

Broward Sheriff's Office
2601 West Broward Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312



Buckle Up Park Lakes- a Grass Root Seat Belt Awareness Initiative.

On October 30th, Life Safety Educator LaToya Carbonell was at Park Lakes Elementary in Lauderdale Lakes, FL to present information on Fire Safety. As she was setting up a large interactive educational fire safety house, she noticed several parents arriving to the school, dropping off their children. While making this casual observation, LSE Carbonell, a Certified Child Passenger Seat Technician Instructor, noted that over 90% of the children did not arrive buckled. LSE Carbonell brought this to the attention of school administrative staff, attempting to initiate a small seat belt awareness campaign. It was at this time that she was notified of the tragic and preventable death of a Park Lakes Elementary second grade student only a few days prior.

Life Safety Educator LaToya Carbonell instantly recognized a simple campaign would not suffice, but instead a much more intensive initiative would have to be put into place. With this, ***Buckle Up Park Lakes*** was born. ***Buckle Up Park Lakes*** started with a simple observation and suddenly became a multifaceted, multi-agency, school wide campaign. This campaign targeted parents and children alike, encompassing 12 different independent activities and utilizing all three learning modalities, all culminating to a school wide Safety Day.

The following documents are an example of what ***Buckle Up Park Lakes*** encompasses:

- Ocala news article on the vehicle incident
- Letter from the school to the parents of the children attending Park Lakes
- Seat belts save lives flyer
- BSO Fire Rescue Operations Plan
- Schedule of Activities
- Buckle Up Park Lakes Matrix
- Essay writing assignment
- Poster assignment
- Writing prompts
- Super Hero naming contest
- Buckle Up Park Lakes pledge
- Safety Day schedule
- BSO Fire Rescue Press Release
- News article in the Sun Sentinel
- Photos documenting campaign activities



Girl, 7, dead, 5 hurt in Levy crash after tire explodes

Staff report

Published: Sunday, October 27, 2013 at 9:28 p.m.

A 7-year-old girl was killed and several other family members were injured in Levy County Sunday morning after a tire blew out on their SUV, causing it to roll and eject three occupants, a report said.

The 2003 Ford Expedition driven by Stacyanne James, 30, of Pompano Beach was headed west on U.S. Alt. 27 around 9:40 a.m. when the right rear tire blew out, causing the vehicle to head onto the north shoulder, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.



Photo courtesy of Levy County

Levy County personnel load a patient into a helicopter for transport to UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville following a single-vehicle crash on Alt. U.S. 27 Sunday morning.

The SUV overturned, the report said, ejecting James and two third-row passengers Samahri Paraison and Chloe Paraison, who died at 1 p.m. at UF Health Shands Hospital. None of the three were wearing seatbelts, the report said.

James and Samahri Paraison, 9, of Pompano Beach, were taken to Shands in critical condition. Paul Paraison, 64, of Lighthouse Point, Paul N. Paraison, 3, Lihly Paraison, 6, both of Pompano Beach, were all taken to Shands with minor injuries.

Copyright © 2013 Ocala.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Park Lakes Elementary School
Orinthia Dias, Principal
3925 North State Road 7
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319
Telephone: 754-322-7650
Facsimile: 754-322-7690

SCHOOL BOARD

Chair
Vice Chair

LAURIE RICH LEVINSON
PATRICIA GOOD

Board Members

ROBIN BARTLEMAN
ABBY M. FREEDMAN
DONNA P. KORN
KATHERINE M. LEACH
ANN MURRAY
DR. ROSALIND OSGOOD
NORA RUPERT

ROBERT W. RUNCIE
Superintendent of Schools

Date: October 29, 2013

Dear Parents:

This has been a difficult day for all of us at Park Lakes Elementary. Chloe Paraison in 2nd grade died on Sunday. She will be missed by the children, parents, and staff at Park Lakes Elementary as she has touched many of our lives in a special way. Your child may want to share memories of Chloe or ask questions regarding this matter. It is natural and healthy for him/her to want to discuss this. A team of professionals is available at school to assist students and staff in coping with this difficult situation.

