



SWEETWATER  
BRANCH  
ACADEMY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Sep 18: Math & Science Lock-In
- Sep 28: Send Interim Reports Home

[www.swbacademy.org](http://www.swbacademy.org)

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# Sweetwater News

Volume 2, Issue 4

Friday, September 18, 2009

## Principal's Corner

### Parents Support Needed for Academic Teams:

Science, Math and Turkish Olympiad team students started their morning and weekend studies from 10:30am-1:30pm under the supervision of their science and math teachers, Mr. Tunc, Mr. Uncu, and Ms. Gokkurt. We need more support from the parents as volunteer coaches. Please contact Mr. Baslanti if you are interested in being an academic coach for any of our academic teams, or if you wish to make a donation.

### Grandparents Pizza Night

SWBA celebrated the grandparents day in cafeteria on Monday, September 14, 2009 @5:30-7 pm. Many grandparents, parents and students joined the party and all of them had a great time. The essay winners received their gift checks. Grandparents shared their school experiences with the students and had a school tour with them. Thanks for all the grandparents, parents and students for this beautiful event. Pictures have been posted on the SWBA website within the photos section.

### Gifted Program

Dear parents and students, we have good news for you! Our school will have a gifted consultant for this school year. The gifted or eligible gifted students will be provided with services under the supervision of the gifted consultant. Thanks to all the parents who trusted us and enrolled their children to our school. We will continue to do our best to deserve your trust and strive to do better in the future.

### School PVO Board Members:

Our school Parent Volunteer Organization meeting was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. The following were nominated and voted into the board member positions listed below:

President: Khalil Abboud  
Vice President: Yagnesh Patel  
Treasurer: Cheryl Smith  
Secretary: Trudy Baumgartner

Congratulations and good luck to all of you!

## Principal's Corner (Continued)

### Student Picture Day

All students had their picture taken for student ID purposes. We will have a retake picture day for the absentees. Please contact Mrs. Schutt at [vschutt@swbacademy.org](mailto:vschutt@swbacademy.org) or Ext. 110 should you have any questions.

### After School Clubs/Activities Begin

After-school activities started on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. We are pleased to see a lot of participants in the various clubs. If you have any questions about after-school activities, please contact Mr. Baslanti [ubaslanti@swbacademy.org](mailto:ubaslanti@swbacademy.org) or 352-375-8838 extension 112. After school activities/clubs end at 4:40pm! Please pick up your student by 4:40 pm.

### Home Visits

Experience and research from all over the United States show that the interaction with the student's family at their home is a very effective way to contribute to students' academic and behavioral progress. SWBA Teachers visited 5 homes so far. Our target is to visit all of our students this year.

Please contact Dr. Baslanti at [ubaslanti@swbacademy.org](mailto:ubaslanti@swbacademy.org) if you wish to make home visit arrangements with your student's teachers. Depending on our teacher's availability, at least two teachers will visit our students and parents at their homes. You may reach the home visit photos from the following link [http://www.swbacademy.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=68:home-visits&catid=55:home-visits&Itemid=97](http://www.swbacademy.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=68:home-visits&catid=55:home-visits&Itemid=97).

**REMINDER-Free Program Offers no-shot flu Immunizations to Students-** FluMist Consent forms are due September 24th

We have not received a consent form for your child. For your child to be eligible, please turn one in.

Thank you!



Please read below for more information about the program.

This year Alachua County parents can protect their children from the flu and avoid missed time at school and at work. It's FREE and EASY.

## Principal's Corner (Continued)

All kindergarten through 8th-grade students in Alachua County public and private schools are being offered the FluMist nasal spray, which is a safe and effective way of preventing the flu. While this vaccine is designed to protect against 'normal' seasonal flu, experts say that it may also help protect against the H1N1 (swine) flu. The spray will be given at school this fall, which means no trips to a doctor's office.

FluMist is not a shot! It's a gentle mist delivered into the nose, and naturally kids prefer it to shots.

FluMist was given to many Alachua County students in 2006 and helped cut down on absences due to flu. More than 90% of the parents who took advantage of it said they would do it again.

To get your child immunized, just read the [information sheet](#) available on this site, then and fill out the [consent form](#), which is also provided. (A hard copy will also be sent home with all elementary and middle school students during the first week of school.) Then return the form to school by September 24. Students can give the form to their teacher, but please remind them to do so—we don't want them trapped in backpacks!

On this site you'll find additional information about the local FluMist immunization program, including a [fact sheet](#) and a [news release](#) with a list of the community partners involved in the program. More information is also available on the Alachua County Health Department website at [www.doh.state.fl.us/chdAlachua](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdAlachua). You can also call the Health Department at (352) 334-7950.

