



# Division of Special Education Clinical/Behavioral Services

## Spring 2015 Newsletter



## Building Bridges for our Students

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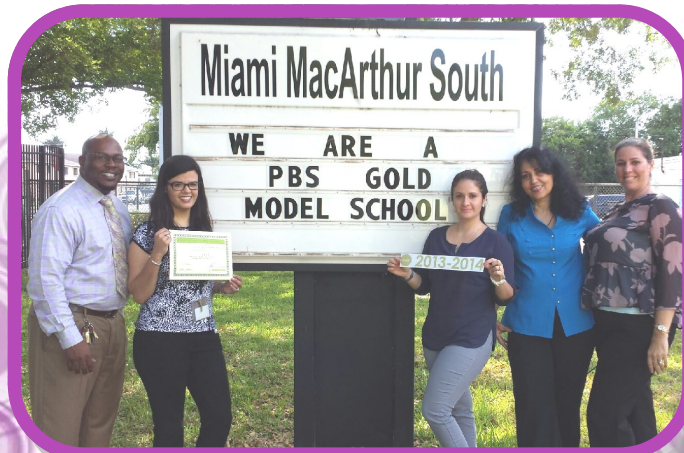
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## MACARTHUR SOUTH – GOING FOR GOLD

Via the University of South Florida's Florida Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Program, Miami MacArthur South was the only school in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools to receive the award of gold model for their PBS program! Miami MacArthur South is an alternative disciplinary school for students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Students are assigned to Miami MacArthur South following serious violations of the student code of conduct. Miami MacArthur South services a diverse demographic population that spans the southern half of the county. Given the behavioral challenges faced by many of our students, implementation of a consistent and effective behavior modification system is paramount to our success.

The recognition of Gold Model status was awarded to Miami MacArthur South due to our outstanding Positive Behavior Support program which entails: use of yearly outcome data indicative of significant behavioral gains, incorporation of data-based problem solving strategies to sustain and implement positive behavioral approaches to addressing discipline, and increase in parent awareness as well as community involvement. The foundation of our PBS program is built on the premise that behavior can be altered more effectively by rewarding desired behaviors rather than by punishing undesirable behaviors. Thus, students at our school earn points on a daily basis for demonstrating behavioral expectations such as arriving on time, using appropriate language, showing respect, completing assignments, etc. Much like a token economy system, points can yield tangible rewards such as participation in various weekly, fun activities. Perhaps the most amazing component of our PBS program is our students' response to it! Despite all the personal, behavioral, and even legal challenges that many of our students' face, the majority of our students are readily engaged in the PBS program and truly enjoy earning points and being able to participate in rewarding activities. As B.F. Skinner stated, "Properly used, positive reinforcement is extremely powerful."

By: Ms. Laura Cruz and Ms. Mailyn Rodriguez, PBS Coaches



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Mr. Craig Siegel, ATR-BC

The Clinical / Behavioral Services Newsletter wants to hear from you. Please send in articles and photographs highlighting the exceptional work you and your colleagues are doing.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of the newsletter is:

**December 11, 2015**

Please send all items to Mr. Craig Siegel at:

[csiegel@dadeschools.net](mailto:csiegel@dadeschools.net)



## I.B. PESKOE K-8 CENTER STUDENTS GIVING BACK

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in the E/BD program at Irving and Beatrice Peskoe K-8 Center decided they wanted to do something different and fun at the beginning of this school year. During their weekly

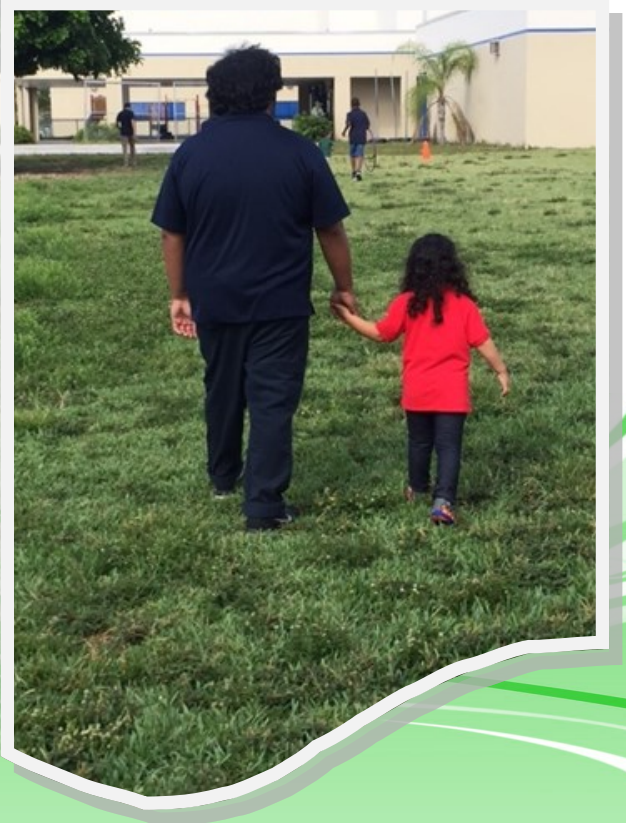
group counseling sessions, the students tossed around several ideas. Finally, unsure how all the details would work out, the students agreed that they wanted to volunteer in some way. We approached Mrs. Amy Kussner, Speech and Language Pathologist, from the Pre-K Speech and Language Impaired program at Peskoe with our idea. Even though our idea was not completely thought out, without hesitation, she agreed to work together with us.

