



# House of Blues News

Tony Bellamy, Principal  
First Coast High School  
Jacksonville, Florida

*House of Blues News*

September 17, 2007  
Volume 3: Issue 2

## Constitution Week begins September 17

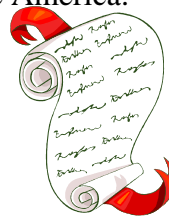
The commemoration of America's Constitution is celebrated this week. However, how many Americans know this fact? The Constitution is the document which provides the laws that govern the United States.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is responsible for establishing this week as the time America honors its Constitution. In 1958, the DAR petitioned Congress to recognize this week as Constitution Week. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the celebration into Public Law #915.

The aim of the celebration is to emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution. The Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and the foundation for our way of life.

Although the document has been amended, it is still the icon of freedom for people all over the world. Celebrate Freedom. Celebrate America.

(Information for this article was found in the Madison Enterprise-Recorder, Friday, September 14, 2007.)



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## Good vs Bad

By Megan Munsterman

Imagine sitting in class. You're behind in your school work, you're studying for a test and a student sitting behind you begins to behave horribly.

He throws paper on the floor and is clicking a pencil on the desk, talks loudly and generally disturbing the entire class.

The teacher asks everyone to behave and yet the "problem child" doesn't listen. Why is it that he doesn't change his behavior?

"The expectation is every student will be respectful at all times, follow the directives of the teacher and be a good listener," states Mary Buchanan, Blue

House administrator.

When asked about consequences, Buchanan responded, "Students who get referrals receive after-school detention, cafeteria duty, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension. Parent contacts are an important aspect of discipline."

Are these conse-

quences enough to make students behave? Why waste our time in ISSP doing nothing, when we need to think of our occupation in the future.

Maybe like the treatment of bad adults, the students who break the rules should be removed from "society" like placement in the alternative school.

Anybody who gets these consequences only wastes their time.

While bad behavior is punished, good behavior is rewarded in

*Cont. on page 4*

## The Blue News Crew

Advisors:  
Lise Lifer  
Mary Buchanan

The writers:  
Megan Munsterman  
Carmin Rodriguez  
Donnese Tilley

Ms. Lifer's  
Journalism Classes

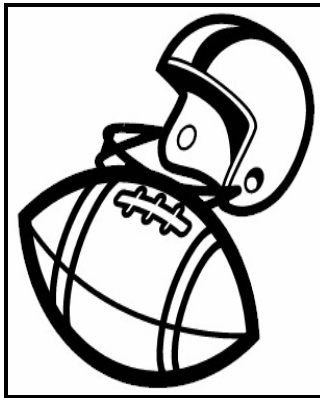
*The House of Blues News publication is produced entirely by Blue House students. Any factual errors, incorrect spelling, or grammatical mistakes are part of the learning process. We hope you, the reader, will see improvements as these students grow and become better journalists. We hope you enjoy the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

**THANK YOU**

## JV Football Schedule

Sept 18 Ed White  
Sept. 25 Englewood  
Oct 2 @ Ed White  
Oct 4 Nease  
Oct 8 @ Mandarin  
Oct 16 @ Lee



## Girls' Bowling Schedule

Sept. 18 Raines  
@ Bowl Am  
Mandarin  
Sept 20 Baldwin  
@ Bowl Am  
Southside  
Sept 27 Stanton  
@ Bowl Am  
Southside  
Oct 2 Forrest  
@ Bowl Am  
Southside  
Oct 4 Jackson  
@ Bowl Am  
Southside  
Oct 9 Lee  
@ Jack Lanes W

## Boys' Golf Schedule

Sept. 20 @ White  
Sept 25 @ Stanton  
Sept 27 @ FCHS  
Oct. 4 @ FCHS  
Oct 8 , 9 Gateway  
Conference  
Oct. 15, 16 District  
Conference  
Oct 23, 23 Regional  
Conference  
Oct 30. 31 FHSAA  
Finals

## Cross Country Season Begins

Sept.18 @ Raines  
Sept.25 @ Ribault  
Oct. 2 @ Wolfson  
Oct. 9 @ Sandal  
wood  
Oct.13 Saints  
Invitational  
Oct 20 Gateway  
Conf.

# GO Bucs!

## Girls' Golf Schedule

Sept 18 @ First Coast  
Sept 25 @ Paxon  
Oct 2 @ First Coast  
Oct 8, 9 Gateway Conference  
Oct 15 District Tournament  
Oct 30 -31 PHSAA Finals





## Words of Wisdom from First Coast Students

In Lise Lifer's journalism class, students were asked the following question:

*If Mr. Bellamy was absent for the day and you were asked to provide the Words of Wisdom for the day, what would you say?.*

**"Be patient and tolerant.** Fights happen because students are impatient and not tolerant. These traits are important in the real world. If a student is trying to get a job, it is good not only to have these qualities but to demonstrate them also.

Wesley Scantling

**"R-e-s-p-e-c-t** your teachers by never slacking off, listening instead of talking, and doing your best. Remember Attitude + Effort = Success.

