

BEHIND THE SCENES

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010


TITLE I
in action
 Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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USEFUL SITES FOR COLLEGE PREP

- To register for the SAT or ACT online: www.collegeboard.com
- To apply for financial aid: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- For scholarships info: www.fastweb.com
- For Florida students: www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org
- To avoid scholarship scams: www.ftc.gov/scholarship-scams

IS YOUR CHILD COLLEGE-READY?

by Damian Garcia, staff writer

"Are U College Ready?" That's the question we are asking our Seniors this year.

The Student Services department's push to get more students ready for college is well underway. In November, over 150 colleges were invited to our school to give students information about admissions, college entrance exams and campus life. There was a record-high attendance of about 1,500 students and parents who took advantage of this special event.

"We had a lot of students show up for the College Fair,"



said Mrs. Cuevas, our school's CAP adviser, "We were very impressed with the turnout."

Teachers offered extra

credit to those who attended as an incentive.

"The fair was an excellent opportunity to speak admissions officer," said Senior and Silver Knight nominee Kelly Mena, "I got a perfect idea of the requirements necessary to gain acceptance."

Seniors were also taken to Miami-Dade College's Kendall Campus to take the College Placement Test (CPT) and to tour the campus.

In order to promote the campaign, faculty and staff received "Are You College Ready?" t-shirts (pictured left).

JUNIORS GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE

by Raquel Romer, staff writer

Last month was Junior Month, a school-wide initiative to get the 11th graders ready for college early. It was created as a part of the "Are U College Ready?" campaign spearheaded by our Student Services department.

The month kicked off with a Juniors-only assembly to in-

form students on some the actions they should be taking now to be college ready.

"The purpose of Junior Month is to address the need for our Juniors to be college ready," said Mrs. Fleri, Student Services department head, "Senior year is just too late to start thinking about college."

Mrs. Cuevas and Mrs. Iglesias held an ACT registration blitz from January 19 through January 21. Approximately 250 Juniors were registered for the April 10 ACT testing date, which will be held at Southwest.

Students were walked through the registration proc-

go to page 3 for more on Junior Month

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FCAT TESTING DAYS

by: Eleni Negrón, *staff writer*

Here are a few things parents need to know for the FCAT testing days.

- Students are **not** allowed to be picked up early on **March 9 & 10**, or **March 16**. The school needs to be under complete lockdown in order to ensure the security of the exam. Please do not schedule any appointments on those days.
- On **March 9 & 10**, Juniors and Seniors who have already passed the FCAT will be able to attend the Junior-Senior Olympics at

Indian Hammocks.

- Students are not allowed to have any form of technology during the FCAT examination. This means phones, calculators, iPods or any other electronic device must be either left at home or turned in to the proctor before examination begins. If a student is caught with an electronic device, all the students testing in their room must have their test invalidated. To ensure the security of the exam, all devices collected will be returned to

the student at 2:15 p.m. on the days of FCAT testing.

- If students do not sign up to be a part of the Junior-Senior Olympics and are not testing, they are still required to attend school. They must report to the auditorium.
- Students who are testing are provided with a snack, two breaks and lunch time the day of the examination. Please have them make arrangements for lunch prior to the days of exams

Parents will not be allowed to deliver lunches to their children on those days.

“Encourage your child to attend tutoring at Southwest. It’s free!”

SENIORS: UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Compiled by: Damian Garcia, *staff writer*

- Community service hours were due on **Jan. 15** to meet the graduation requirement. Students can still turn their hours in, however, they are not guaranteed to be in the system by the date of graduation.
- The last day to register for the March 13 SAT test date is **Feb. 4**. The fee is \$45. The last day to register for the April 10 ACT test date is

Mar. 5. The fee is \$32. Students on free or reduced lunch are eligible for a waiver. See CAP Counselor Mrs. Cuevas for details.

- Yearbooks are on sale for \$75 until **Mar. 31**. The price will go up to \$80 on April 1, 2010.

Upcoming Events

- Senior Breakfast—**Feb. 5**
- Junior/Senior Olympics

March 9 & 10 @ Indian Hammocks

- Senior Picnic—**Mar. 19*** (*this date subject to change)

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Calling all Eagles! The Southwest Alumni Association is re-launching and they want you to be a part of it.

Membership: \$20

Alumni T-shirt: \$10

For more information, contact Mrs. Diaz or Mrs. Williams

JUNIORS: UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Compiled by: Migdalia Ortiz, *staff writer*

- Rings must be paid off by **Feb. 10**. For info, call Herff Jones, 305-436-1163.
- The Ring Ceremony will take place in the Southwest auditorium on **Feb. 25** at 7 p.m. Tickets for the ceremony are \$7 per person. Students participating must purchase a ticket.
- Herff Jones will conduct a Ring Service Day on **Feb. 26** if students have any problems with their rings.
- The Junior class takes the Science FCAT on **Mar. 16**. Students are preparing through their science classes. Their scores affect the school’s grade. Those who pass receive a special invite to the **Senior Luau**,



Photo by: Vanessa Perez, special to *Behind the Scenes*

where they will participate in raffles. Prizes include a yearbook, a Grad Bash ticket and an iTouch.

