



# PANTHER POST

WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL- BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

2015-2016 VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

## Introduction to the Newspaper Staff

Hello, Woodlawn Panthers! We here at the *Panther Post* would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves. The staff includes: Rebeca Aguilar-Amaya, Jyron Anderson, Fabian Coleman, Sarah Hayden, Sierra Johnson, Lillian Khemmanyvong, Mya Kremin, Alexis Martin, and Elizabeth Roquemore. It has been many years since Woodlawn has had a newspaper, and we are very excited to be a part of bringing back this great tradition. We strive to bring the student body

information focused on Woodlawn: sports, clubs, student life, creative works, etc. In other words, the events that matter to you! We look forward to a great year, and we hope you enjoy your paper!



The Panther Post staff lounges in front of the school for their staff photo.

Photo by Ms. Rozier

## SPORTS

### It is Only the Beginning!

By Lillian Khemmanyvong

The football team kicked off their season with their first win (although unofficial) on August 28 against Southern Lab in the Jamboree. The game ended in a close score of 10-6 with Javin Myers scoring the Panther's first touchdown. Before the game, I got to have a talk with Outside Linebacker Jyron Anderson, who caught an interception on the 40 yard line and ran the ball 37 yards. "Before every game we usually go and take an hour nap, and one of my pregame traditions is that I usually wear some type of funny sweatpants and a hat, like ninja turtles or something."

After watching the game and asking what he thought the team could or needed to improve on, his response was, "We need to work on our offense because it's important that we score points, and we usually find ourselves in situations where we can't get through, and it's an ongoing problem that we need to fix." The game continued with Woodlawn scoring the second touchdown and Southern Lab scoring the next. A game as close as it was, we can only hope the football team will have a successful year. Good luck Panthers!



The teams lined up to shake hands after the game.

Photo by Lillian Khemmanyvong



# Lady Panthers Down Devils in Season Opener

By Jyron Anderson

Woodlawn Panthers hosted their season opener versus the Plaquemine Green Devils in what was a satisfying showing for the lady panthers. Lady Panthers jump to a 9-1 lead early in the first match. But that quickly changes to 13-10 due to errors by our team. After a short 15-15 tie, the panthers regain a 20-15 lead and go on to a 25-20 victory. The second match starts out much like the first as Woodlawn takes an 8-1 lead early but the this time the devils fail to match the panthers’ intensity as we cruise to an easy 25-3 victory. The third and final match ended in another 25-20 victory for the panthers. Woodlawn’s team leaders include: Jodi Edo (9 kills, 5 blocks, and 1 ace), Hannah Luker (7 kills), and Myah Johnson (3 kills, 14 assists). This win sparked a (1-0) start to the season, a solid morale booster needed for long season. Needless to say, we had this one in the bag.



Woodlawn’s own Jodi Edo with the spike to increase the Lady Panthers’ lead

Photo by Jyron Anderson

## A New Current

By Sierra Johnson

Many Woodlawn students have wondered about the new sports team that, seemingly, arrived out of nowhere. This year’s first Swim Team will be coached by Ms. Macaluso. Her passion for swimming arose in early childhood; she started competitive swimming at the age of 4 and continued until she was 19. Her desire is to provide an extracurricular activity for students to get together and have an unforgettable time. A few swim team details include:

- Practice is at *Crawfish Aquatics* every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
  - Any and every skill level is accepted
  - There’s no limit on how many people can join
  - Uniforms
  - Worn during swim meets
    - Boys: form fitting trousers
    - (solid black with purple stripe down the side)
    - Girls: form fitting one piece
    - (multiple shades of purple)

Competitions will be held on Saturdays and Sundays; two teams will race against the clock for the fastest time, side by side in the same pool. Teams will compete based off speed; hence fast teams will be paired with fast teams and slower teams with slower teams. No tryouts are held this year, so please feel free to join!



Sadie Boudreaux, Ezaria Coates, and Leslie Medina hang out in the pool after practice.

Photo by Ms. Macaluso



The Swim Team paused during their practice for a quick photo.

Photo by Ms. Macaluso



# Getting to Know Wrestling

By Fabian Coleman

Do you know what a suplex, dusty finish, or flipping turtle is? Probably not, the sport of wrestling is not that well-known to people. The sports that are talked about are football, basketball, baseball, and volleyball but never wrestling. And no, I am not talking about WWE with John Cena;

Woodlawn’s very own wrestling team puts in a lot of hard work and deserves recognition for their dedication.

