

# GULF HIGH GAZETTE

Volume 7, Issue 3

*Anchored in Excellence, United in Pride*

December 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

As the first semester quickly comes to a close, I am so impressed and excited to be the Principal of Gulf High School. In early June when I began in this position, my initial goal was to make an immediate impact on the students and staff. I strongly believe in empowering student involvement and cultivating school and personal pride. Creating a positive school environment, with school spirit at the forefront for all, is a critical part of my goal. We serve many different students on many different life paths. As the principal, my objective is for every student to receive a diploma and all the opportunities and options that go along with this after graduation. I do not accept mediocrity from students or

from our staff members. We all owe it to our school and to ourselves to always give our best and not make excuses! I believe we are on the right track, and I want to thank everyone for their involvement and excitement in working together to make these goals a reality. When we return to school on January 6<sup>th</sup>, I look forward to continuing OUR work together in our school's transformation. I want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and a happy new year!

*Anchored in Excellence, United in Pride*  
Steve Knobl  
Principal



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### December

12/13: ACT test at GHS  
12/16: Semester Exams, Periods 1, 4  
12/17: Semester Exams, Periods 2, 5  
12/18: Semester Exams, Periods 3, 6  
12/19: Semester Exam Make-ups  
12/19: End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester  
12/22: Winter Break Begins

### January

1/5: No School-Teacher Planning Day  
1/6: Classes Begin  
1/14: Report Cards Distributed  
1/19: No School-MLK, Jr. Holiday

## SENIOR PROJECTS

*Written by Lizzette Nazario, Senior Projects Coordinator*

Our seniors have started working on their Senior Projects. The final draft of their research paper is due December 12th. This should complete the first major part of the Senior Project. The remaining 3 parts include: a mentor-assisted product or project that is related to the research, a portfolio of their work, and an 8-10 minute oral presentation before a board of judges about their experience.

If your son/daughter is a senior who is working on Senior Project, please encourage him/her not to fall behind. They should have started working with a mentor or at least contacted someone they would like to work with. April will be here before you know it; do not let them procrastinate!

The following is a timeline of the major assignments that are due:

- Research Paper**
  - Final Draft 12/12/08
- Product/Project**
  - Mentor Log
  - Journal
  - Pictures
  - Student Eval. Form 3/13/09
- Written Speech** 4/13/09
- Senior Boards** 4/27-30/09
- Senior Celebration** 5/15/09

We would love to have you judge our Senior Projects. For more information or to RSVP please contact Lizzette B. Nazario, Senior Project Coordinator, at [lnazario@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:lnazario@pasco.k12.fl.us)

## HELP OUR SCHOOL RECYCLE!

Our school is recycling as a fundraiser. We need your help! Please place your brown paper bags, cardboard, cereal boxes, construction paper, magazines, newspaper, office paper, and phone books in our school's recycling container.

**Our school will earn 100% profit from all materials that are recycled.**

## VOLUNTEERS

Please don't forget to sign-in in the front office when you are volunteering on the school campus. If you are volunteering at a Gulf High function off campus, please ask the Gulf High sponsor of that event to turn in your hours. We are applying for the 5 Star School Award and every volunteer hour that is accounted for will get us closer to that goal! In order for your hours to be counted, you have to fill out the volunteer application located on the Pasco County School web site at [www.pasco.k12.fl.us](http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us) Applications will also be available in the volunteer sign-in binder in the front office. The application forms must be filled out every school year.

Thank you for taking the time to help Gulf High students. We truly appreciate all you do and we can not do it with out your help!

## GUIDANCE NEWS

Written by Kathy Trapp, Career Resource Specialist

The registration process for the 2009-2010 school year will begin on January 22. Ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders will complete an electronic educational plan (ePEP) through the FACTS.org website. This plan will help students select classes for next school year. After completing the plan, students will ask teachers to sign for classes and bring the plan home for parents to sign. Once all students have completed a plan, they will meet individually with their guidance counselor to input the class schedule online. An Open House will be held for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders on Thursday, January 22. Upperclassmen are invited to attend also. A short presentation on FACTS.org and ePEP will be given.

