

3205 N. University Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33065

PANTHER POST

MARCH 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

When you receive this newsletter our students will have most likely taken the writing portion of the FCAT! March 1st is the Florida Writes for grades 8th and 10th. During the weeks of April 11-22 we are scheduled to take the remainder of the FCAT components that include reading, math, and science. We are targeting all students over the next month to ensure that they are all prepared for these exams. It is extremely important students maintain good attendance during the assessment week and come to school with plenty of rest and be well nourished! The student monetary incentives are, once again, in place for those students who meet the criteria. Last year over \$25,000 was paid out to our students, and we hope to surpass that number this year.

The enrollment period for the 2011-2012 school year has begun and will continue until March 15. To date we have already received over 1000 applications. We held our first Open House for Prospective Parents and Students on February 17th. The lottery will be conducted by computer in April for new applicants. In addition, if you are currently enrolled at CSCS, you should have received and already returned a recommitment form. For the 2010 – 2011 school year we had a waitlist of over 1900 students, and we are certain that all spots will be filled during the lottery.

Please don't forget, if you still have parent volunteer hours to complete, to contact the school store immediately for volunteer opportunities. In order for your student to remain at CSCS for the next school year, all volunteer hours must be completed by May 13th. The end of the year is fast approaching!

Finally, Senior Students, please remember, although you may only need a few more credits to graduate, you are still enrolled as a full time student at our school. If you sign out early and are missing classes and assignments, your GPA will suffer. Colleges will look at your final report card for high school and your admission status could change. Have fun, but remember, your senior year is as academically important as any other year in high school!

Regards,

Gary Springer, Principal



IMPORTANT DATES – MARCH

| | |
|-------------|--|
| March 1 | Cambridge Presentation, Auditorium- 6th & 7th Grade Only, 6:00 pm Cambridge Presentation, Auditorium- 8th Grade Only, 7:00 pm |
| March 1 | Chorus Booster meeting, 7:00-8:00, Room 402 |
| March 3-6 | DECA States, Orlando, FL |
| March 8 | PTSO Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria |
| March 9 | DECA Fashion Show, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium |
| March 9 | Drama Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Room 404 |
| March 12 | Chorus- Trash to Treasure @ Mullins Park, 8:00 a.m-11:00 a.m. |
| March 14-18 | Spring Break |
| March 22 | Pre-Paid Seniors Cap & Gown Picture Day - Auditorium- See Mr. Albert |
| March 24 | Band Mini Concert, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium |
| March 27 | Band Car Wash- Coral Springs Dr. corner of Atlantic Blvd |
| March 28 | SAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria |

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Main phone line | 954-340-4100 | School Store | 954-340-4123 |
| Athletic Department | 954-340-4106 | HS Dean of Discipline | 954-340-4125 |
| Nurse/Clinic | 954-340-4107 | MS Attendance line | 954-340-4128 |
| Registrar | 954-340-4108 | HS Attendance line | 954-340-4129 |
| MS Dean of Discipline | 954-340-4118 | Guidance Office | 954-340-4134 |
| Student Activities Dir. | 954-340-4120 | ESE Department | 954-340-4139 |



EARLY RELEASE

Parents, please make every effort to schedule doctor/dentist appointments for after school hours. Releasing students early causes disruptions in the learning process. Remember there is no early release for students after 2:00 p.m. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

So what **IS** the truth about wearing proper “foot-wear” at CSCS”? Well here is the “dish...”

The truth is that since the beginning of the school year (2010-2011) the Coral Springs Charter School dress code has stipulated that “students must wear closed shoes at all times....meaning no boots, slippers (with or without backs), slides, moccasins or “croc”-style shoes may be worn. Tennis shoes (sneakers) are the preferred shoe-wear.

Did You Know That...?

Although we try to be specific when addressing dress code issues, including footwear, there may be issues not specifically included in the Code of Conduct that are left to the discretion of the faculty and administration of our school.

