

THE RAM NEWS



Bats and Snakes Teach a Class

Environmental science students explored a cave and springs as part of their study of the Florida aquifer on a class trip organized by science teacher Steve Everett. The students donned hard hats to descend into a cave maintained by Santa Fe College as a Geological Studies Station. The cave system, located in northwest Alachua county, covers about three acres underground, ranging from 40 to 60 feet below the surface. The aquifer level supplies a pond in the cave, whose depth changes with weather conditions. The current drought has kept the pond at a very shallow level, and most of the cave is now dry. The cave is filled with fossils from ancient sea beds, with the remains of shellfish, echinoderms and corals, visible on the ceilings of the rooms. Some cave rooms are tall enough to let people stand; in other areas students had to crawl through tiny tunnels. Some bats were sleeping in the cave, and the students were cautioned not to disturb the bats. Bats' body temperatures drop when they sleep, and the bats need to wake up and shiver for about five minutes before their sonar works. If the bats are abruptly awakened, they cannot control their flight direction and can be injured by flying into rocks. The cave supports other animals, including crickets, reptiles and amphibians.

Before Santa Fe College took over the cave, it had been used for generations as a party local, and the Geology Club had to remove tons of broken beer bottles and other trash before the cave could be safely accessed. The cave is only available for educational, docent-led tours. Mr. Everett is a docent and brings his students to the cave every year.



The aquifer study continued at Rum Springs in Columbia County, where students could observe several small springs where the aquifer is at the same level as the ground. The difference in elevation of only 40 feet, in Florida, provides a significant change in environment and the water level remaining constant. Students observed the plant and animal life along the Santa Fe River, including birds, wildflowers, fish – and a 4-foot long Brown water snake, who seemed a bit skinny after the cold winter. Students enjoyed a picnic and a quick dip in the springs before returning to EHS.

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Eastside Brain Bowl Wins Second Place at the Buchholz Tournament

By Angela Acosta

The Eastside Brain Bowl Team had an impressive record of 5-1 at the March 9 Buchholz tournament. Thanks to the hard work and cooperation of our team: Alex Acosta, Angela Acosta, Eli Barrett, Ryan Carr, Sage Max and Heather Sayeski, Eastside Brain Bowl placed second overall. Several of our team members were able to score personal records for questions answered per round, placing individually in the tournament. Heather Sayeski scored an average of 30 points per rounds placing fourth overall and Angela Acosta averaged 36.6 points per round for third place individually. Relying on each members' strengths in a wide array of academic subjects, we scored well over 200 points in many rounds, with a well played tight match against Buchholz's top team, our only defeat. Thank you Eastside Brain Bowl for another stunning performance.



Mr. Hughes Wins Band Award

Mr. Hughes won the Tom Bishop Award, presented by the Florida Bandmasters Association. The award is presented annually to "recognize a FBA member who has gone into a band program and turned the program around, making a huge positive difference in a relatively short period of time in the position of band director."

Mr. Hughes said he was proud to have been able to help improve the band at Eastside, his Alma Mater.

"The improvement of the band in the last four years is due to the efforts of the band leadership, and to all the students in band," he said.

Congratulations Mr. Hughes.

Maria Merolle Recognized

Maria Merolle placed second in the sophomore division in the county-wide Horance G. "Buddy" Davis Persuasive Essay Writing Contest. She was honored on March 11 at an awards ceremony and luncheon at the Paramount Hotel, where she presented her essay titled "Change Our Ways; Save Our Earth." Her work will be heard on WUFT radio, published in the Gainesville Sun, and posted on the website of the Florida Free Speech Forum, the organization that sponsored the contest. In addition, she received a check for \$100. Maria is a student in Ms. Boucias' Pre-I. B. English II/AP English Language and Composition class.

Eastside Hunger Project

Eastside sophomore Rachel Keys spearheaded the Eastside Hunger Project, raised more than \$500, and mobilized the community to package 20,000 healthy meals to be distributed to hungry families through the Gainesville Community Ministry. Keys recruited more than 100 volunteers who gathered at Eastside High School recently to package meals formulated to fight the effects of malnutrition. The volunteers wrote personal messages to include with the food boxes. Keys partnered with Feeding Children Everywhere, a social charity that empowers and mobilizes people to assemble healthy meals for hungry children.

STUDENT GROUPS

Chamber Singers

The Eastside High School Chamber Singers participated in their District Music Performance Assessment on March 8 at First Coast High School in Jacksonville. They received straight superior ratings for the fifth consecutive year. Congratulations chamber singers.



Girls Weightlifting

The Girls Weightlifting Team held it's annual awards night at Pomodoro Cafe on Wednesday March 13. The following girls took top honors for 2012-2013:
Mia Varner - Most improved with a 50 pound total increase over the season.

Marie Edinger - Woman of Steel for workout intensity.
Alayna Mills - Women of Steel for points scored and a 40 pound increase in total.

