



FDLRS/East
winter 2012
volume XXX I #3

Coastline Newsletter

UDL: Universal Design for Learning – What’s in OUR Toolbox?

The challenge of reading traditional textbooks for struggling readers is common in many classrooms. E-text readers such as *Premier Literacy Suite*, used in Brevard Public Schools, and *Read:Outloud 6* used in Volusia County Schools, can provide access to instructional materials for ALL students and are a crucial part of our toolbox as we move towards UDL (Universal Design for Learning) in our classrooms.

UDL is a framework for curriculum development with three main guidelines: **Multiple Means of Representation** or presenting content to give learners various ways of acquiring information and knowledge; **Multiple Means of Action/Expression** to provide learners alternatives for demonstrating what they know; and **Multiple Means of Engagement** to tap into learners’ interests, challenge them appropriately, and motivate them to learn. For more information about UDL visit the CAST website (<http://www.cast.org>) or better yet, consider taking their [online modules](#).

In an effort to meet the needs of diverse learners, and not assume that “one size fits all,” the ESE department of Volusia County recently purchased *Read:Outloud 6* software for 22 middle and high schools. The software license provides unlimited school access and “Take Home” rights for all students. The ESE department of Brevard Public Schools has purchased a license to install *Premier Literacy Suite* on all BPS-owned computers.

These software tools are great resources to use and integrate into your curriculum because, *they are* not just etext readers. Both *Read:Outloud 6* and the *Premier Literacy Suite* provide valuable study tools for increased comprehension of content. Some of the features of both programs include independent control of which text is read outloud, etext highlighting of main ideas/ important details, outline templates from research based learning strategies, notetaking, dictionary for vocabulary support and a bibliographer to properly cite research. Both programs have the ability to read websites, pdf documents and other common file formats. To meet the diverse needs of individuals, many visual aspects of the programs can be adjusted such as font/page size, background and text color. Of course an important benefit of using *Read:Outloud 6* and the *Premier Literacy Suite* is the self-confidence struggling readers gain as they are able to complete assignments and improve their academic performance. *Look for it at Your School!*

For more information:

In **Volusia**, contact Shari Hill (swhill@volusia.k12.fl.us), FDLRS/East 258-4684

In **Brevard**, contact Becky Atwood (atwood.becky@brevardschools.org), FDLRS/East 633-1000 ext.548

Coastline
East
Schools
System
page 2: Welcome to *FDLRS!* Heather Theobald
HS/High Tech at Bayside HS
page 3: Holiday Card Contest Winners, Brevard
page 4-5: ASAP Science Training, Volusia
page 6: Conversational Skills for ASDs
page 7: VSA - Showcase Your Creativity!
page 8: Thinking Maps, Brevard & Volusia

We appreciate you reading the *Coastline* newsletter. Please click on this link to complete a quick satisfaction survey. Thanks!
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MN5BPT5>

**WELCOME...HEATHER THEOBALD
to FDLRS/East**

Heather Theobald is thrilled to be serving you as the new Resource Teacher for FDLRS/East in Brevard!

As an educator, she is no stranger to Brevard Public Schools. Her first years included teaching at MILA Elementary. As she continued her education and received her Master's in Instructional Technology/Educational Media, she had the pleasure to work at several elementary and one secondary school, Merritt Island High. She then took a leave to work at Florida Virtual School and completed her Educational Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Heather is excited to incorporate her varied educational background with the multitude of FDLRS resources to help continue to support teachers, parents and enrich the lives of our students with disabilities. We're so happy to have you join us Heather!



Thinking about ways to motivate literacy at your school?

[Read a Recipe for Literacy](#)

Check out this website!

HIGH SCHOOL/HIGH TECH

Bayside High School

by Christine Barbuto and Aaron Mitchell

Co-Sponsors

The ABLE Trust and FFAST recently sponsored an essay contest for students in High School/High Tech clubs from around the state of Florida. The prize was a laptop computer and six months of internet service! Out of all the applicants in the state, there were 20 winners – and out of the 20 state winners, we were humbled to learn that five of our High School/High Tech students were selected as winners! With great excitement, we worked with Dr. Homant of The Able Trust and Allison Chase of High School/High Tech (Tallahassee headquarters) to arrange a surprise presentation that occurred on Thursday, December 15th. Each parent, foster parent, and even a foster care case worker were able to attend and be in the room with several Bayside High staff and our principal, Mr. Robin Novelli, when the students were led into the conference room for this wonderful surprise! It was exciting to celebrate the goals of our students and to be supported with so much warmth and love from their support networks. We were also honored to have Dr. Homant here!

Left to right: Aaron Mitchell (Co-Sponsor), one winner, Christine Barbuto (Co-Sponsor), and Dr. Homant (The ABLE Trust)

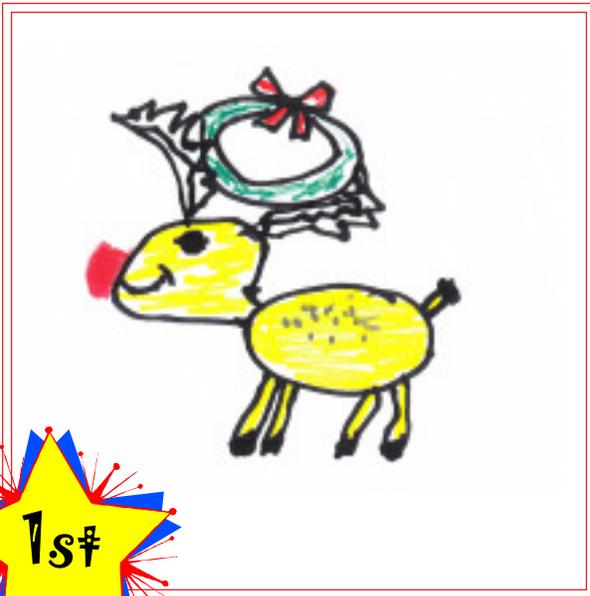


HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST
VSA arts Florida - Brevard

VSA Florida-Brevard, in partnership with the law firm of Moletteire & Torpy, announced the winner of their *Holiday Card Contest*. Hailey, a first grader at Ocean Breeze Elementary School won first place in the contest. She is a student in Peggy McGuire's class. Hailey's drawing was featured on the law firm's holiday card that was sent out to their many clients. VSA Brevard would like to thank the law firm for their continued support of VSA and the ESE students of Brevard County.

The other winners were: **Second place** - Jasmine of Gardendale Elementary, **third place** - Seth of Audubon Elementary, and **honorable mention** - Jayshawn, Derrick, and Kayla.

Congratulations to ALL of the participants of this years contest!



ASAP: “Access Science thru the Access Points”

January 19th was a great day of science experiences for 18 of Volusia County’s secondary teachers of students in the modified curriculum. **ASAP Science** is aligned with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Access Points. It has been designed to encompass all four areas of science study...*The Nature of Science, Life Science, Physical Science* and *Earth/Space Science*. Trainers Shari Hill and Linda Davidson, FDLRS resource teachers, immersed the participants in a full day of exploring the scientific method, participating in hands-on science experiments and sharing ideas with each other. Other components of ASAP training included: the use of *Safari Montage* videos, visual supports, communication boards, links to literature, computer supported reading & writing activities, and links to math. Attendance at the May 17th *ASAP Science Expo*, to be held at the **Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences**, will wrap up this exciting year long project! At the event, class science projects assembled by participating schools will be on display.



The Teachers of ASAP Science!





Using the senses as an investigative tool



Pantyhose digestion

The spider and the fly... demonstrating how the fly knows when prey has landed on its web.



Applying prediction skills...Which food will the ants choose?



Creating a mobile from recycled materials



Building a volcano...

Using everyday jello to simulate the structure of the cell!



then creating an eruption!



Conversational Skills for Children With ASDs

Source: *The ASHA Leader*, December 20, 2011

Making light conversation can be hard for children and adults with **autism spectrum disorders (ASDs)**, which only adds to their difficulty connecting with others. One program that's designed to equip them with basic conversational tools is the Radford University Autism Center, which offers intensive group and individual treatment and a family-centered summer camp.

At an ASHA convention educational session, center director Diane Millar and student Emily Gorla shared the core skills they teach to children, adolescents, and adults with high-functioning ASDs.

"If you work with these high-functioning children you know that they do very well with adults one-on-one, but not so well with peers." Millar said. "Here, we're getting children to work on these skills during regular play and social interaction in a naturalistic environment."

Program participants are coached on talking with each other, adults, and – perhaps most importantly – neurotypical peers, Millar said. Center staff members teach children ages 18 months to 16 years to:

- **Express what they want**, instead of yelling and screaming about what they don't want.
- **Take turns speaking** during a conversation.
- **Offer compliments** to other children, such as, "Nice job hula-hooping. You're really good at that."
- **Understand sarcasm and nonliteral meanings** by breaking down utterances and interpreting non-verbal cues.
- **Reformulate harsh (uncool) statements to friendly (cool) statements** using more pleasant prosody, word choices, and facial expressions
- **Join in conversations** by waiting for a pause, establishing eye contact, and providing a related comment or question.
- **Leave a conversation** by waiting, making eye contact, and saying, "OK. I better get going." This last one is often hardest for children, said Millar. "We find that they get stuck in a conversation and can't get out."

With adolescents and adults, the center uses role-playing, self-monitoring of conversational performance via videotaping, and "incidental teaching," which involves drawing participants out on areas of interest. Specific conversational skills targeted during recreational activities, mealtimes and other everyday activities include:

- **Making small talk** using five steps: greeting people, striking up conversation, sharing information, wrapping up, and saying farewell.
- **Taking turns focusing on a partner's interests** and learning to ask related questions or add information without derailing the topic.
- **Interpreting sarcasm and nonverbal behaviors** by reading others' facial expressions and body postures.
- **Using appropriate nonverbal behaviors** that don't make one appear awkward, unapproachable, or uptight. One participant, for example, learned to relax his body in class instead of gripping tables and chair legs.
- **Employing a relaxed eye gaze** that shifts easily from speaker to speaker.
- **Smiling** – even a half a smile helps a person look more approachable.



Thanks again to *The ASHA Leader*, December 2011 issue, for this article.

VSA Florida: *All Kids Can Create!*

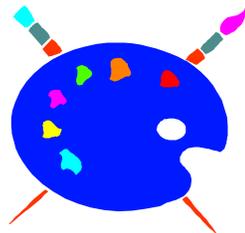
VSA Florida is inviting everyone to participate in a fantastic *Call for Art* opportunity for students of all abilities. Very Special Arts and CVS Caremark invite teachers to submit student artwork showcasing their creativity! The theme... “**What Inspires Me**”

Children are inspired by many things, from the people they meet, to the sounds they hear, to the sights they see. These moments of inspiration can motivate us to help others, improve ourselves, and dream about the future. This year’s call for art, which launched on the birthday of the inspiring civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., invites students to reflect on what inspires them and *share those inspirations through art!*



Student artwork will be featured in an online gallery and considered for display in a national exhibition. The inclusive exhibition will be on view at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library in Washington, D.C. in August 2012, and feature two pieces of artwork from every state and the District of Columbia. A selection of young artists will be invited to a reception in Washington, D.C.

Who can submit? Children, ages 5-15, living within the United States (all 50 states & District of Columbia).



Calling All Art Teachers!

You could receive \$1,500 for your classroom! By submitting your students’ artwork to *All Kids Can CREATE*, you are eligible to receive \$1,500 for use in your classroom. Up to four teachers will receive \$1,500 each, based on the number of submissions from your class or school, the number of submissions from students with disabilities, and your answers to two short questions. For more information, go to www.artsonia.com/allkidscancreate.

CVS Caremark *All Kids Can*, a program of the CVS Caremark Charitable Trust and CVS Caremark, is committed to support children with disabilities. The goals of *All Kids Can* are to support children with disabilities by raising awareness in schools and in local communities about the importance of inclusion, creating greater opportunities for physical activity and play, and providing access to medical rehabilitation. CVS Caremark and its more than 200,000 employees plan to help children with disabilities learn, play, and succeed through partnerships with leading local and national nonprofit organizations such as VSA and many others across the country.

For more information about CVS Caremark: www.cvscaremarkallkidscan.com

Thinking Maps Update

Thinking Maps are tools that can be used across settings, across teachers, and across content areas that can help students generalize what they learn from one setting to the next. They are useful tools for teachers, but more importantly they become tools for students – students who often otherwise have difficulty approaching learning situations strategically.

Let's look at what's happening in the FDLRS/East service area with **Thinking Maps!**

Brevard Reports: Sharon Tolson, Director, FDLRS/East - Since our last report in 2010, we have seen schools incorporating Thinking Maps in their School Improvement Plans and individual teachers are using them in various ways in their professional growth plans. One of our trainers is working with a school site and another has had 2 sessions with the Alternative Certification Teachers. I have been training teachers at Central Junior High in an evening series. At Cambridge Elementary they reviewed their data and saw that reading comprehension was a significant problem so they are having a professional study each month using the ideas from their original Thinking Maps training as well as using the information in the new book Comprehension Strategies for Constructing Meaning.

Last Summer, as a follow-up to a special session for Science and Thinking Maps, we were able to offer a work session day for science teachers who had participated in the training session. Groups from K-12 worked on sample maps for concepts in science that could be shared with other teachers. They placed their samples on Google Docs so everyone had access to the wonderful ideas. So many schools have been trained that most of them are now doing follow-up applications!

Volusia Reports: Pat Griesinger, HRD - It has been a busy year for Thinking Maps training in Volusia County, especially at the secondary level. Teachers from around the district have attended training at Spruce Creek High School, Heritage Middle, Ormond Middle, Hinson Middle and Blue Lake Elementary. If your school is interested in receiving Thinking Maps training, contact FDLRS, 258-4684.



Heritage MS participants select Maps around the Sunshine State Standards



Ormond Beach MS participants work to create 8 Maps around one theme.

Teachers at *Spruce Creek High School*, Volusia, work with the MAPS!



Brevard
Educational Services Facility
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

Volusia
Hurst Support Center
1340 Wright Street
Holly Hill, FL 32117



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")