

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
DEERFIELD BEACH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!**

Nicole M. Mancini at Deerfield Beach Elementary School is teaching her students to be "Bucket Fillers"! After reading her students the book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today" by Carol McCloud, Ms. Mancini has elevated the art of classroom management by teaching her students positive behavior through peer reinforcement.

Bucket "drops" are always available to complete in the front of the classroom where the buckets are located. When a student feels as if someone has filled their bucket in some way, i.e., helped them learn a new skill, picked up items they have dropped, encouraged them, etc., they fill out a "drop" to put in that student's bucket. Students are free to do this when they have finished their work, during centers, in the morning after completing their agendas, or at the end of the day when we are getting ready to go home. This has established a positive classroom culture where all students are appreciated, recognized, and accepted. Recognizing their peers has given many students a feeling of accomplishment and increased self-esteem. Students are more willing to help their peers throughout the day and have become "good sports" in congratulating their peers when they are recognized or win a game. The bucket books are always visible on the board ledge. If needed, the teacher, and on occasion, even substitutes have picked up the book and re-read it to the class to remind them of how their actions and words affect others. Yes, even the substitutes know about the bucket book and the drops! Students are very quick to point out when the teacher has filled their bucket and, with big smiles, kind words, and positive actions, they are constantly filling her bucket too!