

Lessons from The Three Little Pigs

Eagles Nest, the Construction Education Academy at Atlantic Community High School, teaches students practical lessons every day, but it is not every day that high school students can learn from the Three Little Pigs fairy tale. Instructor Paul Mieszczenki told his students that no matter whether you build out of sticks, straw or bricks you need a solid foundation strong enough to support your house.

Eagles Nest students are building a 1738 sq. ft. house on a lot donated by the city of Delray Beach. They returned to their construction project almost as soon as school started this year, and they received some bad news from their engineering partners about the condition of the lot.

The soil was like powder and would not support a house of sticks, straw, bricks or Eagles Nest's concrete block construction. Eagles Nest students turned excavators as three feet of the thin soil had to be removed, replaced by more substantial "construction grade" dirt, watered and compacted one foot at a time. After completing this labor intensive process, the Eagles Nest students were glad to hear the engineers passed the replaced soil to make a more solid foundation for the house.

With the help of heavy equipment and professional partners, Eagles Nest students have removed and replaced over 250 cubic yards of soil at the project. The lot is now ready for the foundation slab and rough plumbing. The Eagles Nest will complete the three bedroom, two bath home by May 2007. A family from the city of Delray Beach Renaissance Affordable Housing Program will call this house a home before this year's Eagle Nest Seniors graduate in June.



Middle School Mania

Mark your calendars for November 8, 2006! Focusing on all middle school students, this is an opportunity to learn about the career academies and programs that are available in the high schools. For further information, please contact Sylvia Tricarico, at PX 48631.



DO YOU HAVE A STORY FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?
Email them to: ramosbe@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

Visit us online: www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/choiceprograms

Department of Choice Programs and School Choice

Mary Vreeland, Director434-7371
Kelly Daniels, Manager, Choice Programs.....357-7639
Connie Scotchel-Gross, Manager, Career Ed434-7537
George Woodring, Manager, SLC Grant969-5854
Bridgette Valentine, Secretary to Director434-7371
Natalie Boykin, Secretary, Reassignment.....434-8359
Goldie Bryant, Information Analyst.....434-8547
Natalie Engel, Secretary II, Career Ed.....969-5821
Beth Gillespie, Program Planner, Home Ed.....434-7458
Chuck Green, Specialist, Career Ed.....434-7466
Janice Healan, Information Analyst.....357-7580
Tom Hession, Specialist, Career Ed.....434-8454
Nancy Jackson, Resource Teacher.....969-5827
Diana Jiménez, Information Analyst.....434-8853
Fanny Johnson, Statistical Analyst.....434-8123

Neva Jordan, Accounting Tech, Career Ed.....434-8721
Tara Kobel, Specialist, Career Ed.....434-7465
Susan Larsen, Specialist, Career Ed.....434-7395
Dr. Jeraline Marsh, Specialist, Career Ed.....434-8880
Gail Marshall, Sr. Data Entry, Reassignment.....357-7552
Marie Mustelier, Secretary, Home Ed.....434-8052
Pam Paikai, Secretary I, Career Ed.....434-8180
Jim Politis, Specialist, Career Ed.....357-7695
Ben Ramos, Information Analyst.....434-7327
Mollie Rhodes, Consultant, Career Ed.....434-8454
Reneau Semezrier, Information Analyst.....434-8755
Elizabeth Shapiro, Specialist, Career Ed.....434-8631
Sylvia Tricarico, Specialist, Career Ed.....434-8631
Marie Washington, Information Analyst.....357-7671
Jim Woolridge, Specialist, Reassignment434-8823

Calendar of Events

October 3-6, 2006	K-12 Innovation Fair Orlando, FL
October 12, 2006	LTM
October 17, 2006	Choice /Tech Prep Coordinators Meeting
October 18-20, 2006	FTPN Consortium
October 23, 2006	Begin 2 nd 9 weeks
October 24, 2006	Showcase of Schools @ The South Florida Fairgrounds
October 31, 2006	College Fair, Reassignment Ends
November 1-4, 2006	NTPN National Conference
November 5-7, 2006	Career Academy Showcase
November 8, 2006	Choice/Tech Prep Coordinators Meeting
November 11-15, 2006	National Career Academy Coalition Conference
November 22-24, 2006	Thanksgiving Holiday
November 30-Dec 2, 2006	ACTE Conference



