



# AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL NEWS RELEASE



## Aventura Students Adopt a Sea Turtle & Web 2.0 Tech

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aventura, FL - October 23, 2009 --Seventh graders have adopted a seven year old Loggerhead sea turtle, named FeeBee, as they learn to adopt Web 2.0 technology.

As part of their Computer Applications classes, the students at Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES) are tracking FeeBee, who is equipped with a GPS device. The students will create an interactive website showing FeeBee's travels along with other information about oceans and beaches as part of a class project.

This is the second year of project. "By completing this project, the students develop essential computer skills that support the integration of knowledge and new technologies that go beyond typing and software," said Ms. Ketcham, ACES Computer Concepts teacher. The students create an interactive website including researching content on the topic of oceans and beaches.

This is the first year they will be learning about sea turtles. Additionally, students will learn about the 'tagging' process, the history of GPS technology, and how it benefits the tracking of FeeBee. The integration of computer skills with the essential core curricular subjects is a unique approach to computer education and provides new learning opportunities and methodologies for students across subjects.

The Sea Turtle Preservation project was a lifesaver for FeeBee who hatched from her egg in July 2002 in Spanish River Park, Boca Raton, Florida where she was rescued after her nest was washed away by several storms. FeeBee survived against all odds as only 16 of the original 94 eggs survived long enough to hatch.

Nine of those turtles who emerged were stolen from the beach and from the last seven, FeeBee was the sole survivor. FeeBee was brought to Gumbo Limbo Nature Park as a part of a Florida Atlantic University Marine Lab study gender ratio study and at three months, she was under the care of Dr. Kirt Rusenko, marine conservationist at Gumbo Limbo.

You can follow FeeBee's travels at [www.seaturtle.org](http://www.seaturtle.org) and adopt your own sea turtle. FeeBee is now a movie star, featured in a motion picture funded by Save Our Seas Foundation, "Turtle: The Incredible Journey" due for release later in 2010. ([www.saveourseas.com/turtlefilm](http://www.saveourseas.com/turtlefilm))

FeeBee was released on November 6, 2008 in the Indian River Lagoon. The Loggerhead Turtle has made her way to the coast of South Georgia within five months of her release and recently she's been tracking off the coast of South Carolina.

The Gumbo Limbo Nature Center hosts the Boca Raton Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program where nesting research is conducted on a five mile portion of Boca Raton Beach. The three species being studied are loggerhead, green and leatherback that nest in this area. The nesting period is from March 1

through October 31. Studies are conducted on changes in the nest. This observation can indicate too much light or too many people on the beach during hatching. The Center marks off Sea Turtle Nest and install wire mesh to protect the egg chamber from raccoons and foxes who try to dig up the nests and eat the eggs.

Each nest is monitored daily for two months documenting events with the nest: whether it is washed over by ocean waves or an animal digs at it and when it hatches. After hatching, the hatchling tracks are checked to see if they go to the water. If not, it is assumed the turtle was disoriented and those tracks are photographed to determine what light caused it.

Hatchlings are attracted to light to help find their way to the water by using the lightest horizon so it is critical that lights along the shorefront do not distract them from the water. To volunteer, or learn more about the Gumbo Limbo Sea Turtle Program, visit their website at: [www.gumbolimbo.org](http://www.gumbolimbo.org).

About ACES:

Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES), established in 2003, serves 932 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 five 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 lead to their success.

ACES won the "Best Fairchild Garden" for two years, a State Innovation Award, and 11 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.

###

Contact:

Julie Alm, Principal  
305-466-1499