

April 18, 2023

Volume 21

Issue 3



For the Parents/Guardians, Staff, Students, and Community of Cypress Lake High School

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Principal's Message

"It's GREAT to Be a Panther!"

Dear Panther Parents and Students,

So much inside this edition to be Panther PROUD at Cypress! Our students are amazing. There are so many accomplishments to share. Spring is busy with sports, ceremonies, prom, performances and preparing for graduation. It is such a special time for our students. Happy SPRING Panthers!

We also look forward to teacher appreciation week in early May. It means so much because they have worked so hard during a very challenging year. Please contact Mrs. Bond if you would like to donate to help thank our staff during this time. You may also send her a specific thank you note for a specific staff member and we will deliver it with a special treat during Teacher Appreciation Week.

April is also the "Month of the Military Child" where we celebrate our students whose families are in the military. This year marks the 36th Anniversary of The Month of the Military Child. We know military parents make great sacrifices. It is an honor to have parents or guardians serving our country. The Panther family thanks each of our military parents for your service. We recognize and thank you.

Please keep encouraging our Panthers to do their absolute best in their studies, in respecting themselves and in their treatment of one another. Fourth quarter is the home stretch, and we will work to finish Panther strong! It is an honor to work at Cypress Lake High School.

Thank you for your support of our students and our special school.

Sincerely,
Angela Roles



To download a pdf version of this newsletter, go to

<http://www.academypublishing.com/schools/cypresslake/cypresslake.php>

Translation of the newsletter is available in Spanish and Creole. Contact the Main Office for details.

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Counselors Corner

SCHEDULING

Counselors are facilitating course selection in-person during April and May and will be meeting with each student individually to discuss schedules for the 2023-24 academic year. Following that, the counselors have been reviewing student course selection submissions and ensuring they are appropriately aligned with diploma requirements. The schedule building process will extend through the remainder of the school year. Please continue to monitor FOCUS and the google classrooms for further information regarding the scheduling process and end-of-year procedures.

JUNIORS

It is important for all college-bound juniors to take one of the following tests before the start of their senior year. Be sure to check out ACT and SAT dates and deadlines. You may sign up to take the tests at:

- www.act.org
- www.collegeboard.org

SENIORS – ABOUT THOSE FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES...

- This should go without saying, but unless you're paying out of pocket for college, be sure to complete the FAFSA, as this will make you eligible for federal subsidized loans, which will almost always offer better interest rates and repayment options than private bank loans.
- Make sure you understand the components and terms of your financial aid award package. How much of it is grant ("free") money and how much of it is loans (must be repaid)? Is the grant money renewable each year if the level of need remains the same? What grade point average must be maintained for scholarship aid?
- If you plan on taking out a Stafford Student Loan and/or a PLUS loan (for parents), find out how the college administers these programs. They may process these loans directly through the school (Direct Lending) or you may have to obtain the applications through a lending institution. Remember that the maximum amount a student can borrow for the freshman year is \$5,500 (no more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans). Parents can apply for a loan for the cost of education minus the student's other financial aid.
- A College Work-Study Award is money that must be earned by the student in a part-time job (usually on-campus) during the school year.
- Financial aid packages from schools with similar costs may be quite different; this is often due to the fact that various schools use different analyses to determine how much families can afford to pay. It's essential for this reason to carefully compare the financial information from each college!

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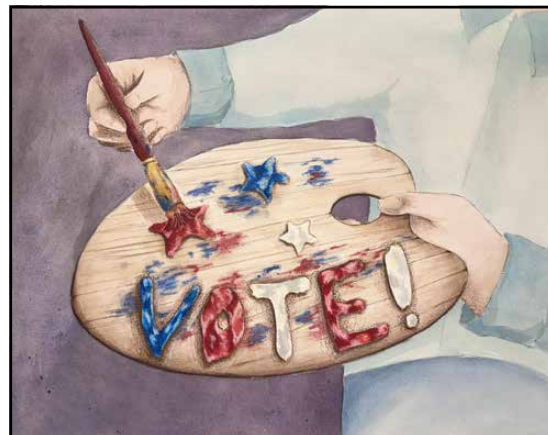
"Arts Vote" Contest Winners

This school year, **Lee County Elections Center** received 45 unique entries for our **2022-2023 "Arts Vote" Contest** from Cypress Lake and North Fort Myers High School.

It is with great pleasure that we would like to announce the top three winners:

- 1st place - "Best Artwork": Alayna Calkins (Cypress Lake High School)
- 2nd place - "Most Original Artwork": Nisa Balbaloglu (North Fort Myers High School)
- 3rd place - "Most Creative Artwork": Haley Allensworth (Cypress Lake High School)

On behalf of the Lee County Supervisor of Elections, Honorable Tommy Doyle, we want to thank the students and teachers who submitted their beautiful pieces. We are grateful for your effort and time participating in our contest.



**Alayna Calkins - 12th Grade
Teacher: Marguerite Petcher**

In the artist's own words:

"As the younger generation begins to mature, we gain more important responsibilities. It is our job to vote not only for the good of America but also for our future. No matter who you are, man, woman, nonbinary, we all have a voice that needs to be heard!"

**Haley Allensworth - 12th Grade
Teacher: Marguerite Petcher**

In the artist's own words:

"In my piece, I needed to find a completely non-political way to encourage people to vote. Using my own passion for art as an inspiration, I wanted to illustrate painting supplies "spelling out" the message. I decided that using red, white, and blue paint to spell out "VOTE" on a paint palette was a clever way to combine art supplies with voting."



GO PANTHERS



News from the
Athletics
Department



SENIOR ALL-STAR GAME

Four senior soccer players participated in the senior All-Star game hosted at Fort Myers High. Our girls were: Brittany Curley and Clarissa Humphrey. The boys were: Damien Rosario and Benjamin Hahn. Congratulations All-Stars!

FHSAA STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS!

The following wrestlers qualified for the State Championships and competed for a chance to place top 6 in the state in their respective weight classes: Angelica Ortiz-Renteral, Destine'e Thomas, and Triston White. Please congratulate Coach Rothenberg and Destine'e Thomas on her 4th place finish!!!



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Pictured (from left to right): Marianna Young, Leia Busby, Autumn Rhodes, Mrs. DeKoff, Isabella Santo, Savannah DeKoff, and Marissa McSeveney.

NEHS Volunteers at SWFL Reading Festival

The Cypress Lake High School chapter of the National English Honors Society was honored to participate as volunteers at the Southwest Florida Reading festival. The event occurred at the Fort Myers Regional Library on Saturday, March 4, 2023.

The yearly event includes featured authors that discuss their work, answer questions and conduct book signings. Books donated by Suncoast Credit Union are provided for every child and teen. "It was fun sharing our love of reading," said junior Savannah DeKoff. "Books provide an amazing opportunity to explore the world."

Organized by NEHS Chapter President, Autumn Rhodes, as the group's community service project, volunteers worked with children from our community to create reading related crafts including book marks. "The reading festival was a lot of fun!" said senior Marissa McSeveney. "We got to show kids tons of crafts and help them create different art!"

"This was an amazing day since I got to help out with this fantastic festival while helping kids have fun and go home with something special that they've made," said senior Isabella Santo. "I helped make "sandcastles" with the kids, which filled them with immense joy for a creation they made themselves."

Twenty-six panthers are members of the CLHS chapter of the NEHS this year. Students must achieve a minimum overall GPA and cumulative GPA in secondary level ELA classes of a 3.0 prior to induction, and must continue to exhibit strong leadership, character, and responsibility to maintain membership. Additionally, participation in fund raisers, service projects, and monthly meetings is expected. Benefits include members-only scholarships, leadership and academic experiences, and new friendships.

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Media Gallery Show

The Media Department is having a Gallery Show at the Alliance for the Arts from April 20th to 30th with an opening reception on Thursday April 20th from 5-7pm. Student work in Graphic Design, Video Production, Photo Manipulation, 3D Modeling, Animation, Digital Photography and more will be on display. Senior Ellery McCarley designed the winning poster as voted on by their peers.



All County Jazz Festival

The following students represented CLHS in the All county Jazz Festival on March 16th, during the school day, and at a concert that evening. Congratulations to our All County participants!

Baylee Spano

Cole Ellis

Jameson Moore

Gunnar Augustinsen

Brendon Boggs



Carson Scholarship

We want to congratulate a new 2023 Carson Scholar and Recognized Scholars.

