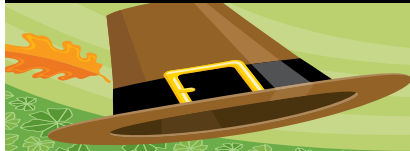




THE FALCON TIMES

November 2013

Volume 2, Issue 1



Celebrating Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is a time spent with family and friends. We look forward to all the fixings like turkey and dressing, candid yams, collard greens, string beans, potato salad, cornbread, pigeon peas and rice, sweet potato soufflé, sweet potato pie, pumpkin pie and so much more.

Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is a holiday celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday in November. It has been an annual tradition since 1863, when, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens", to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26. This federal and public holiday in the U.S., Thanksgiving is one of the major holidays of the year. Together with Christmas and New Year's, Thanksgiving is a part of the broader holiday season.

The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in 1621. This feast lasted three days, and it was attended by 90 Native Americans (as accounted by attendee Edward Winslow) and 53 Pilgrims.

The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "Thanksgiving" with days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought.

Americans commonly trace the Thanksgiving holiday to a 1621 celebration at the Plymouth Plantation, where the Plymouth settlers held a harvest feast after a successful growing season. Autumn or early winter feasts continued sporadically in later years, first as an impromptu religious observance, and later as a civil tradition.

The Pilgrims celebrated at Plymouth for three days after their first harvest, in 1621. Seventeenth-century accounts do not identify this as a Thanksgiving observance, rather it followed the harvest.

The First Thanksgiving Feast it is said that Pilgrims learned to grow corn, beans and pumpkins from the Indians, which helped all of them survive.

In the Autumn of 1621, they held a grand celebration where 90 people were invited including Indians. The grand feast was organized to thank God for his favors. This shared dinner is popularly known as "The first thanksgiving feast". There is however, no evidence to prove if the dinner actually took place.

Thanksgiving Day is a communal celebration that is marked as a sense of gratitude people feel for all the good things in life.

Thanksgiving traditions includes stuffed turkey that adorns every dinner table during the feast. Pumpkin pie, Cranberry sauce, corns are some of the dishes cooked everywhere to mark the day. Though historians don't have an evidence to prove that turkey was eaten during the first Thanksgiving dinner, but the thanksgiving celebration will be incomplete without it.

Parades probably started with President Lincoln proclaiming it an official day. The full- dress parade is a way to display the country's military strength and discipline. The main aim of such parades is to lift the spirits of the spectators, provide them with wholesome entertainment. In this present day, "The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade" is the official kick-off to the holiday season. This Emmy Award winning tradition is seen by more than 3.5 million people in New York and over 50 million people at home by television.

Watching NFL football during Thanksgiving is a popular tradition. The traditional game between the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers continues. One of the most memorable games having been played on this day.

After all is done on this memorable day, everyone prepares for Black Friday which is the first day of shopping frenzies to prepare for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

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From the Principal's Pen

Dear students, The mission of Jan Mann Opportunity School is to provide a positive learning environment where students are motivated to improve academically, socially, and vocationally so that they may become productive members in an emerging global economy. Several of our students accomplished this mission by successfully graduating, or returning to their home schools with much improved grades, attendance and behavior.

One common characteristic of all successful people is that they stay informed about the world around them. Information or lack thereof can determine your destiny. Oftentimes opportunities are missed because of a lack of effort to stay informed. The best way to stay informed is through media such as newspapers, magazines and even televised news programs. Your school newspaper is a pathway to staying informed. The personnel who contribute stories and information have made a choice to get involved and become a part of the information highway. Now that you have picked up your paper and begun to read, hopefully you too will make the same commitment to stay informed.

This is the first edition of the 2013-2014 school year. Hopefully you are pleased by the effort and hard work that went into producing this publication. As principal, I want to welcome you back to Jan Mann Opportunity School for another productive school year. On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration, please know that we are here to help you reach your full potential as a student and a member of society.

Sincerely,

Samuel L. Johnson

Principal

The Assistant Principal Speaks



Parents and students, it is indeed a pleasure to welcome everyone back for the 2013-14 school year. As we begin the school year we want everyone to be reminded of our purpose to be here: "Excellence in education". As staff members, we will do everything in our power to assist students in his/her pursuit of a quality education.

We believe that your child's future depends on the education provided to him/her today. Professional staff, inclusive of administrators, instructional staff and support staff, will work cooperatively with you in an effort to work towards student achievement.

