



# CUDA CHRONICLE

For the parents, staff, students, and community of  
New Smyrna Beach High School

April 2021

Volume 19/Issue 4

Greetings Cuda Families,

I cannot thank our students, faculty and staff, and community enough for their unyielding support as we continue to navigate the challenges the national pandemic has presented. Despite the many challenges you have remained resilient.

As we enter the fourth quarter, we will be regularly updating information about school events, particularly those for our seniors. Daily announcements are made to the students at 10:18 a.m. and emailed to the teachers if students have questions later. School Messages, our website, and calling in to the school are the primary avenues for families to find information. Our Activities Director, Heather Roberts, can provide details on these events if you have questions. She can be reached at 386-424-2555, extension 38510 or [harobert@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:harobert@volusia.k12.fl.us).

Parents and families, please continue to monitor your students' grades and attendance through Parent Portal. We are in the home stretch and it's important for everyone to continue to stay diligent in the classroom working on assignments, as well as following the safety guidelines on campus and at various events. Regular student attendance is paramount for success. All teachers provide office hour time from 8:05 a.m. to 8:29 a.m. for students to receive additional assistance. Our teachers' email addresses are on our website. Please contact the teacher if you have questions or concerns about your student's progress.

We are looking forward to a fast-paced fourth quarter full of state assessments, final performances, sporting events, and many other events. Plans for various senior events are in the process of being finalized to close out the school year. Once these plans are completed, we will be sharing that information along with finalized graduation guidelines. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Timothy Merrick, *Principal*  
[trmerric@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:trmerric@volusia.k12.fl.us)  
[www.nsbhigh.com](http://www.nsbhigh.com)

## NSBHS Mission Statement:

Working together with parents, school personnel and community members, New Smyrna Beach High School students will graduate with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be positive contributors to society.

## FFA

### FFA Week: February 22-26, 2021

Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. It's a time to share what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day.

Principal Tim Merrick and TOA Geraldine Fuhr were the winners of the "Kiss the Cow" event.



### FFA News

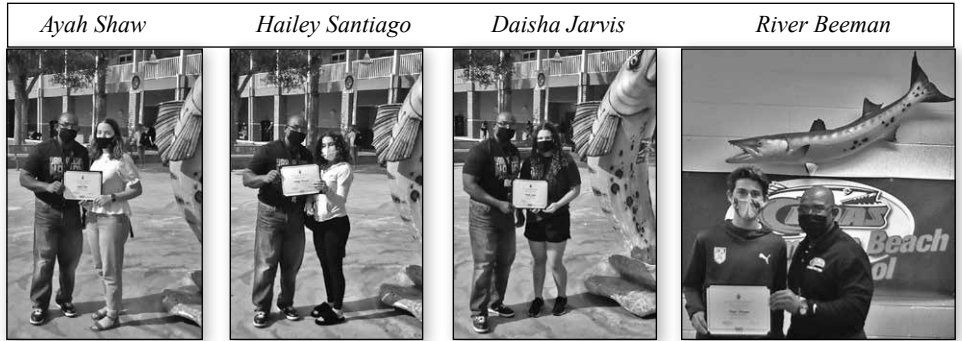
Emma Norman took grand champion market swine of the entire Central Florida Fair.



## Students of the Month

Scholars for the Month  
of January 2021

Athletes for the Month  
of January 2021



Scholar & Athletes for the Month of February 2021



### First Year Teacher Award

Congratulations to Crystal McCaddon – NSBHS  
First Year Teacher Award 2021



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'Cuda Chronicles'

April 2021 • Issue #4

Published Six Times Per Year

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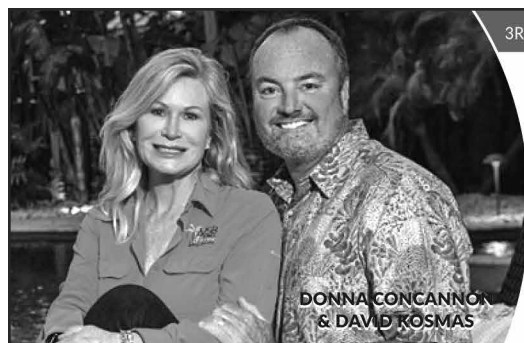
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## 2021 Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards New Smyrna Beach High School Award Winners

