



Local principal gives school a new vision

FLORIDA'S EDUCATION COMMISSIONER VISITS.

By Randy Grice

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Last week a local principal played the role of educator and physician when he delivered his initiative to have the students at his school receive eyeglasses free of charge. Fareed Khan, principal of Theodore R. and Thelma A. Gibson Charter School in Overtown helped his students this past spring break in getting a free health screening that included a vision screening.

"We had spring break camp and during that time I provided free health screening and vision screening," he said. "For a child to be literate, to make sure we take care of the whole child is very important. The students came tested for their eye sight and today

they are actually getting their free glasses through the University of Miami."

Khan said he is most proud of what he has done for his students because of the long lasting impact something as simple as glasses will have.

"Well as you know to be literate you have to be a great reader. You have to be good at math, good in technology, however data shows that if a child's vision is not correct 85 percent of what they are giving in the class will not be accurate," he said. "So, I think with my children the glasses will give them confidence especially with the children that I have because in a sense confidence is an issue."

Donald Pelix, a 11-year-old student that received glasses, said he believes he will perform better in his academics as a result of seeing better.

"It feels great to be getting my glasses today. I think that

the glasses will help me to do better in school now that I can see better," he said.

EDUCATION COMMISSIONER'S VISIT

Eric J. Smith, Florida education commissioner, was also in town to visit the the school. Smith visited a few other charter schools in Miami as well.

"I have been visiting some great schools in the Miami-Dade area and it has been a good visit," he said. "It is good to see all the hard work done by our educators."

Emmanuel Bell, a 12-year-old sixth grader at the school said he enjoyed reading to the commissioner during his visit.

"I had a lot of fun reading to him," he said.

Gibson Charter was the last stop on the commissioner's tour.