Within a week of discussing it with Mrs. Kussner, the students in the E/BD program began volunteering every Friday morning for 1 hour. During this time, the volunteers, referred to as “Big Buddies,” worked diligently in helping the Pre-K students increase their verbal and socialization skills through various planned activities. They spent their time reading together, working on learning activities, playing, creating arts and crafts, singing, and more. Every week the “Big Buddies” led or modeled the activity.

As the year is coming to an end, both Mrs. Kussner and I have seen the growth both groups of students have made. My students have learned about compassion and giving. Mrs. Kussner's students have increased their verbal communication, are less shy and are more motivated to learn. A Pre-K student who is a selective mute is now saying words and seeking out the friendship of an 8th grade “buddy” who missed over 30 days of school last year. What started as merely a fun project has become a rewarding experience that could have never been created in a traditional group counseling session.

The students and I are very thankful to Mrs. Kussner, Mrs. Rodriguez, paraprofessional, and all of the students in the Pre-K Speech and Language Impaired program for the wonderful memories. We are very grateful to have shared such great times with them!

By: Lillianne Camargo de Zendegui, E/BD Clinician



## ROBERT RENICK EDUCATIONAL CENTER LIGHTING A PATH TO THE FUTURE

The Residential Wiring Program at Robert Renick Educational Center has made great strides to enhance both the in-class learning experiences and exposure to real world opportunities for those students enrolled in the program. Highlights of this year's wiring class include the following:

- Four projects submitted in the 2015 Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc.
- Winner of the "Best in Class" Award in the Woods, Metal Working and Plastic Fabrication Division.
- Field Trip to Lowes Superstore in Miami Lakes.
- Two students graduating from the two year program.
- Increase in the number of students enrolled in the program and increase in the number of students requesting enrollment.

The teachers and administration at Robert Renick Educational Center are looking forward to an even greater 2015-2016 school year as more field trips and growth opportunities are already in the works!