Student Name	Work Title	Work Category	Award	Educator Name
Alissa Burke	Mortem	Digital Art	Gold Key	Tina Curry
Alissa Burke	Drip	Digital Art	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Alissa Burke	Pulling The Cart	Editorial Cartoon sponsored by The Herb Block Foundation	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Lindsey Rae Clements-Clark	Light	Art Portfolio	Gold Key	Tina Curry
Madilynn Dees	Floral Vase	Ceramics & Glass	Honorable Mention	Kristen Gregor
Garrett Geiger	The Revolution	Digital Art	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Garrett Geiger	Drip	Photography	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Emma Graff	Man in the moon	Digital Art	Gold Key	Tina Curry
Emma Graff	Under My Skin	Digital Art	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Emma Graff	Awooga	Digital Art	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Emma Graff	Split	Digital Art	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Emma Graff	Cry your Eyes Out	Digital Art	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Emma Graff	Bug Breath	Digital Art	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Alana Hemby	Characteristics	Art Portfolio	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Cheyenne Lewis	Injustice For All	Art Portfolio	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Emily Loescher Wright	The End	Drawing & Illustration	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Jordyn Lyman	autumn is not beautiful	Digital Art	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Caitlyn Mccall	Droplets of Color	Ceramics & Glass	Honorable Mention	Kristen Gregor
Averi Merkle	They All Fall Down	Ceramics & Glass	Honorable Mention	Kristen Gregor
Ariana Mills	Ember Wolf	Ceramics & Glass	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Ariana Mills	Silver Vintage	Fashion	Silver Key	Tina Curry
Tiffany Morin	man of iron	Drawing & Illustration	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Tiffany Morin	women	Drawing & Illustration	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Tiffany Morin	baby	Drawing & Illustration	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Nadezhda Olkhova	My Grace	Drawing & Illustration	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Nadezhda Olkhova	Reinstalling...	Drawing & Illustration	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Nadezhda Olkhova	The Orator	Painting	Honorable Mention	Tina Curry
Riley Sauter	Slippery When Wet	Ceramics & Glass	Honorable Mention	Kristen Gregor
Annabelle Spicer	Extinction	Ceramics & Glass	Gold Key	Kristen Gregor
Annabelle Spicer	Fatum Crystal	Sculpture	Silver Key	Kristen Gregor
Colby Williams	leading on	Art Portfolio	Silver Key	Tina Curry
Tori Yelvington	Face	Photography	Gold Key	Tina Curry
Tori Yelvington	Foot	Photography	Silver Key	Tina Curry
Tori Yelvington	smoke	Photography	Silver Key	Tina Curry



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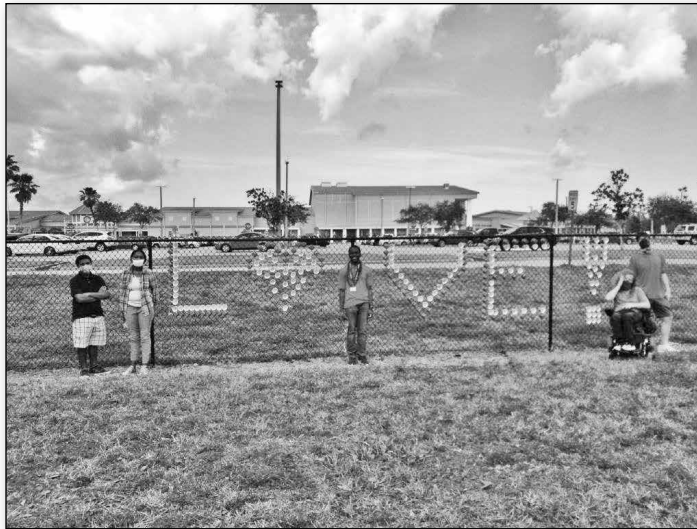
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**Cudas Choose Kindness**



*Members  
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birthday bags  
for students  
with birthdays  
in the first  
semester.*



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Cuda's Choose Kindness is a club that helps promote mental health and spread love with little acts of kindness that brighten everyone's day! Activities that we do to help make our school a better place are awarding Employee of the Month, handing out gifts to all staff on campus to show that their hard work and dedication to their students don't go unnoticed, participating in a food drive, handing out Birthday Bags, and so much more! Meetings are every other Wednesday in room 5-118 and we're always accepting new members. So stop by if you want to make a difference!



*Members congratulating  
Mrs. Stach for achieving  
Employee of the Month.*

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## Volusia County Virtual World Languages Festival 2021

Over 50 NSBHS World Language students will have their projects entered in the 52nd annual Volusia County World Languages Festival. This year is unique as it is completely virtual. NSBHS teachers; Mrs. Adarve, Mrs. Guruvadoo, Mrs. Rosado and Mr. Gellermann encouraged their students to participate in this tradition. They selected the best projects in a variety of categories, from vocabulary posters to the talent show, to move on to the district event. Teachers throughout the district submitted their students' projects by the deadline of March 13th. Teachers sponsoring the different events will judge the projects and certificates and ribbons will be awarded. Mr. Gellermann is the sponsor of the Krazy for Karaoke and the Photography Around the World events. It is hoped that we will be able to share virtually some of the best of show projects with the public. Stay tuned for more information on that. Please see the photo attached of a watercolor painting by Dalma Assenbrenner who is Spanish 1 student.

