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Partners In Education

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS IN BROWARD

Superintendent's Message

Dear Friends:

For more than 25 years, the community has generously volunteered its time and resources to enrich the education and lives of Broward's students. Through most of these years, we have encouraged schools to work with their community partners on programs that enhance academics and student achievement.

This year, however, we see a shifting need. The recession has left schools and their families with diminished funding and no reserve on which to fall back. While schools work to maintain and surpass the gains made on the academic front, enrichment programs are taking the brunt of the budget reductions. Not only have schools cut back funding for enrichment programs, but they are also unable to turn to parents, PTA/PTO and Booster Clubs for financial support. An astonishing 55% of our students are deemed economically disadvantaged, having met the stringent enrollment requirements for the federally funded *Free and Reduced Meal Program*.

Although we know that you, our partners, are also feeling the effects of this recession, we need you now more than ever. When schools call for assistance with holiday food and gift baskets or for help subsidizing the cost of uniforms or field trips for their low-income students, please listen to the call. Together we can take some of the burden of the recession off the shoulders of our families and their children.

I join with the School Board in thanking you for your service to the students and teachers of our school system and encourage you to continue your efforts in the new year.

Happy Holidays.

Jennifer Leonard Gottlieb
Chair

James F. Notter
Superintendent

ClueLess on Las Olas coming in April

ClueLess on Las Olas
"Death of an Auctioneer"
Thursday, April 15, 2010

Partners In Education, Inc.'s annual fundraiser, *ClueLess on Las Olas*, is coming this spring. Save the date for this unique and fun fundraiser and support the organization that promotes school/business partnerships in Broward County Public Schools.

ClueLess on Las Olas is an original murder mystery where the participants solve the

"whodunit." There are six suspects and seven clues that either point to or eliminate the suspects and the location of the crime.

Included in the \$40 advance registration is the game, a street party with an appetizer and dessert buffet, drinks, a DeeJay and a silent auction.

For a look at last year's ClueLess, or to register in March, go to www.browardpartners.com/fundraisers.htm.



The Reading Challenge at Oriole Elementary



On Tuesday, December 15, Oriole Elementary School and their partner OptaComp, the worker's comp affiliate of Florida's Blue Cross/Blue Shield, will crown the winners and runners-up of the school's Reading Challenge for grades 3, 4, and 5.

This event will be the culmination of a program that began in September when OptaComp and Oriole kicked off the Reading Challenge at a school assembly. OptaComp donated \$5,000 to purchase approximately 600 library books including a variety of new and classic children's literature such as the Harry Potter series, *Strider* by Beverly Cleary, *Old*

Yeller by Fred Gipson and *The Crossing* by Gary Paulsen.

During the first assembly, students were told that everyone who read a predetermined number of books during the Reading Challenge would receive bronze medallions. In addition, first and runner-up trophies would be given to students from each grade that read the most books during the Challenge.

Oriole Elementary serves approximately 750 pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Last year, more than 91 percent of Oriole Elementary students received free and reduced price meal benefits.



Message from the E.D.



Nina Randall, APR

This year is shaping up to be a difficult one for schools. Since September, I have had numerous conversations with School Partnership Liaisons regarding the increased demand on their time as school budgets and staffs are cut. It is, however, a testament to their devotion to partnerships that so many School Partner Liaisons rushed to submit articles for inclusion in this newsletter.

In reading the articles, it is heartening for me to see that most of our long-standing partnership businesses are continuing their school relationships even as their own budgets and staffs are reduced.

It is also encouraging to learn that so many new

business and community agencies are developing relationships even during the midst of the recession.

The nature of activities may be changing, with more emphasis on fundraising and serving the needs of low-income children and families. But it appears that the commitment to work together to improve the lives and education of children remains strong.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Partners In Education and myself, I wish to thank all the school and business partnership coordinators for their dedication to children and to wish you a happy holiday and a wonderful new year.

BrightStar's CU@School Program

BrightStar Credit Union has been a partner with Broward County Schools since 1946. In February 2008 BrightStar began its newest program, CU@School™.

CU@School includes in-school credit union branches, financial literacy presentations, and career day participation. The program was designed around the Florida Department of Education's Sunshine Standards for grades K-12, the curriculum framework for Academy of Finance and the Academy of Entrepreneurship, and the Marketing and Sales Cluster curriculum.

