

Division of Special Education 😽

Clinical/Behavioral Services

Winter 2013 Newsletter

Building Bridges for our Students

Inside this issue:

Robert Renick Educational Cen- ter's New PBS Game Room	2
Campbell Drive Middle - Art Ther- apy Mural Project Continues	3
Homestead Senior High: Alumni Inspires Students	4
Coconut Palm K-8 Academy - Magnet Program "Attracts" PBS Successes	4
Homestead Middle School- Adventure Based Counseling	5
South Dade Senior High - Peer Leaders Leading the Way	5
Hialeah Senior High School - Linking Students through Expressive Arts	6
Booker T. Washington - PBS School Pride in Action	6
Rewarding Positive Behavior with the Help of the Community	7
BIP Tips - Links to Address Behaviors of Concern	7
Helping Homeless Children	8
Save the Date - Annual Art Therapy Exhibit	8

And much more...

New Additions and New Skills to Meet Student Needs

Never a dull moment as we're sure you can attest! We have expanded our EBD Clinical Services Family to welcome Loris McCorvey at I & B Peskoe K-8; Dionne Owusu at Homestead Senior; Magda Demerritt at Campbell Drive Middle; Eugene Muldavin at Southwest Miami Senior; and Cassey Elias at Whispering Pines Elementary. In addition, we have been able to welcome four new art therapists: Deanna Barton at I & B Peskoe and Allapattah Middle; Cicely Comandari at Silver Bluff Elementary, North Miami Middle, and Robert Renick Educational Center; Paula Hammond at Miami Central Senior and Miami Carol City Senior; and Elizabeth Portuondo at Golden Glades Elementary, Lake Stevens Middle, and Hialeah Senior. Returning welcomes go to Frances Vile at Howard Drive Elementary; Cynthia Serure at Miami Central and Luz Berrio at Kendale Lakes Elementary.

The focus for the year is assessments. Trainers from around the United States provided training on the ASEBA Instrument for psychologists; the Social Skills Improvement Scale for social workers, the LEAPS Curriculum for counselors, and the LECATA and SDT for art therapists. Although implementation has met with some challenges, E/BD Clinicians have the knowledge to utilize an assessment that will enhance the delivery of services to the students.

E/BD Clinicians have also been involved in trainings to heighten their awareness of the impact of Human Trafficking, Child Abuse, and Crisis Intervention within the student populations being served by M-DCPS.

As the 2012-2013 school year progresses and the focus continues on crisis identification, your knowledge could be the saving grace for a child.

Stay strong, committed and caring!

Your Chairs,

Nadyne Floyd Grubbs & Craig Siegel



Clinical/Behavioral Services Ms. Robin J. Morrison Instructional Supervisor

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Newsletter Editor 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:

May 15, 2013

Please send all items to Mr. Craig Siegel at:

csiegel@dadeschools.net

Robert Renick Educational Center -New PBS Game Room "Passes the Test!"

Robert Renick's Activity Room has a "Game Room" atmosphere where students who have earned the privilege can participate in various fun activities. Entrance to the Activity Room is based on the student's behavior and level on the Point System. Level 5 students have free entrance; the cost for other students is based on their Levels. Levels 1 through 4 are 400 to 100 points. Students can also use their points to purchase snacks. The Game Room is equipped with a Play Station 3, an X-Box 360, a regular Xbox, a Wii Game Center, games for all of the consoles, a pool table, computer games, a foosball table, basketball hoops, and a Doll House.

The Activity Room has been specially designed and repainted, thanks to the tremendous work of Mr. Marlon Joseph, paraprofessional. The room includes a large drawing on the wall of the school's mascot, "Renny the Rattler". Several flat screen televisions have also been added to enhance the experience. The Activity Room opened this fall to great fanfare with students being taken on a tour before it officially opened.

By Delores Hayes



Campbell Drive Middle - Art Therapy Mural Project Continues



"Interventions Outside the Art Therapy Room" was an initiative developed last school year by several students from the E/BD program at Campbell Drive Middle School and Mrs. Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, Clinical Art Therapist. A main hallway on the 2nd floor was outfitted with thought provoking 8 foot by 4 foot mural compositions collaboratively designed, implemented, and installed by students in the E/BD program. Expanding upon their success and positive public feedback from other students, staff, administration, and visitors to Campbell Drive Middle School, the tradition of creating murals was continued this school year.

It was a unanimous decision by the students participating in the E/BD program to visually represent and support the school's 2012-2013 year motto, "Wildcats Turning up the Heat – Full Steam Ahead". Clinical goals related to behavioral skills, social skills, communication, impulse control, task-completion, and decision making skills were addressed during the creation of the murals. In addition, concepts of personal space, respect, collaboration, and responsibility for maintaining materials (paints, brushes, clean -up, etc.) were also reinforced.



By Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez

Homestead Senior High: Alumni Inspires Students



One of Homestead Senior's former FIU Residential Wiring students (Alvin Lucas) recently made a return visit to the school. While visiting, he wanted to share with the students and staff in the E/BD program that he had been hired and is working in the Florida Keys assisting electricians and carpenters. He has been working for over a year in his current employment. He also shared that the FIU certificate allowed him to get the interview, but the skills he learned got him the job. interview consisted of testing The his ability to perform certain work related tasks that he had already learned in our program. We are very proud to hear of his success. Hearing Alvin's story has been a significant motivator to current students participating in this program.

By James Medina

Coconut Palm K-8 Academy - Magnet Program "Attracts" PBS Successes

Coconut Palm K-8 Academy, established in the fall of 2008, has been a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) School for 4 years. Coconut Palm, a Title I School, has been designated a Magnet School of Distinction (2012) in recognition for its Agriscience Engineering and Medical Biotechnology Magnet Programs. Florida's Positive Behavior Support Project has recognized Coconut Palm K-8 Academy (CPA) as a Gold Model School (2011). CPA integrates its magnet program themes and initiatives in its PBS program. For example, recently our students in K-2 received admittance to our school's petting zoo as a reward for consistently demonstrating our school-wide expectations (Respectful, Responsible, Role Model) throughout the first semester. Our Upper Academy Students are provided opportunities to develop Responsibility and to serve as Role Models through a variety of leadership activities, including Service Learning opportunities, Community Service requirements (received Presidential Service Award in 2011), garden and animal care and a variety of green initiatives. Because we are a K-8 Center, many opportunities arise that allow students to serve as peer mentors and information ambassadors for the school and the community.

 Walerie Morris

Homestead Middle School-Adventure Based Counseling



Students at Homestead Middle School participate in Project Adventure Activities every week, coordinated by Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician, and assisted by Mr. Bryce Bishop, their teacher, who really gets into the activities with the kids, and is a great support. Here, students tackle 3 different initiative problems: "Stepping Stones", in which they must work together as a team, building communication skills and trust in one another as they try to solve the initiative together; "Stump Jumping", a low elements trust building exercise, where students must assist one another, never letting go of hands, building trust and cooperation; and "Frozen Pond", in which disks representing frozen chunks of ice on a melting pond are slowly taken away, as students become more and more creative and trusting, as they form



pyramid-like footing to stay "afloat".



South Dade Senior High - Peer Leaders Leading the Way



The Peer Leadership Program at South Dade Senior, led by E/BD Clinician, Ms. Katherine Meinecke, promotes positive peer influence as the members help other peers within the change EBD program to their behavior. Every year the club engages in fundraising, and for the past several years they've sold Holiday Teddy Bear Grams - a unique way to both raise money and get school spirit up around the holidays! The fundraising helps offset the cost of field trips for the students.

By Katherine Meinecke



"I want to leave my mark behind once I graduate," were the words expressed by a Senior from Hialeah High School while participating in Art Therapy. Her words prompted the creation of Footprints, an expressive arts group, for students who understand and appreciate the power of expression through art. The handful of Art Therapy students hope to share their passion for expressive arts by forming a group that will provide a safe forum in which all students can come together to learn, share, express, and create. Another objective of Footprints is to participate in creating art with special need students.

The first meeting, hosted last month, included General Education students, E/BD students, and staff members. The students shared favorite art media and proposed ideas for upcoming art projects. By Elizabeth Portuondo



Booker T. Washington - PBS School Pride in Action



Working with students with intellectual disabilities poses many unique educational challenges. Students with intellectual disabilities are those students that due to their low cognitive functioning benefit from non-traditional approaches to academia. They are taught skills to maximize their independence in adulthood. Everything they learn is taught through a hands-on approach and repetition. The two major groups of skills that are focused on are employability and daily living skills. These skills include a multitude of tasks such as washing hands, preparing a simple meal, wiping down tables, washing dishes, and money handling skills, just to name a few components of the Targeted Life Skills Curriculum. These basic skills are imperative for these students to maximize their independence in adulthood.

The Twister Café, which was co-founded by Dr. Jennifer Jordan, is part of the program for students with Intellectual Disabilities. It allows these students to enhance their independent skills and promote social growth. Students prepare meals such as sandwiches, salads, eggs, croissants, and smoothies. Some of the students prepare these meals using a picture recipe developed by Dr. Jordan. The monies earned from the café are used to teach other skills such as making a simple purchase, ordering from a menu, and paying a bill while on community based instruction (CBI) field trips. The café provides the opportunity to showcase these young adults' abilities rather than their disabilities.

