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School News

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TOP 10 CLAY
THE PLAN TO BECOME A TOP SCHOOL DISTRICT
The Academies of Clay • STEM Education • Collaborative Classrooms • Community Engagement

March 2016 | Find Us on Facebook oneclay.net | Vol. 05 — Issue 06

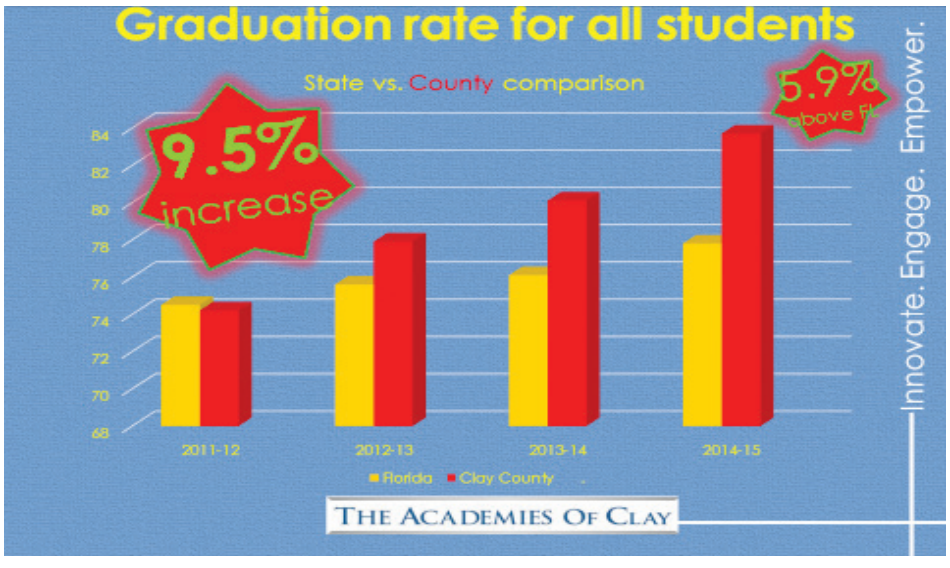
Clay County Schools graduation rates on the rise

By Kelly George

On January 5, the Florida Department of Education released the statistics showing that Clay County School District has improved the graduation rate to 83.7 percent. That is a 3.6 percentage increase over last year and a 9.5 percent increase since 2011-2012. Clay County is now 5.9 percent above the state average, and has exceeded the national average for the first time in history.

This accomplishment came as the result of thousands of employees joining together in a system-wide focus to make learning rigorous and relevant

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



A+ SCHOOL DISTRICT

By Kelly George

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released school district grades this month. The grades confirmed that Clay County is an "A" school district. This is the first year grades have been based on the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA). Clay showed a high level of proficiency on the new assessment resulting in the designation as an "A" district.

"This is wonderful news. Our graduation rate is the highest in history, and now Clay is an 'A' district under the new grading model. This is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the teachers, support employees and administrators throughout Clay. Through teamwork we are making Clay great," said Superintendent Van Zant.



Tristen Taylor applies the finishing touches on his blueprint for construction class.

School Board member Johnna McKinnon said, "I want to congratulate all the teachers, support employees and administrative staff. This 'A' grade is a reflection of your hard work every day. This 'A' grade is also the result of the Superintendent's clear vision for Collaborative Classrooms in elementary, The Academies of Clay in high schools, an emphasis on STEM education, and community engagement. The plan is working!"

After reading the press release from FLDOE, the district wanted to get more feedback from educators, staff and students. Lake Asbury Elementary Principal, Sarah Lawson said, "I am so proud to work in an 'A' School district!" We work really hard. Our teachers work diligently to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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NEW (Now accepting plastics 1- 7) NEW

PAPER



- Mail, office, and school papers
- Newspapers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Paperback books & telephone books
- Shredded paper - should be placed in 13 gallon or smaller plastic trash bags
- Fiberboard boxes - cereal, cracker and storage boxes
- Corrugated cardboard - flattened and cut into pieces 2' x 3' or smaller

CARTONS - Food and beverage cartons including:



- Milk/creamer cartons NEW
- Juice boxes NEW
- Soup & broth NEW

METAL



- Beverage containers
- Steel and aluminum cans
- Steel and aluminum food containers
- Baking Tins NEW

PLASTIC (#1-#7)



- Plastic beverage and food containers NEW
- CD's and CD Cases NEW
- Detergent bottles
- Cleaning containers
- Solo Cups & Plastic Cutlery NEW

GLASS



- Glass bottles and jars: green, brown and clear
  (Please place tops/lids in garbage. Labels do not need to be removed.)

Items NOT Included in Recycling Program

Plastic toys, plastic bags, clothes hangers, pizza boxes, motor oil containers, pool & other chemical containers, mirrors, window glass & broken glass, aerosol cans, electronics and pesticide containers.

Clay County residents are encouraged to recycle. Recycling conserves natural resources as well as helps lower the cost of waste disposal. All containers should be emptied and rinsed clean. Place all recyclable materials in bins provided (one for paper products, one for plastic, glass & cans etc.) Do not place anything but recyclables in bins. Please place recycle bins curbside by 6:00 a.m. on service day.

