



# What's New at Chi Chi's?

April 2021



Top Left: 5th graders Christian, Liam and Tresdon; Top Right: 5th grader Daisy; Middle: Academy Director Josh Meurer and the 5th grade class watering the flower bed; Bottom Left: 4th graders K'dyn and Alesa take a soil sample; Bottom Right: Teacher Lori Vanderklok and 4th graders working in their vegetable garden

## Academy student gardens are back in action!

After a year of no volunteers on campus and students shifting from online back to in class, our gardens are finally back as part of the curriculum. The students were beyond excited to start getting their hands dirty, even one of the 5th graders planned out a new layout, more on that below.

The 4th grade vegetable garden is home to green beans, cauliflower, tomatoes and even pineapples. About two months ago, the class took soil samples that were sent off to the University of Florida for some testing to make sure it was ready for planting. After the results and some added nutrients, the planting began. Just after one month, we are seeing huge growth in all of them, can't wait for the day we get to pick and try!

The 5th grade is designed as a pollinator garden and just needed some sprucing up after a year lacking attention. Tresdon, one of our students drew a new layout, moving some of the pots and bistro style tables, plus adding additional plants he researched. Did we mention, he did all of this on his own and presented it to his teachers? When we say our students love gardening, that is a huge understatement. The class spent time weeding and planting new pollinator focused flowers and herbs. Now they are working on upkeep with water and of course enjoying their bistro tables for quiet lunches and reading.

## Upcoming Events

Chi Chi Pro Am  
Wednesday, May 5th  
Tuesday, May 11th  
Virtual Program May 5th

Chi Chi Charity Classic  
Sunday & Monday  
November 14th & 15th

**Chi Chi  
Rodriguez**  
Youth Foundation

Mission: to educate students in a public-private partnership and improve their academic performance, self-esteem and character using the golf course as a living classroom.

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Top: CEO James Poulter, supporter Rob Larsen, Academy Executive Committee Member Scott Tobe, Academy Director Josh Meurer, Teaching Assistant Paige Arrigoni and Director of Golf Al Arrigoni at the Harbor Exchange Cornhole Tournament in March;  
 Bottom Left: Stephan Gonzalez, Becky Batten with Pinellas County Office of Technology and Innovation, Chief Development & Financial Officer Mallory Hubbard and James Poulter;  
 Bottom Right: James Poulter accepts a check from Dunedin Kiwanis Club's LaNita Duvall and Steve Bennett from their golf tournament on April 2nd

## Thank you for making our educational programs your beneficiary!

Our team is so grateful to those who organize events and choose our educational programs as their beneficiary! We absolutely love to promote, participate and volunteer within our community.

In March, Harbor Exchange hosted their annual Cornhole tournament in Safety Harbor. In early April, the Dunedin Kiwanis hosted their inaugural golf tournament at Chi Chi's Golf Club and the Pinellas County Office of Technology and Innovation put on their bi-annual tournament, an event we have been part of for 5 years! Thank you to all of these community groups for hosting such amazing events!

Know of someone who needs a beneficiary for an event? Contact Laura Tobe at [laura@chichi.org](mailto:laura@chichi.org) for more info.

## Thank you to the East Lake Sunrise Rotary Club!

In March, Rotary Club Members dropped off a beautiful reading bench complete with books for our students! Typically, their program is for elementary schools, but they added some fantastic books for our middle school students as well! You can find these benches at schools around the county, promoting literacy and providing students with "short reads" to entertain them in between school lessons or at lunch. The Miller Family Foundation make these benches possible and we are so grateful to be the recipient of one! As you can tell, the students were beyond excited!



Left: 4th graders Mia, Da'Shon, Yaretzi, Alesa, Harmanii, Preston, Jamie and K'dyn showing off the books that came with the Reading Bench;  
 Right: Diane and Robert Miller with Sharon Ozbun and Mallory Hubbard

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