



HOW TO GET INVOLVED:
239.337.0433
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Grants Received

Bank of America
\$20,000 Foundation Program Support

The Quinton B. & Beverly H. McNew
Foundation
\$3,000 Food for Thought

Rotary Club of South Fort Myers
\$500 Career Days

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union
\$103,700 Foundation Program Support



ENHANCE. ENRICH. EXCEL.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

"The Report Card" is our quarterly newsletter to the community of Lee County. This publication will cover program updates, introduce you to our newest Board members and show the ways that the community is supporting our students and educators. Our mission is to enhance and enrich the quality of public education in Lee County for students and educators through programs, resources and experiences made possible through corporate, individual and educational partnerships. Thank you for reading "The Report Card" and being engaged in our community.

Marshall T. Bower

Students Learn Through Steps of Dance

Dancing Classrooms uses a curriculum-based teaching approach to achieve social awareness and build self-esteem. Students are taught the vocabulary of various contemporary social dances in a classroom setting. Each class in the series introduces new steps, reinforcing what has been previously learned through practice and repetition.

Students from six elementary schools in Lee County (Bonita, Edgewood, Franklin Park, J. Colin English, Spring Creek and Tice) p Students from six elementary schools in Lee County (Bonita, Edgewood, Franklin Park, J. Colin English, Spring Creek and Tice) had a unique opportunity to learn in their classrooms through the methods of ballroom dance. Over the course of 10 weeks, they practiced ballroom dancing as a compliment to

their standard curriculum. The program is intended to help kids build confidence and social skills. Instructors referred to as Teaching Artists worked with the students to help them learn the dance steps. But, they do more than introduce the students to the steps of a particular dance; they tie in geography lessons, dance origins, counting steps and explain cultural differences. "It gives our kids an opportunity that they otherwise wouldn't

"It gives our kids an opportunity they otherwise wouldn't have"

have," said Ronda Martin, assistant principal at Tice Elementary. As a conclusion to the classroom program, a group of 12 students from each participating school competed against one another in the culminating event, "Colors of the Rainbow". For the

third year, the founding/signature sponsor, Miromar Outlets, hosted the competition at the Miromar Design Center. The Colors of the Rainbow team match includes several rounds of competition where students are judged on all the ballroom dance routines they learned in the classroom. Teams were judged by three celebrity judges: Sharon Harrington, Supervisor of Elections, Judge Kathy Sturgis and Commissioner Ray Judah. Pierre Dulaine, creator of the American Ballroom Theater and founder of Dancing Classrooms was the special emcee.

After all of the Dancing was over, Bonita Springs Elementary was awarded the gold medal, followed by Spring Creek Elementary and J. Colin English Elementary earning silver medals and Franklin Park Academy for the Arts, Edgewood Academy and Tice Elementary earning bronze medals.



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FOCUS ON THE FOUNDATION NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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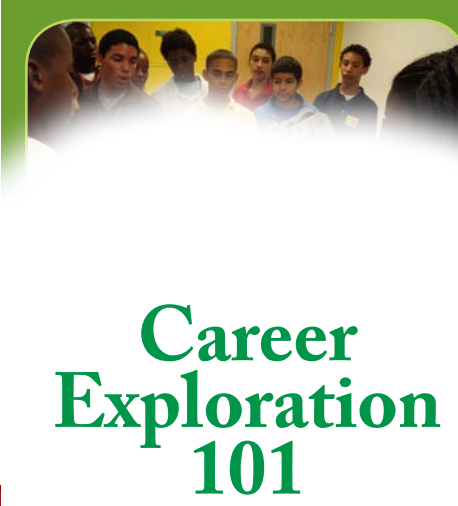
The Foundation continues its mission with newly elected Board Members Jennifer Berg, Gary Griffin, Kimberly Presanzano and Steven K. Teuber, J.D. The diverse professional backgrounds of these professionals will help assist The Foundation and enhancing and enriching the public education experience for our students and teachers.

Classroom Grants give teachers resources to create unique learning projects.

Teachers are being creative in bringing funding into their classrooms to enhance student learning. "Bach Is Back!", "ABC...123...LOOK AT ME!", and "Ham and Please (Mind your Manners) are just some of the titles of grants that were awarded to educators through The Foundation's Classroom Grants Program. Grant applications were available to all teachers in

the School District of Lee County with the stipulation that each project must enhance student learning. Of the 100+ grant applications that were submitted, The Foundation awarded 49 projects totaling over \$32,000. "Classroom Grants give our teachers the dollars they need to conduct hands on projects that truly interest our students. One of the grants that we awarded will purchase resources for each student of an entrepreneurial high school class to develop their own product!" Says Marshall T. Bower, Esq., Executive Director.

Local businesses and organizations, Suncoast for Kids Foundation made possible through Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, McBLT Ventures, Inc., Sweetbay Supermarkets, ArtFest of Fort Myers, Covanta Energy, and Premier Commercial Realty, Inc. partnered sponsored grants in the areas of Career/Technical, Fine Arts, Literacy, Nutrition and Science/Environmental education. The response from educators was outstanding, 49 grant projects were awarded to 70 teachers reaching over 600 students in Lee County's public school system.



Career Exploration 101

Florida's Career Exploration curriculum for all 8th grade students, this is to help them prepare for their future education and career.

One of the ways to prepare students is through The Foundation's Career Days Program. The students are shown a broad spectrum within the industry sectors here in Lee County. This hopefully helps them to realize that they can have a lucrative and fulfilling career right here in Lee County.

The Career Days Program helps students utilize the 4 years of high school effectively to prepare them for college and/or work.

