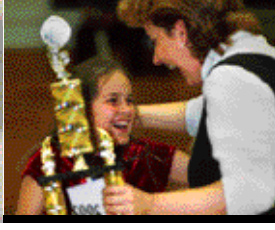


Southwest Florida's School Life

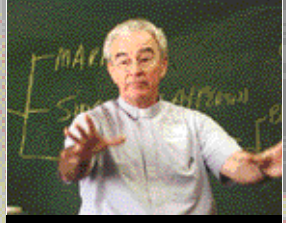
Sept. 3, 2002

High school
**Prowling
for Panthers**
page 3

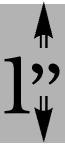
Elementary school
**Win puts 3rd grader
on the map : page 4**



Middle school
**\$300,000 adds up to
math mania : page 9**



THE NEWS-PRESS
news-press.com



PROTOTYPE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Help and coping

Ask the expert

QUESTIONS : schoollife@news-press.com

Q My children always complain about having too much homework. They get hours of homework from their math, English and science teachers. I want them to do well in school, but I don't want them to become overwhelmed. Plus, I want them to have enough time to play sports and participate in other extracurricular activities. How much is too much homework?

— Martha Gomez, Fort Myers

A The 'Elementary and Early Childhood Education' group suggests students should have homework every day.

The amount depends on the grade. Teachers vary in the amount of homework they give to their students, but the generally follow certain guidelines:

- 20 minutes of homework a day for children in first through third grades
- 20 to 40 minutes per day for fourth through sixth graders
- Two hours for children in seventh through ninth grades

Some homework resource sites are:
<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/pages/education.homework.html>
<http://www.homeworkspot.com>

Q I am appalled by what passes for fashion nowadays in high school, particularly for girls. Artists like Britney Spears encourage girls to wear "hip-hugger" jeans and tank tops, and I think these outfits distract from the learning environment in every way. They also isolate girls who don't have them or can't fit into them. Isn't there a uniform dress code for all Lee County students?

— Tim Lee, Bonita Springs

A Schools determine their own dress codes, and some require students to wear uniforms, like Three Oaks Middle School.

If the dress code at your child's particular school bothers you, talk to the principal. You also have the right to petition the school board for a change.

To get contact numbers for all the schools, log on to the Lee County School District Web site at www.lee.k12.fl.us.

How to battle schoolyard bullies

Homework isn't the only headache school children face when they start school.

Many also deal with the threat of bullies, a problem they may not share with their parents or teachers.

Schools have a responsibility to make it safe for students to report bullying, but parents should see the signs.

Here are some tips for parents on what to look out for if your children are getting bullied at school:

- They isolate themselves
- They have a short fuse
- They're angry a lot
- They feel helpless and are jumpy
- They're always on edge

Principals and teachers should have a plan ready to deal with bullying and learn to identify victims and bullies. Sometimes a bully will pose as a victim.

They should also recognize that bullying isn't just physical.



It can also include verbal and sexual harassment.

Students who are neither victims nor bullies can put a stop to the abuse by taking a stand against it at school.

Chalk talk

Help a teacher, help your kid: read to them

We teachers always urge, no, we beg, our students to read loads of books over summer vacation.

They have more time to do it then without the distractions of homework, sports or band. Once school starts again, time is short.

"Read to your child," "Go to the library," or "Remember the FCAT" are oft-heard phrases that sound to many kids like cliches.

They are not. Reading not only helps students do better on state assessment tests, but also adds a measure of fulfillment to their lives that television, movies or computer games just can't offer.

No matter how much we say it, few listen. That's why parents need to fill the gap. Teachers can only do so much and instilling in children a desire and love for reading starts at home.

Books take children on adventures, such as on the submarine *The Nautilus* in Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues under the Sea."

Children get to play an active role in figuring out a plot, imagining the characters and expanding their vocabulary.

They learn to ask questions and become



DIANE KONKEL
 CYPRESS LAKE
 MIDDLE SCHOOL
 LANGUAGE ARTS
 TEACHER

active learners.

Parents tell me they often work late. Sometimes they don't have time to sit and read to or even read with their children.

These children are our future, and education has to be a responsibility of schools and families.

Dummy copy begins: No matter how much we say it, few listen. That's why parents need to fill the gap. Teachers can only do so much and instilling in children a desire and love for reading starts at home.

No matter how much we say it, few listen. That's why parents need to fill the gap. Teachers can only do so much and instilling in children a and love for reading starts at home.

No matter how much we say it, few listen. That's why parents need to fill the gap. Teachers can only do so much and.

