

School District of Palm Beach County



Reach for Excellence

2009-2010 Points of Pride

“About us”

The School District of Palm Beach County, Florida is the eleventh largest in the nation and the fifth largest in the state of Florida with 186 schools, serving 170,215 students who speak 148 languages/dialects. Our FY 2010 total budget is \$2.7 billion serving 21,781 employees including 12,615 teachers. Over 36,113 community volunteers provide academic assistance to students through the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Program.

Additionally, approximately 920 business partners offer resources to support increased student achievement. As our school district grows more diverse, the task of providing effective learning experiences for every child in every classroom becomes increasingly more challenging. The School District of Palm Beach County recognizes this challenge and is determined to identify and eliminate obstacles that may exist within the structure of the schools and the school system.

Other “Just the Facts”

- Four Palm Beach County high schools are among the *Top 100 Newsweek America’s Best High Schools in the nation* for 2010. Suncoast Community High ranked 9th in the nation with A.W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts 60th, Boca Raton High School 61st and Atlantic High School 81st.
- Our FY09 school grades are among the highest in the state with 115 schools earning A’s, 25 schools earning B’s, and 14 schools earning C’s (excluding Alternative & Charter Schools).
- The School District of Palm Beach County has earned an "A" rating from the Florida Department of Education for the fifth consecutive year based on student performance on the FCAT
- One hundred twenty-nine (129) teachers earned National Board Certification during the 2008-2009 school year with thirty-three (33) in 2009-2010, bringing the District’s total number of nationally certified teachers to 737.
- The Home Education Office registered and ensured statutory compliance for 4,300 students in FY09. Our program continues to lead the state in size and students qualifying for Bright Futures scholarships.
- There are 164 Choice Programs which include magnets, career academies and choice schools and programs in 68 elementary, middle and high schools throughout the county. Over 32,000 students participate yearly.
- Community volunteers (36,113) provided academic assistance and other valuable resources to students, teachers and schools through the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program. There are over 900 business partners offering resources to increase academic achievement.
- The Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) assists the schools by providing a free and appropriate public education for all students with disabilities, ages 3-21. There are 35,276 students in all ESE programs. This includes 7,610 students in the Gifted program. Many of these ESE students are mainstreamed into regular classes.
- The District has built 84 new schools in the past 10 years, winning national design and construction awards. One (1) new school is opening this year.

- Our district has 36,000 computers (5 years or newer) available to teachers and students arranged in a combination of networked computer labs, distributed workstations and stand-alone computers.
- There are twenty-seven (27) community schools which include a Virtual Community School providing on-line instruction. Adult and Community Education programs provide opportunities to thousands of students and county residents each year. Last year, 13,000 students were served in ESOL, 2,500 students earned high school credits and approximately 1,660 residents earned their GED in these programs.
- Currently 17,078 (excludes new Kindergarten or 12th graders who have graduated) students are in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. There are 148 languages & dialects spoken; ESOL classes are also held for adults.
- The District has thirty-two (32) Charter schools as of February 1, 2010.
- After School Enrichment Programs are provided for 16,500 students in 96 of our schools, 3,500 students in 36 middle schools and 13 Beacon Centers. Summer Camps are provided in over 40 of our schools during the summer months.

“Awards and Accomplishments”

DISTRICT

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards announced 33 Palm Beach County teachers gained national certification in 2009. Palm Beach County has a total of 737 National Board Certified Teachers. Florida leads the nation in the number of public school teachers gaining national certification. The voluntary certification process takes one to three years to complete. National Board Certification is the highest credential available in the teaching profession and is a symbol of teaching excellence.

The Florida Department of Education named the Palm Beach County School District as one of the 2009-2010 Academically High Performing School Districts in the state.

On July 1, 2009 the School District of Palm Beach County was 100 years old and throughout 2009 the School District "Celebrated 100 Years of Educational Excellence." During the Centennial year schools and departments held Centennial activities enlightening students and the community about the important role of education in our history.

By the end of 2009, 31 schools and departments reduced their energy consumption by 10% or more when compared to the 1st quarter of FY09. Since the District stepped up its energy conservation efforts in 2007 the District has reduced its energy consumption by over 8% despite the addition of three new schools and several other new school buildings.