By: Mr. John Walker, E/BD Teacher



## ROBERT RENICK EDUCATIONAL CENTER - FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE

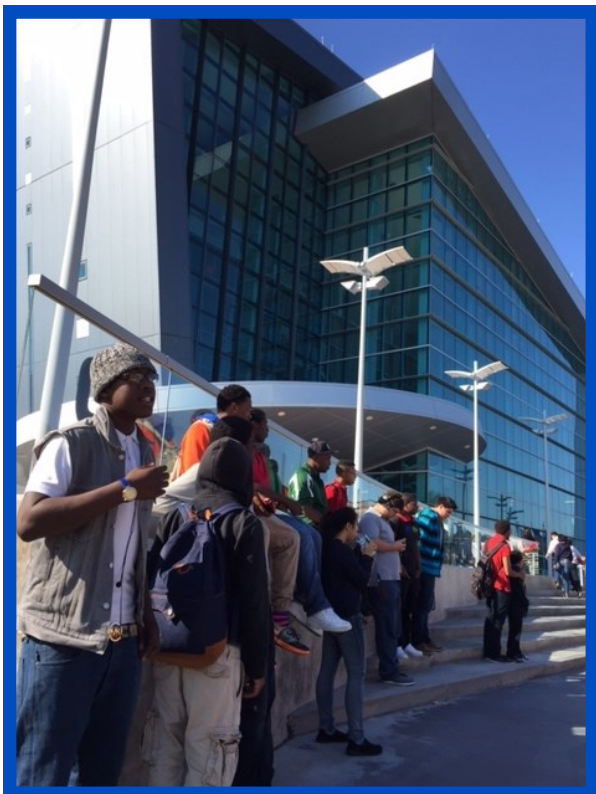


The staff working as part of the Dual Diagnosed team, along with selected students from the Horticulture team, decided to enhance our school's butterfly garden through the Fairchild Challenge. Students and staff added a variety of plants to the garden that will help maintain and preserve the growth of butterflies. The new plants will attract a wider variety of wildlife for the students and staff to enjoy. The students helped build a bench which was placed under the square pergola. Our students worked diligently for over two weeks to make this vision of a bench a reality. The bench will allow visitors, students, and staff to benefit from the relaxing and therapeutic atmosphere in our beautiful butterfly garden.

By: Mrs. Paulette Covin-Fredrik, Principal



## SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR - “MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING”



South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) is a premier, state-of-the-art, venue in the southern end of the county that hosts stellar national and international dance, drama, music, and comedy performances. It is located only 2 miles from Southridge Senior High School. Despite this “jewel” being in their backyard, not one of the students participating in the E/BD program have ever stepped foot inside that marvelous architectural structure. Being a Title 1 school, extra money to attend live, culturally enriching theatrical performances are often outside many families’ socio-economic means. As a Clinical Art Therapist, my sights were set on bringing our students to THAT theatre, regardless of all my previous attempts at gaining outside grants for fieldtrips being denied. With perseverance and a “friendly neighbor” gesture the SMDCAC’s Education & Outreach Manager, Carla Hill, was able to accommodate us. Several times a year FREE cultural programming for schools and community events are available and listed on [smdcac.org](http://smdcac.org) (reservations required).

Along with Ms. Holly Campbell, Behavior Management Teacher, and Ms. Joan Astigarraga, E/BD Clinician, select students that met specific Behavior Criteria were treated to a complimentary performance by “The Improvised Shakespeare Company”. They were totally blown away by the talent and quick wit of the actors, as well as the architectural grandeur of the SMDCAC building. Since we are in the same neighborhood, we look forward to collaborating on future performances/projects for our students.

By Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, ATR-BC

## KEEPING “COOL” HELPS STUDENTS HAVE A “HOT” TIME WITH THE MIAMI HEAT!



One hundred twenty Miami HEAT Tickets with 120 Post-Game Free Throw Passes were donated and given to 4 schools: Allapattah Middle, Horace Mann Middle, Richmond Heights Middle, and Phillis Wheatley Elementary. An incentive program was created for students to earn this opportunity to take pre-game photos with the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy and to receive a WATSCO t-shirt, 2 tickets to the HEAT game, and the chance to step on the home court to shoot a free throw after the game! For many of our students this was their first time attending a NBA game! Students, parents/guardians, and M-DCPS staff expressed that they had a fun-filled evening watching the Miami HEAT play against the Phoenix Suns. Below is a recount of the night from Kristine Vivar, a student from Ms. Murph's class at Phillis Wheatley Elementary:

### ***My Team...The Heat! A night at the Heat Game***

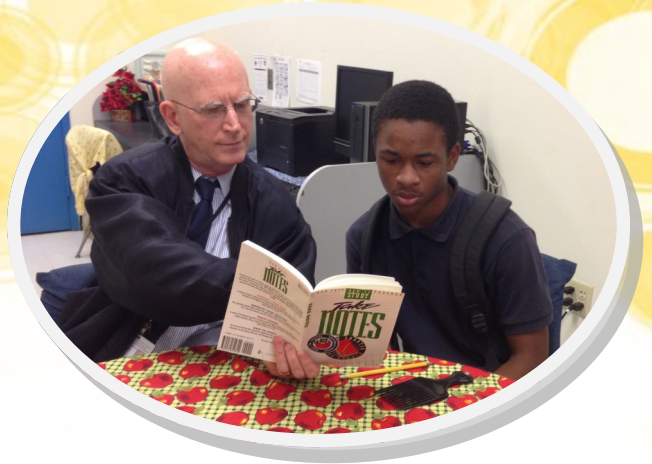
*My name is Kristine Vivar. I want to talk about my experience going to the HEAT game. When I found out I was going I was so HAPPY and excited! I love the HEAT. They are the best team in my opinion. When the game started I almost cried. I was impressed with the new player, number 7. He is my number one player. My second favorite player is Bird Man. I hope I can meet the players up close. I had fun! I wish I could go to the HEAT games all the time. It was such a blast! When they were naming the players there was fire and even through we were far from the court; we could feel the heat. Like really! It was as hot as a campfire. My favorite part of the game was when Dwyane Wade scored and dunked. SWOOOSHH! YEEEEEA! I want to thank the people who gave us the tickets.*

