
It's No Sea-cret That Learning Can Be Fun!

BY BEVERLY PERKINS

West Hollywood Elementary students had the opportunity to visit a Royal Caribbean Cruise Line 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.

Jennifer Wisnoski, KAPOW Coordinator and teacher at West Hollywood Elementary says, "We feel very fortunate to be able to motivate our students by integrating workplace concepts and skills into the curriculum. These skills connect the world of school to the world of work. With this program students can begin focusing on careers of their interest at an early age."

There's nothing more beneficial than giving children the opportunity to learn in a real hands-on environment, so a field trip to a work facility is made possible. In this case, the KAPOW partnership is sponsored by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and the City of Hollywood. They provided the volunteers in the school and the additional staff from their corporate and shipboard staff to conduct the visit and graciously welcomed the Wildcats on board.

These third graders said, "Bon Voyage" to the classroom and embarked on the Independence of the Seas which was docked at Port Everglades. Ninety-two students along with teachers and chaperoning parents were then able to appreciate a day off from the traditional learning campus and partake on a floating one.

The students were able to create fruit sculptures with a master chef, participate in ship board recreational activities and enjoy lunch in the ship's dining room. They also were exposed to jobs such as acting, entertaining, performing and cooking. Many workers on the ship were able to interact with the students by discussing what they do and answering all their questions.

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.kapowfs.org; send an email to john.casbarro@gmail.com or call 954-680-3916.

