

# Everybody



We Believe In **E!**

# Everyday

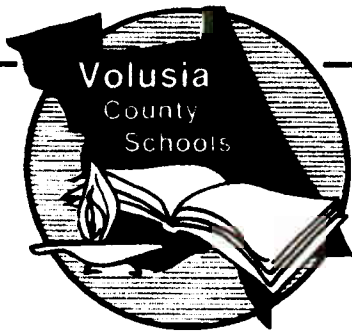
**December 19, 2008**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Message from the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Margaret Smith .....            | 1     |
| The Attendance Initiative .....   | 2-4   |
| School Attendance Recognition Award Winners .....                               | 5     |
| Excellence in Attendance Award Winners .....                                    | 6     |
| The Path to Exceptional Attendance .....  | 7     |
| Maintaining Exceptional Attendance .....  | 8     |
| Excellence in Attendance .....  | 9     |
| Good Attendance... The Key to Success .....                                     | 10    |
| Superintendent's Attendance Challenge Award Winners 2007-2008 .....             | 11-13 |
| First Place Winner Elementary – Tomoka Elementary .....                         | 14    |
| Second Place Winner Elementary – Blue Lake Elementary .....                     | 15    |
| Second Place Winner Elementary – Sweetwater Elementary .....                    | 16    |
| First Place Winner Middle – Southwestern Middle .....                           | 17    |
| Second Place Winner Middle – Campbell Middle .....                              | 18    |
| First Place Winner High – Seabreeze High .....                                  | 19-20 |
| Second Place Winner High – Mainland High .....                                  | 21    |
| First Place Winner Alternative Education – Community Learning Center West ..... | 22    |
| Second Place Winner Alternative Education – Euclid Avenue Learning Center ..... | 23    |
| “Everybody Everyday” Prize Patrol Presentation Photos .....                     | 24    |
| Deltona Lakes Elementary prize winners .....                                    | 25    |
| DeLand Middle School prize winners .....  | 26    |
| Pine Ridge High School prize winners .....                                      | 27    |
| Euclid Avenue Learning Center prize winners .....                               | 28    |
| Riverview Learning Center prize winners .....                                   | 29    |
| Attendance Poem Contest – Elementary School Winners .....                       | 30    |
| First Place – Dalanee Moscatello .....  | 31    |
| Second Place – Nina Ruiz .....  | 32    |
| Third Place – Matthew Hibbert .....   | 33    |
| Attendance Poem Contest – Middle School Winners .....                           | 34    |
| First Place – Grace Tobin ( <i>featured on back of this booklet</i> ) .....     | 35    |
| Second Place – Samantha Rees .....  | 36    |
| Third Place – Lizbet Villa .....  | 37    |
| Attendance Poem Contest – High School Winner .....                              | 38    |
| First Place – Sarah Montgomery .....  | 39    |
| Attendance Video Rap/Song Contest Winners .....                                 | 40    |
| Elementary Schools .....  | 41    |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Attendance Poster Contest Winners (Freehand) .....  | 42    |
| First Place Elementary – Tevin Frederick ( <i>featured on cover of this booklet</i> ) ..... | 43    |
| Second Place Elementary – Grace Velez .....   | 43    |
| Third Place Elementary – Mikayla Philyaw .....  | 44    |
| Honorable Mention Elementary – Christian Ventura .....                                      | 44    |
| First Place Middle – Rachel Mann .....  | 45    |
| Second Place Middle – Ashley Emmons .....   | 45    |
| Third Place Middle – Chavonne Fedna .....   | 46    |
| First Place High – Crystal Garcia .....   | 47    |
| Second Place High – Taylor Jessee .....   | 47    |
| Attendance Poster Contest Winners (Computer Generated) .....                                | 48    |
| First Place – Jesse Mam .....   | 49    |
| Second Place – Amy Guerra .....   | 49    |
| Third Place – Britnee Schnepf .....   | 50    |
| Team Volusia .....  | 51    |
| District Attendance Committee .....   | 52    |
| Patrons of Regular School Attendance .....  | 53    |
| Business Patrons .....  | 54-56 |
| Bibliography .....  | 57    |





**Dr. Margaret A. Smith**  
Superintendent of Schools

P.O. Box 2118  
DeLand, Florida 32721-2118

DeLand  
(386) 734-7190

Daytona Beach  
(386) 255-6475

200 North Clara Avenue  
DeLand, Florida 32720

New Smyrna Beach  
(386) 427-5223

Osteen  
(386) 860-3322

**School Board of Volusia County**

**Mrs. Diane Smith, Chairman**  
**Ms. Candace Lankford, Vice-Chairman**  
**Ms. Judy Conte**  
**Mr. Stan Schmidt**  
**Dr. Al Williams**

December 3, 2008

Dear Team Volusia:

Once again this school year, I am looking forward to another great year for Volusia County Schools. The 2008-2009 school year continues our commitment as a team to make Volusia County the focal point of educational excellence in our state. As we all know, children are our future and we must endeavor to secure a bright and shining future for each and every one of them, for in securing their future we also secure that of our community. A bright future for our children begins with an education that allows them to reach their maximum potential, and in order for learning to occur, they must be in school.

Again this year, we have incorporated the dimension of commitment to achieving educational excellence in our district and to the belief that each student will learn. This particular dimension involves achieving a district wide level of student attendance that surpasses both the state and national level of school attendance. Research has shown that student achievement is directly related to the amount of time that children spend in academic settings. If our children are not in school, they cannot learn--and if they do not learn, they will never achieve the level of success that they so richly deserve. Our district has therefore set a goal of achieving an overall attendance rate of 97 percent, and while we know that this is an ambitious goal, I know that we can be successful. Throughout the years, our students, teachers, staff, and community have worked patiently and have already been successful in surpassing the state and national level. I want each of you to know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed and will not go unrecognized. Throughout the coming year we will make a special effort to recognize those students, staff, teachers, schools, and community partners whose efforts have resulted in exceptional rates of attendance at their schools. We will also offer assistance and recognition to those schools that are still striving for higher heights.

I want to express my appreciation to each of you for your dedication to the students of Volusia County Schools. The work that you do with students every day at your school makes a difference in their lives.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Smith, D.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools

# **THE ATTENDANCE INITIATIVE**

During the 2003-2004 school year, the School Social Work Department in the Volusia County School District organized a team of district and school level personnel to begin a proactive approach to promoting regular school attendance. The purpose of the team was to collaborate and develop programs and interventions designed to promote the regular school attendance of all children in the district. Traditional approaches to reducing truancy have tended to emphasize the use of consequences to remediate truant behavior, however, according to a report by Dr. George M. Batsche, "the consequence approach has had limited effect. Reducing truancy appears less effective as an approach than increasing attendance."\* Since current research seems to indicate that it is more effective to develop strategies to improve attendance, the committee decided to approach improving school attendance as a goal that could best be achieved by raising awareness of the importance of attending school and by implementing programs that support student efforts and encourage regular school attendance. The ultimate goal of the district is to have all schools achieve an overall student attendance rate of 97%.

The committee set out to identify specific programs and interventions that promote attendance in a positive manner and at the same time provide support and encouragement to those students who struggle with attendance issues. The committee seeks to help schools raise their overall daily attendance rate by consistently making attendance a top priority. The committee continues to encourage schools to identify specific students with attendance problems and implement innovative ways of assisting those students in improving their attendance. Someone once said that "education is the key to success." If this is true, then regular school attendance is the key that unlocks the door to education. If our children are not in school, they not only forfeit their education, they forfeit their chance at a bright and prosperous future.

This booklet outlines the programs and strategies that have been implemented by the District Attendance Committee in its quest to ensure that the future of our children is not compromised. It provides information designed to raise awareness of the importance of regular school attendance. Most importantly, this booklet gives recognition to our students, who through their poems, posters, and video rap/songs serve as an inspiration to their peers in relaying the message that regular school attendance is critical to academic success. We also recognize those schools who have achieved the highest rate of attendance at their respective levels and schools who have distinguished themselves by achieving the greatest percentage of improvement in their attendance rate.

