, as well as judging speech events.

Congratulations to Liberty Higginbotham (placed in IO) and Jeremiah Belinsky, who has placed and won with his Novice partner, My Lan Van, in Varsity Public Forum events. Special shout-out to Insha Majeed and Na'Myah Plummer for winning their second Novice Public Forum event.

We were awarded three entries to The Great Debate on the MLK weekend. Congratulations to Jeremiah, Insha, and My Lan for taking part in the grueling triathlon of Speech and Debate: Legislative Debate, Impromptu Speaking, and Extemporaneous Debate all within 2 days!

Watch out for our winners on Hawks Instagram. -Miss Melanie Wilson, Speech & Debate

Sponsor/Coach, Rm: O-16





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#### Young Democrats Club

#### Hello Hawks!

We hope everyone has had a great break! Over the last month VP Kamala Harris verified the results of the 2024 election in a peaceful transition of power. While our democratic party did not win the election, we do not lose hope. Midterms are coming up, which is a great way to vote in candidates who represent your beliefs for the state and federal congress. As of now, the Florida democratic party is in the minority, but with your vote we can make it a fairer and more representative Florida legislature!

On a more local level, our Young Dems club is furthering the democratic message by holding meetings to discuss with young democrats how to remain hopeful and involved in our community. At our next meeting on January 29th, we will be writing letters to our Democratic representatives in the Florida legistlature to inquire after the



Democratic Party's plans for the future. We will sign petitions to further all the work we have done in the last four years. If interested, one petition is currently happening on a national level to continue the pause on new Liquified Natural Gas

exports. Our new Department of Energy plans on reviewing this pause and how public opinion on the effects of LNG has changed. We now know that LNG is a potent greenhouse gas currently adding to the climate crisis. This petition will be physically delivered to the Department of Energy in



Washington D.C., displaying the names of all who signed. Please scan the QR code below if you are interested in signing the petition to help protect our environment and sustain the work our Democratic Party has done in the last four years. -Lillian Geary

#### Young Republicans Club

Hello Hawks!

In November, the Republican candidate, Donald J. Trump, won the U.S. Presidency in a landslide electoral college victory. The Republican party also won a majority in both houses of Congress. Senator John Thune was elected Senate Majority Leader and Representative Mike Johnson was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for a second term. President Trump's new cabinet includes many Florida's legislators, including Representative Mike Waltz, Senator Marco Rubio, and Former Florida Attornev General Pam Bondi.

The Young Republicans have been very active recently. We work on educating our classmates via our bulletin board. In September through October, we featured US Constitution Day and in December we had a memorial for Pearl Harbor. Finally, in January, we let students know about the Electoral College.

In November, The Young Republicans Club had guest speaker Duncan DeMarsh, who left us with five important suggestions for success. 1- Be nice to people 2- Don't pick fights until they're worth

winning. 3. Be a workhorse not a show horse. 4- Make yourself indispensable. 5- Be proud to be a Republican standing for what is right.

Members of our club decorated Mr. Beatty's door for the NHS door decorating competition with the theme: "Winter Carols in December." Additionally, members and



sponsors of the club attended the December 14th ceremony for Wreaths Across America at the Edgewater Cemetery. Members of the club encouraged friends and family to help purchase wreaths during the year. At the ceremony while laying the wreaths on the gravestones, the names of the fallen U.S. Service Members were read aloud to hold their memory in reverence.

The Young Republicans hold meetings once a month on the first Friday of each month. Our upcoming meetings will be on February 7th, March 7th, April 4th, and May 2nd.

-Jeremiah Belinsky, President





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#### Theatre Troupe **TROUPE 2461**

We had a very busy fall season with our District Thespian Festival and first mainstage production, Peter and the Starcatcher. Thank you to everyone involved in our fall production and those that were able to attend. In addition to our regularly scheduled performances, we welcomed almost 600 Volusia County students for a free performance. We had a great time, sharing theatre with elementary and middle school students from 6 different schools. We look forward to the next special showing in February. **DISTRICTS STATS:** 

50 students competed at Districts, with all performances earning either a superior or excellent rating. The one act play In the Forest of the Night was awarded a superior rating for both performance and technical achievement.

Brie Flynn was awarded honorable mention for her solo musical theater performance and our large group musical was awarded top honors from the entire conference. 25 students will be moving on to the state level in Tampa over spring break. Congratulations to all!