By: Mrs. Jasmine Brown-Grocher,  
Curriculum Support Specialist  
and Ms. Kristine Vivar, Student





## E/BD CLINICIAN TURNS THE PAGE ON SELF-ESTEEM ISSUES



Reading is Fundamental! According to the landmark 1985 report, *Becoming a Nation of Readers*, “the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.” We know that our students in the E/BD program often have reading deficits and reading aloud together has been shown to be one of the most effective methods for children to improve their reading skills. It also lends itself to strengthening the personal bonds in one’s relationship with our students. For this reason, one of the activities that I engaged in this year with my students was to read aloud with them. I read, while holding the book in front of us, and they followed along. If they were comfortable, we took turns reading aloud. This year, I had the wonderful experience of seeing one of my students improve his reading fluency significantly. His grades also improved. I encourage all of my colleagues to get a copy of Jim Trelease’s wonderful book, The Read Aloud Handbook, and read aloud!

By: Mr. Javier Berezdivin, E/BD Clinician

## PALMETTO SENIOR - “SERVING” THE STUDENTS’ NEEDS



Do you want fries with that? That was the resounding sentence heard by many patrons at McDonald’s from the Principal, Assistant Principals, ESE teachers and support staff, Staffing Specialist, School Psychologist, and School Social Worker from Miami Palmetto Senior High. A “McTeacher’s Night” was held from 4-7 pm at the McDonalds at 12647 South Dixie Highway. Twenty percent of the sales earned during that time period were donated to the E/BD program. The event was advertised throughout the school and the community. A total of \$300 was raised! The money is being used for positive behavior incentives for the students in the program.

The hours flew by because we had so much fun together. The store manager and employees had a very positive attitude while they taught us how to use the cash register, make fries, and bag orders. It was entertaining to work with fellow employees in a different environment and to serve our students. The PTSA had made the arrangements for us to work there and they also came by to visit. We are looking forward to doing the event again next school year as part of our commitment to supporting our students.



By: Ms. Jennifer Santino-Slawson, E/BD Clinician

## SAYING “GOOD-BYE” TO A “TRUE” TEACHER!

The close of the 2014-2015 school year also brings to a close 37 years of dedicated service to the students, teachers, and staff in Miami-Dade County Public Schools from our very own, Ms. Patricia Moore. “Ms. Pat” has served as a Special Education teacher, Center-Chair and Psycho-Educational Specialist within the Bertha Abess Children’s Center, and Curriculum Support Specialist as part of the Clinical/Behavioral Services team. She has trained thousands of teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, and others in areas such as Functional Assessment of Behavior, Classroom Management Strategies, and Positive Behavioral Support. Her impact on the lives of students and families over the span of her career is immeasurable. She is a true professional...but even more so, a true friend. Her absence will be felt beyond the walls of her office, reaching the boundaries of the District and generations of those she has touched. We love you, “Ms. Pat!”

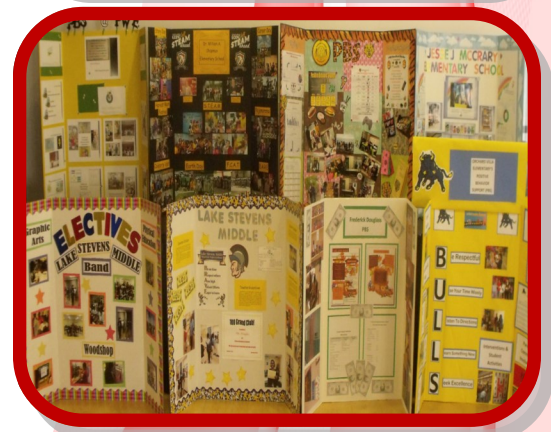
By: Craig Siegel, Art Therapy Department Chair



## PBS PARENT SUMMIT AND SHARE FAIR

This January welcomed the annual PBS Share Fair. In an effort to expand the focus of the event, the PBS District Team decided to focus on bridging the relationship between the schools and home. With approximately forty parents in attendance joining the PBS Coaches and Team Leaders representing the different PBS programs throughout the District, attendees were treated to presentations centering on everyday needs and concerns for families. Breakout sessions were facilitated by school and community agencies such as Youth Move, FDLRS-South, Switchboard of Miami, Project UPSTART, Family Counseling Services, and Institute for Child and Family Health. The PBS Parent Summit and Share Fair was a huge success helping to form connections between home, school, and community all in the guise of “building bridges for our students!”

