



What's New at Chi Chi's

June 2018



Top: 8th grade class show off their diplomas following their ceremony;
Bottom Left: Scott Brown, Linda Damsky and Joseph James award the High Learning Scholarship to Ashanti; Bottom Right: Tiasia speaking to the guests about her experience at the Academy

Program Spotlight: 8th Graders Graduate and Higher Learning Scholarship Award

In May, the Academy celebrated one of our highest academically achieving 8th grade classes. The rain didn't keep these students, families and Academy supporters from enjoying a fantastic evening which included each student speaking about their time at the Chi Chi Academy, receiving diplomas, watching a slideshow highlighting what they experienced at Chi Chi's and of course cake!

Academy Executive Committee Members Scott Brown, Linda Damsky and Joseph James awarded a Higher Learning Scholarship to the well deserving Ashanti. The scholarship application process requires the students to fill out an application, write a short essay, receive recommendation letters and interview with the Committee. The scholarship recipients receive up to \$4,000 for college or higher learning post-graduation.

Congratulations to our 8th grade class of 2018! We look forward to following your journeys through high school and beyond!

"Being here at Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy has helped me overcome challenges in life. When I was at my other school, I didn't have a teacher that would give me attention because he or she had twenty or more kids to teach at once. But when I got to Chi Chi it was fewer students in the class and more attention given to each student."

~LeAijah

Photos: LeAijah in 4th grade and walking into graduation with Board Member Elliott Ross



"Being here at the Chi Chi Academy has really helped me a lot. For example, it helped me practice dressing properly, using manners and helped me get ready for high school and my future. The teachers at Chi Chi are very helpful and treat you very well."

~Bader

Photos: Bader in 4th grade and accepting his diploma from Interim Academy Director Bobbie Hill

Upcoming Events

Chi Chi Charity Classic
Sunday & Monday, November 11th & 12th
Chi Chi Golf Club



Mission: To assist at risk children by improving their self-esteem, character, work ethic, social adjustment, and academic performance using the golf course as a living classroom.

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WWW.CHICHI.ORG

**What's New at Chi Chi's
June 2018**

Board of Directors

Thomas A. James, Board Chairman
Raymond James Financial

Frank Chivas, Vice Chairman
Island Way Grill, Marlin Darlin, Rumba,
Salt Rock Grill, and Marina Cantina

Robert D. Basham
Outback Steakhouse and
PDQ Restaurants

Griffith S. Braddock
Braddock Metallurgical, Inc.

Ron Ciganek
USAmeriBank

Scott Curtis
Raymond James Financial Services

Robert Enck
Equinox Fund Management

Glenn W. Jones, Jr.
Fintech

W. Andrew Krusen, Jr.
DFG Management

Claude J. Macari
KPMG

Jessica M. Majeski
Northwestern Mutual

Julie Mastry
Former Pinellas County School
Board Superintendent

Conrad A. Plimpton
Inolex Group

Philip J. Powell, Jr.
C3 Management, Inc. and
Powell Holding & Development

Elliott M. Ross
Ross Consulting Group, Inc.

Eric E. Stewart
Synovus Bank of Florida

Joseph H. Varner, III
Holland & Knight

Fred E. Whaley
Raymond James & Associates

Bill Wickett
Tampa Bay Lightning

**Academy Executive
Committee**

Elliott Ross - Chair

- Bob Baker
- Scott Brown
- Linda Damsky
- Daniel Etlinger
- Bill Hurter
- Andrew Ingersoll
- Joseph James
- John Kobasic
- Monica Kobasic
- Brian Krostue
- Jessica Majeski
- Chuck McGee
- Pete Morell
- Scott Tobe
- Sean Tobe
- Richard Wegman

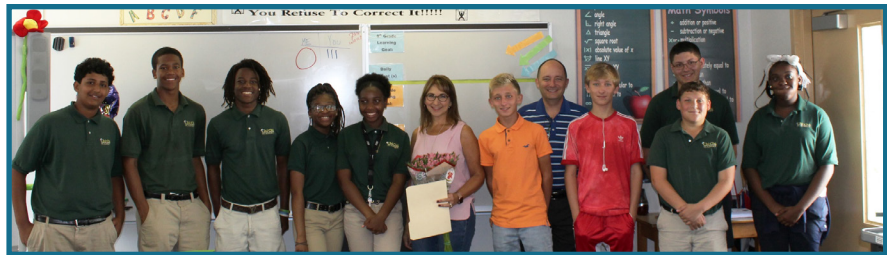
**Thank you to the Aquilar Family for
sponsoring the 8th grade class trip!**



Top: 8th graders at the AMC Woodlands movie theater during their field trip; Middle: Co-Chairs Shay and Bader plan with CEO Cary Stiff; Below: 8th graders thank Sheri, Jason and their two sons Jonathan and Daniel for sponsoring the trip



Earlier this school year, the 8th grade class asked if they could go on one last trip together... and so began the inaugural 8th grade class trip! Co-Chairs Shay and Bader worked hard on a budget, logistics and a request letter to make this dream a reality. When the Aquilar family, who are long-time supporters, heard about all the effort put in by this group, they instantly wanted to support the students request. The class went to breakfast at IHOP and to see the newest Avengers movie at the AMC Woodlands movie theater. The next day the Aquilar family came to meet the class members and hear about their trip. Grateful students presented the family flowers and handmade cards to thank them for making their one last class memory together so special!



**Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise grants
\$750 to Academy student reading**

This May, the Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise presented a \$750 check to the Foundation for the Academy's Recreational Reading program and purchase of books. This program utilizes incentives for students who document reading for fun at least thirty minutes each evening for an entire month. At the end of the month all eligible students attend a Celebration where they enjoy food treats, engage in "book chats" and have a short book read aloud to them. They are able to choose a book for their own personal library and take it home with them. Many of our students start their years at the Academy reading well below grade level and programs like this provide our students a fun way to improve their abilities.



Top: Andrea Zahn presents a check for \$750 to CEO Cary Stiff and Director of Development Mallory Hubbard; Bottom: Zay Zay, Alana and Tay Tay show off their new books

Did You Know...?

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club's 18 tee markers include Did You Know Facts that share the story of the Foundation and its educational programs to over 45,000 golfers each year. Each hole is sponsored by a supporter, like Hole #4 below:



Jessica Majeski, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®, CASL®, RICP®, CLTC®
Wealth Management Advisor

The Academy is a dropout prevention public/private school in partnership with the Pinellas County School Board that serves at risk students.