



News

Spruce Creek
High School

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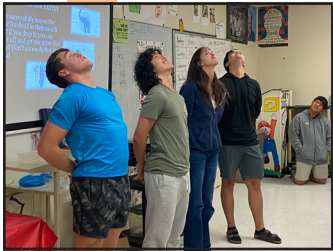


views

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SPARGER

Please join me in congratulating the Class of 2024. We also salute their families, friends, and all those who have contributed to their success. Through their commitment to academics, the arts, athletics and community service, this class has contributed greatly to our school's overall excellence. As evidence of this, US News and World Report recently ranked Spruce Creek High School as one of the best high schools in Florida and among the top in the Nation and the #1 High School in Volusia County. Graduation for the Class of 2024 will take place on Thursday, May 23rd at 7:00pm at the Ocean Center. Consider this partial list of accomplishments of the Class of 2024 in the areas of academics, the arts, and athletics:

- 595 Seniors are part of this graduating class
- 98% of the students graduated on time
- 70% are college and career ready by passing a college-level course or earning industry certification
- 75% were enrolled in at least one honors level course
- 52% of the class had a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- 45% were enrolled in at least one AP or IB course
- Over 50% were recommended for some level of the Bright Futures Scholarship program
- Almost \$6.2 million worth of scholarships were awarded
- 122 Students are eligible for the IB Diploma
- 80% of the class are college bound
- 42,000 hours of documented community service were provided to our community
- 2 National Merit Scholarships Awarded
- 8 National Merit Commended scholars
- 16 earned an Associate of Arts degrees from DSC in addition to the HS diploma
- 80% took the standardized SAT or ACT and their average scores exceeded district, state, and national averages
- 23 students placed at the Regional Science Fair and 6 qualified for the State Science Fair
- 1 team qualified for the International Science Fair
- Envirothon Team finished 2nd in the State competition
- 2 seniors earned the Applause Award and 3 were Volusia Select Winners
- 6 students were selected to the All-State Band and Jazz Band and 1 to the All-State Chorus
- 4,150 Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) tests were completed
- U.S. News & World Report ranked SCHS in the Top 7% of all high schools in the Nation and Top 5% in Florida and #1 in Volusia County
- Approximately 90% of our student body is enrolled in an arts related course at some point in high school
- Sports teams: 10 Conference champions, 6 District champions and 1 Regional Champion
- 2 individual State Champions in Olympic weightlifting and an additional 7 lifters placed in the Top 10
- Competitive Cheer and Boys Weightlifting teams finished in the Top 10 at the State Championship
- 25 out of 26 sports teams qualified for the All-Academic Team Championship, 2 teams finished in the Top 10
- 15 seniors signed letters of intent to continue their sport at the college level



continued on next page...





MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SPARGER

continued...

This level of success speaks not only to our amazing students and their family support, but to the faculty, staff, coaches, directors, and sponsors who provide the opportunities for our students to highlight their talents.

We wish each of you an enjoyable and safe summer. Thank you for your many contributions to our school's overall excellence. Remember that today, as every day, is a Great Day to be a Hawk.



End of School and Summer Reminders

Final exams for students in grades 9 – 11 will begin on Tuesday, May 28 and conclude on Friday, May 31. For the first three days, two exams will be given each day with the final exam for the day concluding around noon. On Friday, May 31 only one exam will be administered and will conclude around 10:00 am. Students choosing to check-out after their last exam for the day will need to bring a separate note for each day containing the student's name, alpha ID, parent name, signature, and phone number. These notes are to be brought to the dean's office at the time of check-out. Students remaining on campus will follow the printed bell schedule for the day. School buses will pick-up and drop off at their regular times. Students are reminded to return all textbooks and laptops, and clean out their lockers before leaving for the summer. Any items left in student lockers after May 31 will be discarded.

For students who were not successful with one or more classes, please contact your school counselor for summer options to make up those credits. These options may include Volusia On-Line School, the Credit Recovery computer lab, or Florida Virtual School. Other students may qualify for an Algebra or Biology review course during the month of July. Those students who did not pass or take the English Language Arts (ELA), Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, or United States History EOC exams will have an opportunity to take those tests over the summer. Dates for these exams will be the week of July 22. Please contact Mr. Kevin Clark, our Summer School administrator, at extension 37807 for more information about summer opportunities.

Please continue to check our website, listen to phone messages, and check your mailbox for important information during the summer months. We are planning to mail home the final report card near the middle of June. Included in that envelope will be important information regarding orientation for the 2024-25 school year. The first day of school for all students will be on Monday, August 12, 2024.