Contact us

School Life covers all the good things happening in Lee County schools and provides helpful tips and hints.

ASK FOR HELP: "Ask the expert" a question about raising and educating kids.

GOOD NEWS: Submit items for publication, such as honors and awards and special classroom activities. Or nominate a teacher for a "Teacher feature" profile.

YOUR THOUGHTS: Are you a local area educator? Would you like to write a column for this magazine? Send it in.

What's inside

- Cover story : 3
- Elementary news : 4-5
- NIE : 6-7
- Middle school news : 8-9
- High school news : 10-11

■ On the cover : Josh Wheeler, 13, measures an artificial panther's skull during a class instructed by science teacher Charles O'Connor Wednesday morning at Three Oaks Middle School in San Carlos.

COVERPHOTOBYTERRYALLEN WILLIAMS/THENEWS-PRESS

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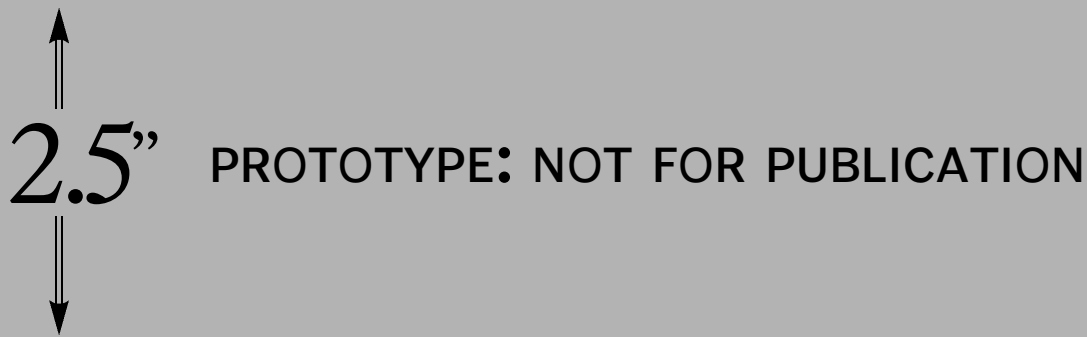
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 To contact the newsroom: 239-335-4812

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 Carol Hudler

Executive editor
 Kate Marymont

Managing editor
 Cindy McCurry-Ross

School Life Editor
 TBA



District doings

Rosh Hashanah	: Sept. 18
Yom Kippur	: Sept. 27
End of First Quarter	: Oct. 12
Professional Duty Day	: Oct. 15
Progress Reports	: Nov. 11
Hurricane Make-up Day	: Nov. 25
Thanksgiving	: Nov. 22-23
FCAT Testing	: Dec. 10
Early Dismissal Days	: Dec. 18-20
End of First Semester	: Dec. 20
Hurricane Make-up Day	: Dec. 21
Winter Break	: Dec. 24 - Jan. 4
Professional Duty Day	: Jan. 7
Students Back to School	: Jan. 8
MLK, Jr., Day	: Jan. 20
In-service Day	: Feb. 15
Presidents' Day	: Feb. 18
End of Third Quarter	: Mar. 14
Professional Duty Day	: Mar. 15
School Board Meeting : 7p.m.	: Mar. 24
Spring Break	: Mar. 25-Apr. 1
Passover	: Mar. 28
Good Friday	: Mar. 29
Easter	: Mar. 31
In-service Day	: May 3
Staff Appreciation Day	: May 24
Memorial Day	: May 27
Early Dismissal Days	: May 28-30
Last Day for Students	: May 30
Last Day for 10 Month Personnel and Transportation	: May 30
Report Cards Issued	: May 31
Last Day for Instructional Staff, FS Managers and Workers:	June 4
Teacher Training	: June 11
Summer Solstice	: June 13
Bus Driver Training	: June 21
Librarian Training	: July 1
Independence Day	: July 4
BOLD	: School is out for the day

Cover story

Schools prowl into cat country

BY DAVID PLAZAS
dplazas@news-press.com

Three Oaks Middle School students have sifted through the droppings of Florida panthers, studied the animal's tracks and measured a panther skull.

"We're looking at panther poop and finding out what they've eaten," said eighth-grade student Michelle Narvaez, 13, of Bonita Springs.

Narvaez and her classmates are spending nine weeks in science class studying the Florida panther. It's part of a pilot program that incorporates the panther theme into the areas of science, language arts, fine arts and critical thinking.

