



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



May 2000

Issue 85

OUR MISSION: Helping Parents Restart, Giving Kids a Head Start, Helping Staff Develop

Homestead Students Turn Trash Into Treasure

By Tom Moonan
Staff Writer

The talented students of the South Dade Early Intervention Program are at it again. This amazing group of thinkers took plastic soda bottles and turned them into brightly colored fish. That's them in the picture holding up their creations.

The fish made a big splash at the annual 4-H Club competition at the Dade County Fair. Not only did they come home with 23 ribbons they were also awarded checks for three, four and five dollars.

Congratulations to the RCMA Homestead 4-H group for being such a positive force in this world.

Interesting side note: While this reporter was taking a picture of the winning group three members of another class were sitting observing. Instead of getting jealous do you know what these three did? They congratu-



**"TO MAKE THE
BEST BETTER!"**

That's what Concepcion, Miguel, Paul, Ana and Karen did along with teacher, Victor Serrato and director, Adela Lopez when they took used plastic soda jugs and made them into beautiful fish.

lated them and gave the group a loud and rousing cheer.

You know that good things are happening in a place when you get such highly developed behavior from children so young.

Many of our readers may not know much about the 4-H Club. To understand the 4-H program it's helpful to take a look at the 4-H motto and pledge:

4-H Pledge

I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service, and
My Health to better living, for
My club, my community, my country and my world.

The 4-H motto: "To Make the Best Better"

If you are interested in getting your school-age children involved in the 4-H program contact Adela Lopez, director, at (305) 242-2580 and learn how she got her students involved.

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
BARBARA



"The more education our staff gets, the better for the children and families we serve and for RCMA as an organization."

DEL ESCRITORIO DE
BARBARA

"Entre mas educacion reciben los empleados, es mejor para los niños y las familias que servimos y para RCMA como una organizacion."

"What's Working"

Several years ago when we did our first serious strategic planning, staff let us know that they wanted more educational opportunities and computers available in the centers. Last week I met with all of our center coordinators at the three administrative institutes. Again, they let me know "what's working" and "what needs fixing".

It was wonderful to hear how much enthusiasm there is from staff going to college! (The RCMA Board was happy to learn recently that over 200 staff are now attending college.) No one whined about how hard it is to balance work, family and school. No one complained about how many remedial classes they needed. Everyone recognized that education was good for them personally – not just for their jobs. It was GREAT!!

The other surprise was the increase in the number of center coordinators who are using computers. They want more computers in centers so more staff can use them. This is a big change in attitude. Again, I'm very proud.

The more education our staff gets, the better for the children and families we serve and for RCMA as an organization.

As always, we will be reviewing the "what needs fixing" and doing what we can to respond. All RCMA staff can look forward to a 2.6% pay increase beginning in July.

Thank you for another good year of high quality programs!

Sincerely,

Barbara Mainster, Executive Director

"Que Funciona"

Hace varios años cuando planeamos seriamente nuestro primer plan estrategico, los empleados nos dijeron que ellos querian saber sobre mas oportunidades educativas y de la disposicion de tener computadoras en sus centros. La semana pasada me reuni con las coordinadoras de los centros durante los tres institutos administrativos. Otra vez me dejaron saber "que funciona" y "que se necesita resolver".

Fue maravilloso escuchar cuanto entusiasmo tienen los empleados que estan atendiendo el colegio! La mesa directiva de RCMA se alegro cuando se dieron cuenta que mas de 200 empleados estan atendiendo clases en el colegio. Nadie se quejo de lo dificil que es balancear el trabajo, la familia, y la escuela. Nadie reclamo sobre cuantas clases de repaso necesitan atender. Todos reconocieron que la educacion es lo mejor para ellos en lo personal no solo para sus empleos. Fue Tremendo!

La otra sorpresa fue el incremento en el numero de coordinadoras de los centros que estan usando las computadoras. Quieren mas computadoras para sus centros para que el personal del centro pueda usarlas. Esto es un gran cambio en actitud. De nuevo, estoy muy orgullosa.

Entre mas educacion reciben los empleados, es mejor para los niños y las familias que servimos y para RCMA como una organizacion.

Como siempre estaremos revisando "lo que se necesita resolver" y haciendo lo que podemos para responder. Todos pueden esperar un aumento de 2.6% en su salario en el mes de julio.

Gracias por otro buen año de programas de alta calidad!

Advice in caring for a Princess

By Tom Moonan
Staff Writer

Becky Galan, teacher at the Ruskin Migrant Head Start Center, lives with a Princess. This became apparent to Becky and her husband Tony one day while watching their daughter sleep. There they were just watching when suddenly, they were overcome by mysterious feelings that filled them with wonder and caused moisture to collect in their eyes. Of course, when this happens, it is a sure sign that one is in the Presence of a Princess.

“It is the true nature of every little girl to be a Princess”

Her name is Briana, but if you ask her she will tell you that she is a Princess. “Who told you that you are a Princess?” I asked her. “My mommy and daddy told me.” She answered without hesitation. “What is a Princess like?” I inquired. Briana thought for a moment and responded. “They are nice... like Cinderella.”

