

Sparkplugs

for Parent Involvement | Exemplary Practices



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **Sparkplugs**, the annual publication of exemplary practices for family involvement. The programs described in **Sparkplugs** reflect only a few of the many innovative practices used across the state to involve parents and family members in meaningful school programs. Each program was nominated for the 2014 Parent Involvement Award by its school district.

These summaries were taken directly from the applications submitted by the school districts. They have been edited for brevity, but every attempt has been made to retain their original content.

The purpose of the Parent Involvement Award, sponsored by the Florida PTA, the Florida Department of Education and State Farm Insurance, is to promote and recognize exemplary school practices that increase family involvement. All entries must be school projects that focus on a specific school-initiated parent/family involvement program or strategy, including those taking place in the workplace, faith-based institutions and other convenient locations.

Based on National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships in education, the programs address the key strategies for increasing family involvement:

1. Welcoming all families into the school community
2. Communicating effectively
3. Supporting student success
4. Speaking up for every child
5. Sharing power
6. Collaborating with the community

For further information or assistance in implementing any of these unique family involvement programs, please write or call the program's contact person.



Sparkplugs

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Region I

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

LEON COUNTY

World Culture Fair

Hartsfield Elementary School

1414 Chowkeebin Nene

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Program Contact: Judi McDowell

Phone: 850-488-7322

Mission: *To increase the geographical and cultural literacy of students as well as expanding the love of art and music in their lives.*

The World Culture Fair, held in May each year, is a culmination of many months of work produced by the students. On the night of the event, students, staff and parents transformed the school campus into a magical place where participants experience the global community through art, music, dance, food and written word. In addition, faculty and students from the local universities attended the World Culture Fair to provide food, artifacts and costumes for the families to explore.

Throughout the school year, students performed research on different countries with each classroom choosing a different country. Art and music of these countries were taught during special area classes. Faculty and club members from the local universities also visited the campus during the school year to discuss the highlighted countries.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$800

Parents Served: 175

Students: 465

BAY COUNTY

Parent Camp

Oakland Terrace School of Arts

2010 West 12th Street

Panama City, Florida 32401

Program Contact: Deniece Moss

Phone: 850-767-4565

Mission: *To work with community members and parents to increase parental involvement at Oakland Terrace School for the Arts.*

Parent Camp provided a safe and free opportunity for parents to come together and learn strategies that can be used at home with their child. To provide flexibility and ensure that parents and families were able to attend, the event was held on a Saturday morning. Parents were provided with all of the supplies needed to implement reading and math activities at home with their child. While the parents were in their two 45 minute sessions, students participated in drama, dance, music, art and health activities. After all the sessions were completed and the students performed for their parents, a free lunch was served by a community partner. The schools' faculty and staff worked together to make this event successful.

Grade Levels: Pre-K-5

Budget: \$1,000

Parents Served: 50

Students: 75

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Read and Treat

C. A. Weis Elementary

2710 North Q. Street

Pensacola, Florida 32505

Program Contact: Julie Pearson

Phone: 850-595-6888, Extension 232

Mission: *To provide a fun experience where parents can participate in reading instruction.*

Read and Treat was held in late October to promote parent involvement and to model reading activities. Booths were set up in the cafeteria, gym, library, art room and hallways where parents and students could rotate through pre-made reading activities. The booths were run by teachers with different themes and focused on different skills.

The school's dance club kicked off the event with a dance performance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

Students and their families then enjoyed free dinner and winning prizes at booths such as Pumpkin Word Puzzle and Haunted Word Bingo. Family activities included Family Tennis with four interactive stations, a Family Night Photo Booth and the art room hosted a Family Halloween Art Project.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$500

Parents Served: 166

Students: 614

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Inaugural West Navarre Intermediate Gallery Night

West Navarre Intermediate

1970 Cotton Bay Lane

Navarre, Florida 32566

Program Contact: David Crissey

Phone: 850-936-6060

Mission: *To engage parents in an enriching evening featuring a student showcase focused on musical performance, visual arts and creative writing, in order to bring the school's mission of educating the whole child to life.*

The West Navarre Intermediate Gallery Night provided each fourth grade student a “gallery space” in which the student displayed their self-portrait and three writing samples which illustrated the school's very unique Positive Behavior Support Program. Parents were given time to view the students’ galleries while the West Navarre Intermediate Student Government Association served appetizers and punch. Parents were then treated to a musical and story presentation about “Ned the Navigator”, the fictional first student at West Navarre Intermediate, and his maturation from an infant to a positive and participating adult citizen. The story focused on how the art, academic and social programs of West Navarre Intermediate provided him with the foundation to grow into the adult we all strive to be in our lives.

