

# GULF HIGH GAZETTE

5355 School Road New Port Richey, FL 34652 727-774-3300 www.gulphigh.org

## FCAT Preparation and Incentive

In February and March 2003, Gulf High School's ninth, tenth, and some eleventh and twelfth graders will be taking the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Along with being a graduation requirement, the FCAT is also a major component of the Department of Education's school evaluation. Every public school across the state of Florida is assigned a school grade based on the FCAT. The cumulative students' scores, attendance, and the percentage of students improving their individual scores factor into Gulf High School's grade.

The State Legislature has mandated that we test at least 90% of our ninth and tenth grade students to be eligible for a minimum

school grade of "C." To score higher, we must test 95% of our students. Over the past three years, we have increased our percentage of students tested to 94%. We believe this increase can be attributed to our parent, business, community, and faculty/staff support of our FCAT Incentive Program.

In our commitment to test all 551 ninth and 366 tenth grade students this year, Gulf High is looking for business partners to adopt classes. We seek to provide the following on testing days:

- Breakfast/Nutritional snacks
- End-of-testing Celebration to include Pepsi, pizza, and drawings for donated items

Food donations and monetary support are needed. Business Partners will be recognized for their contributions. Anyone interested in becoming a Business Partner should contact Thomas Brochu, Assistant Principal, at 774-3300.

The faculty and students have been working hard to prepare students for success on the FCAT. We urge parents to support both the students and the school by encouraging attendance on test days.



## Senior Projects Focus on Mentors

Seniors in Eng. 4, Eng. 4 Honors, and MAP completed their research papers in December and are now busily working on their mentor-assisted projects. Students are required to be engaged in a research related project that stretches them intellectually, emotionally, and/or physically for a minimum of 15 hours. If your child is involved with a Senior Project, he/she should be logging hours with his/her mentor and keeping a journal of each meeting.

The next major component students will be completing are the portfolios on the Senior Project journey. These portfolios serve to document all that the students have done throughout the year on their chosen topic. Senior Board judges also review these portfolios before the students' presentations in April.

On April 28-30, students will present their Senior Project findings and experiences to panels of community judges during Senior Boards. This component

requires the student to speak for 8-10 minutes and use some form of technology to enhance the presentation.

Parents wishing to know more about Senior Projects can learn more by logging on to the following web sites:  
[www.gulphigh.org/senior\\_project.html](http://www.gulphigh.org/senior_project.html) OR  
[www.seniorproject.net](http://www.seniorproject.net) OR  
[www.serve.org/seniorproject/](http://www.serve.org/seniorproject/)

### FCAT Test Dates:

Feb. 11 - FCAT Writes  
 March 4 - Reading  
 March 5 - Math  
 March 11 - Science  
 March 12 - Math and Reading  
 Continued

Students designated as grade 10 take all tests.

Grade 9 students do not take the science test.

Grades 11 & 12 take math and/or reading tests which they have yet to pass.

### Inside this issue:

IBT News	2
IHHS News	2
ICA News	2
ITS News	3
Media Center News	3
Guidance/CRC News	3
School Directory	4

**First Semester Students of the Month**

**September: Brett Walsh and Felicia Florey**

**October: Patrick Gallagher and Julia Carroll**

**November: Elvin Ruko and Monica Marcenko**

**December: Richard Neymeiyer and Cassie Long**

**Congratulations!**

“About 70 Gulf High School students and faculty participated in the Blood Drive on January 22nd.”

**Institute of Business Technology News**

FBLA District Competition took place on January 31. The election of FBLA District 11 Officers for the coming year 2003-04 took place followed by district awards for competitive events. District President for the coming year will be Gulf High's Amanda Fischer, District Secretary will be Gulf High's Michelle Mendonca, and District Director will be Gulf High's FBLA Advisor, Ms. Sharon Oster.

Gulf High students received 11 awards in nine competitive events. They were: Accounting 1, 6<sup>th</sup> place to Elvin Ruko; Business Procedures, 4<sup>th</sup> place to Jennifer Gran-

tham; Entrepreneurship Team, 5<sup>th</sup> place to Barbara Drake, Danielle Pellegrino, and Nicole Schwabe; FBLA Principles and Procedures, 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Amanda Fischer; Introduction to Business, 1<sup>st</sup> place to Rosa Golijan and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Brent Morrow; International Business, 1<sup>st</sup> place to Michelle Mendonca; Networking Concepts, 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Christina Angelillo and 5<sup>th</sup> place to Sarah Frese; Public Speak II, 4<sup>th</sup> place to Monica Marcenko; and Future Business Leader, 4<sup>th</sup> place to Cassi Long. It was a grand day for every competitor who gave it their all and Gulf High. A huge round of applause to

FBLA's district officers and winners in competitive events. Best wishes to those who will proceed to State Competition in Orlando on April 15-18.