By: Craig Siegel, Art Therapy Department Chair





## PALMETTO MIDDLE – STUDENTS “FLOCK” TO IN-HOUSE FIELD TRIP

Mrs. Alex Burdett of Art Thyme in The Falls shopping center provided the entire 6<sup>th</sup> graders participating in the E/BD program with a creative clay experience in the Art Therapy Room at Palmetto Middle. I had been working with the PTSA beginning in August to secure funds for this event. The president of the PTSA, Linda Dwyer, with PTSA's support, provided \$200 and Mrs. Burdett absorbed the difference so each student would be able to participate.

Mrs. Burdett brought all the materials needed for each step of the process to create “Owls”. The students sat in groups of 4 and 5, and although they did not have to share materials, definitely inspired each other with their creative ideas. The approach to creating the Owl form was sequential and each step in the process had a separate directive that involved using a specific tool. As one can see, each “Owl” is unique and individual to each student artist. After ninety minutes the students were ready to apply paint to the still wet Owls to define and enhance their Owl's unique character. Mrs. Burdett then had each student write their name on a strip of paper that was secured to each Owl, which were taken with her to be fired at the Art Thyme studio.

Mrs. Burdett's organizational skills were discussed as part of a “teachable moment”. The students were very impressed that everything they needed for the process, except the “kitchen” sink, was brought to classroom and organized with a great deal of thought and care. Due to how well everything was organized, clean up went smoothly with each student able to assist. The event ended with school lunches brought to the students for a communal lunch in the art therapy room!

The Thursday before winter vacation, Mrs. Burdett returned with the fired “Owls” individually wrapped and labeled with the same strip of paper attached to each student's Owl.

By: Ms. Enid S. Garber,  
E/BD Clinical Art Therapist



## ORCHARD VILLA ELEMENTARY– PBS COACH'S CORNER

As an inner-city school located within a poverty-stricken demographic, we have many students who are not motivated to do much academically and struggle daily with behavior, as well. It is safe to say that our staff understands the issues and challenges that our children bring to school daily and are always willing to discover additional methods to go above and beyond to accommodate them. As such, the faculty and staff wanted to find a means of reaching these students and wanted to further utilize the PBS program to target ideas. We believe we have found both an answer and niche in an unlikely place during a visit from one of our community partners, Odebrecht U.S.A.

The Odebrecht team often visits the school throughout the year and presents several classroom hands-on experiences for teachers and students alike. These presentations give students a feel for what it's like to take part in construction projects such as the American Airlines Arena and the Miami International Airport, to name a few. One of our least motivated students just so happened to be present on one of their visiting days, and to his teachers' and classmates' amazement, his "light-bulb" went off. He charmed the Odebrecht staff and took the lead in topic discussions and answering questions. We all looked on, stunned, as he had never really participated in any classes prior to then. It turns out he knew more than what many would have ever thought in the field of engineering and construction. We, as a staff, took notice of his newly found motivation and wondered what type of atmosphere we could create if all students were given similar opportunities in their special areas of interest.

As we presented the idea to teachers who had previously revealed other talents, some agreed to volunteer and share their gifts in hopes of helping change behaviors in other troubled students as well. To date, we have several teachers that have donated their personal gifts and talents to assist in fulfilling our PBS mission. These activities take place during the teachers' planning time, after school, and before school. Some of the activities include speech, ballroom dancing, playing the piano, disc jockeying, barbering, or even just jump roping or throwing a football.

It is our hope that next school year we can continue to set off other "light-bulbs" and discover other hidden talents from the very beginning of the school year. Have a great summer break everyone!

By: Don Hylor Jr., PBS Coach





## HOMESTEAD MIDDLE & SOUTH DADE SENIOR –LEADERS IN ACTION



This year, a field trip was arranged for Homestead Middle Peer Leaders in Training, in which they were afforded a unique opportunity. The students, chosen for their commitment in upholding the tenets of the Full Value Contract, shared Project Adventure activities with the students participating in the E/BD program at Laura C. Sanders Elementary School. Naturally, the learning curve and enthusiasm grew exponentially with the older students leading the younger ones, who became more and more eager to participate in the fun.

As seen in the photo, the Homestead Middle School students engage in the activity called "Over, Under, and Through", a low elements exercise that takes place well into the year, when students trust levels have significantly developed.