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College and career preparation in action

Students attend Clay Regional Career Fair

By Stacey Rutherford, Academy Coach MHS and Leslie Olson, Career Specialist

High school students learn the value of career research, college, and networking at the career fair Sponsored by the Clay Chamber and St. John's River State College and CareerSource NEFL!



More than 350 Clay County High School juniors were given the opportunity to participate in the 2016 Clay Regional Career Fair at the Thrasher-Horne Conference Center. Students enjoyed meeting employers and learning the value of networking with local companies for career information and opportunities. Students learned the importance of college and career planning while touring the programs at SJRSC, resume writing and career interest workshops

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presented by SJRSC professors. Students dressed for success and distributed resumes to employers while gaining one of their first experiences in searching for a career. Several students have jobs, internships, and shadowing opportunities lined up from the event.

Special thanks to St. Johns River State College, The Clay County Chamber of Commerce, and CareerSource NEFL for sponsoring this event for area students.

The "Academies of Clay" model of students graduating College and Career Ready was truly in action at this event.









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2016
Clay County District Schools

ELEMENTARY

Argyle Elementary
Theresa Roman, Principal
(904) 573-2357

Charles E. Bennett Elementary
Shelly Lester, Principal
(904) 529-2126

Clay Hill Elementary
Tracey Kendrick, Principal
(904) 289-7193

CopperGate Elementary
Amy Dyal, Principal
(904) 291-5598

Doctors Inlet Elementary
Anne H. Miller, Principal
(904) 213-3000

Fleming Island Elementary
Dana Archibald, Principal
(904) 278-2020

Grove Park Elementary
Scott Voytko Principal
(904) 278-2010

Keystone Heights Elementary
Melanie Sanders, Principal
(352) 473-4844

Lake Asbury Elementary
Sarah Lawson, Principal
(904) 291-5440

Lakeside Elementary
Jeff Schriver, Principal
(904) 213-2966

McRae Elementary
Marcus Dooley, Principal
(352) 473-5686

Middleburg Elementary
Becky Wilkerson, Principal
(904) 291-5485

Montclair Elementary
Bill Miller, Principal
(904) 278-2030

Oakleaf Village Elementary
Colette Wyant, Principal
(904) 291-5458

Orange Park Elementary
Carole McCullough, Principal
(904) 278-2040

Plantation Oaks Elementary
Jennifer Roach, Principal
(904) 214-7478

R.M. Paterson Elementary
John O'Brian, Principal
(904) 278-2078

RideOut Elementary
Joyce Orsi, Principal
(904) 291-5430

Ridgeview Elementary
Tracy McLaughlin, Principal
(904) 213-2952

S. Bryan Jennings Elementary
Tiffany Outman, Principal
(904) 213-3021

Shadowlawn Elementary
Nancy Crowder, Principal
(904) 529-1007

Swimming Pen Creek Elementary
Linda Pratt, Principal
(904) 278-5707

Thunderbolt Elementary
DeeDee Phillips, Principal
(904) 278-5630

Tynes Elementary
Laura Fogarty, Principal
(904) 291-5400

W.E. Cherry Elementary
Angie Whiddon, Principal
(904) 278-2050

Wilkinson Elementary
Heather Teto, Principal
(904) 291-5420

JUNIOR HIGH

Green Cove Springs Junior High
Jen Halter, Principal
(904) 529-2140

Lake Asbury Junior High
Becky Murphy, Principal
(904) 291-5582

Lakeside Junior High
David McDonald, Principal
(904) 213-2980

Oakleaf Junior High
Anthony Williams, Principal
(904) 213-5500

Orange Park Junior High
Al De Jesus, Principal
(904) 278-2000

Wilkinson Junior High
Christina Cornwell, Principal
(904) 291-5500

HIGH SCHOOL

R.C. Bannerman Learning Center
Mike Elia, Principal
(904) 529-2100

Clay High
Cary Dicks, Principal
(904) 529-3000

Fleming Island High
Thomas Pittman, Principal
(904) 541-2100

Keystone Heights High
Angela Gentry, Principal
(352) 473-2761

Middleburg High
Rob Feltner, Principal
(904) 291-5450

Oakleaf High
Treasure Pickett, Principal
(904) 213-1900

Orange Park High
Clayton Anderson, Principal
(904) 272-8110

Ridgeview High
Debbie Segreto, Principal
(904) 213-5203

Clay Virtual Academy
Lana Racine, Principal
(904) 336-9875

Adult and Community Education
Shannah Kosek, Supervisor
(904) 336-4450

School District of Clay County School News
Published second Thursday of month

Gavin Rollins
Coordinator of Communications
904-529-4823 gbrollins@OneClay.net

Kelly George
School News Editor
(904) 284-6508 • kjgeorge@OneClay.net

Message from the Superintendent

The School District will observe Spring Break during the week of March 14-18, 2016. I hope that everyone enjoys a well-deserved, safe and restful holiday and that our students and employees are able to spend some extra time with family and friends.


Charles Van Zant Jr.

This has been a busy year thus far and we already have much to celebrate in the Clay County School District.

