



House of Blues News

Tony Bellamy, Principal
First Coast High School
Jacksonville, Florida

House of Blues News

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Volume 3: Issue 3

Welcome Home, Alumni

By Mary Buchanan

Each year First Coast High School celebrates homecoming when alumni return and reminisce about their years as Buccaneers. Although I did not graduate from FCHS, I am proud to be a part of its rich heritage.

When the school opened in 1990, it was the only building “in the woods”. Today, it is surrounded by thriving business partners and beautiful homes. Graduates have become successful in the professional arena and some chose to return to FCHS as teachers, administrators and staff. Outstanding athletes have and are playing football and other athletic events in college. Many graduates have received scholarships to major colleges.

First Coast is still considered the best school on the north side. Our school is considered to be number one in athletics and academics. Families are moving to the area because of the success of our programs. EVERYBODY wants to be BUCCANEERS!

As we celebrate this event, we welcome Alumni and hope you enjoy sharing the “good old days”. First Coast continues to strive to be the number one choice high school in Duval County. Because you are *number 1*, you have made First Coast *number 1*. Welcome Home. (see events on page 4)

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Blues

T-Shirt

\$10 M201

It's YOUR Future!

By Megan Munsterman

Your life is passing by. What are you going to do? It's almost your senior year and you haven't a clue about what college to attend or what you want to do in life. If you choose to attend college, how are you going to pay for it?

These questions are clouding most high

school students' minds, and parents are also stressed out about these issues, too.

Many ninth graders don't think about the future because they are focused on adjusting to high school. Traditionally, high school allows more freedom of choices. Some students choose to focus on making good grades

while others prefer skipping and not studying.

Nationally, over 50% of ninth graders do not pass their first year of high school. Buccaneers, don't become one of these statistics.

Progress reports for first quarter were issued last week. Get into TARGET, an after-school tutoring pro-

gram, or meet with your teachers NOW to get help.

Your grades are top priority. Learn to love reading. Improve your writing skills. Become a great communicator.

Possession of these qualities make you a better candidate for a ranked college and a scholarship to pay for it.. *Continued on page 3*

House of Blues News

The Blue News Crew

Advisors:
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Mary Buchanan

The writers:
Megan Munsterman
Katie Frederick
Robby Bledsoe
Donnese Tilley

Ms. Lifer's
Journalism Classes

The House of Blues News publication is produced entirely by Blue House students. Any factual errors, incorrect spelling, or grammatical mistakes are part of the learning process. We hope you, the reader, will see improvements as these students grow and become better journalists. We hope you enjoy the students' work on the House of Blues News.

A special thank you to Donnese Tilley for writing the Academy articles and Frances Herrera for providing the athletic schedules for the Blue News this month.



JV Football Schedule

Oct 8 Nease
Oct 9 @ Mandarin
Oct 16 @ Lee

Blues T-Shirt

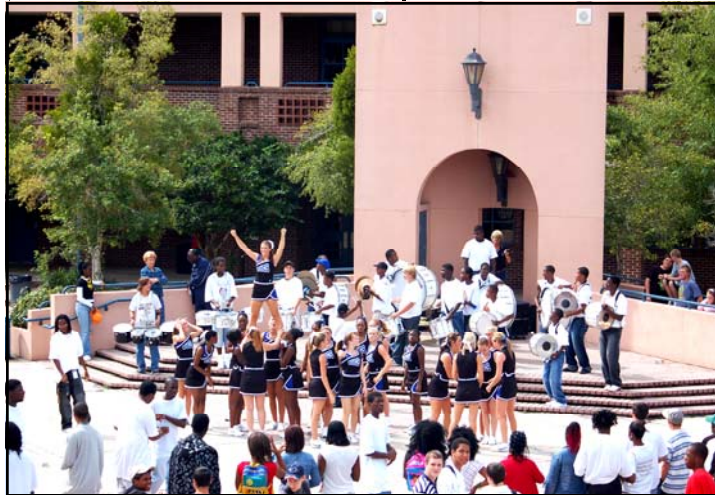
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Girls' Bowling Schedule

