

The Substitute Times

volume VI - SPRING 2009

News and Views

The time has come once again, to say goodbye to another school year. You've all done a splendid job this year of keeping OCPS' classrooms supervised, and we applaud all of your hard work.

We definitely want to have all of you back next year, so keep in mind that you **must** work at least once during the month of May/June, **and** again at the beginning of the next school year (prior to September 30th) in order to remain in compliance with background screening and drug testing requirements.

Substitute Appreciation

Many of you joined us for the festivities during **Substitute Appreciation Week**, but here are some highlights for those of you who were not able to attend:



Our Mentors were ecstatic to present their own Award of Excellence to thirteen substitutes who stood out during their classroom visits. Keep up the good work, and next time you may be one of them!

Awards of Excellence

Winners 2009

Amarilis Velez
Carl Jacobson
Danielle Ralph
Gloria Arroyo
Jean Fremont
Jeffrey Burstein
Josephine Anderson
Julyne Viau
Karen Sutton
Laurie Allnock
Milagros Ranieri
Pauille Ann Gutierrez
Valerie Montgomery



After his win as **Substitute of the Month for March**, Carl Jacobson was then chosen as KES Orlando, **Substitute Teacher of the Year!** Mr. Jacobson's hard work and dedication have long been an asset to the company, and we thank him for his marvelous contribution this year!

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The school year is wrapping up, and it's been quite a ride! Here are some of our numbers to date:

TOTAL ABSENCES – 121,065
TOTAL FILLED ABSENCES – 120,678
FILL RATE - 99.68%



Did you know?

Florida is home to more golf courses than any other US state. Nearly 1400 of them!

Essay Contest Winner



As is customary during Substitute Appreciation Week, we also presented an award to the winner of our annual essay contest. Catherine Stork took first prize for her heartwarming account of just how rewarding the teaching profession can be. Her short story can be read below:

I had a substitute teaching assignment this year in a Pre-Kindergarten Varying Exceptionalities class. One little girl was very sweet and shy. Holly (not her real name) has Down Syndrome and I was told by the paraprofessional that she never spoke or even uttered a sound. During playtime, Holly was on one side of the play area looking at a Sesame Street book and I was on the other. I started making comments about the book and she looked up and smiled. As I kept talking, she started giggling and began hitting the floor with her hand to motion for me to sit down next to her. I sat next to her and read the book to her.

The paraprofessional was amazed to hear Holly's reaction. She said, "In all these months, I have never heard her voice or laugh." When the book was finished, Holly closed the book and shut off the world again, but for a few minutes, Holly laughed.

By Catherine Stork

Second Place: Renee Milligan
Third Place: Barbara Espiranza

Commendation Awards

Salley Martin was presented with a Commendation Award to recognize her heroic action in the classroom in saving a child's life.

Substitute Teacher **Billy Harper** was also honored with a Commendation Award for diffusing a violent situation with a student and a firearm in the classroom.

Substitute of the Month



Janene Roberts had the distinction of being our January Substitute of the Month. Janene's willingness to help teachers, assistants, and students impresses the staff at Oak Hill Elementary. She goes far above and beyond to make sure their needs are met!



We also recognize Marietta Gwinn as Substitute of the Month for February. With Marietta's knowledge of sign language, she is a valuable asset to all of the students and interpreters at Lake Sybelia Elementary. She steps right in to get the job done!



Salley Martin earned her place as Substitute of the Month for April with her quick and decisive actions at Metrowest Elementary. Ms. Martin's knowledge and application of the Heimlich Maneuver saved a student's life, and we're all very grateful she was there!



Hunter's Creek Middle School justifiably nominated Kathryn Barley as Substitute of the Month for May. A teacher notes, "Not only does Katie approach her job as a Teacher, first and foremost, the students also enjoy having her as their substitute!"

Karen's Korner

The staff of Kelly Educational Staffing would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valued substitute teachers. It is your hard work and dedication which not only enabled us to achieve a great fill rate during this past school year, but you did it with excellence, helping to keep our quality surveys very near 100%. On behalf of the many students who have benefited because of the job you did this year, we salute and congratulate you. Substitutes are a vital part of education and it is difficult to imagine the educational environment in Orange County, Florida without our capable substitutes. Thank you sincerely; we look forward to working with you again in the next school year.

Karen Randolph, Area Manager