



SWEETWATER
BRANCH
ACADEMY
MIDDLE SCHOOL

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 13

Turkish Olympiad Team Camp
At Rivercity Science Academy,
Jacksonville

November 20

Field Trip To St. Augustine

November 20

Good Conduct Dress Down
Day

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Sweetwater News

Volume 2, Issue 12

Friday, November 13, 2009

Principal's Corner

SWBA 1st Semester School Field Trip to St. Augustine: We will have a field trip to St. Augustine on Friday, November 20, 2009 for all grades. We will leave at 8:30 am and are planning to be back at 5pm on that day. Please return the permission slips before the due date. If you want to be a parent chaperone, please contact Mr. Baslanti at [uba-slanti@swbacademy.org](mailto:ubaslanti@swbacademy.org).

Dress Down Day: All students are eligible for this month's dress down day on Friday, November 20, 2009 due to their good behavior and cooperation.

Veteran's Day Celebration: We celebrated Veteran's day with different activities. Students wrote letters to Veteran's and/or soldiers in Language Arts classes that they will send those letters to the veterans abroad.

One of our parents, Mr. Frank, who is a retired major, gave a speech about veterans to all of our kids and showed very interesting movies and materials. Students enjoyed and learned a lot. Also, in social studies classes students studied about veterans in detail.

FCAT Weekend Studies: The holiday season is around the corner, and there are less than 70 school days left before the Math, Reading and Science FCATs, and only 45 for the Writing. Students! You should continue working toward your goals every day, and not miss a moment of instructional time. We will soon start to have FCAT weekend studies.

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 20 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.

Principal's Corner (Continued)

Parental Involvement In Education Month

Parents! The Month of November is proclaimed as the Parental Involvement in Education Month by the Governor. Remember, parents can make a big difference in their students' education

- Children who eat dinner around the table with their families do better in school.
- Children who are read to frequently read earlier and better.
- Children who see their parents read regularly are likely to read more themselves.
- Spending 30 minutes a day with your child can help them to achieve better grades in school.
- Children who take family trips do better in school. Simple free trips to the park or library are as good as expensive trips away from home.
- Children generally love to spend time with their parents, even when they may not seem to want parents to be involved!

Remember: A "parent" is not only a mother or father. It also may be a grandparent, another relative, or other adult caregiver who has primary responsibility for the child. The connection may be by birth, by adoption, or by circumstances. All parents can make a difference in the life of a child by being involved in their education.

Have a nice weekend.

Fethi Goktepe, Principal

Assistant Principal's Corner

Table Tennis Club/Team



I know, some of you got excited with the idea of having a table tennis club and team in our school. Well! This is our newest goal and we would like to do everything to make that happen, just like we did to form a competing basketball team. Of course, as always, we need your help and support to achieve this goal. Please contact me if you think you could be of any help with doing a market search for ping-pong tables and equipment, possibly, doing some carpentry work on the table to make it stronger, organizing a fund-raiser, or donating money...



Student IDs

All students are required to carry their student IDs with them all the time. It is part of the dress code and, if lost, students are supposed to pay \$7 to get a new ID.



Reminder About ISS Rules

I would like to remind an important policy from our handbook about ISS rules. Students who are violating ISS rules and procedures will be sent home for the rest of the day and will be assigned out-of-school suspension (violation code 3.25).



Basketball Team

Our new basketball team has started its training. I would like to thank our parent, Mr. Washington for coaching and Mr. Forson for assisting the team. Good luck to our basketball team in the upcoming tournaments. The team will meet every Tuesday and Thursday after school.

Assistant Principal's Corner (Continued)

New Class Tardy Policy

Dear Parents and Students

We have revised our class tardy policy as of October 20, 2009. From now on, conduct points will be assigned for tardiness and consequences will apply. Please refer to page 6 and 7 in your student handbook to see the old policy.



Class Tardy

Students are given 4 minutes of passing time to get to each class during the course of the school day [with the ringing of a warning bell at the end of 3 minutes of passing time]. Students are expected to be in their assigned seats when the class bell rings. Tardy students are required to get a special pass from the designated staff to be allowed to the classroom. If a student has checked in late through the Front Office, the student should have an admit slip to class from the Front Office. Repetitive tardiness will result in student receiving disciplinary consequence determined by the administration.

