

Spring 2008

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*News You Can Use About Broward Schools*

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**Jimmy Morrow Named School-Related Employee of the Year**



*Jimmy Morrow*

Accommodating the needs of diverse programs is a breeze for 23-year District employee Jimmy Morrow. Morrow, On-site Repair Person and Facility Coordinator at Hallandale Adult Center, was named Broward's 2008 School-Related Employee of the Year at a ceremony held at the Signature Grand in Davie.

Morrow is everywhere at once. Working in a 40-year-old facility that rates at the highest levels of safety and cleanliness and operates on a year-round schedule, one might think that he would not have time to be involved with the school's varied stakeholder groups - but Morrow makes time to do just that. He spends some time each day serving the needs of the Child Development Center, Middle School Academy, Alternative High School and Adult Workforce Development Programs. He also serves as the school's Neighborhood Liaison, a role that didn't even exist prior to his suggestion that such a position be established.

He was one of the first at the center to volunteer to mentor students. He takes a personal interest in his mentees, finding projects around the school where they can showcase their talents. He also helped students prepare for vocational education competitions where they won exemplary recognition.

Morrow's principal, Dr. Linda Lopez, said of him, "In my 34 years in the field of education, at both the public school and university level, I have rarely found an employee as skilled and as passionate, as dedicated and as effective as Mr. Morrow. There's nothing he can't do, or little that he hasn't already done. I have never heard him say, 'That's not my job.'" Dr. Lopez calls him "a true leader, offering help to all and hope to many."

**Nicole Marsala Named 2009 Broward Teacher of the Year**



*Nicole Marsala*

Nicole Marsala believes in teaching history as a breathtaking story -- full of intrigue, deceit, honor and independence. She conveys to her students that history is not only what's in books, but it's also alive and changing. A social studies teacher at Coral Springs Middle School for eight years, Marsala was named Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year 2009 at an event held at the Broward County Convention Center.

Marsala uses a variety of strategies to meet the diverse needs of her students. For example, to bring the trek of Lewis and Clark to light and make it more real, she takes her students to a nearby park for "Lewis and Clark Day." In journals, the students record weather information and write about what they see. They also collect leaves, do bark rubbings, sketch trees and draw maps of the park. Each year, Marsala's students look forward to a Civil War reenactment. They write plays about a Civil War battle, videotape their productions and then use iMovie to edit their films.

Marsala's goal is simple -- all students will understand their civic responsibilities in order to become better informed citizens and, ultimately, future leaders. She has an open door policy. Parents with an interest in history listen in on her classes and participate in many of the activities. She even holds parent nights to teach parents activities they can do to instill a love of history and civics in their children.

Marsala received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Florida Atlantic University, a Master of Arts in international affairs from Florida State University and holds National Board Certification in Early Adolescent Social Studies and History.

*articles continued on page 2...*

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## Challenge & Change — Fostering Continued Success



*Robin Bartleman  
Chair, School Board of  
Broward County*

As Chair of the School Board of Broward County, I honestly believe that your Board and District leadership are working effectively together to maintain our current standing as one of the premier school systems in the country and to meet the challenges that confront public education in Florida today.

As you may already be aware, we are facing considerable challenges in the financial arena, some of which are due to the recent economic downturn, the budget shortfall at the state level, the passage of the property tax amendment, and the fact that Florida is currently ranked in the bottom ten percent in per pupil state funding for education. We have been proactive in meeting these economic challenges. We have also enacted proactive measures to economize our operations, resulting in the savings of tens of millions of dollars through energy conservation and other cost-saving efforts, such as installing high-efficiency HVAC systems in schools and offices, filling our bus tires with nitrogen to reduce fuel consumption and renegotiating the District-wide copier contract.

The Board met throughout 2007 and into the current year to focus on the development of a strategic plan for the District. Our vision is: Educating today's students for tomorrow's world. Our mission states that we are: Dedicated to meeting the educational needs of all students in a safe learning environment. We invited public input into the process through a series of public meetings held late last year throughout the county. We also obtained input from our employees and students through focused meetings with these groups. Our strategic plan goal areas include student achievement, wellness, safety, innovation, environmental stewardship, employee excellence and community, business and parent partnerships. We are now in the process of developing specific objectives and measures in order to track progress on these goals over the next three years.

You may have heard recently that the Board has embarked on an initiative to deemphasize the drilling of and focus on the FCAT in our schools. We are the only school board in the state that has officially dug in its heels on this issue and has asked our schools to stop the "FCAT Frenzy." Numerous studies clearly show that if you have effective teachers who teach to the standards, students will naturally perform well on standardized tests. Our focus will always be on educating the whole child and providing our students with a well-rounded education.

Robin Bartleman, Chair  
School Board of Broward County

## *Congratulations to the finalists for School- Related Employee of the Year!*

**Elisa Concepcion**  
ESE Secretary - Pines Lakes Elementary

**Christopher Gates**  
Community Liaison - Arthur Ashe Middle

**Sean Russell**  
Micro-Tech Computer Specialist - Silver Ridge Elementary

**Jannette Thompson-Irwin**  
Confidential Office Manager - Pompano Beach Middle

**Brigitte Ziegler**  
BRACE Advisor - McFatter Technical High

## *Congratulations to the finalists for Broward Teacher of the Year 2009!*

**Davien P. Fernandes-Jones**, Hallandale High School

**Linda Jackson-Lockhart**, Community Schools South

**Andrew J. Kimmel**, Forest Glen Middle School

**Dr. Lisa Ventry Milenkovic**, Eagle Point Elementary School

**Jennifer Narkier**, Virginia Shuman Young Elementary School

**Maria Rivera**, McArthur High School

**Dr. Helena Simone Yeaman**, College Academy at  
Broward Community College

## *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Slated*

On Thursday, April 24th, the District will host Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. The 2008 theme is Making Choices for a Better World. Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work® encourages girls and boys across the country to dream without gender limitations and to think imaginatively about their family, work and community lives. This national public education program connects what children learn at school with the actual working world and helps girls and boys discover the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life.