Seven Lee County schools are participating in the program developed by the Lee County Schools' Environmental Education program.

They are Three Oaks, Lee, Trafalgar, Diplomat, Fort Myers and Dunbar middle schools and Sanibel Elementary School.

The Environmental Education program received a \$45,000 grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Service and the panther license plate trust fund for the project.

Program officials put together eight \$2,200 learning kits with books, skulls and other materi-



PHOTOS BY TERRY ALLEN WILLIAMS : THE NEWS-PRESS

ABOVE : Natalie Pickens, 13, looks at some fossilized materials from a Florida panther Wednesday morning in teacher Charles O'Connor's science class at Three Oaks Middle School in San Carlos.

BELOW : Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary Volunteer "Maine" Dave Deschambault, center, answers questions about Bhutan, a two year old pure Siberian male tiger.



als, said Randy Bear, a resource teacher. The program was a wild success and will be offered again next year in Lee County and extended to

Collier County, she said depending on interest of applicants.

Bear said the panther — the state's official animal and an endangered

species — is an indicator of how healthy the ecosystem is. "They are to Florida what tigers are to India or what lions are to Africa," she said.

About 70 to 90 panthers are alive today, Bear said.

Most reside in Southwest Florida — mostly south of the Caloosahatchee River, west of Lake Okeechobee and north of the Everglades. They used to live in areas as far north as the Carolinas.



They say

RANDY BEAR
THREE OAKS MIDDLE
RESOURCE TEACHER

"They are to Florida what tigers are to India or what lions are to Africa."

2.5"
PROTOTYPE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Teacher feature

SOUTH ZONE



■ **NAME:** Karen Cabai
 ■ **SCHOOL:** Colonial Elementary
 ■ **AGE:** 30
 ■ **JOB:** 5th grade teacher
 ■ **CLAIM TO FAME:** Cabai was one of the six Golden Apple Award winners in 2002.
 ■ **YEARS TEACHING:** Four
 ■ **EDUCATION:** Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Florida
 ■ **FAMILY:** Married 10 years, expecting first child in late November.
 ■ **MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON:** "Franklin D. Roosevelt."
 ■ **BOOKS RECENTLY READ:** "Their Eyes Are Watching God," by Zora Neale Hurston, "The Skies of Pern," by Anne McCaffrey and "What to Expect When You're Expecting," by Arlene Eisenberg, Heidi E. Murkoff and Sandee E. Hathaway.
 ■ **FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring" She's seen it six times.
 ■ **HOBBIES:** Exercising, quilting, reading, cooking and writing.
 ■ **TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** "I love my kids, and they know it. I treat them like people, and because of that, they let me push them hard. I have very high academic expectations."

Elementary school news and events

West

CALOOSA ELEMENTARY

Microsoft Corp. gave Caloosa Elementary School a \$1,000 grant to upgrade its library computers and buy new computers for some classrooms. Fourth grader Jenny Henry won the school's award for most improved reader.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

PTA meeting : 5 p.m. : Parents will talk about discipline issues at the school and how teachers should best deal with behavior problems in class. The school is at 1115 NE 16th Terrace in Cape Coral.

Awards ceremony: 8 p.m. Twenty fifth-graders will be recognized at the annual Cape Coral Mayor's Scholarship Ball Saturday at the Cape Coral Yacht Club.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Reading program: 6 p.m. Teachers are holding seminars for parents to help their children read at home. Call 728-2494.

GULF ELEMENTARY



Music teacher Amy Darby's fifth-grade choir sang for a Goodwill-sponsored gala featuring Fort Myers Mayor Jim Humphrey as the keynote speaker.

First graders Anna Torres and Mildred Morrow are featured in this week's issue of Gulf Coast Life.

GULF ELEMENTARY CONT.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

Music and art forum: 8 p.m. Music and art teachers will sit with parents on encouraging learning through art. The school is at 17050 Williams Road, North Fort Myers.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

Silent auction: 5 p.m. The school will have its first silent auction and dinner in the cafeteria at 1620 Manchester Blvd., Fort Myers. Call 936-0891 for more information

GULF ELEMENTARY

Principal Cheryl Curry presented third graders Marth Mount and Jimmy Reddy awards for best team history project. They worked together on a model of the Edison-Ford Winter Estates that they plan to showcase at the next Edison Festival of Lights. Gulf Elementary fifth-graders Anna Starsky, Judy Blunt, Nina Horowitz, Billy Thomas and Cindy Carter won weekend passes to Walt Disney World in Orlando after writing essays on Florida tourism. Disney and the Lee County Tourism Alliance presented them the passes.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Talent show: 6 p.m. The school's incoming fifth graders have prepared a show for the rest of the school to welcome students to a new school year. Students will read original poetry, act out scenes from books they have read and sing patriotic and folk songs. The school is at 25571 Elementary Way, Bonita Springs. Call 947-0001 for more information.

