



Division of Special Education

Clinical/Behavioral Services

Spring 2013 Newsletter



Building Bridges for our Students

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A Message From Clinical/Behavioral Services

Summer is upon us and it is time for us all to rest and revitalize ourselves after putting forth the huge amounts of physical and emotional energy it takes to be present at every moment for our students, their families, and our colleagues. It is because of your dedication and commitment that the students within Miami-Dade County Public Schools have the opportunity to reach their highest potential. We hope you enjoy this issue which is filled with all of the wonderful projects and activities you and your colleagues are involved in throughout the District. From all of us on the Clinical/Behavioral Services team, we wish you a wonderful summer recess and look forward to assisting you in your daily endeavors next school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Robin J. Morrison, Instructional Supervisor
 Mrs. Nadyne Floyd-Grubbs, Clinical Services Chairperson
 Mr. Craig Siegel, Clinical Art Therapy Department Chairperson
 Mrs. Patricia Moore, Curriculum Support Specialist
 Ms. Sylvia Arango, Curriculum Support Specialist
 Mrs. Selina Jones, Curriculum Support Specialist
 Ms. Jasmine Brown, Curriculum Support Specialist
 Mrs. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Project Manager
 Mrs. Diane Olinick, SEDNET Case Manager
 Mr. John Carrier, SEDNET Case Manager





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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 15, 2013

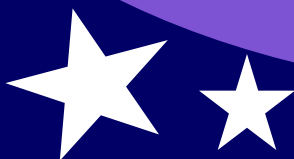
Please send all items to Mr. Craig Siegel at:

csiegel@dadeschools.net

A WALK THROUGH THE RAINFOREST BOWMAN ASHE DOOLIN K-8 ACADEMY FAMILY NIGHT

Bowman Ashe Doolin K-8 Academy held a fabulous Family Night on May 10th, 2013. Each grade level was assigned a booth to display information about different parts of the rainforest. The E/BD program at the upper academy created a beautiful 3D display. The student's demonstrated excellent team work as they learned about the animals and plants that live in the rainforest. Overall, the final product was a success and the display makes one feel as if they are taking a walk through the rainforest.

By: Ms. Aliette Alcala



Jesse J. McCrary, Jr. Elementary - Rewarding Success

Jesse J. McCrary, Jr. Elementary School hosted a very special final PBS event for the 2012-2013 school year to recognize students and staff for their incredible dedication and effort. The top PBS point earners in each grade level were invited to attend this one-of-a-kind event. The top 10 Kindergarteners, top 10 1st grade students, the top 20 2nd grade students, and the top 40 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students respectively were identified through the use of our behavior tracking system, Plasco Trac. The students used 100 of their PBS points to purchase their ticket to attend the cooking adventure provided by Cooking with Kids Miami and the game truck by the Game Xite.

The students purchased their tickets at another event we held earlier this month known as the Dolphin Depot. The Dolphin Depot is a store housed in our school where students are able to purchase amazing items, gadgets, and trinkets with their PBS points once a month. The Dolphin Depot was recently retrofitted courtesy of a contribution provided by Robin Morrison, through our school's participation in the annual PBS/Drop-out Prevention Share Fair, our school's EESAC, and a generous contribution from a community member.

At the event held on Thursday, each student received a neon colored wristband to identify them as participants. There were 2- ninety minute sessions for the cooking activity (one for K and 1st grade and another for 2nd grade) and 3-one hour and 10 minute game truck sessions (grades 3-5). The K-2 students made Pizza On A Stick, one of the company's more popular menu items. The kids made their own pizza stuffed with mozzarella cheese and 2 toppings of their choice. For dessert, the students made Chocolate & Strawberry Cookie Pizza which was as much fun to make as it was to eat.

The 3rd-5th graders enjoyed more than an hour of fun playing the latest gaming systems such as PS3, Xbox, and Wii.

