

CFK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Elizabeth Bishop House Fieldtrips

By: Isabelle Coller

On September 16, 21, and 23, ELA students had field trips to the Elizabeth Bishop House and Gardens. They learned about history and had a poetry session.



Scholarship Service Contest

By: Isabelle Coller

Monroe County students have the opportunity to earn \$500 to apply to their education goals. Students must type a 500-word essay, choosing from three prompts. Students also need 20 hours of community service between September 7 - October 5 to participate in the contest. If you have more questions, please email Dr. Drewel at christine.drewel@cfk.edu



Upcoming Dates

By: Jazzmyn Carr

Sept. 28 Embree Riddle presentation (seniors)
Oct 1 - FIU campus visit (seniors)
Oct 2 - School Picture Day
Oct 3 - KWLS college essay writing workshop (see flyer below)
Oct 9 - End of Quarter 1
Oct 9 - Ghost Stories From The Gardens Fundraiser
Oct 12-13 - No School
Oct 16 - Academy Awards @1:00 p.m.
Oct 19 - PAC meeting
Oct 23 - PSAT/NMSQT (10th-11th)
Oct 24 - NHS Car Wash



Bowling Fieldtrip

By: Isabelle Coller

Students went on a bowling field trip to the Naval Air Station Key West on Friday, September 18. Students bowled, and had the options to play pool, air hockey, darts, and foosball. Everyone had a great time participating in the class competition. See the final bowling scores to the right.



Picture Day is Coming!
Friday, October 2. 😊

Bowling Final Scores Class Competition

First Place: Sophomore Class
 Second Place: Junior Class
 Third Place: Senior Class



Congratulations!

Senior Spotlight: Rachel Stewart



What degree(s) and/or certification(s) are you pursuing?

I would like to get a B.S. in Astronomy & Astrophysics, an M.S. in Astrophysics, and eventually finish with a Ph.D.

Please list the colleges, universities, jobs/careers, or future paths you will be pursuing after graduation.



I'd love to attend University of Florida or University of Chicago, and once I have a degree (or a few), I'd like to work in deep-space astrophysics, especially in research, like particle accelerators or gravitational wave observatories.



Please describe two events or experiences you have had this year that has impacted your education.

I really struggled with an online college class, and got a much worse grade than I wanted. It really kicked me into gear when it came to finding strategies to manage my ADHD tendencies.

Over the summer, I went to Huntsville to work again at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's planetarium, and not only did I get to work in a cool place and learn lots, but I also got to see all of my old friends from when I worked there. The biggest impact that it had, though, was that I was mostly on my own (I was staying with a family friend), and I learned a lot of situational maturity.

Do you have an inspirational quote or advice to offer the undergraduate students at CFKA?

If things feel bad right now, or if you feel like the rest of your life depends on your high school career; it doesn't. You could fail every class or mess up on all of your commitments, and still do well in life. Be the best that you can be, but don't forget that your best self is also your happiest self.



Anything else you would like to share? Community Service? Projects?



I volunteer at theaters, and I act whenever I can, so I've been in plays like Beetlejuice, Wonka, and Clue. I run CFK's astronomy club, and I've done a lot of work in planetariums, both with presenting shows and logistics. I offer a lot of tutoring, both for my community service projects, but also on an individual basis and (hopefully) for CFK's library, as well.



Counselor's Corner

By: Brenda Huebscher



Dear CFK Academy Families,

These past two years at CFK Academy have been truly wonderful, and it has been an absolute privilege to work alongside such a dedicated staff and incredible students.

I am writing to share that I have accepted a new position with the United States Navy as the School Liaison Officer. In this role, I will be working directly with Purple Star Schools—including CFK Academy—to assist military families and students as they transition in and out of Key West. While my daily routine is changing, I am grateful that I will still be connected to this amazing community and able to support our local families.

Every day here has given me a front-row seat to your children's resilience, curiosity, and growth. Watching them navigate challenges, build strong friendships, and discover their unique talents has been the highlight of my time as their School Counselor.

I want to say THANK YOU. Your trust, partnership, and steadfast support make CFK Academy the special place that it is.

