

# 3rd Grade Students Visit Publix in Cooper City Commons

BY DEBBY TEICH

**A**FTER A VISIT TO PUBLIX IN Cooper City Commons, 3rd grade students at Pembroke Pines Elementary have a much better understanding of how math makes "cents." This is just one of the many lessons that James Gooze, Publix store manager, has been teaching them throughout the year as part of KAPOW (Kids and the Power of Work), a program designed to connect a student's classroom learning to their future in the work place.

KAPOW is a national network of business and elementary school partnerships which introduce students to career awareness through seven one-hour professionally designed lessons taught by business volunteers in the classroom. The lessons help students discover different jobs, what it takes to do them, and how to be successful in work and life.

This is the first year that Gooze has participated in the program. Gooze, along with customer service members Lacey Duncan and Katie Duncan, met with students in Dr. Barbara Sibble's third grade class each month. For the last lesson, the students took a field trip to Publix to see where they work. Another second grade class joined them.

"The students learned about 12 different jobs in the store," said Gooze. "The department managers explained what they do and the kids had an opportunity to try many of the jobs."

After learning how to make bread and cake, the students got to use some of the same tools to decorate cookies. They worked in the check-out line and counted money. They learned about the store's recycling program. They visited the meat and produce departments. They built store displays and stocked shelves. They learned about the importance of good communication and teamwork.

"The kids loved it," said Gooze. "They had an opportunity to experience new things. Some of these kids may be the next Publix store manager or employee. Through KAPOW, we have an opportunity to help them develop the skills they need in order to be successful in any career."

Gooze says that he and his team plan to participate in the program again next year.

KAPOW is always looking for businesses or individual volunteers interested in participating in the program. "Volunteers have the ability to change a young person's life forever in only seven hours," said John Casbarro, who coordinates KAPOW in South Florida.

For information about volunteering, or your school or business becoming a KAPOW partner, visit [www.kapow-lls.org](http://www.kapow-lls.org) or send an email to [john.casbarro@gmail.com](mailto:john.casbarro@gmail.com).

