



Project GATE Gazette

Greetings from:

Denise and Magda...

**Miami-Dade County
Public Schools**

Volume 1, Issue 6

March/April 2007

**Special points of
Interest:**

- ☉ CEC Camp Scholarship
- ☉ Project QUEST—Free Masters
- ☉ Websites of Interests

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**Teaching is a
Master Piece**

We are pleased to support this project through the collaboration between Florida International University and Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Office of Professional Development and the Division of Special Education.

So you survived FCAT and Alternate Assessment! What an experience that can be. But wait, don't relax just yet, there are still **35 days** of teaching left in the school year and we need to make every one of those days count!

April is National Poetry Month—so enjoy reading poetry by Jack Prelutsky, Kenn Nesbitt, Shel Silverstein and other amazing poets for children and young adults.

D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) Day is here again! Join us this Thursday, April 12, 2007 by encouraging independent reading in your class on April 12 — and every day — by setting a time, a place, and letting kids read. Encourage your students to check out a poetry book from the library. For more information: www.readingrockets.org/calendar/dear

Share with us the poems written by your students so that we can include them in the May edition of the Project GATE Gazette or pictures from D.E.A.R. Day. Remember, this newsletter is for you, written by you!

"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble."

-Helen Keller

**Project GATE : Getting Assistance for Teaching Effectively
is a joint venture between Miami-Dade County Public Schools
and Florida International University's
Professional Development Partnership.**



You are cordially invited to attend an end
of the year breakfast celebration
honoring the
2006-2007 Project *GATE* Partnerships



Date: Saturday, May 19, 2007

Place: Hilton Miami Airport

5101 Blue Lagoon Drive

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

RSVP by May 4, 2007 to Ms. Magda D. Salazar at
786-223-3335 or mssalazar@dadeschools.net.

Upcoming Project GATE PD Sessions for Mentees and Mentors

Saturday, April 14, 2007

ABCs of Literacy for
Teachers of Mild Disabilities
(EH, LD/VE, EMH)
Kendale Elementary
10693 SW 93 Street
8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Tuesday April 17, 2007

ABCs of Literacy for
Teachers of Mild Disabilities
(EH, LD/VE, EMH)
Kendale Elementary
10693 SW 93 Street
8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Literacy Strategies to Increase
Student Achievement for
Teachers of Moderate
Disabilities (TMH, Autism)
Kendale Elementary
10693 SW 93 Street
8:30 AM—3:30 PM

*Remember to register through the PD Menu & Registration System
<http://calendar.dadeschools.net/cal/calendar.nsf>

What's the Buzz around the State...



Florida Focuses on Math and Science: New Research Center Created

Governor Charlie Crist recently announced the formation of an initiative designed to increase math and science achievement in Florida schools. This new initiative creates the Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and establishes the Office for Math and Science in the Department of Education. The Office for Math and Science will oversee the development and implementation of new world-class math and science standards, develop and deliver professional development, and coordinate all state and federally funded programs in these subject areas. The Center will be housed at Florida State University and will support the Department of Education's efforts to increase the rigor and relevance of secondary programs to increase the number of students who graduate prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce. Funded by the Florida Legislature with a \$2 million grant, the Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics will conduct research and use these research-based findings to support the Office for Math and Science in the Department of Education. The center will be led by Sir Harold Kroto, co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and an ardent advocate for K-12 science education worldwide. In addition, Florida State University will hire three to six nationally and internationally renowned math and science faculty members. The grant was awarded to Florida State University following a competitive bid process. For more information, log on to: <http://www.lsi.fsu.edu/page107.aspx>

Protecting Florida Students: The Role of the Teacher

Each day, parents entrust their children to the teachers of Florida schools. In addition to providing instruction, a teacher is just one of many public servants expected to protect Florida's children. Students are not only protected by their teachers, school staff, principals, and resource officers, but also by district personnel, state officials and law enforcement officers. Teaching is a profession governed by a Code of Ethics and Principles of Professional Conduct. While most educators adhere to these guidelines for appropriate and professional behavior, there are cases in which teacher misconduct occurs. Recently, some notorious cases have increased the awareness of educator misconduct and have caused concern for communities, schools, school districts and states across the country.