Musical: 6 p.m. The Performing Sea Stars will perform "Oz" tonight in the cafeteria at 5145 Orange Grove Blvd., North Fort Myers.

Kindergarten games: 10 a.m. The principal and teachers welcome kindergartners in field games, 4001 DeLeon St., Fort Myers.

East

BAYSHORE ELEMENTARY



Third grader Pearl Harter won first place in the school's geography bee. Anna Harvey's first grade art class submitted paintings of their mothers to a Florida Gulf Coast

University competition.

Fifth grader Jennifer Heart, who has won first place in several violin competitions, performed "Gavotte in G" in a school talent show to raise money for school supplies.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

Jamboree: 7 p.m. Student performers are scheduled to start a cross-town musical performance. The tour starts at the school, 1858 Suncoast Lane, NE, North Fort Myers. Call 997-2131.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Celebration: 5 to 9 p.m. J. Colin English Elementary School's start-of-the-year celebration will take place at the school at 120 Pine Island Road in North Fort Myers.

ORANGE RIVER ELEMENTARY

Second grade teacher Barney Howard's class performed in a play he wrote called "Nine Swans." Jamie Larson and Teena Williams starred in the production.

Fifth graders Amy Tarrant and Millie Freedman are the Lee County School District's co-recipients of the math competition first place award.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

Kindergarten games: 10 a.m. The principal and teachers welcome kindergartners in field games, 4001 DeLeon St., Fort Myers.

2.5" PROTOTYPE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Elementary school news and events

East cont.

LEHIGH ELEMENTARY

Lehigh Senior High School seniors started a buddy program with the school's kindergartners. The teens will accompany the children on special field trips throughout the year.

Fourth grader Jan Carson received a "Good Citizen" award from Lee Memorial Hospital for volunteering to talk to elderly patients and bring them flowers.

First grade teacher and aspiring comedian Phillip Grass cracked his jokes as a school fund-raiser for the Parent-Teacher Organization.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

Musical: 6 p.m. The Performing Sea Stars will perform "Oz" tonight in the cafeteria at 5145 Orange Grove Blvd., North Fort Myers.

Talent show: 6 p.m. The school's incoming fifth graders have prepared a show for the rest of the school to welcome students to a new year.

LEHIGH ELEMENTARY

The school held a Cougar Outing fund-raiser to pay for athletic equipment.

The fund-raiser included 18 holes of golf, a two-mile fun walk, doubles tennis, a golf clinic and a bicycle ride.

Also featured was a silent auction of items, including large gift baskets of Beanie Babies and Legos.

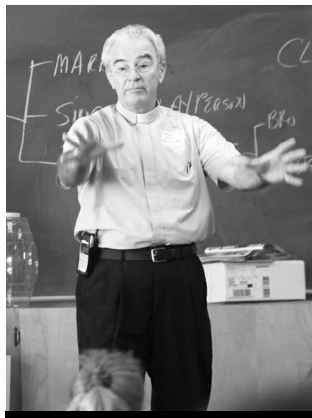
The items are still on display at the school and at the Bonita Bay clubhouse, 26660 Country Club Drive S.W.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

PTA meeting: 5 p.m. Parents will talk about discipline issues at the school and behavior problems in class. The school is at 1115 NE 16th Terrace in Cape Coral.

Musical: 6 p.m. The Performing Sea Stars will perform "Oz" tonight in the cafeteria at 5145 Orange Grove Blvd., North Fort Myers.

South



PINEWOODS ELEMENTARY

The Rev. Sonny Davis from Bishop Verot High School was one of 12 speakers at a career day fair for third graders, who also met a race car driver, garbage worker and firefighter.

Fourth grader Tommy Mendez won the school's most improved reader award, while his sister Tina Mendez won the second grade math and reading award.

First grade teacher Jeannie Marsh won a \$300 grant from the Lee County Foundation for Public Schools for science and math computer programs.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

Choir try-outs: 5 p.m. All children are invited to try out for the all-school chorus. Selections include holiday and jazz tunes. The auditions are at the school, 620 Del Prado Blvd. Call 574-3133 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Book fair: 4 p.m. Stop by on your way home or before you catch the bus. The library will have over 5,000 volumes and learning-related toys for children to young to read. All of the money will be going to put a new roof on the old library building.