CECF/BPA www.cecf.org or www.bpa.org
Leadership Training Workshop (LTW)
October 26-28, The Plaza Resort, Daytona Beach



DECA www.fldeca.org
Fall Leadership Training Conference (FLTC)
October 21-23, Hilton Hotel, Busch Gardens



FBLA/PBL www.floridafbla-pbl.com
National Fall Leadership Conference
November 9-11, Jacksonville



FCCLA www.flfccla.org
"TNT" Leadership Training Extravaganza
September 22-24, Daytona Beach



FFA www.flaffa.org
Chapter Presidents' Conference
September 23-24, Daytona Beach
National FFA Convention, October 25-28, Indianapolis, Indiana



FPSA www.flpsa.org
Fall Leadership Conference
September 29, Daytona Beach



HOSA www.flhosa.org
Leadership Development Conference (LDC)
November 17-19, Camp Kulaqua, High Springs



SkillsUSA www.skillsusa.info
State Leadership Training Workshop & Chapter Management Institute, November 15-17, Leadership Training Center, Haines City



TSA www.floridatsa.com
New Advisor Training Workshop October 11-12, Sheraton World Hotel, Orlando
Orlando Fall Leadership Conference, November 1-4, Hilton Hotel, Altamonte Springs



FBA www.futurebuildersofamerica.org
Advisor Statewide Workshop October 13, Orlando
Job Site Field Trip, October 25, Bradenton
Habitat for Humanity Workday, November 18, Palmetto

Choices and Career Connections

Building Futures Together Through Choices

Volume 1 Issue 1

Connecting Teachers and the Business Community

The Career Education team hosted a teacher externship on June 7-8 at the Fulton Holland Educational Service Center. Twenty-eight teachers participated in the two day session which included workshops facilitated by Sandy Mittelsteadt, Educational Liaison for ACTE, job shadowing with local businesses (coordinated through the Business Development Board), and the opportunity to write lesson plans based on their experience during the externship.

The teachers came from career and technical classrooms as well as academic classrooms throughout Palm Beach County. The two day externship was funded through a grant provided by the Florida Association of Career and Technical Education. The teachers also had the opportunity to hear Jody Gleason, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Education Commission, and Pam Poulin, Education Manager from Junior Achievement, speak about the various resources available in connecting classroom teachers with industry in the local community.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15), Gove Elementary School has planned the following activities for the students, staff and families to participate in throughout the month: famous Hispanics will be highlighted during the morning announcements and their pictures will be on display in the front of the school; flags and banners representing Latin American countries will be provided to participants during a weekend "family wellness walk" and National Walk to School Day; students will participate in the Hispanic Essay Contest sponsored by Gov. and Mrs. Jeb Bush; and a multicultural dance class will also be offered during the month of October. Gove Elementary congratulates Mrs. Gayle Zavala (ESE teacher and Palm Beach County Hispanic Teacher of the Year) for being selected by the *Palm Beach Post* and *La Palma* newspapers as a representative of exemplary Hispanics in the field of education. We are proud of her accomplishments and for being one of our own "Famous Hispanics".



Pre-School CTE Conference a Huge Success

More than 350 Career and Technical Education teachers turned out for the Annual CTE Preschool Conference held at William T. Dwyer High School in Palm Beach Gardens. Principal Wayne Gent and Dr. Brenda Magee, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Learning Support, welcomed everyone while keynote speakers Jan Bray and Susan Katzman jump started the 2006-2007 school year. Breakout sessions included CTE-FCAT Connections, Tech Prep, Classroom Management, Subject Area Meetings, and more!



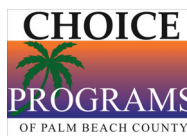
From Left to Right: Connie Scotchel-Gross, Patricia Arnold and Mary Vreeland

A special thank you goes out to our guest presenters: Pam Poulin/Junior Achievement, Gary Hawkins and Nancy Medina/Workforce Alliance, Audrey Norman/Palm Beach County Extension, Diane Romagnano/Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission, Phil D'Amico/AP, Watson B. Duncan Middle School, and John McDaniel/ AP, Atlantic High School. Throughout the day, prizes were given away including two Grand Prizes to the NCAC and the ACTE National Conferences.

Congratulations to Jairo Garcia of Lake Worth Community High School, the winner of the trip to the NCAC Conference to be held in San Francisco, California. The winner of the ACTE Conference to be held in Atlanta, Georgia was Patricia Arnold of Jupiter Middle School. Have a glorious school year!