\*Taken from *The Use of an Effective Problem-Solving Model to Improve Attendance* (1999). Dr. Batsche is Co-director of the Institute for School Reform, Integrated Services, and Child Mental Health and Educational Policy at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

# **Initiatives Implemented by the Attendance Committee**

1. A brochure was created entitled *School Attendance: The Path to Success*, which provides students and parents with information on the benefits of regular school attendance. The brochure is also available to school personnel.
2. A brochure was created entitled the *Florida Compulsory School Attendance Law*, which provides parents with an overview of the state's compulsory school attendance law and district expectations regarding school attendance.
3. A booklet was created entitled *Achieving Academic Excellence Through Regular School Attendance*, which offers resources to schools, parents, and the community in order to help achieve our goal.
4. Attendance Awareness Week has been approved by the district as an annual event. This is a week that has been set aside to emphasize the importance of regular school attendance.
5. A poem, poster, and video rap/song contest is sponsored to give students the opportunity to express to their peers the importance of school attendance.
6. Schools with the highest rate of attendance in each category (elementary, middle, and high school levels, and alternative education) are recognized for their achievement each semester.
7. The district implemented the Superintendent's Attendance Challenge which involves schools challenging the attendance improvement of other schools or by competing against their own attendance rate. The object of the competition is to see which school can gain the greatest percentage of improvement in their overall attendance rate during a specified period of time. The top winners receive a cash award.
8. The Shirley H. Lee Community Support for School Attendance Award is presented to a nominated individual that has exhibited exemplary personal commitment to providing support and motivation in the promotion of regular school attendance.
9. An agreement with the DeLand Police Department was implemented whereby truant students will be picked up and transported to their zone school during school hours.
10. An agreement was reached with the local Teen Court Administrators to provide services to students with poor attendance. Teen Court is a nationwide program whereby adolescents judge their peers who have been accused of minor delinquent offenses. The program sanctions students, as well as provides them with the opportunity to receive tutoring, counseling, and other services.
11. There is a collaborative agreement between the Volusia County School District and the Office of the State Attorney called Achieving School Attendance Program (ASAP). **Schools make attempts to meet with parents of children who are chronically absent.** If these attempts are unsuccessful, a letter from the state attorney's office is sent to parents requiring their immediate cooperation with the school.

12. The Attendance Committee meets on a regular basis to explore new and innovative ways to promote the regular school attendance of all children.
13. During the 2007-08 school year, four schools agreed to pilot the implementation of a number of attendance initiatives in order to examine the effectiveness of these interventions.
14. The "Everybody Everyday" Prize Patrol was implemented to recognize winners in the Attendance Poem, Poster, and video Rap/Song Contest.



# **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS**

**Volusia County School District Recognizes the  
Top Three Schools with the Highest Rate of  
Attendance in the Following Categories:**

(Based upon 2007-2008 Attendance Statistics)

## **Elementary School**

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Seville Public        | 96.4% |
| Sweetwater Elementary | 96.2% |
| Pierson Elementary    | 96.0% |

## **Middle School**

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Creekside Middle       | 95.2% |
| David C. Hinson Middle | 94.7% |
| Ormond Beach Middle    | 94.5% |

## **High School**

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Spruce Creek High            | 93.9% |
| T. Dewitt Taylor Middle-High | 93.5% |
| Deltona High                 | 93.5% |
| Seabreeze High               | 93.4% |

## **Alternative Education**

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Community Learning Center West | 90.0% |
| Community Learning Center East | 86.4% |
| Storefront School East         | 85.7% |

# **Excellence in Attendance Award Winners**

**Volusia County School District  
Honors the Schools with the  
Highest Rate of Attendance at the  
Elementary, Middle, and High School Levels,  
and Alternative Education**

**(Based upon 2007-2008 Attendance Statistics)**

**Seville Elementary  
Carolyn Solomon, Principal**

**Creekside Middle  
Kevin Tucker, Principal**

**Spruce Creek High  
Timothy Egnor, Principal**

**Community Learning Center West  
Dr. Mike Mongelli, Principal  
Jennifer Heneghan, Director**

# **The Path to Exceptional Attendance...**

***Carolyn Solomon, Principal***  
**Seville Elementary School**



At Seville Elementary, the entire faculty and staff work together as a team and we believe that students are more encouraged to have great attendance if the following areas are in place at the school:

- Students are happy and well adjusted in school
- Family involvement
- School safety
- Students like their teachers
- School pride and respect
- Student's are disciplined with dignity
- Students are integrally involved in school life/activities (i.e., SGA, FFEA, Safety Patrol, Young Authors, enrichment activities, etc.)
- Monitoring of student academic progress
- School recognition programs

# **Maintaining Exceptional Attendance...**

## **What Makes the Difference**

***Kevin Tucker, Principal***  
**Creekside Middle School**



Many factors have had an impact on our school achieving such a high level of attendance. To put it quite simply, we cannot teach the students if they are not in school, so we do all that we can to encourage regular attendance. Listed below are examples of strategies that we use to promote exceptional attendance:

- Administrators and/or identified staff members greet students and parents each morning and afternoon at our student drop-off area.
- Guidance Counselors discuss attendance laws with students at the beginning of the school year, emphasizing how attendance can affect future driving privileges.
- Teachers notify guidance counselors if there is an attendance concern with a student.
- Lissette Fernandez, School Social Worker, makes home visits when necessary.
- When a student misses 5 days of school (as well as 10 days), the attendance clerk notifies the grade-level guidance counselor. The counselor then meets with the student and calls their parent/guardian.
- When a student misses 15 days of school, a Student Success Team Meeting is scheduled, and the parents/guardians are invited to attend. After the meeting, Ms. Fernandez monitors the student's attendance weekly.
- Improved communication between home and school helps to attain high attendance rates (Parent Portal, WebGrade, agenda planners, Active Classroom, School Notes, e-mail, etc.)
- Students are encouraged to participate in the Attendance Awareness Week each year. Announcements are made each morning of this week, explaining the importance of regular school attendance.
- We recognize and participate in the Poem, Poster, and Video Rap/Song "Everybody, Everyday" contest.

At Creekside Middle we realize the importance of attending school regularly, and are diligent in our efforts related to student attendance.

# **Excellence in Attendance...**

## **How to Achieve it**



***Timothy Egnor, Principal***  
**Spruce Creek High**

The entire Spruce Creek High School family is once again honored to receive recognition for having the highest high school attendance rate in the district. Spruce Creek is fortunate to have students, families and staff that understand the importance of regular attendance. Parental support, along with the dedicated efforts of teachers and staff, has made it possible for Spruce Creek to routinely have attendance rates exceeding 95%.

Many strategies have been implemented to encourage good attendance, but the single most important factor is maintaining an academic atmosphere in which students understand that meaningful teaching and learning takes place everyday. It is not a coincidence that the school with the highest attendance rate also boosts FCAT, SAT and ACT scores that exceeds the district, state, and national averages. Students understand that attendance and academic performance are inexorably connected. Everyone at Spruce Creek reinforces this concept, and the results speak for themselves.

One of the strongest reinforcements to student attendance is that Spruce Creek teachers take ownership of the issue and are in frequent communication with parents. While automated calling machines are part of the process, we believe teacher contacts are the most effective way of encouraging good attendance. The guidance staff also makes routine parent contacts and counsel students regarding the benefits of regular attendance.

In addition to these measures, Spruce Creek has an on-line system that allows parents to monitor grades, attendance, and other data from virtually any computer with internet access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The school's *CreekConnect* system allows parents to check attendance by individual periods each day. We are confident that this electronic tool, along with frequent written reminders in the school newsletter and staff contacts, has helped us reach our attendance goals.

# **Good Attendance...**

## **The Key to Success**

***Dr. Mike Mongelli, Principal***  
***Jennifer Heneghan, Director***  
**Community Learning Center West**



Community Learning Center West is proud to be the recipient of both the Excellence in Attendance Award and the Superintendent's Attendance Challenge Award for Alternative Education Schools for the 2007-2008 school year.

Because we know that academic success is linked to consistent school attendance, CLCW is committed to improving attendance: one student at a time. Our success is a direct result of a cooperative effort between parents, staff, and students.

- Our School Social Worker, Carmen Amoros, is a driving force in our push to improve attendance. She tracks attendance for us, and produces recognition certificates each month for those students with perfect attendance. She has created a bulletin board in our cafeteria dedicated solely to attendance recognition, which she maintains and updates monthly.
- Awards are given to students who have perfect attendance each week. Every Friday, these students are rewarded with a pizza party, ice cream social, or other activity.
- We use Connect-Ed for daily attendance notification.
- We sponsor monthly Family and Community Education Nights that feature speakers on a variety of topics that are useful to parents. The topic for one of these evenings centers on good attendance, and features a school social worker, guidance counselor, or other district staff person who gives tips for parents and teens to promote good attendance.



*We Believe In **E**!*

**Superintendent's  
Attendance Challenge  
Award Winners  
2007-2008**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE**

"Innovation in improving school attendance" is the new buzz phrase for the Volusia County School District. During the 2005-2006 school year, the district decided that while the daunting task of improving school attendance involves much hard work, there was no reason it could not include some fun in the process. The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Margaret A. Smith, approved an Attendance Challenge which was opened to every school throughout the district. All schools were encouraged to challenge the attendance improvement of other schools or compete against their own attendance rate during a specified period of time.

Since the beginning of organized education, schools have competed against each other in areas such as sports, academics, performing arts, etc. Such competitions have generated excitement and enthusiasm among students and staff. Winning promotes a sense of satisfaction and pride within the entire school community, and losing encourages more determination to do better the next time. While a contest to improve school attendance does not possess the glitz or glamour of other competitions, it can encourage improvement. The fact that the district had the added incentive of a substantial cash award for the winners made the attendance challenge a more enticing idea. Unlike other competitions in which only a select few students can participate, the Superintendent's Attendance Challenge provides an opportunity for every student to get involved. Many of the schools that entered the contest implemented innovative strategies to encourage their students to attend school, and they closely monitored their student attendance rate. The schools that triumphed were thrilled with their accomplishments, and those that were defeated began planning strategies for the next year's challenge.

The Superintendent's Attendance Challenge began on January 16, 2007 and ended on March 29, 2007. This time period was specifically chosen by the district because of the lower attendance rates that traditionally occur during this time period. A total of 38 schools entered the competition, 8 schools challenged other schools, and 30 challenged their own attendance rate. The schools that won their individual challenge received a small cash award. Schools who achieved the greatest percentage of improvement at the elementary, middle, high, and alternative education levels received cash awards of \$500 for first place and \$125 for second place. The percentage of improvement was calculated by comparing the attendance rate at the end of the previous school year with the attendance rate achieved during the Superintendent's Attendance Challenge, the third, nine-week period.

# **SUPERINTENDENT'S ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE WINNERS**

**2007-2008**

**Volusia County School District Recognizes  
the Top Two Schools with the  
Greatest Percentage of Improvement in Attendance  
in the Following Categories:**

## **Elementary School**

|                       |           |     |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----|
| Tomoka Elementary     | 1st place | .7% |
| Blue Lake Elementary  | 2nd place | .5% |
| Sweetwater Elementary | 2nd place | .5% |

## **Middle School**

|                     |           |     |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|
| Southwestern Middle | 1st place | .8% |
| Campbell Middle     | 2nd place | .6% |

## **High School**

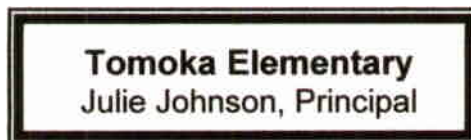
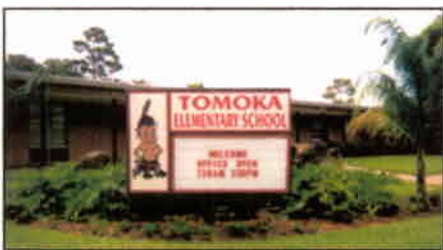
|                |           |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Seabreeze High | 1st place | .5% |
| Mainland High  | 2nd place | .4% |

## **Alternative Education**

|                                |           |      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Community Learning Center West | 1st place | 2.1% |
| Euclid Avenue Learning Center  | 2nd place | .9%  |

## FIRST PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$500 CASH AWARD

*.7 % increase in attendance rate*



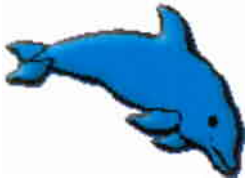
At Tomoka, attendance awareness activities are multi-faceted. Throughout the year, teachers and staff emphasize the importance of being in school every day. In addition to the routine focus of regular school attendance, the following activities were instrumental in increasing the attendance rate of Tomoka students during the 2007-2008 school year:

- ◆ Clear and concise school based procedures were developed for absences and tardies.
- ◆ During Attendance Awareness Week and the Superintendent's Challenge contest, identified students presented poems related to the importance of regular school attendance on the Tomoka Today Show. Classes with improved attendance were eligible for a Webkinz drawing and earned a pizza party.
- ◆ The school newspaper, "Smoke Signals," was used as a vehicle to inform parents and students about attendance activities.
- ◆ Each quarter, students with perfect attendance received attendance award certificates.
- ◆ A parent designed a bulletin board in the front office entryway to display the names of students earning quarterly perfect attendance. The bright board was organized by grade level and showcased colorful balloons and happy Tomoka students.
- ◆ A bulletin board in the cafeteria was decorated by students and sent a clear message regarding the importance of attending school. Each class responded to the statement "It is important to attend school because..." and these responses were prominently displayed on the bulletin board.
- ◆ The school guidance counselor held bi-weekly meetings with students who were experiencing attendance issues.

Tomoka Elementary School promotes a caring school environment whereby students are met each morning with a warm smile and a greeting. Upon entering the school campus, students can count on seeing a friendly face. One of our major goals is to foster an environment that is welcoming and safe for our students. We want students to look forward to coming to school and putting their best efforts into being the best student that they can possibly be.

## **SECOND PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$125 CASH AWARD**

*.5 % increase in attendance rate*



Blue Lake Elementary School is pleased to have been a winner of the Superintendent's Attendance Challenge award and we continue to strive to make attendance a top priority for our school. We know that regular school attendance is crucial to the learning process and we work hard to encourage every student to be in school every day. At Blue Lake we announced the classes that had perfect attendance on the daily broadcast. Since both students and teachers like to be recognized in this way, they were motivated to work towards achieving perfect attendance. This simple activity resulted in improving our attendance overall from last year to this year.

Blue Lake Elementary is proud of our mission to provide a high standard of academic and social achievement for each of our students. We hold high expectations for all students and operate daily on the premise that ALL children can learn. Our motto describes our school as a safe and caring place to learn. Our school is a family school and it is a place where all members can find success. As our family works together to instill the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be contributing members of our democratic society, we strive to provide for each child's individual needs.

## **SECOND PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$125 CASH AWARD**

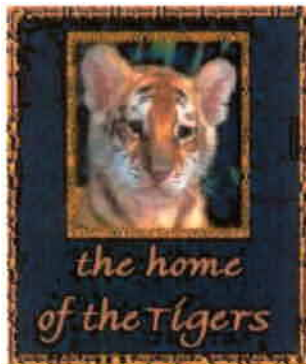
*.5 % increase in attendance rate*



Sweetwater Elementary's commitment to achieving and maintaining excellent attendance involves initiating daily communication with the parents of students who are absent or tardy. Contact is made by an Office Specialist who either makes a personal call to the parent or by utilizing Connect-Ed. Our involved teachers make phone calls to parents who are habitually late or absent. They reinforce the importance of being in school from the time the bell rings so that students do not miss valuable instruction. We also send out 10-day, 15-day, and 20-day letters to the parents/guardians of those students who are chronically absent or late. Our School Social Worker, Connie Corwin, receives copies of each of these letters, and makes visits to the homes of the most truant students in order to offer assistance to the students and their parents. Our Guidance Counselor, Amy Otto, makes regular interventions with students who are often late or absent. This includes working with the individual student, the teacher, and making phone calls to parents. The mission of Sweetwater Elementary is to strive toward a lifetime of "personal best," guided by a positive attitude in a nurturing environment. We try our best to instill the mission of a "lifetime of personal best" by being at school every day and by being on time.

## **FIRST PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$500 CASH AWARD**

*.7 % increase in attendance rate*



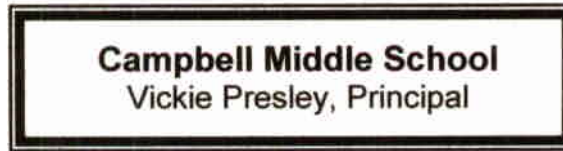
Southwestern Middle administration/faculty/staff are committed to improving school attendance. We employ a variety of ways to encourage every student to be here EVERY day. Our Perfect Attendance Recognition Program, sponsored by Perkins Restaurant, includes a student certificate for a special treat, recognition during grade level lunch, and student names announced during the morning news. Students are also recognized in the DeLand Beacon and monthly newsletters. Full year Perfect Attendance students are given a \$15.00 gift certificate. Attendance contests are held throughout the year.

Our school has an attendance committee that organizes activities to promote attendance and devotes resources to motivate students to attend school. The Attendance Committee consists of counselors, administrators (principal and assistant principal), attendance clerk, and grade level lead teachers.

## **SECOND PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$125 CASH AWARD**

*.6 % increase in attendance rate*

***Home of the Spartans***



### **Campbell Middle School's Commitment to Excellent Attendance**

During the 2007-2008 school year these were some activities put in place to encourage excellent attendance:

- ☆ Dan Kalis, School Social Worker, carefully monitored students with excessive absenteeism and followed-up on a regular basis.
- ☆ A Mentor/Mentee program was implemented to provide added encouragement to students for good attendance.
- ☆ Lead Teachers made regular phone calls home for students with excessive absenteeism.
- ☆ Posters encouraging excellent attendance were placed throughout the school.
- ☆ An award system was instituted with FCAT "bucks" for additional encouragement leading up to FCAT testing.
- ☆ A Connect-Ed message was used to encourage attendance for FCAT time.
- ☆ Perfect Attendance awards were provided.