The in-school credit union branches have been established at 5 Broward County Schools: JP Taravella, Charles W Flanagan and Western High Schools, Walter C Young Middle and Pembroke Lakes Elementary. Either Academy of Finance students or, parent volunteers run the branches. Students learn through hands-on participation about personal finance and develop employability skills that they can carry with them throughout their lives.

Partnerships In Brief



Sawgrass Elementary's Celebration of Learning

Sawgrass Elementary School held their annual *Celebration of Learning*, with “make and take” workshops in all content subject areas. More than 250 parents and children attended. Food was donated by Sawgrass Elementary’s partners including: **Quarterdeck, Panda Express, Papa Johns, PF Changs, Chili’s, TGIF Fridays, Applebees, Bahama Breeze, Starbucks and Publix.** **Strikers Bowling** and **JCC** shared goodies and information.



Manatee Bay's Family Math Night at Publix

Manatee Bay Elementary held its annual *Publix Family Math Night* at Weston Commons on Wednesday, November 4. Approximately 1,000 students, parents, and teachers participated. Students in grades K through 5 engaged in a mathematical scavenger hunt, with the help of family members.



Decorating a Gingerbread House at the Hyatt

Fox Trail Elementary enjoys generous support from their partners for the school’s Student of the Month recognition program. Each month, teachers choose one student who has consistently demonstrated that month’s character trait. Students receive coupons for free products from: **Beef O’Brady’s in Cooper City, Dairy Queen in Plantation and Kabooms in Davie.**

Riverside Elementary and three partners initiated the Adopt-a-Classroom program with a third grade class. **Huntington Learning Center** provides a tutor and mentor on a weekly basis. **PNC Bank** gives the teacher classroom supplies and, at the end of the program, **Papa John’s Pizza** will supply a pizza party to the class in recognition of their hard work.

So far this year, **Eagle Point Elementary** has had Author's Night at **Barnes and Noble**; Math Night at **Lucille's** and a Community Reading Day, In December, with the **Hyatt Regency Bonaventure**, Eagle Point’s 2nd grade classes will each decorate a gingerbread house that will be displayed at the Hyatt. Money raised from this event will go toward the Sun-Sentinel Children’s Fund.

Maplewood Elementary has been busy with several of their partners. In the month of November, Maplewood held spicy **Chipotle Spirit Night** and a **Ritter’s Frozen Custard Night**. They also hosted a *Family Training Night of Mega Skills* for a group of parents. **Chick-Fil-A, Dunkin’ Donuts and Office Max** graciously donated food and office supplies for this fabulous evening.

BellSouth Pioneers Support The Quest Center



BellSouth Pioneers' presenting check

For many years The Quest Center has enjoyed the valuable support of the BellSouth Pioneers. This group of dedicated people has supported classes with gifts of educational toys and monies allotted for special activities.

The BellSouth Pioneers applied for a grant with the help of Mr. Brown Abraham, The Quest’s new Assistant Principal, and Mr. Larry Bisceglia, the Curriculum Specialist. The grant was accepted and The Quest

Center now has \$5,000 to use on its Community Based Education project.

The Quest’s students will now use real money learning how to pay for services and receive change gaining valuable life experiences in the community.

Some of the activities planned will be trips to the hair salon, movies and eating out. Having these funds will provide students with invaluable experiences.

Whispering Pines School

Whispering Pines School (WPS) students and staff attended a ceremony honoring the NFL and NatureScape Broward. WPS was there to express their appreciation for the grant that provided native trees and an environmental garden on the southeast property of the school. Project Perch was also recognized for providing a protective environment for burrowing owls.

During the event, students participated in hands-on activities including planting bushes and foliage. The Wildlife Care Center released birds that had previously

been treated for injuries.

The Division of Forestry, the NFL Environmental Manager and NatureScape Broward provided lessons that heightened youth awareness on the importance of following an environmentally friendly lifestyle. All those attending the ceremony had the privilege of hearing an earth friendly poem written by a WPS student. Members of the SuperBowl Host Committee were so impressed that they asked permission to publish the poem on their Web site.



WPS student reading her poem

Tip of the Quarter - Retention

One of the fundamental principals of partnerships and volunteerism is the maintenance of existing relationships. But, with fewer staff and resources, the question many schools have is “how?”

Unfortunately, the answer is not easy. Retention strategies are ongoing and take on different forms. They consist of motivating partner businesses and their employee volunteers to insure job satisfaction and good morale. But, people volunteer and participate in business partnerships for a variety of reasons. Some feel an obligation to give back to their community. Others want to feel part of something larger than themselves. Still others may wish to generate

“community goodwill.” It is precisely because there are so many reasons why people are involved that retention activities must take on different forms.

