A Message from the President

Leanne Tellam
PTA President 2008-2009

I hope everyone had a fantastic time at Fun Fair! My kids thought the rides were amazing and had so much fun at the class booths. I am once again blown away by the amount of people willing to contribute their time, resources and creativity! Thank you to each and every person who helped make this year’s event such a huge success. A special thanks to Jenn Feinstein and Katie Butler for making Fun Fair happen, and to Annie Lay for all her help co-chairing the Silent Auction. Take a look inside for more information, acknowledgements and photos.

But first let me share my favorite quote of the day. As we handed the PTA check to the ride company, the manager said, “I have never seen more polite children at any of the schools I work. Your kids waited in line nicely, they didn’t push, and were good to each other and my workers. I’m at a lot of schools, and this one has the best mannered kids.” Wow! High praise for not only our kids, but for us parents as well. You should each be so proud!

March will offer several opportunities for parents to get together at PTA events:

March 12th: Our 2nd Volunteers’ Night Out will be held at Cooper’s Resto Bar starting at 5:00 p.m. Whether you grade math superstars, help in the classroom or sit on the board, we’d like to see you out having fun with our amazing group of volunteers. If you are thinking about volunteering in some capacity, this is a great way to find out how!

March 17th: We will combine a short PTA meeting with a presentation on Cyber-Bullying by school counselor Susan Sirrota. Ms. Sirrota is a sought-after speaker with lots of useful information, so I hope you will join us in the Media Center after drop off. We will also be electing our nominating committee – yes, it’s that time already!

March 24th: The Reef will host a Community/Palmetto Feeder Pattern meeting in the cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. This gathering of local school PTAs will highlight our children with chorus performances and provide a legislative/education report from school and community leaders.

Take advantage of your PTA membership and join us at these events! Look for more information via our email updates and on our new Facebook page.

See you on the Reef,
Leanne
Let’s take a few moments to give thanks to the PTA Board and each and every PTA member for their tremendous efforts to make Coral Reef Elementary “a great place to be.” This has been done in spite of people losing their jobs, and other personal challenges. Instead of the economy and these challenges negatively impacting what we have provided for our children, there has been a renewal at our school of time and resources invested with our children. Thank you!!!

Fred M. Albion, Ph.D.

General PTA Meeting
March 17, 2009 (St. Patrick’s Day)
8:45-10:00 a.m.
Hosted by Susan Sirota,
Coral Reef Elementary School Counselor

Cyber Bullying Workshop
• Learn how to keep your kids safe when using computers, cell phones and iPods
• Elect nominating committee
• Celebrate Fun Fair success
• Legislative update
Please join us for a morning of learning and camaraderie with your PTA family.

Wear green to enter the St. Patrick’s Day Raffle.

Volunteers Night Out
March 12, 2009 5:00 p.m.
The Reef has an amazing volunteer force, and you deserve a night out. Please join your PTA board at Cooper’s Resto Bar and Grill, 16701 S. Dixie Highway. Happy Hour Specials are from 5-7 p.m. Join us in celebrating our Fun Fair success. Hope to see you there.

DID YOU KNOW...
Coral Reef Elementary is now on Facebook
Join our group!
This was the first year that we had sponsors for the Fun Fair and we were so excited by the generous response we had. We were able to raise an additional $2,600 from our sponsors. We would like to thank all of the sponsors for helping make the Fun Fair a success and helping to make Coral Reel Elementary a great school. Your sponsorship funds are greatly appreciated:

**Platinum Sponsors:**
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**Bella Vita Salon**
**The Boat Center & the Tellam Family**
**Mrs. Canals**
**Capretto Shoes**
**Cutler Ridge Family**
**Chiropractic Center**
**Cooper’s Resto Bar**
**Dave & Jennifer Smith**
**Design-in-Motion**
**Dr. Albion**
**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**
**Five Sisters Store**
**Ms. Fowler**
**The Gorman Family**
**Jaime SN Photography**
**Janine Stone Photography**
**JoAnna’s Marketplace**
**Ms. Johnson**
**Ms. Leone**
**The Lundgren Family**
**Mami’s Casa & the Zelaya Family**
**Martha Bravo Photography**
**Math Monkey**
**Metro Zoo**
**Miami Heat & the McCullough Family**
**NetGain Consulting & Laura Crovo-Lane**
**The Nicholers Family**
**Ms. Pastrana**
**Ms. Pierpoint**
**Ms. Pierre-Louis**
**Pinch-a-Penny Pool Supply**
**Pincrest Health & Fitness**
**The Pope Family**
**Ms. Rigaud**
**Ms. Rivas**
**The Roache Family**
**Roasters & Toasters**
**Ms. Rosner**

Wow—what a day! We had bounce houses, a bungee jump, water tag, great music, awesome shopping—who could ask for anything more? The weather was beautiful, the rides were fun, the food was great…but the real reason for the success of the day was YOU! An event like this can only be successful with the help of the whole school, and we truly came together to put on a great day of fun for the kids with the added benefit of raising money for the school. Volunteering at your booth, donating sodas, donating items for the silent auction basket, even buying the wristbands and food tickets—all of these are ways that you have helped your child enjoy the day and helped the CRE PTA raise money. For that, we thank you and congratulate you on a job well done!