- We have been rated an "A" school district by the FLDOE.
- Our graduation rate for all students has increased by 9.5 percent. That puts us above the national average for the first time in history!
- Clay County students ranked sixth out of 67 school districts in math performance on the 2015 Florida Standards Assessment.
- Clay County students ranked 11th out of 67 school districts in ELA/Reading performance on the 2015 Florida Standards Assessment.
- Our collaborative classrooms continue to grow providing time for students to read, write, think and talk every day, in every classroom.
- The Academies of Clay are engaging students in relevant learning and providing critical 21st Century Skills to ensure our students graduate college and career ready.
- Our community and business partnerships continue to grow providing needed supports for students, schools and our families.

All of our accomplishments would not be possible without the hard work of our dedicated teachers, support professionals, and administrators. Thank you for what you all do for our children and our families.

When students return from Spring Break, the 2016 state assessment season will be underway. Students, depending on their grade level, will take the English Language Arts and Math portions of the Florida Standards Assessment beginning the week of March 28. I have no doubt that once again, Clay County students will perform exceptionally well. As I visit classrooms each week, I'm continuously amazed at the high level of student work and student academic conversations taking place.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Superintendent of Schools.

Charlie

School Board Members


District 1
Janice Kerekes
jkerkes@oneclay.net


District 2
Carol Studdard
cstuddard@oneclay.net


District 3
Betsy Condon
eacondon@oneclay.net


District 4
Johnna McKinnon
jlmckinnon@oneclay.net


District 5
Ashley Gilhousen
algilhousen@oneclay.net

OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to work corroboratively with all stakeholders to provide a public education experience that is motivating, challenging and rewarding for all children. We will increase student achievement by providing students with learning opportunities that are rigorous, relevant and transcend beyond the boundaries of the school walls. We will ensure a working and learning environment built upon honesty, integrity and respect. Through these values, we will maximize student potential and promote individual responsibility.

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Keystone Heights Area: (888) 663-2529

Editorial Content: Gavin Rollins, Coordinator of Communications | (904) 529-4823 • gbrollins@OneClay.net
Kelly George, School News Editor | (904) 284-6508 • kjgeorge@OneClay.net

ADVERTISING: **Jon Cantrell** (904) 264-3200. jon@opcfla.com.
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Teacher wins Excellence in Education Award

By Kelly George

The Governor's office announced in February that Lakeside Junior High School teacher, David Bradley, was recognized with an Excellence in Education Award in honor of Black History Month.

This award honors African American heroes and the recipients are chosen by their peers and students. "This year during Black History Month, we are honored to recognize African American heroes, past and present, who have risked their lives to ensure the safety of others," Gov. Rick Scott said in a news release.

During an interview, Bradley said he was in the Marine Corps for 26 years. While in the military he always knew he wanted to be a teacher. "In the military we believe in giving back, and when I was stationed in Korea I had a mentor and we would work with kids in the orphanages despite the language barrier." Upon his retirement he went after his dream to become a teacher in hopes to help students and to continue to give back. In 2009, is when Bradley became "a real teacher," according to his students.

Bradley was extremely surprised to the have won the award. "I had no idea I had been nominated and I'm very fortunate that my peers and students thought that much of me to submit my name," explained Bradley. Though this award was given to Bradley, he feels that it was really given to everyone at LJH because it is a joint effort. "I could not do anything without the rest of the teachers. We have a good time and that makes everything else run smooth," said Bradley.

LJH Principal, Dr. David McDonald said, "Mr. Bradley is an extremely caring teacher



who each and every day does what he can to help children have the best day possible. His experiences make his American History classes come alive with relevance for his students. His students know that he cares about them."

In addition, fellow teachers also enjoy working with Bradley. "I have never met anyone with a bigger heart than David Bradley. He is the most kind and compassionate person I have ever encountered. He also reaches students in a way that is very difficult to reach in this age group. On a professional level, I respect him immensely. On a personal level, I am very proud to call him my friend," said Kristi Gomez, Social Studies Teacher at LJH.

Upon winning this award, Bradley wants to leave his students with some advice… "Be you, always be respectful and give 100 percent. Why? For two reasons: 1) You never know who might be watching that might give you a job, and 2) Your character defines you. If your character is in line and you always give 100 percent, then you are making it better for everyone, including yourself. Always give 100 percent no matter what."



Photos by Kelly George

Thumbing through a magazine, Mr. Bradley tries to find and article for his student to read.

The Black History Month reception and awards were held at the governor's mansion and were supported by the Maritza Rovira Forino Family and The Florida Math and Science Initiative, Volunteer Florida Foundation, Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Foundation, Comcast, AT&T, Florida Power & Light, Florida Lottery, Prudential, Florida Blue, Publix, Walmart, Mosaic, AAA, FCCI, and Sunshine Health.



Shadowlawn robotics team heads to state

By Stacey Sapp

The Robotics team from Shadowlawn Elementary School known as the "Recyclables" is headed to the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League State Championship! Team members include: Logan Choulat, Walker Cowherd, Jackson Hancock, Mattie Hancock, Katie Hixson, Nathan LaBranche, Mason Murphree, Marucs Reed, and Garrett Rogers. They are coached by Kelly Ludlam and Wendy Chaff.

The State Championship will be held on May 7 in Tampa but the road to get there is long and requires hours of hard work. The team started practicing in September to design, build, and program their robot using LEGO Mindstorms who they named Hermit.