## **FIRST PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$500 CASH AWARD**

*.5 % increase in attendance rate*



Seabreeze High School is extremely proud for being recognized three consecutive years as a Superintendent's Attendance Challenge winner. As a team, we work very hard to promote good attendance and encourage our faculty and staff to work collaboratively in developing interventions that would improve the attendance and academic success of all. We firmly believe that regular school attendance is critical to our students and that they will truly be "left behind" if they are not here.

Our Student Success Team used the following incentives to help improve attendance: recognized students, teachers, staff, and administration every nine weeks with Perfect Attendance certificates and awarded Most Improved Attendance certificates, doughnuts, pencils, and attendance awards at the end of the school year. School spirit is high at Seabreeze High, and all students are encouraged to participate in school activities and after school events. Last year our Student Success Team was diligent in meeting twice per week to focus on and identify those students having patterns of non-attendance. Our team, Mr. Brian Richardson, SST Chair; Mrs. Jan Sayers, School Social Worker; and Ms. Jacalyn Jones, Assistant Principal, worked together and met with students and parents at school to discuss interventions and strategies to improve attendance. The parents who could not come to school were contacted by phone, mailed letters, and/or a home visit was made by the social worker. The students' teachers and guidance counselors were also actively involved in the process. Alternative school sites, the Bridges Program, tutoring opportunities and other counseling services were considered as appropriate for each student.

Seabreeze has the lowest dropout rate and the highest graduation rate of any high school in our district. Moreover, AP test scores have improved by 15% over last school year's scores.

Through the collaborative efforts of all, Seabreeze High School continues to strive to:

- Encourage teachers to call parents (for behavior, academics, attendance) and document the calls by using Parent Contact Logs when they recognize poor attendance patterns, etc.
- Increase student engagement in school and community activities
- Increase graduation rates
- Provide students with varied tutorial opportunities to enhance academic success
- Increase parent involvement
- Use Connect-Ed on a daily basis
- Maintain a positive working relationship with law enforcement
- Recognize and provide incentives for perfect attendance and improved attendance for students

Seabreeze High also served as a pilot school during the 2007-2008 school year. As a pilot school, improved attendance was our goal, however the focus on attendance also helped promote academic success at Seabreeze High School. As an entire school body, there is regular emphasis being placed on attendance every day by every member of our school staff. Faculty and staff set high expectations for all students and emphasis is on reaching their fullest potential. As we are aware, "No one rises to low expectations." We consistently recognize the uniqueness of our students and address their specific needs.

## **SECOND PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$125 CASH AWARD**

*.4 % increase in attendance rate*



Mainland High School believes that good attendance at school is the key to every student's academic success. Because we knew that our daily attendance needed to improve, we set forth to make it one of the things on which we would focus some time and effort. As a result of that decision, the importance of attendance was always addressed in some way within every written and verbal message sent to students and parents. We also knew that we had to encourage close connections between the students and what goes on at school, and in fact, that was the key to our increase in attendance. Some of the specific things that Mainland High School has done to raise our attendance rate are:

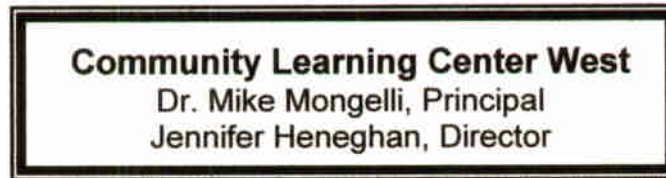
- Attendance of athletes, band members, cheerleaders, and all those who participate in extra curricular activities is reviewed. Those who miss school unexcused are not permitted to participate in the activities.
- Messages concerning the importance of attendance are sent in newsletters, on the web site, and in speeches at school events and in the classroom.
- Clubs and other venues are created to involve ALL students in something on campus. The most recent organized groups created at Mainland include a Hacky Sack Club, the principal's advisory committee, Public Relations Club, and students as mentors and tutors for Student Learning Community Labs.

Mainland High School will continue to focus on our attendance, but more importantly, on our students.

## **FIRST PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$500 CASH AWARD**

*2.1 % increase in attendance rate*

### **Home of the Lions**



Our success with improving attendance is truly a cooperative effort between parents, staff, and students.

- We have an AMAZING school social worker, Carmen Amoros, who is a driving force in our push to improve attendance. She tracks attendance for us, and produces beautiful certificates each month for those with perfect attendance. She posts the names of all students on a bulletin board reserved for this recognition in the cafeteria. We have business partners who donate coupons for meals and other items that are presented to students with perfect attendance.
- Awards are given to students who have perfect attendance (in addition to good behavior and academic progress) for the week. Every Friday, these students are rewarded with a pizza party, ice cream social, or other activity.
- We use Connect-Ed daily for attendance notification purposes.
- Barbara Nenno, a teacher who handles attendance, makes personal phone calls each day to check on the whereabouts of absent students.

## **SECOND PLACE WINNER AND RECIPIENT OF \$125 CASH AWARD**

*.9% increase in attendance rate*



**Euclid Avenue Learning Center**  
Michael Osborne, Principal  
James B. Midgett, Assistant Principal



Euclid Learning Center is proud to be recognized for our efforts in ensuring a high rate of attendance at our school. Our success is due to the dedication and professionalism of our caring staff. Being a small school gives the administrator the opportunity to attend every attendance meeting and to get to know students and parents on an individual basis. We use a team approach toward attendance. Our teachers, guidance counselor, social worker and clerks are involved in encouraging each student that attendance is an important part of their school experience.

Many times it is the small comments that make a large difference. One example of how we demonstrate part of the Volusia County Mission statement, "...through the individual commitment of all..." was seen recently in an interaction between our custodian and a student who had been absent the day before:

Custodian: "We missed you yesterday. Were you sick?"

Student: "No, but thanks for asking."

That may seem like a small thing, but it made such a difference to that student that they mentioned it to me later in the day. Sometimes, just showing that we care is the best way to ensure improved attendance.

Our school social worker, Mrs. Teresa Wright, plays a significant part in this process. Although we have a constantly changing population, efforts are made by Mrs. Wright to contact parents, many times including home visits. She, without a doubt, goes above and beyond her duties and expectations on a daily basis.

Mrs. Teresa Lee, Euclid's attendance clerk, goes above and beyond in her efforts to notify parents of students' absences on a daily basis. When students are at home with no valid excuse for being there, she encourages them to come to school, even if they are late.

In summary, our improved attendance is due to positive social interactions and safe, secure, friendly, family atmosphere. Most of our students enjoy the atmosphere at Euclid Learning Center.

# **“Everybody, Everyday”**

A number of winners in the Attendance Poem, Poster, and Video Rap/Song Contest were surprised by a visit from the Prize Patrol, which showed up unexpectedly at their schools to award prizes to them. The following pictures capture the surprise and pride of the students, their parents, and school administration as the winning students receive their awards.



## **Presentation Photos**

**“Everybody Everyday” Prize Patrol presenters  
at Deltona Lakes Elementary School to award contest winners**



**Principal Judith Rivera and teachers Rachele Bradley, Dana Campbell, Christine Vogel, and Tara Schur with contest award winners Sydni Thompson, Ashley Lassally, Nina Ruiz, Shania Walker, and Grace Velez**



**School Social Workers Judy Soto and Carmen Amoros, along with Judith Rivera, as they present awards to poem winner Nina Ruiz, with her mother Josie Ruiz, and video rap winner Ashley Lassally, with parents Jamond Christiansen and Denise Lassally**



**School Social Workers Judy Soto and Burner Roberts present award to poster winner Grace Velez as Principal Judith Rivera and School Psychologist Natilie Stokes look on**

**“Everybody Everyday” Prize Patrol presenters  
visit DeLand Middle School to award contest winners**



DeLand Middle School principal, Matt Krajewski, with  
“Everybody Everyday” contest winners  
Ashley Emmons, Rachel Mann, and Samantha Rees



Matt Krajewski with School Social Workers,  
Teresa Wright and Judy Soto, along with poem winner,  
Samantha, and parents, Michael and Sheila Rees



Matt Krajewski with poster winner,  
Ashley, and mother, Carmen Emmons

## **“Everybody Everyday” Prize Patrol presenters at Pine Ridge High School**



Prize Patrol team members Judy Soto, Neville Schouburgh, and Carmen Amoros, School Social Workers, arrive at Pine Ridge High to present contest awards



James Russell, Principal, looks on as Melissa Burke-Jackson and Judy Soto, School Social Workers, present awards to poster winners Amy Guerra, Britnee Schnepf, and Jesse Mam



Burner Roberts, School Social Worker, joins Neville, Melissa, and Carmen along with James Russell and Jennifer Pappas, Art Teacher in congratulating contest winners Amy, Jesse, and Britnee

