

From: The School District of Palm Beach County <communications@palmbeachschools.org>

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Subject: Press Release: Conniston Community Middle School's 3rd Annual Pumpkin Launch

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The School District of Palm Beach County
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

3300 Forest Hill Boulevard • West Palm Beach, FL 33406
(561) 357-7570 • www.PalmBeachSchools.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 28, 2014

CONTACT: Office of Communications
561-357-1114

communications@palmbeachschools.org

Conniston Community Middle School Flings 700 Pumpkins for Math and Science

WEST PALM BEACH, FL - Conniston Community Middle School students catapulted hundreds of pumpkins onto the school's athletic field October 27 during a hands-on lesson about the principles of mathematics and science. The 3rd Annual Flying Pumpkins event is part of an ongoing collaboration between the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program at the school and Palm Beach Atlantic University.

"The pumpkin launch is not only fun, but shows how much can be accomplished with our ongoing partnerships," said Principal Oscar Otero. "It's an ongoing collaboration between teachers and professors to create activities that help students excel because they see first hand what they learn in class as applied in an outside setting."

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students began preparations earlier this year with lessons utilizing geometry, physics, calculating velocity, trajectory, kinetic energy and other measurements. Students and teachers collected data about each pumpkin's size, weight and distance traveled during the launch. Future classes will cover discussions about the factors and variables that made some pumpkins travel farther than others and the collected measurements will be used in math classes.

This year for the first time, all Conniston students participated in the event, thanks to the 12 giant slingshots from Hedrick Brothers Construction and 700 pumpkins donated by C&D Produce. The Quantum Foundation awarded Palm Beach Atlantic University a grant for the partnership. Clean-up after the pumpkin launch commenced with 22 Palm Beach Atlantic University students as part of Workshop Program, which volunteers community service hours.

To learn more about the pumpkin launch, or Conniston Community Middle School's International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program contact the Office of Communications at (561) 357-1114.

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About the School District of Palm Beach County

The School District of Palm Beach County is the eleventh largest in the nation and the fifth largest in the state of Florida with 185 schools, serving more than 183,000 students who speak 150 languages and dialects. As the largest employer in Palm Beach County, the school district has nearly 21,000

employees, including more than 12,000 teachers. To learn more about the School District of Palm Beach County, visit www.palmbeachschools.org.



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Palm Beach County School District | 3300 Forest Hill Blvd. | Palm Springs | FL | 33406

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