

HOOKED

VOL 3 CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL JAN-MAR SPRING 2015

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH

PUNTA GORDA KIWANIS

DECEMBER

Annabel Harrison
Maegen Baird
Collin Lee
Janie Matheis

JANUARY

Sydney Hubbard
Anthony Alexandrou
James Laurin
Tyler Ceiek

FEBRUARY

Abigail Hayse
Carmide Arne
Cheyenne Helfrich
Makayla Mitchell

PUNTA GORDA ELKS SENIORS

DECEMBER

Amber Jelen Alex Westin

JANUARY

Zachary Causey Niko Irizarry

FEBRUARY

Annalise Bockin Abigail Roberson

PUNTA GORDA ROTARY JUNIORS

DECEMBER

Rori Evans Reed Coffey

JANUARY

Amanda Kukuk
Jacqueline van der Meulen

FEBRUARY

Kaitria Abbatematteo
Jamie Gonzalez

History Fair: A Time to Reflect

It is the time to admire our ancestors. A time to remember the events of the past that make the world the way it is today. A time to change our curiosity into knowledge. This “time” is a matter of months or weeks in which students research topics of turning points in our world’s history and make a project for National History Day. These projects are presented in the History Fair. We happened to have just had one recently at Charlotte High held by Mr. Kincaid.

“I thought that the theme of this year’s history fair, leadership and legacy, was a great choice. I thought that my choice of Thomas Edison fit well with the theme,” inputs Vitti.

Wanting to learn more about Thomas Edison and what he brought to world and left behind, Brooke Vitti (9) decided that the life of Edison would be a perfect match for the theme. Vitti explains about the mentoring and leadership Edison portrayed and the inventions that he left behind that the world has improved on and still use today. For example, she uses cut outs of bright lightbulbs on her black board to attract viewers. Vitti has learned very much about Edison and appreciates the work he has contributed in the past.

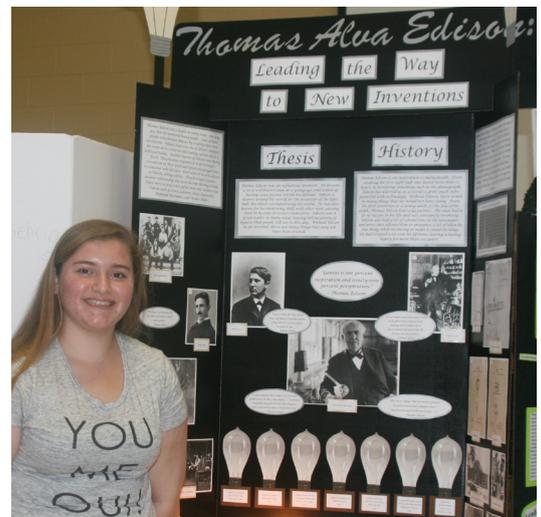
“I just thought it was really cool how he manipulated their minds,” reveals Cantasano.

Taking a different point of view on this year’s theme, Alexandria Cantasano (9) comes up with a more twisted History Fair project. Cantasano decided to focus on the leadership and legacy of Jim Jones. Cantasano tells that Jim Jones was a mad man that had many followers. These followers were so loyal to him that they would even give their

lives for him. Jones manipulated their minds and told them that there was poison in the “flavorade” (Kool-Aid) and they drank it to die beside him. Deeply interested in the subject, Cantasano felt the different but perfect connection to the theme and is glad that she went through with it.



TWISTY. With the unusual and twisty aspect she took on this year’s theme, Alexandria Cantasano (9) dedicated herself to her project on Jim Jones and wanted to get the craziness out to everyone. Cantasano was completely drawn to the subject and was hoping for others to be as well. “We only learned a little bit about it in class but once we did, I was hooked,” tells Cantasano.



DING. Having worked long and hard on her project about Thomas Edison, Brooke Vitti (9) stands tall and proud of her accomplishment. Vitti believed that the theme of leadership and legacy was a great theme to use Edison and his invention of the lightbulb. “I was just fascinated with the hard work and dedication that he put into his work to make a change in this world was inspiring,” Vitti comments.

Blas from the Past: Roarin 1920s

Mr. Westin's Advanced Placement (AP) America History classes enacted the roles of several different important figures from the 1920s. During the second semester of school, Rico Westino (Mr. Westin) hosted a party during class with attendees such as Al Capone, Albert Einstein, and Amelia Airhart (some of the people portrayed by the students).

In line with the students' studies, the guests discussed issues concerning women's rights, isolation policies, and which political party would be best suited to rule the nation.