Of course when you live with a Princess certain things must be done, and they must be done in a very special way. I decided to ask the mother of the Princess to share with our readers some of the activities a Princess enjoys.

- We read her stories...
- We listen to her...
- We talk with her...
- We take her shopping...
- We take her to see the manatees... (Princess Briana especially loves seeing the manatees).



IT'S HARD NOT TO SMILE WHEN YOU ARE THE MOTHER A PRINCESS!

Becky Galan, teacher at the Ruskin Migrant Head Start got to know RCMA early. She was an RCMA kid. Her teacher back then was Mary Ann Garcia, who is now a lead teacher at the center.

- We remind her every day that she is a Princess...
- And, we remind her every day that we love her...

Thanks Becky and Tony for teaching us the proper care for a Princess!



STUDENTS ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE FINISH LINE: The 7th Annual Wendell N. Rollason 5K Run took place at the Immokalee Community Park. Proceeds go toward the WNR Scholarship Fund to help students continue their education after high school. Volunteers from the Rollason Center (right to left) Alicia & Tina de la Rosa, Accounts Payable crew Dolly McSwain, Anita Partida & Carolee, Latoya Shipman and many more helped Phyliss Booe, race coordinator carry out a successful event!

Editor: Leslie Moguil
Staff Writer: Tom Moonan
Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:
RCMA HOY Editor
Redlands Christian Migrant Association
402 West Main Street, Immokalee, FL 34142
PHONE: 1-800-282-6540 FAX: 1-941-658-3571

Any time, any day, any problem. When you need someone to talk to, LifeBalance is there.
1-800-811-2849



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR CARING, NURTURING MOMS!

Parent News

May, 2000 Issue # 25 A Parent Involvement Supplement of RCMA

Are you an invisible father?

This newsletter is normally about one or two parents in RCMA programs who have done something special. This month is different. This month is an open letter to the parents who don't get recognized as often as they should — the dads.

Some dads don't help raise their own kids and the kids suffer. Most dads do get involved. We do it in many different ways. Some important things to do for your children are:

Respect their mother. You may be madly in love...or not. If not, remember that she is your partner in raising the children. They love her. Disrespect the mom and you disrespect the kids.

Time is what your child wants and needs. Time to be together. Going to the local park is just as good as going to Disney.

Go to their school. Let the teachers and principal know that care about your child's education. When you go, your concern will show, and the teacher will know!

Read with your child. When they are older, listen to them read. Go to the library together.

Eat together. Sharing food is one of the most important ways people build relationships. Have your children help you cook.

Go the doctor with your child. Many dads will sit in the car while the mom takes the child to an appointment. You have a right and responsibility to be there or to take turns.

Play. Kids learn through play. Play at the kids level. See the world through their eyes.

Make a choice to put your children first. This is hard when we want to do adult stuff. You have your own friends. Learn to balance your social life with your responsibilities.



Frustrated?
Need some support?
Call **1-800-FLA-LOVE**
(1-800-352-5683)
Parent Helpline
The Family Source of Florida

Send news & story ideas to: Parent News, RCMA, 402 W. Main St, Immokalle, FL 34142
Bertha Hooks & Mike Clark - Editors.

Noticias de Padres

Mayo, 2000

25

Noticias de Participación de Padres en RCMA

¡Los papas tambien quieren a sus hijos!

Esta folletin normalmente se trata de las experiencias uno o dos padres de familia quienes han hecho algo especial.

Este mes es diferente. Quiero reconocer todos los papas quienes son tan importantes en el desarrollo de sus niños. He aqui algunos ideas como los papas puedan apoyar sus hijos aun más.

Respete a la mama de sus hijos. Puede ser que ustedes estén muy enamorados... o no. Si no están juntos, recuerdese que ella es su socio en criar los hijos. Ellos quieren a su mama. Si usted falta al respeto a ella, tambien le falta al respeto a los hijos.

Pase tiempo juntos con sus hijos. Vayan al parque local. Jueguen juntos. Vea el mundo por los ojos de sus hijos.

Vaya a la escuela de su hijo. Cuando usted deja su hijo en la mañana o visite la clase, la maestra va a respetar mejor a su hijo.



Lea con su hijo. **Escuchelo** cuando el lee un libro o le cuento una historia. Visiten la biblioteca juntos para prestar libros.

Coman juntos todos los dias. Este ayude a fortalecer las relaciones en una familia. El hijo puede ayudar preparar la comida.

Lleve su hijo a sus citas con el doctor u otros lugares. La mama no debe ser la unica que se lleva a cabo este funcion important de ser padre.

Resuelva a poner los hijos primero. Es dificil para los hombres cuando queremos tambien hacer cosas con nuestros amigos. Debemos aprender balancear nuestros resonsibilidades con la vida social.

¿Se siente frustrado?

¿Busca ideas y apoyo?

Llame 1-800-FLA-LOVE

(1-800-352-5683)

Parent Helpline

The Family Source of Florida