



# Division of Special Education Clinical/Behavioral Services

## Winter 2014 Newsletter

### Building Bridges for our Students

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## Earlington Heights: Special Visitors Bringing Special Gifts and a Special Message

Holiday joy came early for the students at Earlington Heights in the emotional/behavioral disabilities program. The women of Eastern Star spread joy with gifts for each student and former NFL Dolphin player, Lorenzo Hampton, discussed the importance of reading, mathematics, and making the right choices in life. The students were attentive and had plenty of questions for Mr. Hampton. Once our guests left, the students immediately started writing their "thank you" letters. The E/BD team, Linette Tellez, Principal, Ms. Angela Almaguer, Assistant Principal, and Ms. Kishamee Woodley, E/BD Teacher, cannot express enough gratitude for The Eastern Stars and Mr. Hampton for supporting our students.

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, 2014**

Please send all items to Mr. Craig Siegel at:

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



## Bullying Prevention Week Activities Leads to Better Understanding of Self and Others



During Bullying Prevention Week the students took a stand against bullying. They learned about the different forms of bullying such as physical, verbal, and cyber bullying. In addition they also learned the negative effects that bullying can have on students.

Students learned to improve their behavior through therapeutic games. They played games such as “Don’t Be Difficult”, “Meetings of the Minds”, and “Positive Thinking”. One example of the benefits of engaging in the therapeutic games, is as the students played “Positive Thinking”, they became aware of their own negative thinking patterns through a list of ‘Negative Thinking Reminders’. Through playing the game, the students will be able to access coping skills in the future to better problem-solve.

Ms. Susana Puig, E/BD Clinician

## Robert Morgan Educational Center: Using Art to Create Social Awareness

At Robert Morgan Educational Center, selected groups of students receiving art therapy services created collage posters addressing social awareness. The advantages and disadvantages of video games and violence related themes were chosen and illustrated by two groups.

Mrs. Deborah Hildebrandt, an Honors Social Studies teacher, partnered with Dr. Patricia Isis, art therapist, as each one of her six classes heard presentations of the artwork from Dr. Isis. All of the honors social studies students wrote their emotional responses to the themed artwork. The art therapy students later read all the anonymous responses and will be working on an art response piece to further the inspiration.



Dr. Patricia Isis, Clinical Art Therapist

## South Miami Senior: Highlighting Talents and Strategies

The E/BD Program at South Miami Senior High School is comprised of very talented and gifted students. During the first semester’s “Perfect Attendance” Celebration, the faculty and students were entertained by our very own Vanessa Dono, guitarist. The program also recognized a very gifted artist, Dylan Ponce, who recently showcased his artwork at “Art Basel” on Miami Beach. We would also like to send kudos to Marcus Evans for his heroic efforts in coming to the aid of a student in distress.

The South Miami E/BD program meets every Thursday as a team to brainstorm about the concerns which are implemented to assist in changing behaviors. Recently, we implemented the use of in-house referrals and managing detentions by our devoted staff. Go Cobras! We continue to make a difference in attendance and behaviors!

Ms. Sheron Cooper, Behavior Management Teacher

## 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 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 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/>

Mrs. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Coordinator

## GIFT Conference

The GIFT (Gallery of Information for Families and Teachers) Conference was hosted by Miami-Dade County Public Schools on Saturday, November 16, 2013 at Coral Gables Senior High School. This free multilingual conference showcased ideas, resources and information for students with disabilities, their families, teachers, and paraprofessionals. Participants had the opportunity to engage in breakout sessions that covered 6 areas (strands) of information: Autism, Secondary Transition, Discipline/Behavior, Early Childhood/Pre-K ESE, Achievement, and Student Experience. In addition, participants had the opportunity to receive valuable information/resources from various exhibitors as well as networking with educational partners across the district. The outpouring of support was phenomenal and we look forward to the 2014 GIFT Conference.

Mrs. Patricia Moore, E/BD Curriculum Support Specialist



# Morningside K-8 Academy: Acknowledging Student Achievements

We all love to be recognized when we do our best. At Morningside K-8 Academy one of the ways we love to acknowledge our students with E/BD for positive behaviors is through our “Student of the Week” program. Each week, the “Student of the Week” receives a \$5.00 McDonald gift card, a Student of The Week Certificate, their picture posted in both the classroom and counselor’s office, and a “shout out” on the afternoon announcements. To earn this honor, a student must have completed all homework, classroom assignments, get along with peers, and demonstrate great citizenship, social skills and positive behavior for the week.