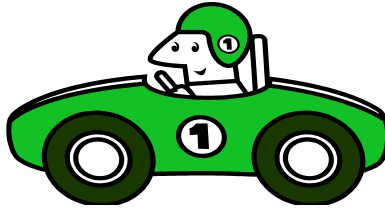
If you can't handle the truth, the consequence for wearing the improper “footwear” is that a **PLASCO** ticket will be issued for being out of uniform, and the student will be asked to call home for a parent/guardian to bring the proper footwear to school (if possible). A student's 3rd uniform infraction will lead to a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon detention; a 4th infraction will lead to a Friday afternoon detention and a 5th infraction will lead to a three (3) hour Saturday morning detention. Repeat offenders, following the 5th infraction, will be referred to their respective Dean of Students and administrative actions will be taken.

Well folks, that is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The CSCS Discipline Committee hopes this little tidbit will help shed some light upon some of your questions regarding our Code of Conduct and what we at CSCS expect of our students. If you have any other questions you may contact Ms. Washington, the High School Assistant Principal, Mr. Horn, the Middle School Assistant Principal, Mr. Higgins, the High School Dean or Mr. Leibowitz, the Middle School Dean.



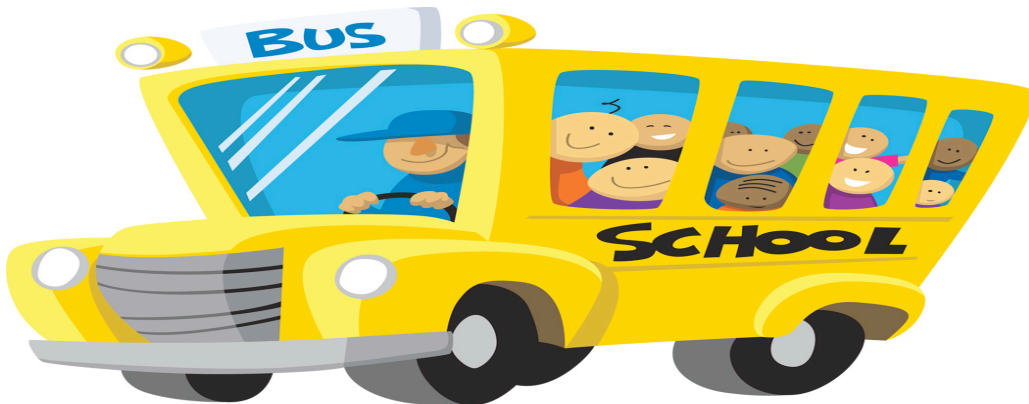
ATTENTION LICENSED STUDENT DRIVERS

Safe Teen Driving Initiative: The Coral Springs Police Department will once again recognize local teenagers who go without a traffic citation or an "at-fault" accident during the school year as part of their Safe Driving Teen Initiative. Teenagers must submit a copy of their driving record that indicates they have a valid Florida Driver's License between the dates of August 23, 2010, to April 1, 2011. Copies of driving records are available online at flhsmv.gov or through one of the Broward County courthouses. This record must be turned into School Resource Officer, Robert Katz between April 1 and April 20, 2011. Students who meet the criteria will receive a gift card, along with a certificate of recognition from Police Chief, Duncan Foster. Seniors will also receive a cord to wear during their graduation ceremony.



6TH GRADE END OF THE YEAR FIELD TRIP

6th grade will again be heading to Orlando to visit Islands of Adventure this year in May 2011!! The price includes transportation, admission ticket, meal ticket, taxes and tip. Attendance on the trip is considered a reward for a job well done. Therefore, student attendance on the trip will be based on grades from the 2nd and 3rd quarters as well as discipline issues. Any student who has received a grade below a "C" on either of these quarters may be excluded from attendance. Any student who has had severe discipline issues may be excluded from attendance on the trip as well. Final decisions will be made by the administration. More information will be available in the coming months.



6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. Delman's advanced and gifted classes had their annual Greek Festival on Friday, February 18. It was a huge success with costumes, traditional Greek cuisine, Greek music, mythology, and presentations. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

FCAT WRITING

On Tuesday, March 1st, our 8th and 10th grade students will be taking the FCAT SSS Writing test. Please be sure your child gets plenty of rest and a good breakfast to start the day.

