

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION OF THE 2014 WALKSAFE STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The WalkSafe Program was developed by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level. The WalkSafe educational component involves a three-day curriculum, which is designed to teach students safe walking skills, and is taught to coincide with the annual Walk to School events during the month of October. Since its inception in 2001, the WalkSafe Program has proven to be highly successful, with data indicating the number of pedestrian hit-by-car incidents among children 5-14 years old in Miami-Dade County has decreased by 65 percent.

The WalkSafe educational component consistently reaches a yearly average of 115,000 students from 225 public classrooms across Miami-Dade County with its pedestrian safety lessons. During the 2014-2015 school year students learned about safe street-crossing behaviors, traffic and pedestrian signs and signals, as well as the benefits of walking daily. Aside from the curriculum, the WalkSafe team also hosted its annual statewide poster contest to encourage students to promote the most important pedestrian safety lessons learned from the three-day educational program.

The contest was very competitive with close to 300 submissions from 137 elementary schools and K-8 Centers from Miami-Dade, Orange, Duval, Palm Beach and Polk Counties. Adjudication of the posters was conducted by representatives from WalkSafe's partnering agencies. Proudly, Miami-Dade County placed first in all three grade level categories.

The winners of the 2014 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest are:

Grades K-1: Claudia F. Hernandez, 1st Grade, Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center;
Grades 2-3: Elizabeth Perdomo, 3rd Grade, Oliver Hoover Elementary; and
Grades 4-5: Samarra Frazier, 5th Grade, Caribbean Elementary.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize and congratulate the winners of the 2014 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest.