

Boynton Beach High School (November 25, 2014 Visit)

Principal Fred Barch of Boynton Beach Community High School explained all of the activities underway to reach the community since his school is a relative unknown in the area. Some of this has to do with their location and the fact that it cannot be seen from any of the main roadways in the area. COBWRA will be receiving emails from BBHS to forward to its member communities when articles are written in the local papers. Principal Barch has proposed a change to the schools name to showcase their academies to Boynton Beach Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Iraida Loehrig the Career Academy Coordinator for the school explained some of their Academies including Boynton Aerospace Science Academy (BASA), Theater, Vocal, Dance, Information Technology, Culinary Arts and Early Childhood. One area COBWRA can support its member communities is through outreach to support Iraida's recruitment of students.

The tour of the beautiful and unique campus included an aircraft and their prized state of the art \$1,000,000 flight simulator which was donated, extensive culinary lab fully equipped with commercial kitchens, onsite garden and fruit trees, multiple theater venues including a performance in their smaller "Black Box" theater. The committee left the school with an understanding of the gem hidden away next to Car Max off I-95 which only needs more promotion of their top notch programs. One idea though not practical was a plane mounted high above the school, maybe that would get the community to final notice this hidden treasure.

To raise community awareness of the Arts Academies Boynton Beach Community High School is hosting (past 12/4/2014) Kaleidoscope: A Community Holiday Showcase of the Arts. This event brings together several community businesses involved in the arts with the programs offered by the school. Warren Danz attended the show with his 9 year old daughter and thought it was fantastic.

Christa McAuliffe Middle School Ed Committee Tour and Q & A Session
-- January 26, 2016 --

- Host and Tour Guide: Jeffery Silverman, Principal
- Current Enrollment: Approximately 1100 Students (Max. Capacity w/25 portables = 1370).
Enrollment dropped to 1000 students the year Somerset Canyons & Franklin Charter Schools opened.
- Average class size for academic classes is 22 - 25 students, Physical Ed. cap is up to 50 and computer and elective classes are capped at 30.
- This year approximately 100 students returned from Charter Schools; and the majority of students from Christa McAuliffe, attend Park Vista High School.
- Curriculum: 3rd year implementation of Florida Standards (Common Core) with an emphasis on computers and multi-media technology.
- Advanced students are challenged through a Gifted & Talented program and advanced math courses. A Reading-Plus Lab is available ½ hour each day to enrich student reading skills.
- An in-house Information-Communications-Technology-Academy (ICTA) is available to all students. Course electives include – Microsoft Computer Classes, Keyboarding, Graphics, Virtual Computer Lab and TV Production.
- Classrooms and labs are well equipped with computers and maintained by a full-time technician. The computers were obtained at minimal cost through a NASA Computers in Education program. Students also have some exposure to lap-top computers and i-pads.

Teachers and staff are assisted by volunteer parents and community members.

Franklin Academy Charter School Visit & Tour (March 24, 2015)

Tour Guides and Q & A Session

- Scott Sznitken - Board Liaison (Grades 6-8), Sznitken.Scott@FloridaCharter.org
- Charles Coddington, Director of School Operations, coddington.charlie@franklin-academy.org
- Dr. Marjorie Waldo, Principal (Out on SL)
- Dr. Dallas, Vice Principal

Charter School Information Provided to Education Committee:

- Current enrollment = 1247 students (Reduced Lunch = 120 & Free Lunch = 418)
- Capacity = 1340 students
- Provides an alternate school choice to Palm Beach Co. Parents
- Conducts gender separate classes
- Enrolls a diverse student population in Grades K – 8
- Conducts a very active PTO w/ mandatory service hours for all parents
- Instructional technology is available in all classrooms
- Implemented an advanced security tracking system for student drop-off and pick-up

Curriculum:

- Follows FL Standards
- Includes Science Labs
- Includes Computer Labs
- Includes Chess

Programs Include:

- Extensive Reading
- Spanish
- Keyboarding
- Physical Education
- Optional Olympics (Sat. morning math, science & reading tutorials)

Student Activities Include:

- Band
- Chess Club
- Student Govt.