PLEASE NOTE AN IMPORTANT FCAT POLICY!!

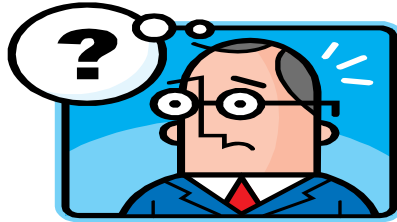
Due to recent concerns based on security violations involving camera phones, policy has been revised to state that the possession of electronic devices **will** result in test invalidation. The previous policy stated that violation **may** result in test invalidation. However, if a student is found with an electronic device that reproduces, transmits, calculates, or records (e.g., a cell phone, camera, or pager) within his or her arm's reach during testing, invalidation must take place. Our suggestion is to have your child leave their electronic devices at home to avoid any unwanted invalidations.

HOT TOPIC

In order to help serve your needs better, each month we will feature a question or concern that we would like your opinion on. All responses should be sent to:

feedback@coralspringscharter.org.

This month's topic: **FCAT** - What is ONE question/concern you may have regarding any component of the FCAT?



2011 MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

The 2011 Middle School yearbook is now on sale for \$45. Fill in the information below and return to either Mrs. Murray (257) or Mrs. Pullo (262). Prices will go up after March 31st.

As an added feature, you may now purchase your yearbook online using Visa or Mastercard. Follow the link on the Coral Springs Charter School home page and click the yearbook logo to the right (make sure you select Middle School) or you can go to Yearbookforever.com and enter Coral Springs Charter Middle School. Personalization of yearbook's also available for a nominal fee through the website only.

**Also, there are still a few yearbooks remaining from last year (2010 Edition) that are available to purchase for \$20. Don't miss out on your chance to own a CSCS yearbook.

****Make all Checks or Money Orders Payable to CSCS****

Name: _____ Grade: _____

HR Teacher (Per 1) _____

#Yearbooks Ordered : _____ Price per book: \$ _____ Total Amount: \$ _____

PTSO NEWS

All Parent Volunteer Forms must be turned in to Mrs. Barbuto no later than May 13, 2011

Please keep in mind you signed a Parent Contract indicating you will do 20 volunteer hours per year if you have one child in CSCS and 30 hours if you have two or more children. If you have any questions please contact Louisa Barbuto at lbarbuto@coralspringscharter.org

Volunteer Hours: Volunteer hours will be given for the following donations:

- Attend PTSO meeting (every 2nd Tuesday of each month) - 1 hour
- Attend SAC meeting (every 3rd Monday of each month) - 2 hours
- Join PTSO \$10 - 2 hours
- Purchase at least 2 uniform items during presale (May 10, 11 & 12) – 3 hours or work the presale from 4:45 – 7:45 p.m.
- A onetime donation for 20 hours is \$125.00 and for 30 hours it is \$200.00
- 1 Cell Phone = 1 hour
- 3 Used Ink Cartridge = 1 hour

Donated items needed: For every \$10 you spend you will receive 1 hour.

- Soda, water, Gatorade
 - Gift certificates for Teacher/Staff Appreciation week – May 2-6
- Please bring all items with your receipt to the front office to receive your volunteer hours.

Next PTSO meeting is March 8, 2011 at 7:00 in the auditorium.

HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Photographs - Do you have pictures from this year? The High School Yearbook is looking for action or story telling pictures. In particular, we are looking for students in:

- Sports outside of school
- Activities outside of school (work, service, having fun)
- Junior varsity sports
- Clubs
- Fundraising and competitions
- Field trips
- Academic activities

If you can help us, turn in to Ms. Moore in room 205 by thumb drive, memory card, or CD. They are needed right away.