On January 29, at Marchman Vocational Technical Education Center, twenty IBT students joined business leaders from Pasco County as a part of the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce Business Development Week. This event was a workshop presentation and luncheon during which business leaders shared personal career stories. A panel discussion followed for students to ask questions.

**Institute of Health and Human Services**

About 70 Gulf High School students and faculty participated in the Blood Drive on January 22nd, hosted by the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) students and IHHS. They helped to meet our community's blood replacement needs. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to the following neighborhood stores who provided snacks to our donors: Publix, Kash and Karry and Chick-Fil-A.

HOSA students are also busy with several other projects for the school. On February 14th, they will participate in a career day event at Pasco-Hernando Community College and on February 20th, the students will attend the Spring Conference at Hillsborough Community College, where they will participate in a variety of health-related events, competing with other schools from Paso, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

The Health Occupations seniors, under the direction of Mrs. Elaena Plumatallo, began their clinical portion of their class at Orchard Ridge Nursing Center, giving the residents lots of TLC along with their patient care. They spend three periods a day at the center to get the needed hands-on training and experience to work in the nursing field.

**Institute of Communication and the Arts**

Contestants, performers, parents, students, administrators, and onlookers crowded the Richey Suncoast Theatre on February 10 at 7:00 p.m. to see the ICA's first annual Talent Showcase. Nine talented contestants and performers from band, chorus, and drama nervously awaited the final performance of the show while the Richey Suncoast Theatre staff assisted with the mikes and sound system. Promptly at 7:00 pm, the show opened with Angelica Quintana and Jamey Harrill as masters of ceremonies introducing the evening's judges. We appreciate Dee Etta Rowe, co-owner of the

Angel Cabaret Theatre, Brian Trapani, co-owner of Encore Music, Tara Lenhard, a teacher with 23 years of experience in dance, and Marie Skelton, co-manager of the Richey Suncoast Theatre for offering their expertise as judges. All were amazed at the variety and talent of the young performers. It was a difficult decision for the judges. Congratulations to Dustin Crabtree, 1st place and \$100.00. Jordan Stewart, 2nd place and \$75.00, and Kyle Baker, 3rd place and \$50.00. All in all, the ICA faculty and judges believe that all performers are winners.

Moreover, the ICA faculty and students are looking forward to our new partnership with the Richey Suncoast Theatre and staff. Next year's Second Annual Talent Showcase, as well as drama, chorus and instrumental productions will be held at the theater. We feel that this partnership between the theater and the ICA will benefit the community and our students by giving them real life experiences in a true theater setting. We are very enthusiastic about working with Charlie Skelton and his staff. Again, thank you Charlie!!!!



## Institute of Technical Sciences News

Through the generosity of the Pasco Educational Foundation, the Institute of Technical Sciences has received a one thousand dollar grant to be used in implementing the PC based computer project that was begun earlier this school term by the late Tom Dale, who passed away suddenly last fall. Mr. Dale taught Integrated Science I at Gulf High School and was well acquainted with maintaining and utilizing the computer for a variety of applications.

Mr. Howard Brauner has assumed

Mr. Dale's teaching position, and has agreed to take over the ITS computer project. Mr. Brauner brings considerable expertise in computer science to the project, and has begun the task of outfitting the facility for use by any student or teacher who requires the PC format for his/her work. Mr. Brauner is also in the process of recruiting a cadre of student helpers who will learn to make minor repairs to computers and printers, operate the software, and generally serve as "trouble shooters" for the facility.

It is our hope that the ITS PC facility will eventually be used by staff members, individual students under supervision of an ITS staff member, and classes or portions of classes who are accompanied by their teachers. The eventual goal is to provide a student helper during each period of the day who will be able to assist both individual users and teachers who may encounter difficulty in using the computers or printing devices.

## Media Center News

The Media Center sponsored a new reading incentive program in February called "Check Out for Chocolate." All students who checked out a book for pleasure reading were given a Hershey's Kiss. Once the book was read and returned, students were entered in a weekly drawing for a Snicker's Bar. The event culminated in a drawing for a \$20 Books-A-Million gift certificate.

The Media Center is sponsoring two contests this semester: the Intellectual

Freedom Essay Contest and the Tropicana Speech Contest. Students should see Mrs. McNulty for more information about these contests. Prizes will be awarded!

Overdue book notices are printed bi-monthly. Students are encouraged to return overdue books as soon as possible. Fines are never charged at Gulf High. The only reason a student would owe the Media Center money is if a book is lost or damaged.

