



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GULF COAST



New Hope Program

Volume 1, Issue 4

March 2010

Sabrina Schepens:

Bringing Humanitarian Awareness to the Students of BWSD

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Sabrina Schepens joined the New Hope Program staff at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Currently, she is working in the Crossroads alternative school for the Bay-Waveland School District. A small part of Sabrina's role at the school includes Character Education classes, which are taught to each grade level on a different day of the week.

The Bay-Waveland School District uses Character Counts lessons to teach the students how to develop good character. Character Counts is based on ethical values called the Six Pillars of Character. These Six Pillars include Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Sabrina uses lessons from everyday life to teach her students about the Six Pillars and help them develop into ethical citizens. When the devastating earthquake hit the nation of Haiti, Sabrina knew that this was a good opportunity to teach her students about Caring and Citizenship.

When she brought the tragic event to the attention of the students, most did not know that it had occurred and others could not identify Haiti on a map. Sabrina was shocked that students had missed the news of this disaster and wanted her students to understand the vast loss the nation had experienced. First, she asked the History teacher to educate the students about the location, population, and culture of Haiti. She felt that the students would have more empathy once they connected the story with the faces of the people who lived there.

Next, she and her students assembled ribbons of support made of red, blue, and yellow colors. Red and blue represented the colors of the Haitian flag and yellow is often used to show support for a cause. The students made enough for every student and faculty member on the Crossroads campus. After the ribbons were completed, her students went to each class and presented the story of the Haitian earthquake and educated other students about ways to donate to the relief effort. The students thoroughly enjoyed learn-

ing about Haiti, creating the ribbons, and sharing their knowledge with the other students at the school. Additionally, Sabrina feels that this service project taught the students how to empathize with the nation's struggle to recover from a horrible natural disaster and take action to assist that nation with recovery.

For more information about this project and other projects New Hope Program employees are involved in, please contact Tom Moore, Director of New Hope Program, at

tmoores@bgcgulfcoast.org.



Upcoming Meetings and Holidays

March 4th

New Hope Staffing @ 3:30

*come with case notes prepared.

March 9th

Aflac meeting for JCSD and PSD @ 4pm at Pascagoula Opportunity Center

March 10th

Aflac meeting for Harrison and BWSD @ 3:30 at BGC GC administration office

March 11th

Aflac meeting for Biloxi and Stone @ 3:00 at BGC GC administration office

*****Spring Break!!!*****

Check your school district's calendar.



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To enable all young people, especially those who need
us most, to reach their full potential as productive,
caring, responsible citizens.

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

9 Questions with Dr. Frances Weiler

Principal of North Bay Elementary in the Bay-Waveland School District

1. Where did you begin your career in Bay-Waveland school district and what were you doing?

I began with BWSD as principal of North Bay in 2000-2001.

2. What has been most rewarding about your role in the school district?

I love working with children and having an impact on their daily lives. I also like working with teachers on curriculum and instruction.

3. What has been the biggest challenge in your current role in the school district?

My biggest challenge has been rebuilding from Katrina and providing good quality experiences in trailers. I am looking forward to being in our brand new school next year.

4. What is a day in the life of a Principal like?

It is different every day which makes life interesting. I start with morning duty which means greeting teachers and then students as they arrive on campus. Then I visit classrooms until it is time for lunch duty. I like to say that I have the longest lunch time in the district. One parent commented today that she couldn't believe the difference in the students' behavior when I was in the room. She said, "I need a picture of you at home." During lunch, I talk with students and teachers. After lunch, I try to complete paperwork and answer phone calls and emails. Then it is time for dismissal. Of course, there are the days that start with problems, have problems all day long, and end with problems. Those are the days that are the most trying.

5. How has New Hope helped you accomplish goals for North Bay Elementary?

The first time that I had to carry a screaming, kicking, spitting, naked child down the sidewalk, I knew that I needed help. The New Hope facilitators work with the children who simply cannot cope in a regular classroom. Their major role is to provide a safe place for those children so that the other children in the classroom have a good learning environment.

6. Where is your favorite place to get lunch during a day at work?

My favorite place would be anywhere that it is quiet!

7. Where will you take your next big vacation?

I don't have any immediate plans--except maybe retiring in a year or so.

8. What do you do for stress relief?

I read and read and read.

9. What is your favorite show on tv right now?

My favorite TV show right now is the Winter Olympics. The snowboarding and aerial jumps leave me breathless, and I really enjoy the skating.

BE GREAT