Arrangements have not been completed at this time. Thank you for your support and kindness.

Sincerely,

Orinthia Dias
Principal



Sheriff Scott Israel

Broward Sheriff's Office and the Fire Rescue Department



Sheriff Scott Israel and the Broward Sheriff's Office reminds you to buckle up!

According to Florida State Statute 316.614, safety belt usage is mandatory.

Seat belts save lives!

The responsibility to keep your children safe starts with you! Buckling up on every car ride is the single most important thing a family can do to stay safe while traveling in the car.

Lead by example. When adults wear seat belts, kids wear seat belts.

Discuss the importance of using seat belts, and make buckling up a part of every ride.

Does your child pass the Safety Belt Fit Test?

- Your child's knees should bend at the edge of the seat with their backs and bottoms against the vehicle seat back.
- The vehicle lap belt should fit across the upper thighs.
- The shoulder belt should fit across the shoulder and chest.

If not, use a booster seat with your vehicle's lap and shoulder belts until your child can safely pass the Safety Belt Fit Test.

**SAFE
K:DS**
BROWARD
COUNTY



For more information about seat belt safety tips, please call the Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Fire Rescue at **954.831.8210** or visit **sheriff.org/safety**



"Buckle up: Every Ride, Every Time"

Buckle Up Superhero





OPERATIONS PLAN

**Buckle Up Park Lakes
"Buckle Up - Every Ride, Every Time"
OPS 13-11**

**Department of Fire Rescue
Lauderdale Lakes/Central Broward
District**



**BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE RESCUE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**BUCKLE UP PARK LAKES INITIATIVE
OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Submitted By: District Chief Gregory Holness

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On October 7th 2013 a 7 year old Park Lakes Elementary student was killed in Levy County Florida as a result of being ejected from an SUV that accidentally rolled over. Her sister was critically injured and remains on life support at Shands Medical. At the time of the incident, none of the school age passengers were wearing seat belts. Subsequent to that incident, representatives from Fire Rescue were at Park Lakes Elementary on an unrelated issue and were approached by the Principal and Counselor for the school who expressed their concern over the lack of use of seatbelts among a great population of students being dropped off at the school. A focus group consisting of Fire Rescue, Law Enforcement and School Staff was convened and a detailed plan was presented in an effort to mitigate this issue using education, coaching, and mentoring and enforcement techniques.

II. GOAL OF OPERATION:

The overall goal of this operational initiative is to ensure compliance of seatbelt use among elementary school age children and parents. While 100% compliance to this is required under State Statute, incidents resulting in injury and death is still a concern within the community. Improvement and compliance will be measured pre and post initiative using actual tally counts of random samples of participants. The Buckle Up Park Lakes program begins on Tuesday November 12th and ends on Friday November 22nd. As part of the school wide campaign, the Public Education Unit is coordinating morning announcements with safety tips, surprise visit from our Super Hero Safety Girl, distribution of seat belt and car seat use brochures to the parents and caregivers, a quantitative buckled/unbuckled count before and after the initiative, a kick-off auditorium presentation, a Super Hero naming contest with the grand prize of a bicycle, an age-appropriate poster/essay assignment, teacher incentives to have

100% class participation, writing prompts for daily writing journal entries, several pledges to sign by students, and a wrap-up school wide Safety Day Carnival.