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Summer Curriculum Writing Workshops

Thirty two Career and Technical Education Teachers participated in the 2006 Summer Curriculum Writing Workshop, held at Lake Worth Community High School June 12-15, 2006. While writing the 1st year program area curriculum, CTE teachers collaborated with Math Resource Teachers, another step towards the integration of Career and Technical Education and Academics.



The Curriculum Writing Workshop was made possible thanks to the FIE (Funds for the Improvement of Education)

Grant, a valuable resource that helps support Career Education in our quest to enhance instruction for all CTE students in Palm Beach County.

Future Business Leaders of America

Students and teachers from Palm Beach County attended the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference in Nashville, June 29th to July 2nd. The following high schools were represented: John I. Leonard, Palm Beach Central, Park Vista, and William T. Dwyer. Representing District XX was Matthew McCormack, President, from W.T. Dwyer High School; and Jehu Chong, from Palm Beach Central High School attending as the Florida FBLA State President. James Merola from W.T. Dwyer competed in Banking and Finance against students throughout the country and placed tenth. The students and teachers had a chance to network with others and were able to bring back valuable information to share with district members.



Wind Power Project

On August 24, more than 100 juniors in William T. Dwyer's Academy of Finance met with Florida Power and Light employees to kick-off an 8-month "Wind Power Project". Students will work in teams to examine the financial feasibility of wind power. Florida Power and Light established the eight-month project that will touch on everything from tax credits to land leases. The project is an extension in the partnership between the Academy and FP&L, which has included student internships and shadowing opportunities.

The school/business partnership is a very unique educational model that will utilize Project-based Learning. With project-based learning, students learn and gain valuable knowledge by real-world exercises. Academy Faculty, FP&L Property and Sales Tax Division, and FPL University have developed course lessons for the students. Students will take a field trip to FP&L's state-of-the-art remote plant diagnostic center and listen to a host of speakers touching upon a variety of topics involving the wind project. Near the close of the 2007 school year, each team's project will be judged by FPL Energy executives to determine the winner.



National FCCLA Leadership Meeting

Nashville, Tenn. – More than 5,000 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America members, advisers, alumni, and guests from across the country gathered in Nashville, Tennessee July 9-13 for the 2006 National Leadership Meeting. 40 Student leaders and 10 Advisors/Chaperones representing Woodlands Middle, Palm Spring Middle, Santaluces Community HS, Palm Beach Central HS, Palm Beach Lakes HS, Palm Beach Gardens HS attended the National Leadership meeting.

The following teams participated and earned several silver and Gold medals. In the area of Applied Technology, Junior Division, Maggie Matella and Lauren Bruckner, from Woodlands Middle, earned a Gold medal. In Applied Technology, Senior Division, Sarah King, Jenna Stewart and Chevelle Miller, from Santaluces HS, earned a Gold medal. Also from Santaluces, in the area of Interpersonal Communications, Occupational Division, Natalia Agudelo, Jasmin Fresses, and Rebecca Lobel, earned a Gold Medal. The following students were winners from Palm Beach Central: Kristen Favre, Kelsey Neary, and Stacey Wallach who earned a gold medal for Illustrated Talk, Occupational Division. Sara Sohn earned a Silver Medal in Interpersonal Communications, Junior Division. In the area of National Program In Action, Occupational Division, Lacey Thornsburry and Laura Craig earned a Gold medal from Palm Beach Gardens HS. In Parliamentary Procedure, Junior Division, Ryan Hollihan, Leanne Davenport, Justin Rothenburg, and Sarah Rothmel from Palm Spring Middle earned a Silver Medal. Lastly, from Palm Beach Lakes, in Entrepreneurship, Senior Division, Dinah Delimon and Kayla Roberts, earned a Silver medal and Alexandra Cadet and Michelle Menard earned a Silver medal in Interpersonal Communication, Senior Division.

These students, along with our State Officer, Ashley La Scala from Palm Beach Central, will work with other FCCLA members and advisers in Palm Beach County, District IX and the state of Florida to encourage others to discover their strengths, target career goals, and initiate a plan to ignite youth leadership in their community. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members. It is the only career and technical in-school student organization with the family as its central focus. Participation in national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities.



