To announce an academic competition regarding the 500th Anniversary of Juan Ponce de Leon’s Exploration of Florida.

- The Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills, in cooperation with the University of Miami’s Center for Humanities, is sponsoring a poster contest for elementary school students and an essay contest for middle and senior high school students about the 500th anniversary of the Spanish explorer, Juan Ponce de Leon, and his landing on the shores of Florida. Details regarding this competition are as follows:
  - Participation in this contest is completely voluntary but encouraged.
  - The theme for both the poster and essay contest is “Florida at the Crossroads- 500 Years of Encounters, Conflicts, and Exchanges.”
  - Each elementary school can submit up to one winning poster and each middle and senior high school may submit one essay. K-8 Centers may submit one poster for the elementary portion of the competition and one essay for the middle school portion of the competition.
  - Posters must be submitted on a 12” X 18” (including mounting) white poster board only. The medium can be crayon, colored pencils, cut paper, marking pens, watercolors, or tempera paint. The ideas and artwork must be original and related to the theme. Posters will be judged on originality, effectiveness, and craftsmanship.
  - The winning essay from each school should be typed/word processed and should not exceed three pages in length double-spaced.
  - It is up to individual schools to determine grading criteria and logistics for conducting the essay contest in order to select ONE winner per school for submission.
  - Please complete the attached form and send the form with a copy of the winning essay or poster from your school on or before November 4, 2011.
    - The essay winner, along with the attached form may be emailed to rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net or sent via FAX to 305 995-1492.
    - The poster must be delivered to The Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills, 1501 NE 2nd Avenue, Suite 326 D (in the SBAB Annex Building).
  - The top three elementary, middle and senior high school winners from the District will be awarded a check as follows: 1st Place- $100.00, 2nd Place- $75.00, and 3rd Place- $50.00. Funding for the awards is provided by the University of Miami’s Center for Humanities.
  - These nine student winners (3 from elementary school, 3 from middle school and 3 from senior high school) will be invited to an event to celebrate their accomplishments at the University of Miami on Saturday, November 19, 2011. Further details regarding the event at the University of Miami will be forwarded to teachers of the winning students accordingly once the winners have been selected.
  - If you need additional information, please email rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net, or see the contact information below.

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