Wrestling is a physically demanding sport. Before practice can even begin, the team must go through a month long conditioning period from September 4<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>. Conditioning normally requires the team to run laps around the tennis courts, perform push-ups, sit-ups, and then finish with sprints. This helps to prepare the team for two, six minute long matches. These matches are nonstop; there is only a ten second break before continuing to the second match, making our conditioning incredibly important. After conditioning, the real practice begins. It usually starts at 2:45 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m.; during that time the team does numerous exercises to get ready for the upcoming tournaments. Practice consists of warm-ups, technique work, sparing, and cool down. The whole practice is very competitive but fun because the central idea of sparing is to help each other increase the skills of the team.

In order to join the team, it does not matter what grade you are in as long as you get a physical and do what Coach Lewis tells you to do. This takes some serious work and grit because at that point you are a student athlete and need to stay on top of your grades. I hope after reading this article it motivates you to go out and join, or at least watch, the Woodlawn Wrestling Team.



Gage Stafford and Tien Nguyen run hard during the conditioning time.

Photo by Fabian Coleman

# OPPOSING OPINIONS

## Vending Machine Wars

by Sarah Hayden



Shelby Sanchez dislikes her drink choice.

Photo by Sarah Hayden

Students at Woodlawn High School currently have drink machines that carry diet or low calorie soft drinks and sport drinks. We should ditch the diet drinks and just invest in the regular, sugary drinks.

Students at Woodlawn should be able to drink whatever they want at school (within reason). Regular sodas simply taste better than diet; there is no real reason why students cannot access these drinks at school. Diet drinks can even do more harm than regular drinks!

Diet drinks are packed with more caffeine than regular drinks and makes students bounce off the walls! Another point is these drinks are full of artificial sweeteners. According to an article from the *American Diabetes Association*, drinking diet sodas increase your risk of type 2 diabetes. Another article from Science Daily wrote that sweetened drinks are linked to depression. Another factor to think about regarding the sodas in the vending machines is Michelle Obama’s push for healthier school food. With her changing the school lunches, she also changed the items in the vending machines, such as favoring these dangerous diet drink choices. Thanks, Obama! So next time you want a nice refreshing diet drink from Woodlawn’s vending machines, just think about what you are putting in your body.

Finally, it is obvious that if the school replaced the diet drinks with regular drinks, the school could make more money. Some of the money from the vending machines goes to

Woodlawn, and we would make more if we had the sugary, regular drinks. Regular drinks are tastier, healthier, and should be available to students!



## No More Carbonated Drinks!

By Elizabeth Roquemore

Woodlawn High has six vending machines for student use located in different places in the campus. More than half of these machines are filled with non-nutritional, carbonated beverages. Though these drinks appear to be zero calories, they are still very bad for your brain and body in general. I agree with my opponent that these diet drinks should not be allowed for purchase in a school setting; however, school vending machines should be filled with nutritional drinks only and no soda at all!

Many health problems are associated with any sugary, unnatural carbonated soda. A coke a day is shown to lead to diabetes. It also is said to be associated with headaches and migraines. “These results are consistent with findings from a number of other observational studies increased long term risk of diabetes, heart attack, stroke and other major medical problems among daily soda users,” says Dr. Sharon Fowler. Since we are trying to control our obesity problem here in America, keeping these drinks legal in our vending machines could be adding to the weight!

Therefore, replacing soda in our vending machines with juice and other healthy drinks could benefit everyone here at Woodlawn. Changing our ways could greatly benefit the Woodlawn society as a whole. One change in a small community could positively affect all the other school communities around us. All schools should fight to get rid of all carbonated drinks.

# CLUBS AND ACADEMICS

## Shout out to the Yearbook

By Alexis Martin

Yearbook is getting ready for another year of documenting the school year's memories. As of right now the staff has decided a price for the yearbook and has acquired a new format for this year. According to Ms. Getter, the yearbook is \$50, and the

staff has learned their format from their trip to Southeastern University. During their trip, they not only learned about formats but also this year's trends, layouts, designs, how to cover the entire school, and different ways to take pictures for the yearbook. *The Echo* should be ready by August of next year. Inside of the yearbook the staff plans to have clubs and organizations recognized from Woodlawn High School. This is a great way for the entire school to get noticed for what they are accomplishing. Something else that will be in *The Echo* will be this year's senior ads. A senior ad is a picture and message featured in the yearbook. It will let the child know how proud their parents are of them, and it will help them go back and remember what they accomplished throughout high school. In order to get a senior ad, the senior must talk to either the sponsor, Ms. Getter, or the staff. Start paying for a yearbook really soon because after November the price will rise. Be sure to thank all of the people involved with the yearbook because they work their hardest to make sure Woodlawn's memories are documented.