Grade Levels: 4th grade

Budget: \$500

Parents Served: 250

Students: 330

Region I

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

LEON COUNTY

Math-a-Phobia Hotline

Fort Braden School

15100 Blountstown Highway

Tallahassee, Florida 32310

Program Contact: Bambi Jackson

Phone number: 850-488-9374

Mission: *To demonstrate to students that math and solving real-world problems can be fun.*

"Math-A-Phobia Hotline" was a live performance show by faculty members and students. Costumed participants played various roles such as Math Doctor, Math Fan, news reporters, music teacher and choral students. Participants would call the "Math Doctor" for help with a real-world math problem. In each instance, the Doctor walked the character through ways to solve the problem with hands-on activities. When students begin to solve real-world problems in a relaxed, fun and non-threatening manner, they are able to make connections with new concepts and materials and therefore more likely to retain what they learn. Research shows that a positive state of mind about math has a powerful influence over willingness to put in the time necessary to master it.

This fun night brought parents, students, siblings, friends and staff members together to learn, laugh and spend quality time together growing relationships.

Grade Levels: K-8

Budget: \$1,500

Parents Served: 100

Students: 50

Region II

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

NASSAU COUNTY

A STEM Parent Night

Bryceville Elementary School

6504 Church Avenue

Bryceville, Florida 32009

Program Contact: Julie Davis

Phone Number: 904-266-9241

Mission: *To motivate students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics concepts.*

The STEM parent night featured 11 sponsored stations in which the parents and students explored throughout the evening. Experiences at the stations included making a balloon car, engineering a bridge, learning about electrical circuits and much more. One of the highlights of the night was the STEM Careers board where students displayed their interview forms and pictures from their interviews with local professionals in the STEM fields such as local nurses, computer technicians, air traffic controllers, power plant workers, pharmacists, etc. A STEM parent night gave parents the opportunity to learn and enjoy watching their children learn different STEM concepts.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$400

Parents Served: 38

Students Served: 55

CITRUS COUNTY

Readers of the Caribbean

Crystal River Primary School

8624 W. Crystal Street

Crystal River, Florida 34428

Program Contact: Donna Whetzel

Phone: 352-795-2211

Mission: *To give parents tools and strategies in the five components of reading.*

For the pirate-themed literacy event, school staff dressed like pirates during the school day to create anticipation for that night's activities. The evening started with a "Pirate Grub" dinner of Pirate Pizza, salad, Ships-Ahoy cookies and Pirate Punch. After dinner, the parents watched an information presentation on curriculum, instruction and assessment while the students made paper "pirate hats" with high school volunteers. The principal then held funny "try-outs" for students to become members of the SS Readalot crew. Humorous reading activities skits then engaged parents and students using reading components and included an activity that parents could practice with their students at home. The grand finale of the evening, "Extra, Extra, Bookaneers, Read All About It", was a reader's theater which allowed students in the audience to make sound effects using newspapers. At the end of the evening, each student received a treasure bag filled with books to take home. Each family also received a full-color "treasure map" which referred to the activities during the evening on one side and a literacy adventure game board on the other side of the map.

Grade Levels: Pre-K-5

Budget: \$929

Parents Served: 500

Students: 200

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Summers Space Night

Summers Elementary School

1388 S.W. McFarlane Avenue

Lake City, Florida 32025

Program Contact: Amy Stanton

Phone: 386-755-8250

Mission: *Investing in science to incorporate hands-on inquiry with parental involvement changes the life of a child, both in their educational success and college and career readiness! We are creating future scientists.*

As students at Summers Elementary School sought knowledge about space and stars, the project – Space Night – evolved. The evening featured many different and engaging displays and activities. A large planetarium exhibit displayed the night sky including moon phases. Students enjoyed looking through a high-powered telescope as well as participating in hands-on activities in the Discovery Space Center area. A former teacher, along with students, launched rockets into the night sky and students enjoyed riding in a “moon rover.” Student science projects were on display throughout the evening and students and parents viewed clips of the first moon walk. Dr. Suess’ book, All About Space, was read to students and parents and each student received a free book about space. Space Night turned out to be a community unifying project where everyone enjoyed and increased their knowledge of the galaxy.

