



# MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SPARGER







As we begin the **second nine-weeks of the school year**, it is important to celebrate the successes of the first quarter. Despite interruptions for weather-related events, three seniors qualified as semi-finalists for the prestigious **National Merit Scholarship** and **seven qualified as commended scholars**. Additionally, we held successful inductions for **National Honor Society** and **National English Honor Society**, our fall **sports teams** had successful seasons with conferences awarding district and state medals, and we had a very successful **Homecoming Week**. For the first grading period, nearly **250 of our students earned straight "A" grades** and approximately **1700 earned honor roll status**. Follow us on **social media** for celebrations throughout the school year.

During the month of October, we recognized our **dedicated custodians**. These valued employees work throughout the school day to maintain the building (both inside and outside). The bulk of the crew comes in the afternoon and stays late into the evening to make sure the campus is clean and ready for the next school day. Along the way, they perform a variety of other roles that allow for a clean learning environment. Thank you to: **Head Custodian**, Stewart Morgan; **Day Custodians**, Ronnie Amaker, Sean Kish, Jordyn Schramm; and **Evening Custodians**, Patricia Corbitt, Nick Fogel, Tino Galvez, Allen Hobbs, Jacinth Irving, Sophia Wint Patterson, Ben Speights, Scott Strub, Norma Waymire, and Scott Williams.

The faculty has selected **Mr. Jeremy Davies** as **Spruce Creek High School's Teacher of the Year** nominee. Mr. Davies is a proud graduate of **Spruce Creek High School**, the **University of Florida** and **Saint Leo University**. After an eight-year management career with Publix Supermarkets, Mr. Davies returned to Volusia County Schools in 2017. He taught two years of middle school math before returning to his high school alma mater to join our amazing **Mathematics Department**. He has taught a variety of math classes, but currently teaches High Level Math as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Mr. Davies is also our very successful tennis coach, maintaining the dynasty of the program in our local area and at the State level.



We want to extend our appreciation to our parents and community members for the many volunteer hours you offer our students and school. The success of our school is due to a combination of **wonderful students**, a **dedicated faculty and staff**, and the **support of our parents and community**. Thank you for your involvement in the success of our school. **It's a Great Day to be a Hawk!** 

Have a Blessed Holiday Season.





Helpful Contacts: Ms. Johnson: mwjohns1@volusia.k12.fl.us | Ms. Wiggins: jcwiggin@volusia.k12.fl.us and ext. 37814 | Ms. Miller: mamille1@volusia.k12.fl.us

### Distinguished Hawks

#### Distinguished Hawk Teacher - Tim Novotny

Nominated by Deborah Circelli

High school can be some of the hardest years of a young person's life and the most formative years. The Spruce Creek Hawks band was a place to bond with others when Mr. Novotny was our leader,



and we are still a family. Mr. Novotny is dedicated, passionate, and a lifelong mentor, acting as a father figure to many who didn't have anyone to turn to for advice. He taught us to never give up, but to work hard to achieve our goals. Mr. Novotny has continued to encourage support within our band family and he and his wife Diane are continuously showing up to uplift us. In the true spirit of giving back, Mr. Novotny encouraged a fundraiser for the current band. Items he had saved over the years, from yearbooks to his band chair, were auctioned off to raise more than \$3000 to help the current SCHS band perform in Ireland.

Mr. Novotny has been the driving force behind keeping the bond, just as a family would. And we ARE a family because of Mr. Novotny!

#### Distinguished Hawk Alumna - Valmarie H. Turner

Nominated by Tony Sears



Ms. Turner is an alumna of Spruce Creek (CO 1987), Florida A&M University, and Walden University. Ms. Turner is a licensed real estate salesperson in Florida and Georgia, a certified housing counselor, a certified HOME program specialist in regulations and

administration, and a certified housing development finance professional. Ms. Turner is highly active in her community, serving on the board of several community organizations and as the Deputy City Manager of Fairfax,



Virginia. She has 30 years of local government experience and is worthy of this Distinguished Hawk Alumna Award.

#### Distinguished Hawk Alumnus - Anthony McCulley

Nominated by Lori Palladino

When Anthony McCulley graduated from Spruce Creek in 1981, he was active in weightlifting and set a state record for bench pressing at 275 at 114.5 lbs, winning the state title. That same year, he



was selected to live and train with the National Weightlifting team in the U.S. Olympic Training Center. McCulley was Assistant Football Coach for Strength and Conditioning at Florida State University from 1984 - 1986. From 2008 - 2014, he was Lieutenant/Paramedic, DBFD C-Battalion Firefighting instructor, at Mainland High School.