The staff members from both of these businesses were courteous and professional and treated our students like celebrities. Check out Cooking with Kids Miami <http://cookingwithkidsmiami.com/field-trips> and The Game Xite <http://thegamexite.com/> for an overview of the activities our students participated in.

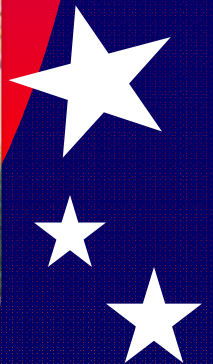
By: Mr. Samuel Louis



South Dade Senior High and Homestead Middle: Working Together to Succeed in the Ultimate Challenge

All year long, students at both the Middle and Senior High meet weekly with Ms. Meinecke at their respective sites, engaging in Adventure Based Counseling exercises. As their level of trust increases, the groups participate in ever more increasing levels of team building and initiative problems, designed to test their frustration and commitment in working together towards a common goal, all the while being mindful of supporting each other both emotionally and physically. The culminating activity consists of an all day field trip for both schools to Ruth Owens Kruse Ropes Course, led by Greg Affleck, and assisted by Ms. Meinecke. Here, the students engage in both low and high elements, including climbing and traversing heights as high as telephone poles, using a belay system.

By: Ms. Katherine Meinecke



ARTWORKS!: Creatively Engaging Students' Strengths

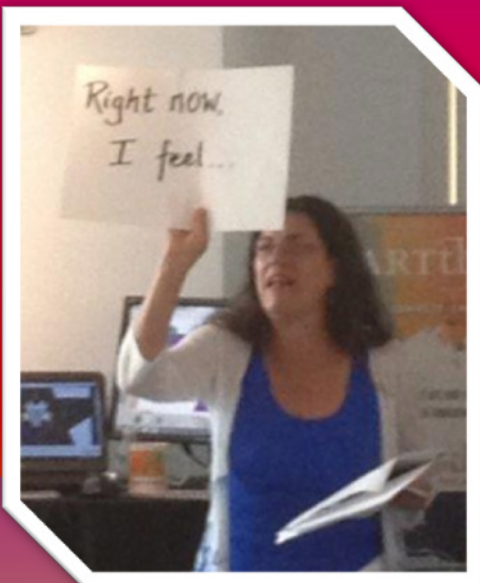
Miami-Dade County Public Schools Clinical Art Therapy Department and the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum on the campus of Florida International University have united to present cultural support of art as a healing process through a collaboration entitled "ARTWORKS!"

Our fifth annual student art therapy exhibit at The Frost Art Museum was on exhibit from May 15 through May 28, 2013. This year's theme, *Creatively Engaging Students' Strengths*, challenges students to focus on their strengths, understanding one's limitations and learning skills through the creative process in order to be successful in school.

In conjunction with the opening on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, art therapists conducted a free workshop, *Promoting Stress Management through Mandalas*, allowing participants to experience the benefits of art therapy.

This exhibit also highlighted the use of ARTthread, a computer-based, proactive, and innovative program used to engage and empower students.

By: Mr. Craig Siegel



Ruth Owens Kruse Educational Center - Defining Their Vision

Support the strong, give courage to the timid, remind the indifferent, and warn the opposed. These words by Whitney M. Young encapsulate the vision and direction of Positive Behavior Support at Ruth Owens Kruse Educational Center.

At Ruth Owens Kruse we support the strong through the use of a school wide point and token economy system. As our students succeed in the point and level system, they are able to participate in one of four inclusion programs. Our programs allow students to transition into mainstream education and living.

