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Roberto Clemente Elementary School in Paterson Puts Oral Health Education Initiative Grant in Motion with Second and Third Graders

Sunday, May 26, 2013 • 11:21pm

Roberto Clemente Elementary School Nurse Renata Haila teaches an oral health lesson to second and third graders as part of an Oral Health Education Initiative (OHEI) grant provided by the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation. The educational program enabled by this grant is designed to boost oral health skills of third grade students, underscoring the continued need for improved oral health in America's children, especially those in underserved areas. The students pictured here learned about proper dental care and what to expect as they begin losing baby teeth and growing permanent ones, then helped educate second graders through activities including a book reading about healthy foods, a song, and creating "lost tooth booklets."

Roberto Clemente Elementary School was one of four OHEI grant recipients for the 2012-2013 school year.

About OHEI: The Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation is accepting grant applications for its annual Oral Health Education Initiative (OHEI), a program to combat poor oral hygiene in underserved areas, where it can be a hidden barrier to learning. Grants are available to elementary and charter schools with third graders (located in districts formerly designated Abbott) throughout New Jersey.

The OHEI grant program is designed to encourage teachers, curriculum coordinators, school nurses, or anyone else in the school district to create a new or expanded 2013-2014 oral health education program for third-grade classes. The purpose of the grant is to underscore that good oral health leads to good overall health, and that the continued need for improved oral health in America's children, especially those in underserved areas, must be addressed at all levels, including at home and in the classroom.

Applicant schools are asked to develop 10 monthly activities, one for each month of the school year, that help children understand why it is important to maintain proper daily oral hygiene, how to properly brush and floss, the roles dentists and hygienists play in overall health maintenance and disease prevention, and the relationship between good food choices and oral health.

2013-2014 OHEI grant applications will be accepted through June 17th. Schools can download the application on www.deltadentalnj.com. In addition, applications were mailed to superintendents and principals of schools in formerly designated Abbott Districts in April. Completed applications may be mailed to Kimberly Elmore, Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation, 1639 Route 10, Parsippany, N.J. 07054 or emailed to kelmores@deltadentalnj.com.

About Delta Dental

Delta Dental of New Jersey Inc. is New Jersey's leading dental benefits company, providing or administering coverage to more than 1.5 million people through contracts with employers in New Jersey and Connecticut. In Connecticut, Delta Dental Insurance Company writes dental coverage on an insured basis and Delta Dental of New Jersey administers self-funded dental benefit programs. The Delta Dental system offers seamless dental benefits administration for employer groups throughout the country and has the largest network of dentists in the nation. For more information, visit www.deltadentalnj.com.

About the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation

Delta Dental established the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation in 1986. Its mission includes promoting and assisting educational projects devoted to the enhancement of dental health, providing research programs designed to increase public awareness of the general benefits of good health, and improving dental health through the science of dentistry. Each year, the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation provides financial support to various organizations throughout the state.

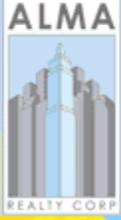


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