

# Panther Run Elementary School

Elaine L. Saef, Principal

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***"Pay It Forward! – Who I Am Makes A Difference!"***  
***Believe It! Live It! Pass It On!***  
*Overview of Program*

We are happy to share our **PIF-WIAMAD: "Pay It Forward! – Who I Am Makes A Difference!"** program with you. Our Principal, Ms. Saef, challenged the staff, students and parents to PIF WIAMAD with her and we have definitely done it over and over!

PIF-WIAMAD is a motivational culture used to inspire students, staff, parents & community members. PIF-WIAMAD promotes caring for others, both people & animals. The concepts develop an awareness of helping others & spreading good will. The program consists of two philosophies, "Pay It Forward!" & "Who I Am Makes A Difference!" "Pay It Forward" means repaying the good deeds one has received by doing good things for other unrelated people. "Who I Am Makes A Difference" explains we all make a difference in the lives of others by our actions, words, feelings and the person we become.

The concepts taught develop an increased awareness of helping others and spreading good will. Research shows that children need to learn kindness and & compassion in order to grow up to be good citizens who are compassionate and caring of not only themselves but to others as well.

The culture Ms. Saef designed is used to inspire and motivate students, staff, parents and community members to care for and do good things for others. The concepts taught develop an increased awareness of helping others and spreading good will. The program consists of two main philosophies, "Pay It Forward!" and "Who I Am Makes A Difference!"

"Pay It Forward" or paying it forward refers to repaying the good deeds one has received by doing good things for other unrelated people. In this way we hope to establish an ever growing, branching, organic flow of generosity amongst our fellow humans. "Pay It Forward", you never know how your actions can change the world!

"Who I Am Makes A Difference" is a philosophy that we all are important and make a difference in the lives of others by our actions, words, feelings and just being who we are. Each of us can and will make a positive difference and have an amazing impact on Panther Run and the community. We conducted several minor and major activities to promote caring for others, both people & animals.

Each of the activities provided an excellent opportunity to teach the lesson of caring & helping others, "Paying It Forward!" & "Who I Am Makes A Difference". We were able to model, participate and discuss why it is important to lend a hand at times, do good deeds & be kind to others. The staff, students and community of Panther Run Elementary is committed to excellence and making the world and future a better place, especially in these hard economic times. We share a common mission and goal, "Changing The World, One Child At A Time!"

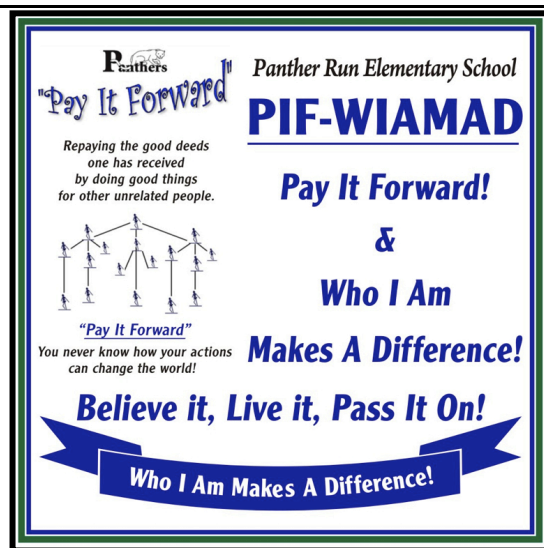
PIF-WIAMAD is intricately woven into our mission, vision and educational philosophies thus allowing us to teach and model wonderful values and providing a successful learning experience for all of the students at Panther Run Elementary while helping students and parents utilize these ideas with their peers, families and community at the same time. We also PIF-WIAMAD for the environment by saving energy and recycling paper and juice pouches.. Parts of the program include the drives mentioned above, our New Years Resolutions Recognition Program and numerous other activities promoting caring for others.

The PIF-WIAMAD culture affords children the opportunity to see role models exemplifying these traits and allow them to participate in character building humanitarian projects, which help others.

PIF-WIAMAD teaches people to care about each other and make a difference in the world. It produces a culture of kindness and high expectations to do good to all. For this very reason, the PIF-WIAMAD culture is vital because it instills in children a cultural concept that who they are, can and will make a difference in the world by their actions towards others. When children are given the opportunity to Pay It Forward they are learning the building blocks of what gratitude is and how they can make a small difference in the world in which they live. As students mature they will become adults who are secure in themselves, as individuals, capable of connecting with the world

All of the staff have jumped on board, as have the students and parents. Motivation and morale are way up and staff has high expectations for students and expects them to rise to them. The sign, shown above, is displayed in all rooms and offices in the school, in hallways and at partners in education sites as well.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please send an email to: [email@pantherrun.com](mailto:email@pantherrun.com).



**PIF-WIAMAD has been recognized as a Best Practice for 2009 by Broward County Public Schools and won the FAEMSP Little Red School House Award for 2010**