

Winter 2016



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EHS Teacher of the Year



Amanda Lacy-Shitama, a University of Florida graduate, has been teaching at Eastside High School for 12 years. During that time, Lacy-Shitama has taught 9-12th grade English and currently teaches 11-12th reading. She also served as the English department chair for two years. Lacy-Shitama describes teaching as a calling and chance to make true, lasting connections. "It's not just a job," she said. Lacy-Shitama strives to be an empowering and inspirational force in students' lives. One of her current students agreed that Lacy-Shitama does just that, saying that Lacy-Shitama motivates her every day by not giving up on her and praising her efforts and eventual success. "My students are my people," Lacy-Shitama said.

EHS Employee of the Year

Melissa Wesley



Bookkeeper/Coffee Addict

Background: Accounting and Computer Science

Motto: Always be positive – You will create a good environment

Family: Wife to James and Mother of 2 Jedis

Passions: Family, gardening, horseback riding, outdoors adventuring

What I enjoy most about my job: My team members and being able to search and obtain the best solutions to save the school, departments and student body time and money.

Quotes that make me smile:

Strange new trend at the office. People putting names on food in the company fridge. Today I had a tuna fish sandwich named Kevin.

Bookkeeping is like riding a bike. Except the bike is on fire. You are on fire. Everything is on fire!

Thank you everyone!

Teacher News



During the Spring 2015, Sra. María Eugenia Zelaya, applied for the Teachers for Global Classroom program (TGC). This is a year-long professional development U.S. elementary, middle and high school teachers to become leaders in global education. For TGC is funded and sponsor primarily by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) implements the program. Sra. Zelaya was one of the 82 teachers selected among 400 applicants.

The program began with an eight-week online professional development course in the Fall 2015. During this class, Sra. Zelaya redesigned some of her units and lessons for her Spanish IV IB/AP Spanish classes to include Global Competence and integrates different technology tools. The students had the opportunity to have Skype sessions with guest speakers and more recently with students from Guadalajara, Mexico. After completing her course, Sra. Zelaya received an invitation to attend a Global Education Symposium in Washington, D.C. from February 18-20th, 2016.

During the summer (July 18th-August 6th) she will have the opportunity to travel with a cohort of other U.S. teachers to Colombia to meet with teachers and leaders. She will be developing a Global Education Guide and a Blog to document her journey to Colombia.

Student News

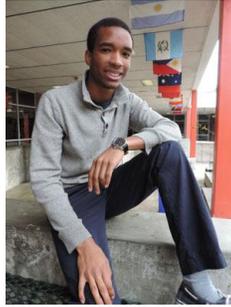
Graduation Rate

Eastside High School has the highest graduation rate in Alachua county, graduating 94.3% of its students in 2015! Congratulations to the students, faculty, staff, and administration for this amazing achievement!

Eastside Student Named Semi-finalist in National Science Competition

Eastside High School Senior, Danielle Liu, has been named a semifinalist in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search. She is among just 300 students worldwide to be named a semifinalist in the program out of 1750 entrants. To qualify, Liu had to submit an 18 page research paper, a series of essays, transcripts and recommendation letters. Liu's research paper was called "Exploration of the Development of Self-cleaning and Self-assembled Antireflection Coatings." As a semifinalist, Liu will receive a \$1000 award from the Intel Foundation.

Student News (con't)



Eastside student wins opportunity to meet President Obama, other national leaders

Not many high school students get to meet the leader of the free world, but Eastside High School senior Nii Soja Torto will have that opportunity after winning a spot in the 54th annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP).

Established in 1962 by the U.S. Senate, the program brings to Washington, D.C. a select group of 104 student delegates from throughout the nation for what the USSYP calls “an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it.” That will include meetings and briefings with members of Congress and their staff, leaders of federal agencies, a Supreme Court Justice, U.S. ambassadors and representatives of the national media. The delegates are also slated to meet with President Barack Obama during the visit, which will be held March 5-12.

According to USSYP, “the overall mission of the program is to help instill within each class of USSYP student delegates more profound knowledge of the American politician process and a lifelong commitment to public service.”

Torto has already demonstrated his commitment to public service. Despite a rigorous academic schedule in the school’s International Baccalaureate program, he has given more than 400 hours of community service while attending high school. He has held leadership posts in student government throughout middle and high school, and is currently Eastside’s Student Body President. He is also a captain of the Speech and Debate team and co-founder and director of the African Student Union.

“Nii Soja embodies the sincerity, integrity, and confidence that are the hallmarks of the very best leaders,” said Eastside principal Jeff Charbonnet. “He is passionate about creating the best school environment for all students.”

Torto says he’s thrilled about the opportunity to spend time with other students who share his passions.

