



March News

Miami Springs Middle School

Work with your middle schooler to improve your neighborhood

Make your neighborhood a nicer place to live. This will help your family and those who live around you. Some activities may also count toward community service hours for your child. Try these ideas with your child:

- **Give your neighborhood a face lift.** Together pick up trash. Do you see graffiti? Call your local police department about ways you can help to get rid of it. (Many departments have the equipment for this. They are often willing to lend it.) Plant a tree or flowers.
- **Look for the new kid** on the block. Many families move during the year. Offer to show a new family around the area. Bake cookies with your child to take over.
- **Work with a neighborhood council.** These groups may need volunteers to

deliver fliers to notify residents of meetings. You might even contact your representatives on behalf of your neighborhood. This has several benefits: Your child helps a local group and he gets an introduction to the government process.

- **Get other families involved.** Help your child organize a drive for a local shelter or distribution center. People in need get many donations around the winter holidays. They don't get as many during the summer months. How about collecting gently used clothing? Or ask neighbors to donate sunscreen and insect repellent as well as other hygiene products.

Source: Jenny Friedman, *The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering*, ISBN: 1-58904-012-0 (Robins Lane Press, 1-800-638-0928, www.ghbooks.com).

Maria C. Mason,
Principal

2008-2009

March Events

EESAC Meeting 8:00 a.m. Media Center	03/06
FCAT SSS Reading and Math	03/10– 03/11
FCAT SSS Science	03/16
Spanish Club Game Day 4:00– 5:30 p.m.	03/20
Brochure Sale Winners Field Trip	03/23
Drama Show Auditorium	03/24
Title I Parent Meeting 9:30 a.m. Media Center	03/26
Teacher Planning Day	03/27

Help your child with homework by providing some helpful tips

A middle schooler may have two to four hours of homework each week-night. You know you're not supposed to do it for him, but that doesn't mean you have no part at all. A child needs many "tools" to successfully complete homework. You can help by providing:

- **A quiet place to study.**
- **Snacks and drinks** for refueling.
- **Access to materials**, such as pens and general reference books.
- **A role as study partner**—you can ask him questions from the material, hold up flash cards or give quizzes.
- **A listening ear**, so your child can tell you about his assignments.
- **Suggestions** on where to look for help. "The library has a fabulous history section. Want a ride?" Once there, though, it's his job to do the search.
- **Lots of loving support.** "It must feel good to have that essay question out of the way. How about a 15-minute break?"

Source: The Parent Institute