Grade Levels: VPK-5

Budget: \$2,800

Parents Served: 500

Students: 400

DUVAL COUNTY

Kudos and Coffee

Crown Point Elementary School

3800 Crown Point Road

Jacksonville, Florida 32257

Program Contact: Tamara Goldwich

Phone: 904-260-5808

Mission: *To promote parent and family volunteerism in the school.*

The Kudos and Coffee program at Crown Point Elementary School occurs year round as a way to show appreciation to those who volunteer their time for the students at the school. A Volunteer Breakfast is held at the beginning of the school year to provide potential volunteers with information, requirements, and the many ways they can help students and the school. The “Kudos” portion of the program consists of six pins that volunteers can earn for different milestones they reach for their volunteer hours. There is a special pin for the Volunteer of the Month which is awarded at the monthly “Coffee Break” to the volunteer who logged the most hours for the month. A Volunteer Luncheon is held once a year where a Volunteer of the Year is awarded.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$2,140

Parents Served: All

Students: 1,100

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Hickory's Heart

Hickory Creek Elementary School

235 Hickory Creek Trail

St. Johns, Florida 32259

Program Contacts: Kristin Getz and Teresa Gaunt

Phone: 904-547-7450

Mission: *To provide weekend food for kids in need and larger school food drives during school breaks.*

Hickory's Heart is an outreach program helping Hickory Creek families in need. What once was a Holiday Food Drive grew into providing weekly assistance through a "Weekend Backpack Program." Students are referred to the program by teachers. Each week, the volunteers who run the program assemble grocery bags with kid-friendly snacks and food. These bags are discreetly placed in the students' backpacks each Friday by school staff. The students receiving assistance remain anonymous. Larger food donations during holidays and school breaks are provided for families in need. Hickory's Heart brings the entire school family together and is a great way to teach children to help those in need.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$1,325 (\$875 PTO donations, \$450 monetary donations and food donations)

Parents Served: 50+

Students: 20+

Region II

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Lake City Community Outreach Program

Lake City Middle School

843 S.W. Arlington Boulevard

Lake City, Florida 32025

Program Contact: Don Heeke or April Vinson

Phone: 386-758-4800

Mission: *To build a better relationship between the school and the homes of the economically disadvantaged students.*

Lake City Middle School's Community Outreach Program is a two-fold program. The first part of the program is designed around educating parents on how to better assist and support their children's education. Quarterly, the school holds a Family Focus Night at a local apartment complex. During the Family Focus Night, parents and students enjoy dinner together before they are divided for the evening's activities. While parents are presented with information on how to become actively involved in their child's education, children engage in a fun learning activity. The second part of the program involves free tutoring provided by Lake City Middle School teachers each Tuesday at the apartment complex.

Grade Levels: 6-8

Budget: Donations and in-kind services

Parents Served: 50

Students Served: 30

DUVAL COUNTY

ESE College and Agency Fair

Atlantic Coast High School

9735 R.G. Skinner Parkway
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
Program Contact: Shelli Rogers
Phone: 904-538-5120

Mission: *To provide all of our exceptional education students and their parents with options for post-secondary opportunities.*

Atlantic Coast High School's ESE College and Agency Fair gives students and their parents the opportunity to explore the options for post-secondary education. The broad range of invited participants reaches every exceptionality and program offered at the school. Students and parents are able to meet with state and local agency representatives and gather information. Students not only learn about their post-secondary education options, but they can also learn about self-advocacy skills for persons with disabilities as well as high school diploma options. Advocates are available to answer questions and legal rights and future opportunities.

Grade Levels: 9-12
Budget: \$0
Parents Served: 300
Students: 225

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Creekside Community Collaboration Project

Creekside High School

100 Knights Lane
St. Johns, Florida 32259
Program Contact: Michelle Clark
Phone: 904-547-7303

Mission: *To bring the school, parents, community and students together for the betterment of all.*

The Creekside Community Collaboration Project supported school improvement goals and the school improvement plan through efforts to improve involvement of parents, students, and community members in school-related activities. The program involved multiple avenues to promote goodwill between all stakeholders and created more opportunities for students and parents to participate in school initiatives and activities. One event coordinated by the project was The Running of the Knights, which was a school and community 5-K race. In addition, school tours were given by a group called "School Ambassadors," groups of volunteers served as proctors for state standardized tests and Advanced Placement tests, and special activities were planned for both volunteer and teacher appreciation weeks. The Creekside Collaboration project, not only attracted more participation by families and the community, but the overall number of discipline incidents among students dropped 29%.

