



SWEETWATER
BRANCH
ACADEMY
MIDDLE SCHOOL

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Sep 25: Lego League & Turkish Olympiad Lock-In
- Sep 28: Send Interim Reports Home

www.swbacademy.org

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Sweetwater News

Volume 2, Issue 5

Friday, September 18, 2009

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/Community Leaders/Educators,

Sweetwater Branch Academy Middle School is planning to open a new elementary school (K-5) in Gainesville. As you all know, charter schools provide a choice to the parents within the state's public school system. Opening of elementary school will give parents and students a choice of rigorous and research-based mathematics and science focused programs with a special emphasis on reading in Alachua County. SWBA Elementary School's educational program will support its mission in the following ways:

SWBA ES will utilize the following innovative programs to improve student achievement:

Mathematics

Everyday Mathematics

Project M3: Mentoring Mathematical Minds (Gifted Program)

Science

Science and Technology for Children (STC)

Developmental Approaches in Science, Health & Technology -DASH (Gifted Program)

Language Art

Houghton Mifflin

Reading

Kaleidoscope

Elements of Reading

In addition to these proven successful programs, our elementary school will provide free tutoring, clubs, academic teams, and foreign language courses just like we do in our middle school. We will also have subject area math and science teachers for our 4th grade and 5th grade classrooms to improve the academic achievement levels of our students in these two important areas.

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As we are finalizing our charter proposal to submit to the School Board of Alachua County to seek approval for our elementary school, we are looking forward to your support in this effort. We believe that this elementary school will support the goals of our middle and high schools, and enable us to give the Alachua County students the best education they can get from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Please support us with your support letters and voice your opinion about why SWBA should be allowed to operate an elementary school in addition to its middle and high school.

Principal's Corner (Continued)

Feel free to contact me at fgoktepe@swbacademy.org , should you have any questions about our elementary school project and its state-of-the-art curricula. And please return the support letter (which is passed to students) to our school by Tuesday, September 29 @5pm.Thanks for all your support.

New Projectors

All of our classrooms now have a projector to be used for educational purposes. We are planning to have smart boards in each class, with the help of PVO fundraisers.

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 students can have the service under the supervision of the gifted consultant. Thanks 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.

Parents Support Need for Academic Teams

Science, Math, and Turkish Olympiad team students started their morning and weekend studies from 10:30am-1:30 pm under the supervision of their science and math teachers, Mr. Tunc, Mr. Uncu, and Ms. Gokkurt. We need more support from the parents as voluntarily coaches. Please contact Mr. Baslanti about being an academic coach for any of our academic teams. We also accept donations to support our teams and clubs.

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 7 homes so far. Our target is to visit all of our students this year.

Please contact Dr. Baslanti at 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.

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](#) .

Have a wonderful weekend,
Fethi Goktepe, Principal

PVO Corner

To all parents: Come meet with fellow SWBA parents to discuss ways to support our school. All kinds of contributions are welcome. Most of all, parents' participation in the PVO meeting, bringing fund raising ideas, and helping in implementing them is helpful in making our PVO successful in its efforts. Last year, many parents championed diverse activities and fund raising events. We are hoping to do even more this year.

This takes all of us coming together and sharing in support of the school.

Best Regards,
Khalil

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 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 in the club's activities/exercises involves a risk of physical injury. Participation of your child in these activities is a privilege, not a right.

If you would like your child to be able to continue participating in our sports clubs, please fill out the mentioned form and submit to Dr. Baslanti or the coach of the sports club.

Mrs. Medlock

Yearbook:

We will be voting next week for the yearbook theme. It looks to be a promising year for the yearbook/photography club. The students are very excited and eager to get started. They have a lot of creative ideas. I can't wait to see what they come up with for the finished project.

Mr. Uncu

The Math Team will not meet this Saturday. I expect all math team members to come to Math class for practice in the mornings, before classes begin.

Ms. Ratledge

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. 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 J

Spelling Bee Club

ATTN: Spelling Bee club will begin meeting on Monday afternoons, instead of Thursday starting next week, September 21st, 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.

Journalism Club

ATTN: Journalism club will begin meeting on Thursday afternoons, instead of Monday starting next week, September 24th, 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.

Constitution Day

On September 17, 2009 Sweet Water Branch Academy Middle School paid homage to Constitution Day, also known as Citizenship Day. Constitution Day is an American federal observance that recognizes the ratification of the United States Constitution and those who have become US citizens. It is observed on September 17th because that is the date the US Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution in 1787. Sweet Water students were asked to keep in mind those who have come before them and have made living in this beautiful country possible.

During Social Studies class the assignment was to create their own constitution. They were asked to create ten rules that they would use to govern a country (that they founded) as well as write about why countries have rules in place. The final paragraph was to explain what a country would be like if no rules were in place. The answers by students were creative and well thought out. The assignment inspired the leadership qualities in them, made them more aware of the historical facts of our founding fathers and gave them a thorough understanding of governing a country.

Ms. Kathryn B. Cairns

Front Office

Parents, please make sure that your child has lunch money of some kind. Either put money in their account or send lunch money in with them. The School board of Alachua County is not sending a cheese sandwich this year. If your child does not have money for lunch or they do not bring their lunch, they will not eat. It is your responsibility to provide your child with food. Please understand that this is not SWBA's policy, it is the School Board of Alachua County's policy and SWBA does not provide the lunches, the School Board does. It is very embarrassing for a child to wait in a lunch line for lunch and when they are ready to be served their lunch and checked off the list, they are told that they cannot have a lunch because they have no lunch money. This will be the last reminder that we put in the newsletter. You can send in money yearly, monthly, weekly, or daily.

Please make sure that your child knows where they are to go after school before they get to school. We are very busy and cannot always get messages to the students before school is out. We understand that situations can arise and plans need to be changed, but we have an abundance of students that request to use the phone to call parents in order to let them know about clubs, or they need to find out how they are getting home in the afternoon. We are very busy and don't always have the time give messages to the students when they are in class. This also interrupts the teacher and their class.

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Future City

Future City Academic Team is accepting application from 7th and 8th graders. 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. Ask Dr. Baslanti about application process.

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

Web& Graphic Design

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

