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This school year has finally gotten into full swing following hurricane season. I am proud to say that Florida and Broward County Schools are stepping up to the plate to aid our devastated neighbors from Puerto Rico. The Public Information Office has launched a District website at <http://www.browardschools.com/AllAreWelcome>, with information regarding resources available for students and families who evacuated to the mainland. It is our hope to assist these students to adjust to these unknown and unforeseen circumstances as seamlessly and adequately as possible to maintain their educational progress.

Do you belong to an organization that could use a few extra helping hands? If so, I encourage you to reach out to your local high school and provide information on volunteer opportunities. It is a BCPS graduation requirement for students to complete a minimum of 40 service learning hours. For many students 40 hours has become just the starting point. Last year's graduation ceremonies saw over **5,000** senior students awarded a silver cord for commencement for achieving 250+ hours. Over 6,110,320 hours of documented community service was performed by high school students, equating, based on Florida's minimum wage rate of \$8.10, to **\$49,493,592**. These young men and women devote much time and effort giving back to their communities. I want to thank each of you and urge you to continue these efforts this year as well. The need is great, and I believe students derive as much benefit as the organizations they assist.

District 3 Happenings

- *Northeast High School's InvenTeam* has once again scored high, winning a \$10,000 Lemelson-MIT grant with their proposal to create a mosquito-breeding disruptor. One of only 15 high schools selected nationwide as an InvenTeam this year, the team is under the guidance of former alumni and current NEHS Biology teacher, L. Clara Mabour. 5 years ago Clara was on the NEHS team that created a portable water sanitation system for use after natural disasters that took team members all the way to the White House. Mr. Paul Fucile, senior engineer for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, will guide the Inventeam through development of their invention. The team will showcase a prototype in June at EurekaFest at MIT in Cambridge, MA. ***Congratulations NEHS!*** I anticipate hearing of great things this year!
- The *Six Sigma Yellow Belt* training program will continue to be offered for the 2017-18 year at Stranahan High. Last year's engineering magnet students earned Six Sigma/Lean certification through a partnership between the BCPS CTACE Dept., the Continuous Improvement Institute and Broward College who created this opportunity for students to earn certification. The program allows students to attain a broader picture and greater understanding of daily tasks that convert into enhanced quality, decreased waste, and better cycle times. Students used their skills to identify issues at Stranahan, analyze the root causes and make recommendations for potential changes. It is amazing what opportunities our young men and women have the ability to access.
- On November 11th a Celebration of Life was held at Stranahan High for ***Coach Keith Skinner***, a long-time and dearly-beloved basketball and football coach. Coach Skinner, a

1980 alumni of Stranahan, returned to coach there and serve as the campus security specialist, for almost 30 years. Coach Skinner lived and breathed the Dragons. Through his mentorship and example he taught his players how to grow into mature young athletes. He is greatly missed by all.

- District 3 schools recognized as *Five Star Schools* this year include Floranada, Harbordale, and Oakland Park elementaries, and James Rickards Middle School. To qualify these schools must have active business partnerships, family engagement, volunteer service programs and school advisory councils. They must also maintain a grade of “C” or above for the school year. As Mr. Collado, principal of Rickards, stated in the *Rocket Tails* school newsletter, “Participation and engagement are key elements of a successful school.” Well said, and well done everyone!
- This year *Wilton Manors Elementary* was honored in Washington DC as the recipient of the *2017 United States Department of Education National Green Ribbon School*. In 2016 they were awarded the Florida Dept. of Education Green Ribbon Award, and Broward County’s P3 Overall School winner, the first elementary to ever win! Through the International Baccalaureate curriculum, global environmental topics are researched and taught. The campus courtyard serves as an outside learning lab for all students, and all grade levels utilize the space by planting and maintaining garden boxes used by students and staff ranging across the disciplines. The Butterfly Garden has been recognized by the *National Wildlife Fund’s Eco-schools School Yard Habitat Award*. WME is an exemplary P3 Green School! *Congratulations!!!*
- *Sheridan Technical High School* students passed their Financial Literacy Certification exam with an 89% pass rate, achieving Blue Star status. Nationwide there are a total of *232 schools recognized as Blue Star Schools for Financial Literacy!* And in the entire state of Florida, STHS is one of only two! Under Instructor Nancy Barba, students learn financial literacy for college, career and life readiness. Ms. Barba incorporates guest speakers from industries that students will deal with once they leave the nest: banking, car dealers, real estate, insurance, tax accountant, police and so much more. *Congratulations* to the students and staff! *2018* will see the first graduating class at Sheridan Technical High!
- *Caitlin Underwood, a 3rd grader at Wilton Manors Elementary*, saw all of the destruction caused by Hurricane Irma in the Florida Keys and made up her mind to help. Together with her little sister Harper and her mom, Caitlin started a book drive, recorded a video for FB with her mom, posted flyers at school, made announcements and proceeded to gather over *1,000 books in a little over a month’s time*. In November Caitlin, her mom and sister Harper distributed the books on Sugarloaf Key to Sugarloaf Elementary then headed north to two other schools. “It feels good to know I’m helping people with their struggles,” she said. *Thank you, Caitlin, you are remarkable!*
- On October 18, 2017 the *Just Do It I Did! Awards*, were held at Atlantic Technical College on the Arthur Ashe, Jr. Campus. *Just Do It I Did!* honors the exemplary achievements of students with disabilities. *Nominees* from District 3 included: Bayview El., Nicholas Heyden; Bennett El., Ludechelcy Destin; Cypress El., Michelle Bello-Tovar; Floranada El., Haley Lebeau; Lloyd Estates El., Daniel Coley; McNab El., Jerniya Nixon; Meadowbrook El., Sean Knight; North Andrews Gardens El., Brandon O’Neill; North Side El., Kuresha Bladies; Oakland Park El., Brian Pedroso; Pine Ridge Ed. Ctr., Julius Roundtree; Riverland El., Mara Jean Claude; Stephen Foster El., Ryan Joseph; Virginia S. Young El., Ljahne’ Peters; Wilton Manors El., Juan Rosero; New River Middle, Tyna Greene; Sunrise Middle, Bervens Thervil; Northeast High, Owen Teruel; Stranahan High, Elihu Hernandez; Ft. Lauderdale High, Latonya Frost; Sheridan Technical High, Derek Walker. *Juan Rosero of Wilton Manors Elementary was the Recognized Recipient for the Elementary level*. Many