Tardies are considered minor violations carrying 1 conduct points for the first three incidents. After three incidents, a tardy will have 2 points. All minor violations in a cycle will be reviewed including tardy points.



Consequences will be assigned as follows:

- 1-3 conduct points/week: No consequence assigned. However points will be transferred to the following week.
- 4-6 conduct points/week: Lunch Detention
- 7-9 conduct points/week: Administrative Detention (Friday/Elective Detention)
- 10-12 conduct points/week: Saturday Opportunity School/ Withholding Privilege
- 13-15 conduct points/week or more: In School Suspension (I.S.S.)
- 16 or more conduct points/week: Disciplinary Referral Form for not following school rules. (Additional consequences may apply).

Assistant Principal's Corner (Continued)

SWBA Connect

Our online progress monitoring system, SWBA Connect, is up and running. Apart from what we had in the system last year, new components have been added to Connect where teachers are able to report minor violations (refer to the Conduct of Code) through a computerized system.



Teachers are using the system to share information about their classrooms. Using this tracking system, parents can view their child's grades, daily homework, and discipline records. Although the system enables parents to send messages to teachers, I still recommend sending direct emails to teachers using their school email accounts instead of using the system's messaging tool. Direct email is faster and more convenient for teachers to respond to parents' requests.

We have already sent the access information (the link, your login ID and password) to your attention. Please check back with me if you haven't received your access information from your child.



If you want me to email you your access information, please email me at ubaslanti@swbacademy.org. Please keep in mind that we don't call parents for every little incident that happened on a particular day including when student is sent to ISS by a teacher. This information is entered into the system right away. We are in the process of entering Office Referral Forms into the system as well. Please check it out on a daily basis to be posted. We will keep calling you every Thursday and/or Friday to report any consequences that were assigned to your child based on our conduct log system and office referral forms. Please be advised that we are not able to call parents for every incident that happened in a day. That is why I suggest parents to check out their child's record in our system on a daily basis.

Assistant Principal's Corner (Continued)

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.

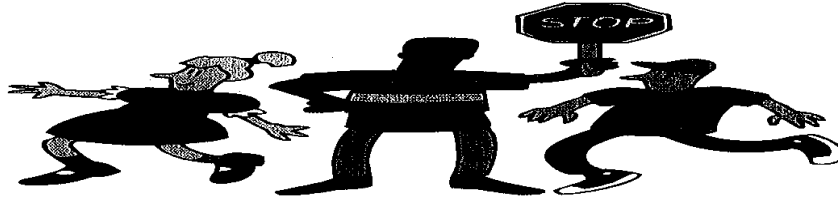
If you would like your child to be able to continue participating in our sports clubs, please fill out the mentioned form and submit to Dr. Baslanti or the coach of the sports club.



Library Hours

Students can now check out books from the library. Library hours are from 3:40 pm to 4:15 pm every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We are in need of parent volunteers for the library so that we can extend the library hours. Please contact Dr. Baslanti at ubaslanti@swbacademy.org if you are interested in volunteering in the library.

Driveway and Parking Changes!



Dear Sweetwater Parents and
Friends-

STARTING WEDNESDAY NOV 4, 2009 FOR OUR STUDENTS' SAFETY WE ARE MAKING SOME IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARKING LOT AREA AND DRIVEWAY TRAFFIC PATTERN!

****THE DRIVEWAY IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL IS NOW ONE WAY WEST TOWARDS 9TH STREET. ****

****PLEASE ENTER FROM NE 16TH AVE OR IF YOU USE 9TH ST DRIVE AROUND TO DROP-OFF/PICKUP IN FRONT OF CAFETERIA.. ****

****THE DRIVEWAY IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE PARTIALLY REPAVED , MARKED WITH ARROWS AND SPEED BUMPS WILL BE ADDED BY MONDAY THE 9TH.****

Piecing it Together with Ms. Ratledge

Language Arts Classes:



Ms. Ratledge and Ms. White are proud to announce that SWBA's annual Dickens Day will be on December 16th, 2009! This is a celebration of the Victorian Age and novel, where students may come dressed in Victorian costumes, enjoy period snacks, and will present a project that is associated with the Victorian/Romantic period. We would ask and appreciate any parent volunteers for this activity. This year, each grade will be reading a novel associated with the Victorian/Romantic period, and will be assigned a project for that novel. The project information will be posted on SWBA Connect and given to the students. Information for novel and project for each grade can be found below.