From left to right: Erin Laborde, Markalia Lafrance, Kerry Washington, Tiara Smith, Makenzey Heughan, Blake DeCoux, Blanca Lopez, Guisela Gonzalez, Gabbi Johnson, Waleed Shammout, Sadie Weil, Ashley Martin, Shelby Sanchez, Emily Schittone. Not Pictured: Bailey Hathaway

## Get Ready To Rumble!!

By Sierra Johnson

Red Stick Rumble is an off season robotics event that gives schools from all over another chance to compete with last season's robots; it also provides a way to introduce rookie members into the organization. This is the third year we have held Red Stick Rumble at Woodlawn; it shows what robotics is about, as opposed to just explaining. Red Stick Rumble is the biggest school event as far as the number of people it takes to run. Students are assigned different jobs, such as field managers (leaders), directing crowds, and touring important guests (other members), which helps develop working and management skills.

There are three levels for schools to compete in: FRC (high school), FTC (some high, mostly middle), and FLL (elementary). FTC has smaller, kid friendly challenges and takes place on a 10 x 10 table. FLL shows elementary students how to build robots and helps them get ready for the new season. FRC takes place on a basketball sized arena, where high schools compete against each other at the same time, on the same field. They are put into groups of three, which are randomly selected, and work together for the fastest time, using preprogramed robots. This is one of the slower games, but what makes it interesting is that in one match a student could be working with another team, then competing against them in the next.



Christian Ester watches as other schools compete.

Photo by Emily Schittone

This year's Red Stick Rumble was held September 12<sup>th</sup> 2015. The drivers representing Panthrobotics were: Seryna White, Chrishan Legeune, Alisa Wess, and Brennan Burleish. Panthrobotic's success in the Red Stick Rumble was not winning, but instead managing to raise approximately \$200 for a cure for Leukemia. They also had 25 people to donate blood, almost 2 times more than expected! The choir sang the national anthem at the beginning of Red Stick Rumble, and the JROTC managed to raise over \$1000 for their program through concessions. Danielle Massey was the announcer for FRC, which had 15 groups participate, while FTC had 18 groups participate, and FLL had over 190 participates. That was the largest in the state! Mr. Eiland, the Panthrobotics sponsor, counts this as the most successful Red Stick Rumble to date, and the team hopes to have many more in the future.



# STUDENT LIFE

## Senior Officers of 2015- 2016

By Mya Kremin

This year's running for senior officer was heated with students using different methods of propaganda to gain votes. Posters lined every inch of the hallways for candidates. The campaign lasted for what seemed like the longest two weeks for the students. The positions available were: President, vice president, treasurer, and sergeant-at-arms. Seven people ran for president, three ran for vice president and one person ran for treasurer and sergeant-at-arms. A comment that all the candidates made was that a personality trait that is required to be an officer is leadership. For instance, vice president, Tiana Thomas, said "leadership is definitely a quality you need to have in order to become a senior officer." The senior president, Dejoin Hughes, said "I want to be a voice for the school and make it the best year I can for faculty and students." Thomas plans to create a better reputation for Woodlawn, stating, "I want to make Woodlawn a better school so that when people talk about our school, they have only had positive things to say." Both officers say they are so excited for this year and they are determined to make it a memorable senior year.



Senior President Dejoin Hughes takes a moment to discuss his plans for Woodlawn this year.

Photo by Mya Kremin

## Senior Advice to Freshmen

By Alexis Martin

All freshman think that high school is a big and scary place, but in reality, it is a bigger middle school. Luckily for the freshman, a few seniors have gathered to share some advice for them to get through high school.

According to Cindy Gonzalez, in order to get through four years of high school you must do the following: be yourself, make friends, and participate in everything you can, make memories, take pictures, and get all of your school work in. Do those things because time flies by so quickly and before you know it, you will be a senior, too.

Joshua Johnson believes that you must study, ask questions, and turn in all of your work in on time to get to the top of your class. If you did not already know, a class ranking is where your high school will list each student in your grade order based on your GPA. "Trust me, it is not as difficult to get to the top of your class as it seems," said Johnson, "and do not worry about making friends, either!"

Sierra Johnson says, "Unlike middle school, there are a lot more people in high school. This means there are a lot more people that may share similar interests. Just be you and you will be just fine!" Most people do not even remember how they became friends with people. You will not even realize you are doing it, so there is no reason to worry about it. Sierra also had some things to share about clubs. She says, "Choose whichever club seems the most fun to you. All clubs have an out- of- school time commitment, so do not get stuck doing something that you hate. Enjoy your youth while you still have it." She strongly believes that you should only join a club that you are interested in. The same goes for sports.

To get through your classes, Nathaniel Batiste says, "Always stay in the middle of the classroom and do not be afraid to ask questions." Nathaniel believes that if you stay in the center of the class, you will be able to be familiar with everything going on around you.

Jonathan Ramage states, "I would recommend either cross country or soccer. I say this mainly because I've watched other sports and they do not have the same comradely toward one another." Clubs and sports are also great ways to help take your mind off of all of your school work for a while.

Hopefully, this advice helped out all of the freshman reading this so that they can minimize all of the stress over high school. Remember, high school is not scary. If you follow these guidelines, you will be just fine.

# FEATURES

## Woodlawn Talks

By Rebeca Aguilar

Sometimes we students wonder about what is going on with the school rules, how the rules help, why they are enforced, what are their intentions, etc. But we do not think about how the Principals feel; it is like we do not care about them. We usually think they are just people who do not let students enjoy their life, but it is not like that. The faculty wants us to be the best, and they want us to be someone successful in life. That includes Ms. Walker, one of Woodlawn High School's Assistant Principals. She wants everyone in the Woodlawn community to be successful, including students, teachers, administration, and parents. With that in mind, here are some things Ms. Walker has for this year.

“Well, this new school year should be really exciting for students; I feel

very positive about this new school year. The rules are helping a lot. First of all, with the rules regarding cellphones in the hallways, I think that is important. One problem we had when students used their cellphones in the hallways was that they couldn't hear any announcements because they were listening to music. If we had an emergency they wouldn't know it. Also, they were so busy walking in the hallways and texting, they weren't paying attention to where they were going and they were getting late to class. As a result of the new rule, tardies have decreased because students are not likely to get distracted and they get to their classes on time. To make sure that students follow the rules we have to be consistent. That means that we have to keep reminding them over and over again. We also have to be consistent with the discipline that we are handing down as well.”

“My leadership style I cannot say is laid back...I expect you to do things when I tell you and I expect you to be respectful because I respect you and that's the point; if I respect you and I respect your space, I expect you to respect me and respect my space and what I'm asking you to do as an adult. Some students like me, some students think of me like a mother figure, some of them may think I have an attitude all the time; it's a mix, and it depends on who you ask. If it's a student that I talk to, those students basically like me; if it's a student that I discipline, some of them they still like me. I speak to my students every day in the hallways and I ask them how they are doing. I ask them about their classes, about their grades, etc. So I think what I want to do is to establish that relationship between students and the entire school, like how I had with my students when I taught.”

“My three goals for this school year are to have: peace, respect, and responsibility. I want a peaceful learning environment, I want every student to feel like that they are able to learn...I want a peaceful learning environment for the teachers so they can enjoy teaching. I want a respectful environment where you can ask someone to tuck in their shirt and then move on; I want students to respect each other, respect each other's thoughts, feelings, ideas, cultures; I want students to be responsible again for their actions and don't react all the time, but act positively all the time.”

“The biggest reward for any educator in Woodlawn is to see a child walk across the stage that you thought and he thought couldn't; that is the biggest reward for anyone. If that is not a reward for someone in the field of education, it's time to find a new job. I want students to reach their goals; I want to know the underlining problem when I have a meeting with a parent and a student. I pull their grades, I look at their grades and I look at their absences. I check all of that and I want to know why this is happening and why that has happened; then I follow up. I want to know what's going on and I expect the parent to do the same thing. I expect the parents to follow through, I expect the students to follow through, and I expect them to graduate.”



Ms. Walker is ready to start the year off right.

Photo by Rebeca Aguilar



# Review of *Straight Outta Compton* (2015)

by Jyron Anderson

**Cast:** O'Shea Jackson Jr., Corey Hawkins, Jason Mitchell, Aldis Hodge, Neil Brown Jr., Paul Giamatti

**Director:** F. Gary Gray

**Synopsis:** O'Shea "Ice Cube" Jackson (O'Shea Jackson Jr.), Andre "Dr. Dre" Young (Corey Hawkins), and Eric "Eazy E" Wright (Jason Mitchell) are the three pioneers of the rap group N.W.A.. After recording their soon to be smash hit "Boys in the Hood," these local rappers caught the interests of many, including an up and coming agent named Jerry Heller (Paul Giamatti) who immediately wanted to represent them. After a few local shows the group attracted the interest of a wealthy record label and their fame took off. Everything seemed to go well until the group met some unforeseen run-ins with the law and businessmen.