Every year, Peer Leaders from South Dade Senior perform a socio-drama for the middle school students. The students meet after school with Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician to develop and rehearse the skits, which usually are based on conflict resolution, and designed to guide students towards the right path, and make responsible choices. The Peer Leaders also share their personal testimonies of change, and the magnet and career certificate opportunities available at South Dade Senior.

A yearly field trip is arranged by Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician, and co-facilitated by Homestead Middle School teacher, Mr. Bryce Bishop, for the 8th grade students articulating to South Dade Senior High. Peer Leaders from South Dade join the students in touring the various academies available, such as Automotive, Culinary, Medical, Early Childhood, and Agriculture. The purpose of the field trip is to help familiarize students with the layout of the school, which can seem quite daunting.

By: Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician







## MORNINGSIDE K-8 ACADEMY – REINFORCEMENT IS A “TRIP”

As part of our behavior program at Morningside K-8 Academy, providing wonderful educational experiences and counseling services to our students is one of our top priorities. During our monthly field trips, our students have the opportunity to experience, learn, and explore “hands-on” different educational topics while also practicing their conforming behavior, social skills, and coping skills at the same time having fun interacting positively with their peers and staff in the real world. The SPED department is grateful that the Morningside K-8 Academy has a wonderful PTSA set in place, that has graciously agreed to pay for our bus transportation to these outings. With team work from our department, this has been a magnificent school year for our students!

By: Ms. Marie Castor, E/BD Clinician





## MIAMI CENTRAL SENIOR - REACHING OUT TO STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND BEYOND

Miami Central Senior High School, home of the Rockets, has been blasting off with a galaxy of special events! First, we started the year with a Welcome Back to School Breakfast for students participating in the E/BD program. Then, a Coffee Talk with delicious food where community speakers shared insightful and resourceful information for our parents and families. Our program, along with, Miami Springs High School and Odyssey of the Mind, collected needed clothing items for Thena C. Crowder Early Childhood Diagnostic & Special Education Center's three and four year old boys and girls.

Miami Central also provided students school-wide opportunities for community service hours and PBS points via the Thanksgiving Basket Drive. Next, we provided goodies for Miami Central's Halloween Family Event. Since continuing education is vital for all of our departments, members of the E/BD program facilitated a workshop, "Depression,

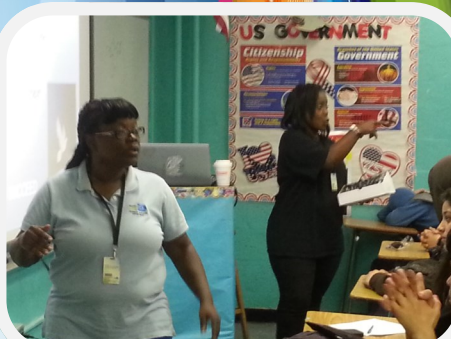
"Suicide, and Bullying," for the school in order to help staff respond to the emotional needs of every student. Finally, community resources and a clinical/PBS presentation were provided by members of the Autism program as part of the Mother's Day Breakfast

and Resource Fair. Miami Central Senior High School and the Special Education department together have worked diligently to embrace the community, link resources

with families, and provide school wide incentives for soaring positive change and growth.

By: Ms. Cynthia Serure, E/BD Clinician

## HIALEAH SENIOR - STRAIGHT TALK



Juvenile Hall visited Hialeah High in preparation for two field trips to Turner Guilford Knight Jail this school year, Mr. Anthony Lorenzo, E/BD Clinician, set up a visit by the Juvenile Hall Violence Intervention Project (VIP) to address some "real-life" concerns raised by the students. Spear-headed by Ms. Carol Murray-Brown, we were able to accommodate several of our kids into a classroom for some very important messages on bullying, violence, and illegal behaviors. The information provided set the foundation for two field trips to the Turner Guilford Knight (TGK) Jail. The students were eager to learn why so many in the community end up in detention either at juvenile or adult jails. The presenters were very clear and direct when conveying their messages. The field trips to the TGK Jail reinforced the message from the representatives, making their points concrete and realistic. The team at Hialeah Senior plans to build upon these experiences next year to address real life concerns of our youth.

By: Mr. Anthony Lorenzo, E/BD Clinician

# RICHMOND HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL MURAL PROJECT

Art Therapist, Ms. Leah Guzman led the students in a collaborative effort beautifying the back patio of the school. The students enjoyed working together and offering their ideas to enhance the mural. The theme of the project, "Education is the Key to Success" incorporates the idea that we hold the key to unlock our potential if we use the tools provided. The mural has an image holding a key to the world, with flying books and a positive quote. This mural will be extended to the next wall and will be completed by the end of the school year.

