

Youth workers and educators offered free magazine

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**By Andrew Bonar**

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UK Youth, the UK's leading national youth work charity, is offering all professionals in the youth sector a special FREE EDITION of their quarterly publication UK Youth.

"We are delighted to offer a free copy of UK Youth magazine to youth work professionals. We hope this will enable them to evaluate its relevance and value as a practical tool to assist them in their everyday work." said Carola Adams, Youth Work Resources and Information Manager at UK Youth.

The only regular national resource produced by youth groups for youth groups, UK Youth magazine provides 32-pages of the very best in cutting-edge youth work from around the UK, bringing stories and insight from the front line, from those actually involved in working face-to-face with our young people.

From pilot projects with young drivers or young mothers to practical tips and ideas on how to tackle issues around gender, sexuality, disability or race, UK Youth magazine reflects – and provides a unique voice for – over 6000 youth groups and workers nationwide.

Brimming with news, analysis, fresh ideas, topical features, live case studies and practical tips, UK Youth magazine delivers authoritative, relevant and innovative insight into the challenges faced by youth workers and young people in the UK today.

This high quality, full-colour publication has become essential reading for many in the UK's youth sector, keeping them up to speed with the latest trends, events and resources, as well as giving them a

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unique platform from which to air their thoughts, experiences and what they have learnt with colleagues throughout the UK.

UK Youth magazine is produced by UK Youth, the UK's leading national voluntary youth organisation, committed to enhancing the lives of young people through youth work and informal education. Featuring young people's viewpoints and experiences in participating in project work, UK Youth magazine is an essential resource for anyone wishing to learn from, or communicate with, the UK's youth sector.

To take advantage of this free offer, individuals simply have to register before 31 October 2004 at:

<http://www.ukyouth.org/subscriptions/>

### NOTES TO EDITORS:

· UK Youth: raises young people's expectations, realises their potential and recognises their achievements – through informal education. It supports high quality voluntary youth work and informal educational opportunities for young people, through a range of projects, accredited learning programmes, events and publications. It is the largest non-uniformed national voluntary youth organisation in the UK, working with 7000 youth groups, 40,000 youth workers and 750,000 young people. It operates across 41 local groups in England, with national members in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales . More details at [www.ukyouth.org](http://www.ukyouth.org)

For further media assistance, images of the publication, including the latest autumn issue, or a photograph of Carola Adams, please contact:

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Andrew Bonar works both on a professional and volunteer basis for a variety of clients helping them maximise the value of Media, Marketing and Communication with a special focus on doing it online.<http://www.bonar.co.uk>

## **Florida Schools Flying High On Last Year's Middle Schools Success**

**By Patricia Hawke**

The 2005–2006 school year was a tremendous success for the Florida schools, especially at the middle school level. The Florida schools' educators across the state worked hard to improve student academic achievement levels and were rewarded for their efforts. The state of Florida awarded grades

of A or B to 75 percent of its public schools. Not only did this show extraordinary progress for the Florida schools, but it also was a new record for the state.

The strongest gains were made in the middle schools. For example, Lake County has nine middle schools. Seven earned a grade of A last year, with the other two earning Bs. One of the B schools missed receiving an A by only one point. Osceola County has ten middle schools of which six earned an A, three earned a B, and one received a C grade.

Middle school is a crucial stage of academic achievement for students. It is the time when students transition from developing the basic skills learned in elementary school to learning how to put them into practice. Here, students begin to learn more in-depth content in order to develop the foundation that is needed in high school. Secondary education then builds on the foundation by digging deeper into the content and using it to help students develop their minds and become well-rounded adults.

If the middle Florida schools do their jobs right, as they did last year, then students will achieve a greater success in high school, be more likely to go on to college, and have a better chance to obtain and excel in a good career.

The major problems facing all middle Florida schools' educators are the hormonal changes that youth experience at this age and the intense peer pressure students must deal with on a daily basis. These challenges make it easy for middle school students to get off track.

Florida schools' educators are working hard to divert the students' attention away from these problems by getting them more focused on learning. Many Florida schools are looking at last year's strategies to review what worked and what did not. They plan to duplicate last year's success, with the hopes of doing even better this year.

Seminole County schools, for example, improved the reading scores of struggling students by incorporating two research-based programs into its reading curriculum. They encouraged their Florida schools to use small reading groups with frequent monitoring of progress and goal setting for each student. This year, they plan to use this successful technique with their math curriculum.

Another example is Volusia County schools. Last year, they mapped their curriculum to set specific goals for each grade level and then assessed student progress based on achieving the goals.

It is obvious that educators in the Florida schools are committed to building this year on the progress they made last year. As with public schools across the nation, there will be no shortage of challenges facing the Florida schools. Unlike many public schools across the nation, the Florida schools are making progress for the youth of their state.

Patricia Hawke is a staff writer for Schools K–12, providing free, in-depth reports on all U.S. public and

private K–12 schools. Patricia has a nose for research and writes stimulating news and views on school issues. For more information on Florida schools visit

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