The event is designed to expand opportunities for girls and boys; expose them to what the adults in their lives do during the work day; show them the value of their education and give them an opportunity to share how they envision their future.

The School to Career Department asks that schools continue to support Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day by partnering with a workplace or planning in-school activities that help students explore personal and professional aspirations and their goals for the future. The program is recommended for students between the ages of eight to 18.

For more information, contact the School to Career Department at 754-321-2530.

Here are some of the exciting new features to look forward to in the updated version of CAB (FirstClass 9.1). The new version will be available in the near future. Keep an eye out for updates on the CAB Web site (<http://webcab.browardschools.com/Clientdownloads>).

**Punch-through Calendaring** - You will be able to combine the items from several calendars into one view and color code each calendar. This is commonly referred to as "punch-through." For example, if a group calendar is available for viewing combined with your personal calendar, you will be able to open your personal calendar and then view the items from the group calendar in addition to your personal items. A list of available calendars will be displayed, so you will be able to check-off which calendars to display.

**Filtering** - A filter field will be added to the mailbox toolbar. You will be able to use it to filter contents and display only objects containing particular text. For example, you will be able to type a person's name and all content to or from that person will be displayed. When you clear field, the filter will be removed. This will work on any visible field.

**Navigation Bars** - Navigation bars will be able to be removed or added, just like other toolbar items.

**Wrapping Icon Titles** - You will be able to wrap icon titles by using the properties form to specify how wide you would want the lines to be.

**Mapping Addresses** - You will be able to open a Web map page for a mailing address by clicking "Map" on the address tab.



## *Boyd Anderson, Coconut Creek High Schools Receive \$10,000 HSBC Challenge Tour Grants*

Boyd Anderson High School and Coconut Creek High School were chosen to receive \$10,000 grants through the 2007 HSBC Challenge Tour. The grants are provided by HSBC, a financial services institution, *RISE Magazine* and *SAVEtheTEAM*. The HSBC grants rank as the largest sports grants ever received by Broward County Public Schools.

The grant money will be donated to the schools' athletic departments through *SAVEtheTEAM* and the SchoolSports Foundation to support a variety of initiatives, including purchasing new equipment and uniforms, enhancing old facilities and reducing or eliminating athletic participation fees.

Boyd Anderson and Coconut Creek are two of three South Florida high schools and five high schools nationwide to receive the awards. American High School in Miami also received the grant.

## *New Technology Improves Maintenance Services, Conserves Energy*

The Physical Plant Operations' Energy Conservation/Utility Management Department is investing in upgrades to the District's current Energy Management/Security System (EMS).

Since the mid-1980s, the District has been outfitted with computerized systems that allow District Maintenance staff to control schools' air-conditioning and limited lighting from a remote, off-site location. As technology progressed through



*Trainer Marty Capogreco (seated) and Matt Lammer (left of Capogreco) both of Roth Brothers, Inc., preview an upcoming training program with Energy Conservation/Utility Management Department employees (l to r) Jack Spear, Joe Fellmeth, Anthony Purificato and Mitch Talmadge.*

the 1990s, stand alone thermostats, like those we have in our homes, were systematically phased out when new schools were constructed, and replaced as part of major air-conditioning renovation projects in existing schools. Instead, temperature sensors and transmitter control units were installed to support the computerized system in schools and allow local control of air-conditioning as well as remote monitoring of conditions by a central computer in the Energy

Conservation/Utility Management Department. Currently, every District school has a dedicated computer terminal that allows appropriate school staff to change the air-conditioning schedules for special events. Some schools have mastered the use of these terminals, while others rely on the expertise of long-time District employee Mitch Talmadge of the Energy Conservation Department.

When completed, the upgraded system will eliminate the need for a dedicated terminal by connecting the schools' EMS systems to the Internet. Schools will be able to access their EMS from any computer with Internet access. Area and District air-conditioning mechanics will also have access to the system for better troubleshooting. The District will embark on a training program for the schools' operators and District and Area air-conditioning mechanics, so that they can use this new tool effectively. Joe Fellmeth, Project Manager for the Energy Conservation Utility Management Department, is assisting Jack Spear, Building Controls Supervisor with this task. Fellmeth is the first in the District to be factory certified on the new system. Spear is scheduled to receive the factory training and his certificate in 2008.

Each user will be given a user name and password for identification purposes and the security protocols will only allow users to view the system controls for their own school. The District also expects to reap additional benefits through reduced utility costs. Currently, air conditioners that have been placed in "override" and unintentionally left on can continue to run until noticed. The upgrade will allow District staff to determine exactly who placed the system in "override" and then contact that person to confirm the need to run the units during normal down times. The new upgrade will also allow staff to monitor operating conditions and troubleshoot some problems remotely, making it easier for the schools and Area Maintenance staff to respond to and possibly foresee system malfunctions. This is one technology tool that you won't see in the classroom, but it will certainly enhance the learning environment.



# Speakers Inspire Students

A series of motivational speakers from across the state and country regularly travel to Broward County to speak to students housed at the Broward Detention Center, Broward Intensive Halfway House and Thomas Academy. Educational programs at these Department of Juvenile Justice facilities are provided by the District's Whiddon-Rogers Education Center, under the direction of Principal Linda Thomas.



*Pictured (1 to r, standing) are motivational speakers Carl King, Charles "Quick" Arnold, Kareem Edwards, Eric King, Tim Ward, Stacey Edens, Reggie Taylor and Coach Booker; (kneeling) Assistant Principal David Watkins.*

The following individuals are among those who inspire students and help them get their lives back on track.

- Carl and Eric King**, sons of legendary boxing promoter Don King
- Charles Arnold**, actor
- Tim Ward**, CEO and movie producer
- Stacey Edens**, Financial Aid Coordinator
- Reggie Taylor**, Director of Parks and Recreations for City of Miramar
- Coach Booker**, Director of South Florida Track and Field Commission
- Rasheed Baaith**, BSO Deputy
- Cam Davis**, Financial Advisor and member of 1996 University of Florida National Championship football team
- Kareem Lory Edwards**, Founder, Tenzing Innovations
- Curtis May**, Store Manager



## JAG Program Piloted at Two Schools

In support of the move towards increasing the District's graduation rate, the School Social Work and Attendance Department will pilot the JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program at Monarch High and Apollo Middle, starting in the second semester. The JAG program is the largest, national school-based program of its kind for at-risk students that leads to high school diplomas. Its success spans more than two decades, and it has been used in over 1,000 high schools and vocational centers in 28 states.

