

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
Elementary School Principals

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: February 22, 2013

SUBJECT: Florida Missing Children's Day Statewide Essay Contest Deadline - April 19, 2013

Contact Information:

Patricia Rutherford

(850) 410-8598

fmcd@fdle.state.fl.us

DPS: 2013-12

The Department of Education recognizes that schools impart valuable safety lessons to students every day. To reinforce the message of personal safety, the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse is sponsoring the 2013 Florida Missing Children's Day. This ceremony promotes awareness of missing children and recognizes citizens who work hard to bring children home safely. This year's ceremony will be held on Monday, September 9, 2013, at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee.

To create awareness among the children of Florida, an essay contest will be held in conjunction with Florida Missing Children's Day. We encourage all fifth-grade students to participate in this contest. Each school will be responsible for selecting one winner. The chosen essays will be submitted to the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse. One essay will be selected as the statewide winner. The statewide winner will read his or her essay during the Missing Children's Day ceremony in Tallahassee on September 9, 2013, and will receive a trophy, a \$100 cash award, and a Universal Studios Very Important Person package.

The 2013 essay contest theme is "This is how I stay safe all day" and should encourage students to research personal safety and think about what they can do to minimize risk in their daily lives.

PAM STEWART
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Please visit www.fmcd.org for essay contest entry forms and guidelines. Each school's winning essay must be submitted by April 19, 2013, to the following:

Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse
ATTN: Essay Contest Coordinator
Post Office Box 1489
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489

The essay entry may also be faxed to (850) 410-8744 or emailed to fmcd@fdle.state.fl.us. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Patricia Rutherford at (850) 410-8598.

We look forward to welcoming the statewide winner to Tallahassee.

PS:jc