### SCHEDULE FOR EPEP AND ONLINE REGISTRATION:

**January 22- 27:**

10<sup>th</sup> grade ePEPs through World History classes

**January 29-February 4**

9<sup>th</sup> grade ePEPs through Integrated Science classes

**February 5- 9**

11<sup>th</sup> grade ePEPs through American History classes

**February 12-19**

9<sup>th</sup> grade online registration

**February 20-25**

10<sup>th</sup> grade online registration

**February 26-March 2**

11<sup>th</sup> grade online registration

CHECK YOUR CHILD'S GRADES ON ESEMBLER:

CLICK ON GRADES ONLINE ON GULFHIGH.ORG

FIND COLLEGE & CAREER INFORMATION AT:

FACTS.ORG

## INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Written by Sharon Oster, Team Coordinator

Gulf High FBLA members attended the District Fall Leadership Rally at Spartan Manor in October. A good time and a good meal were enjoyed by all. Members have selected their district competition category and will be preparing for the January event. For the Great American Teach-in, Robert Lefkowitz, manager of the Holiday branch of the Suncoast

Schools Federal Credit Union, spoke to the business education classes. He addressed the importance of education, career planning, personal finance, and the events that have brought about the state of the economy today. The Buccaneer Branch of the Suncoast SFCU is open to Gulf faculty, staff, students, and their family members each Wednesday during lunches.



The Buccaneer Branch of the Suncoast SFCU is open on Wednesdays during lunch.

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME

Written by De Winslow, Co-Coordinator

We are preparing for the winter break, and many students will be traveling to destinations around the United States as well as places like India, South America, and Europe. We live the international component of IB! The disciplines of art and world language have activities of interest happening soon. Mrs. Barrus, art instructor, has arranged a silent art auction on December 9-11 in the Gulf High Media Center. IB and Pre-IB

students have an integral part in this activity. Madame Currelly, French instructor, has planned the annual progressive dinner on Sunday, December 14, from 4-8 PM. This activity is the core idea of International Baccalaureate come to life in the preparation of a French meal which is served in courses at different students' residents. This activity, a tradition for many years, teaches students the value of

tasting and trying new dishes and customs. Many classes are involved in internal assessments before the winter break. Also, other assessments will take place in addition to the IA's. Students in pre-IB are scheduled to take the county semester exam during the week of December 8, and the entire school will be on the mid-term exam schedule during the week of December 15. Stay warm and enjoy the winter break!

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Mrs. Elenica Stojanovska, math teacher, and Ms. Kelly Davey, guidance counselor were awarded certification by the National Board for Professional Standards on November 21, 2008.



Mrs. Stojanovska, Ms. Davey  
Photos by Jeff Miller

Practice FCAT Skills  
at the  
**Success Academy**  
Mondays & Wednesdays  
2:15 to 3:45 PM  
Bus Service Available  
For more info,  
call 774-3300

# NAVAL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

*Written by Steve Nesthus, Commander*



This year has started off better than any in recent memory! The Buccaneer cadets organized the Leadership Team into what has been a very well constructed staff that has seen positive growth in not only departmental organization and staffing, but also in overall personnel quality and dedication. Kudos to Cadet Commanding Officer Karisa Vega, Cadet Executive Officer Cheryl Jennett, and their team of leaders!

Since the last *Gazette*, the cadets have participated in several (very fun)

activities and supported numerous community service events. The Iron Bear Challenge, hosted by Central High School in Brooksville, is an annual fun meet where approximately 25 schools from around the state participate in a myriad of events (i.e., Truck Pull, Tug-of-War, Dizzy izzy, log carry, obstacle course, 100 & 200 meter relay race, etc.). The Buccaneer cadets placed 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall for the third year in a row. The team brought home more trophies and scored more points than in any of the previous four years (since inception of the Iron Bear competition).

The Competition Team traveled to Mitchell High School to compete in the first Area SEVEN State Sanctioned Field Meet of the (school) year. The cadets learned quickly that this year's field meet events are going to be more competitive than ever before. The Buccaneers placed 6<sup>th</sup> Overall out of the 12 teams competing. Of significance was the Academic Team placing 1<sup>st</sup> Overall, the Sit-Up Team placing 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall, and the 200 Meter Relay Team placing 5<sup>th</sup> Overall. The

Drill Team (Armed, Unarmed, and Color Guard) showed significant improvement.

The same team traveled to Lake Howell High School in Winter Park, Florida, to participate in the second sanctioned meet of the year. The team did very well last year, placing 6<sup>th</sup> Overall among 18 teams. They brought home three trophies then. This year, the teams placed 6<sup>th</sup> Overall, but were among 21 teams and brought home eight trophies, beating last years total points by a margin well over 200!

The kids have set their community service goal this year at 5,000 hours. That is approximately 50 hours per cadet, something not at all unreasonable for the go-getters, but difficult for those just getting by. We encourage all students to give time for the many good causes we serve.

