



SWEETWATER
BRANCH
ACADEMY
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**IMPORTANT
DATES:**

- Aug 29: Welcome Picnic at Kanapaha Park
- Sep 7: Labor Day Holiday
- Sep 8: After School Clubs/Activities Starts
- Sep 10: Curriculum Night
- Sep 14 : Picture Day

www.swbacademy.org

Inside this issue:

Principal's Corner	1
PVO Corner	2
Science Olympiad	3
Carpool Information	4
News from Teachers	5
Academic Teams and Clubs	6

Sweetwater News

Volume 2, Issue 1

Friday, August 28, 2009

Principal's Corner

Dear Students & Parents,

We have had a great start to the 2009-2010 school year. There are currently 57 students in 6th grade, 44 students in 7th grade and 33 students in 8th grade, bringing our total enrollment to 134 and the student to teacher ratio is 14:1. We still have available spots for new enrollments in all grades, so please encourage your friends to enroll in our school!

WELCOME PICNIC: I would like to remind all students and parents that we will have our welcome picnic this Saturday, August 29 at Kanapaha Park between 12:00pm and 3:00pm. Everyone is invited, including siblings. Hot dogs will be provided by our school and we kindly ask our parents to donate the following items based on your child's last name:

A-L: Salads, Side Dishes, and/or Drinks

M-Z: Desserts or Fruit

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for a fun-filled afternoon of family games.

MORNING ARRIVAL/AFTERNOON DISMISSAL:

- The earliest a student can be dropped off is 7:45 am. If a student is dropped off before 7:45 am, SWBA does not assume any responsibility.
- Classes start at 9:10 am. If you arrive after 9:10 am, both the parent and student should come to the front office to sign their student in.

- Classes end at 3:35 pm. We would encourage parents to arrive at SWBA Campus around 3:30pm. Please drop off and pick up your student at the area in front of the cafeteria.

To make carpooling go as efficiently as possible, please discuss with your student, before they leave for school, who will be picking them up in the afternoon. Review with your child who is in their carpool, as well as their vehicle descriptions. Encourage your child to look out for his/her own ride at dismissal time.

LATE CHECKOUT:

If you arrive after carpool is over to pick up your student, please park in a designated parking space, then come to the Media Center to sign your student out.

UNIFORMS:

Students should arrive at SWBA in his/her full uniform. The student handbook (agenda) specifies the uniform requirements. These requirements will be enforced starting Monday August 31st, 2009.

STUDENT PHONE CALLS/CELL PHONE USE:

Phone calls to home from the front office during the school day are allowed for emergencies only. The school does not have sufficient phone lines to accommodate student phone calls at the end of the school day. If a student brings a cell phone to school, the phone must be turned off before entering the building and kept in the student's locker. Cell phones will be taken from those who choose to use them during the school day and given to an administrator. Only parents/guardians may pick the cell phone up after it has been taken from a student.

CLUBS AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

There will be no clubs during the first two weeks of school. Clubs and after school activities begin on September 8th. Clubs are held from 3:45 PM to 4:40 PM.

Thank you, in advance, for adhering to these important details.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Principal Goktepe

PVO Corner

PVO Corner

Welcome to a new year at SWBA! We are hoping to see all of our parents at our Family Welcome Picnic Saturday August 29, from 12:00 – 3:00 pm.

A PVO meeting has also been planned for Tuesday September 1, 2009 after school starting at 4:00 pm in the school Media Center/Library. We encourage all parents to attend. We will discuss election of new Officers and setting up times and dates of future meetings.

Some ongoing School wide PVO projects are:

Box Tops for Education: Save all of your Box Tops and send them in with the students. Please send them in a plastic baggie with the students name marked on it. The student that turns in the most wins a prize out of the prize box. We then total up the amount for each homeroom, (smaller homerooms will be combined). The class with the most box tops wins a class party of their choice. (Brownies, Ice Cream, Doughnuts, or Pizza)

Recycled School Uniforms: If you have any uniforms that your child cannot wear anymore, you can donate them to the school. We sell them in our school and use the money for the Science and Math Olympiad Teams. These teams travel to competitions and this helps with the expense.

Other Fundraisers: Throughout the year we will have different fundraisers. These will include:

- 1.) Entertainment Books -The new books are out and will be on sale next week. The price is \$30.00 and our goal is for each student to sell 2 books.
- 2.) Cookie dough and Sally Foster fundraiser will follow.



We are always in need of books for our Media Center and volunteers for the school.

We appreciate any help or donations you can offer!

