Lecanto Middle School is in its first year of implementation of Positive Behavior Support. After the 3 day training last summer, we developed our school-wide expectations: Responsibility, On-task, Attitude, and Respect (ROAR). These four qualities fit in very nicely with our panther motto. The ROAR expectations are posted in the cafeteria, hallways, classrooms and media center. The expectations are tailored to each location with specific ways to demonstrate the four qualities.

Students who receive positive referrals during the week for exhibiting characteristics in conjunction with the school expectations have their names entered into a drawing for prizes. Some of the prizes include free dance tickets, admission to sporting events, or free ice cream. Students had such a positive response that the students themselves suggested positive referrals for staff as well. Some examples of “prizes” for staff are preferred parking or an administrator taking over a class period.

Positive Behavior Support has been very successful and data indicate that negative referrals have decreased by 14% compared to this same time last school year. USF has just nominated us for “MODEL SCHOOL” status. We are very pleased with our first year, and hope that other schools consider positive referrals and ROAR with us!

Criteria for becoming a PBS Model School in Florida include all of the following:
1) a high Benchmarks of Quality score indicating fidelity of SWPBS implementation,
2) outcome data (Mid-Year and End-of-the-Year Reports) indicating progress, and
3) a recommendation from a District Coordinator, PBS Coach, or PBS Project staff.
Social Security Benefits Counselor to Speak at March Meeting of FFRA

Are you the parent or guardian of a person with disabilities? If this is the case, then you will, most probably, have to navigate through the Social Security jungle. Does your child receive SSI (Supplemental Security Income,) SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance,) Medicaid or Medicare? How will his or her age affect payments? What happens when s(he) leaves school? Will things change when s(he) gets a job? The questions are endless, and sometimes a matter of life or death. Medicaid may be the only insurance your child receives and may be tied to other benefits. You want to be sure that the help and support your child needs to live as independently as possible will not be interrupted.

Fortunately, help is available. Emily Horton, a Benefits Specialist and Community Work Incentives Coordinator from Abilities of Florida, will be the guest speaker at the March meeting of FFRA (Families and Friends of Retarded Adults.) We will meet on Friday morning, March 9, 2007, at the Key Training Center in Lecanto. Meetings are held in the Chet Cole Life Enrichment Center, with social time and a business meeting at 9:00, followed by the speaker at 10:00 am.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meetings of FFRA. There is usually a speaker on topics of interest to the disabled community. For further information on this meeting or FFRA, in general, please call Ron Phillips – 382-7819, or Stephanie Hopper –344-0288.