The School Board recognized the top 10 schools for paper recycling in 2009. Together these schools recycled over 32.5 tons of paper saving the District money on disposal fees, earning cash for their schools and helping to save the environment.

Pine Jog Environmental Center/FAU with support from the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties celebrated the 2010 Class of Palm Beach County Green Schools. The three top schools are Pine Jog Elementary School, Jupiter Farms Elementary School and Roosevelt Middle School.

Schools and Departments donated over \$85,000 to aid the recovery efforts in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that occurred January 12th. The donations have gone to charitable organizations such as The American Red Cross, Missionary Flights International and The United Way.

The Palm Beach County Council of PTA/PTSA recognized over 100 students who had artwork submitted to the council. There were six art categories, in four age divisions, from 11 different local PTA units.

Over 600 volunteers, community partners, school administrators and support staff attended the School District's 2010 Volunteer and Business Partners Awards Recognition breakfast. The event celebrated school volunteers, business partners and community involvement in education.

Debbie Ellman, a parent and volunteer, was selected as one of Florida's Outstanding School Volunteers. Ms. Ellman also the Palm Beach County Adult Volunteer of the Year has volunteered her time and talents at three different schools during the past thirteen years, Spanish River High, Omni Middle and Del Prado Elementary.

Sunshine Review, a non-profit organization dedicated to state and local government transparency, gave the School District of Palm Beach County website an "A" grade. Sunshine Review analyzed over 5,000 government websites, including 3,140 counties, 805 cities, and 1,560 school districts.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County has the tradition of recognizing the "best and the brightest" within the county's Hispanic population. The students of the Triunfo Scholarship were honored at the 13th Annual *Triunfo* Awards banquet.

The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. honored nineteen (19) distinguished graduates of the School District of Palm Beach County at the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards. The Award was created to honor alumni who are noted in their field of endeavor or recognized for their expertise.

The 2009-2010 Palm Beach County Outstanding Student, Adult and Senior School Volunteers were named. Brandon Corsentino a senior at Palm Beach Central High School is the Student Volunteer of the Year; Debbie Ellman from Spanish River High School is the Adult Volunteer of the Year; and Arnold Rich from Park Vista High School is the Senior Volunteer of the Year.

The Florida Alliance for Arts Education recognized the Palm Beach County School Board with its 2009 School Board Award. The Alliance also recognized Dr. Tom Pearson, Arts Education Administrator for the School District, with its 2009 Arts Administrator Leadership Award.

SCHOOLS/DEPARTMENTS

Pine Jog Elementary/FAU Environmental Center won two *Best of 2009 Southeast Construction magazine awards- "Best Green Building" and "Judges Award"*. Pine Jog Elementary is the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified green school in Palm Beach County and one of the first in the State of Florida.

West Boca Raton High School's Medical Science Academy, Park Vista High School's Information Technology and Medical Sciences Academies, and Seminole Ridge Community High School's Construction Academy were added to the School District's growing number (18) of nationally recognized academies by the National Career Academy Coalition and the Association of Career and Technical Education

The Santaluces Marching Chiefs won the 2009 Florida Marching Band Coalition (FMBC) Class 4A State Championship. Since 2003, the Santaluces Marching Chiefs have been a State Runner-up three times and a State Champion three times.

Atlantic High School was recognized as a model for Career and Technical Education programs. The State Board of Education recognized Atlantic High School and Principal Dr. Kathy Weigel for the success of their Career and Technical Education (CTE) Career Academies.

William T. Dwyer High School won the class 4A State High School Football Championship. The Panthers won their first state championship with a 42-14 win over Niceville High School.

The Santaluces High Girls Bowling Team won the State Bowling Championship. In the final match of the tournament, the Santaluces Chiefs bowled against Atlantic High School of Port Orange.

John I. Leonard High School's Finance Academy and Palm Beach Gardens Community High School's Sports Management and Recreation Academy had their programs reviewed to evaluate how they rate on the National Standards of Practice for career academies. The academies received the prestigious ranking of: Certified Academy.

Olympic Heights High School, Palm Beach Central High School and Jupiter High School had their Project Lead The Way Engineering Academy reviewed. All three academies received the honor of being named Project Lead The Way Full National Certified Academy.

Palm Beach Lakes High School Senior Eddie Lovett was honored as the 3A State Champion in the 110 meter hurdles. In winning the championship he broke a 20 year state record. The record was set in 1990 in 13.59 and Mr. Lovett broke it in 13.46.