**“Everybody Everyday” Prize Patrol presenters  
visit Euclid Learning Center**



School Social Workers, Burner Roberts, Melissa Burke-Jackson, Judy Soto, Carmen Amoros, Francene Barnes, and Teresa Wright with poster award winner, Taylor Jessee, and Dr. Barry Midgett, Assistant Principal



Judy and Teresa share a moment  
with poem winner Lizbet Villa  
and her mother, Maria Villa



School Social Workers Burner, Judy, Melissa, Carmen,  
Francene, Teresa, and Dr. Midgett congratulate  
poster winner Crystal Garcia, accompanied by  
her sister and their mother, Graciela Garcia

**“Everybody Everyday” Prize Patrol presenters  
visit Riverview Learning Center to award contest winners**



Assistant Principal Michael Schervish with School Social Workers Francene Barnes, Burner Roberts, Ollie Blue, and Connie Corwin congratulate attendance contest poem winner Sarah Montgomery



Sarah Montgomery gives a thumbs up after learning that she won first place in the high school poem contest

**“Everybody, Everyday”**

**Attendance**

**Poem Contest**

**Winners**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

# **Everybody Everyday**

Pencil, paper, book bags, folders,  
c'mon guys, I'm get'n older.  
No time to rhyme,  
the school bell is gonna chime.  
Oh no, just look at the time; it's almost 7:59!  
Don't just shrug, get in there!  
It's time to LEARN,  
not to fix your hair.  
What do you mean, you're sick as a goat?  
Goats don't get sick, not even their throats.  
Don't be nervous you're just crazy,  
c'mon you know you're not that lazy.  
Learn, learn, learn. Think and write,  
do that math with all your might!  
School is almost over, but don't stop yet,  
okay fine we'll make a bet.  
You'll come tomorrow and learn so much more  
then you'll know - 1,000,000 times 4!



***Dalanee Moscatello  
Grade 5  
Holly Hill Elementary***

# **Everybody, Everyday!**

School, School it's so great,  
It starts at 8.

School, School it's so great,  
Please don't be late.

Monday is when we read,  
We listen to the D.L.E. Creed.  
And then we proceed with Tuesday.

Tuesday is Activity Time,  
Which is always a fun time.  
But then it ends to Wednesday.

Wednesday is Art,  
We paint and color a lot.  
But then we hate it when it's time to part.

Thursday we are all excited,  
And we are also all delighted.  
Our eyes are fully lighted,  
We are ready for Friday.

Don't miss Friday,  
Friday is Fun Day.  
Go to school today,  
EVERYBODY, EVERYDAY.  
You don't want to miss a day.



*Nina Ruiz*  
*Grade 5*  
*Deltona Lakes Elementary*

# **Everybody Everyday**

Everybody, everyday,

Go to school it's okay.

Go up to a person and give them a smile,

And they will be your friend in awhile.

You will also learn to read and write,

And you must never ever pick a fight.

Everybody, everyday,

Go to school it's okay.



***Matthew Hibbert***  
***Grade 2***  
***Deltona Lakes Elementary***

**“Everybody, Everyday”**

**Attendance**

**Poem Contest**

**Winners**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **Take Heed**

School is not a choice but it is like a seed,  
With proper nourishment, it will fill a need.  
At first the signs are scattered but then become quite clear,  
You learn to think on your own, it won't feel like a smudge or a smear.  
All you have to do is show up, get there, arrive,  
Don't let anyone distract you, don't get connived.  
Take heed to your teachers, listen to their sessions,  
They will teach you many things so you can have your own possessions.  
Think about it, if you put your seeds in closets  
It will be dark and desolate without any deposits.  
Your dreams of things you could have had will be shattered,  
Your attendance anywhere that once mattered will be very tattered.  
Share the pollen pass the word,  
Be as quick as the hummingbird.  
Suck up knowledge feed your brain,  
Spread the word so you too may reign.  
Flock to school and get your free education,  
For without it you will pay and have nothing but frustration.  
I can't tell you any louder than in my own heartfelt way,  
Everybody everyday, take heed and go to school today.

***(Featured on the back of this booklet)***



***Grace Tobin  
Grade 7  
Creekside Middle***

# **Everybody, Everyday!**

Everybody, Everyday!  
Grab your books, grab your gear.  
Head off to school with a great big cheer.

Get to school and stay,  
Without a doubt without a fear,  
Get on the bus,  
You know school is a must!

Believe in the "E" and you will see,  
Why everybody, everyday  
Must stay in school to be cool!



***Samantha Rees***  
***Grade 6***  
***DeLand Middle***

# **Everybody, Everyday**

Lazy. Wake up the sun,  
rising from above sunny and all.

Get up! Get ready!

Hurry up or you'll miss the bus.  
Running like a cheetah to catch the bus,  
you barely make it.

Tired and maybe sweaty too,  
and don't forget all out of breath as well.  
Fasten your seat belt, the bus is moving.

You may ask, "Why go to school?"  
Well if you don't go who's going to learn for you.

For everyday you go to school  
your reward will be learning something new.  
Don't go and you may forget what you learned  
the day you went to school.

So everybody, everyday is something new.  
Go to school!



*Lizbet Villa*  
*Grade 7*  
*Euclid Ave. Learning Center*

**“Everybody, Everyday”**

**Attendance**

**Poem Contest**

**Winner**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

# **The Only Way**

Come to school everyday  
To learn and listen,  
Don't laugh and play.

Education leads to everything,  
Without it you can't do anything

How do you go and get a job,  
When you can't tally up your log?

Everybody, everyday,  
Listen and learn.  
It's the only way.



***Sarah Montgomery  
Grade 11  
Riverview Learning Center***

**“Everybody, Everyday”**

**Attendance**

**Video Rap/Song Contest**

**Winners**

# **“Everybody, Everyday”**

## **Attendance Video Rap/Song Contest Winners**

### **Elementary Schools**



**Sydni Thompson, Deltona Lakes Elementary, Grade 5**  
**Shania Walker, Deltona Lakes Elementary, Grade 5**  
**Ashley Lassally, Deltona Lakes Elementary, Grade 4**