Blood Drive Success

The Academy of Finance (AOF) students of William T. Dwyer HS hosted our first Blood Drive of the year on September 5th. The Blood Drive was coordinated through Community Blood Centers of South Florida. Many students, teachers, and parents participated in this important community project. A total of 75 pints of blood and platelets were mad. For every pint donated W.T. Dwyer receives a donation to their AOF scholarship fund. The next Blood Drive will be held on November 3, 2006 in W.T. Dwyer's Auditorium.



Read Together, Florida!

Volunteer Florida Foundation, in collaboration with Just Read, Florida!, is preparing to launch this year's Read Together, Florida! One State/One Book reading promotion, a project of the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative. The promotion will run the entire month of October and has much to offer high school students as well as adults.



The chosen book is The Zero Game, by Florida author Brad Meltzer, a graduate of North Miami Beach Senior High. I hope you will embrace this book for your October classroom activities, enhancing your students' love of reading. Among the activities are:

- an essay contest for high school students that will enable them to win scholarships and prizes,
- an exciting online game that requires the player to read the book to advance in the game,
- the ability to register online for a grand prize drawing at the end of October for a weekend trip to Washington, D.C. to tour the sites described in the book with author Brad Meltzer,
- a riveting read that includes government and science topics in a compelling story, and
- online talking points to assist you in engaging your students in this book.

The book is a New York Times bestseller and is a true page-turner that high school students will enjoy.

Lake Worth AFJROTC Holds 9/11 Memorial

West Palm Beach – Florida's largest Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFJROTC) along with the English department and Student Government of Lake Worth High School held a school wide "Remembrance Day" to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Sep 11, 2001. This Lake Worth



Community High School program aims at building better citizens. It does this through academics, leadership, teamwork, service, discipline, personal responsibility and the three US Air Force values of "Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do".

On Sunday, Sep 10th, 2006, around twenty AFJROTC placed approximately 3000 small American flags on the football field (from locally generated funds). On Monday, Sep 11th, English teachers brought their classes to the football field home-side bleachers at the beginning of each period. AFJROTC hosted a short program (less than five minutes) beginning exactly 10 minutes after the start of each period.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, English teachers took their students back to class and issued instructions for a follow-up reading/writing assignment. Student government is planning several activities for the entire campus. They are distributing yellow ribbons to all students via homeroom classes to wear in remembrance of our troops and those Americans that lost their lives. In addition, they have assembled displays of 9-11 memorabilia collected from NYPD members and other sources, for the student body to view during lunch.

SHOWCASE OF SCHOOLS

The Department of Choice Programs and School Choice invites all parents and guardians to the "Showcase of Schools" on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at the South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center located at 9067 Southern Boulevard at the corner of Fairgrounds Road and Southern Boulevard.

The "Showcase of Schools" will feature Choice Programs available throughout the School District of Palm Beach County. Representatives from Choice Schools, Career Academies, Magnet and Charter Schools will be available to discuss the educational opportunities offered by the District. Student performances are scheduled throughout the evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

4:00-8:30 PM

South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center

FREE ADMISSION

Severe Weather Make Up Date
December 5, 2006

A Legacy of Choice

My first parent meeting in the 2005-2006 school year was during pre-school last August. Pierre Valcena and his son, Csedar, came to see me in order to discuss Csedar's impending seventh grade year in the IB Middle Years Programme at Carver Middle School. Mr. Valcena was very interested in placing his son in Algebra I Honors and felt confident that he would do well despite the accelerated pace and added commitment. I made the requested schedule change but that was only the beginning. He then made a statement that really caught my attention. "Magnet programs are a tradition in my family and we plan to continue that tradition."

Pierre Valcena emigrated from Haiti in 1980. He met his future wife, Laurette, also from Haiti, here in Florida. It was while he was working for "Project Relii", a refugee assistance program coincidentally located at "the old Carver", that he began working for Judy Langelier. The Valcenas had two children by then and had naturally assumed that all students went to neighborhood schools. During a conversation with Ms. Langelier, he discovered just how innovative Palm Beach County schools had become. Valcena explained "Ms. Langelier taught me how to be in the system." Since his eldest child was in elementary school, she mentioned Poinciana Elementary School's Math, Science, and Technology Program. So began the "magnet program tradition".



Left to right: Csedar, Pierre, and Valmire Valcena.