Students, we expect you to do your part as well. By that I mean that you should come to school every day prepared to make learning your priority. Whatever circumstances brought you here should become a dim view as you move towards your goals. Our mission is to help you correct past mistakes and become successful students from here forward.

I look forward to working with you all and wish you a productive year!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Emmanuel

Assistant Principal



OCTOBER IS Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Ms. L. Thornton

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM), also referred to in America as National Breast Cancer Awareness month (NBCAM), is an annual international health campaign organized by breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.

NBCAM was founded in 1985 as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries (now part of AstraZeneca, producer of several anti-breast cancer drugs). The aim of the NBCAM is to promote mammography as the most effective weapon in the fight against breast cancer.

What is breast cancer? Breast cancer is a group of cancer cells (malignant tumor) that starts in the cells of the breast and is the second leading cause of death among women.

Breast cancer occurs when malignant tumors develop in the breast. These cells can spread by breaking away from the original tumor and entering blood vessels or lymph vessels, which branch into tissues throughout the body. When cancer cells travel to other parts of the body and begin damaging other tissues and organs, the process is called metastasis.

In 1993, Evelyn Lauder, Senior Corporate Vice president of the Estee Lauder Companies founded The Breast Cancer Research Foundation and established the "Pink Ribbon" as its symbol. In the fall of 1991, the Susan G. Komen Foundation handed out pink ribbons to participants in its new York City race for breast cancer survivors.

- ◇ One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.
- ◇ Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women.
- ◇ Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women.
- ◇ Each year it is estimated that over 220,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die.
- ◇ Although breast cancer in men is rare, an estimated 2,150 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 410 will die each year.

A variety of events around the world are organized in October which includes walks and runs. In the United States, the national Football League promotes breast cancer awareness by incorporating pink on and off the field and the football players display pink on their uniforms, shoes, towels, etc.

A well known fund raising activity is held yearly across the United States which is called the Susan G. Komen "3" Day "For the Cure" It is a sixty mile fundraising walk which is spread across three days.

The fight continues to find a cure for breast cancer! Will you join in and help make it happen?

MEN Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Males can develop breast cancer. Male breast cancer is rare and is generally overlooked. In 2009, the male breast cancer advocacy group "Out of the Shadow of Pink", A Man's Pink, and the Brandon Greening Foundation for breast cancer in men joined together to globally establish the third week of October as "Male Breast Cancer Awareness Week."

Male and female, all are born with some breast cells and tissue. Even though males do not develop milk-producing breast, a man's breast cells and tissue can still develop cancer. Even so, male breast cancer is very rare. Less than one percent of all breast cancer cases develop in men and only one in a thousand will ever be diagnosed with breast cancer.



High School Diplomas vs. Certificates

Miami-Dade County Schools has various types of **DIPLOMAS/CERTIFICATES** which a student will earn at the end of their twelfth year in school. You can earn a standard diplomas, a certificate of completion, a CPT—eligible certificate of completion, a social diploma or a special certificate of completion. What you will receive is totally based on your performance in school. It is important that you know what each diploma/certificate represents. Now, ask yourself “What do I want to receive after having spent 12 years of my life in school?”

High School Diploma

A standard diploma will be awarded to graduates, if the student has earned the required credits and attained the grade point average for the graduation program selected. Also, students must pass the Grade 10 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 (FCAT 2.0) Reading test and all applicable End of Course Assessments. The purpose of the standard diploma is to certify that the student has met all District and State standards for graduation. A special education student will be awarded a standard diploma if all of the criteria for a standard diploma have been met by that student.

A high school diploma opens the door to the World-Wide World with many opportunities to advance to the next level.

CPT– Eligible Certificate of Completion

Students who earn the 24 required graduation credits and achieve a GPA of 2.0 or higher, but do not pass the required graduation test(s), are eligible to receive the College Placement Test (CPT) - eligible certificate of completion. Students who receive the CPT - eligible certificate of completion may enroll directly into a Florida community college or post-secondary career and technical education program. Based upon the score the student receives on the CPT, the student may enroll in remedial or credit courses at the community college.

Superintendent’s Diploma of Distinction

This prestigious diploma is awarded to students who are enrolled in the 4-year, 24-credit program and complete an academically rigorous course of study. The requirements include at least four Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, and/or International Studies courses; and completion of 75 hours of community service, which includes identification of a social problem of interest, development of a plan for personal involvement in addressing the problem and, through papers and other presentations, evaluate, and reflect upon the experience. All students must earn a 3.5 GPA (weighted scale) by the end of the first semester of the senior year with no final grade less than a "C."