thanks also go out to *D3 principal judges*: Ms. Frost of Bayview El.; Ms. Bucolo of Harbordale El.; Ms. Frame-Wessinger of New River Middle; Ms. Garcia of Oakland Park El.; and Ms. Deborah Owens, retired principal of Stranahan High. *Thank you to our principal judges, and a special congratulations to all the nominees and Juan!!*

- On October 11th I participated in *Seagull's Baby Fun Day!* And it was truly a fun-filled time enjoyed by all as the sweet babies and their mommies and daddies participated in games and competitions, enjoying refreshments and entertainment. Thank you, Mr. Clemon, for inviting me!
- On November 6th, an informational meeting on bond projects for Northeast High was held there. Invitees included representatives of various community groups. Herve Apollon of HeeryAtkins updated us on the state of work that has been done and the status of current projects. The progress of work at Northeast High is of great concern to both the community and myself. If anyone would like a copy of the presentation on the SMART bond projects at NEHS, please contact my office and I will provide it to you.
- Once again School Social Work Services partnered with *Harvest Drive* to provide Families in need with the means to enjoy Thanksgiving Day dinner. All across the district countless students, schools and individuals have been working hard to share their bounty with those less fortunate. Our thanks go out to District 3 schools Fort Lauderdale High and Stranahan High, amongst others districtwide, for serving as distribution sites and to all of our students and schools who gave so generously. Everyone worked very hard and spirits were high as packing and distributing in time for Thanksgiving took place.
- The following *Innovative (Magnet) Programs* have upcoming **open houses**: **North Andrews Gardens** Elementary January 24, 2018 6:00PM (Performing and Visual Arts); **Riverland** El. December 13, 2017 6:00PM (Communications & Languages); **Virginia S. Young** El. November 14th, 2017 6:00PM (Montessori); **Wilton Manors** El. January 11, 2018 6:00PM (Inter'l Baccalaureate Primary Years Program); **New River Middle** January 24, 2018 6:00PM (Marine Science); **Sunrise Middle** November 30, 2017 6:00PM (Montessori); **Fort Lauderdale High**, February 1, 2018 6:00pm (Cambridge Programme, Pre-Law and Public Affairs); **Northeast High**, January 24, 2018 6:00PM (Alternative Energy, Biotechnology, The Latin School); **Sheridan Tech High** School, December 12th, 2017 6:00pm (Technical); **Stranahan High**, December 9th, 2017 9:00AM (Medical Magnet Academy; Science and Pre-Engineering; Urban Teacher Academy Program).

As I write this the holiday season is fast approaching, plans and preparations are being made in classrooms and homes across the county. If you happen to be travelling through Fort Lauderdale Airport December 11th-15th, I hope you have an opportunity to watch some of our outstanding young musicians and performers entertain the travelling public for the holidays. *I wish you all a wonderful holiday season filled with peace, love and joy and I look forward to our students and staff members enjoying a well-deserved winter break!*

Heather Pomper Brinkworth



Educating Today's Students to
Succeed in Tomorrow's World