#### **Distinguished Hawks Supporter/Volunteer Gary Bell of Don Bell Signs** Nominated by Kelly Johnson Bundza



Gary Bell graduated from Spruce Creek in 1998. When his father, Don Bell, the owner of Don Bell Signs, left that legacy to Gary, he passed on an important piece of our local community. It was Gary who was able to provide the necessary final steps in securing the new scoreboard for the football field on

our campus. He provided his time and expertise to finish this project, and he hopes to continue this partnership with Spruce Creek and all Volusia County schools for many years to come. We thank you for your time and commitment to our school!

#### VCS2GO Email Message

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!



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## Papillon Dance Team

As we close out the first quarter of the school year, the Papillon Dance Team had two impressive performances held at Spruce Creek. Our pep rally dance, a hip hop/jazz number, was choreographed by the team in collaboration with Mrs. Storms. Another piece, titled "Thunderstruck" was an ode to the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders iconic half time dance. The team had great fun learning and then sharing the dance with the whole school.

The next Papillon event is Saturday, November 2nd at Santa Fe College. The dance team will take master classes with dance professionals, from ballet to West African and many in between. This convention is hosted by the University of Florida and Santa Fe college, both located in Gainesville, Florida.

Starting in the second quarter, Papillon members will be working on choreography for our winter showcase "Snowy Nights." The winter showcase will take place at Spruce Creek on Friday, December 7th at 7:00 pm. Many members of the team have chosen to choreograph their own group dances and have made tremendous progress thus far. We look forward to sharing these wonderful pieces with you!

The Papillon Dance Team is looking forward to all of the performance opportunities this quarter!

Riley Jones, Secretary

#### Theatre Troupe TROUPE 2461

The program is in full swing, and we are very excited to be back into the auditorium with our new air conditioning system. Students are preparing for our District Thespian Performances at Lyman High School in November. Students will be competing with a one act play and over 50 students competing for their chance to attend State in March.

Mark your calendars for our fall production of *Peter and the Star Catcher* by Rick Elice. It is a wonderful family friendly play with music where we discover the origins of Peter Pan and the world of Neverland. Please visit www.teachtix.com/sprucecreek to purchase your tickets, starting November 1st. Evening performances will take place November 21-23, Thursday through Saturday, 7:00 pm. There will be a final matinee performance Sunday, November 24 at 3:00 pm.

Our spring musical will open in February, so stay tuned for our big title announcement. We are always looking for corporate sponsors for our productions; please reach out if you would like to become a donor or receive more information.

We are looking forward to a great year and to celebrating our 50th Anniversary!

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

J.





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# Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Future Business Leaders of America, Inc. (FBLA) is the largest business career and technical student organization in the world, and we have our own chapter here at Spruce Creek High School. Each year, FBLA inspires and prepares more than 220,000 Middle School, High School, and Collegiate members to become communityminded business leaders.

Members have been busy at Spruce Creek High School throughout this first quarter of the school year. Officers have been appointed, baked goods sold during the Fall Carnival Fundraiser, and plans are underway to compete in the District competitive event on December 17th. Members will continue to fundraise to build on the \$150+ raised during the Fall Carnival, to cover costs for the State Competition in Orlando in March 2025.

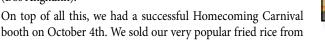
Officers for the 2024/2025 school year are as follows: President- Quinn Daily, Vice President- Natalie Maugeri, Secretary- Mark Labib, Treasurer- Zane Ulrich, Historian-Phoenix Malloch, and Parliamentary-Brianna Fordham.

For more information, reach out to Mrs. Ehlinger in Room B-31.

### Asian Association

The Asian Association of Spruce Creek High School has had a wonderful first quarter and hopes you have too! So far, the club has had three meetings: the Welcome Meeting (August), Japan (September), and Cambodia (October). We are extremely grateful for all the members who joined us for our meetings.

Our Japanese themed meeting included a wonderful guest speaker: Mrs. Colleen Delaney, one of our AP English Literature teachers. We are very glad she was able to speak about her experiences in Japan through the JET program. Also at the meeting, we had "Game Time," and the class of 2028 (Freshmen) won both the Japanese Game (Konpira Fune Fune) and the Cambodian Game (Bos Angkunh).



last year, made with kimchi, Chinese sausage, and veggies. It was a huge hit and we even sold out before the NHS Gong Show! We were very pleased to have raised money for our club and hope that those who bought a bowl, or two, enjoyed it. We are also happy to announce we will be doing our first service project of the year: welcoming Spruce Creek High School's new teachers. The Asian Association's board members wrote short notes welcoming the new teachers, and included a piece of Oriental candy in a lucky red envelope. These will be delivered to their mailboxes very soon.