Grade Levels: 9-12
Budget: \$9,300 in donations
Parents Served: All
Students: 1,889

Region III

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Bingo for Books

Westside Elementary School

1210 Jimmy Ann Drive

Daytona Beach, Florida 32117

Contact Person: Priscilla Sparks

Phone: 386-274-3400

Mission: *To promote the importance of reading.*

"Bingo for Books" was created two years ago and no one ever dreamed it would become so successful. Several times a year, students and their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. play simple games of bingo to win books. When someone wins a game, a student gets a book. The winner gets to choose a book or a pack of books of his/her choice from a selection on a table. The program is made even more fun by not using ordinary bingo markers. For instance, in February, candy conversation hearts are used, in March for Dr. Suess Day goldfish crackers are used, and in the fall, candy corn piece are used. Even alphabet cereal was used and if the students spelled the special word they were given, they won a special prize. Bingo for Books not only helps promote reading but it also provides a time where students, families, staff and faculty can come together to enjoy each other as the Westside family.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$100

Parents Served: 200

Students Served: 300

BREVARD COUNTY

All Pro Dads

Mims Elementary School

2582 U.S. Highway 1

Mims, Florida 32754

Program Contact: Barry Tressler

Phone: 321-264-2030

Mission: *To strengthen the relationship between a father and his children.*

All Pro Dad's Day is a simple idea with a profound impact. The main component of the program is held once a month with other unique activities scheduled at other times such as March Madness and special projects around school like working in the garden together or building picnic tables. Once a month, fathers and father figures share time with their children at breakfast before school. During this time, they discuss a wide range of family topics, spend time together, create fun memories and are equipped with resources to strengthen their relationship.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$0

Parents Served: 25

Students: 50

FLAGLER COUNTY

Family Math Nights

Bunnell Elementary School

305 N. Palmetto Street

Bunnell, Florida 32110

Program Contact: Cathy Thomas

Phone: 386-437-7533

Mission: *To increase parent participation and involvement with their child's progress in mathematics and academics in general.*

Bunnell Elementary School Family Math Nights starts with an inexpensive pizza dinner where parents, students and teachers have the chance to talk before the activities begin. As dinner comes to a close, parents and students visit the learning stations set up by grade level in the cafeteria. Parents and children rotate to different tables within their grade level and play mathematics games. Students are given mathematics-based prizes, at the end of the evening, such as dominos. At the conclusion of the program, families pick up their game bags which contain all the games they played that evening. The bags contain all the game boards and pieces so families can play them at home.

Grade Levels: PreK-6

Budget: \$900

Parents Served: 150

Students: 180

LAKE COUNTY

Read Across America

Sawgrass Bay Elementary School

16325 Superior Boulevard

Clermont, Florida 34714

Program Contact: Valnea Pumariega, Bianca Williams and Catherine Friedrich

Phone: 352-243-1845

Mission: *To provide a platform to encourage and support students' reading and writing skills through a school-family-community partnership to help students be successful in school and beyond.*

Read Across America (RAA) is an annual event sponsored by the National Education Association in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Read Across America activities included students reading in groups or independently in their classrooms; listening to books being read by guest readers, and; students reading to parents or family members at home. The high school Key Club member volunteers made signs with Dr. Seuss themes and universal reading themes. Teachers integrated cross-curricular activities to help students make connections and link to RAA activities. RAA also heightened awareness of purposeful, quality writing by students through a school-wide class book project. During the project, all students participated in writing and illustrating collaborative books learning the value of writing through a real-world project where they could take pride in becoming a published author.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$150

Parents Served: 800

Students: 1,222

MARTIN COUNTY

The 3-C's Program

Hobe Sound Elementary School

11555 S.E. Gomez Avenue

Hobe Sound, Florida 33455

Program Contact: Cindy Paluszek

Phone: 772-219-1540

Mission: *To work Creatively in Cooperation within the community to achieve successful Communication.*

Parent led volunteer coordination has utilized a social media website to streamline filing the educational, behavioral and recreational support of students. SignUpGenius.com is a website is used to quickly and privately communicate the volunteer opportunities to those helpers. Volunteer coordinators input the email addresses of volunteers and needs are posted and filled without excessive email exchanges being needed. Hispanic volunteerism has increased thanks to our communication assistance from our Parent Liaison. Green School Awards have been supported by parent initiated projects. Creativity by the Positive Behavior Intervention Support program has shown an increase in better student behavior. Games, treats, themed out-of-uniform days, etc. were rewards given to students for good behavior. School staff and volunteers created a float for the annual Hobe Sound Christmas parade that won "Best All Around."

