

# CHILD Testimonials

**By Kyli, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, MSOA**  
**Former PC student for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> at Panther Run Elementary School**

In third grade, I had a tough time adjusting to the three classes and all the responsibilities. Even throughout the fun and games, the tough times, and the good times, I didn't even realize how much I was learning. Then in fifth grade, it fully hit me. The work taught me how to be a sixth grader. The teachers treated me more maturely. The life skills I learned were those of an adult. The teachers weren't there just to teach, but they were there to help us through everything and to love us. Our personal life mattered more than how we were doing in school. They believed that to have a good academic atmosphere, you had to be in a loving and caring environment. Since we had the same class for three years, many sturdy relationships were built and still remain today. While we were living to our fullest those three years, we didn't do that bad in our academic levels either. Since it was a student-oriented curriculum, hands on activities and motivational skills were taught to us making our FCAT and test scores the highest in the school.

In middle school I realize that Project CHILD has prepared me for the relatively tough years by giving me understanding of academic skills and more importantly how to treat others with respect, kindness and how to succeed. Because I discovered my talents at such an early age, I am now at a magnificent magnet school where I can further learn about my skills and prepare myself for a well-rounded future. It's hard, tough, because I can see other children struggling in areas so simple to me because they had teachers who didn't care, school skills that didn't teach and classmates and friends who weren't supportive.

So basically, PC has helped me to see past my failures and to open opportunities that have enriched me and changed me into a better person.

**By Laura**  
**Grade 2, Ocala Springs Elementary School**

Project CHILD is a good way to learn. I hope it is not taken away from us. First off, we learn from specialists. The specialists are very smart. We have Mrs. Evans for reading. She is good at that. Mrs. Beasley is our math teacher. Math is my favorite subject and I look forward to going to it everyday. Mrs. Cannon is our writing teacher and is teaching us how to be great authors, as you can see.

Also, we can communicate with our three teachers instead of wasting our time raising our hands a lot. All of the students love their teachers. We get to keep the same teachers for three years. We are not afraid when we start a new year of school because we know who our teachers will be. During summer we always look forward to the next year.

Last but not least, we have stations in Project CHILD. They are as fun as can be. We have social studies in one or two stations, and science, well we can work a week on science. Comprehension can take a lot of work but everyday it gets easier.

I just love Project CHILD. I wish that all grades could be in Project CHILD so all kids can feel as lucky as I do.

**By Syndee**  
**Grade 5, Maplewood Elementary School**

A few weeks ago states suffered from a category 5 hurricane, Katrina. As our nation pulled together to help our fellow states. Everybody felt devastated about the horrible disaster that had happened to Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. Many of them lost their loved ones from starvation, chaos, and just the fact that Katrina was too strong for some to survive through.

Many of us kids noticed that we needed to help too, but we didn't know how. Finally our teacher Mrs. Kennedy came up with a fun way to help. We were doing to challenge our two Project Child Classes in raising money. As soon as, everybody heard, kids brought in pennies, dimes, nickels, quarter, dollars, and even checks. After we were about half way through fifth grade (our class) had \$600.00 dollars, fourth grade had \$500.00 and third grade had \$200.00. We were in the lead! In about two more weeks the race was over and we won. We raised \$1,200 in fifth grade!! It gets better Project Child together raised \$1,973.00. Cha-Ching!! We raised the most money in the school. The school pulled together and raised \$5,600 dollars to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

### **A CHILD Testimonial**

**By Susan**

**Parent of two former PC students for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> at Panther Run Elementary School**

From the moment I heard about this new program called Project CHILD, I was interested. The first description reminded me of a Montessori-like classroom, which my children had benefited from in early learning. I was excited so I applied for my incoming third and second grader. The first year my daughter Kylie made the random list of students to be involved in the first year. I was very excited, as she needed more challenge than a traditional classroom was offering.

At first, we were all in the dark and a bit confused without a road map. Little by little teachers were organizing to be effective, students understood their roles and parents were answering the call to be part of something different in public schools than what they knew before. Admittedly, the first year was very tough for all involved. Teachers struggled with the enormity of planning all the stations, record keeping, routine fine-tuning and even meshing as a team. There were plenty of struggles for students, whom some were just not be a good match for PC. Some students began to thrive and really motivated by the student-oriented class. By my daughter's second year, things went more smoothly even though a new reading teacher came into the picture. Then by her third year, she felt so confident and connected that wonderful learning was taking place due to the safe, loving and challenging environment.

My son began in PC in his third grade year and continued into fifth. He came into the program without high academic or social skills. He is the type that hangs at one level then blossoms when good and ready. We didn't know if PC would be a good match. At first, Spenser was clueless and struggled just to keep up, get organized and learn. He had lots of encouragement and is very determined so turned that around to be very involved and self-motivated. He liked his classmates and his teachers and his confidence grew immensely in his three years. The teachers are so responsive to student's needs and interests that when Spenser showed an interest (ok, obsession) with history, they jumped on the bandwagon and offered him the chance to serve as Mr. History in class.

Today, my kids are thriving in middle school. Yes, there are challenges on both an academic and social levels; however, I am fully aware that these challenges are far less stressful and damaging because they have learned basic skills for organization, time management, studying, responsibility and respect. I give all praise, credit and immense appreciation to the "J Team"- Jackie Brennan, Judy Lehman and Joy Sosler. They have given my two children and me great faith in our education system. Thank you ladies!

Finally, parent involvement has been very much a key factor in the success of PC at Panther Run. We were very fortunate to have many parents serve in varying roles to do much of the legwork for teachers so they could focus on our kids and their learning.