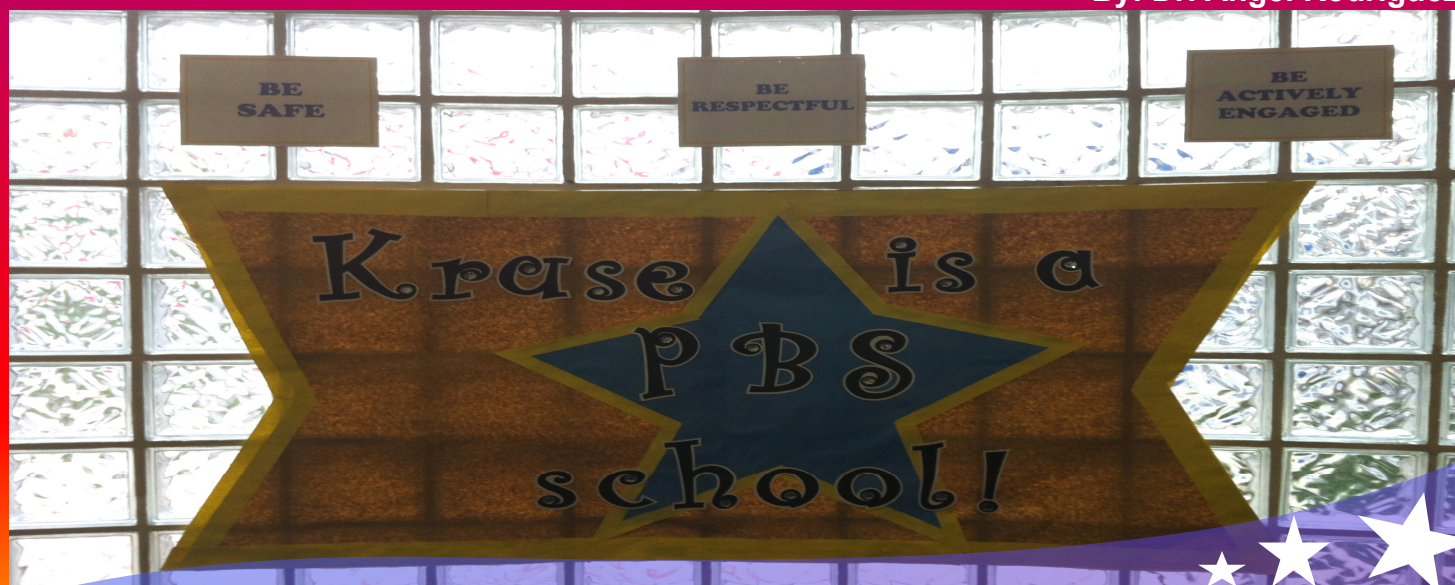
We service students with a wide array of disabilities. Our students need increased guidance in socially appropriate behavior. One way we encourage the timid is through the use of a structured curriculum, LEAPS. This program offers 150 lessons that center on the instruction of rules, respect and ways to manage anger and stress.

One of the biggest huddles we face as educators of this vulnerable population is indifference. We combat this indifference by creating innovative lessons that inspire our students through the latest technology available. We offer rewards that are motivating to our students. Communication through daily progress notes ensures collaboration between home and school.

Change takes time. There is always some opposition from students. Data is used to guide our intervention. Through careful analysis we are able to determine which students need specialized attention. By addressing those needs specifically, we have been successful in reducing the number of indoor suspensions by forty eight percent. We have also seen over a sixty percent decrease in outdoor suspensions and an eighty percent decrease in seclusion and restraint over the past three years.

Although our staff's commitment to the implementation of positive behavior strategies has resulted in remarkable improvement in the behavior of students, our job is not complete until every, timid, indifferent and opposed student finds the strength in themselves to change their behavior for good.

By: Dr. Angel Rodriguez



South Dade Senior High: Peer Leaders Provide Outreach to Middle Schools

This year, the Peer Leaders, part of a program designed by Ms. Kitty Meinecke, were fortunate enough to visit two neighboring middle schools, Homestead and Campbell Drive. The participants alternated between speaking to the students, with the message leaning towards growth through behavioral change, and acting out skits based on real life problems. The skit depicted here dramatically shows how making impulsive decisions, and acting on anger, can destroy lives. Students then do a rewind, and enact the same skit with a positive twist, and completely different outcome. The Peer Leaders, mostly juniors and seniors, also shared with the younger students the different academies they're enrolled in at the high school, such as Nursing, Sports Medicine, Agriculture, ROTC, and Medical Assistants. They discuss the certifications they've received in these areas, as well as the sports and teams they're involved in, all the while encouraging their audience to get involved with positive influences in their lives.

