

Chapter Chatter
Charlotte County
by Terri Whitacre

Charlotte County Public Schools came through Hurricane Ian with damage to many homes and all of our 20 schools but students are now back in school, learning and enjoying breakfast and lunch at Champ's Cafe.

Due to the time off to recover from the hurricane, we missed celebrating National School Lunch Week in October, so we held our own celebration in November, wearing our Peace, Love and School Lunch T-shirts and decorating our serving lines and food courts with 60's-themed items.

Our SNACC group, the School Nutrition Association of Charlotte County for professional development, has been challenged to schedule a meeting this school year. We welcomed Diane Colon and Jackie Yang (a local graduate!) from BMO Bank and they gave many tips on how to make your money work for you. Diane opened her presentation by acknowledging the important work we do each school day and said "You could be feeding a future President!" We also welcomed realtor Sherry Carreau Kroessig who gave us a few minutes of her time and expertise on home-buying. She suggested we "Date our Rate and Marry our Home" when buying a house, meaning, you can refinance the mortgage rate for a house in the future but staying with the home for a time period will build equity and value.

SNACC members brought 2 dozen homemade cookies to the Great Holiday Cookie Exchange meeting that night and donated \$12 to the 'Help Our Own' fund. Everyone took home at least 2 dozen different cookies and we gained money to distribute to our own staff members just before the holidays to 'help our own' food service families have a bit brighter Christmas.