JAG focuses on "students of promise" and provides each school with a Career Coach (social worker/certified teacher). The Career Coach teaches an intensive, skills-based curriculum designed to equip students with the necessary skills to successfully complete high school and either pursue higher education or successfully enter the workforce. JAG embraces the mentoring concept and provides students with counseling, coaching and remediation. The year-round program provides students with opportunities to develop leadership skills, obtain summer employment and gives them access to continuous social services support in a traditional wrap-around fashion. It has been reported that JAG has generated a 94% graduation rate nationally. Not only does the program have the support of major corporations, its subsidiary, Jobs for Florida Graduates (JFG), is supported by the state of Florida.

JAG will assist the District in its continuing efforts to remove barriers to our students' academic, personal and career successes. For more information, please contact the School Social Work and Attendance Department at 754-321-2490.



## District Receives National Award for Indoor Air Quality

The District's Indoor Air Quality Subcommittee received the recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2007 Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS) Model of Sustained Excellence Award. The group was honored for its exemplary efforts to improve indoor air quality for students, teachers and staff. The IAQ TFS Model of Sustained Excellence Award recognizes U.S. school districts that show ongoing exceptional commitment and achievement in maintaining healthy educational facilities while institutionalizing comprehensive practices for IAQ management. The District also received the IAQ Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS) National Excellence Award in 2005.

## Bit of History

In 1955, Watkins Elementary School opened its doors to welcome students. The school was named for Pauline Watkins Adams, in honor of her long service to Broward County's students. Ms. Watkins was a teacher in Broward County for 35 years.

In 1956, McNicol Middle School opened and early in 1958, ground was broken for McArthur Junior School. J. N. McArthur, a former Miami-Dade principal and founder of McArthur Farms and Dairy, donated 40 acres of his farmland for use as a school site. At that time, it was thought to be the largest school site in the state. McArthur, at a cost of \$1 million, was considered to be an ultra-modern school. The school was soon converted to a high school and graduated its first class in 1960.

Learn more about Broward County Public Schools at ([www.browardschools.com/history](http://www.browardschools.com/history)).

## New Teacher Resource Program Launched



*A check to fund the New Teacher Resource Program was presented during a Broward Education Foundation Board Meeting. Pictured (l to r) are Michael S. Long, President of the Broward Education Foundation; Denise Rosenthal-Donofrio, Citi Bank, Active Board Member; Margarita Castellon, AT & T, Chair of the Broward Education Foundation; and Kim Serra-Rivera, Regent Bank, Secretary of the Board.*

In collaboration with the District's New Teacher Academy, the New Teacher Resource Program was launched in September at Stranahan High School. The New Teacher Academy offers support for educators new to Broward County while the New Teacher Resource Program provides high-quality teaching materials and online courses aimed at preparing and retaining 333 New Teacher Academy participants. These teaching materials

provide a successful and proven curriculum that is aligned with the state of Florida's teaching standards and directly address many of the concerns expressed by new teachers. The New Teacher Resource Program was funded, in part, by a \$48,000 donation from the Citi Foundation.

## P.A.W.S. Clubs Teach Students About Compassion for Animals

A self-described animal advocate, school social worker Judith Fish, MSW started the Promoting Animal Welfare in School (P.A.W.S.) club last year at Lyons Creek Middle School in Coconut Creek. A 23-year District employee, Fish regularly promotes the importance of having compassion for animals and, as a member of the Character Education Committee, has managed to incorporate the goals of that committee into her club.

P.A.W.S. club members learn about the value and importance of kindness, respect and responsibility towards their fellow creatures. The students also get the chance to practice their writing, reading and speaking skills and learn about the democratic process. In fact, late last year students attended and successfully lobbied both the Deerfield Beach and Coconut Creek city commissions to pass anti-dog chaining laws. Another chapter of the club that began recently at Westglades Middle School in Parkland, is addressing that same issue with its city commission. "Not many people can say they were instrumental in getting a new law passed," said Fish.

In December, club members collected toys, blankets and stuffed animals for Save the Chimps, the largest chimp sanctuary in the world, located in Fort Pierce. Club members and their parents traveled to the sanctuary to deliver the goods, along with Fish and fellow P.A.W.S. chapter promoter Liliana Pardo-Posse, MSW. "It's a win-win-situation for both the students and for the animals that they help. My goal is to get more of these kinds of clubs started in every school in Florida," said Fish. She is presently working on a book that promotes the importance of weaving the concept of compassion towards animals into all facets of education.

## McFatter Nursing Students Exceed State and National Averages on Licensing Exam

Students enrolled in the Practical Nursing program at McFatter Technical Center achieved among the highest success rates in the tri-county area on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses. For the examination period January through September 2007, results provided by the Florida State Board of Nursing show that 82 McFatter students took the exam, with 77 of them achieving passing marks -- a 93.9% success rate. The statewide average for nursing students passing the exam is 82.33%, while the national average is 88.05%.



## Additional Functions For Employee Self-Service Will Be "Blooming" Later This Spring

Later this spring, new features will be rolled-out on the Employee Self-Service system. Employee Self-Service (ESS) is a component of SAP 6.0 that allows employees to access, change or view up-to-date personal and employment information from a Web browser, like Internet Explorer or Firefox. It is available from any computer in the District by typing (**web/erp/ESS**) in the browser window and it's also accessible from home at (**www.broward.k12.fl.us/erp/ESS**).

Whether it's updating your bank information or signing-up for a training course, all employees will have access to manage their personal and professional employment information. Here is a sneak peek at some of the new features of ESS that will be available later this spring.