During the summer, the main office will be open Monday – Thursday from 8 am – 4 pm and will close daily from noon – 1:00 pm for lunch. The guidance office will also have limited hours during the summer. Please be sure to call the school ahead of time during the summer to make an appointment to see a school counselor.



An EXTREMELY IMPORTANT NOTE from Ms. Batten & 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!



Papillon

Papillon performed their Spring Showcase, "A Night in Film," where dancers showcased dances with songs from movies ranging from Disney classics to French indie films. Choreography by Ms. Storms, Becca McHale, Bella DeMonico, Lindsey Larrimore, Aubree Moorhead, Riley Jones, Grace Lopez, Anisa Khemlani, Natalie Maugeri, Laura Ortiz, and Caylah Tallacksen brought film to life on stage. Dancers performed styles ranging from Contemporary, Jazz, Musical Theatre, and Tap for friends and family for the last time this school year.

Papillon also hosted auditions for the 2024/2025 school year. Thirty dancers from across the county came out to audition for the ensemble, completing a ballet barre; jazz across the floor; and a contemporary combination.

We are looking forward to finishing out this school year with our awards banquet which will be held on Saturday, May 4th. At the awards banquet, officers for next year will be announced, along with special recognitions for current team members.

It has been a great year for Papillon and we are excited to see what next year holds!

Bella DeMonico, *Papillon Secretary*
Class of 2025

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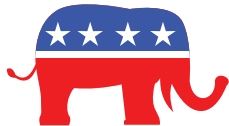
The Young Republicans Club News

BY D. PULTZ

The school year has ended off well for the Spruce Creek High School Young Republicans. In our monthly meeting in April, we discussed changing the bulletin board from Republican women to a tribute for our current club president, Donny Pultz, who is the only senior in the club. The Young Republicans also all worked on the scrapbook and filled up the pages with different pictures of activities we have completed throughout the year while also designing the layout and background of each page in the scrapbook.

We have also filled out and completed the candidates for next year's Young Republican's board. Our club president for next year will be Jeremiah Belinsky, Vice President Nathan Winquist, Secretary Micah Morrisett, Treasurer Kyle Pultz, Historian Kiera Myers, Service Chair Benjamin Kim, Community Chair Matthew Sanders, Webmaster Pujan Patel, and Club Representative Gavin Getgen.

We have one more meeting taking place. We will plan for our end of the year celebration on May 3rd. We will be meeting in room C-09 for the May meeting. We will discuss how we can help those running for political office during the summer, such as our Lincoln Day Dinner event on July 21st this year. We hope to see you attend our final meeting of the year!



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Mr. and Miss Contest – Class of 2025

Congratulations to all the juniors who participated in this annual tradition. The following awards were announced:

Miss Spruce Creek:

- Lina Nasr

Mr. Spruce Creek:

- Victor Bissoondyal

Congeniality:

- Brie Flynn
- Kenny Nyguen

Interview:

- Lillian Geary
- Victor Bissoondyal

Poise and Presentation:

- Brie Flynn
- Ben Kim

Talent:

- Lina Nasr
- Victor Bissoondyal

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *The Lightning Thief* for being nominated for 18 Applause Awards at the Dr. Phillips Center.

Winners Announced:

- Outstanding Lead Performer: Evan Jarvis
- Outstanding Supporting Performer: Lina Nasr
- Outstanding Stage Manager: Gia Bhatla
- Outstanding Sound Design: Mr. Rich
- Outstanding Light Design: Mr. Molitor

Scholarship winners will be announced at the ceremony on June 1st.



German

Hallo! Willkommen to the last segment from German club! We have had a very eventful year with the club, having done many different things. First, we had a very thorough beach cleanup just recently where lots of club members cleaned up our precious beach at Toronita Park. We had elections for officers where some members stepped up to lead the next year. We had a spectacular event this past weekend where we went to a rage room and let out some final exam stress. This Saturday May the 4th is the German Honor Society Bacquet at Hollerbach's German restaurant in Sanford and that will wrap up the year for German Club. Here's to another amazing year ahead!

Asian Association

April has brought the culmination of another remarkable year for our Asian Association. Let's reflect on the highlights of the month and celebrate the accomplishments of our members.

