

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
INITIATE AN INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL IN
COOPERATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE (O.D.L.I.) AND THE
GIFFONI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN IN
GIFFONI, ITALY**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

The Giffoni International Film Festival for Children was launched in 1971 by a group of film aficionados who believed that films made specifically for young people needed their own showcase. Since that time, the event has received international recognition for the presentation of award-winning cinema for young audiences.

Recognizing the strong potential for international cultural exchange, intensifying foreign language instruction, and encouraging reading skills by motivating students to read the subtitled films; the Division of Life Skills and Special Projects, in cooperation with the Organization for the Development of the Italian Language (O.D.L.I.) invited the Giffoni International Film Festival for Children to expand their programming to the United States.

The present plans are to screen subtitled international films at selected movie theaters throughout Miami-Dade County. More than 2,000 students are expected to view films from over a dozen countries that include Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the Republic of Slovak, New Zealand, Finland, Great Britain, and the United States. Additional opportunities for screening for families and the community will be available. Workshops and discussions with film makers will provide an opportunity for teachers and students to explore the cultural themes and cinematic techniques presented in the screenings. Workbooks and educational materials will be used in the classroom setting for pre and post-screening educational activities.

This international film festival, dedicated to young audiences, provides a unique opportunity for students to view "cinema" that capture universal emotions and experiences while offering a special perspective on the art of film and on global culture.

The Giffoni International Film Festival for Children has agreed to fund all expenses associated with the delivery of the films to Miami-Dade County, Florida. Two grants have been written and sponsors will be sought, to provide additional funding for this project.

There are no additional costs associated with this item, since implementation of this initiative is provided by the Giffoni International Film Festival for Children, grants and/or sponsors, and the Division of Life Skills and Special Projects.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to initiate an International Children's Film Festival in cooperation with the Organization for the Development of the Italian Language (O.D.L.I.) and the Giffoni International Film Festival for Children in Giffoni, Italy.

No additional cost to the district.

GMK/NSC/LG:sc