



SWPBS

Winter Edition
January 2009

School-Wide Positive Behavior Support

MDCPS

Editor
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2009

SWPBS: Data Driven



The 2008-2009 PBS year is off to great start! In October, SWPBS teams and Coaches came together for a full day at Nova Southeastern University, and the message was clear...USE YOUR DATA!!

Stephanie Martinez from the University of South Florida (USF), provided useful guides on how to use problem solving strategies and data to develop individual, classroom and school-wide interventions. Our schools have the advantage of using the SWIS data to determine appropriate interventions. Dr. Sandra Covington-Smith from the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD), shared some current research findings on "what we now know" about dropout out prevention and the importance of data collection. In addition, PBS teams received guidance on the preparation of this years Action Plans based on last years data outcome and the success of their plan. Carie English updated the coaches on the changes in evaluation

procedures and training options for the teams.

We know this will be an excellent year for data collection in our district since the SWIS program is now fully operating in most of our PBS schools.



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Great information from FLPBS and The National Dropout Prevention Center...

Lets keep it moving in 2009!

Check it out >>>



The "What Works Clearinghouse" (WWC) website is a source of scientific evidence for educators that is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Among other resources, they have developed practice guides that provide practical recommendations to help teachers address everyday challenges in the classrooms and schools. For more information and resources visit their website at:

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/>

PBS MODEL SCHOOLS: THE FANTASTIC FOUR

**Robert Renick
Educational
Center**

**Howard A.
Doolin
Middle School**

Congratulations to our 4 PBS Model Schools for 2007-2008. Your outstanding efforts in demonstrating excellence in positive behavior support strategies is to be commended!! Keep up the good work ...



**Palm Springs
Middle School**

**Young Men's
Academy
for Academic and
Civic Development
at MacArthur
South**

Inside this issue:

SWPBS: Data Driven	1
Model schools 2007-2008	1
North Dade Middle School	2
MacArthur South	2
Words of Wisdom	3
Grant Opportunities	3



HAPPY NEW YEAR



North Dade Middle School: By Dr. Monica C. Thurston, NDMs

Wrapping things up!

The students at North Dade Middle School were featured in the Neighbor section of the Miami Herald on Sunday, October 26, 2008. PBS team member, and breast cancer survivor, Ms. Alecia Johnson, decided to make the public aware of the seriousness of being proactive and diligent in pursuing a cure for breast cancer. Highlighting the "Character Education" pillar, the activities



active in the community by edu-

for "Wrapped in Pink Day" were actualized through the use of Citizenship activities. Students were not only made aware of an issue that confronted the community, but also the need for being

cating others. Emphasis was placed on community building activities in which the students created flyers, bookmarks and other products they could post around the school. Media were invited to the school location and copies of these informational products were mailed to cancer survivors in the community.

**North Dade Middle is starting the year off with a bang...
Way to go Thunderbirds!!!**

YMAACD @ MacArthur South: *Bringing Parents...Back to School!!*

Their message is clear... "If you don't call us, we'll call you!!" This is their strategy as they work on increasing parental involvement for 2008-2009 school year.

Mac-South is reaching out to parents by developing monthly flyers that have information about the monthly breakfast and the parent support network. In addition, parents were invited to become familiar with the school by participating in the *Family Orientation Evening*, held prior to the first day of school, the *school newsletter* "Tiger Tales" which provides them with all the recent highlights, and

the *Back to School Night* event.

They are also



connecting with parents, thanks to their membership in two chambers that have provided direct links to events, activities and other

resources within the community. The community liaison has also been diligently securing funds and donations that will be used for food and other incentives throughout the year.

Volunteers have been strategically assigned to establish phone contact with parents to personally invite them to monthly events and update student and parent information.

In addition, parents voice their opinions by completing surveys that identify their level of satisfaction; a definite must in monitoring the program's effectiveness.

For additional information regarding
School-Wide Positive Behavior Support,
please contact

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Website for M-DCPS SWPBS
<http://ese.dadeschools.net/pbs>.

Words of Wisdom

Suggestions for gifts that you can always afford!!

Gift of service: donate your time
to a cause

Gift of affection: be generous
with hugs, kisses or pats on the back.

Gift of laughter: make someone
smile today

Gift of a compliment:
publicly acknowledge others for their
achievements

Gift of listening: actively listen to
what others have to say

Gift of appreciation:
remember to say "thank you" in your
own special way.



Looking for Opportunities

The **Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program** recognizes outstanding teaching and instructional creativity in public schools that serve economically disadvantaged students. First through twelfth grade public school teachers or paraprofessionals in schools with at least 50% of the student body eligible for free or reduced lunch may apply by developing an original lesson plan or thematic unit that demonstrates high expectations for students. Up to 400 grants of \$2,500 will be awarded each year. They may be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, costs related to field trips, software, and other items required to implement and assess the proposed lesson or thematic unit.

<http://www.nike.com/jumpman23/features/fundamentals/overview.html>

Horace Mann—Abraham Lincoln Fellowship will allow fifty full-time US teachers the opportunity to study the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. It is open to all K-12 teachers of any discipline, but its curriculum is targeted towards educators of grades 4-12. The fellowship features a five-day institute in June and July 2009 in Springfield, Illinois.

<https://www.horacemann.com/resources/fellowships/default.aspx>

Heartspring Award for Innovation and Creativity in Special Education.

Heartspring wants you to tell us how you do what you do to get results for children with special needs. New ideas create results that matter and educators who are outstanding innovators are the right applicants for this award. The application process is simple. The format must be creative, take risks and tell us in a unique way how you execute your program to get results. Only the explorers, pioneers, risk-takers and innovators need apply. 5-10 awards \$1000+

Deadline April 20, 2009

award@heartspring.org.