



FDLRS/East  
Winter 2013  
volume XXX II #3

# Coastline Newsletter



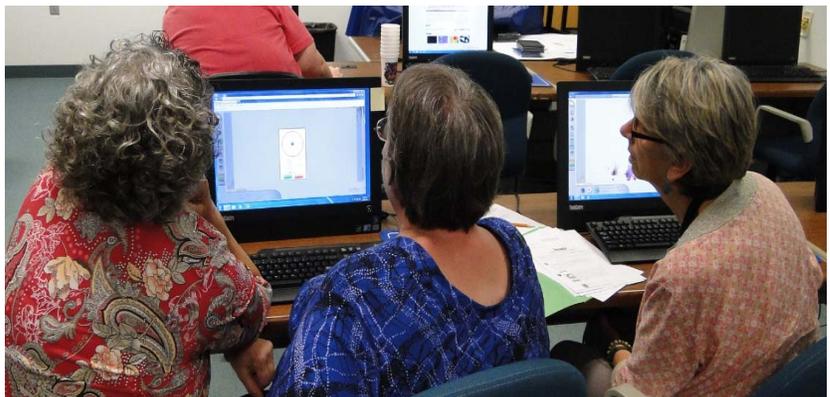
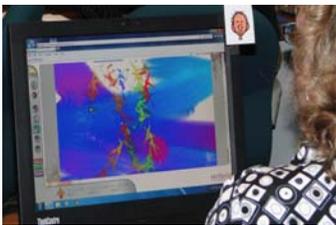
**The State Organization  
on Arts and Disability**

## VSA Florida Engaging Teachers and Students in Brevard & Volusia Counties

VSA Florida Brevard County (formerly known as Very Special Arts) and Brevard Public Schools (BPS) collaborated together for a night of interactive learning for ESE teachers using an online tool called ArtThread. The ArtThread Foundation makes art and creative expression more available to those impacted by limitations. ArtThread technology nurtures creative expression and helps any organization perform their mission better by building connection, creativity and community.

Through this networking opportunity, Lori Emly, from VSA, took the BPS teachers through the many artistic features of this program. The teachers received their own accounts and created works of art. Throughout the training, many of the teachers commented on how their students would be able to utilize the program in their classrooms. According to the VSA website, <http://www.vsabrevard.org>, this art program enhances creative expression, 21<sup>st</sup> century skill-building, school-based enterprise and self-determination for transitioning students and adults with disabilities. For more information on ArtThread, please visit their website at: <http://www.artthread.org/>.

VSA Florida Volusia County is pleased to announce a performing artist residency program to be held this spring at New Smyrna Beach Middle, Longstreet Elementary, Timbercrest Elementary and Tomoka Elementary. The residency program will provide an experienced teaching artist in 4 ESE classrooms for eight one-hour sessions throughout this spring. The teaching artists are experienced in working with students with disabilities and will provide age appropriate hands-on activities, real-world experiences, and community connections to instruction that will also correlate to curriculum standards. A culminating event of performances will be held at the Ormond Beach Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 3, 2013. For additional information please contact Barbara Wolfson, (386)-441-0547 or [vsavolusia@aol.com](mailto:vsavolusia@aol.com).



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We appreciate you reading the *Coastline* newsletter. Please click on this link to complete a [quick satisfaction survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MN5BPT5).

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MN5BPT5>

**Brevard County Transition Fairs**

Brevard County Exceptional Student Education teachers, students, and families had the opportunity to attend one of three transition fairs offered by the Interagency Council of Brevard (ICB).



The ICB is comprised of over twenty non-profit agencies that work collaboratively to enhance the quality of life for all individuals with disabilities in Brevard County. During the transition fairs, the agencies arranged booths to display posters, distribute materials, and answer questions. The participants also had an opportunity to hear guest speaker, Mary Jane Wysocki, Employment Coordinator with Agency for Persons with Disabilities, speak on the subject of *Social Security Work Incentives*.

The transition fairs were held at three locations: McLarty Park in Rockledge, Astronaut High School in Titusville, and Melbourne High School in Melbourne. The McLarty Park fair was held on a Saturday afternoon and the two high school fairs were held after school. All three functions provided refreshments and wonderful networking!

