

# The Country Isles CHRONICLE



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**EDUCATING RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS**

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## **Guidance News**

### **Get Real About Violence**

This month fourth grade students are learning to "Get Real" about bullying and violence. Mrs. Arguinzoni, our Guidance Counselor, is using this district-approved program that combines videos and discussion about issues that **REALLY** happen to children in our society today. The students are actively engaged in using skills that they are learning to be **PEACEMAKERS** on campus. A detailed informational letter went home to these students this week. Please encourage your children to make Country Isles and their community a safe place for all!

### **Student Council News**

Fighting cancer makes "cents"!!!! Please join Country Isles in donating your spare change for the program "PENNIES FOR PATIENTS" that is sponsored by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Students have been generously putting their money in their designated classroom boxes. The class that raises the most money for this cause will win a "catered" OLIVE GARDEN LUNCH. Not only are we working as a school community on the life skill of cooperation and generosity, but we are touching the lives of others! The Leukemia and Lymphoma society provides research and assistance for patients and their families that are living with the devastating disease of blood cancer. For more information on how you can help go to <http://leukemiafundraising.com>.

Student council would like to thank the new Bank Atlantic Banking center on Weston road for graciously allowing them to use the bank coin counting machine.

### **Storyteller-In-Residence**

Country Isles thanks our awesome P.T.A. for the terrific experience provided to our students on January 17, 2007! Bobby Norfolk, our storyteller-in-residence, mesmerized students with his stories. Using voice, animation, and sound effects, students were enthralled as Bobby brought stories to life. Each grade level was treated to a different performance and each one was better than the last.

P.T.A. provided a themed luncheon for the winners of our creative writing contest. The cake illustrated **Anansi and the Pot of Beans**. Student momentos for this occasion were a chocolate box with an animal on the top. Inside the box were M & M's. Bobby Norfolk ate lunch and circulated among all of the children in attendance. They were able to ask him questions and many took photos with him.

Students pre-ordered books and CD's and had a chance to have them autographed. Special thanks goes to our P.T. A. who organized the book sale, collected money, and dispersed the books.

After a hectic day with the students Bobby Norfolk conducted a workshop for the staff. He told teachers how to use storytelling in their classrooms. Everyone thought the workshop was informative.

To cap off our day, Bobby Norfolk highlighted our second Multicultural Family Night. He told "Folktales from Around the World." Both children and adults were ecstatic about the evening event.

The entire day and evening were spectacular. Our P.T.A. was tireless in their efforts to create a fun-filled, informative event for our children, as well as our staff and parents. A big **thank you** to our P.T.A. for sponsoring this memorable experience!

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Jamboree**

Due to the inclement weather last week Jamboree was postponed. We look forward to seeing the 5<sup>th</sup> graders this Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Jamboree. Country Isles would like to thank Debra Beckman from Sonny's Barbecue on University Dr. in Davie for their generous donation of paper goods and rolls.

### **School Zone Safety**

Please pull all the way forward and stay in your cars during drop off and pick up. K – 1 students will be picked up in the back loop and 2 – 5 students will be picked up in the front loop. Please refrain from speaking with school staff during these times, as they are concerned with student supervision and safety. Following is a list of safety reminders:

- **Drive very slowly through school driveways.**
- **Obey the posted 15-mile per hour school zones.**
- **Make sure your students wear bicycle helmets when riding their bikes to and from school.**
- **Do not park or leave cars unattended in the fire lanes at all times.**
- **Please make sure everyone in the car is buckled up.**

Copies of this document can be found at [www.countryisles.net](http://www.countryisles.net)

For the latest updates from the county visit [www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)

### **FCAT WRITING +**

The Florida Writing Assessment will be administered to students in grade four on the morning of Tuesday, February 6, and Wednesday, February 7. The students have been preparing diligently for this upcoming test. We are anticipating that all of their hard work will pay off!! Please be sure your child arrives at school on time on test days. Students arriving late to school will not be permitted to enter their class until the testing session is over. Students who are absent will have the opportunity to make up the test on Thursday and Friday.

This testing program is the result of a law enacted by the 1990 Florida Legislature requiring the assessment of students' writing proficiency in grades four, eight, and ten. The students will be required to read, plan and respond independently to a given topic within a forty-five minute time frame. These test results will be made available to you via a parent report, which will be sent home with your child at the end of this school year.

We want our students at Country Isles to do their very best and would appreciate your cooperation during testing time. Have your child bring two sharpened #2 pencils to school on the day of testing and a book for reading. The following suggestions are provided to help your child have a successful testing experience.

1. Your child should get a good night's sleep each night before testing.
2. Eating a balanced breakfast helps provide for good test performance. Protein and complex carbohydrates are needed for endurance and energy.
3. Children should wear comfortable clothes that are appropriate for the weather. Hair should be clipped back out of the eyes and jewelry that makes noise or gets in the way of writing should not be worn during testing.
4. Try to maintain a relaxed atmosphere at home in the morning. How one begins the day greatly influences the events and outcome of that day.

Your support during the Florida Writing Assessment is vital to your child's testing experience. Thank you for your help!!!

### **SAC Elections**

The School Accountability Council has two openings for parent representatives for the 2006/2007 year. This council provides input on school academic goals and activities throughout the school year. If you are interested please submit a five sentence biographical paragraph to Ms. Loy, SAC Chair, by Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Ballots will be sent home during the week.

### **Primary Drop Off/Pick up Lot**

Beginning February 5<sup>th</sup> all gates in the back loop will be closed by 8:05. We will be putting cones up to block the entry way at 8:05. If you arrive after 8:05 you will need to go to the front loop and enter the front office to sign your child in. Thank you in advance for your support in keeping our students safe and arriving on time.

### **Lost and Found**

If your child has misplaced or lost any personal items please take a look at our lost and found corner in the cafeteria. All items that are not picked up will be donated.

**\*\* The clinic is in need of pants/shorts and boys underwear for our primary students. If you would like to donate any of these please drop them off in the front office.\*\***

### **Dates To Remember:**

February 1<sup>st</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Jamboree

February 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Grade FCAT Writes