When business partners and their employee volunteers come to school, try to determine their unique motivating factor. Only then can schools design retention strategies that target the specific, identified needs of the individuals.

Knowing the motivation behind the volunteer effort will help schools customize retention strategies and insure that they satisfy the specific motivator that has brought the partner to your door.

Potluck Luncheon at Lauderhill

In October, Lauderhill Middle School hosted this year's 1st Quarterly Partner Potluck Luncheon. At the meeting, all of the partners shared ideas with the Principal, Ms. Jeannie B. Floyd, and the administrative team. Ideas for the partnership include providing volunteer tutorial services, initiating incentive programs, developing art and music programs and several other exciting contributions to motivate and encourage students and staff toward meeting and exceeding student achievement goals. In attendance were: Ms. Lofton, Ms. Bomburo and Ms. Reliford of the YMCA F.O.R.C.E. Program; Ms. Boyd of the YMCA Wellness Program; Ms. London of Harvard Jolly Architectural Firm; Mr. Henry of Westside Gazette; Mr. Palmer of BankAtlantic; Ms. Kletzel of FELC Tutors and Ms. Dixon of PASS Executive Programs.



Lauderhill luncheon participants

Lanier-James Enjoys New Partnership



Lemartec's Student Mentorship Program - Architectural and Construction Methods and Technology at Lanier-James is going strong and has just completed its second month of classes! "Students continue to learn and "see" the construction process in action," said David Prada, Director of Project Development, Lemartec Engineering and Construction Corporation, the construction management firm that is building the new school at Lanier-James.

Students are learning about the civil and structural components of the design and construction process. They are also learning the basics of surveying, drainage design, and foundation design.

This hands-on approach to learning is making the class very popular and 4 new students were recently welcomed into the class. All the students are looking forward to learning about architecture and construction while watching it happen before their very eyes!

Going Green at Hawkes Bluff



With the help of business partners, Karen Fields of Edible Gardens, Robert Shoelson of Getting Green, James Coole and Herb Rodrigues of Home Depot and Lee Gotlieb of the Kids Ecology Corp, students at Hawkes Bluff are getting lessons on the environment.

Partners assisted with Arbor Day lessons and a mangrove planting on the beach. They donated white boards for our classrooms as well as paint and buckets for various school/community projects.

The newest partnership endeavor is the 16 x 8 foot organic vegetable garden built on the school campus on Monday,

November 30. All of the companies listed above donated time, expertise and materials for the garden.

Selected Hawkes Bluff Elementary Recycling Rangers planted and will maintain the garden. The Kids Ecology Corp supplied the "know how" teaching students and staff what plants (onions, garlic, marigolds) ward off pests, what plants grow best in south Florida, how deep and where each plant goes in the specified garden, and when and how much to water. Hawkes Bluff teachers will relate growing organic vegetables to Sunshine State Standards.

Lloyd Estates Enjoys KAPOW



Patriot Risk Management volunteers, John Brant and Jamie O'Connor, select winners for new toy products competition.

Lloyd Estates Elementary is in its second year partnering with Patriot Risk Management through the Kids and the Power of Work (KAPOW) program.

Coordinated by Dr. Sheila K. Lewis, Lloyd Estates Assistant Principal, KAPOW unites elementary teachers and volunteers to teach lessons that connect classroom learning with workplace skills.

Ninety-five 2nd grade students and their

teachers will be visited seven times during the year by teams of volunteers from Patriot.

The KAPOW lessons help students explore a variety of jobs. They see the connection between school and work, including communication, teamwork, and positive work habits and attitudes. In the spring, students will visit Patriot's office to get a first hand look at the various careers.

More Partnerships In Brief

Coral Cove Elementary had a very successful Family Night at **Chik-Fil-A** at Dykes and Miramar Parkway with hundreds of family and friends in attendance. Family Nights serve as both a valuable family involvement program while also raising much-needed funds for the school.

The JP Taravella Zone has developed unique zone-wide partnerships. Monthly meetings are held at the secondary schools with Taravella's ProStart students providing lunch. Partners volunteer for school-based projects and network with other businesses within the zone. It's a win-win for everyone.

