

Polar Plunge



on your mark, get set, go Panthers prepare to plunge into the 40 degree ocean Feb. 5, 2011, at Springmaid Beach for the sixth annual Polar Plunge. After the plunge, a few even ventured back into the chilly Atlantic claiming it wasn't that cold. "It was fun; it was different. I'd never done it before so I just jumped in again so I could remember how rough the water was," sophomore Anthony Santiago said. [Photo by Jessica Heflin]

Pritts's sister is her inspiration

by **quayjenkins and
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news writers

Erica Pritts, special education teacher, has attended the Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for Special Olympics, for more than 10 years now.

She has a personal reason – her 35 year old sister Dawn Pritts who has down syndrome. Dawn Pritts has participated in Special Olympics for as long as Erica Pritts can remember.

"I started going to the Special Olympics since the age of 5," Pritts said. "My favorite part is seeing a smile on my sister's face and seeing everyone succeeding at their personal best. It's not about beating each other; it's about beating your personal goal."

This year Pritts has teamed up with assistant principal Kristen Altman to raise awareness for special needs. They are trying to get more to participate from CF in the Plunge since the number of plun-

gers here has decreased in the past several years.

"The Polar Plunge is an excellent opportunity for students to raise awareness and funds for students across South Carolina who have special needs," Altman said. "It's an outstanding cause/opportunity to unite the student body and have a great time. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 and have as much student, teacher and administrator involvement as possible."

To participate in the Polar Plunge, you must raise

at least \$50. You can raise this by creating an account at www.firstgiving.com/team/309629. The class with the most participation will earn points for the Spirit Stick during Sweet-heart Week.

The CFHS theme for Polar Plunge this year will be '80s Rock and Roll/Grunge.

"It's [Polar Plunge] all about having fun, a good time and a chance to give back with the people you love and seeing a big smile on their faces," Pritts said.

how to get involved

- To plunge you must raise \$50.
- Raise this money by creating an account at www.firstgiving.com/team/309629.
- Those who raise the most money will win prizes.
- Participation in the Polar Plunge also counts as community service.

schedule of events

- Jan. 30, Sands Ocean Club
- 10 a.m. – Plunge kick-off
- 11 a.m. – Early plunge
- 11:30 a.m. – Plunge store opens
- 12:30 p.m. – Costume parade and contest
- 12:45 p.m. – Announcements of winners
- 1:30 p.m. – Plunge preparation on the beach
- 1:45 p.m. – Flame of Hope arrives on the beach
- 2 p.m. – Plunge time

by the numbers

- 2010-2011 – 94 CFHS plungers raised \$12,700
- 2012-2013 – 85 CFHS plungers raised \$17,000
- 2013-2014 – 20 CFHS plungers raised \$3,000