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Miami Dade County Public Schools

School-Wide Positive Behavior Support

SPRING ISSUE

2005 - 2006 SCHOOL YEAR

Miami Takes Reno by Storm

The 3rd International Conference on Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) was held in Reno, Nevada on March 23 and 24, 2006.

Ms. Isabel Rodriguez Toyos, Chairperson, Division of Special Education and Ms. Tanya Carey-Henderson, Curriculum Support Specialist, Division of Special Education volunteered to represent the county in this venture. The team presented on, "Miami Makes PBS Work, Feel the Heat!" The presentation focused upon describing the various implementation successes and challenges among the different school sites.

Audiences were very interested on how the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support program was bridging the issues which are common among large urban and culturally diverse school districts. Since Miami-Dade County Public Schools is the fourth largest school district in the United States, the session was standing room only.

It was a great day and the team received a great deal of positive feedback from the audience. They were dubbed "Miami's PBS Angels." Good job ladies!!!



From Left to Right—Stephanie Martinez, Isabel Rodriguez Toyos, Tanya Carey-Henderson

Miami MacArthur South Senior Highlights

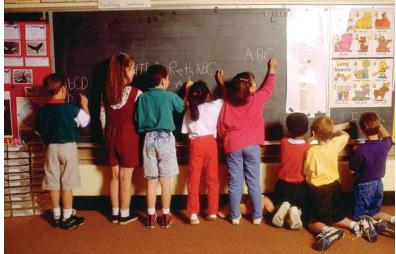
Miami Douglas MacArthur Senior High South is just completing their first year as one of the District's 13 School-Wide Positive Behavior Support sites. Despite the fact that PBS generally takes from 2 to 3 years to become fully operational, Co-Chairs Dr. Peter Caproni and Ms. Shirley Thomas report very promising initial results. According to Dr. Caproni, "We have returned more students to regular education this year, and are ending

the year with significantly fewer referrals and suspensions". Ms. Thomas says that "Now, more teachers are working together as a unified body rather than being a disjointed group." Innovative incentives and interventions this year included cash awards for the Student of the Month, and a "Therapeutic Luncheon" program for students returning from school after suspension for a major incident in March.

Safe Schools' Ms. Nancy Brice and three detectives from the Metro-Dade Kendall Station Gang Unit participated in this effort. The MacArthur Staff is looking forward even greater staff participation and buy-in for 2006-2007, as well as greater integration with other campus initiatives including Secondary School Reform, Learn and Serve, and Parent Involvement.



PBS for Beginners— Jose De Diego Middle School



Students on task.

(A Poem From JDD.)

While some schools are in their first year of PBS implementation, We at Jose De diego are going through a reincarnation (CHORUS)

So much to learn about behavior modification, And solving school problems by instilling new expectations.

Next came building an incentive bank, this was a must , We approached corporations hoping to gain their trust

A calendar of events was compiled by the PBS team. Demonstrating positive behavior earned points, what could this mean? Fewer suspensions, better attendance was no longer a

dream.

While some schools are in their first year of PBS implementation, We at Jose De Diego are going through a reincarnation (CHORUS)

We've learned the in's and out's of Positive Behavior Support, And it would be a terribly irresponsible if we did not report, Some of the best practices we came to learn along the way, As well as what not to do no matter what on any given day. So here's a brief summary of what we now know...

Through most schools are in their first year of PBS implementation, We at Jose De Diego are still in the process of reincarna-

tion (CHORUS)

Keep meetings brief and follow your agenda, Have someone take minutes and appoint a time keeper, Of Course input your SWIS data, in a timely manner

Get input from the students before planning events, The bank of incentives should have items for teachers too, So everyone will get on board the PBS

We thank you for your participation. Just think, for a small donation, Yes, you'll receive sample letters and grant contact information. Your gift will make possible De Diego's PBS team reorganization



Homestead Middle presents on their implementation process.

Nova Southeastern University hosted this year's PBS Share Fair on April 25, 2006. Thirteen schools participated in the event with a total of 56 participants. Each school sent at least two representatives from their PBS Core Teams. Fortunately, several administrators were able to take part in this event. Schools had an opportunity to share with one another their successes and challenges. It was a dy-

namic day led by our University of South Florida's PBS Technical Assistant Specialist , Stephanie Martinez and her colleague Michelle White. Our District Coordinator, Robin J. Morrison also provided staff with an overview of program goals for the following school year. She also spent a great deal of time ascertaining from schools what type of district support would be beneficial to schools.