FAU Head Coach, Mike Jarvis invited **Coconut Palm Elementary** students, parents and staff to attend a special program at an FAU basketball game. At the game, the Coconut Palm Chorus Club sang the National Anthem and the Basketball Club demonstrated skills. At halftime, October's top readers for the month had their names displayed on the jumbo scoreboard and met the college players after the game for autographs and pictures.

On September 18th, **Target and Super Target** volunteers went to **Peters Elementary** to help kick-off the new *Go Green* program by beautifying the school

campus. Target volunteers prepared the 1st, 4th and 5th grade classroom areas for planting. They cleaned the area of rocks and debris and dug the holes for plants. The stores provided plants, soil and mulch. Most of Peters' students had an opportunity to work along with the Target volunteers. Target also donated \$1,000 worth of books and materials to the Media Center as part of their *First Book* program.

Neighbor's IGA Supermarket is a strong supporter of **Village Elementary**. Store Manager, Mr. Diaz, attends SAC meetings, provides school supplies for the Back-to-School Bash, food items for needy families and more. Another great partner is **BJ's Wholesale Club**. School families and staff met at BJ's on October 21. The chorus sang and children had fun participating in an academic scavenger hunt throughout the store.

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. has partnered with **Croissant Park Elementary** since the 2008-09 school year. Ligia Collins, Sales Manager, supports the school with incentive certificates that promote academic success and citizenship. Bubba Gump recently sponsored a faculty/student luncheon for more than 100 to celebrate a successful first semester.



The Maplewood chorus



Target volunteers with Peter's students



Taravella Zone

Sunset Lakes Eagles Soar

Sunset Lakes Elementary School held its 2nd annual Health and Fitness Day on Wednesday, November 25. Throughout the day, students participated in a myriad of activities including karate, aerobics, and health and nutrition lessons. The featured event was the Turkey Trot, which raised more than \$5,700 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Although inclement weather prevented any outdoor activities, students had a wonderful time while

learning the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. Nutritionists from **Memorial Hospital** provided lessons for students ranging from healthy eating choices to different ways to stay physically fit. **Costco Wholesale Corporation** and **Panera Bread Company** provided bottled water so that students, staff and volunteers could stay properly hydrated throughout the day.





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Partnership story?**

Please send articles to:
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The Partners In Education
Newsletter will be published in
September
December
March
June

Sunland Park Enjoys New Relationships

Sunland Park Elementary is proud to announce that the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale (HACFL) has officially adopted the school. HACFL has facilitated housing in the Fort Lauderdale community, for over 70 years. They manage, rent and provide affordable and public housing to the community at-large.

HACFL currently supplies housing to more than 45% of the families of the students that attend Sunland Park Elementary. HACFL believes it plays a role in the success of all its residents and specifically in the lives of each child who lives in public housing. They have taken a special interest in the success of Sunland Park students and in their parents' involvement with the school.

HACFL believes their venture into the educational arena directly affects the future of each of Sunland Park's children. Some of the activities that will be included in HACFL

adoption of Sunland Park include: staff Volunteer Day, Green projects with staff and students, and a promotion of parent involvement in activities by advertising school events via HACFL.

Several community leaders who are alumni of Sunland Park and/or former residents in the neighboring community have offered to partner with HACFL in the adoption of Sunland Park. Among these leaders are:

- Brian C. Johnson with Community Based Connections, Inc.,
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
- Zeta Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and
- Bobby Henry, owner of the Westside Gazette.

This partnership promises to ultimately transform Sunland Park Elementary and the surrounding community.

Sawgrass Springs Middle School

Students and teachers at Sawgrass Springs Middle (SSMS) have enjoyed an enriching partnership with the environmental education company known as Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA). Ms. Cindy Davidson brought two ongoing programs to the school. The first was an in-class field trip entitled "Extreme Cuisine Cooking School" that introduced students to the world of cooking and good nutrition. This program focused on the importance of agriculture and knowing where food comes from.

The second program offered to students was an after-school club called *Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs*. The program's award-winning combination of hands-on sports fishing instruction, environmental stewardship, and youth development appealed to students in all 3-grade levels. Students learned to cast and catch fish and to use fishing resources responsibly. Through this 7-week program, students realized that

fishing is a positive and fun alternative to drug use and they made a commitment to lead a drug free life. Students went on a fishing outing, received a certificate of program completion as well as a fishing pole.

Cindy Davidson serves as a mentor for the Garden and Natures club students and their sponsors. During this second quarter, Youth Environmental Alliance constructed and planted a hydroponics lab with Environmental Magnet students. YEA has enriched the lives of many students!

