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## A Month of Fun at ACES

by Jackie Whaley

Everybody cheer October was a month of fun at ACES! Three exciting events happened this month; Red Ribbon Week, Pajama Day, and Grandparent's Breakfast.

Red Ribbon Week is a fantastic experience for students at ACES. Red Ribbon Week, which began October 26 and ended on October 29, is the nation's largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans

each year. Participants are encouraged to wear red, participate in anti-drug events, and pledge to live a drug-free life. "Red Ribbon Week's message is that the whole school comes together to say no to drugs," says **Officer Manny**. He encourages students to "stay away from drugs and pay attention to school instead."

This special week was initiated to commemorate DEA Special Agent **Enrique "Kiki" Camarena**. Officer Camarena spent

his career working to keep drugs off the streets. Unfortunately, on February 7, 1985, he was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by Mexican drug traffickers. The reason why we wear red is to represent the blood he shed when he died.

Students around the school participated in this very important week. Fifth through eighth grade students created comic strips, and nearly every classroom decorated their *(cont. on page 5)*



## Look: It's The Book Fair!

By: Zuzanna Szulc

Did you get a chance to get to the Book Fair? If so, you were surrounded by many wonderful books. What did you buy? **Nicole Foo**, in fifth grade, said, "I like to buy cookbooks because I love to bake."

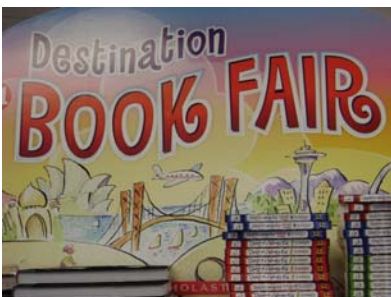
The Book Fair started October 8 and ended October 23. There were many books featuring a variety

of topics. Some of the subjects first grader **Nadya Ackermanian** likes to read about are butterflies and princesses. At the Book Fair you could also buy pens, bookmarks, erasers, and other fun toys.

Did you see the parent volunteers? **Ms. Padilla** says that the book fair is important because: "Students have direct ac-

cess to the latest books; which are the main instrument of learning." Another volunteer, **Ms. Wiznitzer** says that "it's always a good experience for kids to be surrounded by different themes of books."

As you can see, the Book Fair is very exciting! Books are great ways to express yourself and have *(cont. on page 5)*



## Counseling ACES

by Marissa Lichy



There is a new guidance counselor at ACES. His name is **Mr. Rodriguez**. Before he came to our school he worked as a high school counselor at Mater Academy, which is located in Hialeah Gardens. So far Mr. Rodriguez is enjoying ACES. “I love it [at] ACES,” he said. “The staff is great here and the students are awesome! The city is

beautiful.”

The son of Cuban parents, Mr. Rodriguez was born in Michigan and raised between Michigan and Miami. He holds a masters degree in psychology and is currently a doctoral student. Besides working as a counselor, Mr. Rodriguez also taught middle school social studies. He comes to ACES with a lot of experience in several aspects of counsel-

ing including conflict resolution, peer mediation, bully prevention and mental health counseling.

Mr. Rodriguez likes working with younger students because he worked with high school students before. The advice he gives ACES students is “take academics seriously.” Welcome to our ACES family Mr. Rodriguez!

## More New Faces At ACES

by Isabella Maia



Mathius Maia

Last issue we introduced 12 new friends at ACES. Since there are 75 new students school-wide, we’d like to introduce you to nine more, all of whom are very excited about being at ACES.

**Matheus Maia** is in third grade. He says his classmates help him a lot in whatever he doesn’t understand. Matheus isn’t the only new kid in his class, **Isabella Lago** is also new to ACES. She tells us she likes ACES better than her old school because it’s bigger and cleaner. In **Mr. Adler’s** class, **Arianna Disrude** says that she really likes her specials. Her favorite is P.E. She describes it as “a lot of fun. It’s different from the other schools, and

they teach it better.”

**Matheus Balcker** is in **Ms. Moran’s** class. He used to go to Aventura Waterways School. He tells us ACES has more programs to get you fit.