**SILENT AUCTION Donors**

- Sally Foster
- Sandy Risco
- Silpada Designs
- Ms. Sirrota
- Sonia’s Hair Designers
- South Beach Ties
- South Miami Jewelers
- Southwest Plumbing
- Stacey Richardson
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- SwingSomeWhere.com & the Stone Family
- Teleboro Wireless & the Perez Family
- The Learning Tree of Art
- Tracey Keally
- Ultimate Services & Repairs & the Latty Family
- University of Miami Athletics & the Holcutt Family
- Yoga Kids

**Teacher Appreciation Luncheon**
- invitations, caterer, décor. Mid to late April activities. Contact: Janine Stone, VP Volunteers, janinestonephoto@bellsouth.net or 305-903-5126.

**Spring Book Fair** (May 1st -8th) - help needed with daily shifts. Contact Michelle Lopez, mcslopez@yahoo.com.

**Legislative Coordinator** - inform members of legislative activity, produce postcards and materials for Parent Resource Room. During legislative session March through May. Contact: Janine Stone, VP Volunteers, janinestonephoto@bellsouth.net or 305-903-5126.

**ACT President & Board** - This organization (separate from the PTA) needs volunteers to step forward if it is to continue at our school. Please contact Beth Grant, bandbgrant@bellsouth.net.
A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Silent Auction Contributors & Volunteers

The Silent Auction was bigger and better than ever this year, and that could not have happened without the help and contributions of so many individuals. The baskets that came from almost all of our classes were amazing. Thank you to each individual contributor and to the room parents for coordinating these donations. Thank you to Madeline Hamburg for her decorating efforts in the Music Room, and to Mr. Nicholeris for allowing us such great access to his room and students. Annie Lay and her “green crew” outdid themselves turning your extras into treasures. We couldn’t have done it without all of you!

The bidding process was so much fun we hated to close it down. It seemed like there wasn’t enough time to consider all the wonderful donations. What a great problem to have in such difficult economic times! But when we did close down, there was a great crew working behind the scenes to get your winnings to you in a timely fashion. Thanks to:

- Tracy Anthony
- Lisa Bluh
- Laura Crovo-Lane
- Anita Dyches
- Tracey Kealey
- Natalie Kline
- Katie Landsea
- and all the other wonderful parents that made the auction such a success.

Start planning and saving up for next year!

Leanne Tellam, Silent Auction Chair

Fun Fair Committee

We would like to send out a HUGE thank you to our Fun Fair Committee. These people are absolutely awesome—they took on these jobs and ran with them, and we could not have had a successful Fair without them! If you see them around the halls of CRE, please tell them how much you appreciate all their hard work!

- Chris Pack—Food Vendor Coordinator
- Ruth Sensale—Ticket Sales
- Natalie Kline—Ticket Sales
- Anita Dyches—Ticket Sales
- Beth Grant—Soda Coordinator
- Kristin Franz—Volunteer Coordinator
- Jen Smith—Game Booth Coordinator
- Monica Allman—Game Booth Coordinator
- Margaret Coreoso—Game Prize Coordinator

Thanks again for all of your help!

Jenn Feinstein & Katie Butler, Fun Fair Co-Chairs

Going Green

The “going green” initiative was a huge success. We had a great crew and we were very surprised to see how many parents contributed so many new items! The best part was that no one really “bought” anything. 35 baskets were created with things that some people had laying around their homes and never got to use them! This effort not only helps reducing each contributor’s ecological footprint, it also gives great stuff new use! Thanks to all those parents that brought items in…we couldn’t have done it without you!

Thanks to Francis Melgaard, Sonia Aylsworth, Ericka Meurrens and Val Schou for all their help wrapping baskets and making them look just beautiful and for the cheerful way of showing so much dedication! A very special thanks to Odelys Lopez for putting in so many hours in this project, from creating a basket and wrapping it beautifully to taking care of our kids so we could finish in a timely manner! You’re the backstage queen!

Thanks to Leanne Tellam for believing in the project, for embracing the creativity and the gifts that all of us fabulous women and mothers have. It was only through her incredible vision that all of us were able to work our magic…You are wonderful!

Thanks to Dr. Fred Albion for his great spirit and progressive attitude that help make this school such a great place for our kids!

It was an honor to have worked with such fine people.

Until next year!