By: Ms. Katherine Meinecke



Campbell Drive Middle Implements RtI-B Tastefully

Finding time to implement Tier 2 Group Interventions is a challenge. This is particularly true for low performing students who already are scheduled for various other intensive intervention programs. Campbell Drive Middle School (CDMS) found a way to reach students through Wednesday lunch groups. One lunch group consists of selected 6th grade students with emotional/behavioral disabilities. A second lunch group serves other 6th grade students. The 6th grade was selected based upon a review of a RtI-B database report. 5 of the 6 students with E/BD have not had a referral since starting the lunch group in March. 10 of 13 students in the second lunch group have not generated a referral as well. All of the students with E/BD, and all but one of the students in the second lunch group have earned sufficient points to be promoted to 7th grade.

By: Mr. Chuck Ochipa

A Unique Tale: How Book Donations Help Students Turn the Page

Most low-income families cannot afford to purchase books for their children because essentials like food and shelter consume their financial resources. According to the United States Department of Education, "there is a common theme among our underperforming children, they don't own books". The need is clear; children need books. With the support of Ms. Robin J. Morrison, Instructional Supervisor and Mr. Craig Siegel, Clinical Art Therapy Department Chairperson, Mrs. Elizabeth Portuondo, art therapist, spearheaded a book drive for her students at Golden Glades Elementary. The book drive that culminated last March resulted in the donation of approximately 100 books within a few weeks.



The generous response from local donors encouraged Mrs. Portuondo to solicit philanthropic, service-based organizations and private schools for more books. With the support of Art-Cares for Kids, a non-profit organization, and the generosity of the following local organizations over 1,500 books were donated for students participating in M-DCPS E/BD programs: Miami Children's Museum, Miami Country Day School, Read Indeed, St. Patrick's Parish School, Temple Beth Shalom, the Key Biscayne Women's Giving Circle and Hialeah Park. For more information on starting a book drive or becoming part of a biblio-therapy committee please email Mrs. Portuondo at eportuondo@dadeschools.net.

By: Mrs. Elizabeth Portuondo

Homestead Senior High's Residential Electrical Wiring Program is Wired for Success

The students in Homestead's Residential Electrical Wiring Program had an exciting semester. For the fourth consecutive year, our students attended a Habitat for Humanity Building Blitz. This year the building blitz was held in South Miami Heights. Our students assisted contractors and other community members build homes for needy families. Our students hammered, measured, and constructed walls all while having a great time and ensuring a valuable experience. Our students also took a field trip to the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant located on the southern tip of Miami Dade County. The students were given a tour of the facility and participated in an open discussion with the plant manager. Among the topics discussed were educational requirements and job expectations needed for employment in this field. Additionally, students discussed nuclear energy versus cleaner energy resources such as steam, and natural gas. Another trip was taken to the AT&T Miami headquarters. The students spent the day with AT&T staff members discussing the vast array of career opportunities. An AT&T district director also reviewed our student's resumes and discussed employer expectations. Lastly, our graduating students who earned their electrical wiring certificates visited the campus of Florida International University. While on campus they were given a tour of the department of electrical engineering. The students participated in a graduation ceremony and a luncheon followed. We are very proud of our graduating class and look forward to next year's endeavors.