Thank you for your continued support, and we cannot wait for the rest of the year! Stop by our meetings, which are held during lunch on the second Thursday of each month in room C- 09. Follow us on social media at @asianassociation\_sc and join our Remind by texting @creekaa to 81010 to stay connected. Our club dues are \$15 which can be paid at osp.osmsinc.com/Volusia by selecting "Spruce Creek High." Deadline for the payment of dues is Oct. 31st.

Tori Huynh, President

#### German Club

Guten Tag, Hawks! The German Club at Spruce Creek hopes you all had a fantastic first quarter of the year! In August and September, we kicked things off with a Club Expo, hosted a fun bowling party, and held informational meetings for both new and returning members to outline our plans and exciting events for the



year ahead. This month we celebrated a successful Carnival, selling pretzels, Black Forest cake, hot dogs, and cold drinks. Our club members worked hard running the booth, baking pretzels, and serving hot dogs to their fellow Hawks. Looking ahead, we have some exciting events planned including a campus cleanup, an Oktoberfest party, and a fun outing to blacklight mini golf! We can't wait to see you there!

Remember, you do not have to take a German class to join the 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! Bis Bald!

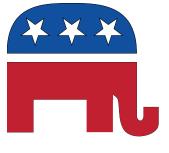




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### Young Republicans Club

Many things have been happening recently for Spruce Creek's Young Republicans Club. At our September 13th meeting, our officers were sworn into their offices by our club sponsor, Mrs. Keith. The new officer positions are as follows: Jeremiah Belinsky, President; Nathan Winquist, Vice President; Micah Morriset, Secretary; and Kyle Pultz, Treasurer.

Some of our members earned service hours working the club's booth during the Homecoming Carnival, successfully raising funds for the Young Republicans Club, and even selling out of pizza. In addition, the

Carnival was a very productive way to advertise our involvement on campus. In September, we utilized our bulletin board to inform the student body about Constitution Day (September 17) with a couple of fun facts that we would like to share with you here.

- 1. The two Founding Fathers who died on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence were Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.
- 2. There are 27 amendments in the US Constitution.

During our most recent meeting, Webmaster Kiera Myers and President Jeremiah Belinsky finalized the mock presidential election, which was sent via email to all faculty members of the English department. The poll was distributed to the students via the English department teachers through a QR Code. The results of this poll will allow for all SCHS students to express their voices regarding this year's upcoming presidential

election. We also discussed future dates of events, including Wreaths Across America, during which the Young Republicans Club helps to decorate the headstones of Edgewater veterans with a Christmas wreath on the second Saturday of every December. Would you like to honor or remember a beloved veteran this December? Purchase a wreath for only \$17, which directly supports our service project and our club. Please visit : https://www.wreathsacrossamerica. org/pages/17897/Overview/?relate

Jeremiah Belinsky, President

#### Young Democrats Club

Young Democrats participated in the Homecoming Week Carnival this year by hosting a snack booth! We sold out donuts and will be donating our proceeds to a local charity. On the 23rd of October, we hosted a campus clean-up to express our gratitude to the school and maintain a clean space. We also recently held a meeting, in collaboration with the Music Appreciation Club, during which we discussed the importance of freedom of speech and the creation of change. A great way to enact change is to vote! The 2024 General Election is November 5th and will determine much more than just the President. This is a reminder to get out, get educated, and cast a vote for someone who represents your beliefs!







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# NHS

National Honor Society secured its first taste of victory in its blowout win during Field Night on October 2, 2024. We give MVP recognition to NHS service chair Jenson Nord who organized our team, and a shout out to members Gannon Bundza and Bennett Morse for their astounding performances in the Balloon Stomp and Dodgeball events. We also share our celebration with our 93 new Juniors and 23 new Seniors who were inducted into our chapter



on September 19, 2024. Attendees of the ceremony heard speeches from our guest speaker Coach Jeremy Davies and our principal, Dr. Sparger. Many thanks to our advisers Brent Rohol and Deborah Keith.

Spruce Creek NHS will also proudly host the district NHS meeting on October 26, alongside District President Matthew Sanders. Members from chapters all over the county collected sweaters and will join together to discuss topics worth tackling in our local communities, sharing perspectives that may not otherwise be realized without such district-wide meetings.

