

November/December and 2009 District Achievements

Pahokee Elementary School received notification this week it has been granted full authorization as an International Baccalaureate' Primary Years Programme (PYP).

Palm Beach County's Suncoast High and Dreyfoos School of the Arts were named gold-medal winners in US News & World Reports annual ranking of American High Schools. Dreyfoos landed at number 57 and Suncoast at number 60 in a list of 100 top schools. Schools are chosen based on standardized test scores and how well they prepare their students for college-level work. Researchers considered 21,786 public high schools in 48 states plus the District of Columbia for this year's list.

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 have been 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 Education Network has won an Emmy Award Winner for its "Anywhere/Anytime" Science Videos. The Suncoast Chapter of The National Academy of Arts and Sciences has honored The Education Network (T.E.N.) with a 2009 Emmy award for its "Anywhere/Anytime" Science Videos. The award was announced at the Chapter's annual presentation on December 5 in Orlando. The Emmy 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."

The Foundation for Excellence in Education honored five Palm Beach County teachers with the Excel Award. 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.

Santaluces High School Marching Chiefs win Class4 State Championship.

Egret Lake Elementary is named a National Title I Distinguished School.

Emerald Cove Middle School has received the Recognized American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Program (RAMP) national designation. Emerald Cove Middle School was one of only 35 other K-12 schools from 16 states to be recognized for making an exemplary commitment to comprehensive school counseling programs, ASCA officials announced today.

More than 26,000 volunteers have donated over 342,000 hours to our schools between August and November of this year.

The calendar for FY'11 has been adopted, much earlier than usual. Election Day will be a non-student contact day but it will be a Teacher Work Day. Spring Break falls in March next year AND the FCATs have been moved back a month to April. (Calendar is available on the home page!)

The school district became the first school district to surpass one million viewing of Discovery Network's field trip videos, bringing Philippe Cousteau to recognize and celebrate the students and schools.

2009 School District Achievements

The district is enjoying its 5th straight year of an A rating from the state and the best test scores of all the urban districts in Florida.

2009 is the School District's 100 year anniversary. We celebrated "100 Years of Educational Excellence" with several major events, including Kaleidoscope, the naming of Hope Centennial Elementary, Time Capsule at Hope Centennial, Student Art Exhibition at The Norton Museum, all sponsored by Bank of America.

The School District of Palm Beach County added 129 new National Board Certified Teachers in 2009, bringing the total to 735.

Five of our high school seniors were named candidates in the 2009 Presidential Scholars Program. These students were selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

Eight schools had 100% of their students scoring 3.5 or greater on FCAT Writes: Lincoln Elementary, Kathryn E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary, Panther Run Elementary, Pierce Hammock Elementary, Elbridge Gale Elementary, Bak Middle School of the Arts, Village Academy, and Eagle Academy.

Claudia Robbins from Boca Raton Community High School, is the 2009 Palm Beach County School-Related Employee of the Year.

The Green Schools Recognition Program, sponsored by The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties and organized by Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center honored 14 of our schools for their commitment to 'green' their practices and curriculum.

Our School District continues to be a national leader in Energy Conservation and Recycling efforts. 40 schools and departments have reduced their energy consumption by 10 percent or more. 10 schools have also each recycled between 2 and 5 tons of paper this year.

Pine Jog became the state's first LEED Gold Certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

The School District continues to be a national leader in Energy Conservation and Recycling efforts. All of our employee and student conservation efforts also help balance the budget in these tough times.

The William T. Dwyer/Jupiter High School Robotics team and the Inlet Grove/Suncoast High School Robotics team won prestigious awards at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Florida Regional competition.

Jackson Blankstein, a senior at the Dreyfoos School of the Arts, was the highest placing Palm Beach County student at the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair and was selected to represent the county at the International Science and Engineering Fair recently held in Reno, Nevada.

Student reporter Damon Weaver, a 6th grader at K. E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary, became the youngest person and student to interview a sitting President of the United States-Barack Obama. He tops all other K-12 age student journalists in the number of interviews he has landed of national political and entertainment figures.

Spirit Airlines donated a MD-80 Simulator, which is an actual replica of an airplane cockpit, to the Boynton Beach Aerospace Science Academy at Boynton Beach Community High School. This is a first in the state.

Verde Elementary is one of the 2009 National Blue Ribbon Schools.