Bealah Roger (11), an AP student, recalled her favorite part of the activity, "dressing up and playing the part of Adelaide Hall and basically it's because I got to be a character that I'd want to be like in the future but was in the past right now."

Like Roger, Franzuel Pamittan (11) was enrolled in the AP American History class and participated in the activity.

"It was fun seeing all my classmates dress up and having a good time while learning about the different kinds of social classes that were present during the time," remembered Pamittan, who attended the event as Babe Ruth.

The party was an interactive way for the students to learn more about the people of the 1920s.



Hands on Learning Makes All the Difference

In any normal high school, students spend their time glued to their chairs, attached to their desks in any given classroom. The "classroom experience" can become monotonous and has been known to be criticized. Luckily, Charlotte High allows for teachers to engage their students.

The Biology Honors class, taught by Mrs. Haynes, did exactly that with a field trip.

The class is composed of freshmen and sophomores who, if they signed up in time, had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa. MOSI was meant to help enhance the learning experience through different interactive experiments.

Teagan Drudi (10) was one of the students who went to MOSI with her class. Drudi enjoyed one experiment the

most.

"There was a drunk simulation" explained Drudi, "it was funny watching other people try to do it."

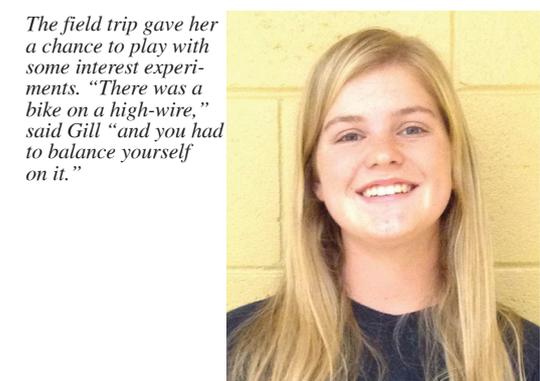
Not all the activities were just simulations. Others were much more hands-on.

"We laid on the bed of nails," recounts Kendall Gill (9) "there was a lot of cool fun activities like that."

In our ever-increasing reliance on technology in education, physical lessons become hard to come by. Class trips like this allow for the "classroom" experience to become something to envy.



The field trip helped expound on ideas of science. "We watched a movie about how small things can be and how we can't see them," said Drudi.



The field trip gave her a chance to play with some interest experiments. "There was a bike on a high-wire," said Gill "and you had to balance yourself on it."

All the World's a Stage

For Troupe 0922, traveling to Tampa for drama states is not something taken lightly. The thespians in this group were proud to make it to states not just to perform individual pieces, but to perform their group piece, *The Miracle Worker*. This piece accurately depicts the life of Helen Keller. The students did this piece so well at the state level, that they received a Superior, the highest honor that a group/individual may get at a thespian competition.

"We worked really hard to put this show together and it took a lot of time, a lot of practice, and a lot of work, so to find out that we had done so well meant the world to me. I was beyond excited to improve the show for States as well as have the opportunity to work with the cast and crew again," Anna Taillon (12) stated.

Although each individual event



that earned a superior rating at the district assessment was eligible to go to the state assessment, each troupe was only permitted to send five individual events in total. Separate from the individual events, as one of the two highest-scoring One Acts from District 6, Charlotte High's *The Miracle Worker* was invited to perform at states where the performance received its second superior rating.

"I was very proud of everyone who I performed with in *Miracle Worker*, and put so much work into it. Hearing that we won superior was just a very happy moment and very exciting to know that you worked this hard for something and it paid off," said senior Bailey Tietsworth who controlled the sound for the show.

Not only did Charlotte High

Schools thespian group perform and do extraordinarily well, but they also were able to watch other performers who were competing. The students also were invited to participate in free and optional workshops.

"My favorite workshop was the *Newsies* dance workshop because learned choreography from one of my favorite Broadway shows," Meghan Hagerty (09) decided.

These workshops varied from makeup, to tumbling, dance, television acting, and many others. The students who participated in the dance workshop had the opportunity to train with a current Rockette. Some students loved the workshop the most out of all of the activities to do, but others thoroughly enjoyed watching other performers onstage.

"I loved watching the other groups perform onstage. Because it was at the state level, most of the acts were very incredible to watch...my favorite part was performing the one act and just being able to be onstage with a show



that we've been working really hard on, and with a group of people that I really respect and have a lot of fun with," said senior Anna Taillon who played Helen's mother in *The Miracle Worker*.