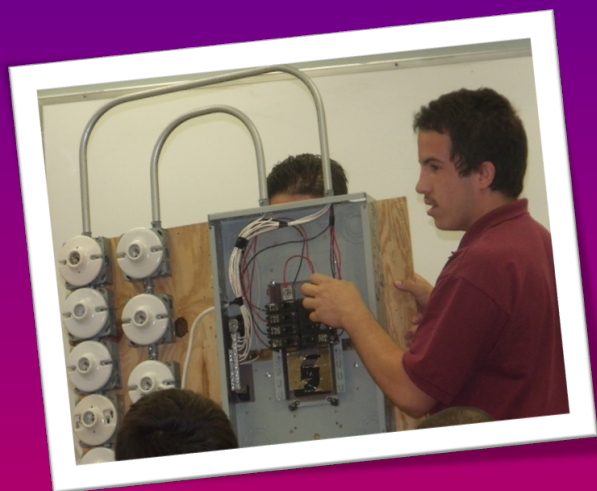
By: Mr. James Medina



Barbara Goleman Senior: Tools for the Future



Ms. Robin J. Morrison of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Dr. Amaury Caballero of Florida International University hosted the 2012-2013 Residential Electrical Wiring Program graduation for students completing 300 hours of training at The College of Engineering of Florida International University. Besides the students' families, guests included representatives from the District who have continued to support and value the program.



Three students from Barbara Goleman Senior High School and two students from Homestead Senior High School earned a Certificate of Completion for the Mastery of Basic Domestic Wiring Techniques. Each of these students received a belt equipped with the tools needed for the trade of electrician. It was a gift to the students provided by the FIU College of Engineering. In addition, students who completed the program earned three college credits in Construction Management. The certificate also allows students to pursue entry level positions in the field of electricity as well as the opportunity of becoming an apprentice to a licensed electrician. Many previous students who have completed the program have gone on to vocational or college careers.



The Residential Electrical Program for students with emotional/behavioral disabilities (E/BD) was created in 2002 at Barbara Goleman Senior High School as the result of a contractual agreement between M-DCPS and FIU. In 2009 the program was started at Homestead Senior High School and Renick Educational Center. It has been extremely successful, helping to graduate students that had been at high risk of dropping out and many others that had profound academic difficulties. The program was the winner of the 2009 National Dropout Prevention Network's Crystal Star Award of Excellence for Students with Disabilities.

By: Dr. Alex Azan

Third Annual F.A.C.E.S. Children's Mental Health Summit Highlights M-DCPS Student's Talents

The third annual Children's Mental Health Summit was held at Florida International University on May 14, 2013. The event highlighted the special talents of students participating in the E/BD programs within Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The audience was treated to outstanding musical performances from the Robert Renick Educational Center Band. Student artwork based on the theme, "Making Dreams Come True," was on display in the FIU Graham Center during the month of May. All students in attendance participated in sessions that highlighted self-expression and post-secondary opportunities. The Clinical/Behavioral Services team in conjunction with the participating schools: Robert Renick Educational Center, Ruth Owens Kruse Educational Center, Miami Carol City Senior, Miami Edison Senior, and Miami Sunset Senior played a key role in making the summit a huge success.

By: Mr. Craig Siegel



Closing Remarks...and Saying Good-bye!

Before closing another year of challenges, rewards, and hard work, I've been reminded of a group of individuals whom are greatly appreciated by myself and those they worked with. These individuals were Clinical Buddies to our new staff and/or mentors to Psychology Interns: Bibiana Vega, Kelly Ann Scallin, Althea Williams, Girolama Gelsomino, Joan Astigarraga, James, Medina, Darryl Hawkins, Eleanor Downs, Juan De Arrigunaga, Brenda Benitez, Cynthia Kyles, Lillianne De Zendegui, Sabrina Jackson, Liliana Maldonado. Many thanks for the time and knowledge you imparted.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dianne Cotter on her well-deserved retirement after 40 years of service to Miami Dade County Public School students and staff. **WAY TO GO!!**

To each of you, have a wonderful, restful and safe summer!!

See you August, 2013.

Nadyne Floyd-Grubbs, LCSW
Chairperson, Clinical Services