By Edward McClain



Rewarding Positive Behavior with the Help of the Community

Once again this year, Homestead Middle School and South Dade Senior students were privileged to have had their holiday celebration made a little more special this year. Thanks to Ms. Katherine Meinecke's reaching out to community supports, donations flowed from multiple sources. The Homestead Police Department donated bicycles; "Dolphin's Cove" in Key Largo, donated 60 beautiful sweatshirts; "Pirates on the Water", a Key Largo based parrot head charitable club, donated unwrapped gifts; and Ms. Recarey, a Keys resident donated \$100. Every time a student receives a perfect daily note or point sheet, the results are tallied. Students demonstrating the highest total of

successful behavior were able to pick first among the tangible reinforcements. The gifts included items such as cologne sets, watches, jewelry, basketballs, and electronics. Some of the sweatshirts were given to peer leaders and outstanding students, while the rest were given to the principal at HMS, to distribute to deserving students throughout the student body. Teachers noted improvement in overall behavior and performance, as students strived to make their days.



By Katherine Meinecke

BIP Tips: Links to Help Address Behaviors of Concern

The High School Behavior Education Program (HS-BEP):	<u>http://www.pbis.org/school/</u> <u>high school pbis.aspx</u>	Secondary level intervention program for high school students.	
LEAPS:	www.goleaps.com	Web based behavior curriculum	
Florida PBS:	http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/		
PBIS World:	http://www.pbisworld.com/	Links to hundreds of interventions, supports, resources, and data collection tools, all of which are organized into a tier 1 through 3 framework.	
Intervention Central	http://www.interventioncentral.org/ behavioral-interventions/challenging -students/teacher-behavioral- strategies-menu	Strategies that teachers can use ei- ther to head off or to provide conse- quences for low- to medium-level student misbehavior:	
EBD Website:	http://ebdprogram.dadeschools.net/		
EBD Manual link:	http://ebdprogram.dadeschools.net/ pdfs/EBD program manual.pdf By Sylvia Arango, Patricia Moore, and Jasmine	Brown	

Helping Homeless Children

The Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (McKinney Vento Act) that was reauthorized by Congress in January 2002 guarantees that "each State Educational Agency shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths."

Intervention at school, at the Tier 2 level, and in the community, at the primary level, is the best way to prevent and reduce the effects of homelessness.

The first step is to identify students who are homeless. Often, due to shame and fear, students do not reveal that they are homeless. The following are Silent Signals that may indicate homelessness:

Attendance at several schools Living with several different families Poor hygiene and grooming Hoarding food

With careful and sensitive interviewing, students will reveal their situation and be able to receive the following additional services through MDCPS:

Free lunch even without documentation. Bus transportation to the school prior to homelessness to provide some stability School supplies and materials, including uniforms. Tutoring and Counseling.

MDCPS Project Upstart can be contacted to provide some of these services. (305 995-1000)

Once a child is identified, it is important that services begin immediately as those who receive support from the school have better attendance and higher academic performance. With intervention and cooperation in both school and at home, the cycle of chronic homelessness can be broken and children can feel hopeful and resilient to reach their full potential.

By Jane G. Weinstock

Save the Date: ARTWorks!



The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum Presents: ARTWORKSI:Creatively Engaging Students' Strengths

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Clinical Art Therapy Department and the 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!"

Please be a part of the fifth annual student art therapy exhibit at The Frost Art Museum by attending the exhibit during its installation from May 15th to May 28th, 2013. This year's theme, Creatively Engaging Students' Strengths-challenges student's 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 Monday, May 15, 2013, art therapists will conduct a free workshop, allowing for participants to experience the benefits of art therapy. Master Plan Points will be available to M-DCPS personnel.

> Exhibition on view May 15 to May 28, 2013 Opening: Monday, May 15, 2013 from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm Free Workshop: 6:30 pm-9:00 pm 10975 SW 17th St. Miami, FL 33199 305-348-2890



Robert Renick Educational Center -Bringing Holiday Cheer!

Robert Renick's PBS Holiday Point Store opened on Monday, December 17th, 2012 and ran until Friday, December 21st. Students participated in a wide variety of activities which included a school-wide Point Store and Activity Room. Students are all on a Level System and earn movement points on a daily point sheet. Those students who earned points by meeting their behavioral targets, completed assignments, and returned signed progress notes were eligible to purchase items from the point store. Students had their choice of various gift items, personal hygiene items, and electronics.



Morningside K-8 Academy -Building Friendships through Social Skills Education



Children who lack social skills may experience peer rejection, inattentiveness, delinquency, behavioral and emotional difficulties, poor self-esteem, aggressiveness, bullying, trouble making friends, problems with interpersonal relationships, academic challenges, and depression. Therefore, we can easily say that social skills are the root of successful interactions with other people. Children with learning and emotional disabilities often need training in basic social skills such as making conversation, building and maintaining friendship with peers, showing empathy for others, and dealing with conflicts.