Teachers and Staff:

- Meet FL certification requirements
- Participate in staff development activities and programs

Facilities Include:

- Gymnasium w/ bleacher seating
- Cafeteria & Auditorium
- Classrooms w/ instructional technology

Indian Pines Elementary School
Ed Committee Tour and Q & A Session
-- May 23, 2017 --

- Host and Tour Guides: Jill Robinson-Principal, Maria Bishop-Regional Superintendent, Christine Michaud-Single School Cultural Coordinator, Nancy Dinkin-Literacy Coach, Mary Loving-ESOL Coordinator. Attendees: S. Forem, M. Zaglin, H. Doctor, S. Manuele, D. Goldstein, C. North and T. Korn
- Current Enrollment: Approximately 647 students (11th day Count) Maximum capacity = 1158 students. Pre-K Enrollment = 43 students.....housed in a separate building on campus.
- Student population is highly diverse, representing approximately 25 different counties. Flags from each country were on display in the student lunch room. Feeder schools for Indian Pines are Woodlands Middle and Santaluces High School.
- Curriculum w/ a Music & Arts theme, follows FL Standards and is aligned with today's trends and contemporary applications by certified teachers. A grant program was pursued to expand music programs in band, violin and keyboards.
- Classes for High Achiever students are offered based on selecting students through in-house testing results. Project based learning is used to engage students in hands-on activities such as shoe-box building a city activities, outdoor gardening etc. An American Sign Language (ASL) center provides specialized services for students w/ disabilities.
- Principal Robinson expressed a high degree of pride in hiring teachers and staff w/ music and art interests and mentioned that she focuses on hiring individuals who are willing to contribute to school activities and programs beyond their areas of specialization. Indian Pines' positive learning environment has presently earned a Grade C rating for 2016.
- During classroom visits the committee members observed highly engaged and enthusiastic students working in small groups, giving them an opportunity to interact with peers in addition to teacher-lead questions and discussion. Some classrooms also included student computer learning stations and individual music key board stations.
- The following student performances and presentations were very entertaining and well received by Ed Committee members – Coral & Folk Groups, Black History presentation, Key-Board songs, Dance Group and Saxophone solo.
- Classroom walls and hallway bulletin boards are covered with innovative student work and creative projects. The facilities although dated, were very clean & well maintained. The library collection could use additional resources and a refresh. Outdoor painting & landscape improvements are long over-due.
- Teachers and staff are assisted by a limited number of parents and community volunteers. Additional volunteers are needed and are always welcome. Due to a high percentage of working parents, the PTO is currently coordinated by teachers.

Park Vista H.S. Ed Committee Tour and Q & A Session – September 29, 2015

- Park Vista Staff: Reginald Myers – Principal, Dr. Pia Pierre – Asst. Principal, Arnie Rich – Volunteer Coordinator, Kim Bailey – Academy Coordinator and Guidance Counselors (2)
- Current Enrollment: 3061 Students (Max. Capacity = 3200)
- Academy (Approx.) Students
 - Choice Academies -- Automotive Service Technology = 250
Automotive Collision = 250
Medical Science = 400 (Clinical Students = 180)
 - In-House Academy -- Multimedia Communications = 400
- An active Academy Advisory Committee assists Park Vista with raising funds for equipment and scholarships.
- ESE Students (up 21 yrs. old) = Approximately 300 who are taught functional life and work skills through class room and supervised work assignments within and outside the school.
- Out-of-District Students = Approximately 150
- School Day: 7:30 am – 2:45 pm
- A “student driven” class schedule is developed for each student and courses are assigned based on individual student need.
- Both College Entrance and Career Prep curricula options are offered.
- Recent Graduation Rates: 89.9% (2013), 92.3% (2014) and 90-92% (2015 projection)
- Assistant Principals practice an open door policy with students and Principal Myers emphasizes that he and his staff are focused on “being there For-The-Kids (FTK)!”
- Through a partnership with local Take Stock and Cloud Peak programs, approximately 40 adult volunteers serve as mentors to disadvantaged Park Vista students, whereby, program completers become eligible for college scholarships.
- For additional more specific information about Park Vista High School review the attached brochure and/or visit www.pvchs.com

SCHOOL OF AUTISM-----COBWRA Education Committee VISIT (11/17/15)

School of Autism Executive Director, Ann Eisenberg facilitated introductions with the committee.

The School of Autism opened as a Charter School in 1998 and operates as an Independent non-profit organization.

Enrollment = 276 students (preschool thru 3rd grade, middle school and high school ages up to the age 27.

Since the school serves a population of students somewhere on the autism spectrum from severe to mild, it doesn't want to be lumped in with other Magnet or Charter Schools in Palm Beach Co.

Estimates of up to \$60,000 are needed per child. Consequently, an aggressive grants and foundations program contributes 5% of the total school budget.

Extensive Training is conducted on a routine basis regarding dealing with difficult students.