Career Exploration helps the students understand that there are many tracks to a successful and fulfilling career.

In the Career Days Program, community professionals volunteer in schools. Students have the opportunity to ask questions of many business leaders right in their classrooms.



SCHOLARSHIPS TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, SUNCOAST FOR KIDS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AND THE BEN CARSON SCHOLARS FUND.

The Take Stock in Children Scholarship Program continues to provide students in need with the resources they deserve to further their education. 32 Scholars graduated from the program and were recognized, along with their mentors at an annual ceremony. Dr. Wilson Bradshaw, President of Florida Gulf Coast University, gave the keynote address. These students

will all receive 4 year college tuition scholarships, as they have fulfilled their pledge to remain crime and drug free, maintain grades and met with an assigned mentor regularly through high school. In addition, 50 new students from grades 6 -9 have been selected to participate in the program. All new students will be matched with a mentor to guide them through school careers. To become a mentor, please contact Janelle Beaber at 239-337-0433, or email Janelle@leeschoolfoundation.org for more information. Once again, Forty-eight fifth grade students, one from each elementary school, were awarded the Ben Carson Scholars Fund Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship for their

college education. World renowned neurosurgeon, Dr. Benjamin Carson, delivered an inspiring keynote address at the Scholarship Banquet and Kellie Burns, NBC-2, emceed the event. There is available match money for anyone wanting to donate, or sponsor a scholarship for next year. Suncoast for Kids Foundation has provided \$1,000 to each high school to award one graduating senior a \$1,000 or two graduating seniors a \$500 scholarship based on selection by the school principal. The goal of this scholarship is to give the opportunity to those deserving students who may not qualify for an academic merit scholarship or Federal Financial Aid and without a scholarship, may not be able to continue their education.



A-TEAM CHALLENGE: CAPE CORAL HIGH SCHOOL WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

The A-Team Challenge has come to a conclusion as Cape Coral High School beat Evangelical Christian School for the 2010 Championship. The match was decided in the Final Exam round where teams are able to wager all of their points to secure a victory. Students on both teams were awarded individual trophies and Cape Coral High School was awarded the traveling championship trophy. The A-Team Challenge is an academic quiz competition that asks high school teams



questions in the areas of Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Humanities and General Knowledge. Teams receive points for each accurate answer. Thirty-three high school teams from six counties participated. "Congratulations to all of the high school teams and special congratulations to Cape Coral High School for their efforts in

becoming the 2010 A-Team Champions. These students won five matches in their pursuit of the Championship and deserve this recognition for a job well done!" says Marshall T. Bower, Esq., Executive Director. Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union and NBC-2 are the major sponsors of the A-Team Challenge.



Developing educators enhances student achievement

Collegium for the Advancement of Education

Giving educators recognition is not the only mission of the Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program™. It also works to provide educators with the resources to further develop professionally and to improve student achievement. Educators who participate in the Collegium for the Advancement of Education will spend one week in training seminars, workshops and group activities. Participants are selected based on their position in the Golden Apple process. Golden Apple Recipients, Finalists and Teachers of Distinction are invited to attend the Collegium. The training focus will be Choosing Excellence, a continuous improvement based program which provides strategies for increasing student achievement by helping students to evaluate themselves and make responsible choices. This training integrates the Quality School philosophy of Dr. William Glasser with the Sterling Quality model used by The School District of Lee County. The Collegium for the Advancement of Education is sponsored by Wachovia, Suncoast for Kids Foundation and the Golden Apple Sponsors.

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GOLDEN APPLE TEACHER RECOGNITION PROGRAM™

100 EDUCATORS FROM LEE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WERE HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE AT THE GOLDEN APPLE TEACHER RECOGNITION™ BANQUET. MEGAN ALLEN, 2010 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION/MACY'S, TEACHER OF THE YEAR, DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS.

On April 16th, 100 educators were recognized at the 23rd annual Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Banquet. More than 700 guests attended the Banquet, and Megan Allen, Florida Department of Education/Macy's 2010 Teacher of the Year, delivered the keynote address. Kristin Cohen, a 4th grade teacher from Allen Park Elementary, Morgan Kirk, a 10th and 12th grade English teacher at Fort Myers High, Nancy Loughlin, a 10th grade English teacher at Island Coast High, Kathryn McKinnon, an 8th grade Science teacher at Trafalgar Middle, Lisa Vazquez, a 9th - 12th grade Engineering and Drafting teacher at Mariner High and Renee Wagner-Pachiva a 2nd - 5th grade

special needs teacher at Allen Park Elementary were selected as the 2009-2010 Golden Apple Recipients. Over 2,200 teachers were nominated for the Golden Apple Award by their students, colleagues and members of the community. The selection committee judged all of the submitted applications and observed the top 30 teachers (the finalists) in their classroom. Classroom observations are worth 50% of the judgement because the ways teachers connect with their students is most important for learning. Renee Wagner-Pachiva acknowledges, "What a privilege it is to be a member of the Golden Apple

Teacher Recognition Program. How grateful I am to you for all you have done for me! The best way I can thank you is to teach my heart out everyday!" Major Sponsors of the 2009-2010 Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program™ are: B & I Contractors, Inc., CenturyLink, Chico's FAS, Inc., Kraft Construction Company, Lee Memorial Health System, Synovus Bank, The News-Press and WINK-TV. Silver Sponsors are BB&T - Oswald Trippe and Company, Lodge Construction, Inc., Mark Loren Designs, Southwest Florida College, Stately Contractors, Inc. and Suncoast for Kids Foundation.

"The best way I can thank you is to teach my heart out everyday!"