School to Parent Communication Information

Attention Parents:

In attempt to keep our communication between school and home current and ongoing, we need certain information from you.

For the new students, please make sure that we have all of your forms turned in to the office. If you are not sure of the forms, get with me and I will let you know what you need.

For returning students, parents please make sure that all of your child's information is correct and up to date.

Sometimes parents change phone numbers or jobs and forget to inform us. It is very important that we keep current contact information.

We are asking that all parents complete the email portion of this form so that we can have current email addresses in our files. If you do not have an email address, please inform us of the best way to communicate with you.

Fill out and return this sheet to your homeroom teacher no later than Tuesday, September 1st, 2009.



Picture Day is September 14th.

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Name (1) _____

Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian Name (2) _____

Email Address _____

Means of communication other than email _____

Lunch Money Information

Attention Parents:

Parents please make sure that you put money in your child's lunch account. The School Board is not giving cheese or PB&J sandwiches this year. Information on how to sign up for mylunchmoney.com was given out at orientation and open house. If you did not receive the form or if you need additional information, call Sarah Johnson at 352-955-6861.



SWBA Uniform Policy

Parents, please make sure that you read all of the policies and rules of SWBA. During the first week of school several students have come to school wearing clothing that does not adhere to our uniform code. This includes wrong color of shirts, shoes, pants and belts. Shirts are Red (dark or bright), white, navy, or royal blue AND must have the SWBA logo on the left side of shirt. Pants and shorts are to be khaki or black with no cargo pockets. Also, no corduroy or jeans material is allowed. Belts must be khaki, brown or black only.



Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad academic team and energy whiz Olympiad academic team meetings was held at science lab on Monday. It was really good to see that we had so many parents and new students who joined to our meeting and wants to involve this. Science Olympiad is a nationwide science event that has regional and state competitions before the national finals. As you know, last year, our students got medals at state competition level. So, this year we need to work harder to go beyond this. Sure this will be possible with our awesome students who enjoy science, have good working habits, and like challenge.. and also wants to see his or her name among the best students of the nation.. by the way, how can we forget about our generous parents who will provide us party stuff, ice cream, apple pie, cookie and other necessary material to have a great party just after long working hours..



PVO Carpool Information

Attention Parents:

Some parents would like to organize a carpool list. If you are interested in carpooling with another parent, please let us know. You can fill out the following form and return it to school by Wednesday September 2, 2009.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____ Zoned School: _____

Home Address: _____

Area that you live in: _____

Times that you are interested in carpooling: _____

Contact information: _____

Additional comments/information: _____

Donations

SWBA is accepting donations to be used in classes. Art supplies, general classroom supplies, books, book shelves, computers, equipment for indoor sports such as table tennis, mats, playing balls, etc.

Important Transportation Information

It is very important that transportation forms are filled out and returned to us ASAP! Students are not authorized to leave school without this documentation. If you do not have this form returned to us, your child will be retained in the afterschool program until a parent or guardian arrives to pick them up. You will be charged for the time that your child is in afterschool. If someone other than a parent or guardian will be picking the student up, contact information must be written on their transportation form, as well as the emergency card. Please understand that this is for the safety of your child.

Around the World and Back with Ms. Cairns:

August 27, 2009, Ms. Cairns held a Social Studies/Pop Culture trivia competition in all of her classes. The questions ranged from "Where is Belize located?" to "What is the name of Sweetwater Branch Middle School's principal's name?" The winners of the competition were Zoe Franks, Lindsay Ianuzzi, Elizabeth Wyatt, Angelica Forson and Hosanah Bryan. Congratulations girls! Great job!



Piecing it Together with Ms. Ratledge:

Language Arts and Reading – The new school year has begun and we are off to a great start! There are many exciting and fun activities and projects planned for the first term of Ms. Ratledge's Language Arts classes. Students will be assigned their first project on Monday. Please remember to come prepared Monday to start the week off right with your journals and notebooks, ready for your first week of vocabulary terms! Reading classes will also kick the year off with some great activities and classroom assignments.

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 "Class, I've got a lot of material to cover, so to save time I won't be using vowels today. Nw lts bgn, pls trn t pg 122."

It's Pizza Time!!

Every Friday students have the opportunity to order Pizza from Godfathers pizza (or other pizza restaurant). Choices are cheese or pepperoni. Slices cost \$2.00 each. If you wish to purchase pizza, see Ms. Ratledge before Thursday. All pizza must be paid for by Thursday to ensure you receive a slice!! (Pizza money can be paid in advance.)