By: Ms. Leah Guzman, E/BD Clinical Art Therapist





## ALLAPATTAH MIDDLE—LUNCH AND LEARN PARENT WORKSHOP

On March 13, 2015, parents, family members, and District Support Staff attended the first Allapattah Middle School Parent Luncheon. The luncheon was sponsored by Ms. Cycloria Rivers and the dynamic duo, Mr. Shayon Tresvant, BMT and Mr. Edward McClain, PBS Coach. Parents were greeted by 8<sup>th</sup> grader and 5000 Role Model, Daniel Garcia. The Parent Luncheon focused on transitioning students with disabilities from Middle to High School.

During Session One, parents were presented with essential information for laying the groundwork for successful transition from middle school to high school. The presentation included a breakdown of the Florida standards for high school graduation, diploma types, 9<sup>th</sup> grade subject selection, IEP monitoring, parent involvement, and recommendations for accessing support services in a high school.

Celebrity Chef Richard and Chef Ali of Chef RLI and Associates kicked off Session Two with a Healthy Meals Presentation. During the presentation Chef Richard demonstrated easy recipes for making healthy snacks and meals with fresh vegetables and lean meats. The question and answer dialogue allowed parents to gain solutions on every topic, ranging from children that swear they are “allergic” to green vegetables, to children that refuse to drink water.

Next, parents dined on an Italian inspired lunchtime feast served by Chef Ali. For starters, the parents were served a scrumptious low calorie menu of freshly tossed Caesar salad and lightly toasted garlic bread. The feast continued with a delicious entrée of four cheese penne pasta with grilled sweet Italian sausage and chilled peach iced tea. For dessert our Culinary Arts Teacher, Mr. Donald Cole, baked warm peach cobbler.

By: Ms. Cycloria Rivers, E/BD Clinician



## WHAT IS SEDNET?



The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities, (SEDNET), was established to improve the provisions and coordination of education, mental health treatment and residential services for students identified with or at risk of emotional/behavioral disabilities. SEDNET Region 11 creates and facilitates a network of key stakeholders committed to assisting in the provision of a quality system of care for

students in Miami-Dade and Monroe County Public Schools.

SEDNET can assist students and their families with the following:

- Education
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Trauma Informed Care
- Juvenile Justice
- Child Welfare

Case Management services are provided to families and students, with at risk behaviors or with emotional/behavioral disabilities. Case Managers assist in coordinating services with schools in the integration of educational services, referrals for school based mental health evaluations and access to records from psychiatric hospitals and community mental health facilities.

For more information please visit us at: <http://sednet.dadeschools.net/>

By: Ms. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Project Manager

## BEN SHEPPARD ELEMENTARY - TEAM MEETINGS ARE AN ADVENTURE

Teachers often become tired and stress out (I'll bet that's news you haven't heard)! One way to address the stress, while at the same time addressing the agenda items for our team meeting, is to introduce Project Adventure activities into the meeting. One activity that was introduced in our team meetings required the team to work together to get a hula-hoop around a circle, while holding hands. They were not allowed to let go of the hand of the person next to them. The laughter was one clue that the stress had been released. Some laughed until they cried. It made getting through the agenda items a lot less stressful!

By: Dr. Donna Davies, E/BD Clinician





## ALLAPATTAH MIDDLE - BUILDING CONFIDENCE



The Allapattah Mustangs are enthusiastic about learning good manners and sharpening their social skills. In preparation for attending the Annual School Banquet/Prom at the Embassy Suites Hotel, students participated in a Confidence Building through Etiquette and Social Skills Workshop, hosted by Clinician, Ms. Cycloria Rivers and PBS Coach, Mr. Edward McClain.



Our students discovered the importance of blending contemporary manners with traditional etiquette. The workshop began with students sharing their prior knowledge and experiences. Next, students practiced role-playing scenarios and hands-on activities. Students perfected introductions, requesting service from a waiter, and social graces and table manners for enjoying a three course meal. While savoring an Italian inspired lunch, students shared positive testimonials about what they gained from participating in the workshop, and were confident that they could handle with ease any fine dining experience. The goal of the Confidence Building Workshop is to increase the students' self-confidence through providing practical activities that make them feel special while learning to believe in themselves.