The students spent four full days in Tampa, but the group rehearsed *The Miracle Worker* for the entirety of the year, just spending the final month prior to performing the piece cleaning it and making it state-worthy. Although Troupe 0922 went to the Florida Thespians State Festival primarily to compete, many of the thespians took advantage of their opportunity to branch out, meet new people, attend workshops, and improve their theatrical skills. This group strived to work as a team and perform as a team. Perhaps that is what it takes to be truly superior.

Good Sports and Good Advice

Charlotte High School's baseball team were given the opportunity to meet the Rays pitcher, Chris Archer. Charlotte High's Athletic Director, Brian Nolan entered the team in a contest to meet the Major League Baseball player through an organization called Good Sports. By luck, Charlotte High's baseball team was awarded this opportunity to meet Archer, and the team was also given \$4,800 worth of equipment.

"It inspired us because he is actually an MLB player who we were able to connect to because he is young and had to go through a lot of the same stuff that we do," said junior Christian Faldetta.

At the workshop, the pitcher spoke about his life and his journey to the Major Leagues.

"He told us how to be successful...I think it definitely inspired the younger kids on our team because this was a Major League player coming in and speaking about what he did himself to make it. He had a lot of relatable stories...about drugs and alcohol and how that could ruin your life," said junior Clayton Baird.

Although the meeting felt like only 40 minutes, the memory will last a lifetime for these baseball players who aspire to make it to the top.

Music Masters Making a Beautiful Sound



Music was in the air at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC) on March 19th. On this day, the Charlotte High School's Modern Music Masters club (Tri-M) hosted its induction ceremony.

"The members of Tri-M nominate choir and band students who have been in a choir or band class for one year, and the nominees may choose to participate in the organization. Once they complete their ten service hours then they may be inducted towards the end of the year," Bailey Tietsworth (12) explained the initiation process.

For the 2014-2015 school year, around 15 students were accepted into the music honor society. At the induction ceremony, after the members were accepted into the club, these new members either played or sang their piece of music.

Although solo pieces could easily be practiced at home, ensemble pieces took more planning and organization since each member of the group had to be available.

At the ceremony, Makayla Mitchell (12) sang alongside Anisa Khan (11) and Ronni Hemstreet (11) for the piece "If through the Sea of Night."

"We practiced once a week at Anisa's house to get ready for our performance," Mitchell explained.

In addition to performing in CPAC, members were not allowed to miss more than three meetings and they were required to accumulate 10 hours of

community service exclusively with the club by the time the induction ceremony occurred.

"I did the symphony, trash pickups after meetings, and that's pretty much all I did to get my hours," Lydia Wolfahrt (10) recalled.

Like Wolfahrt, Mitchell participated in Tri-M-sponsored activities to earn her volunteer hours.

"I went to the field day at Punta Gorda Middle and I timed people for a hula hoop contest," Mitchell remembered the

first volunteer activity she completed.

Tri-M was an honor society geared towards band and choir students who wanted to improve their musical abilities and help out their community through volunteering opportunities.

After the ceremony, 12 of the new inductees stayed for a group picture. While some inductees sang for their performance, others played musical instruments. At the ceremony, Grace Helgemo (10) played a solo on the piano. Helgemo is also involved in other music-based groups at Charlotte High School.

Leadership Around the World

To become great future leaders, one must learn several concepts of life and merge them to their own values. At a Student Government Association (SGA) Convention from February 27th through March 1st, the young leaders from CHS and several other high schools had the opportunity to learn more about how to improve their lives. The theme was leadership around the world. The students also got to learn about acceptance of ethnicities, making the right decisions in life, and so forth.

"I wanted to go so I could gain confidence to become a person who will stand up for causes that I believe to be important," Parnell reveals.

Loving to learn ways to better her life and those around her, Becca Parnell (10) was glad she attended the convention. Taking in as much advice as she can, Parnell learned from both guest speakers and the members from

other schools. She embraced the opportunity of communicating and learning from others with wide arms. This was Parnell's first year attending an SGA convention and she is hoping to go to another one next year.

"I went home with a different attitude towards life," responds Detrick.

Wanting to be the best version of herself, Julie Detrick (10) got as much information and help out of the workshops at the convention. She explains that the guest speakers brought her to tears, the workshops served great purposes, and the rally was a huge success. Detrick says that she wanted to go because ideas are shared and they are able to incorporate everything they've learned into their experiences at Charlotte. Truly feeling enriched, Detrick says she will definitely be going again next year.