The three transition fairs were conducted to further assist students and families in their transition to post-school life and to learn about various agency services and programs.



*Nancy Taback from Brevard Parks and Recreation, Host of McLarty Park Fair*

*Space Coast Area Transit*



*Kathy Lowe (left), fair participant (middle), and Carey Dixon (right)*



*Mary Jane Wysocki presents to fair participants*

**Employment and Transition Videos**

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) has produced a series of employment and transition related videos entitled *Let's Get Everyone to Work*. To access the videos, go to <http://www.fddc.org/publications>. Scroll down to the "Employment" section, then copy the links to add the videos to your website or share with others!

Here are descriptions of the videos:



***Let's Get Everyone to Work: Resource Toolkit for Students and Families***

This 45-minute video explores strategies and approaches that lead to successful employment and greater independence for individuals with developmental disabilities. It focuses on the importance of having high expectations for employment and independence, and using a person-centered transition process that reflects the interests and abilities of the individual, while developing a collaborative and creative support network. Also included are 12 personal stories of individuals with developmental disabilities who are successfully employed or participating in postsecondary education.

***Let's Get Everyone to Work: Marketing Toolkit for Employers***

This five-minute video highlights the benefits of hiring people with developmental disabilities and the support that is available to help your business and your employee succeed. Also included are 10 personal stories of individuals who have become super employees with the support of their families, schools, employers, co-workers, and communities.

***Let's Get Everyone to Work: Teaching Toolkit for Pre-Service Professionals***

This 45-minute video explores the role of educators, rehabilitation specialists, social workers, and other professionals in supporting successful employment and greater independence for individuals with developmental disabilities. It focuses on the importance of having high expectations for employment and independence, and using a person-centered transition process that reflects the interests and abilities of the individual. Also included are 12 personal stories of individuals with developmental disabilities who are successfully employed or participating in postsecondary education.



### Bethune Cookman University Students Visit FDLRS



Students from Dr. Leslie Sena’s exceptional student education course at Bethune Cookman University (BCU) recently visited FDLRS in Volusia County to gain knowledge and understanding of accommodations for students with disabilities. BCU students were asked to take a survey (using Survey Monkey) prior to their visit to gauge their current familiarity with the topic. When they arrived at FDLRS, they were taught about the abundance of tools and strategies that can be utilized by students to successfully access curriculum. Students were given case studies and asked to collect tools (displayed throughout the training room) and strategies that might be successful with their hypothetical case study. After the training, students gave immediate feedback using Poll Everywhere (<http://www.poll.everywhere.com>) about the extent of their learning.



*Shari Hill, FDLRS Technology Specialist, assists a BCU student during “Accommodations” training at FDLRS Volusia/Hurst Support Center*



### Grand Reopening of Sharkbucks Café

Students, faculty, and district staff were invited to the Grand Reopening of the Sharkbucks Café at Atlantic High School (AHS) in Volusia County. Tony Plowden’s ESE Modified class worked diligently to prepare for the official ribbon cutting ceremony which took place on February 14, 2013. This reopening was accomplished with the support from the district ESE program specialists in collaboration with AHS’s regional Project 10 representative, Patrick Mulvihill.



The mission of the Sharkbucks Café is to develop a sound school-based enterprise that covers the comprehensive areas of job skills, social skills, communication skills, functional academics, and independent functioning skills by creating a real work environment with all the facets of employment. Several students assisted Mr. Efrain Alejandro, the Assistant Principal, as he cut the ribbon, opening the Café to the many customers waiting to sample the new and wonderful items on the menu.

Free coffee, paninis, breakfast sandwiches, and smoothies were given away to all customers. Each student applied, interviewed and was awarded a position at the Café. It was wonderful to see the students running the Café with minimal assistance from the staff. These students are learning skills that will prepare them for paid employment upon exiting high school. “Hats Off” to Mr. Plowden, the AHS staff and students! The Sharkbucks Café will serve as a pilot school-based enterprise for other schools throughout Volusia County.



*Mr. Plowden and Anthony gathering cafe supplies.*



*Mrs. Fain with Joshua and Anthony preparing food for the event.*



*Assistant Principal, Efrain Alejandro with Derrick cutting the ribbon.*

## Amazing & Affordable Apps

**Bitsboard**, a FREE app for iPad only, is an incredible board program that has over 100,000 quality images available for you to create your own teaching/learning activities or download pre-made boards. The app allows you to use picture or word boards to identify, name, record, match, spell and even create sentences. It can support math, motor skills development, problem solving, writing, vocabulary and language development and so much more!



