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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MAST in the News**

The **MAST Academy Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America** (FBLA) has launched its annual "Operation New Smile" toy drive. Now in its second year, the FBLA project collects toys to send to children in Mexico suffering from birth defects. The toys go home with the children after they undergo surgery for such problems as cleft palate and cleft lip. This MAST effort is organized by MAST student **Olivia Mennis**. Members of FBLA have traveled to Mexico to assist with toy distribution.

MAST Academy's Student Services Department hosted a Safe Schools conference on Wednesday, January 26, 2005. Community presenters **Marilyn Volker, Lauri Kassewitz, Lisette Beraja, Roy Jonas, Joseph Zolobczuk**, and others spoke on such topics as anti-discrimination, teens and divorce, healthy bodies, and ethics. The conference coordinator was **Ana Maria Posse**, the school's Guidance Chair.

Head Custodian **Kenneth McDonald** has been named a *Miami-Dade County Public Schools District Finalist* in the *AFSCME Employee of the Year* competition.

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