

**Photo-Op / PHOTO-OP**

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**Children's Mathematics Narrated Bus Tours of Historic Delray Beach  
Conducted by the Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History  
Students from Plumosa Elementary  
to take tour on Friday, November 9, 2007**

**Delray Beach, Florida** - - - On **Friday, November 9, 2007**, the Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History will conduct its Children's Mathematics Narrated Bus Tour of Historic Delray Beach for 1st graders from Plumosa Elementary of Delray Beach, Florida. Two tours will be conducted: **one group at 9:45am and another group at 11:15am**. Each tour is about one-hour in length. The tour will travel through historic **Frog Alley, Swinton Avenue, Downtown Delray Beach and will visit the 1926 Colony Hotel**. The boarding and parking location for the tours is at the new Downtown Delray Beach Library located at 100 W. Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach.

Mathematics teaching opportunities are represented in the architectural designs of various historic buildings and areas that are along the route of the Museum's hugely popular Narrated Bus Tours of Historic Delray Beach. As a part of its bus tours program, the Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History has created the Children's Mathematics Narrated Bus Tours of Historic Delray Beach that offer a very entertaining, yet educational and cultural experience in historic preservation, history and social studies which include creatively incorporated mathematical concepts such as symbols, shapes, angles, quantities and interrelationships of quantities. The Mathematics component of the tours was developed using guidelines of the **FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test)** with the goal of helping students improve their basic math comprehension and performance on the FCAT. These tours have been designed especially for grades Pre-K thru 6th grade. The tour's narrative and mathematics components are adjusted to the particular grade level of the students. These tours are offered and available year-round as a field trip program for school groups.

This innovative history bus tour program was introduced last year in September 2006 with a Workshop hosted by the Museum for Palm Beach County public elementary schools Math Coaches. A 2nd workshop for the Math coaches was hosted in September 2007 as a follow-up regarding the development of this program. The Math teachers provided invaluable feedback regarding the development of the Math curriculum component for the Museum's narrated bus tours. These workshops for the Math Coaches have been coordinated by Mrs. Joi Odom Grant who is the Administrator for the Mathematics Department of the School District of Palm Beach County.

Delray Beach licensed architect and urban planner Mrs. Thuy Shutt serves as volunteer consultant to the Museum for this program and has helped tremendously with identifying the geometric shapes and mathematical concepts that exist in the architectural designs of the historic buildings and historic sites along the bus tour route.

The Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History was recently awarded for the 2nd consecutive year \$1,000 from the **John W. Henry Foundation** specifically for this children's program. And, \$8,640 was granted for the Math program from the **State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs** which is sponsored in part by the Florida Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. These funds will help support the rental expense for the bus and also the development, design and printing of Math activity workbooks for the program. Other sponsors of the program, to date, include the **American Express Company** and **Office Depot** as the presenting sponsor of the children's math bus tour, **GL Homes, Nordstrom, Ola M. Vickers, Boris & Edith Rueger, Durante Realty, and Palm Beach County Commissioner Addie L. Greene and Commissioner Mary McCarty**. And, special thank you to the new Downtown Delray Beach Public Library for providing books and the facility for the bus tours.

Lori J. Durante, who is the Executive Director of the Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History, developed this Children's Mathematics Narrated Bus Tour of Historic Delray Beach program and serves as the tour guide. The children's mathematics activities were developed based on the Florida Department of Education Standards and guidelines of the FCAT.

In addition to local Delray Beach history, the history of the State of Florida & Palm Beach County are also included in the narration during the tour. Other historical facts that will be featured as a part of the tour are about the Japanese settlers who were recruited to Delray Beach in the early 1900s by Henry Flagler as a part of the agricultural promotion of Delray. Some of the Japanese who came to Delray Beach became pineapple farmers.

This Children's Mathematics Narrated History Tour is available to both public and private schools as a field trip program for Math discoveries for students in grades Pre-K thru 6th. The tour is available by advance reservations for any school time hours and is designed to be one-hour in length. Funding provided by the Museum's tour sponsors for this fiscal year has allowed a special discounted rate to be developed for these tours for school groups, thereby, making the fee very economical for teachers and students.

*The Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History's Narrated Bus Tours of Historic Delray Beach began in July 2004 and are still conducted for the general public and families on the 4th Saturday of each month, year-round at 11am and these Saturday tours board/pick-up are at new Downtown Delray Beach Library. Also, group tours arrangements are available for any day. The Museum's history tours have been designated Best Bets in Palm Beach County in the 2005-2006 & 2006-2007 issue of the Gold Coast Edition of Guest Informant Magazine, and in 2006, the Museum's Bus Tours of Historic Delray Beach were selected as Unique Travel Gem by AAA Travel Home & Away Magazine of Mid-America. In June 2006, the Museum's Narrated Bus Tours of Historic Delray Beach were selected as Best Tour of the Town by The Palm Beacher & Gold Coast Magazines.*

For more information, call the Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History at (561) 243-2662 or e-mail. [tour@DelrayBeachBusTours.org](mailto:tour@DelrayBeachBusTours.org) or visit the Museum's website at <http://www.delraybeachbustours.org/>.