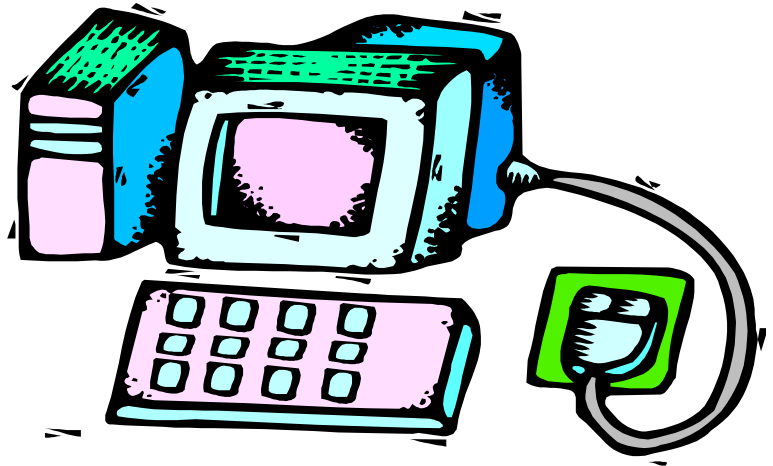
High School Yearbook Orders - The year is halfway over! Do not forget to order your yearbooks as soon as possible! Prices are currently \$70 and will go up once again to \$80 come May 1st. Do not delay! Yearbook order forms can be picked up by the panther or you can order online at www.yearbookforever.com. If ordering online, a credit may be used. If filling out a paper form, please bring either cash or check to Ms. Moore in room 205, right next to the panther in the main lobby.

HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

Women's History Day is celebrated March 8 and in honor of all the women in our lives, we ask our students to recognize and thank them. In so doing, we ask all our female students to also honor the SELF, Spiritually Empowered Leaders and Feminine. On March 9, members will attend the Professional Women's Alliance Luncheon hosted by the Coral Springs Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact Mrs. Hoo at dhoo@coralspringscharter.org

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

We are pleased to offer four distinct business & technology tracks in 2011, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Marketing and Web Design. Completing the track gives students the opportunities to, with qualifying GPA, get a Gold Seal scholarship, become Industry Certified and in senior year, opt for the Executive Internship, dual enrollment or AP Micro/Macro Economics. For more information contact Mrs. Hoo at dhoo@coralspringscharter.org



ACE ACADEMY

In 2011, the ACE Academy is a four year program using and aligned with the Business & Technology tracks. In addition, ACE Academy students will participate in a co-curricular program which provides opportunities to learn outside of the classroom and to engage students in learning that are beneficial for high school success and college/workforce/career readiness. For more information contact Mrs. Hoo at dhoo@coralspringscharter.org

ACE EXECUTIVE INTERNSHIP

We are currently recruiting for the 2011-2012 internships. Internships provide seniors with a different learning experience which stimulates learning at a higher level. Through this program, students gain knowledge and skills for college/workforce/career readiness. For more information contact Mrs. Hoo at dhoo@coralspringscharter.org

ACE ACADEMY - ETHICS SEMINAR FOR SENIORS

A seminar, "Ethical Decision Making in the Workplace and Society", will help March 4 for students to increase their understanding of values and ethics and how they relate and apply to college/workforce/career. The seminar is facilitated by Michael Kridel and coordinated by John Congemi. This seminar is an ACE Academy co-curricular event. For more information contact Mrs. Hoo at dhoo@coralspringscharter.org

******FCAT INFORMATION******

Florida will be utilizing computer-based testing (CBT) beginning this year. As such, this letter serves as notification that your student will be given the CBT for the FCAT Grade 10 Mathematics FCAT and the Algebra I End of Course exam. Your child's school will administer the FCAT test between April 15-21 and the Algebra End of Course Exam between May 16-20.

While this is the first year Florida will administer statewide computer-based assessments, the specific software being used has been successfully proven through more than five million tests in seven other states over the past four years. Additionally, your student will have an opportunity to participate in a practice test to become familiar with the software, item types, and online tools they will encounter and use during testing.

If you or your student would like to review the practice test at home, you can download instructions and a practice test (called an "ePAT") at www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT. You will also find a "Script for Administering the ePAT" that is read aloud to students during scheduled practice tests. The script includes a thorough walk-through of the software interface and instructions for using each of the online tools. Your student may practice as often as is necessary prior to testing.