- In the **Career and Job** component of ESS, employees will be able to view a skills catalog and update their skills profile, create an Individual Development Plan (IDP), access current appraisal forms and Professional Growth Plans (PGP) as well as review completed appraisals and PGPs.
- In the **Time/Absence Request** component of ESS, employees will be able to view absence quotas as well as submit requests for Sick Personal Reason (SPR) and Vacation days (VAC) absences online for supervisor approval.
- In the **Benefits and Payment** component of ESS, employees will be able to change their life insurance beneficiaries.

As the roll-out of these new functions gets closer, the BRITE team will be communicating directly to all employees to explain new login and password procedures and to provide additional information. Information will also be disseminated via CAB E-mail and the BRITE Web site at (**www.broward.k12.fl.us/ERP**).

For additional information regarding the BRITE project, contact (**erp@browardschools.com**) or call 754-321-8100. For BRITE Support, contact the BRITE Support Center at 754-321-8120.

## ***School Board in Action***

### ***Board Approves 2008/09 School and Work Calendars***

The Board approved the school and work calendars for the 2008/09 school year. The calendars approved include the regular school year calendar, the year-round calendar, the employee work calendars and the 2008 and 2009 summer term calendars for community schools and technical centers. The regular school calendar reflects six paid holidays, ten employee planning days and six early release days. Students on the regular calendar will begin school on August 18, 2008 and end on June 4, 2009.

### ***School Advisory Council Memberships Approved***

The Board approved the School Advisory Council membership for 2007/08. Each school in the state of Florida is required to submit to its district school board a list of members of its School Advisory Council (SAC). The membership must be representative of all stakeholders and elected or appointed according to the following guidelines: at least 51% of the members should not be employed at the school site and membership should reflect the diversity of the school's student population.

### ***Board Names District's Newest High School***

The Board officially named the high school previously known as "LLL," West Broward High School. The school mascot will be the bobcat and the school colors will be carolina blue and silver. A community forum was held where names, mascots and colors were submitted as a slate for a steering committee to verify, in keeping with School Board policy. The name was selected from 58 suggestions submitted to the steering committee, which included parents students and community members.

***This column is designed to update you about actions taken at recent meetings and other activities of the Broward County School Board.***



*Bennett Elementary Groundbreaking*

the 56-year-old school will enjoy the use of a state-of-the-art cafeteria, complete with an updated kitchen and new appliances. The project also includes a stage with dressing rooms, conference rooms and a teacher's lounge.

### ***Dolphin Bay Elementary Dedicates New School***

On November 28th, Dolphin Bay Elementary School officially celebrated the opening of its new, \$23 million facility by hosting a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The festivities included a time capsule presentation by students, a slide show marking the school's successful transition from its former portable site to its new permanent campus and numerous student performances. District 2 School Board member Beverly A. Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools James F. Notter, South Area Superintendent Dr. Joel Herbst and city of Miramar Mayor Lori Moseley were in attendance.



*Dolphin Bay Elementary Dedication Ceremony*

## ***Special Ceremonies***

### ***Bennett Elementary Breaks Ground***

On January 17th, Bennett Elementary School held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new cafeteria and multipurpose building. School Board Vice-Chair Maureen S. Dinnen and South Central Area Director Margaret Underhill attended the ceremony, hosted by the school's administration. The event featured an historical overview provided by the school's fifth-graders. When completed in 2009, students at

## ***District's Workers' Compensation Program Draws Positive Responses from Employees***

The District implemented a new Workers' Compensation Program in July of 2006 to provide injured employees with top quality medical care and other benefits under the Florida Workers' Compensation Statutes (Chapter 440). Almost every facet of the program was completely reformed, from paperless injury reporting to the selection of a new third party administrator, Comp Options (an affiliate of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida).

A Stay-at-Work (SAW) program was also implemented to provide accommodations to injured employees who are given temporary restrictions by their authorized Workers' Compensation Physician(s). The SAW program supports the overwhelming medical research that "function is good" and that keeping people working (within specific restrictions) in their normal routine is the best thing for them physically and emotionally.

Thanks to the cooperation of schools, departments and District administration, the first year of the program yielded outstanding results. The most significant statistics of the program's success are the improved medical outcomes and the positive feedback from the District's injured workers themselves. Over 95 percent of surveys returned were either generally satisfied or very satisfied with the performance of Comp Options and over 92 percent of surveys stated employees were generally satisfied or very satisfied with the performance of their Workers' Compensation physicians. Additionally, there have been substantial reductions in the District's self-insured Workers' Compensation reserve, the average experience per claim and the number of absences for injured employees.

Although staff is pleased with the success of the initial year of the program, improvements will continue to be made in order to have the finest program in the state. Please contact Joseph Zeppetella in the Risk Management Department at 754-321-3200 with any questions, concerns or feedback regarding the District's Workers' Compensation Program.

# Safety Is Top Priority

School safety is not only the number one concern of the District's Safety Department, it is also a national and state mandate. Most of the items cited by safety inspectors during a school's Annual Comprehensive Safety Inspection are in direct violation of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Codes, Florida's State Rule 69A-58, and/or Florida's State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF).

On a regular basis, our safety inspectors encounter several safety issues in school classrooms. Please remember that the Safety Department's goal is to promote the well-being of all students and staff by insuring safe teaching and learning environments. Please help us by keeping these safety issues in mind and off of your school's Annual Comprehensive Safety Inspection Report.

## 1. Artwork on walls or hanging from ceilings

In buildings with no fire sprinklers, a maximum of 20% covering per wall is permitted. By using fire rated paper, this amount may be increased to 40%. Fifty percent is allowed per wall in fire buildings with fire sprinklers. Please do not hang any materials from ceilings or ceiling tile frames.

## 2. Extension Cords

The Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates that approximately 3,300 residential fires originate from damaged extension cords, their misuse or the over-loading of extension cords. For this reason, extension cords are not permitted except on a temporary basis. If an extension cord must be used on a temporary basis, the cord should be a six-foot, appliance type cord with a three-pronged plug.

