

FBH brings enrichment activities to elementary schools

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Photo provided by Food Brings Hope

Pierson Elementary students who completed the Money Smart Banking Program are (front from left) Juan Carlos Vega, Bryan Villafuerte, Tia Gillins, Keaira Miler, Ruth Galarza; (second row) Annebelle Bintner, Emmanuel Reyes, Guillermo Solis, Isabel Andres; (third row) Cynthia Milan, Lily-Mae White, Madison Edwards; (back) Sean Sullivan, personal banker at Wells Fargo, Sheila Jackson with the United Way's Campaign for Working Families and Laura Hemmingway, Pierson Elementary teacher.



Food Brings Hope sponsored several educational programs in May for elementary school students in Volusia County Schools, which included a field trip to Stetson University by Starke Elementary, a Money Smart Banking program at Pierson Elementary and Sports/Nutrition Day at Westside Elementary.

"One of the key objectives of Food Brings Hope is to provide diverse cultural and instructional programs to students who may not otherwise be exposed to them," said Forough B. Hosseini, FBH founder. "The month of May is representative of the work we do throughout the year. It is our hope that by offering these opportunities to kids early in their lives, we can help them achieve success as they become adults."

STARKE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS VISIT STETSON'S GILLESPIE MUSEUM

FBH and Stetson University supported a trip to the Gillespie Museum by Starke's S.T.A.R.S. (Students Turning Around and Reaching For Success) program. The field trip included a tour of Stetson University's earth science building and native plant landscape.

PIERSON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM MONEY SMART BANKING

Money Smart Banking is an interactive banking program presented by the United Way's Campaign for Working Families. It is designed to teach students how to budget, the importance of saving, how to use bank services to protect money and how to be a smart shopper. A key message students learned was "needs vs. wants." Wells Fargo Bank provided financial experts to lead the classes. Upon graduation, the students received gift cards, a piggy bank for savings and a pizza lunch.

"We are incredibly grateful for the time, knowledge and generous gifts offered as part of the Money Smart Banking program," said Laura Hemmingway, Pierson Elementary teacher. "The students have gained such a valuable life lesson."

WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ATTEND SPORTS/NUTRITION DAY

Students from Osceola, Pierson and Starke elementary schools visited Westside Elementary on May 8 for Sports/Nutrition Day. The students enjoyed Zumba lessons, provided by Quanita of Quanita's Latin Dance and Ballroom; sports and agility drills led by Embry-Riddle's Assistant Basketball Coach Chad Keller and several members of the basketball team; nutritional instruction by personal trainer and nutrition coach, Judi Boone; and a hot buffet dinner.

"This annual event provides a program for children of other schools and cultures to join together to participate in a day of education, recreation and socialization," said Westside Principal Judi Winch. "Rarely is this type of opportunity provided for our students."

Not only were students involved in Sports Nutrition Day but several teachers and principals of visiting schools also joined the fun.

"The FBH Sports Nutrition Day has ignited a spark in Starke students to get up and start exercising and to start making healthy food choices," said Shannon Hay, principal of Starke Elementary. "The talented group leaders inspired our students and made them feel they are important, valuable and worthy of living a long and healthy life."

YEAR-END CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, more than 500 students from 10 schools in Volusia County descended upon the Daytona International Speedway for the FBH end of the year celebration. The event featured a tour of the track, games and prizes, an awards presentation, remarks by International Speedway Corporation CEO Lesa Kennedy and dinner.

For information about FBH, visit foodbringshope.org.