6th grade Language Arts: "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens – an historical research project

7th grade Language Arts: "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott – a novel guide

8th grade Language Arts: "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelly – a novel guide



Journalism Club: ATTN: ATTN: Journalism club will begin meeting on Thursday afternoons, instead of Monday. 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.

Upcoming Competitive Events for Language Arts, Social Studies and Foreign Language (Please see Ms. Ratledge for more information):

Odyssey of the Mind and Model UN– See Ms. White for more information or visit <http://www.floridaodysseyofthemind.org/Calendar.html>

Geo Bee – See Ms. Cairns for more information

Turkish Olympiad – See Ms. Gokkurt for more information

Spelling Bee Club



ATTN: Spelling Bee club will begin meeting on Monday afternoons, instead of Thursday. 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.

SWBA Spelling Bee: A school-wide spelling bee will be held on December 8th, 2009. Two students will represent each Language Arts class, based on class level spelling competitions that will be held on December 3rd, 2009. These two students will participate in the SWBA Spelling Bee. The winner and 1st runner up will then participate in the Alachua County Spelling Bee, which could qualify them to participate in the National Scripps Spelling Bee.

PVO Corner

The PVO is the Parent Volunteer Organization of Sweetwater Branch Academy. Our main goal is to seek donations and raise money to help furnish our school with some "extras". We would like to fulfill the wish list of our teachers, be able to purchase more smart boards for the classrooms, and in general help make a great learning atmosphere for our students.

We have just finished a Krispy Kreme donut fund raiser and we thank those families that participated. Congratulations to our top seller, Devin Boyd. We hope more families will help with future fund raisers to raise additional money.

The library is now up and running. It is being staffed by volunteers before and after school. If you would like to help in the library please call Angeli-que Boyer at 335-5146. We will be having a Scholastic Book Fair from Dec. 5 - Dec. 11. The proceeds from the Book Fair will enable us to increase the effectiveness of the library with reference materials and equipment. We will have a Family Event on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 AM - 3 PM, and invite everyone to come see the Fair!

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Book Fair, please call Trudy Baumgartner at 375- 1440.

Many thanks to Melissa Wokasch, Kim Cooper, Rachel Loyed, Janet Smith, and Jennis Richard for purchasing a great deal of books at great prices at the semi-annual Friends of the Library Sale.

The PVO would like to recognize two parents who volunteer at the school on a daily basis and help with so many things, including helping Vicki man the front desk. BIG THANK-YOU goes to Mr. Michael Frank and Mrs. Lisa Clark. When you see them at school be sure to tell them how much they are appreciated.

The PVO has asked for a \$5.00 membership fee, but this is strictly voluntary. We would welcome participation from all parents, whether you are an official member or not. With the membership fee you will receive a laminated membership/I.D. card. These can be used to identify you if you contact a local business in regard to donations.

PVO Corner

Currently here are items on our wish list for the school:

Sports equipment, flags for each classroom and flag poles, books in Spanish, and the big item - Smart Boards for each classroom.

If you have access to a business that might be interested in donating or discounting the price of any of these items, or if you have an idea for a great fund raiser please let the PVO Board know. The officers are as follows:

President Kahlil Abboud abboudka@gmail.com

Vice. Pres. Yagnesh Patel yagneshPatel@gmail.com

Treasurer Cheryl Smith smithca@gm.sbac.edu

Secretary Trudy Baumgartner trudy@devinecorp.com

The next meeting of the PVO is Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 AM in the school library.



Art & Essay Contest

Nile Foundation organizes annual Art and Essay contest for middle and high school students in Orange and Seminole Counties of Florida.

Theme "Making Sense of Others"

Program Objective: To have children in middle and high schools think about and be involved in contributing to solving social problems and/or issues in our world today such as intercultural and interfaith understanding, respect towards others, etc. We want our future leaders to be aware of social problems at an early age and to think globally. The Program is geared towards an interdisciplinary approach to solving world and community issues in that the theme of the program looks towards global peace and intercultural understanding. International education is promoted via this Program. This Program is CO-CURRICULAR.



Sunshine State Performance Standards Standard: The student develops and demonstrates persuasive writing that is used for the purpose of influencing the reader.

