

# Stellar Performance Earns ACES National Recognition!

ACES Principal Julie Alm and Leslie Loewenthal, ACES Special Projects & Events receive CEP Finalist Award



Stellar Character Education Initiatives combined with Academic Excellence have earned Aventura City of Excellence School, (ACES) the National 2008 Finalist title in the Character Education Partnership (CEP's) National Schools of Character Awards.

ACES success is a tribute to the vision of the City of Aventura. City Manager Eric Soroka states, "We wanted our school to be unique. One way was to involve character education from the beginning." Principal Julie Alm attributes ACES strong academic performance to its enriching curriculum and emphasis on the whole child. ACES character education initiative focuses on 12 core values of the Living Values Program. Vice Principal Daniel Sandberg says, "Shared Leadership adds vitality to our program."



## Golden Rule Foundation Donation to ACES Honors Community Organizations

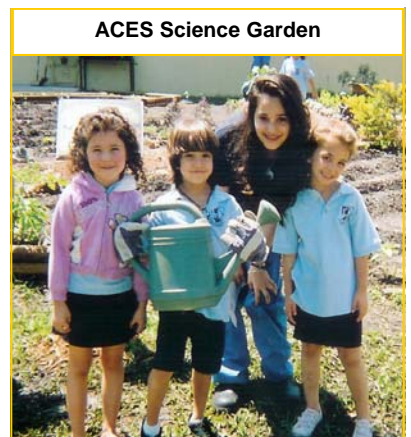
The Golden Rule fosters the values of philanthropy. They donate a check to ACES for its service learning projects. ACES thanks & honors partnering organizations, students, staff & families for their commitment to giving back: The Hurricane Drive-Food for the Poor, Strides for Safety-UM's Trauma Center, Breast Cancer-Mount Sinai Lifeline, Holiday Toy Drive-JAFCO, ACES Peace Day Good Samaritan (Gift Boxes for the Needy), 5th Grade Soles for Souls-(shoes for poor children in South America), 3rd Grade Winter Fest Sandwiches -Food for the Poor, The Smile Train, Cystic Fibrosis, Diabetes, Aventura Police/ACES Thanksgiving Food Drive, Children's Cancer Caring Center, Junior Achievement Volunteers Jeff Levinson, George Allen, ACES Career & Entrepreneurship classes & The Marlins Community Foundation.

Students are very committed to "Living their Values" and teachers find integrating values into the curriculum invigorates study in and out of class. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science students design and plant a school garden as part of the eco-literacy science curriculum. Fourth-grade students at the helm of the daily TV broadcast highlight character messages, events and awards. Seventh-grade Civics students learn how ethical roles and responsibilities shape our legal system. Parental involvement is key to ACES success. Parent Larisa Goldberg says, "It's a family kind of environment, so you want to help." School Advisory Committee Chair Julie Shapiro comments, "People want to be in this school." Robert Sherman, Director of Community Services notes that the Community Center has also adopted "Values" into its after-school programs. With obvious pride and ownership, Sherman adds, "We do it because we care."

## ACES Also Won (2) National CEP '08 Promising Practices for the Middle School Leadership Series and the Science Garden

### Character Grows Daily at ACES Science Garden

Using a variety of science based activities students create a new garden design each year. The garden is used for experiments, inquiry learning and service learning projects such as donating food to a local food kitchen. The garden takes on a life of its own, drawing students, staff, and the community to come sit, eat lunch, chat, and reflect. Core values are emphasized while students act as stewards of the Earth. Parents, teachers, administrators and the City of Aventura support the garden.



ACES Science Garden

### Middle Leadership Speakers Series Reinforces Values that Lead to Success

The Middle School (MS) Leadership Speakers Series invites leading entrepreneurs and authors to ACES to discuss their career successes. Tying character education into the Leadership Series provides students and families with a framework to "Live their Values." Speakers are asked to weave topics of moral principles into their presentations, expressing the significant roles that values have played in overcoming obstacles and achieving their organization's success. The speakers' real life biographies inspire students with experiences that they can "see, touch, feel, and hear." The series educates, motivates and inspires MS students as they contemplate their future and demonstrates how ACES values are expressed in the real world. Students learn success means contributing to make the world a better place.



Marlin's President, David Samson Speaks at Middle School Leadership Speaker Series



Mr. Goldberg, Middle School Career Students & Junior Achievement Volunteer Jeff Levinson Donate Check to the Marlins Community Foundation. President, David Samson accepts check.

### The Golden Rule Foundation Donates ACES Check In Memory of Paulette Harper from Corporate Partner AlphaStaff, Jay Starkman & Mr. Fredrick