We appreciate your assistance in ensuring a successful CBT administration this spring. If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Jill Pepe at 954-340-4113. You may also access additional information regarding computer-based testing at the Florida Department of Education's website at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/cbt.asp>.



GUIDANCE CORNER



Grades 7, 8, and 9



Cambridge Advanced Program of Studies (CAPS)

When will the Cambridge Advanced Program of Studies begin? Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, Coral Springs Charter School will be offering a Cambridge Advanced Program of Studies for grades 7, 8, and 9. The Cambridge/AICE Program is an internationally-recognized, pre-university curriculum which offers a rigorous and relevant program of studies and is sponsored by Cambridge University in England.

What is the Cambridge Program? The Cambridge Program offers an international, pre-university curriculum and examination system that emphasizes the value of a broad and balanced study for academically able students.

The Cambridge curriculum aims to encourage the skills of independent research and investigation, the use of initiative and creativity and the application of knowledge and skills. A range of assessment techniques is used. Emphasis is placed on the use of externally marked examination papers by the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and on compulsory practical work where appropriate.

An important principle of this examination system is that students are rewarded for positive achievement - what they know, understand, and can do - rather than being penalized for an accumulation of errors. This requires students to demonstrate a high level of literacy and the ability to organize knowledge and ideas to produce reasoned, written responses.

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is a two-year curriculum that provides a strong preparation for higher-level courses such as Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) and A.P. Students are required to sit for an external examination administered by the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). Upon successful completion students receive individual subject certificates.

Where do I get more information on Cambridge? For more information on the Cambridge Program, please visit <http://www.cie.org.uk/countries/usa>

A Cambridge student is one who:

Is comfortable in an environment where scholarship is the norm

Has a love of learning

Continually challenges herself/himself

Enjoys enhancing his/her critical thinking skills, using information learned in the classroom to develop a deeper level of understanding

Makes academic achievement a high priority and is willing to set aside other priorities to meet this goal

Believes hard work and effort, in tandem with intellectual ability, is the determiner of academic achievement

Is self-motivated

Is comfortable advocating on his/her behalf

Works well independently and in groups

Has good time-management skills

What are the Cambridge admission requirements? Admission to the CAPS will be based on the following:

1. Minimum B average in middle school
2. FCAT Reading & Mathematics 3 or higher
3. Satisfactory Teacher Recommendations
4. Writing Sample (Required for ALL students)
5. Satisfactory Attendance and Discipline Records

How do I Apply?

Applications for the 2011-2012 school year will be accepted for Grades 7, 8 and 9.

Applications will be available at Cambridge Information Sessions or please contact the main office for a packet including instructions and an application.



Call today (954)-340-4134 or visit www.coralspringscharter.org for more information.

A member of the Charter Schools USA family of schools.

SCHEDULING

Scheduling for the 2011-12 school year will begin during the month of March. Parents are encouraged to view our 2011-12 Curriculum Guide which will be posted on www.coralspringscharter.org the first week of March. Middle school students will receive information on course selection during the next few weeks. High school students will attend scheduling assemblies on March 9th. They will be given instructions on how to sign up for courses using virtual counselor and our curriculum guide. Parents will be able to view these selections and call counselors with any questions. After Spring Break counselors will meet individually with students to review selections, offer suggestions and critically view all options with students.

SAVE THE DATE-Middle School Parents

On Saturday, April 30th we will host our first Middle School Parent University. This event will take place from 9am-12 Noon. We will have informative sessions on high school planning, cyber-bullying, our new Cambridge program, parenting your teenager and many more relevant topics. Parents will receive hours for attending the sessions. More information will be forthcoming using Parent Link to notify families about Middle School Parent University.

SAVE THE DATE-Parents of Seniors

On Tuesday, April 12th Mr. Frazier will present a final parent workshop for parents of seniors. This workshop is entitled "Letting Go". Parents will receive last minute information on letting go of their almost adult student. Topics will include dealing with your college student, last minute information about Bright Futures, college majors and much more. This presentation will follow the monthly PTSO meeting at 7:30 pm on April 12th. Senior parents - don't miss this one!