The third grade class also has a new face. It is **Santiago Cepeda**. He tells us that the people here at ACES are much nice. In **Ms. Hilel’s** class, **David Benchimol** chooses only one word to describe his class, “nice.” **Timothy Archer** describes **Ms. Grabois’** class as “excellent, because they are neat and well behaved.” In **Ms. Sarduy’s** class, **Tomas Dubrovsky** says that he really likes art because he can express himself when he is drawing. Last but not (*cont. on page 4*)



Santiago Cepeda



Isabella Lago



Matheus Balcker



David Benchimol

## Governing ACES

by Marissa Lichy and  
Zuzanna Szulc

For the second year in a row the ACES middle school got a chance to experience what electing government officials is all about. The Student Government Association members were chosen, and it looks like it will be a year of changes. Even this year's election was set up slightly different. For example each home room is going to be required to elect a representative. According to **Mr. Ostrick**, "the point of student government association is to teach the students to help the community and school and to help bring student

ideas to the administrators."

The primary elections were held on October 20. Several students throughout the middle school vied for the position of student body president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. **Stephanie Rozhko**, **Jake Norman**, and **Miguel Gonzalez** were among the students hoping to become president. **Adam Brown**, **Destinee Gutierrez**, and **Leon Liberman** believed they could all do a great job as vice-president. While **Dean Adler**, **Maritza Benenson**, and **Dan Sicorsky**, **Max Youtie**, **Fernando Marca**, and

**Karena Halvorsen** ran for the jobs of secretary and treasurer respectively.

The candidates all created posters hoping to catch the voters' attention, and on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, each candidate delivered powerful speeches on what they hoped to accomplish if elected.

When asked what she hoped to do as president, **Stephanie Rozhko** told us "I want to run for president because I want to benefit the school and its students." **Jake Norman** said "I would help the school by going green." **Miguel Gonzalez** cited his past (*cont. on page 6*)



## Gardening with Fairchild

By Melody Manzur

Hey! Prepare to be amazed, the Fairchild Challenge is here!

For several years now ACES has participated in the annual Fairchild Challenge sponsored by Fairchild Gardens in Coral Gables. The contest provides students in Miami-Dade with the opportunity to learn about science through gardening, drama, journalism, and much more. In preparation for this exciting event, ACES students have been diligently working on several projects.

One of the most anticipated events is the creation of the ACES garden. Located behind the school, the garden provides the sixth grade science students with the opportunity to learn about the environment through gardening skills. Designed by the students themselves, this year's garden features a butterfly design. The students have started gridding the area designated for the garden, in order to plant vegetables and flowers in the pattern of a butterfly. The students are very excited about this new year-long project, and can't

wait to start planting.

To spread the word and encourage visitors to visit the ACES garden, the drama kids performed a play about this special plot of land. **Ms. Loiseau** told us "This is also good because my students get to perform in front of a bigger audience and compete with other students." **Kayleigh Savits**, who is in the sixth grade, couldn't stop talking about how fun it was to write the song in drama. Kayleigh's classmate, **Rachel Eshet**, said, "I think it's really nice that they're (*cont. on page 4*)



## New Faces *(cont. from page 2)*

least is **Valeria Botero** in **Ms. Cooper's** class. She tells us Ms. Cooper is a very nice teacher who also happens to be funny.

The new faces at ACES might be a little anxious about being the new students, so if you see them in the hallways be sure to wish them good luck and welcome them to our ACES family.



Arianna Disrude



Valeria Botero



Thomas Dubrovsky



Timothy Archer

## ACES Garden *(cont. from page 3)*

taking their time to spread awareness and help the Fairchild Garden." Eighth grader **Florian Weiznauer** said, "I think the play will inspire people to stop polluting the gardens and help the environment." Seventh grader, **Juan Borquez** says "I feel the drama kids are influencing people to do the right thing and help the gardens and make our planet beautiful." While sixth grader **Talia Ciklik** told us "this was a good experience to work with others and to put all our ideas together." Also in sixth grade, **Dominique Panait** said "My group is talking about how the Everglades are decreasing in size and how we can save them."

**Ms. Card** is teaching the sixth graders all about gardening including how to landscape and the types of plants, vegetables and fruits that can best survive Florida's tropical climate. "I teach my students by showing them by example" says Ms. Card. **Abril Mertnoff** says "[some things] I want to plant in the garden are tomatoes and papaya." **Gefen Elias** also says "I would like to plant watermelon, papaya, and carrots." **Gonzalo Borquez** says "I'm looking forward to planting trees and to plant vegetables and making it look beautiful."

The ACES garden is a fun way to rediscover na-

ture and learn about all it gives us. Take a walk around the school and chill out by the garden, you never know, you might see a butterfly or two enjoying the flowers!



## Book Fair *(cont. from page 1)*

fun in your own way. So if you didn't get a chance this year, make sure to hurry to the Book Fair next year and buy some great books to fill your personal library!