SPRING CREEK ELEMENTARY

Migrant pre-kindergarten teacher Leticia Almanza's class performed traditional Mexican dances before the school in preparation for Mexican Independence Day.

Fifth grader Margaret Adler won a \$100 savings bond from the Bonita Springs Lions Club for outstanding community volunteer. She raked leaves for the elderly and helped clean up the Imperial River.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Budget workshop: 6 p.m. School district curriculum officials will brief school advisory council members on the school's annual budget. Call 549-0606 for more information.

ORANGE RIVER ELEMENTARY

Sixth through eighth graders organized the year's first collection of food for the poor.

They are trying to collect 1,000 cans of soup and dried food for several charities around Lee County. With the start of season still a few months away, the children are making an effort to feed those who cannot feed themselves.

They were inspired by the story of a little east Fort Myers boy whose parents couldn't afford to feed him more than once a day.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

Budget workshop: 6 p.m. School district curriculum officials will brief school advisory council members on the school's annual budget. Call 549-0606 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

FCAT math seminar: 7 p.m. Math teachers are holding a seminar for parents and students on improving math skills in anticipation of spring's Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. Call 337-1333.

Private

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CHRISTIAN

Students had art displayed in the lobbies of various U.S. Post Offices around Lee County.

"Artin the Lobby" is an ongoing program which is sponsored by the United States Postal Service. Area schools were asked to participate.

Third graders Jeannie Tovar and Mark Sable both won first place prizes for the painting portraits of their mothers. Johnny Carville and Linda Goodnight won second-place awards. Mark Nussbaum and Janet Nieves won third place prizes.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

High school information: 6 p.m. Local high school principals will talk to eighth graders about their next year.



SAINT ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The school choir sang for an attentive crowd at the Broadway Palm Theatre.

They sang songs from famous musicals such as "Les Miserables," "West Side Story" and "Beauty and the Beast."

They also sang gospel hymns.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

Seminar on bullying: 3 p.m. Parent liaisons will hold the third annual seminar on bullying at the school, 10141 W. Terry St., Bonita Springs. Call 992-4422 for more information.

2.5" PROTOTYPE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Teacher feature

SOUTH ZONE



■ **NAME:** Juan Moro
 ■ **SCHOOL:** Bonita Springs Middle School
 ■ **JOB:** Sixth grade teacher; Junior National Honors Society advisor
 ■ **CLAIM TO FAME:** Wrote a children's book about the way different cultures celebrate Christmas
 ■ **YEARS TEACHING:** 3
 ■ **EDUCATION:** Bachelor's in Elementary Education from University of Miami; working on a master's in educational leadership from Florida Gulf Coast University
 ■ **FAMILY:** Single, a dog, Moustache, 3, and a bird, Tootles
 ■ **MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON:** My sister "because she is so strong under fire and has never feared a challenge"
 ■ **BOOKS RECENTLY READ:** "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" by John Gray
 ■ **FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Like Water for Chocolate"
 ■ **HOBBIES:** Running, weight-lifting, going to the movies
 ■ **TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** "I want to inspire my kids to succeed in any profession they want and forget about any names anyone calls them."
 "Sometimes my kids don't get the respect they deserve because of the color of their skin. I teach them to remember that all human beings are the same and to embrace diversity."

Middle school news and events

West

CALOOSA

Four eighth graders helped Florida Gulf Coast University graduate students clean up the Caloosahatchee River.

The effort was part of a program to promote environmental awareness and learn about local history. The middle schoolers spent two weekends cleaning up bottles, garbage and plastic bags while earning community service credit at the same time.

Joel Craig, Cynthia Teller, Arnold Krause and Sarah Norton plan to continue their volunteer work next year.

DIPLOMAT

McDonald's Corp. gave two seventh graders community service awards and a \$100 savings bond each for their work helping the elderly.

Michaela Richards and Hillary Moore volunteer at retirement homes bringing flowers and conversing with the patients.

TRAFALGAR

Sixth grader Joey Barton won a first place reading award from the Lee County Public Library system for reading the more books than any other Lee public school student during the summer.



Joey created his own reading list and challenged himself to read one book per week for 10 weeks. He accomplished his goal and wrote book reports for his English class. His teacher, Sondra Kaeler, is using the book list and Joey's award to motivate other students to read more.

Seventh grader Donna Carr won an honorable mention from the library system for reading five books during the summer.