B.R.A.C.E NEWS

Broward Advising for Continuing Education

<http://www.coralspringscharter.org/brace.html>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The Coral Springs Festival of the Arts planning committee is looking for Student volunteers to assist with the 7th Annual Coral Springs Festival of the Arts on March 19th and 20th at The Walk on University Drive. We are looking for the student volunteers to assist with the following: The shifts are typically 3 hours long and are as follows: (7:30am–10:30am; 10:00am – 1:00pm; 12:30pm – 3:30pm; 3:00pm-5:30pm) In addition, we are looking for at least 3 male teen volunteers to assist with setup and breakdown during the following times:
Friday 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
Saturday morning 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Sunday morning 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Sunday afternoon 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Shirley at shirley@shirleyklein.com

BRIGHT FUTURES:

SENIORS please remember to apply for Bright Futures... NOW!!! Log onto https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/ua/SAWSTUA_uaform.asp, it will only take 5 minutes. Keep in mind that you could be eligible to have 100% or 75% of your tuition covered!!

SAT/ACT REGISTRATION:

Now is the time to register for the May 7th, 2011 SAT and the April 9th, 2011 ACT!!! Do not wait registration deadlines are approaching!! Please log onto the SAT web site at www.collegeboard.com or the ACT web site at www.act.org

CSCS STUDENTS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL DUEL AIRING MARCH 7th

BECON-TV (Broward Education Communications Network) a nonprofit, noncommercial television station owned and operated by the School Board of Broward County, today announced the debut of its newest production, *School Duel*, presented by Chick-Fil-A. *School Duel* is South Florida's first locally-produced, academic-based quiz show and is hosted by former HEATV star Lisa Lee. The debut of *School Duel* is set for Monday night, February 28, at 7:00 p.m. A new episode of *School Duel* will air every following Monday evening, through the show's championship contest on June 6. BECON-TV reaches homes throughout Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties via Comcast Cable (channel 19), DirecTV, DISH Network and AT&T U-Verse (channel 63).

The 15-show *School Duel* series features sixteen high school teams: eight from Broward County and four each from Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties. The four-person teams compete in a single elimination tournament to determine the South Florida academic champion.

The players on the winning team will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Chick-Fil-A, two round-trip tickets on Spirit Airlines, custom-made championship rings from Herff Jones, trophies from EDCO Awards and Specialties, gift certificates from IKEA, Barnes & Noble and much more! The winning school will receive a School Duel trophy as well, standing over two feet tall.

The 2011 debut season of *School Duel* is being sponsored by Chick-Fil-A, along with BrightStar Credit Union, Huntington Learning Centers, Spirit Airlines, Chuck Puleri & Associates/Herff Jones, EDCO Awards and Specialties, Smoothie King, Hungry Howies, IKEA Sunrise, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, MUVICO Theaters, Museum of Discovery and Science, International Fishing Hall of Fame and Boomers.

School Duel consists of four rounds of questions, covering a variety of subject areas. The show will begin with the Warning Shot round, featuring 10-point toss up questions that may be answered by either team. The second round, the Joust, matches individual players head-to-head for a 10-point question, with the winner earning his/her team the chance to answer three more bonus questions worth up to 30 additional points. Round three is the

Rapid Fire round, where teams try to answer up to ten questions in a sixty-second time limit. The final round, the Final Showdown, consists of a series of toss-up questions, worth 20 points each.

In addition to Mondays at 7:00 p.m., *School Duel* will also air on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. There is also a dedicated website, www.schoolduel.tv with additional contests and prizes that is sponsored by BrightStar Credit Union.

BECON-TV (WBEC), is a broadcast television station licensed by the FCC to provide noncommercial educational programming to the South Florida community. For more information on BECON classroom and community programming, visit (www.becon.tv) or call 1-877-TV-BECON. You can become a fan of BECON-TV on Facebook, watch BECON-TV on YouTube and follow us on Twitter.