III. DATE AND TIME OF OPERATION:

Date: Tuesday, November 12th through Friday November 22nd, 2013

Time: Various Times beginning at 0715 and ending 1410 hours
(Please see the attached matrix for more details)

Location: Park Lakes Elementary
3925 North State Road 7
Lauderdale Lakes, Florida 33319

IV. FIELD OPS LOGISTICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Department of Fire Rescue, Station 37
Participation Days
November 12th through November 15th 2013
0715 to 0745 and 1345 to 1410 hours
Engine 37 and Rescue 37 (AM Slot)
Engine 37 and Rescue 237 (PM Slot)

Rescue Company to stage at Drop off/Pick Up location at Vincent Torres Park on the north end traffic loop adjacent to the crossover bridge to Park Lakes Elementary. Crews are to actively encourage seat belt use by interacting with children and parents and handing out printed materials. Crews are to reward children who wear seatbelts by handing out stickers to those who comply.

Engine Company to stage at Drop off/Pick Up location at Park Lakes Elementary on the east end of the school. Crews are to actively encourage seat belt use by interacting with children and parents and handing out printed materials. Crews are to reward children who wear seatbelts by handing out stickers to those who comply.

All crews are required to wear department issued safety vests and helmets to properly identify themselves as Fire Rescue.

Department of Law Enforcement, District IV/V
Participation Days
November 12th through November 15th 2013
0715 to 0745 and 1345 to 1410 hours
Road Deputy to be assigned.

Deputies will be responsible for actively encouraging seatbelt use by talking with children and parents and handing out printed material.

Park Lakes Buckle Up!

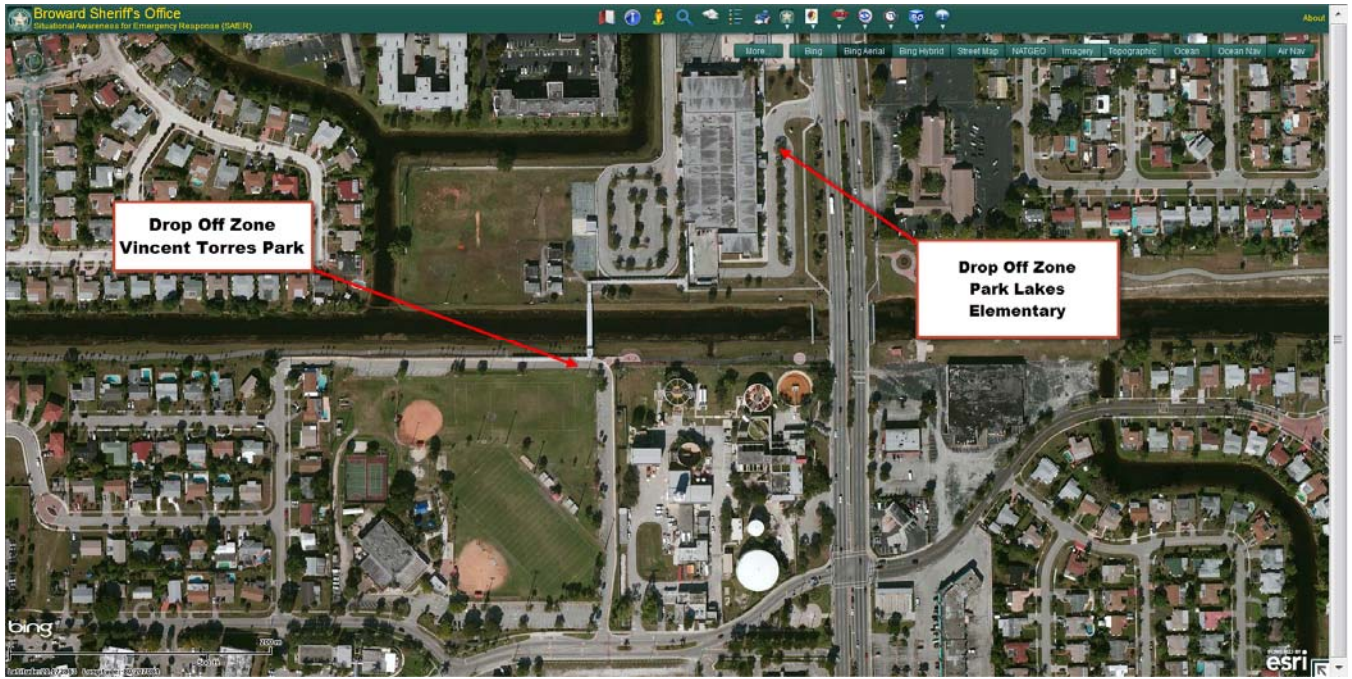
Date	Activity	Description
Friday Nov. 8 th	Commencement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Announcement 8am • Super Hero reveal • DLE Road Sign • Distribute Brochures
Tuesday Nov 12 th	Kick Off Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unbuckled Count 7:15 to 7:50am • Morning Announcement 8am • Auditorium presentation at 8:30/9:05/9:35 • Static Display at front of school • FR personnel at drop off at 7:15 to 7:50am and at 1:45 to 2:10pm • Distribute contest materials • DLE seat belt education
Wednesday Nov 13 th	Car loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FR personnel at drop off at 7:15 to 7:50am and at 1:45 to 2:10pm • DLE seat belt education
Thursday Nov 14 th		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FR personnel at drop off at 7:15 to 7:50am and at 1:45 to 2:10pm • DLE seat belt education
Friday Nov 15 th		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FR personnel at drop off at 7:15 to 7:50am and at 1:45 to 2:10pm • DLE seat belt education
Monday Nov 18 th	Pledge Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Announcement 8am • DLE warning for seat belt • Super Hero naming contest
Tuesday Nov 19 th	Morning announcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Announcement 8am (With list of winning teachers so far)
Wednesday Nov 20 th	Assignment Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day: assignment due
Friday Nov 22 nd	School Wrap-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Announcement 8am • Buckled Count • Safety Carnival • School t-shirt and crazy belt day • Super Hero name reveal • Contest Hero winner reveal
ONGOING and MISC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing prompts in journals



