



What's New at Chi Chi's

September & October 2011

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy Earns Highest Rating from Florida Department of Education

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy proudly announced earning the **highest rating** from the Florida Department of Education based on the 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). The Academy was one of only six out of 79 alternative dropout prevention schools in the state to be highly rated and **the only one in Pinellas County**. Other notable accomplishments include having 62% of students achieve at least one year's growth in Reading and 72% of students achieve at least one year's growth in Math. The fourth grade FCAT Writing scores were extraordinary averaging 3.9 out of a possible 6 points. The state average score for all 4th grade students in traditional programs is 4.0.

Our students like coming to Chi Chi's. The average daily **attendance rate is 95.2%**, surpassing the attendance rates of every Dropout Prevention school in Pinellas County as well as many of the traditional schools. As we said good bye to our 8th graders, we were pleased that three were accepted into high school magnet programs; the Academy of International Culture and Commerce, the Center for Medical Wellness, and the Academy of Architectural Design and Building Technologies. The Board of Directors congratulates the Staff and Students!

Welcome Back to an Outstanding Academy Team

Principal: Robert McFadden

Director & Counselor: Jayme Pecci

Teachers: Ginger Francisco, Susan McLean, Kelly Mercier, Josh Meurer, Lori VanderKlok and George Postans

Assistants: Linda Foderaro and Wanda DiLandro

Teacher Assistants: Lou Ann Brown, Wendy Hinrichs-Barto, Debbie Moss and Chrisy James

Specialty Teachers: Music-James Sharp and Art-Laura Morris



Mrs. Pecci Welcomes Back Students

Epic Golf Battle: Toby versus Zoby

Chi Chi's played host to hugely popular Tampa Bay Rays Ben (Zoby) Zobrist and renowned Christian singer Toby Mac last spring. The good natured competition was aired live on The JOY FM radio and filmed for future use. Both men then generously spent time with the students and teachers encouraging them to ask questions. Each shared their back grounds and professional values. Toby values hard work, persistence, patience and the power of music. Ben strives to get better everyday.

He's done pretty well for Rays since his visit. To view the golf challenge played at Chi Chi's visit youtube at <http://youtu.be/6qI5TBU0fls>

"How can I get better today and be as good as I can be? You are never guaranteed tomorrow."
Ben Zobrist



Renowned Christian Singer Toby Mac (left center) and Tampa Bay Ray Ben Zobrist (right center) answered student questions.



Happy Campers at The First Tee of Clearwater

Thank you to our Parents, Coaches, Volunteers & Participants

The First Tee of Clearwater summer golf camp was a big success according to new Coach Tony Simpson. " We were pleased to be awarded a **\$15,000 grant** from the Florida Junior Golf Council helping us to fund the camp." Other generous donors provided 47 scholarships to children who were eligible through the free or reduced lunch program in Pinellas County. We served 315 happy campers with a half day camp and for the second year were able to provide 58 children with an affordable full day camp via our partnership with the Boys & Girls club.

It was a busy summer. In addition to three full time staff members, we kept 36 volunteers busy for a total of 1,590 hours.

Drums help Campers Create New Boundaries

Colorado based Carolyn Braddock M.A.,P.C. has donated her time for the past four summers helping the Boys & Girls Club summer campers learn methods to combat stress, set goals and redirect anger in positive ways using body language. Carolyn is an educator, Tai Ji instructor, consultant, minister and the author of *Body Voices: Using the Power of Breath, Sound and Movement to Heal and Create New Boundaries*. The Braddock Body Process is a body-centered approach based on the ancient art of Tai Ji and Qi Gong movement and philosophy.



Carolyn teaches the Boys & Girls Club campers how to relax

"Students learn "tools" to identify the many "body voices" which make up the distinctive patterns in the way each person breathes, moves and makes sound."

Carolyn Braddock

Scholastic Honors Academy with a \$1,200 Book Grant

Scholastic's mission since 1920 is to serve educators and their students, believing that literacy—the ability to read and understand—is the birthright of every child. Founder R.M. Robinson stated: "Few things are more important to society than finding ways to help teachers teach and help children learn." All the books donated are awarded to students who earn them at the monthly Recreational Reading Celebrations. Students are able to take books home adding to their home libraries.



Reader: 7th Grader Prem Kantipudi



Upcoming Events:

Chi Chi Charity Classic— Sunday & Monday, November 13th & 14th, 2011

Join Chi Chi for this two day special event and golf tournament. Sponsorship packages start at \$3,000 and are available in the pro shop or online.

For more information about the event contact:

Nancy Agnew

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Visit us at www.chichi.org