We encourage you to take advantage of this SAFE, FREE and EASY program to protect your child from the flu. That way your student can stay in school and you won't miss work. If enough children are immunized, it could protect the entire community—including you and your family.

### [The Spring Break Turkey Trip Presentation](#) (for students & parents)

The Spring Break Turkey Trip presentation will be on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 4:00 PM in Turkish Room. Parents and students are welcome to join the presentation if they are interested in this week long trip to Turkey. For more information contact our Turkish teacher [Ms. Gokkurt](mailto:fgokkurt@swbacademy.org) (fgokkurt@swbacademy.org)

Have a wonderful weekend.

Fethi Goktepe, Principal

## PVO Corner

The parent volunteer organization (PVO) would like to invite all parents to meet on Saturday, September 26th at 10am.

We are excited with the beginning of the new school year and ready to start supporting and raising funds for our school.

We encourage all parents to come and help with time, effort and ideas to get us started. Supporting our school is a team work and the bigger the team the better the support.

I hope to see and meet you all on September 26 at 10am.

Best regards

Dr. Khalil A. Abboud

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## SWBA Sports Team/Club Release and Waiver of Responsibility Form

Dear Parents,

Teachers who are coaching the basketball and soccer teams handed out the SWBA Sports Team/Club Release and Waiver of Responsibility Form to your child(ren) over the week, if they are enrolled in one of these sports clubs. By signing this form, you will acknowledge that participation of your child(ren) in the club's activities/exercises involves a risk of physical injury .... and that participation of your child(ren) in these activities is a privilege, not a right. Please sign and turn it in to Dr. Baslanti.

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## Mrs. Medlock

Starting on Monday(9/14) I will be taking names for students who want to be in student council. Students will give me their names for a week. I have the following positions available: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, as well as one member/reporter from each classroom. Once this is done, on Friday (9/18) students will be informed of who will can begin their campaigns, which will begin on the following Tuesday (9/23) through Friday (9/25). Students will then vote on Tuesday (9/29) (I won't be here on 9/25 so to make it less hectic we'll wait till Tuesday).

## Ms. White's Language Arts Classes

Language Arts classes are having a wonderful year. A reminder to parents and students, the first project is due next Tuesday, September 22, 2009. They received handouts two weeks ago explaining the novel project. It consists of reading a novel, writing an essay and doing a presentation with a visual interpretation of the book. I am very excited to hear all the different stories and how the students' interpreted them. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks!

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## Model United Nations (MUN)

The Model UN academic team needs to recruit members! If you want to become an ambassador of a country, debate issues, and solve problems this is the club for you. We are having fun looking at different countries and deciding what problems we would like to solve. Once we decide this, in the near future, we will participate in a "conference" (competition) and debate against other schools around the state, country and world. It will be a wonderful year! We meet Monday afternoons at 3:45 pm. If you would like to join our club please see Ms. White for more information.

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## Piecing it Together with Ms. Ratledge

Our first project due date is coming up fast! Language Art's students, make sure you are working on your Novel Project, due September 24<sup>th</sup>!

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## Spelling Bee Club

ATTN: Spelling Bee club will begin meeting on Monday afternoons, instead of Thursday starting next week, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. If you are a member of the spelling bee club, please bring a composition notebook with you to this club. We will be using these notebooks for various activities within the club.

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## Journalism Club

ATTN: Journalism club will begin meeting on Thursday afternoons, instead of Monday starting next week, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. If you are a member of the journalism staff, please bring paper and writing utensils to club to help you with research and writing assignments.

## Ms. Ratledge

Dear Parents/guardians,

I am Ms. Ratledge, the Language Arts/Reading teacher at SWBA. I would love to be able to communicate easily and as frequently as time allows and email will certainly help that! I recently sent out an email to the parents who filled out the email form and returned it to our school. For those of you, who wish to communicate via email, please email me at this address: [aratledge@swbacademy.org](mailto:aratledge@swbacademy.org). I will get back to you as quickly as I can. I look forward to hearing from all of you, as well as helping make your child's school year at SWBA be a successful one.