SWBA Student Clubs/Academic Teams and Descriptions 2009-2010

Student Council

Teacher Sponsor: Mrs. Medlock Room 101 Monday 3:45-4:40 PM

This is the club for students who are interested in the politics of the school. Students who want to make a change in the way things go at the school should be in this club. Students who want to help plan parties and events for the school should apply. The members of this club will also be responsible for reporting the changes to their homeroom classmates. Student government is a club geared towards civic minded students who want to play an important role in their school and community. Members must run campaigns and be elected by their peers. As members of Student Government, students will work to improve both the school and the surrounding Gainesville community. We will meet once a week and projects are TBA. Elected positions include: President (7th or 8th Grader), Vice-President, Historian, Treasurer, and Representatives (one from each grade level). You can get further information from Ms. Medlock.

Yearbook & Photography Club

Teacher Sponsor: Mrs. Medlock Room 101 Friday 3:45-4:40 PM

This is the club for those people that would rather be behind a camera than in front of it. We will take the pictures for the yearbook except for the individual student professional photos. We will also work on the layout and design of the yearbook. It should be an exciting year where we will have a final product to sell at the end of the year. This club will be school-wide and the layouts, editing, formatting, and captions, artworks, etc. may be submitted for consideration throughout the year. All students who love working with films, photography, graphic artist, journalism, creative arts, and scrapbooking will be ideal for this club. We encourage all faculty and family/guardians or other community members to volunteer in our first annual tradition of the Sweetwater Branch Academy Yearbook!

Music Club

Teacher Sponsor: Mrs. Medlock & Ms. Ratledge Room 101 Thursday 3:45-4:40 PM

This is a club for those students seriously interested in singing. Only those willing to sing should sign-up. We will have a winter performance and a performance for International night.

Chess Club

Coach: Mr. Uncu Room 103 Friday 3:45-4:40 PM

The Chess Club welcomes all students, regardless of experience, who are interested in playing chess. We usually meet once a week. Students will have opportunities to learn about the game, play chess with peers, and participate in tournaments. This is the club for you whether you want to relax and play chess with your friends or you want to prepare for tournaments.

Math Team

Coach: Mr. Uncu Room 103 Tuesday 3:45-4:40 PM

Math team welcomes all students who enjoy math. We will usually meet once a week. We will be solving problems, learning new strategies, and preparing for the competitions at the same time.

SWBA Student Clubs/Academic Teams and Descriptions 2009-2010

Science Olympiad

Head Coach: Mr. Tunc Room 107 Monday 3:45-4:40 PM

Assistant Coach: Mrs. White

Science Olympiad is an academic competition designed especially for those students who enjoy science and want some extra challenge. It has 23 pre-defined events that cover the entire spectrum of middle school science curriculum. It addresses different branches of science like life science, physical science, earth science, chemistry and astronomy, robotics, and criminology; as well as different abilities like laboratory activities, building events, presentations, and problem solving. The competition is conducted in local, state and national levels.

Energy Whiz Academic Team

Coach: Mr. Tunc Room 107 Tuesday 3:45-4:40 PM

The EnergyWhiz Olympics is held annually at the Florida Solar Energy Center and is composed of the Junior Solar Sprint, Hydrogen Sprint, Energy Innovations and the Solar Energy Cook-off. The [Junior Solar Sprint](#) is a competition that challenges middle school students to design, build and race model solar cars. [Energy Innovations](#) is a real world, full-scale photovoltaic design challenge for middle school and high school students. The newest addition is the [Solar Energy Cook-off](#) where 4th through 8th graders design and build solar cookers that are demonstrated.

This club is also aiming at making students gain necessary knowledge and concepts about renewable energy, production of energy by hands-on activities and also to make them gain responsibility for our environment, planet, and future generations. More detailed information will be provided later. The competition teams will be chosen by the science teacher.

Web & Graphic Design Club

Teacher Sponsor: Mr. Gurcan Room 110 Monday 3:45-4:40 PM

This club aims to help students make a web site. In order to achieve this aim, we will begin with basic HTML codes. We will find our contents and images. We will edit our texts and images and put into our new web sites. We will be focusing on the basics of design, Internet facts and terminology, intro to web page design, and graphic design. The use of advanced level programs is the next stage. At the end of the semester students will be expected to create and show their product to the public. Maximum 25 students.

This club is created to learn the rules of basketball altogether. We learn the basic rules of basketball, watch some important basketball players to see how they are able to play wonderful and –of course- we will play basketball together. It will be fun.