As our students move forward, my hope is that they continue to approach the world with confidence and kindness, knowing that every step of their journey matters. Thank you for letting me be a part of your student's story—I look forward to seeing you around Key West and continuing to serve our military-connected youth.

With deep gratitude,
Brenda Huebscher



Constitution Day

By: Michael Bryant



On Thursday September 17, students went to the CFK library to listen to the featured guest speaker for Constitution Day: The Honorable Edwin A. Scales, III; Chief Judge, Florida's Third District Court of Appeal. Before Judge Scales' speech, the audience participated in a Jeopardy & a True or False game. The League of Women Voters' president also made a brief appearance to talk about his experience as their first male president. Judge Scales began by jokingly promoting his radio show "The Ed Scales Show" on US1 Radio 104.1 FM. He then talked about the peoples' rights & the Articles of the Constitution. When he got to the third Article, he explained how it affects him & other judges. He stressed how judges have to uphold the law no matter what the situation is. Once the event was over, the audience was treated to some refreshments.



Judge Scales



Free copies of the Constitution



Dr. Brittany Snyder, Interim CFK President
& Assistant Principal Jen Alexander

What's Happening in Our Classes?

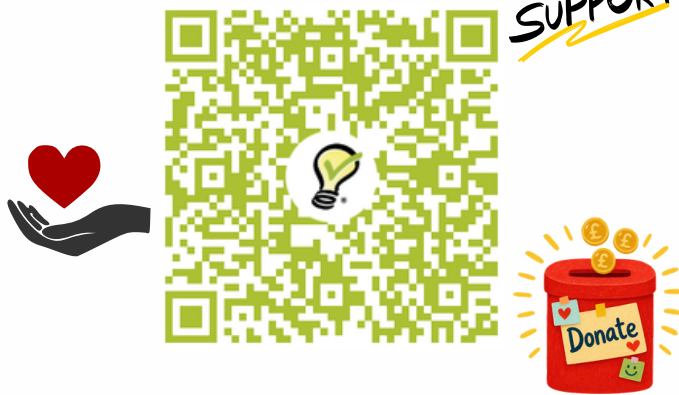
A*

Mrs. Garcia's Classes:



Mrs. Garcia has created a sign up genius for people to donate specific school items for clubs and classes, such as: sewing supplies, snack cart items, and fundraising supplies. Use the link or QR code below. Remember, donations are a way to earn some of your required parent hours.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COF4BA7A723A4FAC70-65904695> this



GIVE SUPPORT

Dr. Drewel's Classes:

All ELA Classes had the opportunity to visit the Elizabeth Bishop House on field trips this past week. They learned about the history of the house and gardens, Bishop's contributions, and the role the Key West Literary Seminar played in the restoration process. They also had a brief poetry exercise. Special thanks to Kelly Smoot, Education Coordinator and CFKA van drivers Ms. Kelly Raver and Ms. Jen Alexander.

ELA students are also creating children's books as part of their Community Service Challenge Scholarship opportunity. These books will be given to teachers at Gerald Adams Elementary when finished.



Mr. Hughes' Classes:



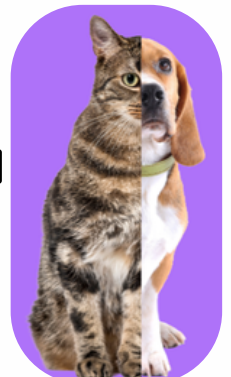
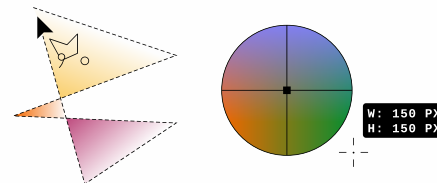
World History launched into the Byzantine Empire this week, focusing on Emperor Constantine, the fall of Rome as the seat of power, and the rise of Constantinople as the world capital.

U.S. History students took the 2025 U.S. History EOC exam for practice.

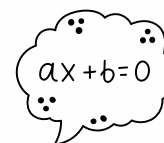
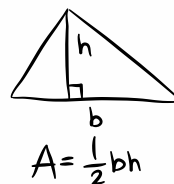


Mrs. Hughes' Classes:

In Digital Media students have continued working in Adobe Photoshop, learning the different tools to edit a photo.