The Palm Beach Gardens High School Softball team won the 6A State Championship. The Gators beat Sarasota High to take the state title.

SECME (Science, Engineering, Communication and Mathematics Enrichment) is an alliance that works to increase the pool of students who are prepared to enter and complete post secondary studies in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines and to create a more diverse work force in the STEM fields.

The 2010 SECME winners were:

- ✓ **District Olympiad Champions:** Freedom Shores Elementary School, Palm Springs Middle School
Suncoast High School
- ✓ **SECME National Teacher of the Year:** Erich Landstrom - Seminole Ridge High School
- ✓ **Mousetrap Car Teams:** Palm Springs Middle School - X-Rays Team, Suncoast High School - Exponential Engineers Team, Marsh Pointe Elementary - The Master Mechanics Team
- ✓ **Essay:** Jerry Thomas Elementary School - Dante Pullano, Omni Middle School - Raffaella De Paula, Suncoast High School - Celine Rodriguez
- ✓ **Water Bottle Rocket:** Jerry Thomas Elementary School - Terrific Tigers Team, Del Prado Elementary School - The Rocketing Panthers Team, Palm Springs Middle School - Radical Rays Team, Boca Raton High School - Apollo III Team

The Florida Alliance for Arts Education renewed U. B. Kinsey/Palmview Elementary School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, as an Arts Achieve! Model School.

Crosspointe Elementary won the elementary school level Parent Involvement Award for Palm Beach County and the State of Florida for "Sablo's Chat." It is a program created by Gina Sablo, the school's parent liaison.

Arnold Rich, the volunteer coordinator at Park Vista Community High School, won the Florida Power & Light Company Community Service Award from the Area Agency on Aging for his service to the school and to Hospice of Palm Beach County.

Stephen Waldman, a senior volunteer, won the Palm Beach Post School Volunteer Award from the Area Agency on Aging for his service to Boynton Beach High School and Poinciana Elementary.

The Florida Alliance for Arts Education (FAAE) renewed Bak Middle School of the Arts as an Arts Achieve! Model School.

Royal Palm Beach High School students displayed their dominance by taking the first, second, and third place at the SIFMA Foundation for Investor Education awards. The stock market competition attracts high school students nationwide.

Atlantic Community High School, Palm Beach Gardens High School and West Gate Elementary were three of 90 schools nationwide that received a solar powered system. The 10kW solar powered system illustrates how electricity can be generated by the sun.

Sunset Palms Elementary won the 2nd Annual Grand Battle of the Books competition. The competition was sponsored by The Education Network (TEN), the Library Media Services and the Educational Technology Department.

The Education Network (T.E.N.) is now the proud recipient of five Telly Awards for excellence in 2010. The Network will display this award next to the prestigious Emmy Award they won in 2009.

Boca Raton High won the NJROTC Florida State Championship. The Boca Raton Bobcat Battalion competed against 23 other high school finalists in the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Florida State Championship.

The Lake Worth High School Florida Future Educators of America (FFEA) Club members took 1st place at the annual FFEA State Conference in the PowerPoint High School division. FFEA is the extracurricular arm of the Early Childhood Teacher Academy which organizes student volunteer and fundraising activities.

Suncoast Community High School and S. D. Spady Elementary were named Magnet Schools of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America. The award recognizes magnet schools that show a commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs, and parent and community involvement.

Seminole Ridge High School's Digital Arts Program is number one in the world for certifying students in the new Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) exam. The school has certified over 220 students, which is sixty percent more than any other school. The Digital Arts programs at SRHS consist of Communications Technology, Digital Design, and Digital Photography.

Royal Palm Beach High School's Varsity Speech and Debate Team won 1st place in the Duo Interpretation of Literature category at the 32nd Annual Crestian National Invitational. The Crestian is an all-events tournament that attracts over 1,200 experienced, top-ranking competitors from all regions of the nation.

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest international professional organization for special educators, recognized Korey Soderman and Adam Mohammed from Royal Palm School for the international "Yes I Can! Awards for 2010". The awards celebrate achievements of children and youth with disabilities; encourage these individuals to seek their highest potential; and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations and personal qualities of those with disabilities.

