



# WEST GATE GAZETTE

**THE MOST TRUSTED SOURCE FOR MUSTANG NEWS!**



Ms. Alyssa Volante

## *New Teacher Makes Immediate Impact*

BY ALESSA A AND LAUREN F

What does it take to be a teacher you may ask? Well, we interviewed a teacher named Mrs. Volante. She has always wanted to be a teacher ever since she was little. But being a teacher has big responsibilities. They must watch kids and teenagers all day. They must grade assignments and tests every single day, even on the weekends! They also make sure your students stay safe daily. The teachers make PowerPoints. They must learn things the day before they teach the subject. They also need to act like mentors, role models, caregivers, and advisers. Teachers inspire a new generation of learners and guide them to have a positive impact all around the world.

**MORE ON  
PAGE 2...**



West Gate K-8  
Port St. Lucie, Florida

The entrance to West Gate K-8

## *Welcome to Your Newspaper!*

BY NOI J, SOPHIA O, AND CHLOE S

Today marks the day that the first edition of our school newspaper has been published! This is West Gate K-8's brand new journalism initiative and we are really excited to be a part of this! Some topics we will include in our newspaper include reviews, national and world news, teacher spotlights, editorial, and finally entertainment and sports. This newspaper is run by sixth and seventh grade students while being edited by Mr. Jesse Smith. We will try our hardest to pick topics relevant and will talk about important issues to use this newspaper as our school's voice.

Our school has been planning this newspaper for quite a while now. Students have been assigned topics or "beats" and have been working hard on their topics to make sure that this article is just as they planned. This newspaper will include many different topics that are listed above. We hope that you enjoy what our talented writers will say!

All of us are very proud of how this first edition has turned out and can't wait for you all to read our newspaper. We hope you all enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed writing it.

Go Mustangs!

### *IN THIS ISSUE*

**REVIEWS**

**EDITORIALS**

**TEACHER**

**SPOTLIGHTS**

**TEACHER SPOTLIGHT**

*Continued from Page 1...*

Mrs. Volante is an incredibly positive person. The first interview question that we asked her was “Why did you want to become a teacher?” She said, “I have always loved teaching kids. When I was younger, I went to daycare that I ended up being a helper. I loved to help the other kids. I knew when I was noticeably young what I wanted to do. And I am sure glad I stuck with it.” The second interview question we asked her was, “What made you choose West Gate?” She responded with, “I have a few people that I worked with at a previous school that worked here and loved it. So, I thought I would give it a try!” The third interview question that we asked her was, “What is your favorite part about teaching and why? She replied with, “I love when I see students understanding things for the first time. It is really rewarding when I see that "light bulb" moment when they finally understand something.”

The fourth question we asked her was, “What would you be doing if you weren’t a teacher and why? She answered with, “I would love to work at Disney. It is a dream of mine to work anything at Disney World, preferably a princess.” The last question we asked her was, “What’s your favorite school subject and why?” She stated, “I love to teach math the most. I learn new things every day and learn more about math as I teach it.”

So, if you add all those reasons and Mrs. Volante’s responses then you will know what it takes to be a teacher. Mrs. Volante is a very responsible teacher, and she is nice. If you want to become a teacher think about the responsibilities and what Mrs. Volante said. Then you should make the pros and cons then consider being a teacher. When you think about becoming a teacher you should practice teaching a class to see if you are ready to watch kids all day, also ask family if they can pretend to take a test that you made and then grade it. You should also think about the jobs that you have wanted over the years before you consider being a teacher.

***Special Report: Ms. Brewi Retires***

**BY JACK B**

Ms. Brewi began her teaching career in Pre-K. For several years, she taught 3-year-olds. Then she moved to middle school science. Most of her twenty-three years as a teacher was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade science, but she also taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Among her accomplishments as a teacher, she was proud to receive the SLC Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Brewi also served as the science department leader at West Gate and became lifelong friends with her fellow science educators.

Her decision to retire was not an easy one. She said that she was not prepared for how different it would be because of COVID and was feeling very stressed. After so many years of enjoying teaching, it became a difficult challenge to continue. When asked what her plans for the future are, she said “To eat and sleep when I want and spend time with my family. When the world is safe again, I would like to do some traveling. I also want to sub because I really miss teaching!”



***Fifth Grade Gets a New Writing Teacher***

**WELCOME, MRS. SMITH!**

**BY HAYLIE D AND KAITLYN H**

This year Mrs. Ashlen Smith came to West Gate K-8 as a 5th grade writing teacher. Mrs. Smith realized that she wanted to become a teacher when she volunteered at her church. She realized that she wanted to be a teacher at our school when she went to one of our school events last year called Multi-Cultural Night. It was at that event she had realized that she likes our school and the community.