Smart Sign Placement



Smart Sign Placement



Approved By: _____
Assistant Chief Michael Cassano

Date: _____

Buckle Up Park Lakes Campaign

Schedule of Activities

Friday, 11/08/13	Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fire Department Visit on Morning Show on WPLE2. Road Signs3. Brochures
Tuesday, 11/12/13	Kick Off <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Morning Announcement on WPLE2. School-wide Assembly3. Essay and Poster Contest Launch4. Fire Trucks and Fire Fighters Involvement -Static Display at front of school5. Parent Education (Parent Drop-off/pickup Loop, Parking Lot)6. Warning
Wednesday - Friday 11/13/13 - 11/15/13	Re-enforcement <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fire Department and Law Enforcement daily presence in parent drop-off area2. Incentives3. Warning
Monday, 11/18/13	Buckle-Up Pledge Day <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fire Department on WPLE2. Students sign pledge to ALWAYS buckle-up
Tuesday, 11/19/13	Fire Department on WPLE
Wednesday, 11/20/13	Dead-line to submit Essays and Posters
Friday, 11/22/13	Grand Finale <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fire Department on WPLE2. Announcement of Contest Winners3. Yellow T-Shirt Day4. Crazy Belt Day5. Buckle-Up Park Lakes Carnival (Park Lakes North Field)

Ongoing: Buckle-up Park Lakes Writing Prompt

Teachers are asked to emphasize the importance of buckling up by having students journal or do some form of writing daily.

Teacher Incentive

Six Teacher Prizes, one at each Grade level, will be awarded to the first teacher whose entire class submit entries, with parents and family members signatures, for the Buckle-Up Park Lakes Poster/Essay Contest

Park Lakes Buckle Up!