Catherine Miney - Women of Steel as team point leader with 20 points.

Christine Pu - #1 Scholar Athlete for the team with a 4.0 uw/gpa.

Brittany McKay - Most outstanding as a State Meet qualifier, finishing 21st in her weight class in her first year of competition.

Thanks to all who supported us.

Coach Chris Cummings and Coach Tina Bassi.

Band

The EHS Concert Band achieved an overall Superior Rating at the Florida Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment on March 16. It was the best performance of the year for the band. The seniors led the group to a third straight year of superior ratings in marching and concert band. Special congratulations go out to Brittany Bryant who also got a superior on her student conductor entry.

The band qualifies for state MPA again this year.

Eastside Culinary Burns up the Competition and Brings Home the Bacon

Eastside Institute of Culinary Arts team swept the management competition once again bringing home scholarships. Abby Gilkey, Kiyanah Reed, Heather Clayton, Holli Manche and Tatiana Jones represented Eastside High school and competed against 53 other Florida schools.



Each student earned \$8,000 for the Culinary Institute of America, \$4,000 for Johnson & Wales University, \$12,000 for the International Culinary School at the Art Institute, \$6,000 for LeCordon Bleu and \$10,000 for Keiser University for a total of \$40,000 each.

Abby Gilkey won an additional \$2,000 scholarship from the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association for the college of her choice.

All together the students brought home \$162,000

These students will travel to Baltimore to represent Florida next month and compete for more scholarship money.



By Cadet Elizabeth Wyatt

March has been an exciting month for Eastside NJROTC. The month of February completed our drill meet competition. The premier event of the year is the Area Managers Inspection (AMI) which was conducted by the NJROTC Regional Manager's Representative on March 20, 2013. The AMI is the last opportunity the Cadets get to show off their military skills in front of family and friends.

Tampa Bay Tech was a proud competition for the EHS NJROTC cadets. With two track trophies under our belt, a smile could be seen on every cadet's face during the bus ride home. We were champions. Our track team won third place in the 200 meter relay and fifth place in the 100 meter relay. To some this is not a huge accomplishment, but to many this is reason for celebration.

Unfortunately for all of the cadets who had dedicated hours on end to drill practice, the final drill meet of the year was cancelled. The Rattler Challenge which is sponsored by Florida A&M University was one more opportunity for us to make State finals. With only one day notification, thunderstorms washed away hopes and dreams.

While the seniors may never get over the loss of the final drill meet we were to compete in, we all maintained our work ethic. We focused all of our efforts in preparing for the inspection ahead of us. Area Manager's Inspection (AMI) is a day when the Area 7 Manager, Commander Dirk Hebert, comes to Eastside High School to inspect our unit. Well that's traditionally the case, but not this year. With the sequestration and military funding tightened, Commander Hebert chose to instead send another officer to inspect us. Lieutenant Commander Steve Davis of Vanguard High School was chosen to act as the inspector, as Eastside's Senior Naval Science Instructor Lieutenant Commander Byers Hickmon had for Vanguard.

On the day of the inspection, the unit was put into three platoons, formed up on the track and asked various questions by Commander Davis. When the inspection was finished, we then marched onto the field for Pass in Review. This is a ceremony in which the cadets march around the perimeter of the field in honor of the inspecting officer and visiting guests. As well as Pass in Review, the unarmed basic team performed a drill routine for the viewing pleasure of our guests. The entire event went well and was an exciting moment for all the NJROTC cadets

and their dedicated parents.

With little time left in this school year, we are still busy growing and learning. We will be participating in three more events in April alone and continuing in our ventures to better the community and ourselves through service. We will practice diligently for the upcoming athletic events and set goals of first place across the board. This can be done only with the support of our sponsoring parents and peers, who keep the unit motivated and help us strive for the top.

Thanks to all who have helped us along the way, and all who will help us in the future.

Science Fair

Three Eastside students will represent Alachua County in the prestigious Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held in May in Phoenix, Ariz.

Sophomore Meenakshi Bose won a best in show award and the first place award in the Medicine and Health category for her project entitled "Year 3: The Role of Various Heat Shock Proteins and Amyloid in Alzheimer's Disease." Junior Lucinda Peng also won a best in show and the first place award in the Physics and Astronomy category for her project "Foot Stroke Patterns during Running." Freshman Jessica Lee won first place in the Behavioral and Social category for her project "What is the Effect of Being a Chinese Immigrant Child Compared to Being a Native Chinese Child on the Child's Life Satisfaction?"

Science Fair Award Winners

Meenakshi Bose: 1st Place in Medicine and Health,

Fast Award, US Navy/Marine Corps

Jessica Lee: 1st Place in Behavioral and Social, American Psychological Association, Mu Alpha Theta

Hope Pan: 1st Place in Zoology, United States Army

Lucinda Peng: 1st Place in Physics and Astronomy, Gain, Yale Science and Engineering Association, Biophysical Society

Fiona Schneider: 1st Place in Chemistry, Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Christopher Fregly & Kim Brandon: 2nd in Medicine and Health, Civil Air Award

¡Felicitaciones a los campeones!

