

# Võnē Research Summer Newsletter

South Broward High School's Maritime Magnet program was selected to be a participant in the Vone Research summer BEACH program. BEACH stands for **B**uilding **E**nvironmental **A**wareness and **C**areer enhancement through **H**ands-on experiences. The Summer BEACH Program gave them volunteer opportunities to work with the marine community. Each day the students ventured out to our local coral reefs to study manatees, sea turtles and water quality in Port Everglades. Marine science college students accompanied the participants daily to mentor their scientific methods. The summer students also conducted Marine Fisheries research with John U. Lloyd Beach State Recreation Area. Fish studies were conducted daily. Together they worked with scientists to assess reef and game fish populations in our mangroves. Marine fisheries research is crucial to the fishing industry and impacts the economy of South Florida. Juvenile species such as red fish, snook, grouper and snapper were identified, measured and released unharmed. They also studied sea turtle nesting along the coast and will continue to collect data for science and the community. The students earned volunteer hours for service learning and their efforts were well appreciated.

## **Water testing on the New River:**

Students learned how to test different qualities such as salinity and how much oxygen is dissolved in the water. They also learned how to use high tech instruments like an YSI to measure water quality and a GPS. Each group traveled to a study site either Whiskey Creek in John U. Lloyd Beach State Recreation Area or in Markham Park.



## **Ethical Angling w/the I.G.F.A.**

The groups learned about knots, reels, hooks, bait, lures and what it means to be an ethical angler from staff at the IGFA. Once they were knowledgeable in the theory of fishing, they had the opportunity to practice from the Dania Beach Fishing Pier to try their hand at casting and catching some fish. All the groups were very successful at the task!!!



## **Water Safety Instruction:**

Students were able to develop water skills which will help them throughout the summer program and in other ecosystems in South Florida. They were able to learn to snorkeling and proper paddling techniques for kayaking.



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## **Marine Fisheries in Broward:**

Students learned the research skills needed to study local fisheries in Whiskey Creek in John U. Lloyd. They also used seine nets and dip nets to collect fish found in the creek to determine if this habitat is a nursery for local reef species. They have to work together as a team to pull the seine net along the bottom, close the net and bring it up to the shore.



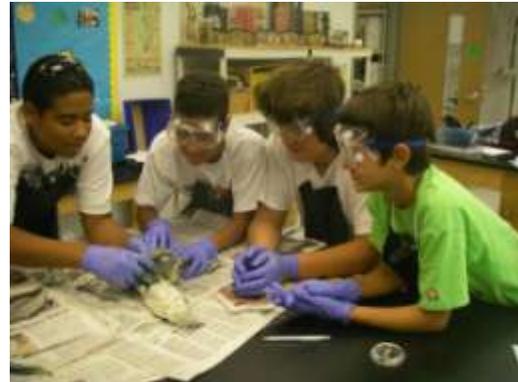
## **Kayaking in West Lake:**

Students were able to define a coast and identify the different mangrove trees by kayaking through the mangrove habitat at Anne Kolb Nature Center. They learned the importance of the mangroves to our local economy and environment. They were also able to identify local animal species found in the habitat while they were kayaking through the trails.



## **Shark Research with the University of Miami:**

Students worked together in a cooperative group to analyze and study the internal and external biology of a shark as well as understanding their functions and appreciating their adaptations to life.



They also watched the film, Sharkwater, which discussed these adaptations in depth and the issues which are pressing global shark populations, shark finning and the consequences it has on the world economy.

## **Blue Water Angling with Vone Research:**

Students venture out with Vone Research to try their hand at fishing in the Gulfstream on Vone's research vessel. It was a long day but each group was able to catch some BIG fish 😊!!



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## **Marine Debris with Vone Research:**

Students learned about pollution and how it becomes harmful to marine organisms. They went to John Lloyd to do a beach clean up. Once back in the classroom, students analyzed the characteristics of the debris and drew their interpretation on where it originates.



## **ROV research with Vone:**

Remotely Operated Vehicle is what ROV stands for. The students got a chance to learn about what they really are and how they work. The students actually got to fly an ROV made by students last year. In the pool they raced against time to see who could get the most rings in order to accumulate the most points.



## **Snorkeling in the Summer BEACH:**

Students went out on the boat to observe the local marine life. They had a great time but had to practice in the pool first.

## **Ocean Bowl:**

All groups participating in the Summer BEACH program had an Ocean Bowl Tournament on the last day.



Group one completing their Marine Conscientious person poster.



Group four practicing for the Ocean Bowl Tournament.



Group three review coastal habitats.



Group two reviews ROVs and GPS