In Geometry and Algebra 2 students have been taking quizzes.



Suicide Prevention Month

By: Jazzmyn Carr

September is Suicide Prevention month. Mental struggles are often invisible. It's extremely hard to know when people are suffering. If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out to school administration or call the suicide hotline: 988.



Sports Corner

By: Asia Leatherwood

Volleyball Schedule Dates:
10/07 @ 5:30 p.m. (@MHS)



Cheerleading and Conchettes Half
Time Performance dates:
9/25 @7:00 p.m. (Home game)
10/02 @ 7:00 p.m. (Home game)



Congratulations to Haven Andrade and Polina Lysenko for winning their swim meet on the 12th!

Swim Meet Dates:
10/7 @4:00 p.m. (@Coral Shores)



THE CFK ACADEMY STUDENT NEWSLETTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF:
ISABELLE COLLIER

ASSISTANT EDITORS:
JAZZMYN CARR
MICHAEL BRYANT
ASIA LEATHERWOOD

COPY EDITOR:
SOPHIE HERRERA

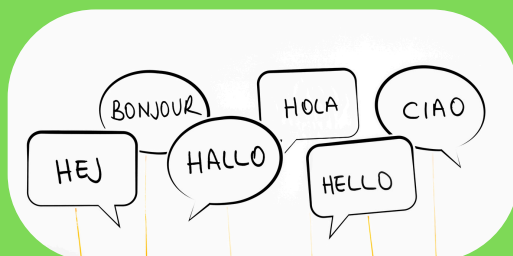
CREATED BI-WEEKLY IN
JOURNALISM
CLASS



Start With Hello Week

By: Asia Leatherwood

Students participated in a spirit week for Start With Hello week. This happens for the remembrance of the Sandy Hook Promise. Students had activities throughout the week. See the infographic to the right to see what we did each day.



MONDAY

Meet-N-Greet Monday
Students are encouraged to use their own "Hello Style" by saying hello in a foreign language!

TUESDAY

Tell Someone Tuesday
Students give friendly notes to each other all day long telling them what they appreciate.

WEDNESDAY

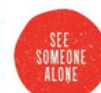
Wear Green Wednesday
Students and staff are encouraged to wear green today as a symbol of unity, inclusivity and solidarity with Sandy Hook Promise.

THURSDAY

Thankful Thursday
Students are encouraged to write a thankful note to a trusted adult.

FRIDAY

Friendly High-Five Friday
Students and staff are encouraged to give high-fives to friends.



A YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM FROM SANDY HOOK PROMISE

September 21-25, 2026

Helpful Links:

[Become a Volunteer](#)
[MCSO Volunteer Handbook](#)
[CFKA Survival Guide](#)
[Parent Volunteer Hours](#)

ORDER YOUR PICTURES TODAY!

Order your picture package before Picture Day on:

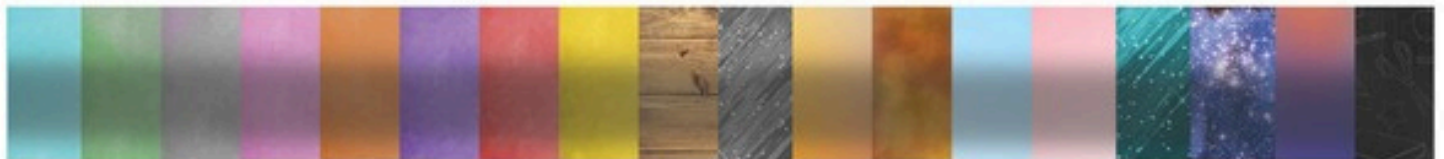
10/2/2026

College of the Florida Keys



To place an order and view available packages
scan QR Code or visit us at HJProud.com

Background options available online:



COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

Class of 2027

Senior Photos will take place on 10/02



Your formal portraits can be used for more than a yearbook photo.

- Graduation Announcement
- Senior Awards
- College Showcase Banner
- Scholarships
- Honor societies

A few tips for your session:

TUXEDO

Please wear a white t-shirt under your uniform shirt on this day. We will take pictures in a tuxedo shirt, jacket and bow-tie which will be provided for you.