The second week of March brought the 57th annual Florida State Spanish Conference held in Orlando. High schools from all over the state participate in the three day event. Each team can bring 16 participants to compete in the following academic areas: impromptu speaking, poetic declamation and theatrical presentation. This year, once again, Eastside's team dominated the competition. Under the tutelage of Srta. Haedo, Sr. Avenida and Sra. Zelaya, the 16 Eastside Ram's earned 981 points out of a possible 1000 with the maximum number of 23 sobresalientes.

The dramatic presentation "Casa de huéspedes" is a one-act who-done-it comedy with eight cast members that takes place in an old fashioned boarding house. This 15 minute act earned a perfect score. Cast members: Janke Maison-Mains, Akshaya Nataraj, Delia León, Sabrina Vega, Mickey Tegegn, Tyler Miller-Jones, Aliyah Miranda and Annie Lott.

Five of the six poetic declamations also earned perfect scores. Poetic declamation presenters: Ellen Yeats, Toni Veltcheva, Camilo Moraga-Lewy, Brianna Fletcher, Nicholle Stuve and Ria Someshwar.

The last category is impromptu speeches. All 16 earned Sobresaliente impromptu speeches earned perfect scores.

Eastside has won first place in the state 16 times in the past 17 years.

¡Felicitaciones! to this year's winning team:

Freshman:
Camilo Moraga-Lewy
Brianna Fletcher
Nicholle Stuve
Tyler Miller-Jones
Sabrina Vega

Sophmores:
Delia León
Aliyah Miranda
Ria Someshwar
Chris Schneck

Juniors:
Mickey Tegegn
Ellen Yeats
Akshaya Nataraj
Annie Lott
Janke Mains-Mason
Toni Veltcheva

Seniors:
Angela Acosta

Que siga la tradición....

The purpose of this conference is to bring together those students who have demonstrated their knowledge of the Spanish language, and who have expressed an interest in competing in the following areas: impromptu speeches, declamation, and dramatic presentation. This conference invites high schools from the state to attend and compete. Approximately 100 schools attend annually. Last year Juliana García-Mejía made the commitment to hold the office of student president for the Florida State Spanish Conference. Her student board consisted of the following members: Jael Roitberg-Kleinman, treasurer, Caroline Sarmiento and Hannah Dailey, banquet coordinators as well as 25 staff members to run the event. As president for the conference, Juliana invited the Florida high schools, communicated with the teacher sponsors from each school, processed and registered all student participants and helped organize and run the three-day academic conference for over 700 students and 100 teachers and judges. Could not have done it without them.

French

More than 800 students from the state of Florida participated March 7-9 in the 61st Congrès de la Culture Française en Floride held at the Doubletree Hotel in Orlando.

This year the theme of Congrès was le surréalisme (surrealism), and the projects, scrapbooks, and reading tests all reflected this theme. Even the Brain Bowl competition included questions on this topic. The students all read articles and studied surrealism in art and literature, and although they found the subject difficult, it was an interesting choice.

This year, many dignitaries were in attendance from the French consulate in Miami as well as the founder of Congrès, Mme Suzanne Carrell, who recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday! Eastside High School placed first in our division of 3A as well as first overall. The students were coached by M. Cheikh Thi-am, Mme Rachel Daignault and Mme Patricia Killian.

The team events included a French one skit entitled *Après l'hiver, le printemps*, and an excerpt from the play *Intermezzo* by Jean Giraudoux. Both of these dramatic performances were awarded Supérieur, and the skit also won the Judges' Choice award. Actors for Scénette included Emily Louie-Meadors, Rico Mirti,

Mary-Margaret Hahn, and Brittany Fletcher. The students who acted in the play included Tabong Kima in the role of the Inspecteur, Julia Holbrook, Ravi Kumar, Hope Pan, Amaleah Mirti, Nika Sourakov, and Allie Sourakov. Our team scrapbook compiled by all team members under the direction of Katie Lee, Laura Varon, Anna Jacobs, Emily Curry, and Madison Housden won a Supérieur, and the project by Katie Lee, a surrealist sculpture, was ranked Excellent. In addition, the Brain Bowl team, composed of Kumar, Kima and Amaleah Mirti, received an Excellent and advanced through four rounds.

All of the students performed extremely well and supported their teammates with enthusiasm. In the individual competitions, EHS received 22 Supérieurs and 3 Excellents. We also won the Judges' Choice awards in four individual events. Allie Sourakov was awarded a \$500 scholarship from Mme Suzanne Carrell, the founder of Congrès.

The teachers would like to congratulate all the students who participated as well as those who helped with the scrapbook and offered moral support. Merci beaucoup et félicitations à tous.



This YEARBOOK is going to be BIG!

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