In April, we delved into the rich culture and traditions of Laos. We got to learn about their geography, culture, and history. Our taste buds were treated to the delicious flavors of Larb Moo, a type of pork salad that is the national dish of Laos, adding a culinary delight to our cultural exploration. The Junior class has emerged victorious in this month's candy game crowning them the winners of this year's Asian Association activities.

This April meeting we also held our annual election for the board of next year's Asian Association. We congratulate our new Asian Association Board of Officers: Representatives Katherine Whalen and Dylan Kwong, Service Chair Dylan Tran, Historian Nancy Lin, Treasurer Yani Chen, Secretary Rucker Feezor, Vice President Dev Patel, and President Tori Huynh. Congratulations to our new board members! We cannot wait to see the amazing things you'll accomplish in the coming year. Our formal installation of officers will be at dinner May 24 at LeAnh's. We will also celebrate that night with a fun evening of karaoke at Chop Chop.

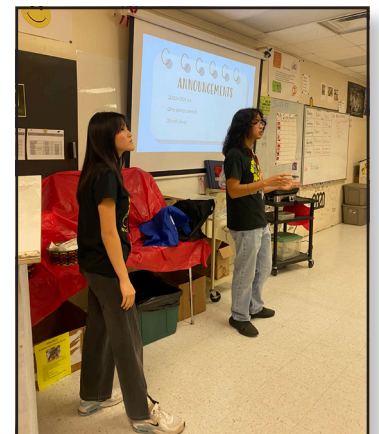
The last general business meeting of the year will take place on Thursday, May 9th in Room C-09. Our new officers will be leading the meeting, focusing on the fascinating culture of the Philippines. It's an event not to be missed!

As my tenure as Asian Association President comes to an end, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who showed up to our meetings for making this year truly amazing. I also want to express my gratitude to the incredible teachers and staff who have supported us throughout the year.

A special thank you goes to our club sponsors, Mrs. Deborah Keith and Mr. Nicholas Schafer, for their unwavering support and dedication to our club. Your guidance has been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for everything you've done. Thank you to Mr. Ryan Griffith as well for letting our club use your room each month.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm, dedication, and contributions to our Asian Association. Let's continue to celebrate diversity, foster cultural appreciation, and create a welcoming and friendly community for all.

- Nathan Duffy



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JROTC

In March our cadets participated in our spring Cadet Challenge, also known as the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Over the course of a week, they competed in various physical fitness tests, including the shuttle run, one-mile run, pull-ups, sit-ups, and the V-sit-and-reach. Their determination and hard work paid off as we had 10 cadets reach the 50th percentile nationally, and three cadets met the 85th percentile.

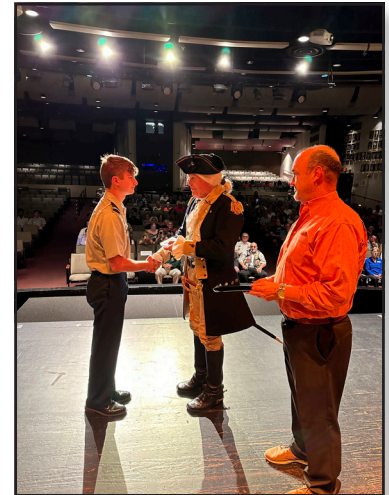
On the 13th of April, Congressman Cory Mills and Senator Rick Scott hosted the District 7 Military Academy Exposition. We were selected by the Congressman Mills team to present the colors to open the event. It was a great honor for our cadets.

Following the Cadet Challenge, our cadets showcased their precision drill movements and teamwork during the in-school drill competition. Each platoon competed against one another, demonstrating their proficiency in precise platoon drill sequence. The competition was fierce, but 5th platoon, under the command of Cadet Corporal Goss, emerged as the victor, showcasing exceptional leadership and coordination.

Again, our great Color Guard team presented the national colors for the opening of this year's 21st annual Jeep Beach charity event, Daytona International at the Speedway. They proudly presented the colors as the national anthem resounded, and a Navy seal team jumped from a helicopter with a huge American flag in tow as they descended to the ground.

In May we conducted our Annual Award Ceremony, where we celebrated the culmination of a year's worth of hard work and dedication by our cadets. Those who went above and beyond were honored with National Awards, presented to them on stage. The unwavering support of our parents, who showed up in full force, further highlighted the strength and unity of our Hawk Battalion family. The highlight of the evening was Lieutenant General George Washington presenting an award to a deserving cadet.

We Say goodbye to our seniors and look ahead to our new cadets who will be joining our Hawk Battalion in August 2024.



