

Pasco FNP Success Stories

September 2013

THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WERE PRESENTED BY THREE FNP PASCO PROGRAM ASSISTANTS:

Brenda Borjas—“Germs Are Everywhere— Yuck! Yuck! Yuck!”

Benefits: higher attendance in school; lower medical expenses for parent’s (doctor visits and medicine).

Pre-K, K, 1st and 2nd grade students in east Pasco County were Introduced to GERMMY (our disgusting little germ from the “Fight BAC & Food Safety Program”) by first allowing them to feel and squeeze him. Then they got to see under the “special” light that showed them where all the germs like to hide. They also “shrugged” (shoulder movement) and “strutted” (walked like a cowboy movement) away the germs. They imitated how to wash their hands while pretending they were in front of a sink. When they realized how important it is to wash their hands well with soap and water first before eating, they were quite anxious to really wash their hands before going to lunch that day.

Students learned germs are everywhere and easily enter their bodies when they touched their T-Zone (eyes, nose and mouth) or ate with dirty fingers.

Karen Faverty—“Pasco County Students Have Eye-Opening Experience with Germs”

The Family Nutrition Program (FNP), working in partnership with the Pasco County School District, reached approximately 2,400 students to educate them about germs and how they spread. “World Hand Washing Day,” October 15, 2013, was also discussed and celebrated. The purpose of this global event is to raise awareness that “hand washing with soap and water is the most effective and inexpensive way to prevent diarrheal and acute respiratory infections, which take the lives of millions of children in developing countries. Together, these illnesses are responsible for the majority of all child deaths.”

Materials for safe food handling from the Partnership for Food Safety Education, www.fightbac.org, were also distributed. Everyone left the event with a heightened sense of awareness of how to protect themselves and their families from foodborne illness.

<http://www.globalhandwashing.org/ghw-day>. Materials for safe food handling from the *Partnership for Food Safety Education*, www.fightbac.org, were also used. Plush models that look like enlarged versions of tiny microbes were introduced: E. coli - A bacterium that can

cause approximately 73,000 cases of foodborne illness each year in the U.S., and Salmonella, the most common bacterial cause of diarrhea in the United States and the most common cause of foodborne deaths.

Gasps and surprise were expressed by many of the students as they took their first look into the black light box, with their hands coated with disclosure lotion to show where the germs like to hide!



Teachers will be collecting data over the next thirty days to document the impact of the education, which is expected to show a lower instance of absences due to sickness and will be compared with the thirty days prior to the education.

Linda Tesar—“How Pasco County Students Learn to Fight BAC!”

Fox Hollow Elementary School invited the Family Nutrition Program back to teach all Kindergarten thru 5th grade students this year. They are providing a classroom for use one day per week to be used by FNP.

The first lesson taught for the new school year was “Hand Washing/Food Safety (Fight BAC).” The students learned about the importance of washing their hands properly and keeping food safe. They learned the meaning of cross-contamination by observing the program assistant demonstrate the washing of food prep surfaces and fresh fruits and vegetables. We played “Food Safety Detective” to solve several food safety problems that were presented in short stories. The students’ responses were quite amazing to say the least. Most remembered the Fight BAC rules; clean, separate, chill and cook. A 2nd grade student asked about double-dipping chips. When one student said he felt it would be alright to turn the bitten chip around to dip the other end, the rest of the class protested loudly, “You will still contaminate the dip!” They were quite expressive and concerned.

Several students remembered the T-Zone from the previous year’s lesson and the need to keep their fingers away from eyes, nose and mouth to help prevent illnesses—an excellent start to the new school year!