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**NEWS RELEASE – “SEA GATE ELEMENTARY TEACHER RECOGNIZED BY GOVERNOR”**

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Governor Charlie Crist recently recognized winners of the Hispanic Heritage Month Excellence in Education Award and student essay contest. Congratulations are in order for Sea Gate Elementary School teacher Maria Cabrera, one of only three Hispanic educators in the state of Florida to be honored with the Excellence in Education Award. Ms. Cabrera was presented with the award during a reception at the Governor’s mansion. She will also receive a check in the amount of \$1,500. “It gives me the greatest honor to be recognized with such a distinguished award, representing all Hispanic elementary teachers in the state of Florida,” said Cabrera.

The Excellence in Education Award is given to educators for their contributions to education in Florida. Ms. Cabrera has over 26 years of teaching experience in New Jersey, Dade County, and now Collier County.

To learn more, please contact Sea Gate Elementary School at 377-8300.