**Tonecha Jones, Hurst Elementary, Grade 5**  
**Lacey Davis, Hurst Elementary, Grade 5**

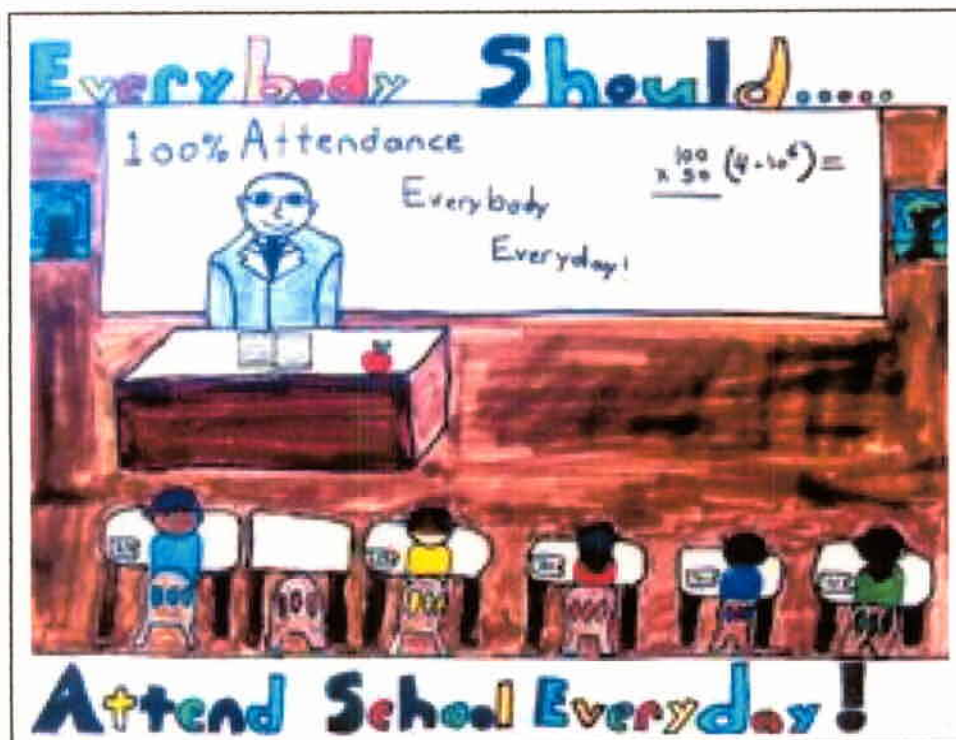
**“Everybody, Everyday”**

**Attendance**

**Poster Contest**

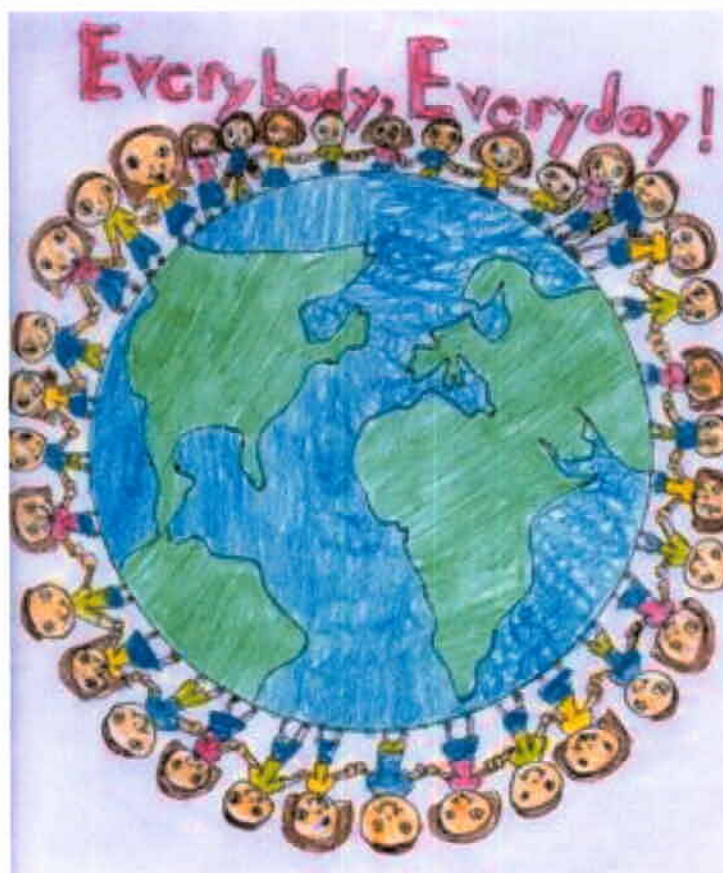
**(Freehand)**

**Winners**

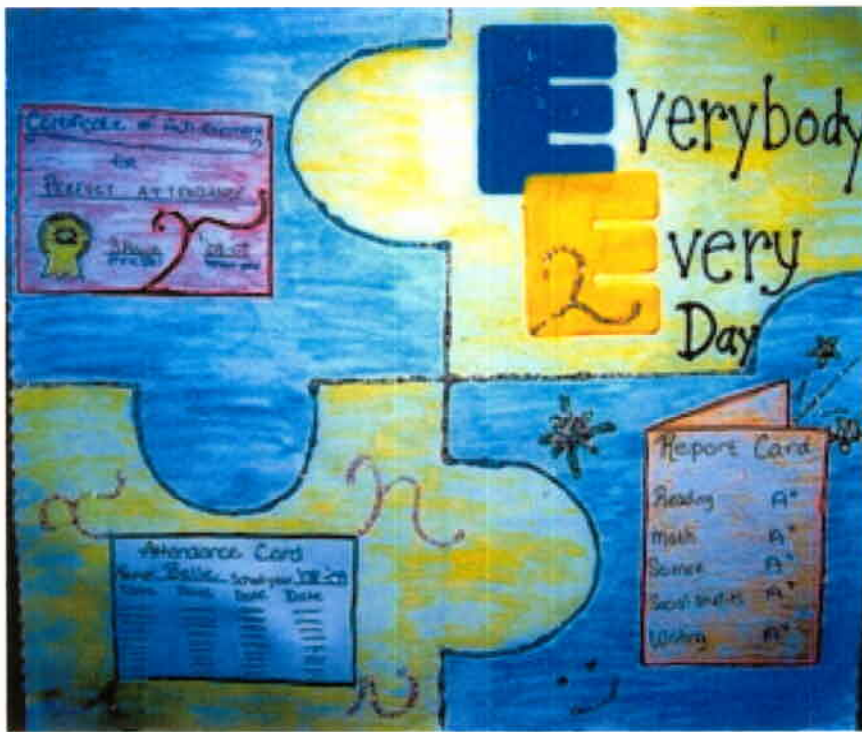


(featured on  
cover of this  
booklet)

Tevin Frederick, Starke Elementary, Grade 5



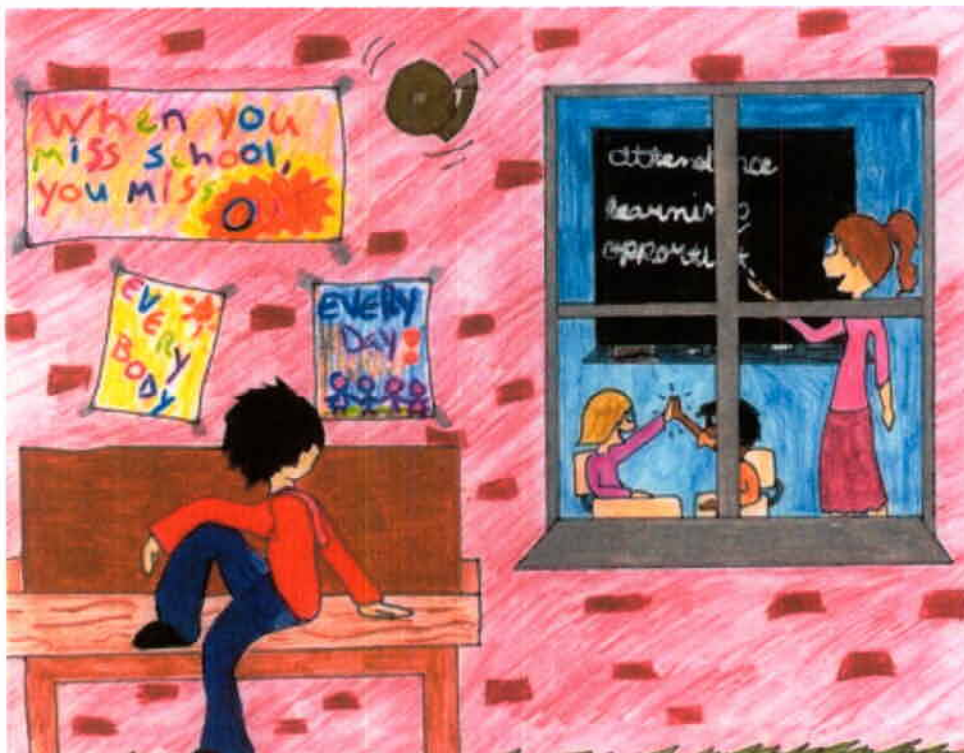
Grace Velez, Deltona Lakes Elementary, Grade 2



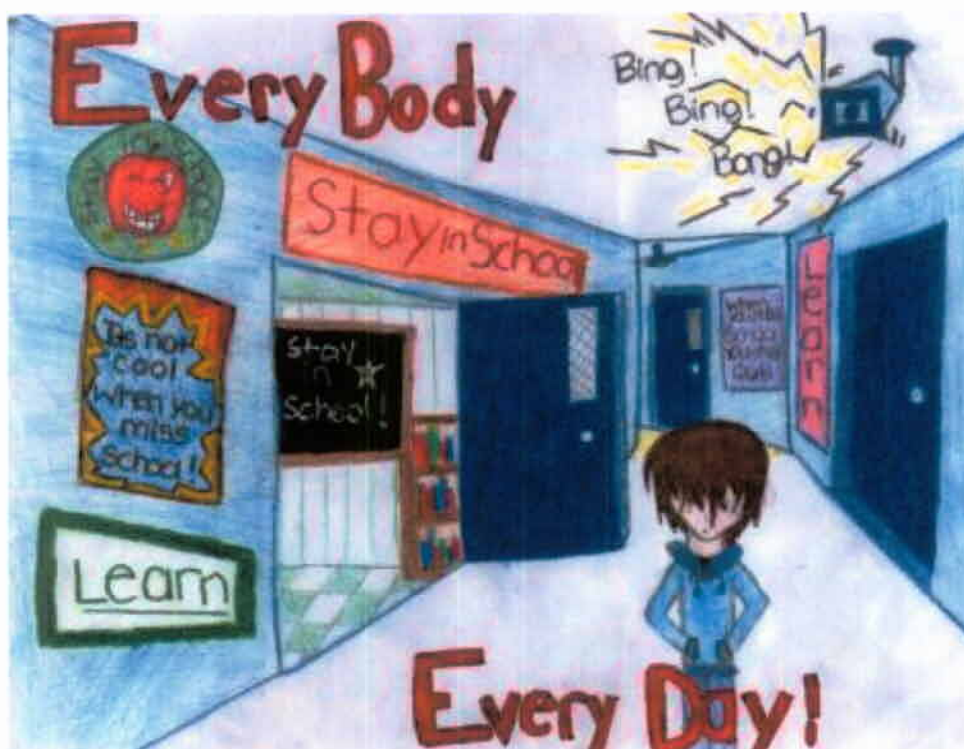
**Mikayla Philyaw, Sunrise Elementary, Grade 5**