Valmire, the Valcena's first child, was preparing to leave Poinciana's fifth grade at the same time that her cousin, Jolanda Blanchard, was attending the Diploma Programme at Atlantic Community High School. Once again, well-timed words from a trusted source provided Pierre Valcena with the information he needed in order to file an application for Valmire to attend Carver's newly founded Middle Years Programme (MYP). His niece was receiving a challenging and accelerated educational program which was exactly what he wanted for his children. The MYP was a stepping stone to an IB Diploma. Valmire is now 19 years old. She passed all of her IB exams and entered Florida Atlantic University as a sophomore, allowing her to immediately begin coursework in her major. She also received a Bright Futures Scholarship with full tuition paid. Csedar (13 years old) and Gandhi (10 years old) both attended Poinciana's Math, Science, and Technology program; their sister Abiga-el recently celebrated her sixth birthday and is just beginning her years at Poinciana. Csedar is finishing his seventh grade year in Carver's MYP and Gandhi is joining his brother here next year as a sixth grader. They both plan to follow in their sister's footsteps in Atlantic's IB Programme. With their dedication and their parents' support, we have every reason to believe that they will do just that. Abiga-el's father assures me that she will not be far behind.

Pierre and Laurette Valcena have no doubt that their children are receiving an excellent education through their choice programs. However, both Pierre and Valmire (who was kind enough to allow me to interview her for this article) repeatedly emphasized certain memorable educators who have offered and continue to offer support and open lines of communication with their family. Karen Whetsell, former principal at Poinciana, is definitely their shining star. Next they spoke of Kelly Daniels, founder and former coordinator of the MYP at Carver. When I asked Valmire and her

father to describe Mrs. Daniels' role, Valmire simply said, "No matter what we needed, we went to Mrs. Daniels." Among Valmire's guardian educators at Atlantic, she is especially appreciative of David Youngman, IB Coordinator and her guidance counselor at the time, Ms. Kelly. She told a story of being on line at 1:00 AM, working on a research paper, and receiving an "instant message" from Ms. Kelly regarding a scholarship for which she thought Valmire should apply. The students were convinced that Ms. Kelly never slept.

Valmire ensured me that "all the work is worthwhile." She was particularly enthusiastic about a course that all diploma candidates take entitled Theory of Knowledge. "It's the heart and soul of IB. It pulls all subjects together, teaches you new ways of knowing, and helps you to understand other people." Csedar is a man of far fewer words than his sister but his statement regarding the Middle Years Programme was profound - "It keeps you wondering."

The Valcena family told me that they actively promote Magnet and Choice programs within the Haitian community, especially through their church. Mr. Valcena once again emphasized the importance of the relationship between the school, the students, and the parents. "The most important thing is communication."

FedEx International Junior Leadership

By Andrew Kener

As the world gets smaller, global business has become more important than ever. From July 30-August 4, over 100 students aged 16-19 traveled from 19 different countries to partake in the first ever FedEx International Junior Leadership Conference. The conference was sponsored by FedEx in collaboration with World Trade Center Palm Beach, Northwood University and Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches.



For five days students learned about global business and free enterprise while developing friendships with teens from all over the world. Countries represented included: Argentina, Bulgaria, Belgium, Belize, Ireland, Canada, USA, Finland, Japan, Korea, Romania, Hong Kong, Denmark, Mexico, Russia, Poland, Macedonia, and Sri Lanka. Delegates representing the Five Star Magnet Program at Palm Beach Gardens High School included senior Andrew Kener and juniors Samantha Falk, Dipan Patel, and Carlyle Tiller.

Each of the five days had a distinct theme related to business or economics. On day one, the focus was on global protocol. Students heard a morning address from Ron Wong, Sr. Communications Specialist for FedEx. Later, Dr. Tom Connell - a.k.a. Dr. Culture - gave a fascinating presentation on "cultural judo." Later, students enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the PGA Marriott and a beach party at Ocean Reef Park on Singer Island.

Global Economics was the theme for day two, with a business of sports emphasis. Among other keynote speakers, the students collaborated with Cooper Getschal - a multi-platinum songwriter who has worked with such famous artists as Kenny G and Johnny Mathis - to produce their own song that highlighted the idea that "we are together." Later, they toured and attended a baseball game at Roger Dean Stadium. For many, it was their first time at a baseball game.