## 3. Exits blocked by desks, computers, cubby containers, items on ledges

Areas directly in front of emergency escape windows and doors must be kept clear to allow for exiting in an emergency. Primary exits must not be blocked by desks or any other obstructions or be within the clear width of the door on both sides. Maintain a clear path to the exit between desks.

## 4. Storage on or in stoves

Do not store any items on the top of or inside stoves. Several fires have been reported in the District from burners being inadvertently turned on or teachers' lunches being left inside the oven.

## 5. Door stops

Classroom doors must remain closed to contain fires and to protect corridors from fire and/or smoke. Do not use doorstops to keep doors from closing.

## 6. Chemicals improperly stored under sinks and in cabinets

Cleaning supplies are used in classroom areas in an effort to keep germs away from students. Do not store chemicals, such as glass cleaner, disinfectants or other cleaning supplies, in unlocked cabinets where they could be accessible to students.

If you have any questions, please contact the Safety Department at 754-321-4200. For information on other safety issues pertaining to our schools, please visit ([www.broward.k12.fl.us/safetydept](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/safetydept)).



## Up Close and Personal With ...



**Edward C. Benson**

*Head Facilities Service Person*

**Work location:** Whispering Pines School

**Broward County Public Schools employee since:** 1989

**Most memorable work experience:** My first day, when I didn't know what to do but got a lot of help!

**I'm motivated by:** Making things work and making things right

**What I like most about my job:** I get to learn something every day and I'm learning from people of all walks of life, varied cultures and wide age ranges

**If I won the lottery:** I would treat my wife to anything she wants and give to charity

**Most prized possession:** My family and my tools

**Something you probably didn't know about me:** An art firm in Miami once offered me a job when I was 10 or 11 years old after I sent them one of my drawings

**If I could pick someone out of history to have lunch with, I would choose:** President John F. Kennedy

**Favorite foods:** Fried fish, barbequed meats and anything with turkey in it

**Favorite holidays:** Thanksgiving and Christmas

**Favorite movie:** *Independence Day*

**Best advice I ever received:** Don't give up on what you do and all you do

**Nominated for this profile by:** Barbara Theis, Whispering Pines School

## Quality Recognition Applications Due April 18<sup>th</sup>

The successful education of students requires a team effort. That means all parts of the organization need to work together, align resources and implement action steps to accomplish the goals and objectives of the District's Strategic Plan. The Quality Recognition process acknowledges and honors teams of employees who use the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycle to improve work processes. Applications and additional information are available at ([www.broward.k12.fl.us/schoolimprove](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/schoolimprove)). Applications are due April 18, 2008.



*A Seagull Alternative High School student examines a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach.*

## **Museum on Wheels Visits Seagull Alternative High School**

Did you know that the outside of an arthropod feels much like your fingernail? That's one of the interesting facts Seagull Alternative High School's students learned when The Discovery Center's "Museum On Wheels" presented several mini-sessions at the school. Some of the students even dared to touch one or two of the "bugs" during the demonstrations, so they could learn firsthand about their diets, habitat and unusual qualities. A hissing cockroach and a glowing scorpion were in the room, but the students enjoyed the visit so much they requested more information so they could visit the museum on their own with their infants.



*Donna Caplan receives a plaque from Trey Michael, Marketing Education Consultant, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Past President of the Consortium.*

## **Donna Caplan Receives National Award**

Curriculum/Program Facilitator Donna Caplan of the Business Academy Program was awarded a full scholarship to attend the 25th Annual Entrepreneurship Education Forum held recently in Charleston, South Carolina. She earned the scholarship and took home a commemorative plaque for her leadership and creativity in bringing entrepreneurship education to the schools.

The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education is a national membership association of 95 organizations that advocate entrepreneurship education as a lifelong learning process and provide programs for youth and adults. The conference in Charleston brought more than 350 teachers together to share program ideas and establish nationwide networks.

## **Students Participate in International Discussion on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The District's middle school students recently participated in a live videoconference with students from South Africa, Brazil, Nicaragua and Haiti on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. entitled, "The Dream of Freedom." The videoconference, which was held at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center in Fort Lauderdale, addressed education, ethics and leaving a legacy.

"Teachers engaged students in activities beforehand to familiarize them with Dr. King's background and accomplishments," explained Joy Veasy, BECON-TV Distance Learning Outreach Specialist. The videoconference was part of an international distance-learning project produced by BECON-TV and the District's Department of Diversity & Cultural Outreach.

## **Million Fathers March Dinner Held at Dillard Elementary School**

At the beginning of the school year, many District schools actively participated in the 2007 Million Father March with the theme of "I'm Taking My Children to the First Day Of School." The national campaign, spearheaded by the Million Father March organization, was an effort to solicit more parents to become actively involved in the educational process with their children.

In an effort to keep the momentum of a great opening day turnout going, a special dinner for dads and men who care for and about children was held at Dillard Elementary School. Fathers and men associated with students who attend Dillard, Lauderdale Manors, Thurgood Marshall, Westwood Heights, Rock Island, Broward Estates, Sunland Park and Martin Luther King elementary schools and Arthur Ashe, Parkway and William Dandy middle schools as well as Dillard High School, attended the dinner celebration.

This community-wide effort garnered the support and involvement of a number of organizations, including *The Westside Gazette*, Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County, North Broward Hospital District, Friends of Children, Inc. and 100 Black Men of Greater Fort Lauderdale.



*Jan Moran (right) Chairman and President of The Jim Moran Foundation presents Michaelle (Mickey) Valbrun-Pope with The Jim Moran Foundation Award for 2007, along with a \$25,000 unrestricted grant.*

## **South Central Area Director Earns Award from The Jim Moran Foundation**

Michaelle (Mickey) Valbrun-Pope, South Central Area Director of School Improvement, was recently honored with the 2007 Jim Moran Foundation Award for her commitment to children, families and education. In recognition of her countless achievements and leadership, a \$25,000 unrestricted grant from The Jim Moran Foundation was designated to the Broward Education Foundation to support a fund established by Ms. Pope that will provide families with financial support during a crisis.