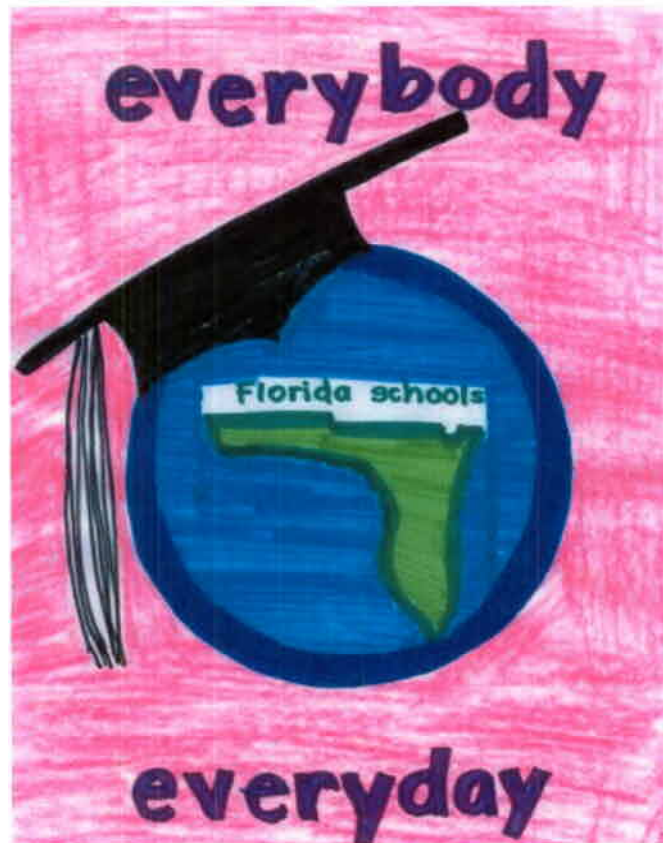
**Cristian Ventura, Starke Elementary, Grade 5**