By: Ms. Cycloria Rivers, E/BD Clinician

## ALLAPATTAH MIDDLE –PBS: SHOOTING FOR THE STARS



The Allapattah Middle School Positive Behavior Support Team was proud to welcome Tournament of Champions, INC as they presented their Shoot for The Stars program on Friday April 30th. This unique program is the concept of Program Director, Wesley Frater, Director of Tournaments and is facilitated by NBA veteran and former Miami Heat community affairs liaison, Wali Jones. The powerful training empowers young people to be in leadership roles. The program seeks to create ALL-STAR parents and ALL-STAR students through neuro-linguistic programming. This Positive Peer Leadership Training encompasses parent team development,

student-athlete team development, individual development, and skill development in the following areas: Family, Self-Concept Self Esteem Communication, Decision Making, Problem Solving, Refusal Skills, Conflict Resolution, Academic Action Planning, and Career Exploration. Program activities and materials were well received by all students, many of whom expressed their intentions to go out and share what they learned with others.

By: Mr. Edward McClain, PBS Coach



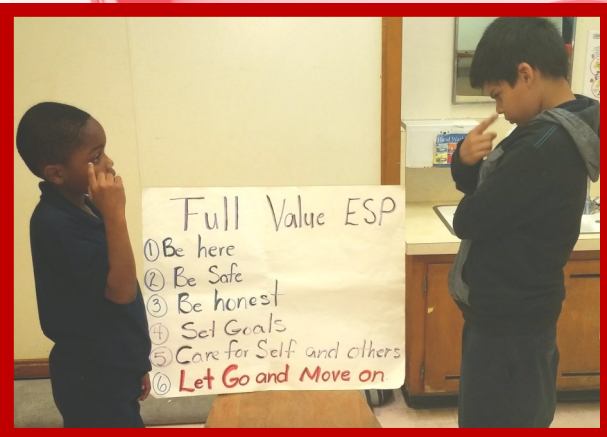
## JOHN G. DUPUIS ELEMENTARY - CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS AND PARENTS



During group counseling sessions the students were introduced to, and learned about, the Full Value ESP activity from Project Adventure. This fun activity provided the students with an opportunity to practice and enhance their communication skills with one another without talking. As the students have fun reaching consensus on which gestures to pick, they also learn to build a strong community together.

The students are engaged in numerous activities through the use of a variety of therapeutic games to assist them in reaching their full social/emotional potential. Through the use of the Impulse Control Game, students understand the benefits of impulse control and learn to evaluate alternatives before acting. In addition, they also learn about helping, sharing, and caring, as they play the aptly titled Helping, Sharing and Caring Game. This game is also helpful in strengthening self-esteem, improving communication skills, and fostering productive human relationships.

By: Ms. Susana Puig, E/BD Clinician



During the month of April flyers went out inviting parents to attend a Parenting Skills Workshop titled 'Predisposing Your Child to a Healthy Social/Emotional Future'. Sixteen parents were in attendance from John G. DuPuis Elementary and some from North County K-8 Center.

At this workshop parents learned strategies that they can utilize to help their children resolve conflicts peacefully and they also gained knowledge about how social/emotional learning works. Parents learned about feelings and strategies they can use to help their children manage their feelings. Parents learned the importance of putting into practice an optimistic thinking pattern in order to foster a healthy emotional life in their children. It was a tremendous learning experience, not just for the parents, but for the team, as well.



By: Ms. Susana Puig, E/BD Clinician



## INTERVENTIONS IN ACTION AT PINE VILLA ELEMENTARY AND DR. WILLIAM A. CHAPMAN ELEMENTARY




Every year is a new adventure with our students. We come prepared with many tools and strategies to teach them all the skills they need to succeed in life!

This year I've had the opportunity to work in two magnificent schools in the south area: Pine Villa Elementary and Dr. William A. Chapman Elementary. I have worked with both schools in the past providing counseling services to the students participating in the E/BD programs.

During our sessions we address anger management, bullying prevention, frustration tolerance and many other skills. In addition the students earn the opportunity to participate in many in school and out school events. Two of the different events are Dare graduation for the fifth grade students and Career Day. Other events include field trips to many different places and in-school adventure events. In conclusion my students had a wonderful year experiencing many events while learning.

By: Ms. Adelaida Perez, E/BD Clinician



A vibrant beach scene with waves crashing onto a sandy shore under a bright blue sky. In the foreground, a large, textured orange starfish sits on the sand. The text is overlaid in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font with a drop shadow.

**THE CLINICAL /  
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES  
DISTRICT TEAM  
WISHES YOU  
A FANTASTIC SUMMER!**

**SEE YOU SOON!**