Basketball Club

Coach: Mr. Gurcan Basketball Court Thursday 3:45-4:40 PM

This club is created to learn the rules of basketball altogether. We will learn the basic rules of basketball, watch some important basketball players to see how they are able to play so wonderful and –of course- we will have fun together.

Lego League Academic Team

Coach: Mr. Gurcan Room 110 Friday 3:45-4:40 PM

First Lego League is a program that combines hands-on, interactive robotics programming along with a research presentation. We will focus on such things as team building, problem solving, creativity, and analytical thinking.

SWBA Student Clubs/Academic Teams and Descriptions 2009-2010

Soccer Club

Coach: Mr. Cevik HB Soccer Field Wednesday 3:45-4:40 PM

The name is pretty self-explanatory.

Turkish Club

Teacher Sponsor: Ms. Gokkurt Room 109 Tuesday 3:45-4:40 PM

Join the Turkish Club to learn more about Turkish Culture through:

1. Turkish food: A dish from Turkish cuisine, such as Turkish delight, Turkish baklava, Turkish tea and more, will be served at each meeting!
2. Turkish Music: We will listen to Turkish music (pop, folk, art, and more) together!
3. Turkish Language: You will learn how to say Hi! How are you? What's your name? Have a nice day! And more in Turkish!
4. Cultural Activities: You will be more familiar with the Turkish culture.
5. Turkish videos and films: We also watch videos to learn more about Turkey.
6. Preparation for Turkish sketches: We will have an activity like small group sketches in Turkish.
7. Qualifying students will have a chance to participate in the Southeast United States Turkish Olympiad competition.

Turkish Folk Dance Club

Teacher Sponsor: Ms. Gokkurt Room 109 Friday 3:45-4:40 PM

We are pleased to announce The Turkish Folk Dance Club. Turkish Folk Music is one of the most important parts of the Turkish Culture. We are going to learn many kinds of this dance. Also, while we are dancing, we will have a special custom for it and it would be more interesting. Our Turkish Folk Dance will be every Friday.

Geography Bee (Geo Bee) Club

Coach: Ms. Cairns Room 105 Monday 3:45-4:40 PM

The Geography Bee Club is an exciting after school activity which will prepare the student for the National Geographic Bee. Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the contest which sparks student interest and increases public awareness about geography. The national finals of the Geography Bee were produced by National Geographic Television and Film and broadcast of the national Geographic Channel on Wednesday, May 24, 2010 at 5p.m. WETA will be distributing the finals to public television stations starting May 25, 2010. For more information ask Ms. Cairns in Social Studies Classroom #105 or go to www.weta.org/geobee

Odyssey of the Mind

Coach: Mrs. White Room 102 Friday 3:45-4:40 PM

This academic club is an educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students. The team members will apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

SWBA Student Clubs/Academic Teams and Descriptions 2009-2010

Creative Writing Club

Teacher Sponsor: Ms. Cairns Room 105 Tuesday 3:45-4:40 PM

The Creative Writing Club is for all students who are fascinated with the way you can string words to make stories, poets who are told they have a way with words or people who have always wanted to write however, are not sure where to start. If you consider writing to be an interesting hobby, you might enjoy surrounding yourself with other people who share that perspective and are looking forward to sharing what they create. For more information ask Ms. Cairns in Social Studies Classroom #105.

Journalism Club

Teacher Sponsor: Ms. Ratledge Room 104 Monday 3:45-4:40 PM

The journalism club is open to any and all students who are interested in writing and research. Those who are in this club will write and publish the Jaguar Digest, which is a SWBA publication. Students will participate by writing articles; developing ideas for articles and design; interview students, staff, parents and/or members of the community; and many other exciting journalistic tasks. Come join the Jaguar journalist team and help keep our students informed and entertained.

Spelling Bee

Teacher Sponsor: Ms. Ratledge Room 104 Thursday 3:45-4:40 PM

Any student who wishes to compete in the Alachua County spelling bee may participate in this club. This club will focus on preparation for the spelling bee by learning etymology, researching and learning vocabulary, and participating in practice bees.

Model United Nations (MUN)

Coach: Mrs. White Room 102 Monday 3:45-4:40 PM

The MUN club engages students in an authentic simulation of the United Nations system by learning about the UN system, the skills of debate, compromise, conflict resolution and negotiation. MUN team members have fun learning about the workings of world diplomacy through the lens of current events. As well as our club interactions and discussions, there are conferences throughout the year we can take part in.