HOOAH!



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National Honor Society

BY LOGAN DAIN

Dear Members of Spruce Creek NHS,

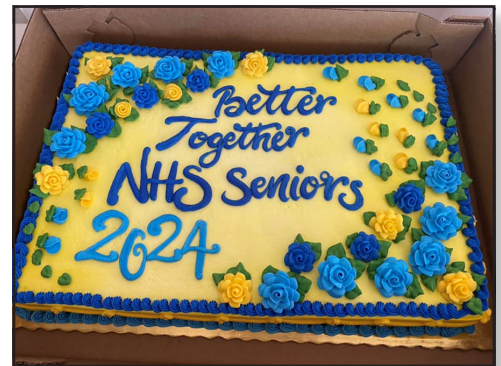
As I write this final newsletter to you all, I am filled with a mix of emotions—gratitude, nostalgia, and a touch of bittersweetness. It has been an incredible journey serving as your NHS President, and I want to thank each and every one of you for being part of this chapter in my life.

Together, we have accomplished so much. From our countless service events to our community projects, every effort we've made has been a testament to our dedication and teamwork. The "Better Together" theme wasn't just a catchphrase; it was the guiding light that brought us all together, helping us create something truly special. This quarter we're still in the midst of helping Sugar Mill Gardens each Saturday. We have one more rock painting session before we purposefully hide them to hopefully bring a little joy to the finder(s). We also taped a wrapped Life Saver in an envelope and thanked our school bus drivers for being life savers! To our secretaries, we bestowed cards and a stem of Forget Me Nots. We also helped our Cross Country team at competition, and we're collecting items for W.A.R.M. for the District NHS project.

As I move on to new adventures, I know that the spirit of Spruce Creek NHS will continue to thrive. You have shown time and time again that you are capable of great things, and I have no doubt that you'll keep pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve. Keep the spirit of service alive, and continue to make a positive impact on our community.

In closing, I'd like to leave you with one of my favorite Jack Johnson quotes: "When the sun shines, it don't shine just on you." Embrace every moment, make the most of each opportunity, and never forget the impact you can have on the world around you. The future is bright, and I can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll accomplish.

Thank you for the memories, the hard work, and the friendships. I will cherish them always.



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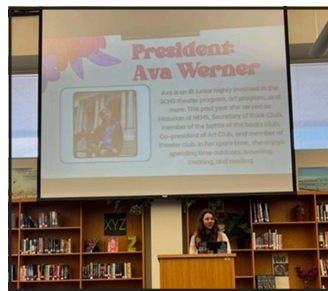
Lizz Maderas • eamadera@volusia.k12.fl.us
Spruce Creek High School

National English Honor Society

Hello, my name is Caroline Burfield and I am the outgoing President of the National English Honor Society here at Creek. It has been an honor to serve this honor society as President over the last year and I have truly learned and grown so much from this experience. Our team of officers was able to overcome so many challenges which has helped our chapter to grow even bigger. We truly wouldn't have been successful if we hadn't come together to bring our chapter together and begin getting involved with our community.

Nothing can be accomplished without change and I believe that our officers truly learned the challenges of change this year. We live in a society where things are constantly changing but as things change "old habits die screaming" and that is definitely something we all learned this year through our various attempts to integrate our new honor society within the various other honor societies which already have their place at Creek ("The Black Dog" Taylor Swift). Our Vice President Emmy Hillman and I have definitely become accustomed to this struggle when trying to plan for service events and trying to get people to participate or take action. The old habits in this instance are from our former members remembering that last year they were only required to obtain very few service hours. Emmy and I overcame this by creating more service opportunities than needed even if that meant running them ourselves and then cracking down on the people who were not obtaining their hours. However, our biggest challenge this year was getting people to look at us as an honor society and not a club. This was because of the changes we made from last school year to this school year and many of our members being used to the National Honor Society and how they do things. Throughout life things constantly change and the challenges we faced through our honor society this year have helped us to prepare for the other changes and challenges that life throws at us. Overall we were very successful this year with all of our service opportunities and have truly overcome many challenges.

All of our success wouldn't have been possible without our amazing advisor: Ms. Maderas. She has given us her absolute support and pushed us to continue to move through the hard parts of running an honor society. I can't begin to thank her enough for giving me the chance to run this club and be a part of all the wonderful things that we were able to accomplish this year. As I move on to a new chapter of my life the National English Honor Society will always have a piece of my heart.



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