

SPRING FLING HELPS CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

By Carisa Biesecker



CENTER ACADEMY OF RIVERVIEW SPREADS THE WORD ABOUT ITS UPCOMING FIRST ANNUAL SPRING FLING OF RIVERVIEW ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14, FROM 9 A.M.-4 P.M.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world," a quote from Mahatma Gandhi that mimics through the students, parents and staff of Center Academy of Riverview, having always reached out to the community and now celebrating its first Spring Fling.

The academy, having served the Riverview area since 2002 at 10518 Riverview Dr. in Riverview, currently enrolls 84 students, offering individualized instruction to both students with learning disabilities as well as those without them. A recent recipient of the National Independent Private Schools Association (NIPSA) Accreditation, it is here through the efforts of staff, students and parents that 468 lbs. of food were gathered for Metropolitan Ministries and 129 toys were collected for Toys for Tots. Both organizations also received students' invaluable time, having volunteered with both organizations through-

out the year.

"Center Academy is dedicated to serving the needs of students with mild to moderate learning disabilities. We strive to build self-esteem, confidence in learning and helping students who struggle with academics. We teach the importance of giving back to our communities by serving others," exclaims Paula Knight, a parent and organizer of the academy's upcoming First Annual Spring Fling of Riverview.

Taking place on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., the free event will feature such retailers as MyKI

(www.ShopMyKI.com), Naturally Perfect (www.naturallyperfect.net), Tupperware, Splendors from the Heart (www.splendorsfromtheheart.com), Glenda's Books (www.glendas-books.com), Beth Kauffman Stained Glass, The Bejeweled Faerie (www.bejeweledfaerie.com), Mary Kay (Wendi Sumner), Stampin' Up (Michele Eliason), Gizmo & Gizzy Creations and more. Children will be kept entertained by the onsite bounce house, face painting, karaoke, a cake walk and a myriad of food. With 1,000 expected to attend the event, hopes of raising \$3,500 to help fund both the academy's year-end field trip and senior field trip are being contemplated.

"Residents can look forward to baked goods, unique arts and crafts for sale, food vendors and fun events focused on families," adds Knight, who concludes saying, "With attendance and

participation, residents are helping to give back to a neighborhood school that supports the efforts in helping to raise children to become responsible adults."

For more information regarding the event, call Director Dave Stone at 677-7777 or e-mail inforv@centeracademy.com. To learn more about the Florida-based academy, founded in 1968 by neuropsychologist,

Dr. Mack Hicks, visit www.centeracademy.com. The organization has 12 academies and two charter schools whose mission is "to provide students with a learning environment that facilitates the development of self-confidence, motivation and academic skills and gives students the opportunity to achieve success in life."

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