



Coastline Newsletter

Disability History and Awareness Weeks, October 2008

The 2008 Legislature created Section 1003.4205, Florida Statutes, *Disability History and Awareness Instruction*. Based on this new statute, district school boards are required to designate the first two weeks in October each year as “**Disability History and Awareness Weeks.**” During these two weeks, district school boards are encouraged to provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools.

The goals of disability history and awareness instruction include: (1) better treatment of individuals with disabilities in society (especially youth in school) and increased attention to preventing the bullying or harassment of students with disabilities; (2) encouragement to individuals with disabilities to develop self-esteem, resulting in more individuals with disabilities gaining pride, obtaining postsecondary education, entering the workforce, and contributing to their communities; and (3) reaffirmation of commitment to the full inclusion of and equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities.

Below are resources and ideas to assist educators in providing disability history and awareness instruction:

Resources: Contact FDLRS for assistance with these resources: (386) 258-4684, Volusia; (321) 633-1000 x559, Brevard:

- *Create bulletin boards in school common areas
- *Create buttons to give to faculty and staff
- *Check out resources from the FDLRS Library including:
 - The Ten Commandments of Communicating with People with Disabilities** – video & reproducible resource guides
 - Express Diversity** – learning modules, lessons and resources
 - F.A.T. City** – video
 - Beyond F.A.T. City-A Look Back, A Look Ahead** – video

Ideas:

- *Have a breakfast for the faculty and staff at your school and distribute information
- *Put announcements on your school billboard.
- *Have an *Open House* in your classroom for faculty & staff at your school and distribute information

Websites:

- *Florida Youth Council: http://www.familycafe.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=17&Itemid=81
- *Family Network on Disabilities: <http://www.fndfl.org/>
- *Florida Department of Education: www.fldoe.org/ese/Pub-home.asp
- *BEES Publications: www.fldoe.org/ese/pub-home.asp
- *PBS Television: www.pbs.org/misunderstoodminds - GREAT simulations!
- *Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities: www.advocacycenter.org
- *The Council for Exceptional Children: www.cec.sped.org
- *Exceptional Parent Magazine: www.eparent.com
- *Florida Alliance for Assistive Service and Technology: www.faast.org
- *National Center for Learning Disabilities: www.ld.org
- *National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities: www.nichcy.org
- *TASH: www.tash.org
- *Vision, Strength and Artistic Expression: www.vsafll.org

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Ideas for Celebrating Disability History and Awareness Weeks October 2008

Here are the festivities planned for *Disability History & Awareness Weeks* at your FDLRS Center

FDLRS/East Volusia:

FDLRS and the Exceptional Student Education Department are sponsoring an **Open House** October 1st from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at FDLRS' new location at Campbell Middle School, bldg. 5, room 16.

Join us and...

- *Check out resources /ideas that you can use in your classroom/school for *Disability History and Awareness Weeks*,
- *Get free materials (we've cleaned out our closets),
- *Register for the annual online giveaway to win \$25 gift cards from Space Coast Credit Union (30 gift cards will be given away during *Disability History & Awareness Weeks*),
- *Submit a class/school plan for *Disability History and Awareness Instruction* and be eligible to win \$100 gift card,
- *Create bulletin boards, center activities, and buttons that support *Disability History and Awareness Instruction*,
- *Meet the ESE district staff, including our new ESE Director.



FDLRS/EastBrevard:

FDLRS and the Exceptional Student Education Department are sponsoring an **Open House** on October 1st from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Educational Services Facility (ESF) in Viera, Pod 4, room 402A – FDLRS Production Lab. Join us and...

- *Check out FDLRS Library resources and get ideas that you can use in your classroom and at school for *Disability History and Awareness Week*,
- *Pick up some free materials,
- *Create a *Disability History* timeline for a bulletin board, a center activity and a button that support *Disability History and Awareness* instruction,
- *All those attending will be eligible to enter a gift card drawing,
- *Enjoy some refreshments while talking to FDLRS and ESE District staff.



ESE Parent Resource Nights, Library & Disability Awareness Week

by Amanda Howell, Guidance Counselor, Challenger 7 Elementary

Wonderful things are happening at Challenger 7 Elementary! To begin with, the ESE Team began holding monthly meetings dubbed as *ESE Parent Resource Nights* as a way to introduce parents to agencies throughout the community. The past meetings have included: Terry Tomaka with the Family Liasion Project, Space Coast Center for Independent Living, and the Brevard Community College Office for Students with Disabilities. We try to invite a variety of agencies so that all of our parents will feel welcomed. Our goal is to educate the parents about agencies that will help their children throughout the rest of their lives. *ESE Parent Resource Nights* have been very successful!

We recently established an *ESE Resource Library*. The *ESE Resource Library* is located within the main school library and houses many books that can assist parents with ideas to support their children. Our ESE team went through their own personal collections and donated numerous books to create this wealth of information for our families. The parents are allowed to come in and check out books.

Disability Awareness Week will be conducted in October. We have scheduled many activities for the students at our school including an assembly, a writing prompt, and other events for this very important week.

Brevard Autism Coalition Formed

Local therapists, doctors and educators are meeting monthly forming a coalition to combine educational, therapeutic and practical support services identified by families dealing with autism.

Brevardautism.com is a new website developed by the Brevard Autism Coalition. Tracy Thompson, the president of the Brevard Autism Support Group is excited about the coalition and the support our community partners are giving to her cause. The website acts as a resource site to bring Brevard's community of professionals and families together to share knowledge and areas of specialization concerning topics on autism.

The treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is communal. The goal of the coalition is the development of a therapeutic community united in sharing resources and creating positive relationships within Brevard County and eventually throughout the state.