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$1,350 (in-kind services/ donations)

Parents Served: 200

Students: 684

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Pig Out on Reading

Cypress Elementary School

2251 Lakeside Drive

Kissimmee, Florida

Program Contact: Randy Shuttera

Phone: 407-344-5000

Mission: *To inform parents on strategies to increase daily reading achievement and on the FCAT.*

Pig Out on Reading is an event that helps parents in promoting literacy at home. Parents and students are invited to spend the evening at the school learning new and exciting ways to achieve reading success. Families in attendance receive a passport that shows them each activity to attend. Activities include a make and take for parents to use in helping to ask the student questions when they read, demonstrations on how to access important online resources for reading at home or at the local library, a parent-friendly presentation and handouts on the reading standards students are required to learn and information on how to access free resources for parents and students through the Title I Learning Center. Dinner is served in the courtyard where the principal grills up hot dogs. Each family that attends receives a coupon for a free book from the book fair which runs in conjunction with the Pig Out on Reading event.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$397

Parents Served: 97

Students: 72

Region III

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Family Night

Atlantic High School

1250 Reed Canal Road

Port Orange, Florida 32129

Contact Person: Dr. Paul Nehrig

Phone: 386-322-6100

Mission: *To bring our school's families and community together to support student success in and out of school.*

The Atlantic High School Family Night extravaganza featured a free dinner, educational breakout sessions on a range of topics, a community partner showcase, live entertainment, a clothing give-away for families in need and a special appearance and book signing by New York Times best-selling author Sharon Draper. Student volunteers from 13 campus organizations and members of the PTSA assisted in all phases of the event and 58 door prizes from 16 different community partners were given away to families, including two \$300 scholarships to Daytona State College. At the end of the evening, each family left with a goodie bag and a free portrait taken that evening.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Budget: \$250

Parents Served: 225

Students Served: 150

BREVARD COUNTY

Field of Dreams

Palm Bay Magnet High School

101 Pirate Lane

Melbourne, Florida 32901

Program Contact: Mary Goelz

Phone: 321-952-5900

Mission: *To engage and motivate individuals to take greater responsibility and pride in improving their community and school environments through collaboration of efforts and resources.*

Field of Dreams was developed as a collaborative effort to upgrade and improve the softball fields, surrounding grounds, press box and concession stands. A group of parents, students, community partners and school staff participated in the initial refurbishing which included painting and landscaping. School staff, parents, community members, coaches and students will all play a pivotal role in the upkeep. This project was done to raise awareness of beautification in the community.

Grade Levels: All

Budget: \$1,500

Parents Served: 200

Students: 1530

MARTIN COUNTY

United Way Community Spectacular

South Fork High School

10000 S.W. Bulldog Way

Stuart, Florida 34997

Program Contact: Jodi Goode

Phone: 772-219-1840

Mission: *To support the mission of the United Way of Martin County.*

South Fork High School held its first United Way Community Spectacular last December. Staff, students, clubs, athletic teams, community members, etc. were invited to rent a table where they could sell yard sale or craft items to the public. 100% of the table rental fees were donated to the United Way of Martin County while the proceeds from the sale of goods were used to support the individual, club or organization that rented the table.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Budget: \$100

Parents Served: 100

Students: 1,887

OSCEOLA COUNTY

PSST (Parents Serving Students and Teachers)

Neptune Middle School

2727 Neptune Road

Kissimmee, Florida 34744

Program Contact: Felicia Kelley

Phone: 407-935-3500

Mission: *To increase parent involvement and obtain the yearly 5-Star School Award.*

PSST evolved from a desire to increase parent involvement and create a welcoming culture for all stakeholders of the school. Many areas of the school have been impacted by this parent volunteer program including: shelving books in the library and helping with the book fair; running the school store and soliciting items to sell; assisting teachers with everything from open house to making copies; supervising in the cafeteria; serving as mentors and tutors; and in many, many more amazing ways too numerous to list. Parent volunteers provided a vital source of support for the school.