At the preliminary competition in December, the team not only qualified for Regionals, but more impressively won Grand Champion out of 25 teams. At Regionals, they competed against 36 teams and placed in the top 7 to advance to State. First year head coach of the team, Kelly Ludlam, said "Robotics is a big commitment. The kids stay about three days a week, sometimes coming in on the weekends and teacher planning days." They practice at least one hour each week, but will practice up to five hours a week as the competition approaches.



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At the competition, each team has its robot compete on a table top playing field with a set of missions. With some assistance from team members, the robot has two and a half minutes to complete all of its required missions. The project, like constructing the robot, requires extensive time and preparation beforehand.

Late in August, FIRST LEGO League releases a new Challenge for teams that focuses on a scientific topic. The team researches this real-world problem and works to find a solution. This year's theme, Trash Trek, involved students finding a way to reduce the amount of trash or better dispose of it. The team decided they wanted to create recyclable pizza boxes after visiting Rosemary Landfill and discovering the vast amount of pizza boxes people throw away. As a requirement of the project, they took their idea of a recyclable pizza box to local pizza places. Now, they are in the process of meeting with a pizza box distributor and truly making a difference in their community.

The team must also come up with a creative way to showcase their project to the judges. The Recyclables chose to do a skit and act out the things they learned. Afterwards, the team gets judged on the robot design and core values. While in the judging room for the robot design, members must communicate to the judges how they designed their robot and their strategy for doing so. This year, they designed their robot, Hermit, to be very compact and able to utilize multiple sensors. The last judging room is for the core values, which is a vital part of the competition and are values Kelly Ludlam, tries to incorporate everywhere. The team is interviewed by a panel of judges and asked to perform a timed teamwork challenge. Judges evaluate them on their enthusiasm, teamwork skills, and ability to show gracious professionalism.

Shadowlawn Elementary is the only team in Clay County to make it to state and this is their second time in four years to do so. Clay County is proud to see schools not only embracing Robotics, but excelling at the Regional and State level. We are especially proud of this team and wish them the best of luck at the state.

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science fair

2015-2016

Will It work?

By Nancy Watson

Several months ago, the Clay County School District asked students to try something. That something might not work. That something might work. That something might be the beginning of solving a big problem! Clay County School District asked their students to participate in the science process by participating in a science fair project.

The final culmination of this exciting work took place on February 9th at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Welcome to the 2016 Clay Rotary Science and Engineering Fair! This event was supported by the Clay County School District, Clay County Rotary Clubs, Orange Park Medical Center, United States Military Service Personnel, Vystar Credit Union and several small business and community leaders. The event hosted over 330 student projects from all of Clay County's junior and senior high schools as well as the private school community. The students presented projects that ranged from

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Photo by Kathy Schofield



Photo by Kelly George



Photo by Kathy Schofield



Photo by Kelly George



Photo by Kathy Schofield



Photo by Kelly George



Photo by Kathy Schofield



Photo by Kelly George

A+ SCHOOL DISTRICT

A+ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

provide the children with everything they need to succeed. Our kids come from great homes and it is very rewarding to see everyone's efforts come together and be recognized by the state." Lawson stated that she contributes to making Clay County an 'A' school by applying grease to the wheel at Lake Asbury Elementary School. "I make sure the teachers have everything they need to give the students the best education possible," said Lawson.

Assistant Principal Ivin Gunder at Lakeside Junior High said, "Being a teacher is one of those professions that is a calling, you have to really love what you do, to do it. The rewards may not come often, but when they do, it is great. Being a part of an 'A' School district is certainly one of those rewards."

The students within the Clay County School District are also excited to know they helped make Clay an 'A' School District. Orange Park Elementary student, Emma Boils said, "It feels good to know that I am in an 'A' School District because I know I am getting the best education."

Green Cove Junior High School student, Molley McGee said, "I am honored to be able to contribute to our school and the whole county. I know that the teachers



that are teaching me are dedicated to what they are doing and that is why we are an 'A' School District."

Oakleaf High School, sophomore, Matthew Schofield said, "I am proud to be part of an 'A' School District. The teachers care about us, and we get to work together doing projects, which are fun. It's a lot better than just doing worksheets and reading out of a book."



Left: Clay High student Mikayla Cardona give Pepper Jr. a Nigerian Dwarf goat midday feeding

Above: Gaining experience and having fun, eighth grade students decorate cookies in the culinary lab.



Clay High Seniors demonstrate finger printing in the Criminal Justice Program.

GRADUATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

long-term as changes have been implemented in the earlier grades which will continue to pay dividends in the high school classrooms. The Superintendent of Schools, Charlie Van Zant, saw the success Clay was having in limited number of high school academies in 2012, and developed a plan to redesign our high schools by expanding our academies at each high school. That plan called, "The Academies of Clay", provides a more student-focused model for learning and theme-based learning communities.

What are the Academies of Clay? They are a type of "school within a school" that provides a college preparatory curriculum with a career-related theme. They also allow students to choose a program that matches their interests, skills and talents. Traditional academic courses are taught in the context of these learning-based communities. "When students see the relationship between what they are learning and a future career, positive things happen. The Academies are merging strong academics with relevant life skills," said Van Zant.

Director of CET, Cheresse Stewart, said, "the Academies of Clay help students to see why they should be interested in school by enabling them to see what is available after high school if they have the right skills and prepare them for college."