Emerald Cove Middle School received the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Program (RAMP) designation. Emerald Cove Middle School, as well as 35 other schools from 16 states were recognized for making an exemplary commitment to comprehensive school counseling programs.

Pahokee Elementary School became the first and only elementary school in the Glades area to receive authorization to teach the prestigious International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP). This achievement gave the western community students access to the rigorous academic preparation of a world class curriculum.

The Suncoast Chapter of The National Academy of Arts and Sciences honored The Education Network (T.E.N.) with a 2009 Emmy award for its "Anywhere/Anytime" Science videos. The award was given for "Informational/Instructional Program: for excellence in presentation of stories whose prime purpose is to be instructional; to teach formally or informally about a subject or subjects."

Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts won the Broadcast Pacemaker Award. *DSOA Today*, the television production class at Dreyfoos School of the Arts, won the Broadcast Pacemaker Award from the National Scholastic Press Association. The Pacemaker is the highest honor awarded by the association.

Egret Lake Elementary was selected as a 2009 National Title I Distinguished School. Since 1996, the National Title I Distinguished School Program has honored schools across the country for their innovation in helping Title I populations achieve high educational standards.

The Prevention Center in the Department of Safe Schools won the 2009 National Exemplary Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Program, Practices, and Policies from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD). The Center earned the distinction for its Families Acting Collaboratively to Educate and Involve Teens (FACE IT) Program.

Verde Elementary was named as one of the nation's 2009 National Blue Ribbon Award Winners.

Frontier Elementary was one of the eight elementary schools recognized by Governor Charlie Crist to receive the 2009 Governor's Fitness Challenge award.

Spirit Airlines generously donated a MD-80 Simulator to the Boynton Beach Aerospace Science Academy at Boynton Beach Community High School. The MD-80 Simulator is an actual replica of an airplane cockpit and provides students with the opportunity of sitting in and visually understanding the workings of an actual airline cockpit.

TEACHERS/STAFF

Jeff Fessler is the Palm Beach County Teacher of the Year. Mr. Fessler teaches reading, social studies and writing at U. B. Kinsey/Palmview Elementary School of the Arts, where he is the 4th grade team leader. Mr. Fessler has 14 years of experience as an educator, holds National Board Certification and is highly sought after as a workshop facilitator on the local, state and national levels.

The purpose of the William T. Dwyer Awards FOR Excellence in Education is to honor outstanding educators in Palm Beach County, to increase awareness of the exemplary educators teaching in our community, and to encourage all residents to promote high standards of excellence in education. The Dwyer Awards are co-presented by the Economic Council of Palm Beach County and the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County.

The 2010 Dwyer Awards Recipients are:

1. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION - Vicki Hutchinson - Beacon Cove Intermediate
2. MIDDLE SCHOOL - Brian C. Thomas - Okeehelie Middle
3. SENIOR HIGH - Nicole Dougherty - Santaluces Community High
4. SPECIAL PROGRAMS - Susan Lemieux - Weiss School
5. CAREER EDUCATION - Meg Reller - Jupiter High

Doreen Moore, School Treasurer at North Grade Elementary School, was named the 2010 Palm Beach County School-Related Employee of the Year. Ms. Moore has worked for North Grade Elementary for 5 of the 16 years that she has been a district employee.

Gerald A. Williams, School Board Chief Counsel, was named and featured in Florida Trend Magazine "Legal Elite" 2009, as part of a select group of lawyers voted by their peers as among the best in the state. This recognition is achieved by earning the trust, confidence, respect and votes of peers.

Brett Burkey, the Social Studies Department Instructional Leader at Spanish River High and a 26-year veteran teacher of the School District, was selected as the winner of the 2009 Global Association for Teaching Economics (GATE) Teacher of the Year Award.

The Foundation for Excellence in Education honored the 2009 Excel Award winners. The Excel Award rewards teachers whose students made the most progress in reading or math from one year to the next according to annual standardized tests. The five Palm Beach County teachers recognized as Excel Award winners were: Susan Haag- Pleasant City Elementary School, Connie Howe-Allamanda Elementary School, Cynthia Kelly-Jerry Thomas Elementary School, Angela Tse Fong-Dreyfoos School of the Arts and Doris Vaillancourt-Milano- Waters Edge Elementary School.

Becky Youngman, an educator for 25 years in Palm Beach County, was appointed by the French Government as a Chevalier (knight) in L'Ordre des Palmes Académiques (The Order of Academic Palms).

