



# PRESS RELEASE

## Aventura City of Excellence School For Immediate Release

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## ACES BUILDS PEACE THROUGH LEADERSHIP



AVENTURA, FLORIDA — September 21, 2010. Aventura City of Excellence School, (ACES) 2010 Peace Day Program “Building Peace Through Leadership - Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders” was a remarkable experience that joined the Aventura Community together at the new Aventura Arts and Cultural Center (AACC).

Upon arrival, patrols graciously greeted visitors and led them through a beautiful art gallery exhibit that displayed ACES K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students’ creative expressions of “Peace and Leadership.”



Mayor Susan Gottlieb, Commissioners, and the City Manager were on hand to deliver the official proclamation.

ACES Principal, Ms. Alm began the ceremony by stating that, "The City of Aventura is committed to building peace through their leadership. As a testament to this commitment, the city has proclaimed today a day of peace in the city."

Students sang, danced, and presented winning Peace Day artwork, essays, and poetry projects that were celebrated in front of a crowd of 325 people. The program featured ACES new National Junior Honor Society, a keynote presentation by the Anti-Defamation League, the Middle School Dance Troupe and a spectacular DVD production created by the Nicolella family.



Proud to announce its prestigious new partnership with the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), ACES recognized its first group of distinguished students on stage with a candle light induction ceremony. Honor Society students recited the organization's national pledge and motto, "light is the symbol of truth." Ms. Eizenbaum, NJHS Advisory Chair stated, "Peace cannot be achieved anywhere without good, strong leaders...creating these leaders for our future is one of our goals!"



Vice Principal, Mr. Sandberg said, "ACES promotes peace through leadership in so many ways. Today's powerful presentations reinforced that the leaders of tomorrow are being recognized as

substantial citizens today who will lead the way through their achievements coupled with their commitment to community service.”

Keynote guest, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) held a special banner ceremony to award ACES for being a “No Place for Hate School®.” ADL developed No Place for Hate® as part of a national campaign to organize schools to work together through projects that promote diversity and reduce prejudice and bullying. ADL gratefully acknowledges the Harriet and Jack Rosenfeld Foundation and the Aventura Hospital and Medical Center for underwriting ADL’s Cyber Bully program.



“ADL is proud to designate Aventura City of Excellence School as a No Place for Hate® School. Students and teachers work together to foster a bias-free environment in a school that embraces diversity and teaches the next generation how to build bridges of understanding and respect for differences,” stated Andrew Rosenkranz, ADL Florida Regional Director.

A moving Peace Day DVD presentation featured students, staff and administration sharing their beliefs on how Peace is built through Leadership at ACES and in the world.

In a school-wide service learning project, the entire ACES community prepared and collected over 560 Peace Day gift boxes filled with essential items for needy children destined for international distribution through the Good Samaritan program. The project was led by parent Rosane Alves-Garcia.



City Manager, Eric Soroka said, "The City is proud of ACES administration, teachers and staff's commitment to lead by example. Students are taught to care about others at school, in the community and in the world. Our students have valuable lessons to share with today's leaders."

The Peace Day ceremony was taped and broadcast to the entire school the following day.



#### **About ACES:**

Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES), established in 2003, serves over 950 students grades Kindergarten through the eighth grade as the first municipal-sponsored school in Miami-Dade County. ACES leads the way in "Educational Best Practices" focusing on "whole child" development and excelling academically. ACES has achieved an A status for the past six years ranking among the top high performing combination schools (i.e. Elementary and Middle School) in the state and in the district. ACES maintains a low student-teacher ratio, state of the art facilities, advanced technology, a safe environment for students to learn, Character Education and a variety of programs to meet the needs of all students including programs for Gifted Students, Exceptional Student Education (ESE), and English as a Second Language (ESOL). In addition, ACES curriculum offers even more choices for students and families including; Special Interest Clubs, Before and After School Care, After School Sports, Art and Drama Programs, Parenting Workshops, an Authors Series and a Middle School Leadership Speakers Series featuring leading entrepreneurs who discuss their career path and the values that have lead to their successes. ACES won the "Best Fairchild Garden" for two years, a State Innovation Award, and 12 State and National Awards for its Character Education Initiatives. For more information, visit ACES school Web Site at [www.aventuracharter.org](http://www.aventuracharter.org) or call 305-466-1499.