Rachel Mann, DeLand Middle, Grade 8



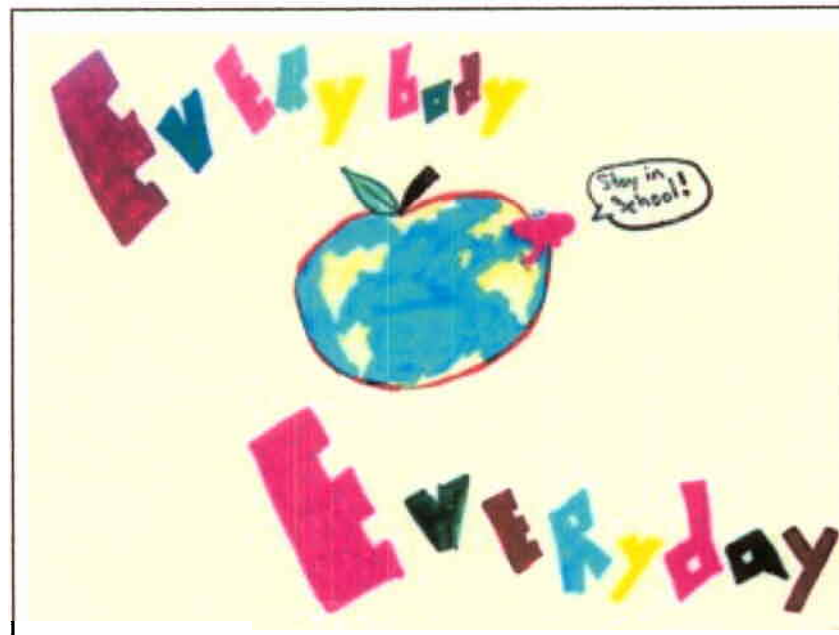
Ashley Emmons, DeLand Middle, Grade 8



**Chavonne Fedna Creekside Middle Grade 6**



**Crystal Garcia, Volusia County Schools, Grade 11**



**Taylor Jessee, Volusia County Schools, Grade 9**

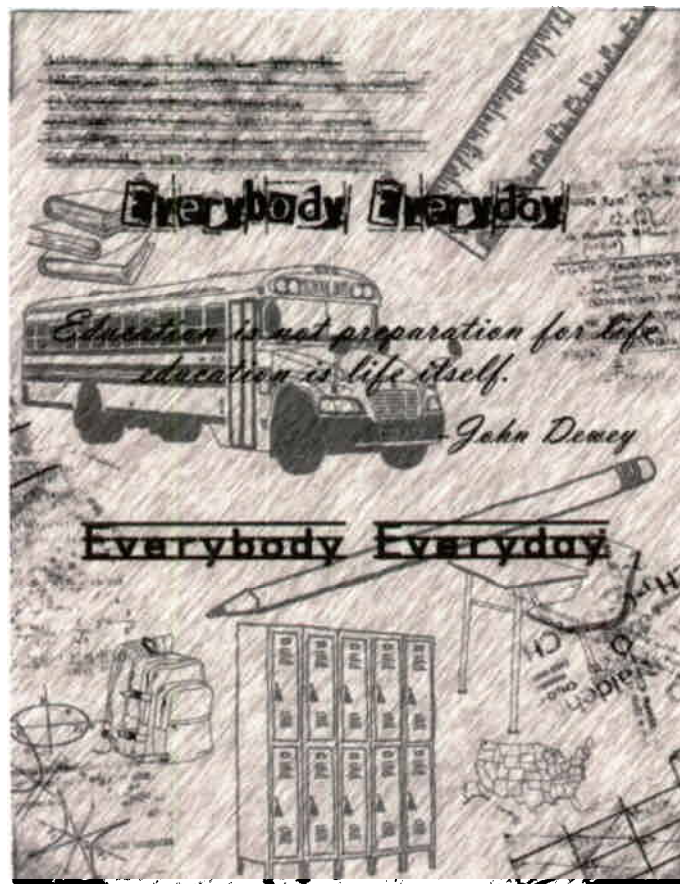
**“Everybody, Everyday”**

**Attendance**

**Poster Contest**

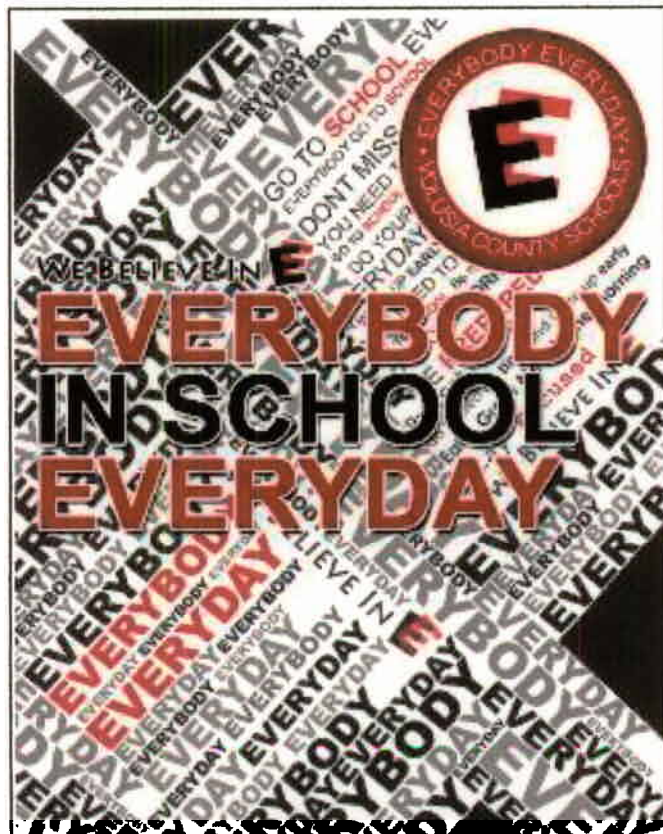
**(Computer Generated)**

**Winners**



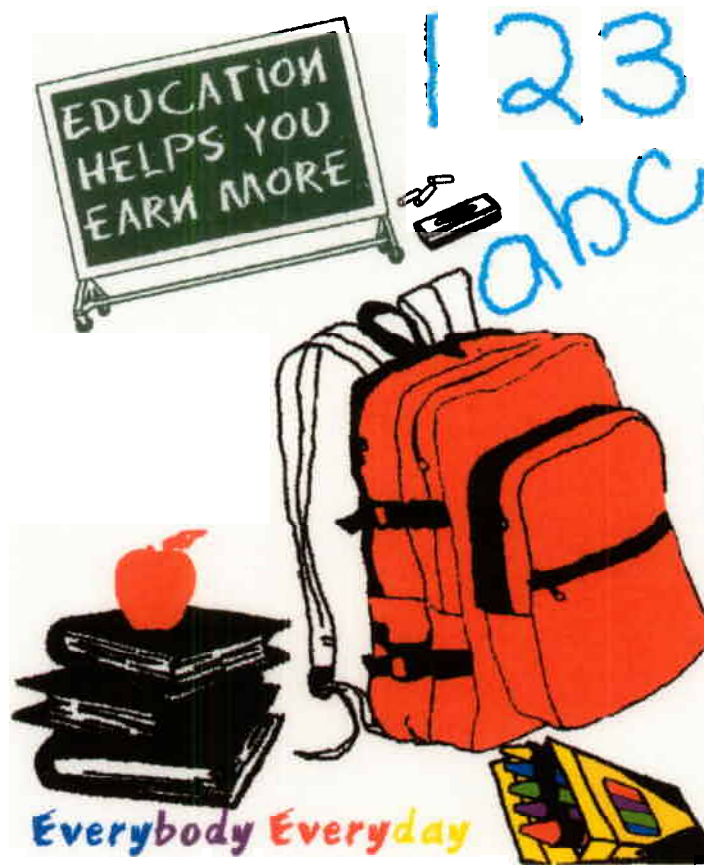
1st

**Jesse Mam, Pine Ridge High, Grade 12**



**2nd**

**Amy Guerra, Pine Ridge High, Grade 12**



**Britnee Schnepf, Pine Ridge High, Grade 12**

# **TEAM VOLUSIA**



## **SCHOOL BOARD OF VOLUSIA COUNTY**

**Mrs. Diane Smith, Chairman**  
**Ms. Candace Lankford, Vice-Chairman**  
**Ms. Judy Conte**  
**Mr. Stan Schmidt**  
**Dr. Al Williams**

**Dr. Margaret A. Smith**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

**Dr. Christopher J. Colwell, Deputy Superintendent Instructional Services**  
**Timothy J. Huth, Deputy Superintendent Operations and Governmental Affairs**  
**Dr. Robert Moll, Deputy Superintendent for Financial and Business Services**  
**Stan Whitted, Area Superintendent Area 1**  
**Dr. Mary Patt Kennedy, Area Superintendent Area 2**  
**Robert Menendez, Area Superintendent Area 3**  
**Peromnia Grant, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services**  
**Nancy H. Wait, Director Community Involvement and Information Services**  
**Allene Dupont, Director K-12 Curriculum**  
**Dr. Barbara Bush, Director Exceptional Student Education and Student Services**  
**Patricia Drago, Executive Director Facilities Services**  
**Richard A. Kizma, Chief Counsel Legal Services**  
**Billy W. Tindall, Executive Director Management Information Services (MIS)**  
**Mary Bruno, Director Career Technical and Community Education**  
**James Hollins, Director Professional Standards**  
**Vicki Drager, Director Staff Development, Instructional Technology and Media Services**  
**Archie Gallon, Director Federal Programs and Grant Development Services (Title 1)**

## **DISTRICT ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE**

Carmen Amoros, School Social Worker  
Francene Barnes, School Social Worker, Chairperson  
Pam Beckles, School Social Worker  
Ollie Blue, School Social Worker  
Louise Booth, School Social Worker  
Sonya Bucy, CINS/FINS Service Manager  
Melissa Burke-Jackson, School Social Worker, Co-Chairperson  
Benita Brown, School Social Worker  
Janice Cashell, Parent Support Specialist  
Connie Corwin, School Social Worker  
Lissette Fernandez-Medina, School Social Worker  
Ron Gibson, School Social Worker  
Jacalyn Jones, Assistant Principal, Seabreeze High  
Susan Kicklighter, School Social Worker  
Jamie Majors, School Social Worker  
Dianne Martin-Morgan, Coordinator, School Social Services  
Burner Roberts, School Social Worker  
Karla Rodriguez, CINS/FINS Service Manager  
Jan Sayers, School Social Worker  
Janet Shepard, Assistant Principal, Holly Hill Elementary  
Judy Soto, School Social Worker  
Dr. Mev Waskiewicz, School Social Worker  
Stefan Weeks, School Social Worker  
Teresa Wright, School Social Worker  
Paul Zimmerman, School Social Worker

### **CLERICAL SUPPORT STAFF**

Carol Dilligard  
Hazel Stewart  
Lisa Woebkenberg



*We Believe In **E**!*

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Johnny Morgan, Accountant, Masco Contractor Services

# **Patrons of Regular School Attendance**

Many thanks to the following individuals who provided financial support to our Everybody, Every Day Attendance Contest:

1. Francene Barnes
2. Glenn G. Barnes
3. Pam Beckles
4. Ollie Blue
5. Benita Brown
6. Melissa Burke-Jackson
7. Lissette Fernandez
8. Bill Green Jewelry
9. Irene Katra
10. R. W. Kicklighter Consulting
11. Honorable Judge Robert E. Lee and Shirley H. Lee
12. Dianne Martin-Morgan
13. Publix Supermarket Charities
14. Shelia Rees, Manager, Chick-fil-A
15. United Tennis Association
16. Mev Waskiewicz
17. Dorothy Wilson
18. Paul Zimmerman

# **Bill Green Jewelers**

**108 West International Speedway Boulevard  
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114**

**(386) 253-5807**



*The School Social Services Department dedicates the 2008-2009  
"Everybody Everyday" Attendance Booklet in memory of Mrs. Muriel Green.  
Mrs. Green was a staunch supporter of the departments attendance initiative for the last five years,  
and her legacy of giving will live on in the lives of the children that her generosity touched.*

## **Specializing in Estate Diamonds**

**Jewelry, Precious Stones and Precious Metals**

**Specializing in Estate Diamonds**

**We Repair All Makes**

**We Make House Calls**

**Watch and Clock Repair**

**Seiko, Movado Watch Sales**

**Mantle and Wall Clocks at Sale Prices**

**We Pay Top Dollar for Gold and Diamonds**

## **We Support Education**



*To Promote and Develop Tennis in Florida*

A section of the  
United States Tennis Association



**ustaflorida.com**

1 Deuce Court, Suite 100  
Daytona Beach, FL 32124  
(386) 671-8949

**USTA supports regular school attendance**

The official governing body  
of amateur tennis in Florida



A not-for-profit volunteer organization with more than  
47,000 individual members and almost  
1,000 organizational members



is a proud supporter of regular school attendance.

We Didn't Invent The Chicken,  
Just The Chicken Sandwich. ®



**Chick-fil-A**  
1141 Saxon Boulevard  
Orange City, Florida  
(386) 774-8625

# Publix.

Where Shopping is a Pleasure

Promoting Regular  
School Attendance is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility



PUBLIX  
PHARMACY  
*Feeling well. Living better.*

PUBLIX  
DELI

PUBLIX  
BAKERY  
*established 1957*

## **“Education is the Key to Success”**



*Regular school attendance is the  
key to education!*

**Honorable Judge Robert E. Lee  
and Mrs. Shirley H. Lee**

# **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

(Listed below are additional resource articles related to truancy.)

## **Manual to Combat Truancy**

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/Truancy/index.html>

## **Special Feature on Truancy Reduction Efforts**

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/203557.pdf>

## **List of Articles on Truancy (Click on schools and then truancy.)**

<http://ojdp.ncjrs.org/search/topiclist.asp>

## **Keeping Youth in School and Out of Trouble**

[http://www.ncjrs.org/html/ojdp/news\\_at\\_glance/203557/](http://www.ncjrs.org/html/ojdp/news_at_glance/203557/)

## **National Center for School Engagement: Tools for Truancy**

<http://truancyprevention.org>

## **Increasing School Attendance: Strategies from Research and Practice**

<http://www.nwrel.org/request/2004june/multnomah.html>

## **Truancy: First Step to a Lifetime of Problems**

<http://ojdp.ncjrs.org/search/>

(Go to Topic dropdown menu and select Schools in the list, then go to Subtopic dropdown menu and select truancy, then go to the Resources area and select Publications and click on Search.)

Sprick, R. S., & Howard, L. M. (1995). Absenteeism. *The Teacher's Encyclopedia of Behavior Management: 100 Problems/500 Plans* (pp. 11-19). Longmont, CO: Sopris West.

Wimmer, M. B. (2003). *School Refusal: Assessment and Intervention Within School Settings*. Bethesda, MD: NASP Publications.

Student Attendance: What Parents Need to Know. (2005). [Brochure]. Channing Bete Company, Inc.

Franklin, C., Harris, M. B., and Allen-Meares, P. (2006). *The School Services Sourcebook: A Guide for School-Based Professionals*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.