Below are some testimonies from some of our “Student of the Week” recipients:

**Joshua Borden-** Student of the Week is cool. It felt like I was a gift and like an alarm for goodness.

**Craig Vega-** I felt like I could keep on being Student of the Week and continue making good choices.

**Bremond Bennett-** Being Student of the Week meant the world to me; it felt like I was a King. I felt happy and special.

We also have a Social Skills Club for girls to teach them how to relate to their peers and others. This club helps students with self-esteem, exploring new things and challenging themselves with different goals.

Testimonies from two of our members:

**Ana Barbon-** The club is fun and helpful. It teaches me how to get along with my friends and we do lots of different things like picnics, read different books and acting.

**Shantericka Mells-** It feels awesome being in the club, it helps me to understand my problems and helps me when I’m struggling with my behavior and work.

Ms. Marie Castor, E/BD Clinician



## Congratulations to our Positive Behavior Support Model Schools!!!!

**Florida's Positive Behavior Support Project: A Multi-Tiered Support System for Behavior** at the University of South Florida has announced three **2012-2013 PBS Model Schools** in Miami-Dade County.

As Positive Behavior Support (PBS) has reached its tenth year of implementation here in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is an honor to share that **Campbell Drive Middle School** was awarded **GOLD Model Status**. Both **Coconut Palm K-8 Academy** and **Miami MacArthur South** were also recognized and awarded **BRONZE Model Status**.

Implementing PBS at a school site takes commitment, drive, and hard work. We recognize that these schools have taken an extra step to implement this initiative with fidelity. Again, we would like to take the time to say CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Mrs. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Coordinator

### Campbell Drive Middle: 2012-2013 Gold Model PBS School

The CDMS PBS Team is proud to announce that Campbell Drive Middle School has been recognized as a Gold Model PBS School. This is the highest recognition that a PBS school can achieve in Florida's Positive Behavior Support Project: A Multi Tiered Support System for Behavior at University of South Florida. Gold Level schools, implement with the highest levels of fidelity, and have developed systems of support at Tiers 2 and 3. Gold -Level schools exceed their peers in both the quality and depth of implementation across all three tiers of support. Practices that are consistent with positive behavior support are evident in decision making, and steps are taken to ensure PBS:MTSS systems are supported. Positive outcomes for students are evident at Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 levels of behavior support. This honor is a culmination of all the hard work of the entire Wildcat family. Let's continue to move forward with developing new and creative ways of reaching our students in an effort to help them make decisions that will benefit them in school as well as later in life.

Mr. Edward McClain, Dean of Students/PBS Coach



## Miami-Dade County Administrators, Instructional and Non-Instructional Staff Rock!

During the first half of the 2013-2014 school year, over 800 professionals attended professional development created and facilitated by Curriculum Support Specialists from the Office of Clinical/Behavioral Services. We were fortunate to have consultants from LEAPS, Dr. Jay Burcham and Ms. Julia Grayson, from Austin, Texas to present to M-DCPS employees. We had two representatives from the University of South Florida, Dr. Stephanie Martinez, from the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Project and Ms. Terese Sandomierski from RtIB Project, present valuable information and data collection tools to administrators and instructional staff. To assist in recertifying our District Safe Crisis Management Trainers and help train new members of the team, Mr. Charley Cheek from JKM training, Inc. traveled from Kentucky. In addition, Mr. Peter Aubry, Director of Adventure Services, Project Adventure, visited the District to help train selected staff to become trainers in Project Adventure.

In order to best meet the needs of those wishing to attend professional development; trainings were offered in the North, Central, and South regions of Miami-Dade County. The following locations were gracious enough to host our professional developments: Barbara Goleman SHS, W.P. Thomas MS, Robert Renick Educational Center, Coral Reef Maintenance Center, South Miami SHS, Ronald Reagan SHS, Region Center 1 - Hialeah, SPED Center North, SPED Center South, Campbell Drive MS, Richmond MS, South Dade SHS, Miami Carol City SHS, Ponce De Leon MS, South Florida Credit Union - Kendall Branch, Thena Crowder Elementary, and Homestead SHS. Full-day and 1/2 day trainings were offered on the following topics:

