

There's A New Sheriff in Town - Fulford Elementary Students Visit the NMB Police Department

BY BEVERLY PERKINS

Fulford Elementary School students had the opportunity to visit the City of North Miami Beach Police Department as part of the Kids and The Power of Work (KAPOW) program. KAPOW is a national network of business and elementary school partnerships which introduce and expose students to career awareness through professionally designed lessons taught by volunteers in the classroom and on work sites.

The program began 24 years ago and today 60 elementary schools, 423 teachers and administrators and more than 400 volunteers from 90 South Florida businesses participate serving 6,000+ students. Sixty percent of which are minorities who qualify for free or reduced lunch. This type of learning is crucial for the youth of today to be successful in life. Throughout the year students are taught work place ethics, career choices, team building, leadership skills and communication.

The curriculum presented consists of eight lessons, each of which feature a work-related concept. The lessons are age appropriate, interactive and of course,

educational. Making children aware of work in the real world can be structured into every aspect of a student's life without them even realizing it. Suggestions are also made in each lesson connecting career themes to other subject areas which allow teachers to reinforce them in a cross curriculum.

Fulford Elementary has partnered with KAPOW for the past 6 years. There are so many opportunities that students get to become exposed to, and this time the second grade Hawks got to see how the City's police department operates. The students were able to get inside the official vehicles, watch K9 training and ask plenty of questions. They also got to see how equipment works and be educated on what it takes to be an officer. There's nothing more beneficial than giving children the opportunity to learn in a real hands-on environment. However, along with learning there still is fun.

John Casbarro, President of Learning for Success, Inc. which manages KAPOW in South Florida states, "Young people need to understand that there is a reason for studying beyond doing so for the sake of learning. The KAPOW program addresses this need by helping young people understand early in life that reading, writing, and math are vital to success, in school, work, and life."

KAPOW is always looking for business or individual volunteers, as well as schools interested in participating in the program. For information, visit www.kapowlfs.org; send an email to john.casbarro@gmail.com or call 954-680-3916.