David J. Reilly, assistant principal of Forest Hill Community High School's Adult and Community Education, was elected President of the Board of Directors of Learning Resources Network (LERN) for 2010 membership year. He will be sharing his talents and insights locally and across the nation.

Jeffrey Stohr, Social Studies teacher at Dreyfoos School of the Arts, was appointed as the Florida representative to the summer Presidential Academy for American History and Civics. The Academy selects one teacher per state to travel to Philadelphia, Gettysburg and Washington DC to be a part of an intensive study of American history and government.

Michael Fraley, Band Director at Boca Raton Middle School, received the Randolph A. Frank Performing Arts Educator Prize for his work to enrich the quality of the performing arts in Palm Beach County.

Lhisa Almashy, Language Arts teacher at Park Vista High School received the Hispanic Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Almashy received the 2010 Hispanic Teacher of the Year Award that was established by the Hispanic Human Resources Council (HHRC) to honor the many contributions of classroom teachers of Hispanic descent.

Elaine Alvin, was named the Regional Winner of Just Read Florida, High School Reading Teacher of the Year. Ms. Alvin is an Intensive Reading teacher at Palm Beach Lakes High School.

Jeff Fessler, 4th grade reading teacher at the U.B. Kinsey Elementary School of the Arts, was honored as "Arts Educator of the Year." The recognition took place at the Annual Muse Awards Gala sponsored by the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

Katherine Roberts, Boca Raton High School Teacher, received the 2009 Siemens Award For Advanced Placement. Ms. Roberts received the award that honors 50 teachers nationally, recognizes their dedication to students, to the Advanced Placement (AP) Program, and their undeniable success teaching a rigorous curriculum.

Eileen Shapiro, Holocaust Studies program planner, was selected as one of the "2009 Best and Brightest Women in Palm Beach County." The recognition is sponsored by the Lupus Foundation of America Southeast Florida Chapter.

Janice Kerber, Science teacher at Pine Jog Elementary, received the *Florida Facilitator of the Year* award for her dedication to project WILD. This is an interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program emphasizing wildlife.

Diane Curcio-Greaves, principal of Crystal Lakes Elementary School since 2005, was selected as the FSCA School-Based Administrator of the year for 2009. The recognition was made by the Florida School Counselor Association (FSCA) Professional Recognition Committee.

STUDENTS

Damon Weaver made history by becoming the youngest reporter to conduct a one on one interview with a sitting President. The 11 year old K. E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary School student interviewed President Obama August 13, 2009 in the White House Diplomatic Room, asking twelve questions focusing on education, community safety and reduction of violence in urban areas.

Five Palm Beach County seniors were named candidates in the 2010 Presidential Scholars Program. The students were Jonathan Cuba-Dreyfoos School of the Arts, Nina Laufbahn-Dreyfoos School of the Arts, Mike Qian-Atlantic High School, Minna Song-Suncoast High School, and Harrison Tyler-Dreyfoos School of the Arts.

The School District winners for the Sunshine State Scholars Recognition Program for the 2009-2010 school year were: Mike Qian, Atlantic High School, Jesse Salomon, Spanish River High School and Adam Silver, Boca Raton High School. The Sunshine State Scholars program, sponsored by the Florida Department of Education, recognizes high school seniors who are distinguished in both mathematics and science.

Nalani Gordon from Suncoast High School, Juliana Prieto from Glades Central High School, and Jada Thomas and Clayborn Mathis from Palm Beach Lakes High School are recipients of the 2010 Gates Millennium Scholarship. The scholarships can be used to pursue degrees in any undergraduate major at the college or university of their choice. The scholarship is valued at \$200,000.

Accel Castillo, an eighth-grader from Palm Springs Middle School, has taken the top individual honor for the inaugural Fuel Up to Play 60 competition, beating 198,825 peers from around the country. Fuel Up to Play 60 is a school wellness program that empowers students to get healthy and be active by implementing changes.

The Pathfinder High School Scholarship Awards are presented each year to high school seniors in Palm Beach and Martin Counties by the Palm Beach Post. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in 18 academic categories and scholarships are awarded.