In an effort to assist teachers, parents and districts in assuring a safe, healthy environment for all students, the Department of Education has established MyFloridaTeacher.com, a resource intended to inform concerned stakeholders about the Code of Ethics to which Florida educators must adhere, the status of an educator's teaching certificate, and whether an educator's certificate has been suspended, denied or revoked. This information is a matter of public record and will be available before next school year via MyFloridaTeacher.com. While the website is under construction, teachers, parents, and districts logging on to the site will be taken to multiple resources provided by the Bureau of Professional Practices. For more information log on to: <http://www.fldoe.org/edstandards/default.asp>

Rural Mathematics and Science Educators Scholarships for Online Study

Western Governors University is offering the WGU Scholarships for Rural Mathematics and Science Educators. These scholarships, valued at up to \$7,500, are designed to help working adults attend college online to become highly-qualified mathematics and science teachers in America's rural schools. They are made available through a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Who Should Apply: Teachers currently teaching in a rural school district or rural school, or individuals willing to commit to teach in a rural school. Individuals interested in one of the eligible bachelor's, master's, or post-baccalaureate teaching programs in mathematics or science. For more information log on to: http://www.wgu.edu/tuition_financial_aid/rural_overview.asp.

Source: Just for Teachers: <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/>

How to Motivate Your Students to Publish Poetry - April is National Poetry Month

By: Magda D. Salazar, Project GATE Professional Development Specialist

Okay, so you've heard it before...an effective teacher is a reflective teacher... Well, a reflective student is a more effective student. Writing in response to reading can be deepened and extended through the dialogue between a reader and the text (Tierney, 1990). This can be accomplished by the writing of a poem and engaging in poetry readings. Students can better understand and remember ideas when they have been able to transform those ideas. The following activity was found in the Reading Teacher excerpt by Linda Kucan entitled, "I poems: Invitations for students to deepened literary understanding." A great strategy is to read aloud poetry from children's authors. Then, teach them what poetry is and the importance of poetry. An easy way for them to get started is writing about what they know - themselves.

Publish their poetry by creating an "I am" book, including their pictures. Bind the pages together with ribbon and place in your literacy center for them to enjoy time and time again. For students who cannot write, have them post pictures in appropriate lines.

The following can be used as a format for an "I am" Poem:

I am
I wonder
I hear
I see
I want
I am
I pretend
I feel
I touch
I worry
I cry
I am
I understand
I say
I dream

It is a suggested format, please edit according to your students. If you end up publishing a book with all your students' "I am" Poems, please send us a picture or photocopy it. We would love to display it!

Writing Poetry online with Poets: Scholastic has an amazing website to use with students. While teaching in an inclusive setting, Ms. Melton and I used this site with our students. The students submitted their poems online, but printed a copy for us. They truly enjoyed the site and we can say, we read some amazing poems and raved about our talented poets. Check it out at: http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/jack_my_poem.htm.

On this site, students discover how to shape ideas and words into creative, descriptive, and silly poems in 4 easy steps with Jack Prelutsky. He provides students with an example of his own poetry accompanied by an audio clip of him reading the poem. He also shares writing tips that he uses when he writes poetry. Students get to show what they learned when Jack challenges them to continue a poem he has begun. Jack also provides students with guidelines for revising their writing.

Let me know what you think of the site. Remember, April is National Poetry Month. Enjoy and happy readings!

Tidbits from the Division of Special Education...

Summer Heat

Summer Heat is coming! Be on the look out for SPED offerings. The Summer Heat website will be launched April 20, 2007. Online registration for Summer Heat begins May 9, 2007. For additional information regarding SPED Summer Heat courses, please contact Ms. Cathy Orlando, Instructional Supervisor at corlando@dadeschools.net.

The Medicaid Reimbursement Programs continues to offer districtwide assistance to better inform our M-DCPS staff as well as our community agencies about our two Medicaid reimbursement programs, the Florida Medicaid Administrative Claiming Program and the Florida Certified School Match Program for Fee-For-Service. This office proudly allocates the reimbursement funds throughout our district to support M-DCPS programs for students with disabilities.

Another important issue is the Medicaid Parental Consent form (e.g., FM-7032), which has been attached to the Weekly Briefing #1188 for ALL PRINCIPALS. Furthermore, the Florida Department of Education memorandum is also attached, which stipulates that Medicaid providers, such as our district must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements. Thus, the Medicaid Parental Consent form has been designed to meet the FERPA compliance requirements. For additional information, please contact Ms. Terry Reyes-Gavilan Supervisor Management Operations Medicaid Reimbursement Programs at 305-995-2798.

Extended School Year (ESY) Services Update

ESY services for students with disabilities are made by the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team based on individual need and require specific documentation. The procedures for documenting and reporting ESY services are included in weekly briefing# 1967.

