

NEWS FLASH!

Deerfield Beach Middle Students Work Hard to Clean up Their Campus

The students at Deerfield Beach Middle School learned that taking care of their campus is not just about planting trees and flowers, but respecting their school and themselves.

Last month, the seventh grade intensive team at Deerfield Beach Middle School participated in a beautification day in conjunction with the 40th annual celebration of Earth Day. They planted more than 40 ferns along “Einstein Avenue,” the area in the school outside of the hallway where the students attend most of their classes.

“We want the students to take pride in their school and hopefully that will encourage them to take pride in themselves,” said Donna Robinson, a Staff Developer for the Office of Prevention Programs at Broward County Schools.

Prior to making the changes, the area was bare and empty and any plants that were still there were tattered and torn, according to Suzy Pinnell, the Science teacher in charge of the event at Deerfield Beach Middle School. Pinnell said that the rain had washed dirt from the bare areas onto the sidewalk and dirt was being tracked into the classrooms. The plants and mulch will help prevent erosion.

Pinnell demonstrated proper planting techniques for the students and they learned how to mulch and level the soil. She tried to show the students to “always leave it better than how you found it.”

“It can be interpreted on various levels...immediate space such as classrooms to contributions within a lifetime,” Pinnell said.

The students showed a great deal of teamwork and camaraderie while trying to build their garden. Robinson said. “They followed directions and took great care digging and placing the plants,” Robinson said. “They loved working together”

The plants and mulch were paid for with funds raised from a recycling program the school hosted. They collected printer cartridges, old cell phones, and Ipods throughout the year and sent them to Cartridges for Kids, a Colorado based organization that reimburses schools for their donated items.

“It was a great day and the students absolutely loved it,” Robinson said.