Tarpon Robotics: Back for More

The robotics classes at Charlotte High work extremely hard to be able to qualify for big time competitions. Not only has our robotics teams made it to big name competitions, but they also did very well in the times they were there.

“The state competition was pretty big and it had a big, big, big focus on advancements to the next competition which helped to push us and make us work harder each competition,” said robotics student Nicholas Camerlingo (12).

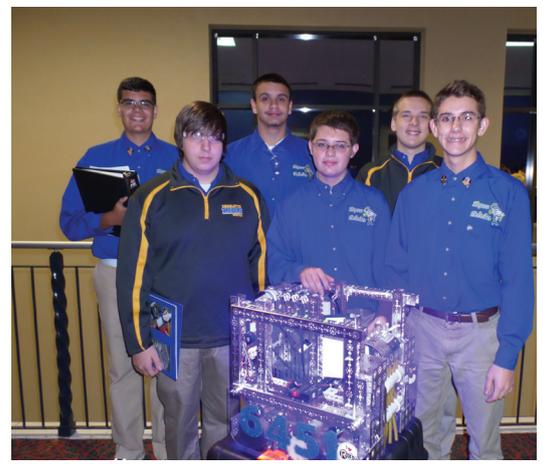
Recently, the teams had a competition and the only thing keeping them from the world championships was a motor malfunction.

“They had a robot malfunction and the motor actually broke with a couple matches still remaining on their schedule and they sadly ended up losing those matches because the other team that they had been paired up with was not that good, but had that malfunction not happened to us both teams would have been able to go to the world championships, so it was fortunate that we did not have enough time to switch at the motor, because they had only given us like five minutes to

do it,” stated Coach George.

The Robotics Team puts a very good name to Charlotte High. Our Rookie team Robo Mojo, Team 8908, had 4 wins and 4 losses for a 11th place overall rank out of 36 teams in the Ochoa Division. Even though they were ranked so high, they didn't get picked to play in the playoffs and ended up 5 spots away from qualifying for the World Championships after looking at the playoff rounds. They are now the best rookie team in the past 3 years we competed in the First Tech Challenge. The future is bright for this young team. With the team's strong will and hard work they will continue to do as well as they have all done in many other past competitions. The Veteran Tarpon Robotics, Team 6451, had 6 wins and 2 losses for a 6th place overall rank out of 36 teams in the Bluford Division. They ended up as a 4th place captain and played in the first round of the playoffs, but were eliminated.

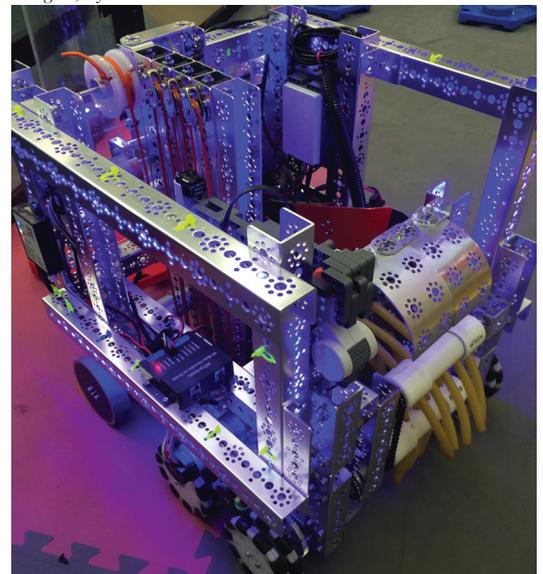
As a result for ranking so high in the qualifying rounds, they earned a spot to the World Championships and qualified for a 2nd year in a row. The World Championships takes place on April 22-25, 2015 in St. Louis, MO.



Team 6451 Members present were: Nathan Barnhart, Nicholas Camerlingo, Christian Lombardi, Rafael Rambla, Marc Sukennikoff, John Trentacosta



Team 8908 Members present were: Christopher Cavic, Jozef Clarke, Ryan Corcoran, Kyle Finch, Bradley Laishley, Bradley Spencer, Colby Spencer, Noelle Tomec, Cassidy Vaughn, Tyler Vitale



“We make a lot of videos, and it takes a lot of determination, a lot of drive and you also have to be focused to make these videos. We go out we get our details about the information we were given and we go out and film it,” mentioned Joey Behling (11).

TV Production is a fun way to learn how to make a video and how to use the proper edits to make your video look great.

No Technical Difficulties Here

TV Production is one of the fine arts classes offered at Charlotte High. Any grade level can take the class. The new students in the class learn on how to edit videos and from there they make their way up to the next level to create the school news show called Tarpon News



Network.

