

# THE ESOL EDGE FOR PARENTS

March, 2010

English for Speakers of Other Languages,

Duval County Public Schools



Southside Middle School has 13 students from Haiti. ESOL teacher, Ms. Michele Spohn, is also originally from Haiti but has taught in Jacksonville since 2003. She has 3 Haitian students in her 7<sup>th</sup> grade class: Lyse Medina came from Haiti 3 years ago. Steve Lafleur came in 2009. Robenson Watson arrived in January after the earthquake in Haiti and is now with his adoptive family.



## HAITI EARTHQUAKE AFFECTS MANY IN DUVAL SCHOOLS

Before the earthquake struck the island of Haiti on January 12<sup>th</sup>, there were 170 Haitian-Creole speaking students in schools all over Jacksonville. They still have family and friends in Haiti. Recently, dozens more children, traumatized by the tragedy, have arrived in our schools. Teachers, staff and other students have come to their aid. That includes an administrator, several teachers and paraprofessionals who are originally from Haiti. Among them are Saul Alcineus at Lee High; Delouis Cadet at Forrest High; Jean Emile at Englewood High; Dr. Ardain Isma at DuPont Middle; Yvon R. Joinville at Wolfson High, Erline Paret at Terry Parker High School, and Michele Spohn at Southside Middle. They have all been helping students from Haiti while dealing with their own sorrows.

The earthquake has had a terrible impact on the Haitian community of Lee High School. One of the students lost her mother during that catastrophe. Mr. Alcineus praises the Lee High School community, "With the help of many dedicated teachers, administrative staff, and paraprofessionals such as Mrs. Perez.... the Haitian students are now coping much better with that painful situation."

Dr. Ardain Isma described his efforts to get news of his family in Haiti, "Since the tragedy, our nights have been nothing but sleepless, nightmarish, as my family plunges into total despair, hopelessness and outright anger—inconceivable to believe that a poor country such as Haiti has been the victim of 15 calamities in just 9 years."

Michele Spohn has been able to contact her extended family and friends who are alive but homeless like so many in Haiti. In her hometown, the main road to Port-au-Prince was destroyed and the military could not get relief there. Ms Spohn and the Haitian students at Southside Middle share advice on how to contact relatives on the island and other matters during their talks. One student's father, brother, and sister in Haiti all survived, but are homeless like so many. Another boy was in an orphanage when the quake hit. A Jacksonville family was in the middle of adopting him and the US Military was able to bring him safely here.

Nearly two months later, the disaster is still fresh in the minds of the Haitian community. Many send money to their relatives through Western Union. They all contribute as much as they can. Mr. Alcineus asks us all to remember our neighbors in Haiti because, "... the rainy season has started, and there are not enough tents. People will get sick and die after surviving the earthquake, if something is not done right away."

### The Guidance Corner ☺



by: Nancy Salgado-Martinez, ESOL Counselor

During the month of March, 3rd-10th grade students took the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Third grade students must score a level 2 or above on the FCAT Reading in addition to meeting academic requirements for promotion at the end of the school year. However, ELL (English Language Learners) students who have been ELL for less than two years do not have to pass the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade FCAT Reading in order to go into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Passing the 10th grade FCAT Reading and Math is a graduation requirement. Students who do not get a passing score on either one of these parts will be able to retake the 10th grade FCAT twice in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and twice in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

For more information, please contact the ESOL Department at 390-2202.



### Dual Language Program

Bilingual education beginning in Kindergarten

Enroll your future Kindergarten students in our Dual Language Program. The program is offered at San Jose Elem. or Beauclerc Elem. Contact the school or ESOL office 904-390-2202.

Arlene Báez  
Bilingual Specialist