Emerson Antunes Black - 2023 Carson Scholar

Catelyn Holcomb - Recognized Scholar

Kaelyn Bernaldo - Recognized Scholar

Nikita Danesh - Recognized Scholar

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 in college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities. Carson Scholars must have a minimum GPA of 3.75 and display humanitarian qualities through community service.

Way to go PANTHERS!



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JROTC News

Cypress Lake High School JROTC held a Promotion and Change of Command Ceremony on March 2nd to install new Cadet leadership and congratulate the outgoing leadership. We are very proud of our new Cadet Command Team and Staff on their selection to lead the Panther Battalion to new heights over the coming school year. As part of the ceremony, the new staff officers were promoted to their new cadet ranks followed by the ceremonial passing of the Battalion Colors and Change of Command. We were honored to have School Administrators, Cypress Lake Faculty, Family, and members of the Bridgetown Veterans Club and Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 696 in attendance.

Battalion Commander	Anya Mencarelli	Cadet Lieutenant Colonel
Battalion Executive Officer	Kailany Klabunde	Cadet Major
Battalion Command Sgt Major	Karynna Santiago	Cadet Command Sergeant Major
S-1 Adjutant Officer:	Daniela Sosa	Cadet 2nd Lieutenant
S-1 Adjutant NCOIC:	Andres Ruiz	Cadet Master Sergeant
S-2 Intel and Security Officer:	Dominick Piccirillo	Cadet First Lieutenant
S-3 Operations Officer:	Remus Lee	Cadet 2nd Lieutenant
S-3 Operations NCOIC:	Catalina Gardiner	Cadet Master Sergeant
S-4 Logistics Officer:	Alex Melendez	Cadet 2nd Lieutenant
S-4 Logistics NCOIC:	Zachary Payne	Cadet Master Sergeant
S-5 Public Affairs Officer:	Joel Santana	Cadet First Lieutenant
S-5 PAO NCOIC:	Christina Joseph	Cadet Sergeant First Class

Cypress Lake High School JROTC looked snazzy at the Lee County JROTC Ball at the Caloosa Sound Convention Center in downtown Fort Myers! The Cadets demonstrated great maturity and a leadership example during the formal portion of the event, and the dancing went off superbly.

Our VIPS included the Superintendent, Board Chair Mr. Persons, Board Member Ms. Jordan, Executive Director High Schools Mr. Simmons, and Director of Athletics Mr. LaRosa. This was the first JROTC Ball in 3 years since COVID...and definitely one of the best!



CLHS JROTC Drill and Color Guard Teams competed at the Lee County District Drill Competition at Cape Coral High School. Drill Team placed 5th in the district, and the Color Guard placed 1st in the District! Color Guard Team advances to the State Drill Competition in Lakeland, FL, in April! Incredible demonstration of commitment and Teamwork!




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Cypress Lake High School Red Sox Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to **Autumn "Pepper" Rhodes** for being selected as the CLHS recipient for the Boston Red Sox Scholarship! The Boston Red Sox presented 15 high school seniors with a \$5,000 college scholarship in a pregame ceremony March 26th. The recipients were chosen based on academic excellence, financial need and a demonstrated commitment to community service.



CONGRATULATIONS!



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MFGN Scholarship Winner

The Music Foundation of Greater Naples (MFGN) was pleased to announce the winners of this year's scholarship competition. They reached out to highlight **Jameson Moore, Piano 10th grade** from **Cypress Lakes High School** who competed on March 10th. Based on his outstanding musical performance, he was awarded a scholarship in the Senior Division. Congratulations Jameson!

CONGRATULATIONS

Lauren Robinson
Cypress Lake High School Teacher

Cypress Lake High School Assistant Principal

Board Approved: 03/28/23
Effective Date: 03/29/23

New Assistant Principal

Please help us congratulate Mrs. Robinson on her appointment to the Panther Administration Team! She has been an amazing teacher and test coordinator; we know she'll be a great addition to our administration!

CLASS OF 2023

Senior Recognition

Seniors, don't miss the google form titled "Senior Year Celebrations" in the SR GOOGLE CLASSROOM. Please take a moment to fill this out and pay attention to the deadlines that must be met for seniors to be celebrated.

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