



# PAW PRINTS



“Your Bobcat Newsletter”

13300 SW 120<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33186  
Phone: (305) 232-2222 Fax: (305) 232-4272  
heritageschool@bellsouth.net  
www.heritageschool.org

November 30, 2011  
Vol. 5 Issue 1

## Director's Message

### Curiosity and the Uranium Atom

Curiosity may have killed the cat, but it sure makes our school an exciting place to be! One of the many wonderful things about my job is that everyday I see children full of curiosity about the world around them. Fortunately for them, our enthusiastic teachers are there to receive their curiosity and nurture it. Yes, we have a Language Arts Curriculum and Spanish projects and multiplication tables to accomplish, but, as often as not, what I see happening in the classrooms around our school is driven not so much by prescription as it is by how teachers respond to their student's wonderful curiosity and enthusiasm.

Not long ago I was in a Social Studies class where students were discussing World War II and the devastating effects of the uranium bomb. Later that same day, the same students were in their Science class. I am sure their was a planned activity, but the students enthusiasm for learning, and the teacher's facilitation of their curiosity turned the class into a symposium on the science behind the energy generated by the splitting of the uranium atom. So the students' curiosity changed the nature of what they learned that day. After all, if schools are all about students and learning, shouldn't they be able to influence the process? In other words, around here, when we say that every individual has a say in how to make our school better, we mean it! Each person participating in fulfilling our established vision becomes a part of the process. We are far greater than the sum of our parts! The next time your child tells you what they learned about that day, ask them a follow-up question: what would you like to learn *more* about? There is bound to be an answer!

## The Heritage School PTO Board



We are off to a great start this year and feel privileged to have been elected as the PTO board of The Heritage School. We would like to take this opportunity

to thank all the parents and staff for their support through the

events we have had to date; Spirit shirt sales, October Pumpkin Silent Auction, Movie Night and Pizza/Spirit Fridays. Our Pizza/Spirit Shirt Days are full of fun; the teachers and students created amazing designs for the Pumpkin Silent Auction, and our Movie Night was great fun. We were thrilled with the attendance and participation! Family Fun Day is our focus for the 2011-2012 school year and we look forward to partnering up with all our parents to ensure our success. On December 3, our Family Fun Day event will be held on school campus from 11am to 3pm, please join us for a day to remember.

The PTO Board  
[heritageschoolpto@yahoo.com](mailto:heritageschoolpto@yahoo.com)

## Lower School News

### Firefighters Visit

On Thursday, October 6th the Fire Department came to our school. The Pre-Kindergarten III through Level II



children learned some valuable lessons from the firefighters. They talked about the Stop, Drop, and Roll procedure, the importance of riding in your car seat, the dangers of playing with matches, and only calling 911 in a real emergency. The children had the opportunity to see one of the firefighters dress up in their uniform with the mask and oxygen tank and watch the fire truck leave the school with its siren blaring.

### Barnes and Noble

It was a full house on Thursday, October 13 at the West Kendall Branch of Barnes and Noble. The excitement of having an evening among books was felt throughout in our



students and their family members of all ages! Students PK3-5<sup>th</sup> grade sang songs, and both fifth and sixth graders recited poems. The Drama Club also had a short presentation, and many parents raised funds by purchasing books that night to show their support of the event. A special thank you to all the teachers, children and relatives who were able to attend, and to the teachers who prepared the songs and poems and made it all happen!

### Hispanic Heritage

The Hispanic Heritage is an event in which each class learns a Spanish song from diverse countries. They learn about the origin of the song, the geography of those countries and the history behind de Spanish language. Students are excited singing in this event because they

incorporate choreography to the music as well. A special thank you to Alexander Lopez's grandparents, Marisa y



Carlos Molina, who gave a wonderful presentation of singing and guitar, and to Mrs. Segura for all the preparation.

### Olympic Day

On October 25, students came dressed in their sports uniform and participated in several competitions during our annual Olympic Day! All students competed in hurdles, ball throws, 50/30 yard dash, cross-country,



standing broad jump, and baton relay events. Everyone got excited at the inaugural parade, where they displayed their country of heritage's flag and sang the National Anthem. Parents joined the activities and cheered their children on, making the event extra special! They also participated in the very first Pumpkin Silent Auction with the pumpkins on display created by each classroom...they were amazing! What a creative idea for a fund-raiser PTO had this year! Thank you Mr. Gonzalez, for making it all happen!