This year's winners were:

- ✓ Art- David Torres- Dreyfoos School of the Arts
- ✓ Business- Jake Rosow- The Benjamin School
- ✓ Communications- Cory Weinberg- The Benjamin School
- ✓ Community Involvement- Brandon Marlow- Wellington High School
- ✓ Computer Science- Pedro Rittner- Suncoast High School
- ✓ Drama- Stefanie Anarumo- West Boca Raton High School
- ✓ Foreign Language- Jamie Harris- South Fork High School
- ✓ Forensics/Speech- Bobby Lint- Suncoast High School
- ✓ History/Political Science- Zachary Zlatev- Atlantic High School
- ✓ Literature- Brittany Henthorn- G-Star School of the Arts
- ✓ Mathematics- Nicole Shibley- Suncoast High School
- ✓ Music/Instrumental- John Thomas- The Benjamin School
- ✓ Music/Vocal- Erin Thomas- Dreyfoos School of the Arts
- ✓ Reach For Excellence- Mackenzie Shiau- Santaluces High School
- ✓ Science- Mike Qian- Atlantic High School
- ✓ Sports- Kaliene Lambert- Atlantic High School
- ✓ Technical/Vocational/Agricultural- Alysia Moran- Santaluces High School

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair was held in San Jose, California. There were 1625 participants from 69 countries.

Four students represented Palm Beach County:

- **Tucker Sterling Elliott** - Junior, Suncoast Community High
Project: *Grammar Agnostic Syntactical Validation of Natural Language*
- **Zachariah Quinn Moustafa** - Sophomore, Alexander W. Dreyfoos High School of the Arts
Project: *Climatological Predictions for the Northwest Passage: Unmasking the Signal*
- **Lawrence Zachary Bright** - Junior, Suncoast Community High School
Project: *Wave Energy Systems: The Future of Energy*
- **Luizetta Vadimovna Navrazhnykh** - Sophomore, Florida Atlantic University High School
Project: *Growth Form in Intertidal Lichen Zonation*

The 2010 Palm Beach County National Academic Games All-Stars were:

HIGH SCHOOL – SENIOR DIVISION (Grades 11-12)

- Individual National Champions
 - Sweepstakes (Most Outstanding Player at the National Tournament) – Mike Qian (Atlantic)
 - Linguistik and Propaganda – Lance Gurewitz (Atlantic)
 - World Events – Anarug Komaravelli (Suncoast)
- National Championship Teams
 - World Events (Social Studies) – Michael Christ (Olympic Heights), Stephanie Heung (Atlantic), Jordan Lewis (West Boca Raton), Shayna Posses (A.W. Dreyfoos), Jeremy Troutman (Suncoast)
 - Presidents (Social Studies) – Christ, Gurewitz, Heung, Komaravelli, Posses
 - Propaganda (Language Arts) – Heung, Posses, Qian, Uttam Thakore (FAU High School), Bekki Tuifekchiev (Pope John Paul II)
 - Linguistik (Language Arts) – Gurewitz, Heung, Posses, Qian, Thakore
- Second and Third Place Individuals
 - World Events – Christ (2nd Place)
 - Linguistik – Gurewitz (2nd Place)
 - Sweepstakes – Heung (3rd Place)
 - Equations (Mathematics) – Qian (3rd Place)

HIGH SCHOOL – JUNIOR DIVISION (Grades 9-10)

- Second Place Individual
 - Linguistik – Jerome Taylor (Suncoast)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Individual National Champion in Presidents – Jessica Stone (Palm Springs)
- Second Place Individual in World Events – Brittany Fischer (Loggers Run)
- Second and Third Place Teams
 - Linguistik (2nd Place)– Trevor Durham (Congress), Anuradha Gulati (Wellington Landings), Tommy Ruan (Wellington Landings), Stone, Roberto Vidal (Palm Springs)
 - World Events (2nd Place) – Fischer, Gulati, Ruan, Kwadjo Walker (Wellington Landings), John Webster (Loggers Run)
 - Equations (3rd Place) – Christian Dostos (Wellington Landings), Durham, Gulati, Ruan, Stone

ELEMENTARY DIVISION – Grades 4-6

- National Championship Team in World Events (Social Studies) – Carson Folk (Del Prado), Liam Graf (Del Prado), Himani Gubbi (Beacon Cove Intermediate), Jessica Taylor (Bak MSOA), Michael Wang (Binks Forest)
- Second and Third Place Teams
 - Linguistik (2nd Place) – Kerry Castor (Bak MSOA), Catherine Chen (Bak MSOA), C.J. Fisher (Bak MSOA), Elise Howard (Bak MSOA), Jessica Taylor (Bak MSOA)
 - Equations (3rd Place) – Chen, Fisher, Howard, Taylor, Stefan Wan (Binks Forest)

Andrea Aguilar, a 12th grader at Royal Palm Beach High School was awarded a scholarship for the James L. Wilcox Minority Summer Residency Program. She is also a Career and Technology Education (CTE) pathfinder nominee for 2010.