"My belief has always been that a child cannot learn and cannot reach their educational goals until we begin to look at the child within the family structure, and the family within the larger society," Valbrun-Pope said. "Making sure the family is healthy and that the environment is nurturing and free from crisis, supports the development of that child."

## **Everglades High Students Design Holocaust Museum**

Students in Everglades High School's "History of the Holocaust" classes and members of the S.T.A.K.E. (Students for Tolerance and Acceptance through Knowledge and Education) history club designed a temporary Holocaust museum that was housed in the school's resource area. All of the museum's displays were original student creations ranging from model replicas of ghettos and concentration camps to simulation experiments of activities occurring in those camps. The concept of the museum was developed by Bruce Klasner, a 20-year Holocaust education teacher.



### ***Candy Cane Mathematics***

Students at North Lauderdale Elementary School were treated to a holiday-themed math competition, thanks to the creativity of SRT K-5/Math Resource/Gifted Resource/Testing Coordinator Stephanie Sirianni. She hung large candy canes outside the

*North Lauderdale Elementary School students read math questions attached to a candy cane.*

science and math labs and placed them along an outdoor walkway. Each candy cane had a math question attached that was designed for primary or intermediate students. Questions included "How many minutes are in an hour?" and "How many equal sides does an isosceles triangle have?" The competition helped the students review mathematics vocabulary and content during a time when they often have trouble concentrating on schoolwork. Classes that participated in the competition were rewarded with mini candy canes, while winners earned prizes ranging from certificates to digital photos and mechanical pencils.

### ***Sunland Park Elementary Students Enter Eco-Inventions in National Competition***

For several weeks, Sunland Park Elementary School students, teachers and Gallery One Hotel staff volunteers participated in classroom discussions focusing on air pollution, waste management, water reuse and energy conservation. The initiative was designed to make students aware of the challenges we face in protecting the environment. Students worked hand-in-hand with teachers and hotel personnel to turn recyclable materials into artistic creations called "eco-inventions." Community leaders and hotel personnel then judged the projects and entered the top three winners into a national competition at the Hilton Hotel/Doubletree Corporate Office. The top three winners in the national competition will receive an all-expense paid trip to Seattle to display their "eco-inventions" at the Exploring Trees Inside and Out Environmental Education Exhibit at the Pacific Science Center.

### ***Aftercare Program at Hawkes Bluff Elementary Honored***

Hawkes Bluff Elementary School Principal Deborah Sheats and After Care Program Supervisor Diana Barnett were recently presented with pins and certificates in honor of the school's outstanding after school child care program.



*Pictured (l to r) are Diana Barnett, After School Care Supervisor; Diann Holmberg, Assessment Specialist for BASCC and Debby Sheats, Principal, Hawkes Bluff Elementary.*

standards in the BASCC Quality Standards Needs Assessment, which takes into consideration areas such as student activities, health and safety, academics, human relationships and administration.

Diann Holmberg from the District's Before and After School Child Care (BASCC) Department presented the items, while BASCC Director Dr. Deborah Gavilan addressed the school's students and staff to congratulate them for being part of such a successful program. Hawkes Bluff received "exemplary" classifications on all the

### ***Renowned Author Visits Falcon Cove Middle***

In conjunction with the Broward County Public Libraries and BECON-TV, Falcon Cove Middle School recently welcomed author James Grippando. Eighth grade students at Falcon Cove are currently reading Grippando's novel, *Leapholes*. The students learned about the reading and writing connection, how ideas are generated for novels and reviewed the process of getting ideas onto pages for others to read. Grippando, who has authored 15 novels to-date, also autographed his book for each student. The presentation was streamed live to students at Arthur Ashe, Silver Lakes and Bair middle schools and Whispering Pines School.

### ***McArthur High School Students Take 2nd in Statewide Competition***

McArthur High School students earned a second place finish in the "We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution" statewide academic competition, held recently in Orlando. The competition, which featured a mock congressional hearing, was sponsored by the Florida Law Related Education Association and supported by the National Center for Civic Education. Seven teams from around the state participated in the event, which is designed to promote civic competence and responsibility among students.

### ***Bridge to Success Helps At-Risk Students Prepare for Job Market***

Damian Hunt from Minority Empowerment & Development, Inc. recently spoke to students at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center about the job-training and resume skills offered through Bridge to Success. Bridge to Success is a job assistance program for at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 21. It helps young people develop interview skills and assists them with academics, work readiness preparation, ESOL, college preparation, job placement and more. For additional information about Bridge to Success, call 954-580-1360.



*Pictured (l to r, first row) are Lt. Anthony Demarco - B.S.O.; Sgt. Chris Aunders - Miramar; Sgt. Susan Edwards - B.S.O.; Kathleen Andersen - Investigator, S.I.U.; Robin Bartleman - School Board Chair; Sgt. Lee Horton - Coral Springs; Evelyn McCabe - Investigator, S.I.U.; (l to r, second Row) Sgt. Mike Natiello - B.S.O.; Gary Rowe - Investigator, S.I.U.; Sgt. Julio Gonzalez - Hollywood; Lt. Brian Maher - Hollywood; Robert Dinkel - S.R.O. Coordinator, S.I.U.; Sgt. Robert Kostick - Coral Springs; Jim Wollschlager, Police Supervisor, S.I.U.; and Sgt. Greg Gasse - Davie.*

### ***McFatter Vo-Tech Hosts School Resource Personnel Appreciation Event***

School Board Chair Robin Bartleman and McFatter Vo-Tech Principal Mark Thomas showed their continued support for the School Resource Officers (SRO) and School Resource Deputies (SRD) Program by hosting a breakfast at the school during a recent SRO/SRD Supervisors' meeting. SROs and SRDs were recognized for their commitment to the safety and security of

the District's students and staff. The supervisors meet every other month to discuss how to improve the partnership between the District and the local law enforcement community.

# District Budget Information

With the continued economic downturn in the state, coupled with the impact of passage of Amendment One, the District is escalating its efforts to reduce costs and save money in the face of even more state revenue cutbacks for education and Broward County Public Schools. The District has been put on notice by the Department of Education to expect even more revenue cuts within the current 2007-2008 fiscal year. State revenue cuts to the District to date are detailed below.

