

Charter School News



Club TROOP Operation: Helping others

TROOP had a great visit with residents of Memorial Manor, where they chatted and played games with the seniors.



The Charter School Club T.R.O.O.P. boasts over 70 members in grades 6-8 at the Central campus. And this year T.R.O.O.P. is also at the Pembroke Pines Charter High School with over 35 members so far. The club was begun in 2005 by Central Campus Science teacher Mary DeShong and has participated in three Operations We Still Care and Operations for the Special Olympics, student mentoring



and elder care.

For more information about T.R.O.O.P., please contact Mary

Jane DeShong at 954-322-3300 or send an e-mail to mdeshong@pinescharter.com.

Baseball players from Pembroke Pines Charter High School sign with NSU and Barry

Pembroke Pines Charter High School (17189 Sheridan St.) senior baseball players Robert Mesa and Anthony Bondarenko have received baseball scholarships from Nova Southeastern University, with fellow teammate Shawn Negron signing with Barry University. The players signed on April 14 at the High School surrounded by their teammates, Baseball Coach Carlos Iglesias, athletic director Craig Good, High School Principal Peter Bayer and their families.

Senior Anthony Bondarenko plays right field and pitcher for the Jaguars and was awarded the Jaguars' Coach's Award in 2007. Senior Robert Mesa, the Jaguars' catcher, received the Jaguars' Coach's Award in 2007 and was named to Sun Sentinel's All Broward Second Team in 2007. Shawn Negron plays first base and pitcher, and he also received the Jaguars' Coach's award in 2007. These players have helped lead the Jaguars to their current 17-8 record this season.

Shawn Negron is planning



Three happy seniors from the Pembroke Pines Charter High School Baseball Team have signed on the dotted line for baseball scholarships: Seated in the front row from left to right are baseball players Shawn Negron, Anthony Bondarenko and Robert Mesa; standing are proud supporters of the students Principal Peter Bayer, Assistant Baseball Coach Oscar Alarcón, Head Baseball Coach Carlos Iglesias and Athletic Director Craig Good.

on majoring in Business Law/Sports Management. Robert will major in Business/Sports Management and Anthony will major in Business.

"Robert and Anthony have been friends since they met as eight-year-old third graders at

the brand new (1998) West Campus of the Pembroke Pines Charter School. Fast forward they are graduating from PPCHS and now they'll be attending the same university and both playing baseball," said proud mom Liz Mesa. "Where did the time go?"

Charter School hosts first All Pro Dad® meeting

The Pembroke Pines FSU Charter Elementary School, 601 SW 172nd Ave., hosted its first All Pro Dads Day. The national program All Pro Dad® is a Family First innovative program begun in conjunction with the NFL and Chick-fil-A® to help men become better fathers. More than 60 dads and over 80 students attended the Charter School's inaugural All Pro Dads Day meeting!

"PTA treasurer Vicki Croft was instrumental in bringing this innovative program to our school," said Assistant Principal Alan Pfau. Each meeting begins with "lead" dads, called captains, starting the meeting with a conversation starting point for father and child. "Dad Michael Tiano, who attended with his daughter Karissa, kicked off our first meeting by asking the fathers and children to think about the commitment of time. Each child was asked to rate their own dad on a scale of 1-10 on how much time they spend with the kids," said Pfau.

Captain Tiano then challenged the kids with a homework assignment to spend time with their dads before the next All Pro Dad meeting. The challenge called for each child to think about a meaningful activity which they can share in, that doesn't cost money.

"As fathers, we do work a lot, so the time we have with our children needs to be quality time. The discussion time with my kids about 'the best day they spent with their dad' made me realize I need to have more special days with them. I want them to look back at their childhood and remember Dad was always there. I am thankful there is now an All Pro Dad day, so dads can have special days at school," said Scott Shrewsbury, who attended with his two daughters Olivia and Paige.