Special Thanks to Our Community Businesses

We wanted to take an opportunity to thank those businesses who have supported the district's School-Wide Positive Behavior Support program. Special mention to the Florida Marlin's for including us in fund-raising events and providing freebies to schools. We would like to thank Bennigan's for their continued cooperation and willingness to tailor fund-raising events to the various needs of our school sites. Ein-

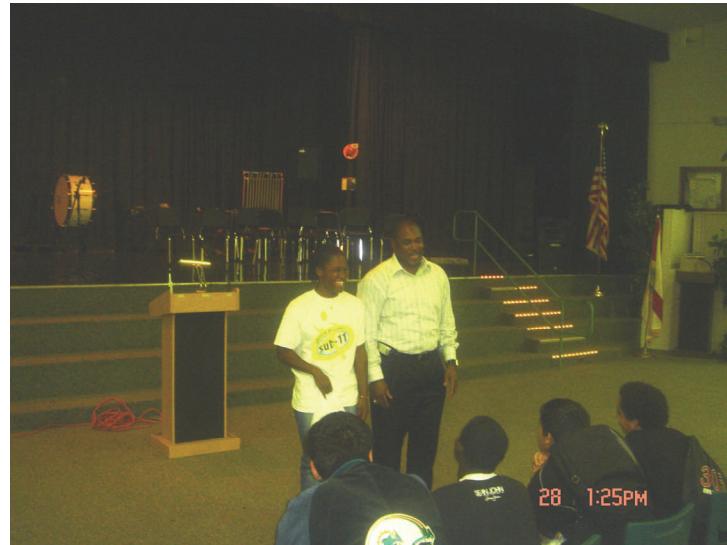
stein's Bagels has been gracious in donating some items to school functions. We are currently working on forming relationships with the Miami Heat and the Miami Dolphins. We are constantly in search of businesses who can partner with our school sites in building stronger communities where children's needs are a priority.

Communities Coming Together

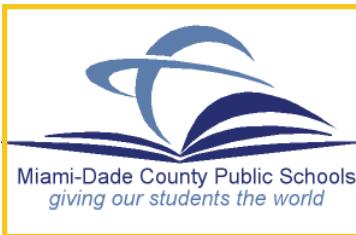


PBS at Homestead Middle School

Project Reconnect is our latest effort to boost the implementation of School-Wide Positive Behavior Support . We are targeting sixth grade students who have two or more referrals documented in SWIS. Sixth grade teachers were provided additional GATOR dollars to reinforce the PBS GATOR behaviors of the identified students. Our hope is to increase the efforts of teachers to "reconnect" students who have the most serious behavior problems. We have pulled the students for special presentations including the one shown here. Lauren Williams, Olympic Silver Medal winner, told students "there's no excuse".



Project Reconnect



For additional information regarding School-Wide Positive Behavior Support, (SWPBS), please contact:

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Edwin Markham

**“He drew a circle to shut me out.
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But
love and I had the wit to win. We
drew a circle that took him in.”**



www2.dadeschools.net

Congratulations PBS Schools from your District Coordinator

We are coming upon the end of the district's second year implementation of School-Wide Positive Behavior Support. As we discovered during our PBS Share Fair, each school is at their own particular stage of development in this process, and each school has encountered their own share of successes. Each school has met challenges with grace, courage, and dedication. The PBS implementation process is just that, a process. The process will necessarily have its ups and downs.

It is normal for the implementation process to encounter obstacles. As we learned from the share fair, these obstacles have taken many shapes due to a variety of issues such as changes in

administration, competing responsibilities, and staff stressors.

We are lucky that so many of our employees are so dedicated.

It is easier to maintain a sense of motivation when things go exactly as planned, but never forget the value in finding out what does not work. Look at these obstacles as valuable information and feedback, and re-strategize for next year. Don't allow tough times to steal that wind beneath your sail.

Be patient with yourselves and recognize all the efforts you put out everyday.

Have a great summer and thank you.



Keep on going! Don't lose faith.