Day three was perhaps the most impressive with a global leadership theme. The day started with a lecture from Dr. Tim Nash, who wrote the textbook used by Junior Achievement's Global Business course. The students then attended the FedEx International Luncheon, where they had the chance to meet with local business leaders. Sitting among various local business professionals, students heard from Mike

Murkowski, Vice President of Marketing, FedEx Latin America and Caribbean division. Later, they traveled to Miami International Airport for a special behind the scenes tour of the FedEx hub.

With a global conscience emphasis on day four, the students heard from several South Florida Water Management District officials about the significance of the South Florida Everglades Restoration Program. A field trip to Belle Glade helped the students realize that Palm Beach County has a delicate ecosystem and is quite diverse. The students toured the facilities and sugar cane fields of Okeelanta Corporation, a subsidiary of Florida Crystals, and then had a presentation from the Audubon society. Later, they went on boat rides in Lake Okeechobee and spotted some alligators. Back at Northwood University that night, a fiesta dance party made for an appropriate end for a life-changing week.

The students' final day to be with their new international friends wrapped up with a global entrepreneurship spirit and commencement ceremony. In the morning, they heard from a great line-up of local leaders, including: Tom Rooney, Esq., grandson of the famous Arthur Rooney, who founded the Pittsburgh Steelers; Ray Titus, entrepreneur and president of "Sign a Rama"; and new Northwood basketball coach Rollie Massinino. At the awards ceremony, though students sat with their respective flags by their side and were called up by country, it was clear that national and ethnic barriers had been brought down and that all 100+ students were together as a global student body.

Sadly, a terrific week came to an end as students exchanged e-mail addresses while holding back their tears of joy. The Conference was a definite success and lifelong friendships were made between all nationalities.

Iowa State University Athletic Hall of Fame

South Tech Academy's own Mr. Barry Hill was inducted into Iowa State University's Athletic Hall of Fame on September 7, 2006. He received this induction for his 21 career interceptions, which broke Iowa State's and the Big Eight's career interception marks. As of this date, his record has still not been broken. Mr. Hill was a fifth round pick in the 1975 NFL Draft of the Miami Dolphins, playing two seasons and appearing in 20 games with the Dolphins. Mr. Hill is the Dean of Students at South Tech Academy. Though he is no longer a professional football player, his staff and students see him as an asset to our team.



Major Opportunity for High School Students

The new Florida A++ plan that was recently passed by the state legislation calls for all current 8th graders to declare a major before entering high school. The Career Education team has been working to identify all possible Career and Technical Education (CTE) majors that students can take in Palm Beach County public schools. The Florida Department of Education will have a web site where students will be able to see what majors each school in Palm Beach County will offer. More details regarding this process and the FL DOE web site will follow as information becomes available from the state.

Gators at the HOSA National Competition



Congratulations to Palm Beach Gardens H. S. Pre-Medicine coordinator Sharleen Scarafia and all of the students and staff involved with our Five Star Magnet Pre-Medicine Program. Twenty-two students qualified to compete in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) National Competition in Anaheim, CA. Twelve of these students placed in the top 10 in the nation! Congratulations to :

Thao Tran **5th Nutrition**

6th HOSA Bowl Team

Anthony Sconzo
Keneil Shah
Ravi Soni
Kevon Williams

Joe Freiden **8th Dental Spelling**

Ebony Telfer **9th Pathophysiology**
Linda Chon **10th Pathophysiology**

William Albury **10th Human Growth and Development**

10th Medical Reading Team

Andre Clark
Melissa Mosley
Terri Stewart

Other students who attended as National Qualifiers were: Raul Espinoza, Austin Girard, Amy Joshi, Kelli Lewis, David Marra, Justin Mattatall, Daynelys Palenzuela, Analesa Penas, Valerie Scarafia and Collin Wong. Also, thank you to chaperones Bill Weed, Michelle Daily, and Debbie Svec. Congratulations again GATORS!



Excited About Equine Studies Program

By Amy Bower Doucette
Special to the Palm Beach Post
Wednesday, September 06, 2006



Kim Breier of Royal Palm Beach has been a science teacher at Wellington High School for 12 years. She grew up with horses and owns three that she keeps at her mother's farm in Loxahatchee. Breier's love of horses will have a new place in her career starting this year - the inaugural year of the new Equine Science and Veterinary Academy Magnet at Wellington High.

"It was a collective idea from my principal, my school and the superintendent to bring a magnet program to Wellington High," Breier said. "The decision as to what that program would be was a group effort between the community and the science department. We figured since we were in Wellington with all the horses, that a veterinarian or animal sciences magnet would be appropriate."