Mayling Gomez and Yelena Orrelly, class of 2011, enjoy a day at Busch Gardens for the Junior Class trip.

**DISTRICT
ADVISORY
COUNCIL
MEETING**

SOPHOMORES: UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Compiled by Alessandra Geninazzi, *staff writer*

•The **FCAT Writes** will be administered on **Feb. 9**. Students who score a 4, 5, or 6 on their essays will attend next year's Junior Jam.

•The Reading and Math FCAT are on **March 10 & 11**. Tutoring for students is now in progress (see schedule).

• The FCAT Rally will take place **Mar. 5** to pep up the 10th graders.

•The **Reading Department** has their own tutoring schedule. Please ask your child to check with their reading teachers. Those who attend tutoring with their reading teachers are entered in a raffle for a free 2010 year-book.

Tutoring Schedule

ELL Students

TEACHER	DAYS	TIME	ROOM
Ms. J. Silverio (READING)	Tues & Thurs	2:40 pm-3:40 pm	Portable 23
Ms. I. Torres (MATH)	W	2:40 pm-3:40 pm	110

Reading

Mr. C. Lamas	M-F	2:40 pm-3:40 pm	539
Ms. Benain-Barned	M,W,F	2:40 pm-3:40 pm	542
Ms. C. Noboa	M-F	2:40 pm-3:40 pm	544
Ms. K. Menendez	M,W,F	2:40 pm-3:40 pm	556

Math

Mr. D. Torres	Sat.	8 am -12:00 pm	Media Center
Ms. V. Lazo	Sat.	8 am -12:00 pm	Media Center
Ms. M. Espin	M-F	2:40 pm-3:40 pm	105
Ms. M. Rubin	M-F	2:40 pm-3:40 pm	106

FRESHMEN: UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Compiled by Jenifer Funez & Sasha Valdes, *staff writer*

Freshmen also take the FCAT examination for reading and math on the same day as sophomores. Although their test scores do not count for graduation they play an important role in your child's academic future. **Encourage your child to do well!**

• First, their scores determine their schedules for the following year. Students who score low will be placed in intensive reading and/or math classes. They will not be able to take elective courses.

• It is great practice for the 9th graders to sit for the exam before it counts for

their graduation requirement. They will feel more comfortable the following year because they know what to expect.

• Their scores affect the school grade, which in turn determines how much funding the school receives.

JUNIOR MONTH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ess and those who were eligible were given waivers for the testing fees.

Students who signed up will be sent friendly reminders in school the week of the exam. A special Connect-Ed message will also be transmitted the night before, reminding them to be on time and to bring proper identifi-

cation.

On January 26 and 27, 100 juniors were taken on a field trip to take the College Placement Test at the Miami-Dade Kendall Campus. If students know where they are deficient early on, they can prepare in those areas during their Senior year and avoid taking remedial courses in

their first year of college.

"I think they're trying really hard for us to graduate," said Ilianel Santos, "It's good to know that it matters to the school."

Miami-Dade County Public Schools encourages all parents to attend the District Advisory Council general meetings, where they will discuss issues concerning the community. The next meeting will be held:

When: Thursday, March 25, 2010

Where: Booker T. Washington Senior High, 1200 NW 6th Ave., Miami FL 33136

Time: 7 p.m.



Photo by: Ms. A. Hernandez, *Behind the Scenes* adviser

Eleni Negron. Ashley Miranda and Stephanie Suarez sign up for the ACT during the blitz registration event.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY/MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Feb 1	2	3	4	5 Senior Breakfast	6
7	8 Report Cards sent home	9 FCAT Writes for 10th graders	10 Last Day to Ring Payments (11th grade)	11 Drama Performance @ 7 p.m.	12 Drama Performance @ 7 p.m.	13
14	15 No School President's Day	16	17	18 Subject Selection Assembly (Grades 9-11)	19 Subject Selection Day (Period 1-6 Schedule)	20
21	22	23	24	25 • Early Release @ 12 p.m. • Ring Ceremony @ 7 p.m.	26 Ring Service Day	27
28	No School Mar 1 Teacher Planning Day	2	3	4	5 FCAT Rally for 10th graders	6
7	8	9 FCAT Reading	10 FCAT Math	11	12	13
14	15	16 FCAT Science 11th grade only	17	18	19 Senior Picnic	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 3rd 9 Week Grading period Ends	27 Spring Break Begins, through April 6



DARE TO SOAR!

**SOUTHWEST MIAMI
HIGH SCHOOL**

8855 SW 50th Terrace
Miami, FL 33165
305-274-0181

<http://twitter.com/SouthwestEagles>
 Search: Southwest Miami Senior High School
sweagles.dadeschools.net



TITLES *in action*
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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