### ESE PARENT SURVEY

It is that time of year again! The survey for parents of students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) became available February 1st. The deadline to complete it is June 30, 2013 so don't delay in letting the United States Department of Education know your thoughts regarding how well your child's school is supporting parents' involvement in their child's education. The survey is available for all parents of children with disabilities who have a current IEP in grades preschool to 12th grade. The survey can be accessed online at [www.ESEsurvey.com](http://www.ESEsurvey.com) or in paper form. If in Brevard County and need a paper copy, please contact Heather at: [Theobald.Heather@BrevardSchools.org](mailto:Theobald.Heather@BrevardSchools.org).



Volusia County parents may go online at [www.ESEsurvey.com](http://www.ESEsurvey.com) to complete the survey, which will be available from February 1 through June 30. A limited number of paper surveys will be sent to schools for those parents who cannot access the survey online. For more information contact: Sheila Harlacher, Family Support Specialist, [slharlac@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:slharlac@volusia.k12.fl.us).

### Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Tuition Support to Obtain Endorsement(s)

This program provides financial assistance to Florida's ESE teachers who are teaching children with PreK disabilities, autism spectrum disorders (ASD), or severe/profound disabilities in a Florida public school. The application can be found online at: <http://www.florida-ese.org/asdendorsement/>. Please contact Melanie Morales at (305) 348-2390 or [Melanie.Morales@Fiu.edu](mailto:Melanie.Morales@Fiu.edu).



### 2013 Finalists for "Teacher of the Year" Recognition



Of the 90 teachers who were chosen by their peers in Brevard County, 7 were teachers of students with disabilities and 1 was a teacher of the gifted.

Congratulations to the following

Brevard Public School Teachers!

**Anthony Colucci**- South Lake Elementary School, Gifted  
**Stefanie Diegelman**- Lewis Carroll Elementary, VE-ID  
**Janet Eastman**- MILA Elementary School, ID Supported  
**Brooke Hotaling**- Saturn Elementary School, SLD  
**Ashley Skeen**- West Melbourne Elementary School, SLP  
**Zorica Simic**- Riverview Elementary School, Pre-K Handicapped

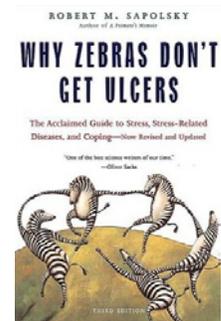
**Attah Tikili**- Christa McAuliffe Elementary, VE SLD  
**Karen Williams**- Exceptional Student Education, SLP

Of the 70 teachers who were chosen by their peers in Volusia County, 5 were teachers of students with disabilities and 2 were teachers of the gifted. Congratulations to the following Volusia County Teachers!

**Jami Atkinson** – Heritage Middle School, ESE Resource/Academic Coach (Top 5 District Finalist)  
**Joy Burke** – Deltona High School, ESE teacher  
**Kelly Boulware** – Forest Lake Elementary, ESE teacher  
**Cheryl Milholland** – Horizon Elementary, SLP  
**Teresa Proffit** – Hinson Middle School, ESE teacher  
**Emily Macri** – George Marks Elementary Gifted  
**Amber Leahey McAndrew** – Tomoka Elementary, Gifted

## Book Corner

Optimal performance is always the goal for learners. In Dr. Sapolsky's book, *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers*, he presents information on stress and the disruption stress can cause for our health and learning. This is a science book written for nonscientists. The information presented is important for teachers, parents and students.



Stress has a particularly devastating effect on memory and learning which are critical components for successful students. Ideas for coping with stressors are so important as today's world contains multiple stressors.

A copy of this book is available in the FDLRS/ East library collection.

Sapolsky, Robert M., *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers: An Updated Guide to Stress, Stress-Related Diseases, and Coping*, Henry Holt and Company, N.Y. 2004 (Third Edition).