Certificate of Completion

A student who is enrolled in the 4-year, 24 credit program and has met all requirements for graduation except passing the required graduation test(s) or earning the 2.0 GPA required for graduation will be awarded a Certificate of Completion.

A student may make further attempts to meet the requirements for a standard diploma.

Special Diploma and Special Certificate of Completion

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in the 4-year, 24-credit program and have been properly classified may be eligible to receive a special diploma or a special certificate of completion. Parents who have questions concerning these special diplomas or certificates are urged to consult the school counselor, special education department chairperson, or Region Center exceptional student education staffing specialist.



Counselor's CORNER

Core Values

Model Student Behavior

The Code of Student Conduct incorporates Core Values that were adopted by the School Board of Miami Dade County. They are:

- Citizenship** - Helping to create a society based on democratic values
- Cooperation** - Working together to reach goals.
- Fairness** - Treating people the same without playing favorites.
- Honesty** - Dealing truthfully with people.
- Integrity** - Doing what is right and what you say you will do.
- Kindness** - Being caring and gentle toward all living things.
- Pursuit of Excellence** - Doing your best and not giving up.
- Respect** - Showing regard for the dignity of persons and things.
- Responsibility** - Thinking before you act and being accountable to your actions.

Students who practice these Core Values are also those who exhibit model student behavior. Make a commitment to practice using these Core Values everyday!

CONGRATULATIONS

Honor Roll Recipients

(First Grading Period - August 19th-October 24th)

Endre Eles—3.83
Selvin Mathew—3.50
Jean Franco Tucci—3.50

KUDOS

To Our Custodial Staff

L. Hanshaw
J. Keels
D. Sheffield
P. Wright

We recognize our custodial staff for receiving a high rating and subsequent, passing score on their cleaning and sanitation audit. We applaud them for their continuous efforts in helping to keep the facility a clean and safe working environment.



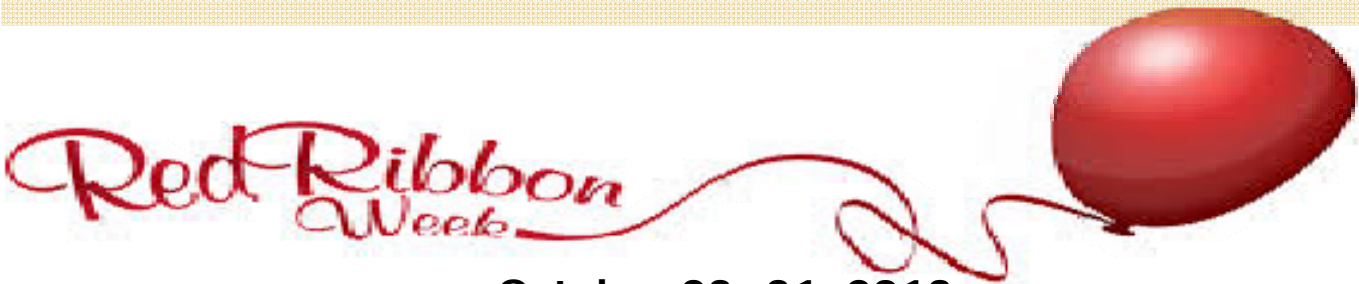
CONSTITUTION DAY

By Tomas Romero

We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Constitution Day formerly named "Citizenship Day" is an American holiday in recognition for the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and people who have earned citizenship. It is recognized on September 17th, the day the constitution was signed 226 years ago. This holiday is observed by educational facilities providing the public with programming related to the U.S. Constitution. Learning institutes across the nation have dedicated "Constitution and Citizenship Week" to meet the requirements of this federal observance.

The day was inspired by Arthur Pine a public relations leader. Writers of a song called "I Am An American" brought it to the attention of Pine who had the song introduced on NBC, Mutual, and ABC by an Orchestra and arranged for an "I Am An American Day." President Roosevelt named it an official day. September 17th became Citizenship Day and then Constitution Day.



October 23- 31, 2013

"A Healthy Me Is Drug Free" is the Red Ribbon Week 2013 theme. What is Red Ribbon Week and what is its purpose? The National Family Partnership organized this Nation wide Red Ribbon Week Campaign to bring awareness to drug use. The campaign educates youth and encourages them not to get involved with drug of any kind. It also is a reminder and a celebration of life for Enrique (Kiki) Camarena who as a Drug Enforcement Administration Agent was tortured and killed in Mexico in 1985. Agent Camarena fought against the selling and use of illegal drugs.