Date	Activity	Description	Supplies	To do	Staff
Friday Nov. 8 th	Commencement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning Announcement 8am Super Hero reveal DLE Road Sign Distribute Brochures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seat belt prop & tips DLE Road Sign Distribute Brochures Camera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get prop from 143 bldg & write up tips Contact Lt. Lopez and arrange for sign placement 1,200 brochures provided to school on 11/06/13 by BSO FR Create and purchase supplies for Super Hero 	LaToya/Courtney Lt. Lopez DC Holness
Tuesday Nov 12 th	Kick Off Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unbuckled Count 7:15 to 7:50am Morning Announcement 8am Auditorium presentation at 8:30/9:05/9:35 Static Display at front of school FR personnel at drop off at 7:15 to 7:50am and at 1:45 to 2:10pm Distribute contest materials DLE seat belt education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tally Counter Tips with props PowerPoint presen? FR Apparatus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get tally counter, assign personnel to count Write up tips Create brief PowerPoint presentation with events that will be happening highlighted- awards, contest, fun day, etc Schedule FR apparatus in Ops Contact Lt. Lopez for DLE Roll-out Prepare contest materials- essay prompt and copies for 558 students; poster prompt and copies for 567 students. Buy poster paper Check PP capabilities- screen/computer/projector 	LaToya/Rebecca DLE Staff FR personnel DLE personnel
Wednesday Nov 13 th	Car loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR personnel at drop off at 7:15 to 7:50am and at 1:45 to 2:10pm DLE seat belt education 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule FR apparatus in Ops 	FR personnel DLE personnel
Thursday Nov 14 th		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR personnel at drop off at 7:15 to 7:50am and at 1:45 to 2:10pm DLE seat belt education 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule FR apparatus in Ops 	FR personnel DLE personnel
Friday Nov 15 th		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR personnel at drop off at 7:15 to 7:50am and at 1:45 to 2:10pm DLE seat belt education 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule FR apparatus in Ops 	FR personnel DLE personnel
Monday Nov 18 th	Pledge Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning Announcement 8am DLE warning for seat belt Super Hero naming contest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge poster Sharpies Super Hero paper Super Hero box Bicycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Relations to create pledge poster Get Sharpies and Poster to school to hang Make Super Hero Box Get bicycle from Jen Set up bicycle and box Make Super Hero naming entry cards Collect entries and deliver to Station 37 for name choosing 	LaToya Teaching staff

Tuesday Nov 19 th	Morning annnc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning Announcement 8am (With list of winning teachers so far)			LaToya
Wednesday Nov 20 th	Assignment Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day: assignment due			Dr. Powell
Friday Nov 22 nd	School Wrap-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning Announcement 8am• Buckled Count• Safety Carnival• School t-shirt and crazy belt day• Super Hero name reveal• Contest Hero winner reveal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tally Counter• Paint the Truck• Event Van• Popcorn/ Sno Cones• Gear try-ons• FR Apparatus• DLE Apparatus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get tally counter, assign personnel to count• Launch ERS scheduler• FR Ops Calendar• DLE Participation• Move PTT (11/21/13 Thurs to stage)• Food supplies• Follow up with STA 37 re Super Hero name• Get teacher prizes	LSE Staff FR personnel DLE personnel Reserves
ONGOING and MISC		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing prompts in journals		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Relations to create flyer indicating BSO support• Create writing prompts for journals from the 12th thru the 22nd• Contact BSO PIO re events• Prepare Ops Plan for events• Schedule in FMB Calendar	
SAFETY TIPS	SAFETY TIPS		Friday 11/08/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You must have 13 candles on your birthday cake before you can ride in the front seat of the car.	



Broward Sheriff's Office Buckle Up Park Lakes Elementary



Writing Assignment- Due Wednesday November 20, 2013

Who can participate?

Students in third, fourth, and fifth grades may participate in the contest.

What are the rules?

Students are to write an article on the topic of safety in and around cars. The articles may be no more than two pages in length. Students must complete the assignment individually (not in pairs or groups). All assignments must be signed by a parent or guardian.

When is the deadline?

All articles must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to your teacher by Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

What is the writing prompt?

Your best friend sometimes forgets to put on their seatbelt when riding in the car. After school, you notice some children playing football in the street. You want the kids in your school and neighborhood to be safe.