1 teacher w/ 2 assistants are needed for every classroom and at any given time, 2 to 13 students with Asperger's are enrolled.

Average class size = 8 students and individual learning plans are developed for each student. Additionally, a research based approach regarding curriculum and services is utilized. Florida Alternative Assessment is utilized to report student outcomes

All School of Autism Board Members are local residents and the school works very closely with parents and follow up/support groups through a Coalition of parents and community members and a Community Action Parent Partnership (CAPP).

Future plans include building a Community Center fulfilling community need that will include----

- Family Workshops

- Behavior Management

- Job Training Adults with support with Job Coaching

- Positive working relationships with the school district

Somerset Canyons Charter School

COBWRA Education Committee Visit April 22, 2014

- Host and Tour Guide: Daniel Fernandez, Principal
- Somerset Academy Canyons Middle Student Enrollment:
2014-15 747
2015-16 875 +128
- Construction has begun behind the Middle School for a Somerset Academy Canyons High School w/ athletic fields
- Somerset Academy Canyons High School Student Enrollment:
2014-15 258
2015-16 434 +176
- Curriculum: Cambridge International School and ACE Biology Courses.
- Professional Development: 14 Teachers have completed Cambridge International curriculum training.
- Facilities: Traditional classrooms, computer simulation labs, lap tops and ipads are used for instruction.
- Teachers and staff are assisted by volunteer parents and community members.
- Somerset has an active School Advisory Committee (SAC) made up of local residents.

Governance: One Board of Trustees oversees all Somerset Charter Schools.

February 27, 2018

- Host and Tour Guide: George Groezinger, Principal.
- One Board of Trustees oversees all Somerset Charter Schools located in Palm Beach County. Currently, a local resident serves as a trustee.

Enrollment	SY-2014	SY-2015	SY-2016	SY-2017	SY-2018
	556	747	875	863	875
School Grades	SY-2013	SY-2014	SY-2015	SY-2016	SY-2017
	Not open	B	A	B	B

- Construction has been completed behind the Middle School for a 9-12 Grade High School w/ soccer, softball athletic fields, gymnasium and outdoor basketball court.
- Facilities: Traditional classrooms, TV Production Studio, Art & Design Lab and computer lab stations are used for instruction
- Curriculum: Cambridge International School and ACE Biology Courses.
- Principal Groezinger was pleased with the services provided by Charter School Director – Jim Pegg’s office.
- Somerset has an active School Advisory Committee (SAC) made up of local residents. COBWRA Past President, Ken Lassiter has served as an active SAC member since Somerset Canyons MS and HS were built.
- Teachers and staff are assisted by SAC members and volunteer parents and community members.
- Comments and observations from Education Committee members follow.....
"The principal was very amicable and hospitable. The fitness center facility was adequate. The classrooms were small and if you were claustrophobic it would be a difficult situation for you. The layout of many of the rooms did not leave space for flexibility and small group meetings. The teachers seemed knowledgeable what were basically were lecturing without any real student participation. We did not see any real student creativity or articulation. The layout of the building was really like a prison with keys to open and lock the doors. The students in the classroom did not look engaged or challenged. It was good to see that they had computers in a number of classrooms but I really didn't get a good feeling about the experience and joy of learning at the charter school."

DG

"I wish to add that I attended the Somerset Canyons SAC meeting yesterday. There were several hundred parents there. Mr Groezinger went over the changes to campus security and the CODE RED procedures should a shooter make it onto campus. Parents seemed pleased with this info. He reported several changes already made and several more in the works. Academica arranged for security consultants to survey all Somerset schools and make recommendations. I connected Groezinger with Capt Keane of Dist 6 PBSO and Deputy Chief Mike Gauger to organize a PBSO survey of the campus. As a charter school, Somerset does not benefit from the School Police like regular public schools. PBSO is their police.

Groezinger reported to the parents that PBSO had responded to his requests for presence each morning several days after Parkland and he was pleased. He also reported on COBWRA's visit the day before."

KL

"Classes were very organized. Students appeared engaged. Classroom size seemed small for required academic classes. The history class was uncomfortably crowded. Happy to see that the middle school cafeteria area is now enclosed with hurricane glass. This also won't shatter with a bullet so provides some safety. School seems very safety aware --doors to classrooms locked. Principal seemed to genuinely enjoy interacting with students.

Might want to look at expanding academy offerings to more than business and medical. What are the opportunities for students interested in neither?"