LA.6.4.3.1- write persuasive text (e.g., advertisement, speech, essay, public service announcement) that establishes and develops a controlling idea, using appropriate supporting arguments and detailed evidence;

LA.6.4.3.2 - include persuasive techniques (e.g., word choice, repetition, emotional appeal, hyperbole, appeal to authority, celebrity endorsement).

Program Participants: Students and Teachers and the educational system that administers education for middle and high school age youth (Grades 6-12) in the State of Florida.

Middle and high-school students in the State of Florida are invited to submit an original artwork and/or essay on the theme of "Making sense of others".

Art & Essay Contest

Students may reflect on the following questions as a starting point for their own work:

Why do we need to understand other people's cultures, lives, beliefs, and values?

How can we better understand other people's cultures, lives, beliefs, and values?

Who do you know in your community that you could understand better?

Who do you know in your community that could understand you better?

What do you do when others do not understand your culture or beliefs?



ART CONTEST RULES

Grades 6, 7 and 8 will compete in the Middle School Category, while grades 9 through 12 will be grouped into the High School Category.

Artwork can be submitted in any media and must be two-dimensional. Artwork dimensions must be no larger than 16"x24", and must be submitted flat.

Artwork must be matted, at least on construction paper.

Artwork must be original, unpublished, and done by one person.

Each submission must include:

- Name
- Grade
- School
- Sponsoring Teacher's Name

Submissions must be received no later than February 5, 2010.

For the Art Contest Rubric please see Attachment 2.

Artwork will be returned upon request after being exhibited.

Participants consent to transfer copyrights of their artwork to Nile Foundation.

Art & Essay Contest

ESSAY CONTEST RULES:

Grades 6, 7 and 8 will compete in the Middle School Category, while grades 9 through 12 will be grouped into the High School Category.

Essays must be original, unpublished, and written by one person.

Each essay should be no more than 1000 words.

Each submission must include:

- Name
- Grade
- School
- Sponsoring Teacher's Name

Entries must be received no later than February 5, 2010.

For the Essay Contest Rubric please see Attachment 3.

Participants consent to transfer copyrights of their essays to Nile Foundation

Each essay must be emailed to contest@nilefoundation.com This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it as either Microsoft Word (.doc) file or Adobe Reader (.pdf) file attachment.

AWARDS:

This year, Nile Foundation will distribute more than 30 awards, including students and their teachers. All of the participating students will receive a special participation certificate from the Nile Foundation whereas the winners and their teachers will receive special achievement certificates.



Art & Essay Contest

Art Contest Awards

These are the awards for winners of Middle and High Schools categories:

1st Place: \$200 gift card *

2nd Place: \$150 gift card

3rd Place: \$100 gift card

3 Honorable Mentions: Admission to Disneyland

Sponsoring teachers of the first 3 winners will be awarded a \$100 gift card.



Essay Contest Awards

These are the awards for winners of Middle and High Schools categories:

1st Place: \$200 gift card

2nd Place: \$150 gift card

3rd Place: \$100 gift card

3 Honorable Mentions: Admission to Disneyland

Sponsoring teachers of the first 3 winners will be awarded a \$100 gift card.

HOW TO CONTACT US and SUBMIT to:

Nile Foundation

Address: Orlando Turkish Cultural Center

576 N. Semoran Blvd. Orlando, FL 32807

Phone: (407) 601-7937

Fax: (407) 601-7938

E-mail: contest@nilefoundation.com This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Web: <http://www.nilefoundation.com>

Lego League and Future City Teams

Lego League and Future City Teams Weekend Study

There will be a weekend study for students in Future City and Lego League. It will begin at 1:00 pm and finish at 3:00pm. Students are expected to participate in this weekend study on Saturday, November 14th, 2009.

Lego League Regional Tournament



WHEN: The FLL Cornerstone School Robotics Tournament will be held January 9, 2010. Team arrival and check in will begin at 8:00am. There will be a coaches meeting at 8:30am, followed by the Opening Ceremony at 9am. The event will conclude later that afternoon at the end of the Competition and Judging Awards Ceremony.

WHERE: The FLL Cornerstone School Robotics Tournament will be held at Forest High School. The address is 5000 SE Maricamp Rd, Ocala, FL 34480.

Future City Teams

We have shared duties in Future City Club. This is a reminder for students in Future City Teams and their families.