Think about how cars are helpful when children and grown-ups follow safety rules.

Now write an article for the school's newspaper that explains to students what they can do to stay safe in and around cars.

What are the judges looking for in a winning essay?

The following criteria will be used to judge the letters:

- ✓ focus on the topic and accuracy of information
- ✓ relevant supporting ideas
- ✓ spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- ✓ organization
- ✓ creativity

What happens after the essays are completed?

Student name and Teacher name should be on all articles.

Teachers: Contact Dr. Powell when your class has had 100% participation and parent signatures. The first teacher from each grade level to have 100% will win a prize.

**Your signed article is your ticket to the "Buckle-Up Fun Day"
on Friday, November 22, 2013!**



Broward Sheriff's Office Buckle Up Park Lakes Elementary



“Buckle Up- Every Ride, Every Time.”

Who can participate?

Students in Kindergarten through second grades may participate in the contest.

What are the rules?

Students are to create a poster highlighting the theme, *Buckle Up Park Lakes* and incorporating the words “Buckle Up- Every Ride, Every Time.” Students are encouraged to use art materials such as crayons, markers, and paint. Students must complete the assignment individually (not in pairs or groups). All assignments must be signed by a parent or guardian.

POSTERS MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAPER

When is the deadline?

All posters must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to your teacher by Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

Teachers: Contact Dr. Powell when your class has had 100% participation and parent signatures. The first teacher from each grade level to have 100% will win a prize.

**Your signed poster is your ticket to the “Buckle-Up Fun Day”
on Friday, November 22, 2013!**

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Signatures: _____

POSTERS MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAPER

Broward Sheriff's Office And Safe Kids Broward County Buckle Up Park Lakes Elementary

“Buckle Up- Every Ride, Every Time.”

WRITING JOURNAL- WRITING PROMPTS

1. Why is it important to buckle up every ride, every time
2. Describe a time when you taught someone about seat belt safety.
3. Describe the proper way to wear a seat belt
4. Walking a behind a parked or moving car is dangerous, explain why
5. In what ways should a seat belt keep you safe
6. Should everyone that rides in a car wear a seat belt or be in a car seat, explain
7. Describe a safety precaution that would keep you safe inside or outside a vehicle
8. Explain what will happen if you do not properly wear a seat belt
9. Why is it important to have all three points of the seat belt touching your body?
10. What do infants and toddlers use to keep them safe in a vehicle and why?
11. Why should some kids use booster seats?
12. Why is it important to sit up straight when wearing a seat belt?
13. What are three ways to stay safe at home or at school?
14. What are some ways to avoid accidents and stay safe?
15. Why is it dangerous for the driver of a car to text and drive?





Park Lakes Buckle Up!

I think the hero should be called:

She has the power to:

Student Name: _____
Teacher Name: _____
Grade: _____



Park Lakes Buckle Up!

I think the hero should be called:

She has the power to:

Student Name: _____
Teacher Name: _____
Grade: _____



Park Lakes Buckle Up!

I think the hero should be called:

She has the power to:

Student Name: _____
Teacher Name: _____
Grade: _____



Park Lakes Buckle Up!

I think the hero should be called:

She has the power to:

Student Name: _____
Teacher Name: _____
Grade: _____



Park Lakes Buckle Up!

I think the hero should be called:

She has the power to:

Student Name: _____
Teacher Name: _____
Grade: _____



Park Lakes Buckle Up!

I think the hero should be called:

She has the power to:

Student Name: _____
Teacher Name: _____
Grade: _____



Sheriff Scott Israel
www.sheriff.org

SAFE
KIDS
BROWARD
COUNTY

Take The Pledge Today!
Sign Here!