Dr. Grace Kellermeier, Volusia County World Languages Coordinator states "This is the 52nd annual Volusia County Schools World Languages Festival. Since its inception, our World Languages teachers and coordinator have sponsored a variety of events and global experiences for our students across the district, students of several spoken and signed languages. In 2021, we have pivoted to a completely online event. We look forward to taking some ideas from this year and blending them in to our next face-to-face festival, hopefully next year."

## Interact

The Interact Club of New Smyrna Beach High School has a mission of helping out the community and giving back, especially in these crazy times. In the fall, we painted pumpkins with our peers in the courtyard, getting into the Halloween spirit! Just recently, we donated Christmas gifts for the Boys and Girls Club of NSB to show these future Cudas we care.

This year, we meet every other Thursday in room 5-118 during both lunches. So, come join and be a part of serving the community!



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2021 Outstanding Seniors

Congratulations to our Outstanding Seniors from the Class of 2021!



- Almusaad, Sarah
- Balmer, Shelby
- Bosma, Meghan
- Buck, Erickson
- Carter, Riley
- Clark, Seanna
- Demetita, Loubien Julia
- Donaldson, Morgan
- Duguay, Matthew
- Frey, Tyler
- Harvey, Lilly
- Henry, Nicholas
- Kornegay, Brooke
- Lane, Ashley
- Lane, Kasey
- Latty, Samuel
- Markell, Grace
- Merrick, Timia
- Niswonger, Samuel
- Perry, Daelynn
- Peterson, Gwyneth
- Schlageter, Emma
- Smith, Shannon
- Smith, Taber
- Valenzisi, Christian
- Wemple, Lucille



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Happy St. Patrick's Day

*A visit from Barry the Barracuda on St. Patrick's Day.*



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Did you know that New Smyrna Beach is the SHARK BITE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD? Yes, that's right – the world. More bites than South Africa and more than Australia's Great Barrier Reef. We live in an area with an immense amount of biodiversity. Our estuaries are breeding grounds for thousands of aquatic species, and that includes many species of sharks! Some sharks may be a tad more aggressive than others. Sharks like bull sharks, black tip sharks, spinner sharks, etc. have their pups in the lagoon and sometimes these young, inexperienced sharks mistake swimmers and surfers for something other than human. Hence, a bite. For many years, George Burgess, professor emeritus and spokesman for the International Shark Attack File at the University of Florida, insisted that shark attacks are cases of mistaken identity and should be called "bites" not "attacks." He explains that hyperbole often directs humans' feelings and fears surrounding sharks, and since people tend to hate what they fear, sharks fall into the role of "the hated monster." Most people disregard the immense importance sharks play in aquatic ecosystems. Think about it: aquatic camouflage, schooling behavior, and even speed, all arose as self-protective behaviors in response to the top predators—sharks! The fact is, you have a greater chance of winning the lottery or being struck by lightning than you have of being bitten by a shark in the SHARK BITE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

Here's the thing... Sharks have a very low fecundity. That means they don't mature quickly and when they do, they don't produce an abundance of offspring (so, say, the opposite of mice). Therefore, they are not a sustainable species to harvest or kill.

And here's the other thing... Most shark species are endangered, overharvested, and misunderstood. But one of our students set out to change that...

Recently, as part of a lesson to conserve and protect our natural resources, Katie Vordenberg began an online petition to protect sharks. The petition is now international, with over 72,000 signatures. Her petition explains the number one issue facing sharks today. Needless to say, having one of our students make such an impact (expanding a school assignment from grassroots to international communities) is quite an accomplishment! As of right now, Katie's petition has reached every continent in the world! Please read the petition and consider adding your name!

**SAVE THE SHARKS - Visit: [change.org/save\\_the\\_sharks](https://change.org/save_the_sharks)**

Katie Vordenberg started this petition to President of the United States and 21 others.

*My goal with this petition is to create awareness about sharks and hopefully create better laws to protect them. More than 100 million sharks are being killed every year for their fins. They have their fins cut off, and are thrown back into the ocean to die slowly. Sharks are needed in the world because they serve a massive part in our ecosystem. They balance out the oceans and remove the weak and the sick. They ensure species diversity. Their disappearance can set off a chain reaction throughout the ocean and even affect the people who are on the shore. Many shark species are being threatened with extinction because they don't have the chance to reproduce quick enough with the amount that are being killed each year. Sharks are "functionally extinct" in one of five of the world's coral reefs. This finning of sharks will affect the environment, and the food chain massively. Keep our sharks safe and in the water where they belong. Every signature helps and is beneficial to helping these magnificent creatures repopulate and get off of the endangered list. It is estimated that by 2040 sharks will be completely extinct. Let's help reverse this and change the world one step at a time. **Save the sharks.***

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