- \$12.5 million in state revenue cuts for the District announced by the state to begin 2007-08
- \$21.7 million in new proposed revenue cuts for the District announced recently by the state in 2008 (The State Legislature is to vote on this cut during the first 2 weeks of the legislative session.)
- \$34.2 million in total state revenue cuts for the District announced for 2007-2008

The School Board recognized the potential impact of the economic downturn on the District's budget early last year and tasked Superintendent Notter to develop a set of goals and immediate actions to address the budget situation. The immediate actions initiated by the Superintendent last year included placing controls on hiring, purchasing and overtime. The goals pertaining to this effort are as follows:

## Budget Goals

1. Maximize reductions outside of the classroom and direct instruction.
2. Use attrition whenever possible in reducing the workforce.
3. Maintain a laser focus on our core business of teaching and learning and the effective utilization of technology for a more effective and efficient delivery of education services to students and business services to customers and employees.

However, given the continuing downturn in the economy, the School Board recently supported even more restricted spending.

## Budget Actions

- Freeze on all hiring outside of the classroom and direct instruction, except with the specific approval of the Superintendent with data supporting a mission critical need
- Freeze on all non-essential purchases not related to teaching and learning, except with the specific approval of the Superintendent with data supporting a mission critical need
- Freeze on all mandatory overtime, except as approved in advance by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) or as required by contract
- As of March 1, a freeze on all consultants, except for existing binding contractual agreements that have defined time parameters

The District is employing a number of communications avenues to keep employees and the general public informed as we meet the challenges associated with continuing our primary teaching and learning mission during the continuing financial downturn. Below are the specific communications vehicles the District will be using to keep everyone informed and updated, and to provide employees and the public with an easy way to ask questions and offer suggestions on potential cost-savings measures.

- CAB Conference entitled "Budget Update" that is available under District Announcements (The conference incorporates a built-in feedback mechanism for employees to ask questions or to make suggestions for saving money. Simply click on the "Budget Questions" or "Cost Savings Suggestions" and write your question or suggestion.)
- District Web site ([www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)) will be used to provide budget and financial updates to the public and employees (Under the News & Headlines section, click on District Budget Status for the updates.)
- The bi-weekly News & Views electronic newsletter and the published 411 employee newsletter will also be employed to provide budget and financial information to employees.
- BECON television will be used to provide budget and financial updates to employees and the general public.
- Video, videoconferencing, teleconferencing, Parent Link messages and Podcasts will also be employed as needed to keep groups of employees and the public informed on budget and financial matters.



## District Employees Raise Funds for the American Diabetes Association



*Broward County Public Schools  
Diabetes Walk Team*

To increase awareness of diabetes and assist in fundraising efforts, the School District, Humana Inc. and Vista Healthplan Inc. participated in the Walk for

Diabetes in October at the Bank Atlantic Center. Two hundred sixty-four District employees took part and raised nearly \$10,700 to show their support of initiatives and research done by the American Diabetes Association (ADA). Among the top fundraisers were Larry Bremner, Jr., Sawgrass Springs Middle - \$1,803; Maria Willingham, Park Springs Elementary - \$1,025; and Kim Rich, Davie Elementary - \$732.

Kim Rich, a physical education teacher at Davie Elementary and the District's third-highest fundraiser, said, "The ADA's Walk for Diabetes is an amazing event to be involved with for three reasons - it raises money for a great cause, it celebrates physical activity and it brings together District employees from all over the county. I hope that we have even more walkers next year!"

Christine Cohen, Associate Manager for the ADA, said, "The American Diabetes Association extends our sincere thanks to the School Board of Broward County and the 2007 walkers for their support and devotion to our organization. It is only through groups like yours that we are able to deliver on our mission of preventing and curing diabetes, while improving the lives of those affected by diabetes. In addition, by incorporating the mission of our organization into the schools, we are able to create awareness about the rapid increase in the number of children developing Type II diabetes, the leading causes of which are obesity, poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles."

In America, 20.8 million people are living with diabetes. Another 54 million people are pre-diabetic. Could you have diabetes and not know it? Take the diabetes risk test ([www.diabetes.org/risk-test.jsp](http://www.diabetes.org/risk-test.jsp)). For more information, please visit ([www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)) or call 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383).

# Appointments & Reassignments

*December 11, 2007*

The Board approved the following appointments: **Indranil Ghosh**, Manager, ERP (Operations Maintenance); **Victoria Kaufman**, Director, Non-Instructional Staffing; **Kimberly Knutson**, Specialist, Testing; **Robbin McGill**, Process Analyst (Business Warehouse, Human Resources) ERP; **Thomas Moncilovich**, Assistant Principal, Sheridan Technical Center; **Theresa Moore**, Process Analyst (Transportation) ERP; **Christine Recchi**, Interim Principal, Ramblewood Middle; **Felix Stankiewicz**, Process Analyst (Plant Maintenance) ERP and **Deborah Van Etveldt**, Process Analyst (Plant Maintenance) ERP.

*January 15, 2008*

The Board approved the following appointments: **Gwendolyn Burney**, Interim Principal, Westwood Heights Elementary; **Noel Hyatt**, Coordinator, BECON Public Relations & Fund-raising; **LaQuita Lee**, Assistant Principal, Panther Run Elementary; **Ian Murray**, Interim Principal, Coral Springs Middle; **Adrienne Reynolds**, Specialist, Testing and **Maximo Rosario**, Interim Assistant Principal, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High.

*February 12, 2008*

The Board approved the following appointments: **Sam Bays**, Project Manager III-Facilities & Construction; **Eric Chisem**, Specialist, Workers' Compensation; **Scott Hennigar**, Project Manager III-Facilities & Construction; **Meresa Jones**, Training Analyst (ERP); **Lynne Oakvik**, Specialist, Media & Instructional Material; **Janis Wint**, Specialist, Demographer/Statistician; **Joseph Zeppetella**, Specialist, Workers' Compensation; *Assistant Principals:* **Timothy Hanley**, West Broward High and **William Segarra**, Falcon Cove Middle; *Interim Assistant Principals:* **Matthew Bianchi**, Sawgrass Springs Middle; **Shannon Burch**, Attucks Middle; **Darline Karbowski**, Coral Springs Middle; **Annette Pinckney**, McNicol Middle; **Diane Pressman**, Orange Brook Elementary; **Jocelyn Reid**, Sunshine Elementary and **Tanya Thompson**, Forest Glen Middle.