## Review:

Director F. Gary Gray and producers Andre "Dr. Dre" Young and O'Shea "Ice Cube" Jackson bring forth an inspiring sure to be instant classic in their movie "Straight Outta Compton". In this biopic of the controversial late 80s rap group "N.W.A." we get to see the flashy and fun lifestyles along with the trials and tribulations of three young guys with a dream. Acquiring some friends and foes along the way, we see the how the aspiring young rappers face everyday life in infamous Compton, California, where violence reigns throughout the city. Whether it's dealing with drugs, gangsters, or overly aggressive cops, these rappers are determined to reach success at all costs. But does this movie just reflect the problems of the past? Or are we still seeing the same mistreatments of the law today?

This film came equipped with great actors, impactful scenes, and classic wardrobe. The acting was pretty fantastic, it made me forget that I was watching a movie and feel like I was there with them in Compton. The clothes accented the time period and the character costumes remained intact with the actual people. With the exception of the white sox cap worn by Eazy E that he never wore in real life. Lighting throughout the film was sort of dim, giving it an old timey look mixed with the high definition of our time. Allowing the viewers to feel like they're right there without losing its nostalgic feel. Being filmed in Compton, the scenery was spot on, as to be expected.

The actors bore strong resemblances to their characters, including the actor (Marcc Rose), who had an almost scary resemblance to his character Tupac Shakur. Although, there was a lack of women portrayed as intelligent or civilized, with the exception of Dr. Dre's mother, Eazy E's wife, and Ice Cube's wife (who barely had a minute of camera time). The others were mostly if not all groupies. But it is assumed that F. Gary Gray

wanted the main focus to be on the rappers and there lavish lifestyles. So women having minor roles is to be expected. There was also a lack of use of MC Ren's and DJ Yella's characters, nevertheless, the film still accomplished its main goals.

"Straight Outta Compton" contains very intense scenes, usually with police, guns, violence, or extreme obscenity. I give this movie an 8 out of 10, so if you haven't seen it already be sure to check it out.



# ARTS

“How Much Learning Can You Do?”

Pulled out of my dream

Patronizing screams from a 4x8 piece of black

How convenient

Bright lit hallways

Signs read out “Are you ready for another great year of learning!”

Exclamation point exclamation point

And I thought to myself

How much learning can you do,

in a locked in room 2x2

with pointless worksheets due?

~Elizabeth J. Roquemore

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WHS Upcoming Events

### Football Schedule:

Sept. 25 St. Amant (Home)  
Oct. 2 West St. John (Home)  
Oct. 9 Belaire (Away)  
Oct. 15 Tara- Homecoming (Home)  
Oct. 23 Plaquemine (Away)  
Oct. 30 St. Michael-Senior Night (Home)  
Nov. 6 Livonia (Home)  
Nov. 13 Play-offs

### Volleyball Schedule:

Sept. 24 Central (Away)  
Sept. 29 Belaire (Home)  
Oct. 1 Live Oak (Home)  
Oct. 7 Broadmoor (Home)  
Oct. 8 Tara (Away)  
Oct. 13 Central (Home)

Oct. 15 Belaire (Away)

Oct. 20 Live Oak (Away)

Oct. 22 Broadmoor (Away)

Oct. 27 Tara- Senior Night (Home)

### Cross Country Schedule:

Sept. 26 Battlefield Cross Country  
(Port Hudson State Historic Site)  
Oct. 3 St. Joseph’s CC Invitational  
(Highland Road Park)  
Oct. 10 Catholic High CC Invitational  
(Highland Road Park)  
Oct. 17 Varsity Sports Walker Shootout  
(Sidney Hutchinson Park)  
Oct. 24 Jack Schommer Invitational  
(City Park)  
Nov. 10 EBR Metro Championship  
(Highland Park)

Nov. 17 LHSAA State Meet  
(Northwestern State University)

### Choir Schedule:

Oct. 10 Macy’s Acappella Convention-  
Lost N’ Sound  
Oct. 15 ICHSA- Lost N’ Sound  
Nov. 19 & 20 EBR Rock Camp- All choir  
and strings  
Dec. 3 & 4 The Best Christmas Pageant  
Ever- All choir and drama  
Apr. 22 &23 National Acappella  
Convention- All choir

### Others:

Oct. 16 Homecoming Dance  
Oct. 29-30 Haunted House-During lunch  
shifts

Want important club or sport dates published in the newspaper?  
Want to submit an original creative work?  
Comments, suggestions, or concerns?  
Send us your input at [arozier@ebrschools.org](mailto:arozier@ebrschools.org)