



## THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Westwood Heights Elementary  
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*Superintendent of Schools*

June 7, 2016

Dear Cherie,

Westwood Heights Elementary School (WHE) wants to thank the KidSafe Foundation for choosing WHE to be the recipients of the KidSafe for Kids program during this school year. Westwood Heights Elementary School is a unique school with unique challenges – and we live by the philosophy that safe and healthy children make for the best learners. WHE is a true community school, which exceeds ninety-five percent in both free and reduced lunch and minority rates. Your program fits directly into teaching to the whole child – meeting the social emotional needs to best educate our learners.

We appreciated your three-tier approach for the prevention of child abuse. The first tier of providing a teacher professional development seminar with our staff – gave us the opportunity to hear and learn about a topic which effects so many of our families in a safe learning environment. Since this KidSafe seminar we are even more aware and sensitive to the needs of our children and are all confirmed on the same page regarding everyone's responsibility to report suspected abuse.

At WHE, we work hard to engage our parents to participate in their children's education. There are many barriers, which we are gently, and persistently addressing to better increase participation. With that said the parents that did attend the KidSafe parent seminar were so appreciative of the information you shared. Additionally, parents reported that they are reviewing and reinforcing the implementation of the techniques and information with their children to ensure they are safer in the community.

Of course the high light was the children's program. All of our Kindergarten and second grade learners participated in the 8 week KidSafe program. We could hear the children singing the KidSafe songs, and see them using their new skills out on the playground and in the classrooms and most importantly, having fun while learning about personal safety. On a serious note we believe and agree with your philosophy that these skills need to be taught at a young age and become habitual. The participating teachers all felt the learning was beneficial to their learners. They looked forward to their classroom visits with your KidSafe Certified Instructors and my teachers have made a point of integrating the KidSafe skills into their daily interactions with their children.

Thank you again for allowing Westwood Heights to receive the KidSafe program this school year through a grant from the Salah Foundation. I feel this program should be integrated into our school every year.

We hope Westwood Heights Elem can be a recipient of the KidSafe program next school year.

Respectfully,

Donald Cottrell, Principal