Buckle Up Superhero



Buckle-Up Park Lakes Carnival Schedule

Date: November 22, 2013
Venue: North Field – Park Lakes Elementary
(Behind fifth grade building)

9:00 – 9:40	Kindergarten
9:40 – 10:20	First
10:20 – 11:00	Second
11:00 – 11:40	Third
11:40 – 12:20	Fourth
12:20 – 1:00	Fifth

Some Reminders:

- Teachers, please arrange with your team who will remain inside with the students who have not submitted an entry for the Buckle-Up Contest.
- Contest Entry will be ticket to enter the carnival – each student must have his/her entry in hand
- Special teachers will be with their assigned grade level if this schedule overlaps with the special schedule



News Release

Broward Sheriff's Office • Public Information Office
(954) 831-8300
www.sheriff.org

DATE: November 21, 2013

PIO NUMBER: 13-11-20

PARK LAKES BUCKLES UP IN MEMORY OF 2ND GRADER SCHOOL EMBRACES BSFR SEAT BELT EDUCATION INITIATIVE

PHOTO OP

**11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Friday, November 22
Park Lakes Elementary School
3925 N. State Road 7, Lauderdale Lakes**

A Lauderdale Lakes second grade student killed in a recent vehicle crash is being remembered by her schoolmates through a unique safety campaign.

On October 27, seven-year-old Chloe Paraison was riding in an SUV with her family on U. S. Alt. 27 in Levy County in central Florida when, according to the Florida Highway Patrol, a tire blew out and the vehicle overturned ejecting the driver, Chloe and her sister. FHP reported the three ejected were not wearing seat belts. Chloe died about four hours after the crash and her sister sustained critical injuries.

Upon hearing of the tragic death of Chloe, Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue life safety educators (LSEs) assigned to Park Lakes Elementary School developed an initiative to increase seat belt compliance through a unique safety campaign.

The LSEs, in partnership with the school, developed Park Lakes Buckle Up! On November 8, students were introduced to a seat belt safety character created for this campaign, played by LSE LaToya Carbonell. Printed materials were distributed to students along with seat belt education delivered by LSEs and Broward Sheriff's Office deputies. Seat belt compliance observation was conducted at drop-off and dismissal, and warnings were issued for violations that could result in citations for non-compliance after the warning period. Safety-themed contests and incentives for the students have been part of the campaign, including a superhero naming contest, writing prompts, school t-shirt and crazy belt day, static displays and lastly, a huge school-wide safety carnival November 22.

Park Lakes Buckle Up! was timed to coincide with the Thanksgiving holiday travel period to echo the Buckle Up America efforts by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in keeping the nation's roadways safe.

A media report from the fatal crash can be found at:

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20131027/ARTICLES/131029701/0/search>

This report by:
Mike Jachles/PIO
11/21/13 2130



CARLINE JEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students from Park Lakes Elementary paint a fire rescue truck during a Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue seat belt initiative Friday. The event took place a month after two students from the school died in a car crash in which they weren't wearing seat belts.

Death sparks safety campaign

BY ERIKA PESANTES
Staff writer

Two students at a Lauderdale Lakes elementary school were killed in a car crash, and their peers have learned a hard, but vital lesson.

Following those recent tragic deaths, a seat belt safety campaign was started at Park Lakes Elementary, and it culminated Friday with a carnival. But it wasn't all fun and games. The event at the school, at 3925 N. State Road 7, had an important message aimed at saving lives: Buckle up.

"We didn't want the tragedy to triumph," said Theresa Powell, the school's guidance counselor, who said students understood "the depth and gravity" of losing two fellow students.

Life safety educators from Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue turned to the fatal crash last month to drive the point home to the school's 1,147 students, officials said.

Chloe Paraison, 7, died after being thrown from a vehicle that overturned after one of its tires blew out in Levy County, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

The driver, Stacy Anne James, 30, of Pompano Beach, and Chloe's sister, Samahri Paraison, 9, were also thrown, the agency

"We didn't want the tragedy to triumph."

Theresa Powell, Park Lakes Elementary guidance counselor on the death of two students who weren't wearing seat belts during a car crash

said. None wore seat belts, authorities said.