East



ORANGE RIVER ELEMENTARY

Students are working together on an all-school art project celebrating the diversity in the community.

Art teacher Jane Sickle is having the children, in all grades, sketch, draw, paint and sculpt different scenes related to multiculturalism, racial harmony and friendship among the races.

LEHIGH

Students received a surprise last week from the Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary when volunteers brought in a full-grown tiger to motivate children to do well on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, also known as the FCAT.

The children made Ursula the Tiger their mascot in their drive to improve their reading and math test scores.

RIVERDALE

Alico Corp. officials gave the 6-12 High School eighth graders a tour of the plant to teach them about the mining industry in Florida.

The children are learning about different skilled labor professions around Southwest Florida, from mining to construction. They learned about the great shortage in skilled labor in the community and how reading, writing and math skills are essential to doing well on the job.

South

BONITA SPRINGS

Seventh graders Joni Taylor and Brian Nevins received recognition from the National Council on Economic Education for their personal finance projects in social studies teacher Kathy Seder's class last year.

They wrote reports on responsible uses of credit cards and how young people sometimes get trapped into mass personal debt. Their projects attracted the attention of Bank of America officials who are promoting economics education nationwide through a \$3.2 million grant.

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR



Students celebrated their improvement in state grades in style. They road in limousines to the movies where they had their choice of a G or PG film last Tuesday.

The school's grade soared from a C in 2001 to an A this year. The state doles out the grades based on the school's performance on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

2.5" PROTOTYPE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Middle school days : Your family's calendar

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS TO 'SCHOOL DAYS' : schoollife@news-press.com

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

West :



PHIL PORTER TEACHES A BAND CLASS AT CALOOSA MIDDLE SCHOOL LAST WEDNESDAY

CALOOSA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Choir try-outs : 5 p.m. All children are invited to try out for the all-school chorus. Selections include holiday and jazz tunes. The auditions are at the school, 620 Del Prado Blvd. Call 574-3133 for more information.

South :

BONITA SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades celebration: 6 p.m. Principal John Basel is inviting parents to talk about student improvement last year. Call 992-4422.

East :

ALVA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sports awards: 6 p.m. Coaches will give out trophies to last year's most valuable and improved players. Students voted for the winners on the football, basketball and baseball teams. The awards are at the school, 21219 N. River Road, Alva. Call 728-2525 for information.

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

East:

RIVERDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Book fair: 4 p.m. Stop by on your way home or before you catch the bus. The library will have over 5,000 volumes on sale, some at discount prices. There will be books for all ages and learning-related toys for children to young to read. All of the money will be going to put a new roof on the old library building.

South :

DUNBAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Science fair: 6 p.m. The Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School will hold its annual science fair at 3800 E. Edison Ave., Fort Myers.

CYPRESS LAKEMIDDLE SCHOOL

High school information: 6 p.m. Local high school principals will talk to eighth graders about their next year.

THREE OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

History fair meeting: 2 p.m. Teachers are meeting with students to prepare for the spring history fair. Last year students did projects on Hellen Keller and the hearing aids throughout the ages. Students have won prizes at the county fair in the past. The meeting is at the school, 18500 Three Oaks

West :

TRAFALGAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

SAC fund-raising meeting: 3 p.m. The school advisory council is meeting to plan the first fund-raiser at the school, 2120 Trafalgar Parkway, Cape Coral.

DIPLOMAT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Law enforcement visit: 3 p.m. Cape Coral Police officers are meeting with children about school safety and drug prevention. Call 547-5257 for more information.

Friday

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

West :

Parkway, Fort Myers.

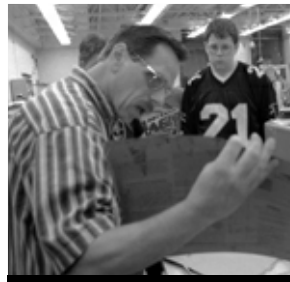
GULF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Budget workshop: 6 p.m. School district curriculum officials will brief school advisory council members on the school's annual budget. Call 549-0606 for more information.

East :

LEHIGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

FCAT math seminar: 7 p.m. Math teachers are holding a seminar for parents and students on improving math skills in anticipation of spring's Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. Call 337-1333.



KEVIN GLASER SHOWS BRANDON HUGHES ABOUT PLATE MAKING AT THE HIGH TECH CENTER.

South :

CYPRESS LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Vocational training trip: 10 a.m. Eighth graders will learn hands-on about skilled labor professions at the Lee County Vocation High Tech Center. To sign up, call 481-1533.