Friday

Friday

Sunday

Saturday

Saturday

#### Mark your calendars for our next production:

#### Six The Musical: Teen Edition by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss.

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived. From Tudor Queens to Pop Icons, the SIX wives of Henry VIII take the mic to remix five hundred years of historical heartbreak into a Euphoric Celebration of 21st-century girl power! This new original musical is the global sensation that everyone is losing their head over.

#### Tickets are on-sale now - www.teachtix.com/sprucecreek

#### **Performances Dates:**

- Friday February 14, 7:00 pm
- Saturday February 15, 7:00 pm
- Sunday February 23, 3:00 pm
  - Friday February 21, 7:00 pm
- Saturday February 22, 7:00 pm

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THE MUSICAL

**TEEN EDITION** 

**BY TOBY MARLOW & LUCY MOSS** 

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Feb 15

7PM

7PM

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We are always looking for corporate sponsors for our productions, so please reach out if you would like to become a donor or to get more information. We are looking forward to ending the year strong as we continue to celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

Break a leg! Troupe 2461 Mrs. Cicciarelli and Mr. Molitor









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Student Name:	ID #
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City:	_ZIP: Current GPA (For Seniors):
For Legacy Scholar: I an	n a legacy of
Nominating School Per	sonnel
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Anticipated Field of Stud	wetter High School
-	ly after High School
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<u>Scholarship Criteria</u> Essay Recommendations Recommendations	School or Community Service Academic performance Community person
<u>Submissions</u> 1 (Senior Resilienc	y Award) <b>or 2</b> (Legacy Scholar) <b>letters of Recommendation</b> For Legacy Scholar:
• One from school per	sonnel and one from a community person (not a family member)
Essay (300 - 500	words) or a 3 to 4 minute video on the following subject:
Why I should be sele	ected for the Resiliency Scholarship - What hardship have your overcome or are currently working
your situation and what l	It makes you a candidate for this scholarship. How have you overcome have you learned from it? What have you done at your school or in other students and people with what you have learned.
	OR FOR LEGACY AWARD
<u>Why I</u>	should be selected for the Legacy Scholar Award
Include statements ab	oout what you have done at your school and in your community. What you plan to do in your in future.
Please complete the foll	owing. Additional pages may be attached.
<b>Extracurricular Ac</b> at Spruce Creek.	tivities – List teams, clubs and organizations you were involved with
	- List employment or intern programs you were involved with during creek. Include a remark if you worked during summer or during
Activities Outside and special interests	of School - List religious activities, clubs, other volunteer activities, s.
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	Signature Date
	Parent SignatureDate

#### NEHS

National English Honor Society (NEHS) is a great place for those who enjoy literature and giving back to their community! Last quarter we had bookmark making parties, Poptarts and Poetry meetings, several donation drives, and we took a field trip to read to elementary school children. Our upcoming service events include: Valentine's Day card making for our local hospitals (February 4th, during lunch), Campus Cleanup (Date TBD), and more bookmark making parties (2/10, 2/26, 3/12). Our committees for this term are already working hard to plan future events but are always looking for more help. If you would like to join the Senior Banquet Committee, please contact Sophie Mulcahy and Zavier Rivers. One of our biggest events this year was Poetry Out Loud, which was held in the Media Center on February 6th at 6:00pm. Students from Spruce Creek had the opportunity to perform their favorite poems from memory for their friends and family. Congratulations to the winners of our competition, junior Zavier Rivers, and runner up Catie Winn. Our winner will go on to compete at the state level, where the final winner will receive a cash scholarship! Stay connected with our remind by texting @creeknehs to 81010 or our instagram @schs.synonymrolls.

#### **BOOR Review!**

One of our members read Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky this month. Here is their review: If you enjoy exploring psychology or ethics, this novel is definitely for you! In this Russian classic, Rodion Raskolnikov, a poor, young student commits two murders. He believes this killing will benefit society, believing himself to be a "superior" individual; however, he suffers major inner turmoil, unable to forgive himself or shake the fear of being discovered. Dostoevsky focuses

on the human conscience and psyche, as his antihero experiences nightmares and hallucinations. You'll have to pick a copy yourself to find out what happens!



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## Inside This Issue

Book Review NEHS Theatre Troupe Asian Association and more!

Don't Forget to CHECK YOUR EMAIL DAILY