Grade Levels: 6-8

Budget: \$1,500 (in-kind services/donations)

Parents Served: 50

Students: 150

Region IV

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

PASCO COUNTY

Watch DOGS

Moon Lake Elementary School

12019 Tree Breeze Drive

New Port Richey, Florida 34654

Program Contact: Monte Werner and Fred Monfett

Phone: 727-774-4600

Mission: *To engage more fathers in their children's education and develop parent/school partnerships.*

Watch DOGS provided male role models to at-risk students. Dads on campus completed a survey to gain input as well as give verbal input regarding the school day and improvements that might be made. These dads served as mentors to students and advocated for their needs. Dads volunteered for the school day providing an extra set of eyes at arrival and dismissal and then engaged throughout the school day by reading with individual students, working with groups of students, having lunch and recess with students while focusing on improving achievement and success and improved positive behavior. Students were excited about dads being involved and responded positively to their presence.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$650

Parents Served: 70

Students Served: 667

HERNANDO COUNTY

Delicious Dinners for Dollars – A Charity Dinner Event

Chocachatti Elementary School

4135 California Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604
Program Contact: Jennifer Reid
Phone: 352-797-7067

Mission: *To enrich the school community by helping others who are less fortunate.*

During difficult economic times, the realization of families and local Hernando County children being affected by hunger became increasingly evident. Staff and students formed a family and community event named “Delicious Dinners for Dollars.” Meal tickets were purchased for a full course dinner donated and prepared by a local Italian restaurant and served by micro society students. Part of the dinner tickets also fed hungry children in Hernando County. Live entertainment was provided throughout the night by various musicians and dancers. The event also incorporated the Hernando County Youth and People Helping People weekend backpack blessing program. This component enabled the students and school to donate backpacks filled with non-perishable foods to over eighty homeless and displaced families with school-age children in Hernando County schools.

Grade Levels: K-5
Budget: \$0
Parents Served: 75
Students: 5

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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Adopt-A-School – Working with Faith-Based Organizations to Improve Student Outcomes

Paul Mort Elementary School

1806 East Bears Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33613
Program Contact: Melissa Enzor, Zenia Robertson and Cheryl Jackson
Phone: 813-975-7373

Mission: *To weave together community resources to collectively improve family and school connections which affect academic success and help make students college-and-career ready.*

This program targeted barriers that prohibited students from being successful. Volunteers from a local church provided additional resources to help students overcome time and resource constraints. They also provided information and training to parents, school staff, and church members; and tapped into the community for support. The program’s tasks and goals included tutoring and mentoring; parent engagement and training; and helping families meet basic needs such as food, clothing and school supplies. Other activities church volunteers helped to coordinate were the Fall Festival, Conference Night Welcome Dinner, Backpacks Program, Math Night and the Family Literacy Night. The church has helped make the school the “hub” of the community.

Grade Levels: PreK-5
Budget: \$0
Parents Served: 0
Students: 207

PINELLAS COUNTY

PTA All Pro Families

Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Elementary School

1200 37th Street South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711
Program Contact: Sean Singh
Phone: 727-552-1703

Mission: *To provide risk-free opportunities for families to spend quality time together at school.*

The All Pro Families program grew out of the school's All Pro Dads program. The program has two components—a breakfast program (4-5 breakfasts throughout the school year) and a Saturday picnic in the spring. The breakfast program takes place before school and is free for all students and families that are unable to pay, and a nominal fee of \$1.75 for other guests. There is always a free activity to encourage families to interact with their students. Many of the activities are aligned with mathematics and engineering curriculum such as building with Legos, constructing donated building kits, trivia and engineering design challenges. The picnic includes free food, a DJ, bounce houses and other entertainment such as face painting, a rock climbing wall and law enforcement vehicles and demonstrations. Families view a 7-minute video presentation that details summer learning tips and internet resources. Both parts of this program provide wonderful risk-free opportunities to bring families into the school, as well as providing fund and educational opportunities for families to support their children's educational process.

Grade Levels: PreK-5
Budget: \$3000
Parents Served: 560+
Students: 560

SARASOTA COUNTY

Mrs. Howard's Lemonade Stand

Tatum Ridge Elementary School

4100 Tatum Road

Sarasota, Florida 34240

Program Contact: Diana Howard

Phone: 941-316-8188

Mission: *To provide students with real-life learning experiences that prompt active and lifelong learning.*