Our historic first quarter events provided great opportunities for the existing members of NHS to log their hours. As we enter the second quarter of the year, newly inducted members will begin earning hours through various upcoming events, such as the restoration of Sugar Mill Gardens, which will be returning in early December due to damages from hurricane Milton. Furthermore, NHS has taken the opportunity to help our local Port Orange Hawks Pop Football team by commentating at games on Saturdays. Finally, be on the lookout for NHS Pickleball tournaments hosted with the Pickleball Club for your opportunity for greatness. Afshan, President 2024-2025

### NEHS

National English Honor Society (NEHS) hosted an induction on Friday, October 18th, welcoming 40 new members this year! We are so glad to be a growing club and are excited for the upcoming projects this year has in store. At our induction, we had two wonderful guest speakers: Mrs. Leathead, the head of the English department, and Mr. Brinkerhoff, an English literature lover who happens to teach History. In addition to Ms. DeLorenzo, our club's new sponsor, we thank them for their wonderful speeches that evening! We cannot thank Ms. DeLorenzo enough for taking up this position and responsibility. We are also pleased to report that



Ms. Maderas is doing very well at her new teaching position in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Once the speeches had concluded, we introduced our 2024 - 2025 board: Ava Warner, President; Lillian Geary, Vice President; Sydney Mountcastle, Secretary; Sophie Fox, Treasury; Tori Huynh, Historian; and Tori Lache, Service Chair. After our new members were inducted, our historian finished off by saying a few words from *Oh*, *The Places You'll Go!* by Dr. Seuss. To our inductees, congratulations for this amazing accomplishment!

### Book Review from NEHS! Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner.

This book is a 2021 memoir about grief, identity, and the deep connection between food and cultural belonging. The memoir follows the narrative of Zauner, as she undergoes challenges of her Korean-American identity with her Korean mother. "H Mart" refers to a Korean-American supermarket that Zauner visits, to connect to her Korean heritage after her mother's death.



Themes found throughout the memoir are the use of food as language for love and culture, the complexity of mother-daughter relationships, culinary identity, grief, immigrant experience through different generations, and the loss of self-identity. Our NEHS member enjoyed this book because she could "personally understand the narrator's struggles and she could almost feel the author's emotions as her own."







(10Hawks!



### Girls Basketball

Spruce Creek High School 801 Taylor Rd. Port Orange, FL 32127 386-322-6272 ext. 37832

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
NOVEMBE			
12	Preseason Leesburg HS	Leesburg HS	TBA
14	Preseason Leesburg HS	Leesburg HS	TBA
19	Oakridge HS	Spruce Creek HS (Port Orange)	7:00 PM (V)
19	DME	Spruce Creek HS (Port Orange)	5:30 PM (JV)
21	Orange Park HS	Orange Park (Orange Park)	6:00 & 7:30 PM
25	INSIDE EXPOSURE	Bolles HS (Jax)	TBA
26	INSIDE EXPOSURE	Bolles HS (Jax)	TBA
30		Dr. Phillips HS (Orlando)	TBA
DECEMBE	R		
02	Ribault HS	Ribault HS (Jax)	5:30 & 7:00PM
04	San Jose Preparatory HS	San Jose Prep (Jax)	TBA
05	Lake Highland Prep HS	Spruce Creek HS (PO)	5:30 & 7:00PM
07	JV SHOOT OUT	Lake Mary HS (Lake Mary)	TBA
12	Windermere Prep HS	Windermere Prep (Windermere, FL)	TBA
13	Central FL Christian Academy	Spruce Creek HS (Port Orange)	5:30 & 7:00 PM
14	JV Shootout	Dr. Phillips HS (Orlando, FL)	TBA
17	Mainland HS	Mainland HS (Daytona Beach)	5:30 & 7:00PM
19	DME	DME (Daytona Beach)	5:30PM (JV)
21	Paxton HS	Raines HS (Jax)	6:00PM
27-30	Tampa Bay Annual Holiday Tournament	Wiregrass Ranch Sports Complex (Wesley Chape	el, FL) TBA
JANUARY			
08	Bolles	Spruce Creek HS (Port Orange)	5:30 & 7:00 PM
10	Bishop Moore Catholic HS	Bishop Moore Catholic HS (Orlando, FL)	5:30 & 7:00 PM
11	JV Shootout	Dr. Phillips HS (Orlando, FL)	TBA
13	West Orange HS	West Orange HS (Winter Garden, FL)	TBA
14	Southeastern Prep	Spruce Creek High HS (Port Orange)	5:30 & 7:00PM
16	New Smyrna Beach HS	New Smyrna Beach HS (NSB)	5:30PM
22	Timber Creek HS	Spruce Creek HS (Port Orange)	6:00 PM
24	Bishop Kenny HS	Spruce Creek HS (Port Orange)	5:30 & 7:00 PM
25	Bishop Kenny Shootout (JV)	Bishop Kenny HS (JAX)	TBA
27	Five Star Conference		TBA
28	Five Star Conference		TBA
30	Five Star Conference		TBA
31	Titusville HS (SENIOR NIGHT)	Spruce Creek HS (Port Orange)	6:00 & 7:00PM
FEBRUARY			
04-08	District Tournaments	TBA	TBA
13	Regional Semi Finals	TBA	TBA

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# Inside This Issue

Distinguished Hawks Theatre Troupe Asian Association Basketball Schedule and more!

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