### Book Fair

The book fair was a great success! The students purchased many wonderful books. The generosity of our students always amazes us. We were able to raise over \$100. The



book fair helps fund, many programs such as Grolier Online. Thank you for your continued support, and thank you to Mrs. Suarez for making it great!

### Halloween and Haunted House

There was a spooktacular parade in our driveway on October 31<sup>st</sup> as students and staff displayed their costumes for Halloween! We all had fun showing off our new identities for the day, and having family members take pictures of us!



Later on in the day, all students visited our very first Haunted House, with scary and slimy experiences the children will never forget!



Staff had prepared for the event, setting up the Friday before and making it all spooky for the students. Younger ones got to enjoy it with more light and less scary effects, and they all got to take a 'poisonous apple' home after they survived the haunted house tour! A special thanks to Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Valcarce, Ms. Del Valle, Mrs. Kaczmarek, Mrs. Gonzalez, Ms. Alés, Mr. Scream de la Fe, Mr. Dracula Lie-Nielsen, Mr. Clown Nieves, Mr. Gorilla

Stephens, Mrs. Scarecrow Gallardo, and both Rubén and Henry for helping so much!

### Operation Christmas Child

The National Elementary Honor Society chapter of the Heritage School completed their first service project of the school year when announcing and promoting the Operation Christmas Child gift boxes drive in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Altogether, more than 25 boxes full of toys and supplies were collected, all of which will be opened by a needy child across the globe who will be so thankful for our generosity!



Thank you Heritage families for contributing and spreading your kindness!

### High Honor Roll



Alexander Lie-Nielsen, Raul Ley, Emily Untracht, Andres Hoyos, Emilie Wiltz, Agustina Salomon, Victoria Silvera, and Joshua Gonzalez.

### Honor Roll



Michael Oropesa, Amalia Almeyda, Alexzander Diaz-Martinez, Sofia Baraybar, Zein Yehia, Adisesh Venkatesh, Rolando Medina, Patrick Spurlin, Saul Castillo, Alexandra Mendez, Aditi Venkatesh, Zaher Al-Issa, Xavier Moncada, Victoria Santi, Ayesha Bakshi, Lazaro Marti, Hala Hachem, and Jason Castellanos.

## Middle School News

The Heritage School proudly commenced its 2011-2012 school year with great enthusiasm. During The Hispanic Heritage Festival, the students sang and danced their hearts out with great expertise thanks to the guidance of Mrs. Segura.



All who attended were pleased with the performances as they reminisced in their cultural background. The Lower School thoroughly enjoyed running races during Olympic Day and the Middle School students' cooperation was immensely appreciated by Coach Gonzalez who coordinated this exciting event.



Middle School enjoying Pizza and Spirit Day.

### Ronald McDonald Foundation Can Drive

Please help the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) in collecting canned goods and/or cash donations for the Ronald McDonald Foundation. This foundation provides a "home-away-from-home" for families so that they can stay close by their hospitalized child at little or no cost. Any canned goods that will help them for meals (including baby food and formula) is very much appreciated. You can also make a cash donation or check made out to cash so we can collect enough to help out a family for a week's stay at the Ronald McDonald House in downtown Miami. If you would like more information on this charity event, please feel free to visit the website: <http://rmhc.org/>. Thanks in advance for all your help!

### Honor Roll Ceremony

The Honor Roll Ceremony was held in the Activity Center overlooking our tropical garden where our highly acclaimed students were recognized for their academic achievement. So far the 2011 school year is turning out to be quite impressive with a lot more coming up!



Thanks to the PTO, students and teachers were given the opportunity to get in touch with their creative side and transform ordinary pumpkins into Belinda, Mrs. Doubtfire, Ladybug, Captain Jack Sparrow, Happy Twirl Spider, We are the World, Pasmurf, Pumpkinstein, Elmo, Panda Express, and Despicable Me.

### Honor Roll



Hana Shah, Madison O'Brien, Natalie Salinas, Kimberly Harmount, Dillon Jones, Javier Vazquez, Brian Abreu, Chelsea Nifah, Marie Sophie Lie-Nielsen, Gaspard Etienne, Gabriel Cardona, Amin Sheiknia, Daniel Lopez, Misael Oropesa, and Oscar Serrano.