Tatum Ridge Elementary School teacher, Mrs. Diane Howard, designed a special integrated learning experience for her students to align with the school's vision of providing support and encouragement for students, staff and families by facilitating active thinking and lifelong learning. This project incorporated a combination of economics and social skills as students worked collaboratively to not only master learning goals but also to be positive contributing citizens to the community both locally and internationally. Through this project, students learned about establishing their own business of selling lemonade through a lemonade stand. As students planned their business, they developed committees and defined roles and responsibilities. They created a supply and demand chart, created promotional advertising and t-shirts, and constructed the physical lemonade stand outside the doorway of the classroom. Supplies were donated by a local grocery store and by parents. Students learned to work together to make the business run as smoothly as possible. The joy and sense of accomplishment achieved by the students was evident through the pride they showed in their work. With the proceeds, the class "adopted" three loggerhead turtles through the Loggerhead Marinelife Center which help provide lifesaving care and made a donation to Smile Train to help a child receive cleft palate surgery.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$80 plus \$75 in-kind

Parents Served: 50

Students: 725

Region IV

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

PINELLAS COUNTY

Teen Dating 101

Countryside High School

3000 State Road 580

Clearwater, Florida 33761

Program Contact: Jane Hussar

Phone: 727-588-5050

Mission: *To empower teens to create healthy dating relationships by recognizing and understanding abusive relationships.*

In this day of cyberbullying, teens cannot hear often enough that some of these behaviors are not acceptable and that love is never violent. For the last 7 years, the Teen Dating 101 program has been sponsored by Countryside High School. The program is presented three times to students during the school day and again during the evening so parents and students from other schools can attend. This year's guest speaker was a young woman that survived a violent attack by a former boyfriend. Other speakers included victim advocates from the domestic violence shelter who encouraged students to get involved and speak up if they see their friends in violent relationships. Students learned about good and bad dating behavior and how to recognize red flags in relationships. Teen Dating 101 has become one of the most important community awareness programs in Pinellas County.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Budget: \$600

Parents Served: 75

Students: 425

HERNANDO COUNTY

Family Math Night - Math in Our Community

Explorer K-8

10252 Northcliffe Boulevard

Spring Hill, Florida 34608

Program Contact: Sharon Mechler

Phone: 352-797-7094

Mission: *To engage students and families in activities that connects mathematics to their everyday lives.*

The Family Math Night was planned in collaboration with a local Publix. As each family arrived at Publix, they were greeted by school teachers and staff and the manager of Publix. A table was set up inside the store and after parents and students signed in, they were given grade level appropriate worksheets and set off to apply their mathematics skills around the store. The math coach was available to help students if they were stuck on a problem. The students were very excited to have this math adventure and Publix even surprised the participants by giving the children coloring books, crayons, pencils, craft materials and a cookie from the bakery. Teachers received goodies as well. Due to the fine planning and organization of this worthwhile event, as well as the increased business at Publix that evening, Explorer K-8 will be welcomed back during the next school year for another Family Math Night.

Grade Levels: K-8

Budget: \$25

Parents Served: 59

Students: 54

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

“Catching Fire” Literacy Comes Alive!

Adams Middle School

10201 North Boulevard

Tampa, Florida 33612

Program Contact: Jennifer Aldrich

Phone: 813-975-5254

Mission: *To help raise and deepen literacy awareness in the school and community involving students, parents and community partners by infusing literacy skills and understanding through all content areas: creative arts, mathematics, science, social studies and language arts.*

The “Catching Fire” Literacy Comes Alive program was implemented as a weeklong event that culminated in an evening family literacy event which coincided with the movie release of the highly popular young adult novel, *Catching Fire*, by Suzanne Collins. Teachers created a cornucopia in the media center and the literacy team created five different stations tied to the book. Stations included the study of idioms; the meaning of symbolism; use of the encyclopedia; and face and nail painting. The school’s science coach created hands-on activities for the parents and students. Snacks tied to the book were also served and teachers dressed as some of the characters from the novel.

Grade Levels: 6-8

Budget: \$0

Parents Served: All

Students: 1100

Region V

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

PALM BEACH COUNTY

"Arrgh," Hunting for Literacy Treasure at the Wellington Public Library

Wellington Elementary School

13000 Paddock Drive

Wellington, Florida 33414

Program Contact: Jennifer Allen

Phone: 561-651-0600

Mission: *To inform parents of beneficial literacy activities.*

The program was designed to assist parents and students with becoming more familiar with the public library in the community as well as provide activities and strategies that parents could use at home. During Literacy Night, students were invited to the Wellington Public Library to participate in a "scavenger hunt." Grade level appropriate hunts were organized for K-2 and 3-5. The students hunted for their "treasure" in the children's section of the library where they were asked to find specific types of books, magazines or movies. Students also had to locate the computers, checkout desk and information center—all areas that can assist them when they return to the library in the future with their families. The library issued library cards to students and student book reports were on display for families to view. Once students finished the hunt, they each received their "bounty"—a goodie bag filled with bookmarks, pencils, erasers and candy.

