

# Sandpiper Elementary Students Get the 411 on the 911

BY BEVERLY PERKINS

Sandpiper Elementary students had the opportunity to visit the Sunrise Police and Fire-Rescue Departments before the 2017-2018 school year ended as part of the Kids and The Power of Work (KAPOW) program.

KAPOW, now in its 27th year, serves over 6,000 students annually. The unique collaboration between the school district, almost 200 area businesses partners, 500 volunteers, and 75 South Florida schools introduces and exposes students to career awareness through professionally designed lessons taught by volunteers in the classroom and on work sites.

During the field trip the second-grade sandpipers had a behind-the-scenes look at the Sunrise Police Department. They saw the briefing room and gym where they learned about shift work, rank and supervision, the types of calls officers respond to, and the importance of working out and staying healthy. They also visited the shooting range to learn about the vari-

ous training methods officers need to participate in to qualify with their weapons, and they toured the jail. The morning concluded with a question/answer and photo session with the Chief and Deputy Chief.

There's nothing more beneficial than giving children the opportunity to learn in a real hands-on environment. In this case, the KAPOW partnership, enabled children to engage with their local police officers and firefighters.

"At Sunrise Fire-Rescue, we are always happy for the opportunity to engage young minds. During the fire station tour, we wanted to show Sandpiper Elementary's KAPOW Program students 'a day in the life of a firefighter' - hopefully illustrating how the knowledge and values they learn in school are important in a job like ours, while also making a personal connection with them," exclaimed John McNamara, City of Sunrise Fire



Chief. "The kids were wonderful participants. They gave us their full attention and asked a lot of questions that showed their interest in what we do and our role in the community,"

"The KAPOW program bridges the gap between what students learn at school and how it applies to the real world of work. The program exposes students to various careers they never knew existed and allows them to have practical goals for the future. Our volunteers connect with kids by sharing their pathway to success and becomes a valuable mentor in the classroom," explained Tania Reynolds, KAPOW Program Director.

■ KAPOW is always looking for business or individual volunteers, as well as schools interested in participating in the program. For more information about volunteering or how your school can participate, email KAPOW Program Director Tania Reynolds at [taniakapow@gmail.com](mailto:taniakapow@gmail.com) or call 305-338-5548.