Oct 2 Forrest
@ Bowl Am
Southside
Oct 4 Jackson
@ Bowl Am
Southside
Oct 9 Lee
@ Jack Lanes W

Boys' Golf Schedule

Oct 8, 9 Gateway
Conference
Oct. 15, 16 District
Conference
Oct 23, 23 Regional
Conference
Oct 30. 31 FHSAA
Finals



*We are
the BLUES!*

Cross Country Season

Oct. 9 @ Sandal
wood
Oct.13 Saints
Invitational
Oct 20 Gateway
Conf.

GO Bucs!

Girls' Golf Schedule

Oct 8, 9 Gateway Conference
Oct 15 District Tournament
Oct 30 -31 PHSAA Finals



Hittin' the Green

By Robby Bledsoe

FOURRRR! Look out for the First Coast golf team. They are ready to hit the green and win the tournament.

Blue House proudly recognizes its members on the '07 team. Aaron Noles, Travis McKenzie and Robby Bledsoe practice each week to improve their scores.

Gateway Conference play begins on October 8 followed by the district tournament.

Blue House wishes you lots of birdies. Be the winner you are!

Congratulations for being in the CAP as well as on the Golf Team!!



**Aim for an
“A”.
That’s the
Blue House
way!**

It’s YOUR Future !

(Continued from page 1)

“You can’t get a scholarship if you don’t apply. There are many qualifications to be acceptable for scholarships,” says Ron Soder, Blue House guidance counselor.

Many colleges look for achievement skills like good grades or high test scores. Some look for different demographics and ethnic groups. Although the Internet is a good source of information to apply and to find out about scholarships, beware of hoaxes that ask you to pay for their services. Scholarships are free money.

Check out the following websites which offer information about college scholarships:

.fastweb.com

collegeboard.com

If college is out of the question for you, consider a community college for postsecondary education or technical training.

The courses offered at community colleges use the same standards as those at the university level and the courses are cheaper.

Classes are smaller and

after earning an A.A. degree, you can transfer to any state university in Florida.

Florida Community College of Jacksonville is ranked the number one community college in the nation. **FCCJ** offers a full range of academic and technical programs.

FCCJ is partnering with First Coast High School to offer dual enrollment courses which may be taken on FCHS’ campus. This program is in the planning stages.

If you don’t qualify for a scholarship, do not get discouraged.

Financial aid is available to all students. Information is available in the guidance office and at local college and universities.

When you apply for financial aid, the amount you receive is based on several criteria including your guardian or parents’ salaries.

You can also apply for a loan. **Sun Trust** and **Wachovia** banks, FCHS business partners, offer several
(continued page 4)

Marching Band Undefeated !

By Katie Frederick

The First Coast band under the direction of Richard Johnson and the flag girls coached by Rachel Graham create great enthusiasm at FCHS football games.

Along with the winning football team and exciting cheerleaders, the band is responsible for entertaining during half-time. Everybody waits in anticipation for this year’s show and they are not disappointed.

The band is much larger this year and members have already memorized 12 new songs. The uniforms are beautiful and the flag girls with their pretty smiles add a touch of class to the presentation.

The drum line has entertained students in the courtyard during lunches much to the delight of First Coast students.

If you see a band member, thank him/her for his/her contribution to the success of First Coast.

CAP Academy Panel Discussion gets High Marks!

By Donnese Tilley, Academy Lead Teacher

First Coast's Career and Professional Academy played host to a panel of speakers from our primary business partner, **JAXPORT**, and several associated businesses in the port community. Students picked up an information packet from **JAXPORT** as they entered. The moderator reviewed the contents of the packet and requested students go through the information at their leisure after the panel presentation. There was an informative period when each panel member gave his or her educational, professional, and personal experiences in business in general and in international trade and logistics in particular. We then had a lively question and answer period with participation from not only career academy students, but also the members of the business classes in attendance.

