Students Represent RCMA

TALLAHASSEE – Every spring, when the Florida Legislature is meeting, children’s interests around Florida converge on the Capitol for Children’s Week. Many RCMA children contribute art for the “Hanging of the Hands,” and several RCMA managers visit legislators to talk about what Florida children need from the state government.

This year, four RCMA Leadership Academy students and two chaperones joined the group. We toured the campus of Florida State University which helped the students realize that hard work pays off. We also visited the state Arts and Science Museum, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the Old Capitol, which is a history museum.

We also met with Representative Jake Raburn and Senator Bill Galvano, who represent Wimauma in the Legislature. Having them actually listen to us was very special and emotional because we realized that these students are going to make a difference in the future.

We also attended a meeting of the House Education Committee. The chairwoman invited one of our students’ to describe our school and what we stand for, while the other three students gathered around the podium. People who decide how Florida spends tens of billions of dollars on schools listened as a 7th grader from Wimauma talked about RCMA.

Our journey out of town and out of the routine helped open the students eyes to new things that will contribute to their character development. It was surely be an experience that will never be forgotten, it was filled with laughter and joy.

Marisela Becerra and Cesar Roman are teachers at RCMA Leadership Academy outside Tampa. They chaperoned four students on a trip to Tallahassee.
Hello All!

I would like to briefly share my recent adventure that involves a local community vendor. While out purchasing some supplies for the center I visited the local Home Depot. I was approached by a customer service representative during our search for the items. I began to introduce myself and tell her about the organization I work for.

I began to ask about Home Depot and programs that are offered to the community. She explained to me about the Team Build program and how they support the community. I gained more info as we walked. To make a long story short; Home Depot will be donating $2,000 dollars worth of materials and workmanship on June 7 to make improvements to the Palatka Child Development Center. That’s so amazing!

The work will include painting, repairing steps to units, a new sandbox for our preschool playground, landscaping, and any others repairs that are noted when they come out. We are so excited and will greatly appreciate the good deeds of Home Depot.

Community support is essential in all that we do for our families, children and staff. I will send pictures upon completion of the event. We are the first childcare facility in Putnam that will have received a grant from Home Depot.

Check with your local Home Depot to see when they are hosting a free workshop for kids.
Centro Villas in Florida City celebrated the Week of the Young Child with a series of engaging events and activities with their children.

Children from each classroom created 3-dimensional sculptures using recyclable materials. Parents were encouraged to write and illustrate books dedicated to their children, which they also had the opportunity to share in the classrooms. Children's products were on display during the week, reminiscent of an art gallery. Teachers held picnic lunches with the children. A “Make and Take” activity was held where parents did a craft project with their children and took it home. Adela Navas, Mentor Teacher, performed a clown act on “entertainment day,” complete with suit, shoes and red nose. Of course, singing and dancing were also part of the celebration.

As a culminating activity, the children placed pictures and messages inside helium balloons, which they released in unison in a beautiful school-wide activity on the last day of the week.

“Our entire center staff has worked very hard to make this week very special for our children and families. I am very proud of having this caliber of staff working in this center,” said Mary Staggers, the Center Coordinator. “We’re so proud of all of them”, added Adela. “We’ve all worked so hard, and it shows.” Keep up the fantastic work, guys!!!

Centro Villas, en Florida City, célebre La Semana del Niño joven con una serie de entretenidas actividades y acontecimientos con sus niños.

Los niños de cada salón de clase crearon esculturas tridimensionales utilizando materiales reciclables. Se animó a los padres a que escribieran e ilustraran libros dedicados a sus niños, y también tuvieron la oportunidad de compartirlos en las aulas. Los productos de los niños se exhibieron durante la semana, en forma similar a una galería de arte. Las maestras llevaron a cabo almuerzos estilo “picnic” para compartir con los niños. Los padres también hicieron manualidades con sus hijos, las cuales se llevaron para exhibirlas en sus hogares. Adela Navas, Maestra Mentor, se disfrazó de payaso, con sus zapatos enormes y nariz roja. Por supuesto, música y baile fueron también parte de la celebración.

Como actividad culminante, los niños pusieron dibujos y mensajes dentro de globos del helio, los cuales lanzaron en unísono en una hermosa actividad el último día de la semana. “Nuestro personal del centro entero ha trabajado arduamente para hacer esta semana muy especial para nuestros niños y familias.

Estoy muy orgullosa de tener esta clase de calibre trabajando en el centro”, dijo Mary Staggers, coordinadora del centro. “Estamos orgullosas de todas”, agregó Adela. “Hemos trabajado fuertemente todo el año y aquí se demuestra.”
El día 20 de Abril del 2013 Wahneta CDC—puso su granito de arena en apollo al abuso infantil. Muy temprano por la mañana todos vestidos de azul nos pusimos las pilas y caminamos 4 Millas. El abuso infantil no debería de existir y esperamos haber echo la diferencia ese día. Gracias a todas las personas que colaboraron.

Enjoy your summer and always remember the teachings of Dr. Seuss !!!

April 20th 2012, Wahneta CDC—Parents and children came together to express our feelings against child abuse. Early in the morning, all of us were dressed in blue and full of energy. We marched four miles against Child abuse and we hope our contribution made a difference that day. Thanks to every person for their collaboration.

Listen to the MUSTN'TS child, Listen to the DONT'S Listen to the SHOULDN'TS The IMPOSSIBLES, the WONT'S Listen to the NEVER HAVES Then listen close to me – Anything can happen, child, ANYTHING can be.  
-Shel Silverstein