The students in the TV production class learn about the different techniques to use to edit a video.

“We have a new project every week, we take all the things we learned during class in we incorporate them in the videos that we make and we present it in front of the class,” said Alexis Evans (9).

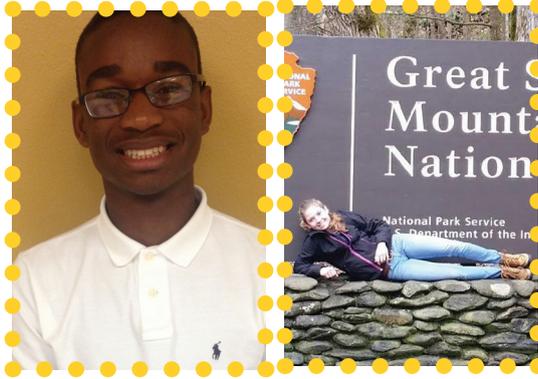
TV Production always allows students to incorporate their own ideas into a video. The class also focuses on team work and communication techniques. The students learn on how to work as a group and pitch their ideas together to make the perfect video.

Joey Evans (11) has been taking TV production for two years. He has learned a lot during those years.

Tarpon Spring Breakers...

MIAMI

"My grandma lives in Miami, so it was nice being able to spend time with my family there while also being able to enjoy the beaches that are there...spring break is important because it is a long school year, and students need time to relax," said Jonathan Sylvain.



TENNESSEE

"My favorite thing that I did on the trip was hiking in places like Laurel Falls. Florida typically does not have places to hike in like Tennessee does, it is cool to travel and experience different things," said Baird

WISCONSIN

"It would have been nice to go to the beach, but I do love theatre, so this was a great opportunity for me to get some extra experience. I helped out with set design, costumes, and makeup. It was so much fun," said Gina Dattilo.



ORLANDO

"My favorite thing that I did over spring break was going to the new Harry Potter ride at Universal Studios. It was only my second time going to Universal Studios and I loved every second of it! I can not wait to go back again soon," said Riley Havel.

DAYTONA

"I love motocross, so I was excited when my family and I went to the Daytona Amateur Supercross," said Jarrett Saladino(11).



COLORADO

"It was my first time in steamboat in particular, but I go to Colorado every spring break," said Hanna Strand.

ARCADIA

"During my spring break I rode on my four-wheeler a lot with my some of my real good friends, and some of my family," stated Lara Goulding(11).



UTAH

"I go to Utah almost every year but this is the first time I went for spring break," said Marissa Nash (10).

HOME

"I went sailing with my family and one of my friends right off the coast. We had so much fun! I have never been sailing until then," Vincent Jake Alforque.



BUSCH GARDENS

"I was scared out of my mind! It was absolutely crazy but awesome!" Tiffany Dodson reveals.

"She was freaking out and it was so funny," comments Sylvia Gardien

NEW YORK

"I played with my little brother in the snow because it was the first time he's ever seen snow," said Phillips Wheeler.



MONTANA

"It was such a great trip overall that there wasn't just one good part," says Michael Gunderson.

FLORIDA

"Very. All over my abs," recounted Roche with a twinge of pain."I thought my abs would deflect the sun," winced Adrian Roche



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

"I visited my aunt, uncle, and cousin in the Dominican Republic for a week during Spring Break. It was so much fun and an awesome vacation," explained Morgan Stroup (12).

SIESTA KEY

"It was so cute," peeped Genther,"we even drew strawberries on it and everything," said Kierra Genther of her sand art.



CABBAGE KEY

"I went on a ship to Cabbage Key Island. I went with family member and friends and it was a lot of fun. It was really a fun way to spend time with my family that I have not seen in many years," said LeAnne Bennet (9)

Journalism News...

The Tarpon Journalism program is alive and growing at Charlotte High. We are finding our way and learning lots in the process. The current staff not only designs, writes, advertises and produces the yearbook, they also write for the Charlotte Sun page and for the online paper "Hooked." These students carry a full schedule of academics, athletics and outside curricular activities, while learning graphic design and Photoshop skills. They do all of this within one class period, five times a week.

Should you have comments/suggestions, compliments or would like to contribute to the program by photo or story, please contact Tarpon Journalism. tarponbuzz@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Ms. Kelli J. Lipe, Adviser

2014-2015 Staff:

Lauren Skeoch...Amber Jelen...Sergio Albarracin...Jacqueline van der Meulen...
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