	Team1	Team2	Team3
Computer Design	Quennon Ewing	Nate Selznick	All Team
Model of Future City	All Team	AJ Hentges	Jose Berry
Research Essay:	Sydney Jackson	All Team	Neeko Gainey
Future City Narrative	Sydney Jackson	Joel Cray	Isaac O'Hern
Oral Presentation:	Memphis Robertson	Joel Cray	All Team

Veterans Day

"America has a sacred trust to care for those who defend her. From the warriors who stormed the beaches at Normandy on D-Day to the brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan- our Veterans share a legacy of service that crosses generational lines and upholds the values upon which our Nation was founded: service to a cause greater than self. Through service in uniform, Veterans have invested of themselves in the security, safety and well- being of our nation. Let us then, as a grateful Nation, hold them in the highest regard as we offer tributes and ceremonies as Veterans Day 2009."

-Eric K. Shinseki

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The day before Veterans Day,



November 10, 2009 Sweetwater Branch Academy came together as a school to thank and honor Veterans for their service. Retired Officer Michael Frank, who is a volunteer here at SWBA, grandfather of student Chris Theriot, put on an informative presentation for all of the students and faculty using military footage, war memorabilia and dressing in his military blues. In Social Studies class we discussed who the students knew who is a veteran. We talked about their stories, watched a short film and created posters in honor of those who served.

On a personal note, I was raised in the Air Force and when I was in middle school my Father was in the Gulf War stationed in Riyadh, Qatar. At the moment my Mother is working as a purchasing agent on a Marine Base an hour from Baghdad, Iraq. Fortunately, she is coming home this December for good after three years! Sharing Veterans Day with the SWBA students and learning that so many of them has close military ties made it a meaningful way to recognize our troops and show our gratitude for those who as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K Shinseki said, "Upholds the values upon which our Nation was founded: service to a cause greater than self."

-Ms. Kathryn Cairns

Veteran's Day at SWBA

"The price of greatness is responsibility." - Sir Winston Churchill

Veteran's Day was celebrated at SWBA with many wonderful events to remind and teach the students of the importance of this day in our country. Mr. Frank, a retired veteran, shared some of his experiences he while he served our country in the military. He showed the students a video presentation on ceremonies he has been a part of in France, that are done to remember the losses and great sacrifices made on behalf of all those who have served to protect the freedoms we enjoy. Thank you to Mr. Frank for this wonderful presentation! And a special thanks to all of our veterans and soldiers who make sacrifices to protect the freedoms we hold dear.

Veteran's Day Letters: All Language Arts students were responsible for writing a letter to a soldier, or soldiers, who are serving in our U.S. military. They have been collected and will be sent soldiers and/or veterans. Here is one of the letters by one of our students.



Dear veterans,

You probably don't know me but many people know you. My entire school even knows who you are. But when I was little I thought veterans were people who took care of the animals in need, which were veterinarians, but now I know who you are. You are the people who risk their lives everyday just to make sure our world is safe. You are the people who try to make peace with other nations. You may even be some of our family members, family friends, by standers, or even neighbors. You are the people who I respect. I would like to thank you for dedicating your life to taking the time to protect our nation. Without you we would not be safe. I also have a family member who was a veteran he is my great grandfather. My great grandfather is now a retired veteran. My great grandfather is still alive, with many stories to tell I am very proud of my great grandfather because of all that he has done. My great grandfather contributed to help with combat. As I said before my entire school knows you. Our school was reminded when they looked on their calendars, and found that school was out because we wanted to dedicate a whole entire day just to Veterans. I believe that veterans are amazing. Not only do I think their amazing but I also know some facts about veterans for example I know that Veterans are people who served in the military (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard) in times of war or peace. I also know a poem dedicated to veterans by *Courtney Tanabe*, and it is called *Because of You, Unknown Soldier*, as listed below lastly I would like to say you have done so much for our nation and our nation truly thanks you

From A proud person,
Jenise.L.Hall

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Veterans Day

Because of You, Unknown Soldier

By Courtney Tanabe

Because of you, I am here

Because of you, I am able to live freely

Yet I do not know you

And I have not done anything for you

But there you stand, ready to fight

And there you are prepared to die

For me

You've fought before

And you'll fight again

For someone you don't know

So thank you Unknown Soldier

Fighting for me

I'm here because of you

And I owe my future to you