That will make a great day for everyone."

Clayton Fenwick

**"If you don't like to be treated badly, then don't treat other people badly."**

Tatiano Rivera

**"Don't get caught up in the drama. Be yourself not what others want you to be. If you follow these words of wisdom, you will have an awesome day."**

Jessica Mosher

**"Not to play... is the way! Think about it.**

Staying focused can change your grades, your test scores, your attitude. Playing will lead to failure. Think about the embarrassment.. repeating the 9th grade. Don't play.. It's NOT the way."

Terri Whitaker

**"Inform. Even if it is your best friend. If you know something is going to happen that will risk the lives of others, let an administrator, teacher, or security officer know. Speak up and save a life."**

Terin Bethea

**" Responsibility. Get to class on time and respect your teachers. Respect is teenagers' biggest problem."**

Javon Dorsey

**"Every minute counts. Time is running out. From the first day of school, the clock starts ticking.**

Stay on top of your game. Do your work. It's up to you.

Where do you want to be at the end of the year? Set your goals and try to fulfill every last one of them this year!"

Brianne Culler

**"Don't judge a student by the way he/she looks or the clothes he/she wears. People judge students by everything but what really counts. It's personality that really counts.**

Get to know that person. Talk to him/her before you make a decision about his lifestyle."

Rita Eads

**"Calm down you'll be alright if you do your best. Don't stress out. We'll get through these times together. Don't be late for class. Remember TNT is in effect."**

Cory Chance

## Hit the Top of the Charts!

By Megan Munsterman

This school year has had many rules added but one particular rule has many Buccaneers Smiling.

Principal Tony Bellamy is allowing students to have IPODs, CD players and other forms of music. However, guidelines are still in place. If students abuse the "new" rules,

consequences will follow.

These electronic devices are only allowed in the cafeteria and courtyard before school, during lunch and between classes.

Students are giving this change a positive review.

"I think it's a good idea as long as students know the right time and place to use them," stated Jillian Wilhoite.

Although students are enthusiastic about the changes, teachers

*Cont. on page 5*

## Good Vs Bad *Cont. from page 1*

the Blue House. Teachers give positive referrals for improvement in grades, class behavior, or outstanding citizenship. The positive referral is a certificate which is usually accompanied by a small gift such as candy or pencils, etc.

Although good behavior is not rewarded with a huge party, it's a nice honor to receive.

Money for the rewards is donated by Blue House supporters or from SAC funds.

Remember students, respect your teachers. They are people, too. Behave and you'll be rewarded with positive referrals.

Behave badly and consequences will quickly follow.



VS



## Rodriguez Reveals (The Spanish Connection)

By Carmen Rodriguez

### SUPERACION

Cuando los estudiantes de habla hispana llega a los Estados Unidos de America , lo primero que se proponen como meta es **PROGRESAR** como ser humano. Lo que mucha gente no se imagina es el dificil reto que muchos enfretan al no tener la habilidad de poder comunicarse con otras personas, por el hecho de no tener el mismo idioma

Algunas veces nos sentimos diferentes al no comprender lo que nos dicen,y al no poder expresar nuestras ideas y emociones exactamente de la manera que lo queremos proyectar. Tambien comenzamos a extranar nuestra familia y nuestra cultura.

Lo mas importante para los jovenes que llegamos a este pais es aprender el ingles. Aunque no es facil pero tampoco imposible de aprenderlo, si te esfuerzas y nunca te das por vencido, tus metas seran alcanzadas y tus triunfos llegaran muy pronto.

## Good-bye... & ... Hello

By Mary Buchanan

Blue House is sad to report Ms. Theresa Radmacher, BH office assistant, is transferring to Mandarin High School effective September 17, 2007.

Ms. Radmacher began her tenure as "the lady in the copy room" and later worked as head of maintenance at FCHS for ten years.

She earned the title of

"Ms. Fix It" very quickly. She also served as the class sponsor for the class of '08 for 3 years.

To fill Ms. Radmacher big shoes, First Coast has recruited Ms. Cooney Anderson who will begin on September 17, 2007. Ms. Anderson is transferring from Matthew Gilbert Middle School. She has many years of experience as an office assistant in the assistant principal's office.

Ms. Anderson is from Jacksonville. She has four sons and she

loves to entertain by singing.

She loves young people and is excited about working with the Brilliant Blues. All Blue House students should stop by the BH office this week and meet Ms. Anderson.

*Blues are Best!*

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JOIN  
the  
*Blues News*  
Staff!



## Important Dates to Remember

Sept 20, 21 Progress Reports

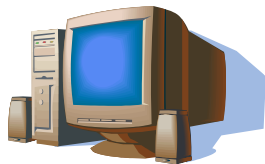
October 11 SAC Meets  
6:00 in the Media Center

Oct 8 - 14: Homecoming Week

## Help for Students and Parents to be available Soon.

Check out the new school website to find new information. Teachers' information and work assignments will be available thanks to the action by the School Advisory Council (SAC). The board voted in the last meeting to fund the teacher-student-parent assistance website called the Class Connection.

