

School Improvement Zone
Irving Hamer, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ACCEPT THE LEAPFROG SCHOOLHOUSE INC. DONATION OF
\$12,000 IN EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO BE USED IN AFTER
SCHOOL TUTORIALS WITH RETAINED THIRD GRADE
STUDENTS AT MYRTLE GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Recently, Diego Mesa and Justin Chang, 11th grade students at North Miami Senior High School, submitted a proposal to the School Improvement Zone offering to volunteer as after-school tutors for retained third grade students. This proposal, developed by the students as a community service project, was presented to Dr. Irving Hamer, Deputy Superintendent, School Improvement. A group of 20 senior high school students propose to tutor 40 retained third grade students for the 2004-2005 school year. *Swamp Dogs and Eagles in the Zone* is the name given to the program by the students who developed it. Myrtle Grove Elementary School was selected to participate in this tutorial program scheduled to begin in November.

In order to provide resources for this tutoring program, Leapfrog Schoolhouse Inc., developer of award-winning technology and educational products, has offered to donate educational materials valued at \$12,000. The materials include 40 Quantum Pad Personal Learning Tools and various student books with teacher guides, totaling approximately 400 books. The Leapfrog Schoolhouse products will assist the tutors in presenting concepts to the elementary students using a multisensory approach. Each tutor will receive training on the use of supplementary products in their tutorial sessions and how children can use the instructional products at home.

Staff from the School Improvement Zone's district office provided training and materials for the high school tutors. An orientation meeting held at Myrtle Grove Elementary School provided the third grade students and their parents an opportunity to learn about the program and to meet the high school tutors who will assist the children. After the March 2005 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), the tutors will organize a reading and mathematics competition between the participating third grade students as a culminating activity for this project.

If accepted, a letter of appreciation will be sent to Leapfrog Schoolhouse, Inc. The President of Leapfrog Schoolhouse, Inc. is Mr. Robert W. Lally.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. accept a donation of \$12,000 in educational products from Leapfrog Schoolhouse Inc. to be used in after school tutoring program for retained third grade students at Myrtle Grove Elementary School; and
2. recognize the efforts of the tutors from North Miami Senior High School in providing assistance to the participating students at Myrtle Grove Elementary School.

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