## Fun at ACES *(cont. from page 1)*

doors with anti-drug messages. The first place winner for the door contest was **Ms. Baker**. "I had all of my classes come up with ideas for my door and I picked the one that best showed science and expressed the message of Red Ribbon Week," she told us. The second place winner was **Ms. Grabois**. "My class inspired me to make my door by coming up with two ideas and the class chose one," she told us. The third place winner of the door contest was **Ms. Duffy**. She told us, "I chose to do the design of my door because I liked the way it expressed the kids' future."

Pajama Day is another fun and exciting day at ACES that puts a smile on many students' faces. It was celebrated on October 14. Everyone in the elementary school was snugly in their pajamas. "I love to be in my Minnie Mouse pajamas, it is so much fun," said first grader **Alexa Arnowitz**. During

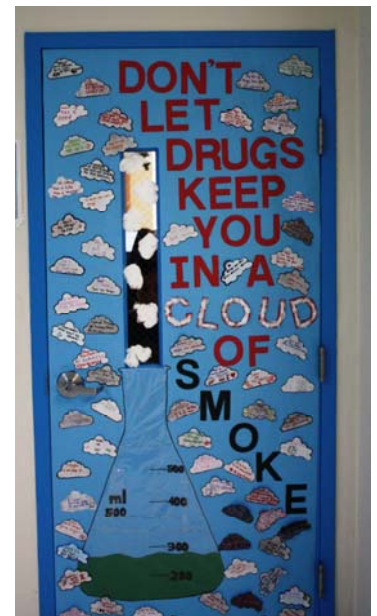
the day, several staff members went to different classes and read stories to the students. "A favorite part of Pajama Day was getting a story read to us and dressing up," said second graders **Francine Yaffe** and **Abigail Nadler**. "I wish Pajama Day was every day," says first grader **Joshua Eckstein**.

The Grandparent's Breakfast is a great way for grandparents and students to come together. The Grandparent's Breakfast was held on October 20th. At the Grandparent's Breakfast guests enjoyed several yummy treats, and got to spend some special time with their loved ones. "My favorite part is that I get to spend time with my grandma," said fifth grader **Danielle Stoller**. Even the teachers enjoy this special day. "I am glad to see all the smiling faces on the students' faces," said **Mr. Maltarollo**. "I like to see the grandparents and the students come together," **Mr. Verdier** told us.

There's a lot to cheer about at ACES!



DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena



Ms. Baker's door "smoked" out the competition



The ACES Grandparents Breakfast was a yummy, family-filled event!

## Student Government Association *(cont. from page 3)*

experience as the reason why he would make the best treasurer, “I was inspired to run because I was treasurer last year and I wanted to excel from it.”

Among the aspiring vice-presidents, seventh-grader **Adam Brown** said, “I would do fundraisers to help the school.” **Destinee Gutierrez** told us “I have many ideas for the school.” **Leon Liberman** also believes that he will change the school for the better.

The SGA is also a great opportunity for some new middle school students to try their luck at the polls. Sixth grader **Fernando Marca** said he wants to help the students. **Karena Halvorssen** in 7<sup>th</sup> grade says that she “wants to help charity.” While sixth grader **Max Youtie** says that he would be a good treasurer because he is good at math.

The middle school students were eager to share their expectations of the student government representatives. **Laurene Dana** in 6<sup>th</sup> grade shares her wisdom and tells us, “Candidates should be trustworthy and intelligent.” Her classmate, **Samantha Viner** told us she is excited to have good leaders. **Kevin Fox**, also in sixth grade says, “Candidates definitely have to be helpful.”

After several weeks of nail-biting competition the ACES middle school students voted for their favorite candidate. The newly elected 2009-2010 Student Government Association officials include Jake Norman as president. Adam Brown is our new vice-president. Secretary and treasurer are Dean Nadler and Max Youtie.

There’s no doubt that with so much creativity,

ambition, and intelligence on board the 2009-2010 year at ACES will be even more successful. Congratulations to everyone!



Jake Norman—President



Adam Brown — Vice-President



Max Youtie—Treasurer



Dean Nadler—Secretary

## Ms. Sarduy’s Fantastic First Year at ACES

by Jackie Whaley

**Ms. Sarduy** is the new second grade teacher at ACES. She says ACES is a great school. “The school is very welcoming and helpful. Also this school is very up to date and everyone is involved.”

The students in Ms. Sarduy’s class are going to

learn a lot about life skills and academics. She tells us “My students are going to learn how to work together, respect themselves and each other and the basic education subjects.”

Ms. Sarduy is happy to be at ACES and we are happy to have her here.