Through his efforts on fighting the drug war, he was killed and his body was found a month later. From agent Camarena's death, coalitions around the world were begun and embraced his belief that one person can make a difference. In his honor, Red Ribbon Week was birthed and in his memory, the Red Ribbon is used as the symbol or honor.

During red ribbon week we want to reflect on the life of Agent Camarena and how we can pay it forward by being healthy and drug free. Remember, you can make a change and contribution to help eliminate drugs in the community, society and the world.



The pencil is an indirect symbol of almost everything. A simple tool that can create peace, stop a war, or even start one, Depending on its holder. The tip is used to tell stories and send words through our minds, to create art and share with the world our thoughts, emotions and views. It designs our houses, our clothes, toys, phones and laptops; creates our worlds without ever wasting a breath.

But its wood can burn holes, holes that cannot be stored or forgotten, Only mended - holes that create war and burn the bridges we use to Keep our friends and family close. The simplicity of a pencil: It can kill a Spirit, or break a heart, but its eraser can destroy negativities and Memories we don't wish to keep. Get rid of mistakes, fade them into the rubber and paper and delete all harm, and all sadness from ourselves and world for we should only use everything for good and never harm.

So, while the war rages on overseas where we fire gunpowder and spread blood, let's raise our pencils and create not only peace with ourselves and neighbors, but art with our friends and family, and become acquainted with strangers, the pencil can do wonders for ourselves and others.

We just need to pick it up.

EDUCATION

(My Personal Testimony)
by Diamond Noel

Hello, my name is Diamond Noel and I attend Jan Mann Opportunity School. I know what you're thinking "she's one of those kinds of students". Well, you got that right. At one point in my life as a teenager, I had behavioral issues. I was suspended over ten times every semester and because of that I was sent to opportunity school. I'm a whole different student improving my behavior for the better. I attend school almost everyday and I'm currently doing online classes.

Education is so important. It's important because there are so many children all around the world who are not allowed to learn or don't have the luxuries of education like we do. I grew up in an abusive atmosphere. Because of that, I often thought about dropping out of school. As a student, I know that dropping out of school will not do me any good because without a diploma, I would not be able to get a good job or even be accepted into any college. Every subject in school is very significant in helping achieve my goal in life. I don't take it for granted; I have an able body and a willing mind to do all I can do, to be all I can be.

Therefore, I strongly believe that students should stay in school, receive a good education and strive to receive a diploma: that will lead you to the next open door. Don't let the door of SUCCESS close in your face because you did not do what it takes to receive a high school diploma.



Staff Members



T. Acosta
Media Specialist



D. Akins
Science



C. Allen
ESE



B. Akra
Paraprofessional



R. Ashley
Counselor



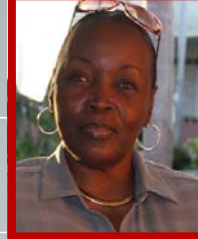
L. Barroso
Paraprofessional



S. Belony
Consumer Science



A. Bencosme
Psychologist



R. Bethel
Paraprofessional



L. Binstock
ESE



D. Blucher
Language Arts



R. Braxton
Social Worker



H. Braynon
Social Studies



T. Brown
Paraprofessional



W. Brown
Paraprofessional



F. Burden
CAP Advisor



N. Chery
Paraprofessional



J. Clark
Security



P. Cruet
Community Liaison



D. Davis
Paraprofessional



J. Davis
TRUST Counselor



J. Dunn
Secretary/Treasurer



T. Fishburne
Bus. Education



M. Floyd
Mathematics



L. Hanshaw
Custodian

Staff Members



D. Hill-Johnson
Registrar



G. Jones
Discipline



H. Jones
Security



J. Keels
Custodian



T. Keith
Paraprofessional



E. Lafaille
Discipline



L. Levy
Security



D. Milson
ESE



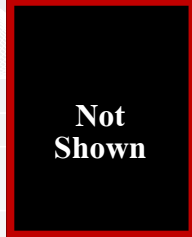
A. Morales
Science



R. Pierre
Social Worker



P. Quigley
Physical Education



Ms. Rasheed
Language Arts



A. Ruffin
Security



R. Seraphin
Guidance Counselor



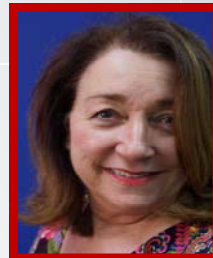
D. Sheffield
Security



J. Smith
Security



A. Walker
Paraprofessional



V. Weaver
Staffing Specialist



A. Williams
Paraprofessional



A. Wright
Reading



P. Wright
Head Custodian

*Congratulations
to Ms. Thornton
on her retirement!*





Hispanic Heritage Month

By Jeron Higgs

Hispanic Heritage month began to be observed in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson, as Hispanic Heritage week. In 1988, while President Ronald Reagan was in office, he expanded the dedication to 30 days and changed it to Hispanic Heritage month. Hispanic Heritage month was legally put into law on August 17, 1988.