BONITA SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Seminar on bullying: 3 p.m.

Parent liaisons will hold the third annual seminar on bullying at the school, 10141 W. Terry St., Bonita Springs. Call 992-4422 for more information.

Private

BELZ ACADEMY

Sixth through eighth graders organized the year's first collection of food for the poor.

They are trying to collect 1,000 cans of soup and dried food for several charities around Lee County. With the start of season still a few months away, the children are making an effort to feed those who cannot feed themselves.

They were inspired by the story of a little east Fort Myers boy whose parents couldn't afford to feed him more than once a day.



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Middle school parents started organizing a missions trip to China to distribute Bibles, work with the poor families and sing for them.

The plan is to bring eighth graders along to expose them to poverty in a different part of the world.

CANTERBURY SCHOOL

Seventh graders spent last week mowing the lawns of senior citizens to help develop a strong work ethic and contribute to neighborhood improvement.

Student council representatives Marnie Daniels and Joyce Witherspoon organized the project, which they hope to make a tradition for future seventh graders.

2.5" PROTOTYPE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Teacher feature

SOUTH ZONE



NAME: Barbara Sharp
SCHOOL: Estero High School
JOB: Drama teacher
CLAIM TO FAME: Succeeded in securing a \$5,000 grant for theater arts education in high schools.
YEARS TEACHING: 15
EDUCATION: Bachelor's in English from Florida State University, master's in English from University of South Florida
FAMILY: Married to Chris Harper, 47. They have four children together, Jimmy, 9, Chris, 8, Nancy, 5, and Chynna, 2
MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON: Lawrence Olivier, my parents
BOOKS RECENTLY READ: "Me Talk Pretty One Day" by David Sedaris
FAVORITE MOVIE: Cabaret
HOBBIES: Gardening, walking, writing poetry
TEACHING PHILOSOPHY: "I want my students to imagine drama as a way to explore their greatest dreams. They can be any one they want on stage."
 "The theater also teaches them to become better readers, follow directions better and become more empathetic to suffering people's plights."

High school news and events

West

MARINER

The Silver Magic Band placed first in their division, and second place overall in preliminary marching band competitions.

They placed third in the State Marching Band Championships held in Orlando last year, but are shooting for first place this year.

Aida Gomez won first place in the flute division and Henry Tober won second place in the oboe division. Percussionists Lee Chen and Margaret Tower received third place awards for their performance.

NORTH FORT MYERS

Members of the school's Student Government Association donated 445 cans and 380 bags and boxes of pet food to two area agencies.

SGA members, worked with their business partners to help elderly clients who cannot afford to feed their pets.

CAPE CORAL



Physical education teacher Nancy Fox kicked off a campaign to encourage high school students to eat healthy and exercise.

Physical education classes this year won't just be about playing sports, but also learning about nutrition and the human body.

Fox enlisted the help of recent graduates and athletes Kim Turco and Sherry Miller for the kick-off.

East

RIVERDALE

Seniors Martin Blass and Arnold Cook returned from a conference on science and technology this summer.

The two science fair first place recipients learned about robotics and aeronautics at the conference in Orlando.

They plan to apply to technical schools and aspire to become research scientists for NASA.

LEHIGH SENIOR



Sophomores started another year of volunteering to teach elementary school children to read better. They are focusing on those who have limited English skills. So far, 200 students have signed up.

RIVERDALE

Seniors Pete Banker and Jerry Prince won \$5,000 each in college scholarships after winning a series of golf competitions throughout the summer. The pair plan to continue playing golf in college where Banker hopes to major in business and Prince hopes to major in elementary education.

Four other Riverdale students competed in the same competitions and received scholarships, too. Bill Parezik won a \$2,500 scholarship; Martin Yan won a \$1,000 scholarship; Sam Gerber won a \$500; and Tammy Carson won a \$250 scholarship.

They can apply the scholarships to any college nationwide public or private.

South

ESTERO & CYPRESS LAKE

Marcello Mullings and Suellen Ann Heintz were selected from more than 117,000 applicants nationwide as semifinalists in the 2001-2002 Coca-Cola Scholars Program.

The students rank among 1,965 seniors who are in the running for \$1.8 million in college scholarships being awarded by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

Students were selected to move to this next phase based on the level of excellence and achievement demonstrated in school and community activities.

FORT MYERS

Two students and a teacher were honored by the Rotary Club of Fort Myers for their excellence.

Jennifer Greenberg, a senior, was named the club's Student Achiever of the Year.

