



PRESS RELEASE

Aventura City of Excellence School, ACES

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ACES SPECIAL EVENTS/PROJECTS

ACES STUDENTS RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO PREVENT INJURIES FOR “STRIDES FOR SAFETY”

On Sunday September 14, 2008, ACES Administration, students and families participated in the 1st Strides for Safety 5K run/walk in Aventura. Leading up to the community-wide event the ACES community spent weeks discussing, educating and creating awareness for the event.

ACES students raised over \$1,500 through pledges to participate in the Strides for Safety 5krun/walk. Parents Stephanie Ordet and Lisa Levine helped with ACES efforts. Rocky Tinkler was the top fundraiser for ACES, collecting over \$400 for the race and winning a bicycle and helmet for his efforts. Ms. Rozema's 2nd grade class raised close to \$500 for the cause, making them the top class at ACES. In recognition of their exceptional efforts, the entire class has been awarded a class party at the Miami Seaquarium, with box lunches provided by Pasha's Mediterranean Cuisine.

The race began at 7:00AM at the Aventura Mall, with racers following a course around the Turnberry Golf Course. ACES administration, students and families showed up in record numbers to support the cause. Sebastian, the University of Miami mascot, handed out medals to all the winners. Following the race, ACES students, families and runners ventured through the Safety Fair exploring over 20 different booths focused on safety issues. ACES students enjoyed climbing aboard the EMS trucks, a coast guard boat, and exploring the Injury Free Mobile. Principal, Julie Alm said, "We had a great turnout. This is a wonderful learning experience for our students and families. They realize that our contributions back to worthy causes in our community enhance the quality of life for everyone, everywhere."

The dollars raised directly benefit the William Lehman Injury Research Center, which serves as a model for trauma research centers throughout the nation. Their mission is to create a safer environment, take a proactive approach to prevent trauma before injury occurs, and to achieve the best quality of life for trauma victims and their families by improving care. The need for safety programs is an ongoing concern for the Injury Research team, from "buckle up" seat belt campaigns; bike and skate board safety, pedestrian crossing programs, to water safety. The center is located in the Ryder Trauma Center at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital Medical Campus.

About ACES:

Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES), established in 2003, serves 900 students grades Kindergarten through eighth grade as the first municipal-sponsored school in Miami-Dade County. ACES' Middle School Wing opened in August 2005 and filled to capacity in August 2007. ACES has achieved an A status for the past four years and is considered a Leader in "Educational Best Practices," teaching the "whole child," known for its innovative programming. ACES maintains a low student-teacher ratio, state of the art facilities, advanced technology, a safe environment for students to learn, a values-based Education and a progressive curriculum; including programs for Gifted Students, Exceptional Student Education (ESE), English as a Second Language (ESOL), and Before and After School Care. In addition, ACES offers many unique programs for students and families including; "Special Interest Clubs," After School Sports, Art and Drama Programs, Parenting Workshops and a Middle School Leadership Speaker Series for students and families featuring leading entrepreneurs and an Authors Series. ACES won first place for the "Best Garden" in the Fairchild Botanical Garden Exchange for two years in a row. In addition, ACES has also won a State Innovation Award, State School of Character Award, ranked as a National Finalist for the prestigious National Schools of Character Awards and has won five National Character Education Promising Practices Awards. ACES has been honored as one of the highest ranking combination schools (i.e. Elementary and Middle School) in the State of Florida and in the district. For more information, visit ACES school Web Site at www.aventuracharter.org or call 305-466-1499.