Annie Lay
Just the other day a student asked me— is being nervous before a test normal? It is pretty normal to feel a little stressed before a test. Just about everyone does. A touch of nervous anticipation can actually help you get revved up and keep you at peak performance while you are taking the test. Luckily there are ways to reduce test jitters. Here are some ways you might try:

• Maintain a positive attitude as you study.
• Study enough prior to the test to feel confident that you know the material.
• Don’t wait until the night before! This will increase your stress.
• Replace worry and negative thinking with thoughts that are positive and relaxing. Such as “I can do this!”
• Practice going through the testing experience. Close your eyes and imagine yourself calmly and confidently taking the test.
• Walk into the classroom with your head up and your shoulders back. How you act definitely can affect how confident you feel!
• Get a good night’s sleep.
• Eat a healthy breakfast and avoid having foods loaded with sugar or caffeine.
• Leave your house with plenty of time to spare so you don’t feel rushed.
• Take long and deep breaths when you feel you are moving too fast and may be feeling stressed.
• Read every answer before choosing one.
• If you have time, go back and check to make sure you answered every question.
• Plan something relaxing to do after school on test days.

Most importantly, be proud of your accomplishments. Taking a test is a way to show the world how much you have learned.

See you around the reef, Mrs. Sirota

A BIG Thank you to the Student Services Committee for your work getting Career Day plans started! Also, the committee would like to give a special thanks to Mr. And Mrs. Kline for generously printing the posters and signs to support our Stop Bullying Now campaign. You will see them around the school soon along with posters made by our students! Please be sure to visit the CRE website to access the Stop Bullying Now link found under Counselor’s Cove.
**¡Hola!** News from the Bilingual Department

The Tutoring Academy for LEP students has started. Mrs. Bienes is working with the 3rd grade group, and Mrs. Vera-Llano is working with the 4th & 5th grade group. Tutoring is taking place on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:30, and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:30. If you would like more information, please contact Mrs. Vera-Llano.

Mrs. Bienes’ ESOL students are busy getting ready for the FCAT and SAT. All students are working on improving their reading skills using Reading Plus and Ticket to Read. Students are also encouraged to use these programs at home for extra practice.

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**PRE-K REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Attention parents of 3 and 4 year olds! The process for registering your child for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) for the 2009-2010 school year has begun. In order to enroll your child for the fall, you must first obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). To do so, take the following documents to the office located at 13955 SW 264th Street (telephone 305-258-5471):

1. Birth Certificate or Passport showing your child will be 4 years old by September 1, 2009.

2. A utility bill (such as FPL) showing your current address.

After obtaining your COE, contact Renae Larkin, Community School Specialist, in the Coral Reef front office (ext. 120). As of press time, Coral Reef was not able to begin the registration process on campus. When we are given permission by the County, you must bring the COE to Renae to be entered into the lottery. Registration timelines and the lottery date will be determined by the County as well.

Coral Reef is investigating the possibility of opening a second VPK class, so get your COEs before the lines get too long!

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**USED BOOK SALE**

Thank you to all who continue to visit our Used Book Sale month after month. A special thank you to Anita Dyches for helping us this with the sale for February. We earned $108.00 for the month, which brings our grand total up to $1219.00 for the year.

A coupon for one free book at the Used Book Sale is awarded to all students who earn 100 points through our Math Superstars program.

Thirty-seven superstar students received a free book for their achievements. Keep up the good work!

The next Used Book Sale will be held on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. inside the main entrance of our school. We hope to see you there!

Kim Woodbury and Debbie DeLuca, Used Book Sale Coordinators

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**Save the Date**

Career Day
Wednesday, April 29th

Career Day is a great opportunity to share your expertise and talk about your work with very curious and motivated students on one of their favorite days! As a presenter, you have an opportunity to shape their future.

Ask family, friends and/or neighbors if they are interested in joining the fun and presenting. Any careers, jobs and hobbies are welcome.

Please email Susan Sirota, Counselor, at: ssirota@dadeschools.net with your name, number and type of career/job/hobby you would like to share. If you don’t have access to email, you can leave a message with the same information at the school, 305-235-1464.

There will be more information coming home in the backpacks!

Don’t forget to mark you calendars for Career Day – Wednesday, April 29th.

Thank you!
TREASURES from the reef

FUN FAIR 2009!

calendar of events

march 10-12  FCAT testing
march 12    2nd Volunteers’ Night Out,
            Cooper’s Resto Bar
march 17    St. Patrick’s Day
            General PTA Meeting, Media Center
            Cyber Bullying Seminar, S. Sirrota
march 18    EESAC Meeting, 2:15 p.m.,
            Media Center
march 24    Community/Palmetto Feeder
            Pattern meeting, Cafeteria
march 26    Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
            hosted by PreK & K
march 27    Teacher Planning Day,
            NO SCHOOL

march 2009


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