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September 30, 2009

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SCREENING SMILES

The Martin County Health Department adds dental checks to list of school screenings

Knowing that good *oral health* is important to good *overall health*, the Martin County Health Department has added dental screenings to the list of services provided to Martin County Public School students. Students currently receive screenings for vision, height and weight.

Working in conjunction with the Health Department's School Health Division, staff from the dental program will be in schools from now until November checking on the oral health students.

The dental screens are non-invasive, involving a quick scan of the student's teeth and mouth and are generally performed in a few minutes.

"This is a proactive approach to dental care," said Dr. Inge Ford, Director of the Martin County Health Department's dental program, "We hope that by doing these screenings we'll help prevent some oral health problems for these children down the road."

This year the program will reach first and third graders in six elementary schools (Palm City, Hobe Sound, JD Parker, Pinewood, Felix A. Williams and Citrus Grove) and 1st grade students from Bessey Creek Elementary.

All students taking part in the screen will receive a form notifying parents as to whether additional follow-up is needed for their children.

The Health Department hopes to provide between 800 and 1,000 school dental screens before the program ends in November.

"The Martin County Health Department is celebrating 60 years of service to the community"

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