The magnet program's first class of 28 students is expected to maintain a science-heavy schedule and a 3.0 GPA. This year, the program includes a few 10th-graders, but it is intended to be a four-year schedule starting freshman year. The classes are planned in advance. "Freshman year, they will take honors biology with a Vet focus," Breier said. "They will learn about animal behavior and Vet careers. They will also be taking veterinary zoology, which is animal science. That is the course I'm teaching this year. Next year they will take anatomy and physiology and honors chemistry. Third year they are taking physics and an AP science course of their choice. Senior year they will take research and veterinary science with a medical focus." So far, Breier has noticed unbridled enthusiasm from the first students in the new program. "These are some of the most enthusiastic faces. They are so excited to be there," she said.

The students' schedules will be rigorous and focused. Since they have to take two honors or advanced-placement science classes each year in addition to the usual English, history and math, there will be no room for extra electives. On top of their class load, the students will be expected to complete 20 hours of community service within the animal health care field. The heavy course load was designed by teachers at the high school to prepare the students for what they will encounter if they pursue animal science in college.

"We looked at the curriculum that animal science and veterinary colleges offer," Breier said. "In every one of those cases, the students are required to take advanced biology, advanced chemistry and physics. When our students get to college, they will still have to take those courses, but they would have already been exposed to them."

It might seem like all work and no play for the students in the magnet program, but that is not the case. Breier and the rest of the teachers plan to have plenty of guest speakers, such as zoologists and animal trainers, throughout the year to broaden the students' views of what they can do with their education. "Most kids that apply to vet school don't end up being vets," Breier said. "Animal science and veterinary science go hand-in-hand. Those people that don't end up getting into vet school still go into animal science careers. They can be dolphin trainers, veterinary technicians,

farriers, equine dentists, massage therapists and farm managers. There are actually more jobs in animal science than there are in veterinary science."

Not all the students in the program are interested in horses. About half of them have no horse experience at all. "Some of them want to be horse vets," Breier said of the students. "Some of them want to be small animal vets. Some of them just plain love animals and don't know what they want to do yet. Some of them want to be horse trainers or just be around horses."

The community support for the new magnet, according to Breier, has been strong. She is excited about where it will end up in the future. "I think it's going to grow and change a lot as we find out what the community wants and where we want it to go," she said. "I think it's going to be huge."

DNA in Necklaces

Boca News
Sunday, September 17, 2006
by Nicol Jenkins

Spanish River High School freshmen asked one another, "What does your DNA look like?" The answer came this week - and around the necks of students. As part of a science lab, students in Eric Dybas' Biotechnology class created DNA necklaces.

This class is part of Spanish River's new Biotechnology Academy, which offers the latest technology and hands on experiments to spark interest in the field. Dybas said the students first chewed on their cheeks to extract cells inside the mouth, then swished water into a test tube and added ingredients to break it down, and finally extracted DNA from the tube and placed it in a necklace.

The goal of the experiment, Dybas said, was to "build interest in biotechnology." "This is the kind of hands on experiments we're trying to do," the teacher said. "We're trying to become a science magnet school for South County." Dybas said this lab project would help to build knowledge for further experiments, such as extracting DNA from plants and animal tissue. "This is the stuff to build interest in science. There's a shortage of students majoring in science. I hope this program sparks interest in some of our kids to choose that major," he said.

Dybas seemed to already spark interest in some of his students. Freshman Marielle Pellegrino said she enrolled in the class because of an interest in science. "Everyone was saying it was all lab work and I'm interested in that," the 14-year-old said. "I want to be an astronomer one day."

Other students said they learned something new about themselves. "I learned that DNA is not colored like in the textbooks," said freshman Jesse Salomon. Erin Kaplan, 15, added, "I knew it was passed on from parents and genetics. But I didn't know you could see your DNA."

After the students created DNA necklaces, they will make a "virtual lab report" through pod casting. Students will place pictures from the experiment on the web and share results. "It's a summary," Dybas said. "They're forced to put the experiment into context and explain in their own words and connect it with music and video." Ross Pugatch said he'd wear his DNA necklace around school. "I can walk around and say I've got my DNA, where's yours?" he said.