However, a 6-year-old passenger in the SUV who wore a seat belt suffered only minor injuries.

Chloe died Oct. 27 within hours of the crash; Samahri died Nov. 13, FHP said.

Following the accident, deputies made checks as parents dropped off students at Park Lakes Elementary. They found — in just one day — that 87 adults and children were not wearing seat belts, Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue spokesman Mike Jachles said.

Children under 13 are required to be buckled up in a back seat. Children up to 4 years old must ride in a restrained car seat, he said.

Park Lakes Elementary's safety initiative

coincides with the Buckle Up America campaign by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Leading up to the carnival Friday, students made posters, wrote essays and even participated in a contest to name a superhero with the safety theme in mind. The winning name: Super Safety Girl.

The masked superhero was LaToya Carbonell, one of Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue's life safety educators, who sported a yellow suit, had a seat belt around her waist and signed autographs.

When asked if he wore a seat belt when in the car, a boy getting her autograph responded, "Sometimes."

"From now on, you buckle up every time," Carbonell told him, as she flashed a smile. "Always buckle up, no matter what."

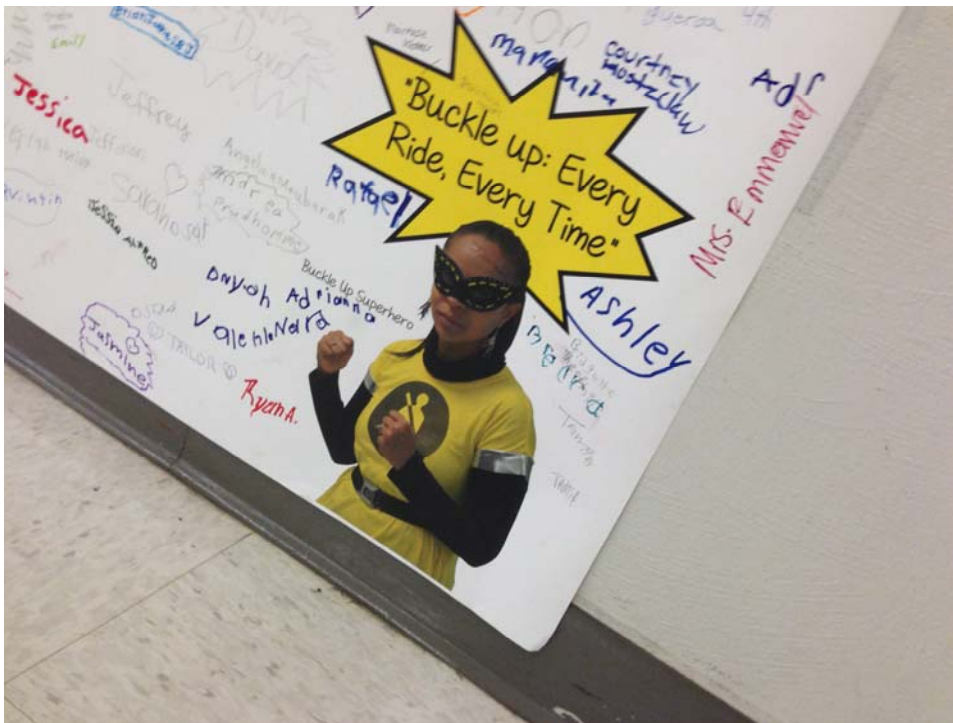
Orinthia Dias, the school principal, said the message does sink in — and it helps that it is being spread in a fun environment. Schoolchildren played games, used watercolors to paint a fire truck and ate popcorn and cotton candy.

"And they remember," Dias said. "They talk about these types of experiences more than the ones in the classroom."

epesantes@tribune.com



Students signing one of the three pledges





Students playing a spin-the-wheel safety game



Everyone wave!



Students painting safety messages on the Paint-the-Truck





Students waiting in line for cotton candy or sno-cones



Receiving an autograph and safety tip from Super Safety Girl