The Interact Student of the Year is Komal D'Souza, a sophomore in the International Baccalaureate program.

Jennifer Ross Pinkard is the club's Teacher of the Month for November. She teaches English and journalism to students in ninth through 11th grade.



2.5" PROTOTYPE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION

High school days : Your family's calendar

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS TO 'SCHOOL DAYS' : schoolife@news-press.com

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

West :

MARINER HIGH SCHOOL

Sports awards : 7 p.m. Boys and girls in athletics teams are getting awards for participation, most valuable player and most improved player. The ceremony is in the gym, 701 Chiquita Blvd., Cape Coral

NORTH FORT MYERS HIGH SCHOOL

Awards ceremony: 8 p.m. Twenty fifth-graders will be recognized at the annual Cape Coral Mayor's Scholarship Ball Saturday at the Cape Coral Yacht Club.

East :

LEHIGH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Dance planning: 4 p.m. Parents are invited to help plan the freshman turn-about dance at the school, 801 Gunnery Road, Lehigh Acres.

RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Band concert: 8 p.m. Seniors will kick off the school year in a performance for new and old parents and students. Call 694-4141 for information.

South :

CYPRESS LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

ROTC flag ceremony: 5 p.m. Cadets in the Junior Reserved Officers' Training Corps program are kicking off the new year with a color guard ceremony. Call 481-2233.

FORT MYERS HIGHSCHOOL

Variety show: 6 p.m. The school Scholars' Club will have its second annual variety show. Varsity football players and their parents are very welcome to attend too. Proceeds will pay for medical expenses for Sam Sirrianni, the school's football coach.

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

West :

MARINER HIGH SCHOOL

SAC meeting: 5 p.m. Principal Michael Mc Nerney invites parents to join the school advisory council. Call 772-4880.

South :



DEONDRA WHITFIELD JOKES WITH A TEACHER AS FINISHES A NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY CEREMONY

DUNBAR HIGHSCHOOL

Kindergarten buddies: 3 p.m. Seniors are meeting up with local kindergartners as part of a year-long buddy program. Call 461-5322

ESTERO HIGH SCHOOL

Renaissance celebration: 5 p.m. Straight-A and high performing students are hosting a party to encourage all students to get great grades. Call 947-9400 for more information.

Friday

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

West :

NORTH FORT MYERS HIGH SCHOOL

Book fair: Noon to 8 p.m. The school will sponsor a Scholastic Book Fair. The sale is open to the public. Proceeds will benefit school reading and math programs.

CAPE CORAL HIGH SCHOOL

Celebration: 8 to 11 a.m. The school band will have a pancake breakfast/rummage sale to raise money for uniforms and music. Call 574-6766 for more information.

East :

LEHIGH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Costa Rica trip planning: 5 p.m. The Key Club is meeting to organize an eco-tourism trip to Costa Rica next spring to bring food and supplies to needy children. Call 693-5353 for more information.

RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Holocaust survivor storyteller: 10 a.m. The public is invited to a storytelling session by a Holocaust survivor. The event is at the school, 2600 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers. Call 694-4141.

South :

ESTERO HIGH SCHOOL

Auditorium update: 6:30 p.m. Principal Fred Bode and parents are meeting to talk about the auditorium, which now has a fire sprinkler system. The school is at 21900 River Ranch Road, Estero.

CYPRESS LAKE CTR. FOR THE ARTS

Ballet performance: 7 p.m. The dance department and symphonic orchestra will perform "Alice in Wonderland — The Ballet" in the auditorium, 6750 Panther Lane, Fort Myers.

The production will feature more than 100 students. Tickets are \$5. For reservations and information, call 481-3592.

Private

BISHOP VEROT

Parents met with administrators to revisit the valedictorian issue.

Some thought the title should be restored, while others said students who can't afford more credits are at a disadvantage.

Administrators will hold a series of meetings to hear opinions from parents and students about the title. They will also consult experts to see if cutting the title will hurt or help student achievement. Call 936-6700 for more information.



CANTERBURY SCHOOL

Twelve seniors received a taste of military life when U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Arnold Robinson trained them in a mini-boot camp on campus.

The idea was to educate students about the armed forces and encourage them to look into military careers.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALVA

Senior Mimi Murphy and Jiminy Carter returned from a missions trip to the Dominican Republic, where they provided medication and food to poor children in the capital city of Santo Domingo.

Both had visited the island nation one summer ago for a week to help build homes for the destitute. They plan to return next year with a larger group of students and graduates.

2.5" PROTOTYPE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION