



Coastline *Newsletter*

FDLRS/East
Spring 2013
volume XXX II #4

25th ANNUAL VSA FLORIDA – BREVARD FESTIVAL

VSA Florida - Brevard celebrated its 25th annual festival, “Fantastically Fabulous Florida,” on March 6, 7, and 8, 2013! Here’s a trip down memory lane. Twenty-four years ago, on April 18, 1989, the First Annual *Very Special Arts Festival* was started as a one-day event at the Melbourne Auditorium. FDLRS/East, the Exceptional Student Education Department in Brevard Public Schools, and a handful of volunteers organized the event for 400 students.

To accommodate the growing number of participants, the festival was held at two locations in 1992: F. Burton Smith Park in Cocoa and Wickham Park in Melbourne. From 1993 to 2003 it was held at F. Burton Smith Park and in 1995 grew into a three-day festival. In 1999, firefighters occupied F. Burton Smith Park as a command center due to wildfires, so that festival had to be moved to Kiwanis Island Park in Merritt Island.



Wall of artwork

Before the 2013 festival, Ed Eliason, visiting artist, went to each classroom and “drummed” with the children. Twenty-four pieces of their beautiful artwork were chosen to be a part of the traveling art exhibit that will be on display for the next year at the Brevard County Health Departments in Viera and in Titusville. To those of you who have participated in any (or all) of our past 25 festivals, thank you for your continued support of Very Special Arts!



One of the many art stops

In 2004, the festival moved to the Brevard Zoo. In twenty-five years VSA Florida – Brevard has grown to a wonderful three-day event with over 400 volunteers working to ensure the 1,180 children from 126 classrooms at 50 schools enjoyed their day with us!



Art of Sand Wild Florida

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Welcome to FDLRS, Lauren!

FDLRS welcomes Lauren Laggner as our newest Child Find Specialist. A native Floridian, Lauren grew up in Volusia County. She received her bachelor’s degree from Florida State University in 2003 and her Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Central Florida in 2005. She began her teaching career at Sweetwater Elementary in Port Orange, where she taught Kindergarten. Most recently she taught a blended Pre-K class and Kindergarten at Forest Lake Elementary in Deltona. She loves watching the incredible growth that occurs during those early years. Lauren lives in Port Orange with her husband Brooke, 4 month old baby Hannah, and their dog Bella. Lauren loves working with young children and is excited to start her new job with Child Find and be joining the FDLRS team.



We appreciate you reading the *Coastline* newsletter. Please click on this link to complete a [quick](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MNSBPT5) satisfaction survey.



Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) - FREE Online Courses

PDA online modules provide comprehensive, high quality and accessible professional development for Florida educators wanting to improve their skills in responding to the needs of all students. Coordinated through the FDLRS Network since 2003, the PDA program currently has fourteen modules available statewide. The modules, funded by the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, are **free of charge** to Florida educators. Here are the courses being offered by FDLRS/East during the 2013-14 first semester:

60 Point Modules

*Differentiating Reading Instruction:
Making It Explicit*
(Sept. 3-Dec. 10 Brevard)
(Sept. 10-Dec. 13 Volusia)
(Also satisfies Competency 4
of the FL Reading Endorsement)

Instructional Practices
(Sept. 4-Nov. 22 Brevard)
(Sept. 12-Dec. 4 Volusia)

30 Point Modules

Differentiating Science Instruction
(Sept. 10-Nov. 18 Brevard)
(Oct. 1-Dec. 8 Volusia)

Differentiating Math Instruction
(Oct. 1-Dec. 8 Volusia)

15 Point Modules

*Formative Assessment Process
for Differentiating Instruction*
(Aug. 27-Oct. 8 Brevard)

Technology for Student Success: An Introduction
(Sept. 24-Nov. 10 Brevard & Volusia)

*Technology for Student Success:
Assistive Technology*
(Sept. 25-Nov. 24 Brevard & Volusia)

*Intro to Differentiating Instruction:
Responding to All Learners*
(Oct. 1-Nov. 22 Brevard)

For more information

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MAY is Better Hearing and Speech Month

This annual event provides opportunities to raise awareness about communication disorders and to provide treatment that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding, or hearing.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has many resources to help you celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month every day.

Visit the ASHA website: <http://www.asha.org>



**ARTIST RESIDENCIES
VSA Florida – Brevard**

Two Brevard classrooms are receiving eight one-hour training sessions with performing artists, thanks to VSA Florida. Students in Leah Kelley’s class, at Southwest Middle School, are learning about **songwriting from artist Chris Kahl**. The students have been writing their own songs and music with his help. At Viera High School, Santana Hummel’s students are learning the art of dance from **dancer Catherine Alexander**. Both classrooms will be performing for parents when the residencies are finished. These artists are part of VSA Florida’s *Artist in Residence* program. In the fall of 2013, VSA Brevard, with the help of VSA Florida, will offer six of these performing arts residencies to upper elementary, middle and high school classrooms. As a culminating event, these students will perform one evening at a local theater. *If you are interested in participating in the Artist in Residence program next fall, please contact Lori Emly at lemly@bacbrevard.org for additional information.*



A amazing & **A**ffordable **A**pps

“**Catch Notes**” Portable Note-taking App
Free and available for iPhone, iPad and Android. With this program you will “never miss an idea.” It allows you to “tap the capture wheel to gather ideas and inspirations with text, photos, checklists and voice memos.” Not only can you collect these inspirations, but you can organize, share, collaborate, back-up and save from all your devices. You can even set up reminders!



Reminder

All loan library materials are due back to FDLRS by May 14, 2013.

COLLABORATIVE BOOK PROJECT



Candi Matos, an ESE Supported Level teacher at Heritage High in Brevard, attended a *Writing Across the Content Area* inservice that focused on moving students purposely through increasingly complex text.

After this inservice, Hannah Markwardt, an American History teacher at Heritage High, and Candi found similar thematic content areas in their curriculum. In a collaborative effort, Ms. Markwardt’s students created twenty-page books to be used by the ESE supportive level class that include: One large picture per page; picture symbols paired with words that illustrate most of the words within the sentence; definitions of three to five words; one date, timetable, graph, or map; and an accurate summary of events.

Afterwards, two more Heritage High teachers joined this collaborative book project. Coach Jennie Tagg and the Specific Sports Training Athletic Research (STAR) program created individual exercise books for the ESE supportive level class illustrating exercises and the targeted body parts they could strengthen. Also, Christina Spychalsky’s AICE English Language class wrote adaptations on famous novels for Candi’s class. This activity was a great success for all of the participating classes!



Autism Awareness at Discovery Elementary

Did you know the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders is 1:88? According to the Center for Disease Control this is an increase from 1:150 in 2000. So... the question is "When will I have a student with autism?" There are also some other frequently asked questions like, "What is autism?" and "Are there special strategies I should use with this student?"



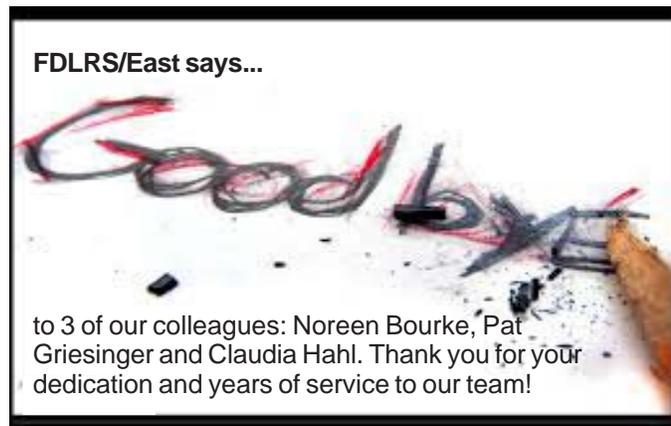
Grace Thompson, Gina Flanagan, Franci Duffer, Barbara Bailes, Karen Plummer, Suzann Kenis

Recently, I had the opportunity to share information with the teachers of Discovery Elementary. During their planning period, they had the opportunity to participate in an Autism Awareness Presentation. They learned about the core deficit areas and strategies that can be implemented to facilitate learning and active engagement. It was an awesome day! To my surprise, many of the teachers were wearing autism awareness t-shirts. This was the icing on the cake!



Karen Plummer, Theresa Gray, Sarah Duffer, Franci Duffer, Samantha Hulsman, Grace Thompson, Barbara Bailes, Melina Jones, Gina Flanagan, Nadine Yowell, Jamie Graveling

Written by: Carolyn Smith, Program Specialist for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Volusia County Schools



Classroom Sound-Field Amplification System

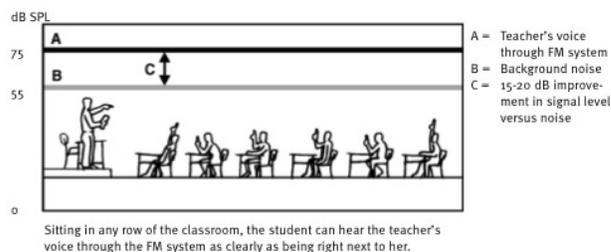
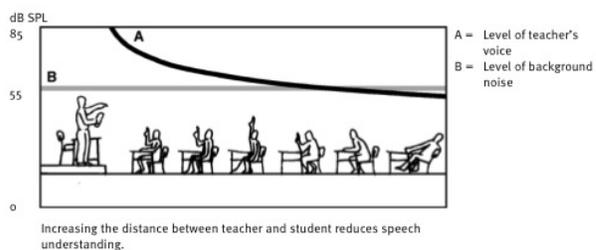
Brevard and Volusia Public Schools are fortunate to have sound-field amplification systems installed in almost all of their classrooms. Use of a classroom sound-field amplification system provides teachers with a unique opportunity to maximize listening and learning opportunities for all of their students. Sound-field amplification research supports benefits for both students and teachers.

For students, improvements were seen in: Ability to stay on-task, decreased number of requests for repetition and language growth. For teachers, benefits include: Reduced vocal strain and fatigue, ability to move around more freely and reduction in special education referrals.

The sound-field amplification system provides the above benefits by overcoming two major obstacles to speech understanding in a classroom: noise and distance between the student and the teacher.

Noise: The comparison of speech and noise levels is referred to as signal-to-noise (SNR). The interference of background noise is most significant for students with learning disabilities, those in the early language acquisition process and students with hearing loss. However, the benefits/improvements associated with improved signal-to-noise ratios have been demonstrated on all children.

Distance: The further the student is sitting from the teacher, the less the student will hear. The sound-field system allows all students, regardless of seat location and the direction the teacher is facing, to hear the teacher as though the teacher is standing right in front of the student all the time.



We want to give our students every advantage we can and provide them all with the tools they need to be successful. Use of the classroom sound-field amplification systems will greatly benefit all students and teachers.

Gold Medal Winners

Dr. Terri Boyle, a teacher at Sabal Elementary in Brevard County, recently completed an online book study hosted by FDLRS/East. Throughout the book study, entitled The Art and Science of Teaching by Robert Marzano, the recipients posted their weekly reflections on a Wiki.



Collins

One of the strategies Dr. Boyle chose to implement was *rewarding students for their work*. At first it was a struggle determining how to implement this into her inclusion classroom, but then she began to celebrate ALL student successes by distributing paper medals to students who made a particular grade on a test. For each A+ they received a gold medal, for each A they earned a silver medal and for each B they received a bronze medal.



Grace

The first week she started using this system, all of her students became excited and treated them as if they were made of real medal! They proudly wore them around school. They asked if the principal could come to one of their award ceremonies. The recipients were few at first, but now she is presenting five times more each week. The students are proud of themselves, particularly on the week every student earned a medal. As a class, they made modifications and now only give gold and silver medals. The students agree that they need to strive for excellence. Dr. Boyle's Brainiacs have decided they are all capable of becoming *Gold Medal Winners!*

The Magnificent Multi Museum of New Smyrna Beach Middle School

Ms. Bennett's class of New Smyrna Beach Middle School has designed their own mini museum! Students with significant cognitive disabilities have been setting up their own mini museum with assistance from staff and Peer Buddies. Make no mistake; this is their museum and work of art! They are challenged to present educational activities to general education students. The museum idea was created to provide an educational experience for students with disabilities while giving them a sense of pride and accomplishment. In addition, general education students gain an understanding of the abilities these unique students have while enhancing their knowledge in the curricular areas of science and history.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities are being challenged like never before in science and history. This museum gives them hands on activities, time for practice and opportunities to participate in conversations with peers centering on higher level topics. This amazing project gives students with and without disabilities a time to learn and discover science and history together.

This year Ms. Bennett's Multi-VE class was awarded a Futures grant and certificate of creativity. The students have also raised additional funds selling snacks to make this unique museum possible. In addition,

general education students have donated art and science projects to include in the museum! The donation of projects from the general education students has been a wonderful surprise. General education teachers (Science, History and Art) have been very supportive of the project, donating items as well! This educational project brought so many areas of our school together that previously had such little interaction. It has been an incredible experience for all involved!



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The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Division of Public Schools and Community Education, Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, IDEA Part B, Preschool, and State General Revenue Funds.

This publication can be made available to persons with disabilities in a variety of formats, including large print, cassette tape, and braille. Telephone or written requests should be made at least two weeks prior to the time you need the material and should include your name, address and phone number. In **Brevard County** requests should be made to Kim Riddle, ESE Lead Teacher, 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940, (321) 633-1000, ext. 535 and in **Volusia County** to FDLRS, Hurst Support Center, 1340 Wright Street, Holly Hill, FL 32117, (386) 258-4684. You can access the *Coastline* newsletter by visiting the FDLRS/East website at <http://fdlrs.brevardschools.org/east/> OR <http://myvolusiaschools.org> (click on "departments" "fdlrs")