Additionally, since children need a safe environment to practice their newly learned skills, as an E/BD Clinician, I decided to create a social skills group where the students are able to interact with each other in a positive manner. We created a name for the group (ANGELS), the students made up rules for the group, creatively designed T-shirts, and wear mood rings to signify that we are ANGELS. We often have lunch sessions, learn and practice different social skills through poetry, role playing, and random conversations with different topics.

Students are also given the opportunity to practice their Social Skills through our monthly themes. Posters with the monthly themes are placed in the E/BD classrooms and in my office. For example, last month's theme was CARING, so each classroom had a poster of a caring tree. Student learned about caring for their classmates and were able to practice caring on a daily basis with their peers by demonstrating a caring act. Once a student exhibit caring actions towards their classmates, they were then eligible to color an apple on the CARING apple tree. The class with the most colored apples would win a pizza party. By Marie Castor

Coral Gables Senior High -

Teamwork in the Classroom Leads to Teamwork on the Court

CORAL GABLES SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (CGHS) is well known for its outstanding accomplishments in academics, athletics, activities and service. Many E/BD students enrolled at CGSH over the years have contributed to these accomplishments and this school year is no different. This year, E/BD students have not only excelled academically, but also on the football field and basketball court. New to CGHS and Junior Varsity football is 9th grader, Tarrance Hudson. After the JV's completed their regular season, Tarrance was moved up to the varsity team to finish out the football season. Four other E/BD student athletes, Darius Hicks, Elverth Hernandez, Julius Jobe, and Antonio Dawson round out the Cavaliers basketball team. Darius, another 9th grader at 6 feet 8 inches tall was selected "Player of the Week" for his outstanding defensive maneuvers on the court. Sophomore Elverth Hernandez plays center while Julius and Antonio Dawson plays guard. Together these 5 student athletes maintain a combined grade point average of 2.8.

By Roxanne Featherly

Steps to Success Parent Workshop

On October 13, 2012 the Steps for Success (STEPS) conference was held at Miami Edison Senior High School. The STEPS conference was a coordinated venture organized by the Division of Special Education, in conjunction with multiple community partners in Miami-Dade County. The conference offered multilingual sessions in English, Spanish and Creole, with plenty of educational and networking opportunities for students, parents, family members, and educators. Over 300 participants took part in sessions ranging from Early Intervention, Secondary Transition, Achievement/Student Support, Identification/Eligibility and Behavioral/Discipline topics.

By Dianne Halfaker



PBS/Dropout Share Fair



The PBS/Dropout Share Fair took place on November 29, 2012 at Miami Coral Park Senior High School. All fortytwo schools who implement Positive Behavior Support and eight high schools participating in dropout prevention attended. The day's events included a display area of the amazing ideas, interventions and strategies being used by each school as well as presentations by a guest speaker and school staff. The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET), Project 10 Transition Education Network, the Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) and South Florida Workforce also shared information with schools in attendance via display boards and deliverables.

Robin Morrison provided all attendees with a brief welcome as well as a history of where schools currently are, how far schools have come and where schools are heading with PBS and dropout initiatives. Dr. Sandra Covington from the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities presented and shared valuable information on the national perspective. She stressed the importance of creating sustainability and positive school climates as well as implementing evidence-based classroom management strategies with fidelity.

Elementary schools and secondary schools presented in the afternoon as breakout sessions were held. Sessions were divided to provide specific information on PBS strategies that are currently being implemented in elementary and secondary settings. Jesse J. McCrary Elementary School, Phillis Wheatley Elementary School, and Edison Park K-8 Center provided presentations that included motivational messages and highlights on PBS initiatives. Booker T. Washington Senior High, Ruth Owens Kruse Educational Center, and South Miami Senior High gave a secondary perspective on PBS and dropout initiatives at their sites. The day was filled with information as well as celebrations on a job well done for all schools participating in the PBS/Dropout initiatives!!!

By Alina Rodriguez





Mark Your Calendars!

SAVE THE DATE



3RD ANNUAL YOUTH AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

Tuesday, May 14rd, 2013 / 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Graham Center Ballrooms 11200 SW 8th St, Miami, FL 33174

Join us as we celebrate achieving recovery and resiliency through the arts!

Featuring:

- Impressive and inspirational speakers
- Fun workshops for youth and family members
- · Performances by youth and family members
- "Supporting Recovery: Making Dreams Come True" Art Exhibit

Registration starts at 8:30 AM

Program starts at 9:00 AM

Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon

For more information contact: Janet Pereyra, Federation of Families, (786) 395-0556, <u>janet_pereyra@dcf.state.fl.us;</u> or Nicole Attong, FACES of Miami, (786) 507-7453, <u>nattong@sfbhn.org</u>

Information on parking and number of tickets available for each partner will be forwarded soon