"The plan is working, students are benefiting and together we are making Clay great!" said Van Zant.



Clay County Rotary Science and Engineering Fair

Senior Category

Behavioral Science (A)
First Place:
Jisselle Beton, OHS
Barbara Joann Knobel, OHS
Second Place:
Mallory Huffman, FIHS
Third Place:
Monasita Cervantes, RHS

Behavioral Science (B)
First Place:
Ashley Stevens, OPHS
Micayla Shaw, OPHS
Gina Schafer, OPHS
Second Place:
Gabrielle Byrd, OPHS
Michael Mendoza, OPHS
Third Place:
Letha Adams
Estefany Ervin, OPHS

Biochemistry Senior
First Place:
Mantegh Dhooper, OHS
Second Place:
Zachary Soldo, FIHS
Marisa Sims, FIHS
Third Place:
Hannah Vick, OHS

Botany Senior
First Place:
Cambria Arturo, OHS
Brittani Wooten, OHS
Second Place:
Allison Polli, MHS
Third Place:
Kai Sucsy, KHHS

Chemistry Senior
First Place:
Joshua Brown, OHS
Second Place:
Madelyn Greathouse, OHS
Third Place:
Jacon Mancino, CHS

Computer Senior
First Place:
Daphne Tompkins, RHS
Paul Barletta, RHS
Donald Garrett, RHS
Second Place:
Cassandre Darden, CHS

Engineering Senior



First Place:
Faith Hauhe, OHS
Gladys Irizzarry, OHS
Daniel Hiromoto, OHS
Second Place:
Chirstopher Mickel, RHS
Keith Kelly, RHS
Third Place:
Matthew Ragsdale, RHS
Hunter Click, RHS
Michael Linton, RHS

Environmental Senior
First Place:
Tristan Thompson, OHS
Second Place:
Gabrielle Gibb, RHS
Third Place:
Annalea Rix, MHS

Math Senior
First Place:
Zachary Barken, CHS

Medicine/Health Senior
First Place:
Angela Pierre, OPHS
Alyssa Murwin, OPHS
Alexandria Winkler, OPHS
Second Place:
Charese Chandler, CHS
Third Place:
Mary Beth Stager, KHHS

Microbiology Senior
First Place:
Rachel Crowe, RHS
Jonathan Church, RHS
Second Place:
Karam Eeso, RHS
Third Place:
Renee Cress, OHS
Oliva Evans, OHS
Victoria Evans, OHS

Physics/Astronomy Senior (A)
First Place:
Nathan Martus, OHS
Second Place:
Katlin Johnson, RHS
Brianna Pleasant, RHS
Third Place:
Michael Schildberg, RHS
Stephen Schildberg, RHS

Physics/Astronomy Senior (B)
First Place:
Brandon Ludwig, KHHS
Second Place:
Leahari Perez, OPHS
Third Place:
Katie Sue Walls, KHHS

Zooolgy Senior
First Place:
Eric Lotze, FIHS

Junior Category

Behavioral Junior (A)
First Place:
Bailey Guthrie, OPJH
Second Place:
Aryana McGill, LAE
Third Place:
Sydney Copeland, OLJH

Biochemistry Junior
First Place:
Matthew McCleary, WJH
Second Place:
Cooper Belcher, GCJH
Third Place:
Zion Gantea, LAJH

Botany Junior (A)
First Place:
Grace Ernst, Grace Episcopal
Second Place:
Lindsay Findley, SLE
Third Place:
Ella Wehner, TBE

Botany Junior (B)
First Place:
Megan Ferer, GCJH
Second Place:
Emily Irias, PES
Third Place:
Kamryn Wright, MBE

Chemistry Junior (A)
First Place:
Joel Mehang, OPJH
Second Place:
Audrey Asher, MCE
Third Place:
Eve Rozier, FIE
Kaelle Graves, FIE

Chemistry Junior (B)
First Place:
McKenna Reedy, LAJH
Second Place:
Jordan Condie, OLJH
Third Place:
Emma Navarro, OLJH

Chemistry Junior (C)
First Place:
Eva Carter, GPE
Second Place:
Lindsey Schrader, KHH
Third Place:
Rachel Cannady, ROE

Computer Junior
First Place:
Christian Villanueva, OLJH
Second Place:
Noah St. Vilus, OPJH
Third Place:
Logan Choulat, SLE

Earth/Planetary Junior
First Place:
Noah Mengelson, MRE
Second Place:
Joseph Mergen, OLJH

Third Place:
Taylor Peck, TBE

Engineering Junior (A)
First Place:
Sebastin Kouchakjy, LSJH



Second Place:
Luke Patton, MRE
Third Place:
Timothy Denny, OPJH

Engineering Junior (B)
First Place:
Camryn Williams, KHH
Second Place:
Adan Herrera, Pinewood
Third Place:
William Pearson, GCJH

Environmental Junior (A)
First Place:
David Denemark, OPE
Second Place:
Chris Romero, OPJH
Third Place:
Ethan Walls, MBE

Environmental Junior (B)
First Place:
Brogan Covey-Shannon, GCJH
Second Place:
Logan Baxley, LAJH
Third Place:
Kolben Clayton, CGJ