FAB Compliance - 10/15 & 10/29, 10/11 & 10/22, 11/19 & 12/05  
FAB Process Overview - 9/25, 9/26, 11/20, 12/18, 11/15, 12/13, 11/6, 12/4, 11/13, 12/11, 10/21, 12/19  
PBS Classroom Management/Interventions - 12/4 & 12/11 & 12/18, 11/6 & 11/13 & 11/20  
Behavior Management Teachers (BMT) Professional Development Meetings - 10/7, 10/24, 11/21  
Safe Crisis Management (SCM) Refreshers - 11/6, 11/7  
Safe Crisis Management (SCM) Initial Trainings - 10/22-10/24, 10/29-10/31, 11/12-11/14, 11/19-11/21, & 12/10-12/12  
RtI-B Database Training & LEAPS - 9/17, 9/18  
Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Booster Training - 10/30  
Project Adventure Train the Trainer (Selected BMTs & Clinicians) - 9/30, 10/1, 10/2  
Project Adventure Trainings (Selected BMTs & Clinicians) - 11/4-11/5, 11/6-11/7, 11/12-11/13  
LEAPS - 10/15, 10/16  
LEAPS & Behavior Strategies - 10/17, 10/18  
FIU Wiring (Select Schools Only) - 11/25

But Wait...our training for professionals is not done! We still have several PD's remaining for the second half of the 2013-2014 school year: FAB Compliance (1/22 & 1/29), BMT Professional Development meetings (1/24 & 5/14), SCM Refreshers (2/5, 2/6, 3/4 & 3/5), SCM Initial Trainings (1/21 -1/23 & 1/28-1/30), and FIU Wiring (Select Schools Only - 2/24 & May TBA). Please check our E/BD Website (<http://ebdprogram.dadeschools.net>) under the tab "staff resources" for more information on future professional development opportunities and/or resources. Thank you to our consultants, location hosts, and attendees for helping make our professional development trainings a success!

Mrs. Jasmine Brown-Grocher, E/BD Curriculum Support Specialist  
Dr. Selina Z. Jones, E/BD Curriculum Support Specialist

# CBS Team Takes Part in National Collaboration on Advancing School Mental Health

The 18th Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health was held October 3-5, 2013 in Arlington, Virginia. The theme of the 18th Annual Conference was **"What Works in School Mental Health: Collaboration from the Inside Out."** Three members of the Clinical/Behavioral Services team (Ms. Robin J. Morrison, Mrs. Nadyne Floyd-Grubbs, and Mr. Craig Siegel) had the opportunity to both present about our District's innovative strategies and programs and learn from others to better help meet the needs of students and families with mental health issues. Presentations addressed topics related to the overall mission to strengthen policies and programs in school mental health, to improve learning, and promote success for America's youth.



The conference was divided into twelve different strands with presentations focusing on the following areas:

1. Building a Collaborative Culture for Student Mental Health
2. Connecting School Mental Health and Positive Behavior Supports (PBS)
3. Connecting School Mental Health with Juvenile Justice and Dropout Prevention
4. Education: An Essential Component of Systems of Care
5. Families in Partnership with Schools and Communities
6. Improving School Mental Health for Youth with Disabilities
7. Learning the Language: Promoting Effective Ways for Interdisciplinary Collaboration
8. Psychiatry and Schools
9. Quality and Evidence-Based Practice
10. School Mental Health for Culturally Diverse Youth
11. Mental Health for Military Families
12. Youth Involvement and Leadership

The M-DCPS poster session was connected to strand six which highlighted the programs and services around the district for improving the overall mental health and functioning of those identified with E/BD.



One of the stand-out presentations was given by Keynote speaker, Sandra Spencer and her daughter who shared their story of coping with family members with mental health issues and advocating for and finding services to help the entire family achieve success. Mrs. Spencer now serves as Executive Director, National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

Through collaborative efforts with other professionals and especially with families, we can all make efforts to advance awareness and support for school mental health.

Mr. Craig Siegel, Clinical Art Therapy Chairperson

## Positive Behavior Intervention and Support: Equity in Education Making Education Work for All



This past October two team members from our Clinical Behavior Services department had the opportunity to present at the **2013 PBIS National Leadership Forum** that took place in Rosemont, Illinois. Dr. Selina Jones, Curriculum Support Specialist and Mrs. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Project Manager had the opportunity to participate in this two-day national forum which provided educators as well as mental health professionals the ability to share best practices. Various topics in regards to behavior strategies and school wide implementation

were discussed throughout the conference.