**Webinar Series: Successfully Accessible**

The Division of Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce upcoming lunch hour webinars in partnership with VSA Florida entitled, "Successfully Accessible." For additional information, and to register online, go to: <http://www.florida-arts.org/news/story.cfm?id=193>. Please email any questions about each topic to the Division's Accessibility Coordinator, Maureen McKloski, at [Maureen.McKloski@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:Maureen.McKloski@dos.myflorida.com) prior to the session. Join them on the fourth Wednesday of every month through June at noon for the following webinars:

- March 27: How to Plan a Successful Visit for the Hearing Impaired
- April 24: How to Plan a Successful Visit for the Sight Impaired
- May 22: Planning a Successful Visit for Wheelchair Users and Mobility Issues
- June 26: Training Your Staff: Dos and Don'ts

To obtain the registration links and information from previous webinars, please visit: <http://www.florida-arts.org/news/story.cfm?id=193>.



**Florida Department of Education Handbook Update**

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, working with Dr. Marty Beech, have created the 2012 *Disability Awareness through Language Arts and Literacy Resources for PreK and Elementary School* book. This handbook may be found online at: <http://tinyurl.com/chcyfg8>.

There are many resources available for ESE teachers working with prekindergarten and elementary school age students, including lesson plans and literacy activities, using children's literature to increase disability awareness.



**TECH CORNER**



Free web tools are always welcome in this era of funding shortfalls. **SlyReply** fits the bill by providing a quick and easy way to create sign-up sheets and organize your meetings or events.

Resource teachers can post times available for classroom visitations or follow-up. This allows teachers to select a time and date that is convenient to them. Viewing options let everyone see what times are available and the program can send reminders to all who have signed up.

Classroom teachers might want to use this web tool to schedule parent meetings, create sign-ups for classroom events such as those that involve bringing food items, or school carnival events.

[www.slyreply.com](http://www.slyreply.com)



**Project 10 Grants for Teachers and Students**

Project 10 assists Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. Their website is updated often and can be found at <http://www.project10.info/>.

Once on the website, on the left hand side is a tag titled **Financial Resources**. This link provides opportunities for many grants for schools, teachers and students. The deadlines are ongoing and the money granted varies from mini-grants to whole school initiatives. Some examples include: *Teachers Count*, *Starbucks Shared Planet* and *CVS CareMark*.

<b>Brevard County:</b> Educational Services Facility 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940 (321) 633-1000 x540	<b>Volusia County:</b> Hurst Support Center 1340 Wright Street Holly Hill, FL 32117 (386) 258-4684
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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")

**New  
2013!!**



**New  
2013!!**

## Middle Grades 5-9 Online Content Review Modules

*Middle Grades 5-9 Online Content Review Modules  
are designed exclusively for Florida educators.*

The Middle Grades 5-9 Online Content Review Modules are sponsored by the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. Each module focuses on a single content area: English, mathematics, general science, or social science. The modules are designed to help educators review their knowledge in core content areas outlined in the teacher competencies required in the following Florida subject area examinations: Middle Grades English 5-9; Middle Grades Mathematics 5-9; Middle Grades General Science 5-9 or Middle Grades Social Science 5-9. Module content is aligned with these competencies, while promoting educator skill development to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Educators may choose to register for one or more of the four online content review modules.

### **Target Audience:**

- ESE certified educators teaching basic education courses to students with disabilities in grades 5-9, who need to obtain certification in one or more of the four general education middle grades core content areas.
- Middle grades general educators who need to obtain certification in one or more of the four middle grades core content areas.
- Middle grades administrators seeking a resource to share when discussing subject specific content competencies.

### **Module Features:**

- Self-paced online content review
- Comprehensive
- Maintains demographic information
- User-friendly
- Free of charge to Florida Educators
- Provides twelve weeks for content access

While the content covered in each review module is extensive, it does **not** replace the need for a comprehensive study of each subject including appropriate pedagogy. Completion of the selected online module does not guarantee a passing score on the selected subject area certification exam. Instructional support and in-service credit are not available for these independent study modules.

*To access the modules please go to <http://fdlrshrd.nefec.org/MiddleGrades>*



**FDLRS Administration/HRD Project**  
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A discretionary project of the Florida Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES)

For More Information contact: Mary Ann Ahearn at [ahearnm@nefec.org](mailto:ahearnm@nefec.org)