Math Junior
First Place:
Emrson Jacobson, DIS
Second Place:
Gibson Reid, OPE
Third Place:
Chuck Adams, OLJH

Medicine/Health Junior (A)
First Place:
Alyssa Cone, CGE
Second Place:
Robert Morris, OPE
Third Place:
Katie Griffin, Grace Episcopal

Medicine/Health Junior (B)
First Place:
Alanna Hobby, LAE
Second Place:
Jamie Smith, GCJH

Third Place:
Alyssa Smith, RVE

Microbiology Junior
First Place:
Gavin Baker, GCJH
Second Place:
Gabi Mauricio, OPJH
Third Place:
Morgan Canipe, CGE

Physics/ Astronomy Junior (A)
First Place:
Walker Cowherd, SLE
Second Place:
Paxton Shuppert, OPE
Third Place:
Dalton Hollingsworth, MRE

Physics/ Astronomy Junior (B)
First Place:
Eli Wilson, WJH
Second Place:
Giovanna Alemany-Lugo, OLJ
Third Place:
Lucas Claveau, OLJH

Physics/ Astronomy Junior (C)
First Place:
Abby Grace LAJH
Second Place:
Riley Crosby, ROE
Third Place:
Luke Boree, LAE

Zoology Junior
First Place:
Jack Cooksey, Grace Episcopal
Second Place:
Joesph Brooks, GCJH
Third Place:
Jennifer Fliess, GCJH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

addressing local issues such as cleaning up the St. John's River, to improving aero foil surfaces on military aircrafts, to an analysis of the gravitational energy of galactic mass and its application to dark matter and dark energy. Fourteen projects have been selected to compete at the 2016 Florida State Science and Engineering Fair in late March.

Thank you for the support of the school district, local businesses and community stakeholders. Be on the lookout for updates on the progress of our students.



Photos By Kelly George

UF Health Invests in students

By Kelly George

Learning skills to save someone's life, Orange Park Elementary sixth grade students in Mrs. Bowie's class observe ways to perform CPR. Mrs. Bowie said, "It is very important to have UF Health come in today, so the kids can learn to interact with the community. Also I learned that UF Health did the hands only CPR and thought that would be a great way to introduce Life Science to my students. What better way to introduce Life Science to the kids than to teach them to save a life."

On February 25, a team from UF Health taught the students four steps to performing CPR:

1. Ask person if they are OK
2. Call 911
3) Check your surroundings
4) Proceed with CPR.

These steps are used at the park or any other area that may not have an Automated External Defibrillator.

The team told students about cardiac arrest, explaining that is when the heart unexpectedly and abruptly quits beating. This is usually caused by an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). In the case of VF, Shauna Worthington – Registered Nurse for



UF Health, told the students to evaluate their surroundings for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The AED shock is the only effective treatment for VF. The electrical current passes through the heart with the goal of stopping the VF and providing an opportunity for the heart's normal electrical system to take control. This current helps the heart reorganize the electrical activity so it can pump blood again.

During the class, the students got to see the inside of the AED, which provides instructions on how to use it. Nurse Worthington challenged the students to look