This was an opportunity for many career academy students to receive firsthand information from people who actually work at the port or deal with port issues on a daily basis. The panel and floor moderator was Joanne Kazmierski, Manager of Community Education and Environmental Advocacy for **JAXPORT**. The panel members were:

Kathleen Wentworth, director, Human Resources, **ICS Logistics, Inc.**

Joshua Rodriggs, Manager of Latin American and Intermodal Sales, **JAXPORT**

Lucius Leverette, owner, **Leverette Logistics and ICS Employee**

Charlie King, Operations, Manager—**Stevedore**

While the personal and educational backgrounds of the panel members was very interesting, their professional experiences formed the basis of the exchange that took place during the Q & A period.

(Continued on page 7)

FCHS Academy students enjoy a panel discussion sponsored by JAXPORT, our primary business partner.

There's room for you. Come join the ACADEMY and learn about business entrepreneurship, and international trade and logistics.



Career and Professional (CAP) Academy Sponsors Third Event!



LEFT: FCHS business partner, **JAXPORT**, provides many opportunities for students to learn about international trade and logistics. Academy members will visit **JAXPORT** on Oct. 16.

RIGHT: Panel members wait for the next questions from Academy students. About 100 students participated in the event.



(continued from page 6)

A number of students had questions for all members of the panel. Ms. Kazmierski

surprised everyone by giving tote bags and shirts to the students who asked questions. At the end of the class period, students were given stress globes as they exited.

Several students remained behind and spoke to individual panel members about some of the topics that had come up. Others asked for additional information about employment, internships, job shadowing, and scholarships. I have also had several students stop by my office requesting application forms so they can become a part of the career and professional academy.

Our next planned event is a visit to JAXPORT and the Port Authority on October 16. If you are in the Academy, be sure to get a permission slip and turn it in on time... no later than Friday, October 12. Students are also going to receive shirts to wear for the academy events and field trips.

INTERESTED?? Get an application from your business/career education teacher or from Donnese Tilley in the main office.

Blue House students compare the Spartans to the Athenians in Ms. Polz' AP world history class (Oct. 5)



Left: Carmen Rodriguez and Sharon Brown creating dialogues from the perspectives of a Spartan and Athenian.

Below: Lauren Lanoux, Stacy Ouellette, Nicole Smith, and Stephanie Scahill make final preparations for presentation



Students watched a powerpoint about the cultures of Spartans and Athenians. Then, they wrote about the different cultures based on Ms. Polz' lecture. Later, they chose one of the cultures, conversed with the opposite culture, wrote dialogue and presented to the class



Left: Shanel Bartley and Arielle Butler confer about the assignment.

Ms. Polz discusses the differences between Athen and Sparta with students Derrick Thomas and John Holloway.



Michael Foster and James Green are excited about the special assignment.

Stephanie Scahjill and Marleigh Mathis have to decide who will represent Sparta and who will represent Athens.



It's YOUR Future

Continued from page 3

excellent loan programs. We recommend you visit the guidance department and these banking institutions and ask for their "money for college programs".

"Money borrowed would probably be less than your first car," added Ron Soder.

The main idea for Blue House students is **START THINKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE NOW!**

If you have already developed a few bad habits, recognize them and take steps to do the right thing. Don't wait until your senior year and discover it's too late to plan.

Think about what you want to do in life. If you do your best to reach for the stars now, chances are one day you will hold one in your hands.



**Blue House
BUCCANEER
Spirit Shirts on Sale
\$10.00
S, M, L, XL, XXL
on sale in M201**

Before school, during lunch, after school

**Homecoming Event
Schedule****"Buc Up" on the Mustangs****Dress Up Days****Monday, Oct. 8 "Buc Up" Character Day**

- * Dress in your favorite character outfit—
Superhero, celebrity, cartoon character.

Tuesday, Oct. 9: "Buc Up" Decades Day

- * Dress for your favorite decade 50's, 60's, 70's
or 80's
- * Senior cook-out during lunch at the stadium.