## Congratulations, IBT Students!

A school-wide **Reading Poster Contest** was held in January. The theme of the posters was Reading Strategies, and the purpose was to encourage everyone to read. These posters are being reproduced to be distributed in Gulf High classrooms. First place was awarded to **Heidi Reise** and **Adam Haskell**. Second place was awarded to **Adam Miller** and **Michelle Valerio**.

## Guidance/CRC News

**During December** Guidance Counselors and the Career Specialist worked with all **seniors** through their classes to complete the FFAA (Florida Financial Aid Application) in the computer lab. This application is required to be eligible for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and other state of Florida programs. **Parents need** to check with their son/daughter to insure they have completed this application. Students will receive a pin number from the state through the mail.

Also during December the PSAT results were distributed to those juniors, sophomores and freshmen who participated. This is an optional test but recommended for college bound students.

Through the month of January Guidance has conducted nu-

merous classroom presentations. **On January 9, seniors** were given financial aid information. **Parents of seniors** should be aware that the FAFSA needs to be completed as soon as possible. On January 22 a Financial Aid Night was held at River Ridge High School. All schools on the west side of the county participated.

Through World History all **Sophomores** participated in a presentation by Marchman Technical Education Center in January. Because registration will take place in February this was timely information for students to have in making choices for their 2003-2004 classes. Marchman programs are related to our learning communities. Most programs are two years and a

student spends 3 periods at Gulf High School and 3 periods at Marchman. Additionally, we completed a credit check on January 24 with all Sophomores and distributed Florida Bright Futures information to them.

During February **Guidance will spend 12 days** in the classrooms focused on **2003-2004 course selection** and registration. This is one of the most important activities since it ultimately affects graduation and scholarships. **Parents**, please actively participate with your son or daughter in this process.

On February 6, **Sophomores** will receive their PLAN test results. The PLAN results will predict how students will perform on the ACT. Students can also compare their score to what is required by Florida

Bright Futures. We recommend that students who are college bound and those who are actively pursuing scholarships take both the ACT and SAT at least once in their junior year.

To date, all freshmen, sophomores and juniors have completed a Career and Academic Planner Form. Students used the florida.echoices.com web site to complete this form. They also selected their learning community based on the career clusters of interest and the elective classes they plan to take next year. Students were given a copy of their CAP form. In addition, freshmen in Life Management Skills class completed an interest inventory to help with their selection of a learning community.

Linking Resources to Improve Student Achievement



### Pasco County Schools

Helping Students Reach Their Highest Potential

**Superintendent of Pasco County Schools**

**Dr. John Long**

### Gulf High School

**Mr. Thomas E. Imerson, Principal**

**Assistant Principal, Administration**  
**Thomas J. Brochu**

**Assistant Principal, Instruction**  
**Dr. Judy B. Gallagher**

**Assistant Principal, Student Services**  
**Patricia L. Haynes**

**Assistant Principal, Adult Education**  
**Alfred J. Palma**

School Hours      Student Hours      Teacher Hours  
7:30 AM-4:00 PM    7:40 AM-2:00 PM    7:30 AM-3:00 PM

### School Telephone Numbers

Main School Line	727-774-3300
School Fax Line	727-774-3391
Guidance Secretary	727-774-3300
Attendance Office	727-774-3308
Student Registrar	727-774-3307
Clinic	727-774-3305
School Nurse	727-774-3356
Bookkeeper	727-774-3304
Administrative Secretary	727-774-3302
Adult Education Secretary	727-774-3309
<b>Administrative and Guidance Staff as follows:</b>	
Thomas Brochu, Assist. Prin.	727-774-3318
Dr. Judy Gallagher, Assist. Prin.	727-774-3316
Patricia Haynes, Assist. Prin.	727-774-3317
Alfred Palma, Assist. Prin.	727-774-3319
Lois Coburn, Admin. Para	727-774-3314
William Schweiger, Admin. Para	727-774-3312
Patricia Catterson, Guidance	727-774-3333
Mary Jones, Guidance	727-774-3332
April Kelley, Guidance	727-774-3335
Kathy Trapp, Career Specialist	727-774-3351
<b>Other Areas:</b>	
Paul Girardi, Athletic Director	727-774-3339
Kathy Norris, Senior Projects	727-774-3432
William Rutherford, Band Director	727-774-3374
Lt. Wysocki, ROTC	727-774-3352
Chief Saunders, ROTC	727-774-3354
Media Center	727-774-3322
School Resource Officer	727-774-3350

GULF HIGH SCHOOL  
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