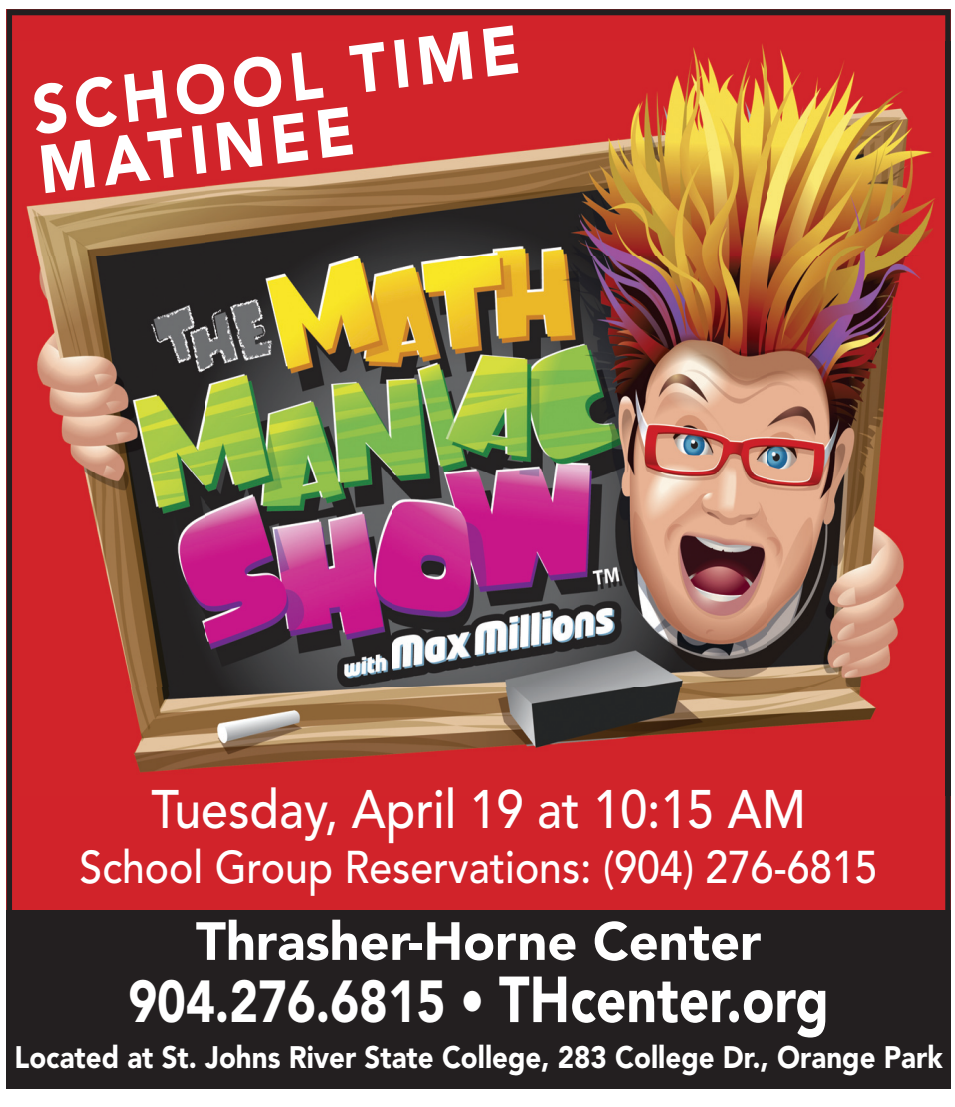


Photos by Kelly George

around when they are in public to see where the AED machines are located in stores.

Nickey Williams, CPR Coordinator for UF Health, informed the students that a heart attack is not the same as sudden cardiac arrest. An AED will not help someone who is having a heart attack.

In addition to the lesson, the students got the opportunity to perform CPR on the manikan. Williams told the students that they needed to do 100-120 chest compressions per minute. The best beat to do that to is the song "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees. While the students took turns, the song played throughout the class. "This has taught me how to do hands on CPR and I think the song helps keep the rhythm, said Paxton Shuppert. William Whigham commented, "It takes a lot of skill to do CPR."







Archery at Tynes Elementary

Liane Patrylo, Tynes Elementary science teacher and archery instructor, worked with fifth and sixth grade archery students during their first time shooting at targets. Some students hit the target with all three of their arrows. Students have been previously trained in safety procedures, how to handle the bow and arrows, techniques such as stance, loading the bow, release of the arrow, care of the arrows, and retrieval of their arrows.





Who Reads? We Read!

Read Across America March 2, 2016

By Tracey Kendrick

On Thursday, February 25, Clay Hill Elementary celebrated Read Across America with quite a celebration. We had special guests Mr. VanZant the Superintendent of Clay County Schools, Mrs. Kornegay the Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Legutko Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Carl Hendrick Assistant Superintendent for Information and Technology, Mrs. Chastain Supervisor of Elementary Education, Mrs. Condon School Board Representative, CSM James Kendrick from the Florida Army National Guard, and BBVA-Compass Bank representatives Tiffany Coleman and Michela Harrison to help us celebrate. These special guests met in the Media Center to celebrate a "Seussical" breakfast with green eggs and ham (out of candy), some Lorax made from orange slices, blue Jello with candy fish representing One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, coffee, fruit and muffins. They also got to see some of the wonderful new additions to the media center furniture and furnishings. After a guest appearance on our school news, the Cat in the Hat, Thing One and Thing Two escorted the guests to the Kindergarten through Second grade classrooms where they read their favorite Dr. Seuss book to each class. This was done in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday which is officially Wednesday, March 2, 2016. Thank you to all of the reading volunteers for showing students how important it is to read and how to enjoy it.









