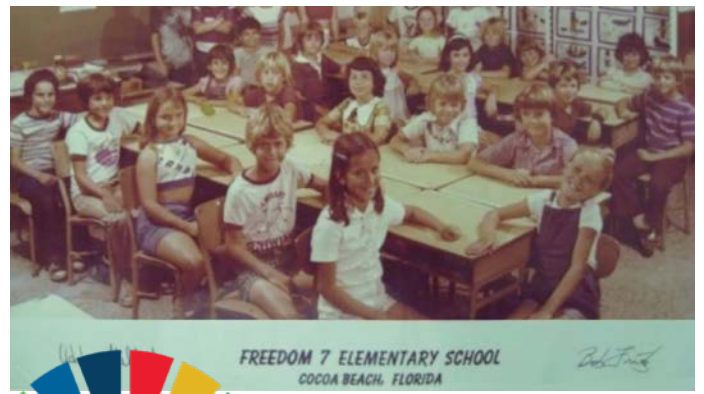


# SIXTH GRADERS AT FREEDOM 7 ELEMENTARY LEARN ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG'S) WITH COCOA BEACH NATIVE

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PHOTOS: Provided by Jenny Noe



As established by the United Nations (UN), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The goals address the global challenges we face including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace, and justice. Sixth-grade classes were privileged to have a guest speaker, Charlotte Masiello-Riome, who happens to be a Cocoa Beach native, come to Freedom 7 to speak. She has spent most of her career working both inside and alongside the UN in an effort to make these goals, set for attainment by 2030, a reality. Charlotte grew up in Cocoa Beach and attended Freedom 7 Elementary, starting in kindergarten. She continued on to Roosevelt Middle School and graduated from Cocoa Beach Junior Senior High School in 1987. She

completed her study at American University in Washington, D.C. She was appointed to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in 2001, and she served as lead focal point for global task groups as well as other UN-led initiatives.

Today, Charlotte leads Advocacy and Policy for the SDG 2 Advocacy Hub which brings together non-governmental organizations, agricultural networks, nutritionists, campaigners, civil society, the private sector and UN agencies to coordinate efforts toward achievement of SDG 2 (Ending Hunger) by 2030. Charlotte still calls Cocoa Beach home, and she returns annually with her family to catch up with friends and relatives while doing beach clean-up volunteering and reconnecting with city activities.



It was a pleasure having Charlotte come to Freedom 7 to speak with our sixth-grade students and teachers who are diving into the SDG's as they start their journey toward their final sixth-grade Exhibition project and showcase.

Charlotte says, "I was impressed with the maturity of knowledge and questions by the classes. I learned so much from them, as they did from me, on their ideas to reach the SDGs. I am excited by their

passion and keen understanding of how their positive actions impact the world. It has been a real pleasure and makes me even more proud to be from this great city."

Students presented various actions they could take in their own communities to help achieve the SDG's. These included focusing on reducing food waste, beach clean-ups, reducing plastic use, paying attention to healthy diet and eating more sustainably, focus on recycling in their homes and communities, volunteering and supporting shelters, and even fundraisers where money is needed to improve the lives of others.

Having this opportunity to connect with someone who is so intertwined in making the SDGs a reality through her work has helped crystallize knowledge within our future leaders.