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## SWBA Grandparents Night

We had a wonderful Monday evening celebrating Grandparent's Day. Students brought their parents, grandparents and siblings to join us in a fun pizza party honoring grandparents. Our principal, Mr. Goktepe, gave a heartfelt speech thanking everyone for coming and explaining the importance of grandparents. This was followed by the reading of our contest winner, Joel Cray's, grandparent's essay. It was a touching moment for everyone who attended. Finally, we had some amazing stories told by some of the grandparent's about when they were in school and what it was like for them. The overall consensus was that school and teachers are important to our children and so are our grandparent's! We then continued with pizza, drinks, desserts and laughter. Students introduced their grandparent's to everyone and stories continued to be shared. The evening ended as the kids took their grandparent's for a tour of the school and showed them where they learn each day. Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate and those who contributed to the evening. We hope to have many fun filled times like this in the future!

## Grandparents Day Essay Winner!!

SWBA is proud to announce the winners of the Grandparents Day essay contest.

1<sup>st</sup> Place = Joel Cray

2<sup>nd</sup> Place = Hosanah Bryan

3<sup>rd</sup> Place = Cooper Hurst

## Grandparents By Joel Cray

Mine, like others, have struggled in life raising many children and always being there when you need them. I am referring to my grandparents. They're kind and gentle, but firm and strict at the same time. In my story I will tell of the multiple characteristics of grandparents. Showing how important they are.

Grandparents always know. Their wisdom exceeds their age. Seeing as they raised children of their own, they know everything it seems. You can't pull a prank or a joke or even hide a secret well enough to go unbeknownst to a grandparent. They might not always say something but they know. These keen perceptions only come from age and experience.

Reluctant youths will never fully understand the extent of a grandparent's knowledge. With this unexplainable 6<sup>th</sup> sense, they do things for a reason. I, like most teenagers, never know why my grandparents may tell me small tips and hints. Only when fully analyzed do I understand they are giving me life lessons; lessons that can't be learned in a book or taught in school. They tell me because they want me to learn early on and not make bad decisions.

Your heritage. If your mother or father can't truly tell you about your heritage, going to your grandparents is the best option. Your grandparents are the key to the past you would have never guess about. Since they were alive back then, you can learn more than you expected from them. Knowing about the life of your grandparents can explain many things like your family tree, your ascent.

Lastly, your grandparents are special in one way. Their love, a grandparent's love, is like no other. It is warm and tender, enveloping you in a blanket of security and familiarity. Their love is like a fresh warm batch of cookies and a cold glass of milk. Knowing I have the love of my grandparents, I feel safe and cared for.

In conclusion, I feel blessed to have 3 grandparents and even a great grandparent. I know their support, along with the rest of my family, is all I will ever need.

## Ms. Cairns

Tuesday after school, September 8, 2009 was the first day of Ms.Cairns' Creative Writing Club. The students Sarah Crawford, Antonika Baker, Tyler Williamson and Rasheed Clay were asked to come up with ideas of interesting and creative things to do. One of the first requests was to interview, Dr. Baslanti their Vice Principal at Sweetwater Branch Academy. Last Tuesday of this week the students Mar McCray, Diamund Green, Tyler Williamson and Rasheed Clay brought their questions to Dr. Baslanti's office and this is how the interview went:

How has it been being the Vice Principal of SWBA?

-Dr. Baslanti likes it because he stays busy. He also teaches algebra classes and says teaching is his passion. He genuinely feels that he is contributing to SWBA.

Where are you from originally?

-Istanbul, Turkey. It is a very big city with 14 million people and it connects Asia and Europe.

What is your favorite movie?

-Braveheart

What is your favorite food?

-Turkish food

What is your favorite sports?

-Soccer, taekwondo

What do you do for fun?

-Read books, play with daughter and socialize with friends.

Where would you go for vacation?

-Turkey, Egypt, Alaska, California and China.

If you were to receive a gift- what would you like it to be?

-As long as it comes from a friend it is special.

Have you ever played videogames?

-Yes, the Wii and computer games such as Red Alert and The Age of Empires.

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## Future City

Future City Academic Team is accepting application. The students in this team will build their dream city using SimCity 4 Deluxe Program, create physical model, write an essay about it and present it orally. If you are interested ask Mr. Gurcan or check out [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org). You can contact Dr. Baslanti at [ubaslanti@swbacademy.org](mailto:ubaslanti@swbacademy.org) about the application process.

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## Lego League

Congratulations! Sweetwater Branch Academy Lego League Team have received a grant from Florida Lego League for team registration and field setup kit which normally cost \$299. However, we still need to purchase the robot kit which costs about \$420. We expect all students in the team to contribute financially so that we can get our robot kit as soon as possible. Thanks Mr. Gurcan

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## Web& Graphic Design

We are learning to create a web site using HTML tags. There are lots of students who want to be in this club, so it is expected from the students in this club to practice what they learnt in this club.

Mr. Gurcan