



JOURNEY OF HOPE

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THE MIRACLE ON 150TH STREET



Hope Bear extends a warm welcome to Mrs. Erin Dilla, the new Principal of Hope Rural School and a heartfelt thank you to Sister Kate Kinnally, SSND, our beloved former Principal.

LOVE for the children, **HOPE** for their future, **JOY** and **ENTHUSIASM** for the mission - these characteristics embodied Sister Kate's ministry as Principal of Hope Rural School for the past 8 years. During the 2013-2014 school year, Sister Kate had to deal with some serious health issues and it became apparent to her, the Board, and the Administration that she needed to step down and allow her body time to heal.

Hope Rural School didn't have to look far to find the most qualified person for the position. In fact, she was right within their own backyard. Erin Dilla has been a teacher at Hope Rural School for the past 20 years and had already been named by Sister Dooley and Sister Kate as one who possesses leadership qualities and had been attending Emerging Principal workshops throughout the year.

The stars have always fallen upon Hope Rural and having a person of such caliber waiting in the wings is evidence of God's providence in our midst. Another bit of good news is that Sister Kate is remaining at the school in the position of Coordinator of Special Programs.

Speaking of **Hope Bear**, he will be helping Hope Rural School celebrate its 35th Anniversary in a special way. As the main character in Sister Dooley's new book, "The Miracle on 150th Street", Hope Bear uncovers the names of all the people who make Hope Rural School such an extraordinary place. He'll be attending the Gala Dinner Celebration on Sunday, March 15th, 2015 at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens and hopes to see all of you there.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



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Mission Statement

The mission of Hope Rural School is to offer hope to families.

The school primarily serves children from immigrant families by providing them with a Catholic Elementary education in grades Pre-K through 5 in an environment that nurtures the Gospel values of mercy, justice, and love, through fostering the principles of Christian discipleship; supporting, guiding, and encouraging parents in the education of their children; developing an appreciation and respect for heritage; encouraging and enabling graduates to reach their full potential through advanced education.

*“Let us pick up our books and our pens,” I said.
“They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher,
one book, and one pen can change the world.”*

Malala Yousafzai

Dear Friends,

Last year, our students spent many morning assemblies observing and studying the words and actions of a young girl named Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl who stood up to the Taliban and defended her right to an education. As the above quote states, Malala saw education as the most powerful weapon in the world. How fitting that she just received the Nobel Peace Prize!

Recalling the beginnings of our “Little School of Hope”, we cannot help but think of the founders, pioneers, board members, volunteers, and benefactors who encouraged the migrant children to pick up their books and pens and gave birth to the dream. Like Malala, they saw education as the most powerful weapon in the world.

Over the past 35 years, hundreds of migrant and immigrant children have been fortunate to receive an education that encompassed their whole being – minds, bodies, and spirits have been fed academically, physically, and spiritually.

The journey is on-going and as you peruse the pictures and stories in this newsletter, you will see numerous examples of Hope Rural’s continuous Circle of HOPE.

- ☺ Engaging and exploring new and creative ways of teaching and learning in the classroom
- ☺ Supporting and maintaining a healthy mixture of the Arts, Athletics, and Academics in our After-Care Program
- ☺ Recommending and prescribing innovative ways of parenting through our Parent Outreach Program
- ☺ Enhancing and broadening the students horizons by exploring a world outside of Indiantown through our Summer School Program
- ☺ Enabling and encouraging the parents and students to broaden their literacy skills through our Adult Education and Home Literacy Programs
- ☺ Aiding and inspiring our graduates in pursuing higher education through our Graduate Scholarship Program

Thank you for ensuring that books and pens will continue to be picked up at this Little School of Hope. One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can and does CHANGE THE WORLD.

Gratefully,

Sister Mary Dooley, SSND

Sr. Mary Dooley, S.S.N.D.
Director

SISTER ANETA'S WAY - AN EVERLASTING TRIBUTE



Sister Aneta Gics, SSND was a volunteer for many years at our school. Her family and dear friends have dedicated this garden as a living memorial to her gentle spirit and endless love for the children, families, and the entire staff of Hope. A beautiful statue of a Guardian Angel holding the hand of a child is the focal point and is surrounded by plantings of herbs, flowers, and trees. This special spot is located right near the kitchen door where Aneta entered our cafeteria to lovingly volunteer - serving lunch every day to our students. We are sure she is enjoying her reward in heaven!

HOPE AMBASSADORS AND BOX OF JOY PROJECT

Our Fifth Grade Ambassadors, pictured to the right with Bishop Barbarito of the Diocese of Palm Beach, began their first outreach project in partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach and encouraged the whole school to gather Christmas presents for children who are needy in this world. The students, faculty, and staff focused on others' needs before their own, and the entire project enlivened everyone's spirit to a deeper and compassionate sense of those in need. Hope Rural School filled 50 boxes to send to boys and girls of various ages, giving not out of their abundance, but sacrificially.



We are very proud of our Ambassadors for hosting this event and are awesomely amazed at what can be accomplished, when we all work together for a wonderful cause! Our students are excited that the boxes are ready to be shipped to Guatemala.

LOOK WHAT ELSE OUR STUDENTS ARE DOING!



In affiliation with the
United Way of Martin County

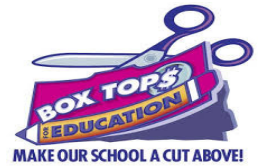


Hope Rural Students will be publishing a book called, "Hope Bear's Character Counts Club". This is a unique project offered as part of our After-Care Program and will provide hands on learning experiences for our students. They are learning to create watercolor illustrations, practicing public speaking skills via an interview process of local business owners and civic leaders in Indiantown, and honing their reporting skills that will ultimately create this new book. We are very excited and look forward to seeing the outcome of their creativity while celebrating their accomplishments in the process!

CIRCLES OF LOVE, LEARNING, AND LIFE AT HOPE



Check out our WEBSITE: www.hoperuralschool.org
 Please consider clipping and sending BOX TOPS to HOPE RURAL SCHOOL.



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MISSION

Adopt-a-Class Adopt a Teacher

Gather your friends for a shopping spree or BOGO (buy-one-get-one)
 for school supplies, hand sanitizer, facial tissues, craft items, etc.

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

Remembering your loved ones through memorial gifts in lieu of flowers and tribute gifts in honor
 of birthdays, anniversaries, other meaningful events,
 or adding Hope Rural School to your will ~ a tribute for a lifetime is a thoughtful
 and life-giving way to continue the mission work of Hope.