The Idea of Hispanic Heritage week/month began when 5 countries, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica all celebrated their anniversary on the same day. All five of these countries declared their independence from Spain on the same day, September 15, 1821.

The United States has a rich culture of Hispanic Americans who contributed milestones to society since the early 1800s, like Joseph Hernandez who was the first delegate from the Florida territory and a member of U.S. congress.

The first Hispanic astronaut was Franklin Chang-Diaz, who flew on seven total space-shuttle missions. Another famous Hispanic in the U.S. government was Alberto Gonzales, the first Hispanic U.S. attorney general.

Hispanic people have a deeply rooted sense of their heritage and current day United States would be marginally different without our Hispanic neighbors.

Hispanics make up a large percent of our population, and they are proud to be in America just as they are proud of their heritage.

OPEN 2013 HOUSE



The 2013-2014 school year open house was held on Tuesday, September 24th at 6 p.m. Open House allows faculty, teachers, parents and students to connect with their child's teacher to discuss school work, attendance, behavior and other important information.

Mr. Johnson, school principal welcomed all those who came out to take part in this endeavor. He continued by introducing the staff and faculty followed by a video presentation from the superintendent of schools, Mr. Albert o Carvalho.

Staff, students and parents took the time to feast on a scrumptious dinner prepared by the staff of Miami Carol City Senior High. The menu consisted of spaghetti, salad, string beans, fresh baked cookies, assorted fruit, punch and iced tea.

Ms. Ashley, school counselor, provided information on services rendered here at the school and encouraged our parents to take advantage of various services available.

Thanks to all for participating in our "Open House-2013."





SOUND OF MUSIC



Katheryne Green



Lazaro Acosta



Jean Tucci

Mr. Acosta, music teacher, is exposing our students to the sound of music through the electric guitar. This musical instrument converts the vibration of its strings into electrical impulses. These impulses generate sweet melodious tunes when added with other instruments or even alone. Invented in 1931, the electric guitar has become extremely popular among jazz musicians.

Because of its popularity, this instrument is now well used in all genres of music. Its strings are capable of a multitude of sounds and styles.

No wonder the students in Mr. Acosta's class are so enthused and eager to learn this instrument. It brings sweet melodies to the mind, body and soul.

Keep Up the Good Work!



Endre Eles



Kadeem Grant



Carlos Santana



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

August 19th—September 20th

Charlie Bell
 Endre Eles
 Nikkievia Gordon
 Alphonso Johnson
 Kadeem Grant
 Patrick Llano
 Selvin Mathew
 Sade Smith
 Jean Tucci
 Dezmond Ward

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

September 23rd—October 24th

Marco Angeloni
 Emmanuel Charles
 Christian Delgado
 Kadeem Grant
 Selvin Mathew
 Doyle Sneed
 Dezmond Ward

Alexander Bullard
 Fritz Charles
 Endre Eles
 Alphonso Johnson
 Sade Smith
 Jean Tucci
 Quentin Williams

CONGRATULATIONS



Miami Dade County Public Schools kicked off its United Way Campaign. Our student goal is \$71.00 and staff goal is \$3,216.00.

We are happy to announce that the students exceeded their goal and raised \$75.00. Thanks for your cooperation in helping making our United Way a success!

A special thanks to Ms. Akra for her untiring and dedicated service given towards the United Way Campaign.

Welcome To Our New Neighbors

We would like to welcome our new neighbors, the Miami Dade School Police Department who is housed on the east side of the building.

It is a pleasure and we are privileged to have officers in the building because it brings a sense of security for the staff and students at Jan Mann Opportunity.

We hope that you are comfortable in your new setting and that you have familiarized yourself with the facility. Again, we welcome you and we look forward to having rewarding interactions with our new neighbors.

THE FALCON TIMES

Principal: Mr. S. Johnson
Advisor: Ms. T. Fishburne, Business Education Teacher

Assistant Principal: Mr. N. Emmanuel
Photographer: Mr. T. Acosta

EDITORIAL POLICY: The Falcon Times is a publication of Jan Mann Opportunity School. Readers are encouraged to respond in writing to issues in the paper. All submitted materials must be signed in order to be considered for publication. The staff reserves the right to edit all materials; no articles will be rejected due to discrimination.