CN

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Location: South Tech Academy High School

Present: Harriet Doctor, Barb Katz, Cathe North, Warren Danz, Sandy Greenberg, Ira Bromberg, Ken Lassiter, Steve Waldman (Guest) and Sam Manuele

Welcome: Jay Boggess – Principal, South Tech Academy

Facilities/Program Tour: Eileen Turenne – Asst. Principal and 4 South Tech Academy Students

Summary of Q & A Session & discussion w/ Ed Committee and Principal - Jay Boggess

- High School Enrollment = Day 1123, Evening = 550 Adults
- Middle School/Pre-Academy (Grades 6,7 & 8 = 500 HS & MS Capacity = 1400 -1500
- South Tech has been graded an A, for three years & B for two years, over the last five.
- Conversion Charter School status was received in 2002.
- Vocational & Academic Teachers are all certified -- salary, benefits and FL retirement are all competitive & mirror PB School District teachers.
- Perkins grant funds at \$17K from the PB School District for vocational programs, are grossly underfunded. Thus, alternative grant sources are being explored.
- South Tech offers 13 Vocational Career Academies, which provides industry certifications to students, as well as academic & Advanced Placement (8-AP) classes on site. Additionally, South Tech students are offered dual enrollment classes through Palm Beach State College.
- Facility challenges include an aging building, air-conditioning unit and lack of campus-wide internet Wi-Fi. Now that the sales tax proposal passed, it is hoped that the facility issues will receive a higher priority for correction, when construction plans are implemented.

- **See page 2** for additional South Tech Academy program information and school data.

School Grade

2015-2016 B

2014-2015 A

2013-2014 A

2012-2013 B

2011-2012 A

Demographics

1117 Students

13.87% White

39.38% Black

42.24% Hispanic

4.44% Other

18.4% ESE

85.48% FRL

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Sunset Palms Elementary School Ed Committee Tour and Q & A Session

-- April 04, 2017 --

- Host and Tour Guide: Ms. Karen Riddle, Principal
- Current Enrollment: Approximately 1092 students (11th day Count) w/ 4 modular classrooms. Maximum capacity = 1024 students.
- Curriculum follows FL Standards, is aligned with today's trends and contemporary applications by certified teachers. A gifted program is offered based on selecting students through testing results.
- Principal Riddle expressed a high degree of pride in hiring teachers and mentioned that she receives numerous transfer requests, due to the schools positive learning environment and Grade A rating.
- During classroom visits the committee members observed highly engaged students working in small groups, giving them an opportunity to interact with peers in addition to teacher-lead questions and discussion. Some classrooms also included student computer learning stations.
- Classroom walls and hallway bulletin boards were covered with innovative student work and creative projects. The facilities were very clean & well maintained. Computers were moved into the library to create a media lab.
- Outdoor recreational activities are conducted on a regular/routine basis in a grassy area on the West side of the campus.
- In-house after school programs that are offered as clubs from 2:00 – 6:00 pm on a fee basis include: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Media Technology, Music, Chorus, Dance and Art.
- Teachers and staff are assisted by a number of parents and community volunteers.

Woodlands Middle School Ed Committee Tour and Q & A Session

-- March 29, 2016 --

- Host and Tour Guides: Jeffrey Eassa, Principal and Asst. Principals, Janina Simmons & Rigoberto Gamez
- Current Enrollment: Approximately 1144 Students with a maximum capacity of 1350.
- Enrollment dropped the year Somerset Canyons Academy & Franklin Charter Schools opened. Principal, Eassa reported that he has seen a portion of students who left for charter schools return. Thus, an enrollment decline trend appears to be improving.
- The majority of students from Woodlands, attend Park Vista and Santaluces High Schools.
- Curriculum is technology driven, follows FL Standards and is aligned with today's trends and contemporary applications. Over the last year, Cambridge International School curricula (Miami-Dade model) was introduced to 220 students and 9 lead teachers have completed professional development.
- An advanced math class was observed where the students were working in groups and doing high school level studies in geometry.
- In-house academy programs include: Information Technology, Business, Medical and Hospitality/Culinary Arts.
- Facilities seen on the tour included a computer labs, a consumer economics laboratory for the Hospitality/Culinary Arts program and a band room.
- A mentoring program, coordinated by a lead faculty member, has been implemented by the principal to reduce discipline problems and improve behavior (50%) for approximately 40 students, who were chosen as those with the most disciplinary referrals.
- Athletic fields include tennis, softball, baseball and track.
- Teachers and staff are assisted by volunteer parents and community members.