“I’ve already talked with delegates from the other states, and they’re all really dedicated to public service and volunteer work,” he said. “Being around like-minded individuals will be a very enriching experience for me.”

Torto says he hasn’t decided whether he’d be interested in ever running for office, but public service will definitely be the focus of his future career.

Student News (con't)

“I’m very interested in global health,” he said. “Health equity is a really important issue that is affecting nations all around the world.”

Torto was one of two Florida students chosen for the USSYP based on a rigorous application and interview process. In addition to providing information about his academic, extracurricular and volunteer activities, he also had to respond to questions about his goals for the future, his interest in public service and about issues he believes are affecting the nation and the world.

Torto chose the issues of party politics, climate change and education reform, particularly in Florida, with a focus on the negative impacts of standardized testing.

“There’s too much coming from the top down,” he said. “When teachers are discouraged from teaching what they find interesting, that leads to students not being interested.”

Whatever the issue, Torto says he and his peers need to take an interest in politics and leadership.

“We’re in that 17- to 18-year-old group, which means we’ll be voting in the next election,” he said. “It’s important that we understand the issues facing the nation and what different politicians are offering as solutions to those problems.”

As a USSYP delegate, Torto will be receiving a \$5000 undergraduate college scholarship, and all his expenses to Washington, D.C. will be provided by The Hearst Foundations, which fully funds the program.

Drama News

Congratulations to the Eastside Thespian Troupe for another successful trip to Districts. Ms. Meyers and her troupe took home 20 Superior ratings and two Critic’s Choices. Elena McNiece won Critic’s Choice for Costume Construction and Sam Williamson won for Sound Design.

Band News

Congratulations to the band students who made the All-County Honor Band. The students auditioned against all other players in the county, and came out on top! They will perform a concert with the Associate Director of Bands from the University of South Florida, Dr. Matthew McCutcheon. The 25 students representing Eastside is the most that EHS has ever put in the band.

Alexis Scalese	Selena Cho	Olivia Jaeger	Daniel Koropecykj-Cox
Abraham Wolpert	Emily An	Zariah Brown	Aryil Bechtel
Logan Diehl	Sangki Jun	Ike Gugel	Emily Tseung
Eden Sherwood	Kaitlyn Headrick	Joseph Elston (First in the county)	
Joanna Page	Jessica Cooke	Calista Headrick	Rachel Fregly
Jack Burns	Noah Hagen	Eaden Murphy	Noah Kieffer-Ashby
Bianca Maesa	Alan Dai		

NJROTC

Following a very successful year in the 2014-2015 drill season, the NJROTC Fighting Rams continue on a path of success. On March 7, 2015 the Rams went to their first States competition in their 34 years of existence. Cadet McKinney, Helm, Fletcher and the rest of the outstanding seniors will be greatly missed; they heavily contributed to the unit's success in NJROTC's very exciting season. So far the drill season has opened with a luke-warm performance at Mitchell.

Our hard work at Mitchell, for the 2015-2016 year, reveals a promising season for the new school year.

2015 Mitchell Drill/Athletic Meet Awards:

1. Armed Basic Drill: 4th place
2. Unarmed Exhibition: Tied 5th place
3. Overall Athletics: 4th place
4. 100m Relay: 2nd place
5. 200m Relay: 1st place=
6. SPIRIT AWARD

On October 24th, 2015, in Brooksville, FL we competed in the unit's first all athletic competition this year, placing in the events below.

2015 Iron Bear Athletic Meet Awards:

1. Damage Control: 5th place
2. Agility Course: 5th place
3. Klackerboard: 5th place
4. Tug-o-War: 1st place
5. 100m Relay: 1st place

Our most recent drill meet in Winter Park, FL on November 7th, 2015

2015 Lake Howell Drill/Athletic Meet:

1. Color Guard: 5th place
2. Overall athletics: 4th place
3. 200m relay: 2nd place
4. 100m relay: 1st place

Written by Commanding Officer, Cadet Kendolyn Hall and Executive Officer, Casey Jones II

Culinary News

Five Eastside Students Qualify!

Creative, innovative, originality and being versed in nutrition were all required besides knowledge of taste, presentation/appeal and technique. Students researched, tested and tasted to get just the right flavors using Florida fruits and vegetables for innovative dishes that WOWED the judges.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is hosting the 2015 Student Chef Cook-Off in Jacksonville on November 14, 2015.

Five Eastside High School students from the Institute of Culinary Arts have qualified to compete in the regional 2015 Student Chef Snack Cook-Off.

Eastside High School won all of the high school slots for this regional competition as well as a slot in Tampa and one in Orlando. Last year Eastside student Alia Harris became a Student Chef Ambassador for the 2015-2016 school year.

Students will go against other high school students for a chance of cash prizes as well as bragging rights for Eastside and a chance to become an ambassador for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Students from all over central Florida were selected to prepare their original, healthy snack recipe featuring a Fresh From Florida product for a panel of judges.

To qualify, the three students had to create an original snack meeting several criteria, including FRESH FLORIDA fruits or vegetables.

At the competition, the students will have to prepare their creations for a panel of expert judges.

A cook-off for all six first-place 9th-12th-grade students will be held at a separate event at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa, Florida, on February 6, 2016.

Boys Soccer

The Eastside boys' soccer team finished another great season at 16-3-3. They were led by seven seniors including captains Jack Hughes, Chris Fregly and Rafael Bichier. This senior class closed out their career with 4 straight District championships and three regional finals. The team went undefeated for a second straight year in districts. Rico Mirti senior forward came on strong scoring goals for the team. Rams did have some youth with three freshmen starting Emeka Okafor, Will Sawyer and Alex Gruber. They lost a tough first round match to Seabreeze 1-0 but still are city champs and District champs to send the seniors off in style.

Art News

Eastside High School Art Students “Clean Up”

at the 17th annual *Trashformations* recycled art competition sponsored by Alachua County and hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History.



First Place
Fruitless
by
Celena Dong



**Second Place
& Museum Award**
Jelly
By Kathryn Chase



Third Place
Galaxy Tree
by Daniel Tang



Waste Watcher Award
Guardian of the Forest
by Miette Simpson

Media Center News

EHS Media Center Volunteers Needed for Exciting Project!

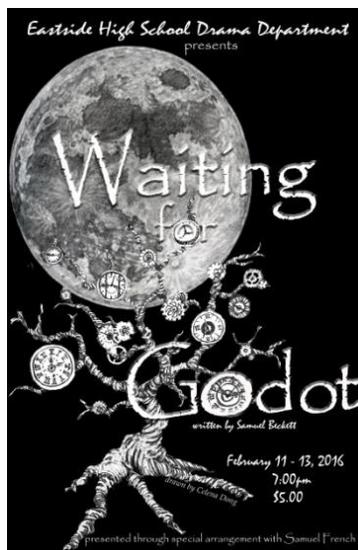
The EHS Media Center will be renovated this summer - new carpet, ceiling tiles, lights and furniture. This project is long overdue, and thanks to our PTSA it will become a reality this year. Mrs. Antony is in need of volunteers for the following:

Teen Advisory Group for media center refresh (provide input for furniture choices, spaces, activities they want to do in the media center). This is mostly an opinion group, people who are also willing to go out and survey other students who DON'T use the media center and find out what those students want. I expect to meet with this group after school at least three times the first year, 6 times the second year.

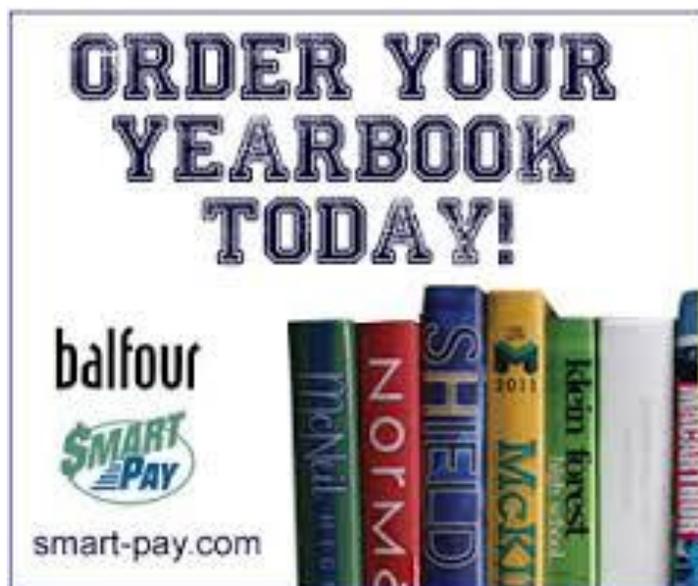
Longer term - Participate in media center refresh events such as Fundraising for media center furniture and equipment purchases (this and next school year) ; pack library books in April/May/June; take library books out of boxes and put them back on shelves, in order, when refresh is finished (August/September 2016); help organize rooms not refreshed (teacher work areas, equipment room) and discard unwanted items, etc.

Juniors now would continue fundraising throughout their senior year for additional necessary media purchases. This is an exciting project that will benefit all of us at EHS, and your participation is encouraged. Bright Future and CAS hours can be obtained while completing a worthwhile project for the Eastside family. See Mrs. Antony in the Media Center to sign up.

The Drama Department Presents



Yearbooks



Yearbooks are almost all gone!! We have less than 50 remaining, and we cannot order extra. You can order online or directly from Ms. Christian for just \$50!