Claude Emmanuel David, a junior at Wellington High; Kelsey Strose, a senior at Wellington High; and Jupiter Cham Fleurimon, a junior at Palm Beach Lakes High, won first, second and third place in this year's Haitian Heritage Month Essay Contest.

Four Palm Beach County Seniors completed their college degrees while attending high school. Juliana Prieto and Matletha Fuller from Glades Central High School, Brittani Coore from Wellington High School and Krystal Neira from Park Vista High School completed the 60 credit hours required for an Associate in Arts degree while at the same time obtaining their high school diploma.

Three Palm Beach County high school seniors were named semifinalists in the 2010 Presidential Scholars Program. Dreyfoos School of the Arts students Nina Laufbahn from West Palm Beach and Harrison Tyler from Lake Worth and Atlantic High School student Mike Qian from Boca Raton were named semifinalists.

The National Campaign to Stop Violence selected local teen winners in the Do the Write Thing Challenge. Jessica Stone an eighth grader from Palm Springs Middle School and Maxx Melanson, a sixth grader from Boca Raton Middle School were selected by the Palm Beach County Steering Committee of the National Campaign to Stop Violence as the first place “Ambassadors” for their efforts to stop youth violence in the Do the Write Thing Challenge.

Staci Bell, a legally blind 11th grade student at Royal Palm Beach High School won state finalist at the Florida’s Exemplary Participant Recognition Program. The Exemplary Participant Program is a statewide initiative to nominate students with disabilities who have excelled in the arts and/or have developed leadership skills through the arts.

Christa McAuliffe Middle School Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) won the 2009 Great Safe Holiday Campaign. Members of Christa McAuliffe Middle School’s Students Against Drunk Driving Club and sponsor Wendy Weiner won 1st place in the state competition.

Sachi Barstein, a senior at Jupiter High School was chosen as the Florida Panther District’s Student of the Year. He was chosen at the National Forensic League’s qualifying tournament.

Amanda Carr, 5th grader at Cholee Lake Elementary School was the winner of the American Auto Association (AAA) Auto Club South 2009-2010 Patroller of the Year. She was invited to the national awards weekend ceremony in Washington D.C. with all expenses paid.

Florida PTA chose 24 Awards of Excellence and 104 Awards of Merit for the state of Florida in the Reflections program. Samantha Lerner from Manatee Elementary is one of the 24 Awards of Excellence winners. She competed in the National competition in the Literature category.

The Florida Prepaid College Foundation selected Angelica Zavala, an 8th grade student at Pahokee Middle Senior High School, as the winner of the FY10 Governor’s Recognition Scholarship Essay Contest. The award is a four year university scholarship valued at \$16,550.

Anthony Bass, a senior at Seminole Ridge High School won the NASA’s annual *Cassini Scientist for a Day* essay contest. Bass is the first-ever essayist to win the contest twice.

Bruno Favier, a student from Boca Raton Community High School won the Top in USA Award from the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). The award was given in recognition of his outstanding performance in the Marine Science examination session.

Mauricio Escobar, a student at Palm Beach Central High School, won the Presidency of the largest national student business organization. The National Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) organization has 215,000 members in the High School division.

Matthew Vicari, recent South Tech Academy graduate and winner of the Pat Oliphant Technology award, won a gold medal as Florida’s representative in the National SkillsUSA Internetworking Competition in Kansas City. The competitions are conducted by Cisco Systems, Inc. with Fluke Networks, Panduit, SIGMAnet, Inc. and NDG.

***The Points of Pride do not yet include some accomplishments for May and June and will be updated as the new information is provided to Public Affairs. If there are accomplishments that you believe should be included, please send the information in an email to Connie Ayers, cavers@palmbeach.k12.fl.us**