Teachers' information should be up and running soon. Go to [Www.dreamsbeginhere.org/fch](http://Www.dreamsbeginhere.org/fch) and select the teacher.



## Rodriguez Reveals (The Spanish Connection)

By Carmen Rodriguez ( Cont. from page 4 in English)

When Spanish speaking students arrive in the United States of America, they bring the desire of improving themselves as human beings. What many people do not realize is the main roadblock to success is the lack of the ability to communicate with other people when they do not speak the same language.

Sometimes Spanish students feel different from others when they cannot understand what Americans say. Spanish students find it difficult to express their ideas and emotions exactly the way they want them to be projected. Furthermore, they begin to miss their families and their culture.

To help make the transition, they first attempt to learn English. Although the English language is difficult, it is not impossible to learn.

If students make the effort and never give up, they will become proficient in speaking the new language. Students who have the right attitude will reach their goals and be successful sooner than they think.

**Make an "A" today.  
That's the Blue House way!**

## Hit the Top of the Charts

*Cont. from page 3*

and staff are a bit skeptical.

"Everyone brings them anyway.. Might as well not make a rule that is not going to be enforced," stated Coach Ramsay.

"I think it's fine, but students don't listen and they bring them into the classroom. That could cause students to get into trouble for disturbing the class," stated Ms. Rademacher, Blue House office assistant.

Even though teachers are skeptical, students are evermore optimistic. They are happy they get to listen to the music which is a big part of teenagers' daily lives.

Over 79% of students at First Coast listen to music and we all applaud Principal Bellamy for his inspiring idea. We thank him for shedding a little light into the students' hectic school days.



## The Career Academy of International Trade & Logistics Welcomes Trade Delegation from China

A trade delegation from Suzhou, China, visited First Coast High School on Monday, September 10, 2007. Four members from the Suzhou Foreign Affairs Office and one member of the Taicang Foreign accompanied by Nancy Olson, the protocol officer for the mayor's office, and Ms. Sasha Yang, their group interpreter. The group was met by Ms. Tilley, the Career Academy Lead Teacher, Ms Buchanan, and Ms Sussman, the County Coordinator for our Career Academy.

Not only was the group here to inquire about our career academy, whose purpose is to involve students in career inquiry for international trade and logistics, but the group is also interested in establishing a 'sister school relationship' with First Coast. Suzhou is a very large metropolitan area of about 6 million close to the city of Shanghai. Historically a center of the silk industry, the city has grown from just producing silk into a manufacturing, trade, and financial center. They are interested in the port area of Jacksonville because we have similar commercial and trade centers here.

We have a very successful visit, beginning with a rousing rendition of *The Star Spangled Banner* by the Vocal Ensemble, led by Mr. Larsen. The group then went on a walking tour of the fine arts area and the NJROTC suite. After a walk around the plaza area, we retired to the Mr. Bellamy's conference area for our period of time. Imagine our surprise when we discovered the primary goal of their day-long visit was to see our school and talk to us about an exchange program for our faculty and students! After a bit of conversation and an exchange of gifts from each culture, they departed for an observation of a meeting in downtown Jacksonville.

The career Academy looks forward to hosting another meeting of officials and getting more information about the potential for serving as a 'sister school' to Jiangsu Suzhou Experimental Middle School, affiliated To Nanjing University. What a wonderful opportunity to our community and our students!





Left: John Baptista and Aaron Noles, Academy students greet business leaders at they enter campus.  
Below: Lindsey Griffin, Academy student, welcomes Representatives from Florida Community College.

## Academy Hosts Business Luncheon September 6, 2007



Area businesses met with the Academy faculty to discuss partnering with FCHS to provide more business experiences and opportunities for Academy students. Donnese Tilley, Academy Lead Teacher, directed the event.



Above: The FCHS Vocal Emsemble entertains the Chinese delegation. Left: Donnese Tilley, Academy Lead Teacher, accepts a gift from the Lead Teacher from China.

# House of Blues News



Left: Joanne Kazmierski, representatives from JAXPORT and other businesses discuss business opportunities with Oriole Brown, Academy faculty.



Above: Daron White (5) successfully sweeps to the right for 25 yards.



Above: Gakahra Whitaker smiles after completing a fantastic performance at half-time.

Right: Justin Smith, Zackery Key, Joseph Andrews, Mackie Taylor, members of the drum line pose for the camera at the first pep rally in the gym before the Raines game.



Shelby Maxwell (Varsity) and Stephanie Wasdin (Varsity) love to cheer for the winning Buccaneers!



# JV Football Awesome!!

Above: Jerrold Burnham (25) runs successfully for a touchdown. BUCS win 10-7



Above: JV Bucs held the opponent 3 times in the red zone during the 4th quarter to win the game. Chris Nixon (52) Bobby Kirkland (8)

Left: Varsity defense plays a key role in the victory over Episcopal High School on September 14, 2007.