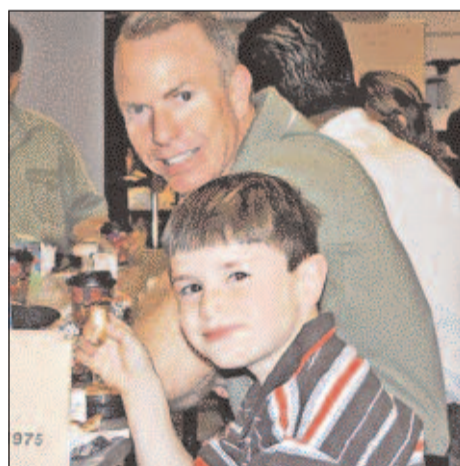
Shirley Eyzaguirre, manager of the Chick-fil-A in Pembroke Lakes Mall, helped sponsor the curriculum at the Charter School. At the meeting, Chick-fil-A catered and sold over 120 yummy breakfasts for all involved to share together, and while the dads and children were eating and bonding, the 6-foot Chick-fil-A mascot posed for pictures and watched as memories were being made and cherished.

The national All Pro Dad program has 50 NFL spokesmen and multiple events with NFL teams, and boasts 1,000 All Pro Dad's Day chapters and Play of the Day daily e-mails that reach 40,000 fathers each day. NFL spokesmen for the program include Tony Dungy, who speak out on the importance of fatherhood.

For more information, please visit www.allprodad.com.



Karissa Tiano standing with Chick-fil-A® Cow and her dad Michael Tiano, who is holding baby son Michael.



Alexander Benítez and dad Manuel Benítez.

Charter Middle School Club takes third place at Broward Scholastic Chess Championship

The Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School West Campus Jaguar Knights Chess Club won 3rd place at the Broward Scholastic Chess Championship in the K-8 division in the Campus' first rated chess tournament. The championship, hosted by the Broward County Chess Association and the United States Chess Federation (USCF), was held at Pine Crest School's Florida Egan Auditorium in Fort Lauderdale.

The Pembroke Pines Charter School team consisted of 8th graders Puneet Sood, Alex Hofmann and Christopher Sánchez, competing in the K-8 division, and were joined by 4th grader Anuj Sood of the West Campus Elementary School, competing on his own in the K-5 division.

The team played four rounds of chess, each lasting about an hour and a half.

"We initially tied with Falcon Cove for third, but we won the full place on 'tie-break



L-R: Alexander Hofman, Puneet Sood, Christopher Sánchez, with Grandmaster Renier González, who had to sit and play through Puneet's first game at a parallel board to check a claim Puneet's opponent had made.

points'!", said Sondra Lieber, West Campus Reading teacher and Chess Club sponsor. Anuj Sood won a respectable 1.5 points as the only Pembroke Pines Charter School player in his division.

"It was a great day for the Jaguar Knights Chess Club. What a super performance for our first tournament ever!" said Lieber.



During the 1st annual Charter East Tree Planting, 4th grade students from the Pembroke Pines Charter School's East Campus got down and dirty, as they did their part to make a difference and help the planet.

Pembroke Pines Charter School Elementary's National Arbor Day Tree Planting

On National Arbor Day, April 25, the 4th grade botanists and arborists of the Pembroke Pines Charter School's East Campus (10801 Pembroke Rd.) did their part to make a difference and help the planet.

The 4th graders held a first-ever Charter East Tree Planting in the garden they have created and maintained on campus.

"The students planted a live oak tree donated by '100 Percent by Landscaping Company,' plus hibiscus bushes, potted plants

and flowers," said Lisa Dizengoff, Science Facilitator at the East Campus.

"We are very excited to have added to our beloved East Campus garden. The 4th graders' garden is not only home to many butterflies and ladybugs but also to praying mantises, which are being raised by our young entomologists in grades K-3," continued Dizengoff.

For additional information about the School's Tree Planting, please contact the school at 954-443-4800. For more information about Arbor Day, please visit www.arborday.org.

Butterfly Garden earns an A+

APES (AP Environmental Science) Anatomy and Physiology Teacher Lianne Haviland and her PPCHS AP Environmental Science classes teamed up with Public Services Landscape Coordinator Tony Burzo to build a school butterfly garden.

"The project began as a student assignment and evolved into a reality," said Haviland. The garden is the winning design of Guillermo Vásquez, a PPCHS junior.

"With the help of APES, students, local businesses and the City of Pembroke Pines,



we were able to take the idea off paper and build a beautiful addition to our PPCHS campus," concluded Haviland.