Our team members presented a poster titled **Throughout the Years Planning and Implementing Positive Behavior Support (PBS)** in Miami-Dade County. The poster session provided a brief history on how a large, urban school district has rolled out PBS in the district, the supports that have been provided for sustainability, how the district has aligned PBS with other district-wide initiatives, and alignment with other district policies and procedures during the past ten years. Conference participants were able to gain an insight on how to build structures at the district level to support PBS implementation at their districts and in the schools.

Mrs. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Coordinator

## Campbell Drive Middle: Learning Proper Social Etiquette to Enhance Self Confidence and Transition Skills

Campbell Drive Wildcats learned that practicing good manners should be a way of life. In preparation for attending a Recapturing the Vision Forum, a catered event at the Miami Hilton, selected students participated in an Etiquette Workshop, hosted by the E/BD Clinician, Ms. Cycloria Rivers; the Behavior Management Teacher, Mr. Chuck Ochipa, and Mr. William Kearney, Teacher. The students learned the importance of blending contemporary manners with traditional etiquette. All students practiced role-playing scenarios and hands-on activities. Students perfected introductions, requesting service from a waiter, social graces, and dining and table manners for enjoying a five course meal.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the students were confident that they could handle with ease, any fine dining experience. The goal of the etiquette workshop is to provide hands-on activities that increase students' self-confidence and make them feel special while learning to believe in themselves. Campbell Drive Wildcats believe in Re-capturing the Vision!

Ms. Cycloria Rivers, E/BD Clinician



## 2013-2014 Positive Behavior Support (PBS): Dropout Share Fair a Success!



The 2013-2014 PBS: Dropout Share Fair was held November 14, 2013 at Miami Coral Park Senior High. Many of our PBS Schools submitted poster presentations as well as pictures and videos that provided attendees with a vivid picture of the PBS initiatives that are taking place at each school site. Apart from poster presentations, we had six outstanding school presentations. Elementary schools which presented included Holmes and Kelsey Pharr. The secondary schools which presented were Madison Middle, Campbell Drive Middle, and Homestead Senior. There was also one center school presentation given by Robert Renick Educational Center. Presentation topics varied and included school data based decision making, reinforcement systems, and behavior program implementation.



Participants had the opportunity to network with other PBS Schools and visit posters. A special thanks to Family Counseling Services for attending and providing schools as well as clinical staff information on the various services they offer. We would also like to thank Mr. Charles Ridley, our PBS Community Partner, who graciously donated coffee, pastries, and beverages for the event. The Share Fair was a true success thanks to all who provided valuable information as well as attended!!!

Mrs. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Coordinator



# Safe Crisis Management: Strategies for Successful Interventions

So far, the 2013-2014 school year the SCM District team completed the following:

- Provided training opportunities for over six hundred Miami-Dade County Public School employees through both initial 3-day trainings and 2-day refreshers.
- Increased the number of District SCM Trainers to 19. These trainers take time from their busy schedules to share their expertise. A special “Thank You” is extended to each of the following for their fantastic work:

Amanda Alders - Art Therapist  
Deanna Barton - Art Therapist  
Laura Berenguer – SPED Teacher  
Jasmine Brown-Grocher - Curriculum Support Staff  
Kwan Chang - SPED Teacher  
Deborah Davis - BMT  
Juan De Arrigunaga – E/BD Clinician  
Lillianne de Zendegui - E/BD Clinician  
Magda Demerritt - E/BD Clinician  
Cassey Elias - E/BD Clinician  
Mark Fabal - District Staffing Specialist  
Leah Guzman - Art Therapist  
Gladys Jones - Staffing Specialist  
Adriel Lantigua - SPED Teacher  
Ashley Latham – SPED Teacher  
Liliana Maldonado - E/BD Clinician  
Lamond Morrison - BMT  
Rachel Sturgeon - BMT  
Armando Viltre - SPED Teacher

**Commitment**

**Caring**

**Consistency**

**Competency**

**Courage**

- Introduced a new 2-day SCM Refresher which is divided into independent learning and a face-to-face session. This allows participants to learn at their own pace while reducing time away from the school building.
- Developed revised physical restraint documentation procedures which can be found as part of Weekly Briefing #13961.
- Continued to work with the District and State to help reduce the number physical restraints in M-DCPS.
- Expanded our training locations to different areas of the District. We would like to thank the administrators and staff at the following location for their willingness to host us and making us feel extremely welcome:

Norman S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles BeachK-8  
Rockway Middle  
South Miami Senior  
South Dade Senior  
Barbara Goleman Senior  
Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior

Mr. Craig Siegel, Clinical Art Therapy Chairperson

## Miami Central Senior High School: Meeting the Needs of Students, Parents, and the Community

Miami Central Senior High School knows how important it is to get staff, students, parents, and the community involved to work together to improve student outcomes. Creating positive relations amongst all these participants is the key to academic, emotional, and behavioral success. Thus, the ESE Department has worked diligently at compiling a plethora of events. In September we started with "A Welcome Back Breakfast" for our students with E/BD to enhance morale and camaraderie. Target generously donated \$50.00! To support this event.

Next, we hosted an event called "Coffee Talk" allowing parents to obtain and exchange information and resources from community agencies and leaders such as UM ,NSU, CARD, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Psych Solutions, Center for Family and Child Enrichments, New Horizon, and an M-DCPS Transition Specialist.

In November, Cold Stone Creamery donated 30 ice-cream treats for our "Good Grades Social!" Students had fun while learning about and doing Project Adventure team-building games. Three career field trips to Miami Lakes Technical Center, Career Construction Day at Bergeron Rodeo and Miami Dade College have been led to help our 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students expand their career options through networking. Then, Winn Dixie and Publix each donated \$100.00 gift cards to enhance our Thanksgiving Lunch Munch!

In December 2013, students with E/BD participated in a Christmas Cupcake Social and also had fun playing Project Adventure Games. On December 18, 2013, a schoolwide toy drive was organized to support students at Thena C. Crowder Early Childhood Diagnostic and Special Education Center. A drawing was held for students and staff who participated. Prizes included AMC Movie Tickets, Massage Envy passes, a free pedicure/manicure, and gift certificates for Olive Garden, Fuddruckers, Red Lobster, and Edible Arrangements! Students were awarded 25 PBS points and 5 community service hours for their participation.

On January 29, 2014 our second Coffee Talk was hosted in which parents and guardians were invited to dialogue and collect resources from neighboring and community agencies. We'll continue to blast off like a rocket and develop more events and activities for 2014!



Mrs. Cynthia Serure, E/BD Clinician

### Annual Art Therapy Exhibit: Save the Date

The M-DCPS Clinical Art Therapy Department is in the process of planning our annual student art therapy exhibit in collaboration with The Patricia And Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University. This year's title is **ARTWORKS! The Building Blocks of Emotional Literacy**. The concept of Emotional Literacy is defined as the ability recognize one's feelings, express one's feelings, and manage one's feelings to enhance his or her sense of autonomy and improve his or her overall well-being and quality of life (Brackett et al., 2009; Elbertson, Brackett & Weissberg, 2010; Steiner, 2003). This theme is in alignment with many students' goals as outlined on their IEP's and BIP's. The opening event is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2014 and will be accompanied by an art therapy workshop. On behalf of the entire department, we hope to see you there!

Mr. Craig Siegel, Clinical Art Therapy Department Chairperson

## Homestead Senior: Residential Wiring Program Receives a “Plug” on the Evening News

On October 28th, Homestead Senior High School was highlighted on Channel 6 NBC evening news . The news segment focused on the Residential Wiring Program developed in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Florida International University to help engage students participating in the E/BD Program. Reporter, Ari Odzer, spent time with the students and staff at the school learning about the history of the program, how participation in the program has benefitted each student as they address individualized academic, emotional, behavioral, cognitive, and social skill building. To view the segment that aired on the news and read the related story, please visit the following link: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Homestead-High-Selects-Students-to-Participate-in-Residential-Electrical-Wiring-Class-229617791.html>

Mr. James Medina, E/BD Clinician



## South Dade Senior: Peer Leadership Program Makes a Huge Splash!

The Peer Leaders at South Dade Senior held a fundraiser organized by E/BD Clinician, Ms. Katherine Meinecke. The students organized a car wash on a Teacher Work Day to wash faculty members' vehicles. Giving up a day off from school to donate their time demonstrates the students' commitment to the Peer Leadership Program. The Peer Leaders engage in outreach to the middle schools and work all year with the students with E/BD serving as positive influences and helping others to change their behavior.

Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician

