



Katie Riemenschneider
Assistant Principal, Tice Elementary

I am the Assistant Principal at Tice elementary School in Ft. Myers and want to thank the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society and the entire Refuge team for making the Wildlife on Wheels mobile classroom possible. We were proud and excited to be the first school the WoW came to visit and until it came, I wasn’t sure what to expect . . . it is amazing!

Our Tice students are over the moon! They have never experienced anything like this before. We are a high-poverty Title 1 school with an approximately 97% Hispanic student population. The children are SO excited. It shows in their faces, the questions they are asking, and the overall joy in learning about their required school topics in such a unique and special way.

The “Ding” Darling team clearly worked hard at designing the WoW and writing the curriculum to help our teachers follow the required Florida standards. This is integral in helping the students succeed and teaching these standards in different ways, particularly in an experiential manner like the WoW. The teachers value and appreciate that “Ding” Darling listened to our teachers and designed the WoW to help us do our jobs even better at teaching to the Florida standards.

Having grown up on Sanibel, with a family which has lived on the island for nearly 50 years, I have seen many organizations do wonderful work in conservation outreach. **But the WoW takes the prize!** The kind of outreach and education the WoW will accomplish in reaching the students in these the hard-to-reach communities and schools will inspire them to be want to learn more, study hard, and be our next conservation stewards!

The WoW will be here all week, and I can attest to the outstanding education team you have in place. I want to also commend your two bilingual interns, which is such a big step in the right direction!

I hope the donors who made the WoW possible are proud of their investment, and on behalf of myself and the entire Tice Elementary team, THANK YOU for making the WoW a reality. We look forward to many more visits of the WoW to our school and community.

Sincerely,

Katie Riemenschneider