She enjoys helping students reach their goals in school. Another reason to why she became a teacher at our school is because her husband, Mr. Smith, already works at our school. Mrs. Smith already has a lot of experience with teaching because before she came to West Gate, she was a teacher at a different school in St Lucie County (Southport).

Mrs. Smith loves to build up a strong relationship with her students. She likes to help them find their potential and help them achieve it. If Mrs. Smith never became a teacher, she would be working at Sea World as a dolphin trainer. Her favorite subject in school is writing, so she became a writing teacher.



***A Few Questions with Mrs. Hamilton...***

**BY MAKEILA P**

**Question #1:** Why did you want to become a teacher?

**Hamilton:** *“I have always enjoyed working with children. My first job was babysitting and then as a teenager, I taught swim lessons. I think because I had such a wonderful educational experience, that was one of the factors that motivated me to become a teacher.”*

**Question #2:** What is your favorite part about teaching and why?

**Hamilton:** *“My favorite part about teaching is building relationships with my students. Just knowing that I can have a positive impact on an individual every day, inspires me.”*



**TEACHER SPOTLIGHT**

*Coach Nash: A West Gate Original*

**BY SAM D**

He coached at Memorial Middle School and Sportswood, NJ, but the Athletic Director told him he could only rehire him for the following season if he was going to college to become a teacher. He originally wanted to be a journalist, but then changed his major and enrolled in education classes. He taught in NJ for eleven years, but his in-laws lived in Port St. Lucie. In 2006, he and his wife decided to give Florida a try. He interviewed at two schools. West Gate was just about to open, and he met with the principal, Mr. Cranmer.



It was the most relaxed interview he had ever been a part of. He thought Mr. Cranmer would be a great principal to work for, and he was right. He loved the relationships you can build with students and families. Nothing is better than receiving an email or phone call or running into former students. If he was not a teacher, he would've been a police officer/crime scene investigator. He always loved teaching math because it was like solving puzzles. It's not a subject loved by everyone, so helping students break about difficult equations/problems was such a challenge. He enjoyed helping students overcome their fear of math.



West Gate students learn from the best of the best!

**REVIEWS**

*West Gate K-8 Shines for Students*

**BY ANDREA M**

Personally, I go to West Gate K-8 and... I love it! If your kid needs a school, they need to go here. There are so many things you can do like field day, carnivals, and more. I love the carnivals because they have snow cones and popcorn! I want to give a shout out to some of my greatest teachers who were so nice, calm, and helped me without hesitation. They make learning fun! Mrs. Alvarez, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Berggren, Mrs. Vasquez, and the best writing teacher I ever had: Mrs. Abrams. Oh! and how could I forget my best science teacher: Mr. Calvo? They are the best teachers around. I could go on and on about this school, but I would run out of paper. I love this school!



*The Soapbox: Student Editorials*

*If you could travel back in time three years, what advice would you give yourself?*

**By Emma S**

If I could go back three years, the advice I would give my past self is "Don't push yourself to do everything perfectly to the point where it's emotionally exhausting. It's okay to fail sometimes, and it isn't going to define you forever. Even if you feel like what you do will never be worthwhile, you've still got plenty of time to improve, so even if that was the case it'll be okay. Just the fact that you want to succeed means that you will always have a chance to no matter what."

*If you could grow up to be famous, what would you be famous for?*

**By Sophia S**

If I would have grown up famous I would want it to be by having wealthy parents. They would have their own great big company and their kids would be me and my little brother. It would also run in the family, as in my whole family is wealthy. So, I would basically be famous because my whole family is wealthy.

*What are you most grateful for in your life?*

**By Shannel R**

I'm thankful for my life, my family, my home, and my dog. Basically, everything I have in life is special, even the small things. I'm thankful for these things because they all make me happy and I'm lucky I have them because some people don't. I wish they could but I can't do anything about it all a can do is be thankful for what I have.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

## *California Wildfires Still Rampaging: How to Stay Safe*

BY MIA A AND TIHANNA T

Let's begin with what wildfires are: a wildfire is an unplanned, unwanted, and uncontrolled fire. Certain wildfires are made on purpose. Some fires help forests to revitalize and they help rebuild the forests. There are many ways how wildfires are made. It could either be created by people, lighting, or climate changes.

This is what California is dealing with right now.

What can be done about these fires and what can we do to stay safe?

There are many risks firefighters take when they are fighting these huge or small fire. For example, the wildfire smoke can hurt their eyes, irritate their respiratory system, worsen symptoms of heart and lung diseases and make them more prone to lung infections. They are risking their health for the better of people and families. They are always trying their best to help us as humans, and they are also trying to help their environment.

Let's move on to the very last thing: prevention. These are ways we can prevent wildfires, if you see an unattended fire report it immediately second, extinguish fire pits and campfire when done, and third if someone in your family smokes while they drive please remind them to not throw their cigar butt while it is still lit because it could cause mini or big fire.