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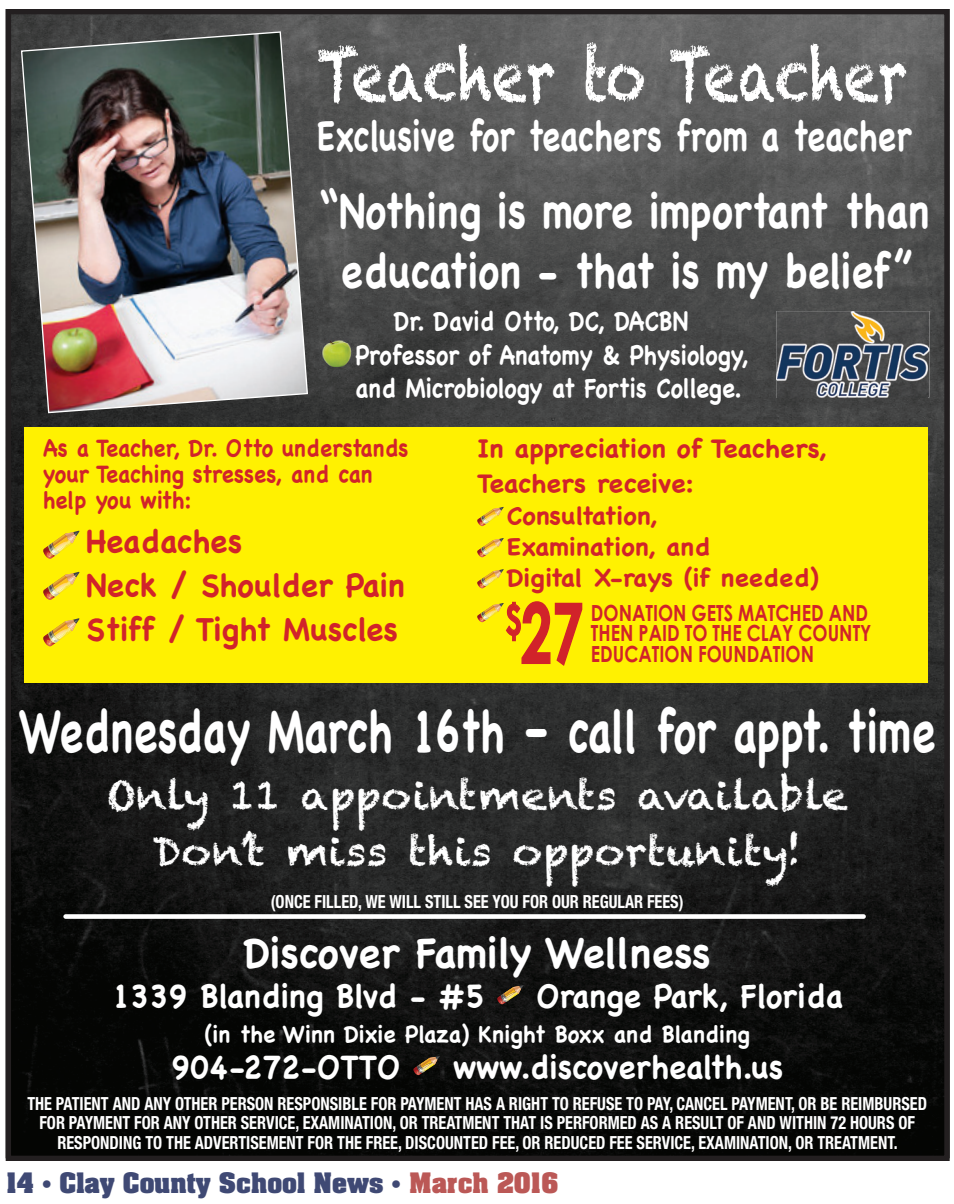
Clay County grad breaks records at SEC meet

By Kelly George

Clay High School graduate and current sophomore at University of Florida broke three major records on February 17, 2016 during Prelims at the SEC Swimming & Diving Championship Meet in Missouri during the 50 yard freestyle. Caeleb Dressel swam an 18.39, making him the fastest in history in this event. During finals, Dressel swam faster, finishing in 18.2. Dressel said, "I was happy when I looked up saw that and I thought I had a little bit more left in the tank tonight. It was nice!" Only one human has finished under 18.40 and Dressel did it twice in one day. He is currently the fastest freestyle sprinter in history...born and raised in Green Cove Springs.







FLORIDA STRIDERS TRACK CLUB
SINCE 1978
SETTING THE PACE

8 Week Running Class

Starts:	April 6, 2016
Location:	St. John's Country Day School Track
Meets:	Wednesday's at 6:00pm
Price:	$50 (discounts for current members; 13 and under free without class t-shirt)
Includes:	Strider Membership for 1 year, technical t-shirt for all registered who complete the class, and class party
Goal:	To run or run/walk the Memorial Day 5K on May 30, 2016 (must register separately for race)
Bring:	Water bottle (water or sports drink as preferred), towel for stretching, sports watch (optional), running shoes

Each class will feature an expert speaker on various topics of interest:
Hydration, Proper Shoe Wear, Strengthening & Conditioning, Running Apparel, Racing Strategy, Mental Conditioning and More

For more info and to register, go to:
www.floridastriders.com/running-classes/

School Happenings



Orange Park Elementary 2016-2017 Registration

Orange Park Elementary Concept School registration is a lottery system. The registration takes place for one week at OPE and the lottery drawing takes place the following week at the Teacher Training Center, located on the campus of Fleming Island High School.

Orange Park Elementary will hold their open registration for the 2016-2017 school year March 28-April 1. Registrations will be accepted from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, with additional hours until 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 31.

Please note, because OPE accepts students from all of Clay County, transportation is not provided. Also, all families must sign a commitment agreement. One of the OPE commitments is completing a minimum of nine hours of volunteer work each year; volunteer hours may be completed by the parent or grandparent only.

Paperwork required for registration

- Completed Registration Form,
- 3 proofs of residency in Clay County
- Birth certificate (for kindergarten only)
- Please visit our website, **http://ope.oneclay.net** , Information, For Parents, OPE Registration button, for more information.

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PLUS, GET $25 PROGRAM CREDIT THROUGH MAR. 31
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FirstCoastYMCA.org
*See website for program credit details and restrictions.

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Cole's fever quickly became life threatening.

The fever Cole couldn't shake turned into every mother's nightmare. He began to have seizures and was rushed to Wolfson Children's ER at Baptist Clay. Cole stopped breathing, but the team of pediatric emergency specialists was able to resuscitate him. He was quickly transported to Wolfson Children's Hospital for a comprehensive evaluation and, after an overnight stay, the Clay County toddler was back to being his healthy, happy self. Parents Lydia and Ryan know firsthand and will tell any parent: Where you take your child for emergency care matters.

Watch Cole's story at
wolfsonchildrens.org/ER

Wolfson Children's | Wolfson Children's Emergency Centers

Locations in Fleming Island & Jacksonville