Wednesday, Oct. 10: "Buc Up" Tacky Day

- * Dress up in mix/match clothing.
- * Juice and cookies for seniors at lunch.

Thursday, Oct 11, 2007: Sports Day

- * Dress as your favorite sports star.
- *Senior vs. Faculty Kickball game.
- *Night-time Pep Rally at the football field for
*Alumni and students 7:00 – 8:00

Friday, October 12: "Get Buc'd Up" Day

- * Dress in your First Coast colors and spirit wear
- * Homecoming Football Game —
@ 7:00 pm, Buccaneers vs. Mandarin Mustangs

Pack the Stadium!

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JOIN
the
*Blues
News
Staff!*

Important Dates to Remember

- Oct. 6 - 12:** Homecoming Week
- Oct. 10:** National Cake Decorating Day
- Oct. 12:** GAME: Buccaneers vs. Mustangs 7:00 pm
- Oct. 15:** National Grouch Day
- Oct. 12:** **deadline for FT forms for JAXPORT**
- Oct. 16:** **Academy Field Trip**
- Oct. 18:** SAC Meets 6:00 pm in the Media Center

FSU Grad & Stage Actor is Guest Speaker for Drama

1st quarter Exam Schedule

1st and 3rd Block : October 15 , 16

2nd and 4th Block: October 18, 19

PSAT will be administered: October 17
(Grades 9, 10, 11)

ASVAB will be administered: October 17
(Seniors)

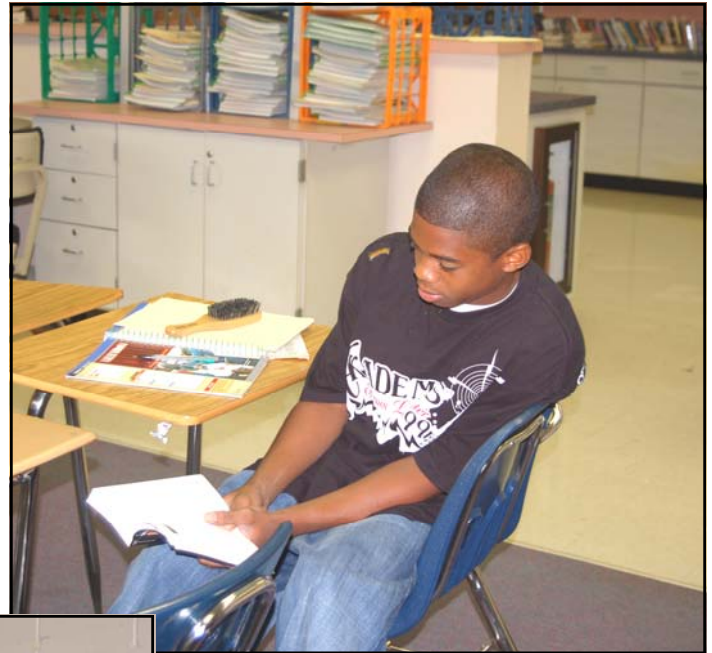
If you have any questions about the PSAT or ASVAB, contact the guidance department.

Ask your teacher what is the last day for make-up work NOW.



FCHS drama class under the direction of George Carr had a surprise guest speaker last week. Tim Sheridan traveled from Los Angeles, California to speak to the acting class. He is a graduate of Florida State University in theater. It was a great opportunity for drama students to ask questions and learn from an experienced actor.

The drama classes are preparing for the first production in late November. *Taming the Shrew* by William Shakespeare is a great comedy and actors are having a great time preparing for the production.



Left top corner: Mr. Carr, Blue House teacher, explains the technique of using voice and body language to create character in acting.

Above: Troy Harris reads a great book in the individual reading segment in the READ 180 program.

**Great readers
become great leaders!**



Above: Students in Mr. Williams' reading class improve their reading comprehension and rate in the Read 180 Reading program.

Right: Mr. Williams, Blue House teacher, works with a small group of students while the rest of class is completing individual reading assignments or working on computers.