Meetings began in April of 2008 at Space Coast Early Intervention Center, headed by Joe Werner of Child and Family Consultants and Dr. Sally Shinn, Executive Director of SCEIC. Over fifty local community partners participated in identifying the main concerns of addressing autism in Brevard.

The Brevard Autism Coalition meets monthly at Space Coast Early Intervention Center, 3790 Dairy Rd., Melbourne, FL 32904. For more information on the coalition and resources in Brevard concerning autism, visit the website at *brevardautism.com* or to register for a meeting, contact Joe Werner at 321-768-6800, Child and Family Consultants, 1800 Penn Street, Suite 12, Melbourne, FL 32901.



VSAarts of Florida Artist in Residence Program

VSA arts of Florida is happy to announce the seventh year of funding for the artist in residence program for ESE students. The residency program consists of a teaching artist providing hands-on arts experience for a total of 8 one hour visits at your site. Teaching artists in music, drama, movement and visual arts are available to work in coordination with a classroom teacher as to the scope of the residency. Teachers who had artist residencies reported that the experience: "made connections between science, the environment and music;" "provided the opportunity to see the other side of the students;" "enabled a student with low self-esteem to be more confident in the classroom as a result of this experience;" and "allowed the students to be inspired to be creative and try something new."

A recent study by the MacArthur Foundation reports:

- Students with high level of arts participation outperform "arts-poor" students on virtually every measure.
- The arts in after-schools programs guide disadvantaged youth toward positive behaviors and goals.
- Learning through the arts has significant effects on learning other domains.
- Arts experiences enhance "critical thinking" abilities and outcomes.
- The arts enable educators to reach students in effective ways.

If you are interested in this program for one of your ESE or inclusive classes, please contact Marilyn Farber, VSAFL Professional Development Coordinator at: 813-558-1144 or email: mfarber@coedu.usf.edu. Funding for this program is limited. Residencies will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.



Virtual ESE Online Distance Learning Program Fall 2008

The fall 2008 schedule of courses supported via the statewide Virtual Exceptional Student Education Online Distance Learning Program will include:

**Characteristics and Assessment of Students with Severe Disabilities*

**Collaboration with Families, Schools, and the Community*

**Educating Students with Autism*

**Program Development for Young Children with Disabilities*

For specific details about these courses visit the website below.

<http://virtualese.nefec.org/>



WOGI Instruction Modules

2008-2009 Online Gifted Endorsement Modules

The Working on Gifted Issues project (WOGI) will offer online courses through Broward County's Virtual University for the 2008 fall, 2009 spring and 2009 summer sessions. Enrollment in each course is open to all Florida teachers. The cost for each participant to register is \$240 per course.

The course start dates are as follows:

| <u>Semester</u> | <u>Course</u> | <u>Start Date</u> | <u>Registration Deadline</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Fall | Nature and Needs | October 13, 2008 | Sept. 26, 2008 |
| Spring | Curriculum | March 16, 2009 | March 2, 2009 |
| Summer | 1. Counseling 2. Creativity | May 25, 2008 | May 8, 2009 |

To register for the fall semester:

- Go to <https://broward.gosignmeup.com>.
- Go to **My Account** to create an account.
- Click on **State Gifted** (Non-Broward).
- **Gifted** and then **Nature and Needs of Students Who Are Gifted**

Contact person for the fall Nature and Needs: Karen Hairston, kkarston@aol.com



Cover Art for the Journal of Learning Disabilities!!!

The Hammill Institute on Disabilities *is now searching for Cover Art submissions* for the Journal of Learning Disabilities. Individuals with learning disabilities of any age are encouraged to submit their original work for consideration. The artwork may be a painting, drawing, photograph, sculpture, computer-generated graphic, or any comparable medium. It must not exceed a maximum of 11" by 17"; three-dimensional pieces must not exceed 10 pounds. Two entries per participant may be submitted.


Submissions: Each entry must include: the artist's name, age, address, and contact information, brief artist bio, title of the work, the specific medium used (computer-generated pieces should include step-by-step information on software used), and the size of the work. All artwork, including photographic images, must be the original work of the submitting artist. Signed photo releases must accompany any work that includes photo images of people. The actual submission of the art should be a color reproduction (which will not be returned) in one of the following forms: color laser print, photograph, slide (35mm), high resolution EPS or TIFF file. The winner(s) may be asked to send in original art, which will be returned.

Judging: Work will be judged based on originality, creative use of materials, and overall composition and design. The age of the artist will be taken into account.

Entries should be postmarked by October 1, 2008. Judging will take place shortly thereafter, and artists will be notified of our selection by October 31, 2008. Entries, requests for more information, or questions should be directed to: Peggy Kipping, Publications Director, Hammill Institute on Disabilities, 8700 Shoal Creek Blvd., Austin, TX 78757-6897, 512/451-3521, ext. 630, FAX: 512/451-3278, Email: peggy@hammill-institute.org The Institute assumes no responsibility for entries damaged in the mail.


*Educational Services Facility
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940-6601*

*Campbell Middle School
625 S. Keech Street
Daytona Beach, FL 32114*



Welcome Dr. Bush!!!

Volusia County gives *a great big welcome* to its new Exceptional Student Education/ Student Services Director, Dr. Barbara Bush!!! We all look forward to an exceptional year under Barbara's leadership!



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 32940-6601, (321) 633-1000, ext. 535 and in **Volusia County** to FDLRS, Campbell Middle School, 625 S. Keech Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114, (386) 258-4684. * **You can access the Coastline newsletter by visiting the FDLRS/East website at <http://fdlrs.brevard.k12.fl.us/east/> OR http://www.volusia.k12.fl.us/ese/fdlrs_east**