Gold Rush

Speaking about the Gold Rush in California, Eleven Jupiter High School Health Science students competed in the National HOSA Conference this past summer. Accompanying the students were chaperones Bryan Fields, Lisa Linnell, & Elisa Madden along with additional parents Mr. Klein, and Ms. Jadusingh. Mrs. Christine Fields, RN, lead Nursing Instructor and sponsor of the event, was the foundation for the successes of the students.



Amanda Klein brought home Gold, and as she states "I consider myself very lucky to have attended the Health Occupations Students of America National Leadership Conference this summer in California. It was truly an experience meeting HOSA members from every state in the country. It was a week long adventure from June 19 to June 25, 2006."

"I was entered in the Extemporaneous Health Poster Competition. Since my competition only lasted three hours, there was a lot of down time to enjoy the sights in California. We had a great time touring Hollywood and checking out some of the homes. During the week, we also had two formal dances and lots of time to trade HOSA pins with kids from other states. On the last night, we had the awards ceremony and much to my surprise, I took first place in the competition! Wow, what a great way to end the week!"



Erica Linnell placed in the top ten of the nation for Medical Spelling and Dina Miller placed in the top 20 in the nation for chapter newsletters. Others who competed were Candace Sicotte, Alma Pfirman, Dana Fagan, and Olivia Jadusingh in the Creative Problem Solving Category. Joseph Madden chose to compete in the National Keiser Exam Category, while Minou Kaur competed in Patient Care Assisting.

Our National Team also boasted of the JHS HOSA President, Michael Sulewski, along with Competition Coordinator Roshan Nagarsheth. Amelia Dietel who placed 4th at HOSA States in Medical Photography was unable to attend the conference.

Paving the Way for Students' Futures

This new school year offers another chance to strengthen your Career and Technical Education programs through the efforts of Tech Prep. With new post-secondary articulation agreements being made and old articulation agreements being renewed, the opportunity for your students to get a jump on their post secondary plans is ever increasing in the Palm Beach County School District. If you would like additional information on our current articulation agreements or on what Tech prep offers please contact Dr. Jeraline Marsh at 434-8880 or PX 48880



Poinciana Lifting Off

Poinciana's third, fourth and fifth grade students are continuing the intriguing academic activity of becoming space shuttle astronauts. Students experience many of the activities that astronauts do while piloting the space shuttle. Dr. Schiff received two \$1,000 grants to improve the experiences students have in the planetarium. The first grant is slated for improving activities for the new space station simulator for kindergarten, first and second grade students, while the second grant is to provide funds for our solar observatory.



Kris Swanson's fifth graders are busy writing scripts for their planetarium show they hope to produce this year. The show will feature student stories, artwork, special effects and narration, all created for a planetarium dome presentation at the end of the year.

Poinciana has been selected as a demonstration school for Palm Beach County for its Chess Program. This year every kindergarten and first grade child at Poinciana will be taught to play chess as part of the curriculum. Chess does wonders for students in terms of teaching them to plan ahead and to think about consequences. Studies have shown that chess helps improve performance on standardized tests and sharpens reasoning skills. Students who have been exposed to chess do better in Math and Science. We are extremely proud of this innovative chess experience. Chess instruction will be taught by our senior volunteers, Bob Greenberg and Milton Negrin.



The second graders have been working in a simulated mathematical candy store in the Math Lab. The owner of the mathematical candy store needed help and our Poinciana Pandas went straight to the job. The first week students had to go through the process of a job interview. Working as a team, and showing knowledge of using a balance scale were techniques used in the interview process. The second week the students had to help the candy store owner solve a big problem when all of his computers went down. The students then had to weigh each type of candy and put it back in the proper order, from lightest to heaviest. This was an important task because the candy store charges by the weight of the candy purchased. Teams that succeeded with the task were rewarded with a letter from the candy store owner and payment-Hamm, candy of course! The students are eagerly waiting to find out what their next task will be.

The fifth graders will begin a three-day Shakespearian experience this marking period. The first session starts with the Elizabethan Theatre and the second and third lectures will be Macbeth. Mrs. Phyllis Schiff, a retired high school English teacher as well as a Shakespearian expert, will be the guest lecturer.

We are pleased to bring Grammy nominated, Red Grammer to Poinciana. His award winning album, "Bebop Your Best!" builds character in children. He has also received various Parent Choice Awards. Red Grammer will perform at Poinciana on January 12th, 2007. For more information on this event, please call 369-7094.