The Board also approved the following reassignments: *Assistant Principals:* **David Argent**, Coral Springs Middle; **Gwendolyn Dudley**, West Broward High and **Karen Karras**, Pompano Beach Middle.

# BECON Developing Two New Series

BECON-TV is developing two completely new series. The first, *Crossing Cultures/Changing Lives*, details how people in South Florida are living and working across racial and cultural lines. The second program, *CareerWatch*, addresses economic development and workforce issues featuring high demand occupations and industries in Broward County. Both programs are currently shooting at locations throughout the county.

In addition, two more classroom series are in the early stages of development. They are *Up, Down and Around*, a new manuscript handwriting series targeted at kindergarten/first grade level and a new middle school science series, *Science Matters*.



## AED/CPR Classes Available to All Employees

"A boy is choking in the cafeteria!" Donna Masterson, Assistant Manager, Food and Nutrition Services at Fox Trail Elementary, was busy at her desk one day last September, when she heard the plea for help over her school's security radio system. She raced to the cafeteria. A young student could not speak, a clear indication that the student was choking, as air could not pass through the windpipe to create sound.

Masterson quickly performed what she had been trained to do -- the "abdominal thrust maneuver." Within seconds, the lodged food popped out and the young student could breathe. Masterson's prompt response prevented this incident from becoming a tragedy.

Each year, hundreds of District employees -- Food and Nutrition Services managers, bus drivers, after-care workers, teachers and others -- participate in District-led AED/CPR in-service classes. The specialized course provides training for choking emergencies as well instruction in how to perform CPR. The training provided can help participants while at work or at home when an illness or accident result in a breathing emergency.

All District employees may take the AED/CPR course for a nominal fee. Check the Professional Development Services System ([www.broward.k12.fl.us/pdss](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/pdss)) for times and locations. You may never need to use this life saving skill - but you can feel secure that you are prepared should an emergency arise.

## District Leads Nation in National Board Certified Teachers

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards announced that Broward County Public Schools leads the nation in National Board Certified Teachers. More than 270 teachers achieved certification prior to the start of the 2007/08 school year, bringing the District's total to over 1,300.

"Our School Board and I are extremely proud of the high caliber of teaching and learning that takes place every day in Broward County Public Schools," said Superintendent James F. Notter. "We congratulate all of our teachers for their achievements and dedication to our students and the District."

For the past three years, Broward County Public Schools has led the nation with the largest number of newly certified teachers. Last year, Broward led all school districts in the state of Florida and was second in the nation. Since 2002, Broward County Public Schools has added 1,039 National Board Certified Teachers.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers - and make them better. While state licensing systems set basic requirements to teach in each state, National Board Certified Teachers have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete.

For information on becoming a National Board Certified Teacher, contact Marty Meek, Coordinator for National Board Certified Teachers, at 754-321-3519.

# We Want to Hear From You

Communications & Media Relations welcomes and looks forward to your response to our District newsletter. Based on your feedback, we'll make sure that we focus on topics and stories that matter to you. If you have news, ideas or suggestions to share with us for stories and features in future issues, please let us know by completing and returning this form. We also welcome your ideas and suggestions on ways we can improve Broward County Public Schools.

You can fax the completed form to 754-321-2318, send it via "pony" to Communications & Media Relations Department, KCW, 7th Floor or mail it to Communications & Media Relations Department, Broward County Public Schools, 600 S.E. 3rd Avenue, 7th Floor, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. Thanks for reading *The 411 - News You Can Use About Broward Schools*.

**Please print or type:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School/Division/Department \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (After School) \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Principal/Administrator \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments/Suggestions/Ideas \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**My suggestion for a future employee profile in the "Up Close and Personal With" section is:**

Employee's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School/Division/Department \_\_\_\_\_

**Communications & Media Relations**  
 600 SE 3rd Avenue, 7th Floor  
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301  
 754-321-2300



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[www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)



## Making Plans?

*Remember to check the District Events Calendar*

As the District continues to grow, planning major events with dates, times and locations that don't conflict becomes a bigger challenge - which is why the District Events Calendar was created.

The purpose of the calendar is to publish the dates of events that our School Board members, the Superintendent or Executive Leadership Team may be expected to attend within the county, and to avoid conflicting dates or times for events where their attendance is anticipated or required.

Before planning any major event - please consult the District Events Calendar. It's a valuable tool and it's right at your fingertips on the Intranet at ([web/communications](http://web/communications)).

If you have an event you'd like to have placed on the calendar, please contact the Communications & Media Relations Department at 754-321-2300 - certain restrictions apply.

EVENTS CALENDAR						
M	T	W	T	F	F	
		1	2	3		
6	7	8	9	10		
13	14	15	16	17		
20	21	22	23	24		
27	28	29	30	31		

## the 411

*News You Can Use About Broward Schools*

This newsletter is published four times each year by, for and about the employees of Broward County Public Schools. It is also available on the District Web site ([www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)). We welcome your comments and suggestions. If you have information or story ideas you would like to submit for consideration, please complete the form on the top of this page and fax it to the Communications & Media Relations Department at 754-321-2318.

*Enjoy Spring Break!*

## e-News

**It's e-News! Sign-Up Today!**

It's more than just the information you need - it's the information you want! Better yet, you can find it right in your own E-mail box.

Don't be left out! Sign-up today for the Broward Schools e-News electronic newsletter by visiting the District's Web site ([www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)). Simply click on the e-News icon - answer some quick questions and you're all set! From good news happening in our schools to updates and boundaries, budget and construction - Broward Schools e-News has it all!

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