**First Annual  
Buccaneer Challenge  
March 21, 2009**

## INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES

*Written by Craig Judy, Team Coordinator*

Now that hurricane season is officially over, the ITS Learning Community members are actively seeking both multi-media and guest speakers to share information about severe weather with their students. We hope to tap into the resources at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to better understand the causes of tropical disturbances. In addition, we're

looking forward to presentations from the Department of Emergency Services from MacDill Air Force Base and local Pasco County officials. Students should gain a greater appreciation for those people that provide emergency and rescue aid to those in need.



*Students will be listening to presentations regarding severe weather from local community partners.*

## ANNUAL CANNED FOOD DRIVE

*Written by Corporal Jeff Fichtemaier*

For the holiday season the Pasco Sheriff's Office is doing its annual canned food drive. This is a food drive that is organized and carried out completely by the men and women of the Sheriff's Office. The food drive is already slated to feed over 400 families this year. Families in need not only receive

canned goods, but also may receive full turkey dinners, and continued food services if needed. All leftover food not distributed will be donated to local agencies for further distribution. The food drive ends 12-15-08 and any donations can be given to Cpl. Fichtemaier.

### Canned Food Drive

#### Drop off locations:

Main Office, Learning Lab,  
Room 113, and 110 Offices.

Co-Sponsored by CECF

## CHORAL BOOSTERS

Written by Amy Riddle, Choral Director

The Gulf High School Choral Department is busy preparing for their annual dinner theater "The Sounds of Christmas." This event will be held on Thursday, December 18th and Friday, December 19th, 6 PM, at the Faith Lutheran Church on Sunset Road in New Port Richey. Tickets are \$7.00, which includes a spaghetti dinner. After our holiday break, both Total Sound and Chorus will begin preparing for their district music evaluations that will take place in February and March, 2009. Our goal is to receive a superior rating at these evaluations so that we will be able to attend the state evaluation in April.

I would like to thank all of our Total Sound Parents who have been active participants in our booster organization. Without your help parking cars and selling ice cream at football games, we would have not been able to purchase new music for our holiday performances. Our next booster meeting will be on February 9th, beginning at 6:30 PM in the G.H.S. Chorus Room. We will need a lot of help with our ice cream trailer which is set up during the Chasco Fiesta. If you would like to help but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Mrs. Riddle at ariddle@pasco.k12.fl.us or at 774-3300.



*"The Sounds of Christmas"*  
Faith Lutheran Church  
December 18 & 19, 2008  
6 PM

## ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Written by Shari Schau, Girls Varsity Soccer Coach

### THANK YOU GULF HIGH ALUMNI!!

The Athletic Booster Club would like to say ***Thank You*** to all the GHS alumni and community supporters! It was Mr. Bill Phillips' idea, but it was all of you who made the Invasion such a huge success! For those who may have donated items or money to the event - we thank you as well!

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To the **football team** who went **10-2** on the season! This record is the best ever recorded at Gulf High School. The Bucs were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference and district, earning them a spot in the playoffs! The Bucs scored another "first" in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the playoffs when they won against St. Cloud High School. Adrian Golden ended the season as Pasco County's All-Time Rushing Leader!

*Congratulations to the entire football team and coaching staff!*

### BOOSTER CLUB ALUMNI INVASION:

#### A MAJOR SUCCESS!

Bill Phillips and Company really know how to throw a party! Hopefully everybody was present throughout this great weekend (October 24, 25). Throughout the weekend different activities were held in order to bring Gulf High Alumni back together again! Friday night there was a pep rally (which had to be moved indoors due to weather), and a party at Fatty and Mabel's on the river. Saturday afternoon there was a huge barbecue prior to the football game. The alumni also "filled the field" prior to kickoff.

The Booster Club and alumni were able to raise enough money for 5 scholarships. These scholarships were named after the following GHS supporters:

**Mr. Brian Singletary**  
**Ms. Lucy DeCubellis**  
**Coach Paul Girardi**  
**Coach Jerry Young**  
**Mr. Bill Phillips**

### TEAM NEWS

#### Girls Soccer

5-2-2

#### Boys Soccer

4-0-2

#### Girls Basketball

Undefeated

#### Boys Basketball

Next home game 12/11

#### Wrestling

Undefeated

#### Girls Weightlifting

1st Home match 12/10

### **GOOD LUCK BUCCANEERS!!**

#### Next Meeting:

**January 5, 2009**

**7 PM**

**Beef O'Bradys - US 19**  
**(Behind IHOP)**

Come join the fun and give us your input into how we can help our athletes and teams!



**ANCHORED IN EXCELLENCE, UNITED IN PRIDE**

*Have a safe, healthy, and happy new year!*