Grade Levels: K-5

Budget: \$25.00

Parents Served: 150

Students Served: 160

BROWARD COUNTY

Breaking the Chains: A National Family Literacy Celebration

North Side Elementary School

120 N.E. 11th Street

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304

Program Contact: Dr. Tia Major

Phone: 754-322-7450

Mission: *To provide parents with access to information and resources that will support their children's literacy development; share strategies with parents on how to be a more effective advocate for their children, and; engage community members, churches, schools, students and parents in collaborative activities that promote parental involvement.*

This culminating literacy event was aligned with the school improvement plan and responded to the areas of concern in reading and mathematics through parent and family trainings, supporting materials and providing community resources to promote family literacy. The day's events included guest speakers, parent/family trainings, a musical concert, Radio Disney, door prizes, food, student performances and Title I bus full of resources. Books were disseminated for students and their families to build at-home libraries. The celebration set a new precedent with over 500 participants from three schools. Breaking the Chain had a substantive effect on the learning communities. Schools experienced strengthened home-school-community partnerships; students increased skills and talents through enriched curricular and extracurricular experiences; and parents shared experiences and connections with other families creating feelings of support that empowers parents' voices in school decisions.

Grade Levels: PreK-8

Budget: \$2,800 plus \$15,700 in-kind donations

Parents Served: 200

Students: 250

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

All for One

William Lehman Elementary School

10990 S.W. 113th Place

Miami, Florida 33176

Program Contact: Roly Puentes

Phone: 305-273-2140

Mission: *To promote student learning through family activities.*

All for One was chosen for the 2013-2014 PTA theme to recognize and increase family involvement. An array of unique qualities and welcoming activities are tailored to accommodate the maximum number of William Lehman Elementary families. At the beginning of the school year, the PTA holds a Volunteer Orientation Breakfast to recruit school volunteers. Other activities throughout the year include Family Pizza Nights, Family Skate Nights, Ice Cream Socials, Book Fair and a Costume Ball. The PTA also holds a toy drive around the holidays as well as events held for grandparents and dads.

Grade Levels: PreK-5

Budget: \$0 (In-kind services and donations)

Parents Served: 1,366

Students: 683

Region V

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

REGIONAL WINNER

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Trunk-or-Treat

Leewood K-8 Center

10343 S.W. 124 Street

Miami, Florida 33176

Program Contact: Carla Rivas

Phone: 305-233-7430

Mission: *To bring unity and collaboration among all students, their families, and members of the community; safely increase student and parental involvement during after school hours, and; to experience the joy of students and their families and friends coming together at the school for this free event.*

Trunk or Treat was held on October 31 and is a fun-filled event for students, parents and community members. Parent volunteers park their vehicles in the school's parking lot and their trunks are decorated by the students and parents. Children "trick or treat" by visiting the decorated car trunks. This year, the middle school's Student Council created a "spooky hallway" inside the school close to the main event. Students went through the hallway and had a little "spooky" fun! The unique part of this program was that it provided a safe and secure area where students, families and members of the community could interact and have fun throughout the evening.

Grade Levels: PreK-8

Budget: \$0 (\$600 in-kind donations)

Parents Served: 800

Students: 875

PALM BEACH COUNTY

9th Annual Family Fun Day and Car Show

Seminole Ridge High School

4601 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road

Loxahatchee, Florida 33470

Program Contact: Daniel Harvey

Phone: 561-422-2600

Mission: *To increase student, parent and community involvement.*

Each year, Seminole Ridge High School's band holds a Family Fun Day to raise money for the school. Events include car, truck and swamp buggy shows and a sidewalk chalk contest. This year, the theme for the sidewalk chalk drawing contest was "The End of Bullying Begins with You." Individuals or groups were encouraged to sign up and compete for prizes. Vendors rented space and sold plants, crafts and food. There were games for the kids, local entertainment and a silent auction. Local businesses donated items. All proceeds went directly to programs at Seminole Ridge High School which is a vital part of the Loxahatchee community.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Budget: \$1,100

Parents Served: 100

Students: 150



For information on participating in the Parent Involvement Awards, please contact your School District's Volunteer Department or the:

Florida Department of Education
Bureau of Family and Community Outreach
325 West Gaines Street, Room 1444
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400
Telephone: 850-245-0847





Director
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