DRAPE

Please wear any strapless top or tanktop under your uniform on this day. A formal drape will be provided and placed over it for the portrait.



Miami

7640 NW 25th St, Suite 107,
Miami, FL 33122

Orlando

6416 Old Winter Garden Rd,
Orlando, FL 32835

Palm Beach

1032 North Dixie Highway
Lake Worth, FL 33460

Key West
Literary
Seminar



Young Writers
Program

College Essay Workshop



Photos of the Elizabeth Bishop House on White Street in Key West.

High school seniors! Are you applying to college?

Make your admissions essay stand out.

The admissions essay is an opportunity to show your dream school who you are and why you're the best fit for them. Strong college essays are insightful, creative, and unique to you. We'll help show you how to craft an essay that does just that.

The mission of our Young Writers program is to share Key West's rich literary heritage with local students, connect students to contemporary authors, and build critical thinking and creative writing skills through immersive, hands-on experiences.

kwls.org

*Craft an essay that
is unique to you.*

When:

Wednesday, Sept. 16th, 6–7:30 pm

— OR —

Saturday, Oct. 3rd, 3–4:30 pm

Where:

The Elizabeth Bishop
House & Garden
624 White Street in Key West



Cost:

Free!

We'll cover:

- Brainstorming your essay
 - Writing persuasively
 - Applying creative elements to your writing
 - The revision process
 - Much more
-

Register here:



Mobile Dental Unit Program



Florida Baptist
Convention

Right Beside You.



Florida
Department
of Health



Oct. 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2026

at

99001 Overseas Highway • Key Largo, FL 33037



First Baptist Church

KEY LARGO

*Free dental care
for those without dental insurance
and who meet income qualifications.*

OFFERING: Exams, Xrays, Fillings, Extractions and Cleanings

TAKING APPOINTMENTS BEGINNING ON

SEPTEMBER 1ST

CALL THE FBCKLCHURCH OFFICE AT 305-451-2269

GHOST STORIES FROM THE GARDENS

OCTOBER 9TH, 2026

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

CHOOSE FROM 2 DIFFERENT TOURS:

7:00 OR 8:30 P.M.

Join us for an evening of ghost tales and spooky fun,
led by 5-star rated tour guide Amy Andrade.
All proceeds to benefit CFK Academy students.



CFK
ACADEMY



Purchase tickets
at [keystix.com](https://www.keystix.com) or
scan the code



THE KEY WEST BOTANICAL GARDENS AND TROPICAL FOREST
5210 COLLEGE RD. KEY WEST, FL 33040



**WEAR CFKA
CLASS COLORS
EVERY FRIDAY!**

★ FRESHMEN : WHITE

**SOPHOMORES : NAVY
BLUE**

JUNIORS : ORANGE

SENIORS : LIGHT BLUE

**HAVE GREAT PHOTOS?
UPLOAD THEM FOR THE
YEARBOOK!**



SCAN HERE!

THANK YOU!



CASH PRIZES

Teachers, Mentors, Group Leaders and Students

Create your best scarecrow or spookiest skeleton to be displayed in the Garden and win!

ON DISPLAY SEPTEMBER 25TH – NOVEMBER 30TH

Bring STREAM learning to life!

A hands-on design challenge for your classroom or youth group.

Register Today!

Registration open through September 24th

Teachers & Youth Group Leaders: \$25*

Includes a FREE Field Trip to the exhibit and a STREAM Design Challenge Educational Packet

***Sponsorships Available for FREE Entry**

Scan to Register



Scan for entry fees, rules, installation details & the complete contest information.

Scan to Support



WANT TO SUPPORT?

Help Sponsor a Scarecrow or Skeleton for a classroom or a youth group.

Any Amount Helps!



The Florida Keys
& Key West
come as you are

WHERE EVERYTHING BEGINS

Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden, 5210 College Road
education@keywest.garden or events@keywest.garden | www.keywest.garden

The Key West Botanical Garden Society, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations are deductible under the Internal Revenue Service Code. The Garden is publicly owned and operated as a passive, natural resource based public outdoor recreational site.