For updates, refer to the ESY link on the Special Education website's homepage at www.dadeschools.net as well as the Summer Services Handbook. Please contact Ms. Claudia Leary at cleary@dadeschools.net or 305-995-1859 for additional information.

From Our PDP Partners... Florida International University

Project QUEST Application Florida International University

Name: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Current Position/Location: _____

(subject and school)

Ethnicity

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Native Alaskan | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black (non-Hispanic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White (non-Hispanic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |

Undergraduate degree (Where and when): _____

Current certifications held: _____

Undergraduate GPA: _____ Employee Number: _____

How many years have you been teaching? (Be specific. Identify each position and how many years/grades/subjects)

Please rank your preference for a start date in this program. If you are not interested in the date listed, do not place a number next to the date (1= first choice, 2=second choice)

_____ Spring 2007 _____ Spring 2008 _____ Spring 2009

Why would you be a good candidate for Project QUEST? (one page or less)

Please submit to Dr. Elizabeth Cramer via email at cramere@fiu.edu. In subject line, please write Project QUEST

14th Annual Camp Scholarship Awards



\$250.00 Scholarship Application

Please send a copy of the student's completed camp application, along with this completed CEC Scholarship Application. Include the Nominee Statement (See C) on an additional paper.

A) Student Information:

Student's Name _____

Address _____

_____, Florida _____

City

Zip Code

Age: _____ Exceptionality: _____

School: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian's Contact/Phone Number: _____

B) Program/Camp Information for Scholarship Monies to be Used:

Name of Program/Camp: _____

Address: _____

_____, Florida _____

Length of Program Desired: _____

Cost per Week: _____ Total Amount Requested: _____

Scholarship Check Payable to: _____

C) Nominee Statement: In 200 words or less, state why the student is especially deserving of this CEC Scholarship. Please include specific supporting and background information. (i.e. financial need, emotional stability, medications, etc.) Opportunities for enhancing scholarship funds are available. Please include explanation for additional request.

D) Referral Information: NOTE: Scholarship Nomination must be made by school personnel only. Relatives of the nominee are not eligible.

Nomination completed by:

Name _____

Administrator

Teacher

Counselor

Mail Code _____ Work Phone _____ Ext. _____

Home or Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

Send to: Magda Salazar * PD # 9310 * or email to: mssalazar@dadeschools.net

Deadline: Friday, May 4, 2007

14th Annual Camp Scholarship Awards



Last year, 25 students
were awarded \$250.00
summer camp scholarships!

Scholarship Application

Deadline to submit application:
Friday, May 4, 2007

14th Annual Camp Scholarship Awards - \$250.00

When: Saturday, May 12, 2007

Where: Dave and Buster's at Dolphin Mall

11481 NW 12 Street, Miami, FL 305-468-1555

Time: 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Please RSVP by Friday, May 4, 2007

Magda D. Salazar

Email: mssalazar@dadeschools.net

Phone: 786-223-3335

Please note that confirmation of scholarship application will be sent to school-site personnel via email:

Name of Nominee: _____

Name of Parent attending: _____

Name of School Representative attending: _____

**Miami-Dade County
Public Schools**

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mssalazar@dadeschools.net
Phone: 305-523-0886
Cell: 786-223-3335



Finishing Strong: Closing of School Conference for Beginning Teachers

When: Saturday, April 28, 2007

Time: 8:30 AM - 1:00 pm

Where: FIU North—Koven's Center

Please register online at Professional Development Menu
and Registration System:

<http://calendar.dadeschools.net/>

Please register under Instructor's Name: Gloria Kotrady

Teacher Tools on the Internet

Poetry-Sites

Poetry 4 Kids: <http://www.poetry4kids.com/index.php>

Giggle Poetry Website: <http://www.gigglepoetry.com/>

Secondary Poetry Site:

http://www.awesomelibrary.org/Classroom/English/Literature/Middle_High_School_Literature.html

Louder Than a Clap of Thunder by Jack Prelutsky

Louder than a clap of thunder,
louder than an eagle screams,
louder than a dragon blunders,
 or a dozen football teams,
 louder than a four alarm,
 or a rushing waterfall,
louder than a knight in armor
jumping from a ten-foot wall.
Louder than an earthquake rumbles,
 louder than a tidal wave,
 louder than an ogre grumbles
as he stumbles through his cave,
louder than stampeding cattle,
 louder than a cannon roars,
 louder than a giant's rattle,
that's how loud my father SNORES!

