



Coastline Newsletter

NIMAS is Here!

NIMAS stands for *National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard*. It technically means a standardized electronic file format used by textbook publishers to facilitate the creation of accessible core instructional materials for students with disabilities; however, the purpose of NIMAS in the law was:

- to ensure the timely delivery of specialized formats of electronic textbooks to K-12 students,
- to improve student achievement among print disabled students,
- to eliminate duplication of effort by publishers, State Educational Agencies, and Local Education Agencies (LEA),
- to provide greater copyright protection for publishers' content.

Who Qualifies for NIMAS/Florida?

State and Local Educational Agencies have an obligation to provide accessible instructional materials in a timely manner to all students.

The need for accessible instructional materials (digital text) must be documented on the IEP. It is the IEP team who will determine student needs. It may be necessary to include specialists from your assistive technology team as you discuss student needs.

Some students with IEPs will be eligible to receive their instructional materials through NIMAS/Florida. Eligibility is defined in the law by the [Chafee Amendment](#). Those students must meet the following to be eligible:

Blind or visually impaired Students who meet the qualifications for State Board Rule 6A-6.03014, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), *Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Visually Impaired*, are provided accessible instructional materials from FIMC-VI. LEAs should follow current district procedures for ordering braille, large print, digital text, or audio books for students with visual impairments.

Physically disabled Accessible instructional material must also be provided for students who are unable to use standard printed material because of physical limitations as determined by a competent authority. These are students who cannot hold printed textbooks and turn the pages.

Reading disabled Persons certified by a competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner, qualify for NIMAS as "print-disabled."

Other students with disabilities may need materials in accessible formats, but are not eligible to receive materials produced from files obtained through NIMAS/Florida. As the LEA we must still provide materials to these students.

Brevard and Volusia Counties have established NIMAS committees who will be developing comprehensive procedures for obtaining accessible instructional materials for all students. Currently, many students receive these materials through the combined efforts of the ESE vision specialists, ESE teachers, FDLRS, LATS (local assistive technology specialists) and other school personnel.

Inside the FALL Coastline	Tim's Kids Sled Hockey Program.....	page 2
	Read for the Record, VSAarts/Brevard, Special Olympics/Volusia, Autism Session for Parents.....	page 3
	The LEAP Program, Write Outloud/Volusia	page 4
	Parenting Workshop, Target Grants, LDA Conference.....	page 5
	2009 Disability History & Awareness Weeks.....	page 6

Tim's Kids Sled Hockey Program
Space Coast Iceplex, Rockledge, FL

The Tim's Kids Sled Hockey program at the Space Coast Iceplex in Rockledge enters its second full year this September, and is inviting new participants of all ages to come to eight week introductory sessions in both the fall and spring at no cost. All that is required is a cognitive or physical disability and a desire for fun. On-ice instructors will include coaches from the Space Coast Hurricane's youth programs and experienced sled hockey players. Aides are also available for those who may need extra help.

Sled hockey (also called sledge hockey) started in the 1960's in Stockholm, Sweden. It spread to the United States in 1990, and became an official Paralympic sport in the winter games in 1994. Sled hockey is played in sleds that consist of a plastic seat riding on a metal frame with two blades underneath the seat. Each player has a shortened hockey stick in each hand. The end of each stick has two stainless steel picks that the player uses to push the sled along the ice. The other end of the stick has the blade that the player uses to move the puck, pass, and shoot. Sled hockey rules are essentially the same as standard hockey rules, with a few exceptions made to accommodate the sleds.

Sled hockey gained a foothold in Florida in 2006 with a series of clinics over a spring weekend in Clearwater, followed by the establishment of programs in Miami and Tampa Bay later that year. One of the original participants in the Tampa program was Nick Reinarts of Merritt Island, an eighth grade student at Edgewood Junior/Senior High School. Nick's father, Tom Reinarts, worked with the Space Coast Iceplex in Rockledge to bring sled hockey to Brevard County. The owner of the Iceplex, Rick Ninko, was very supportive of the idea, and brought in help from USA Hockey and SAHOF (State Amateur Hockey of Florida). Tim's Kids, a program established by the late Tim Szymula to introduce children to hockey, recognizing the opportunity to make hockey possible for people who normally wouldn't have a chance to play, has generously taken the sled hockey program under its wing. With help from the Miami program, sled hockey started in Rockledge on January 4, 2008. Since then, the program has grown to 20 players. Last season, our players competed against teams from Tampa, Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, Alaska, and Minnesota in a sled hockey tournament. This season they will play in a number of games against competition from around the southeast.

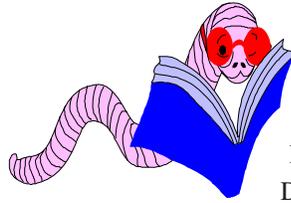
This year we are offering an eight week introductory series on sled hockey at the Space Coast Iceplex in Rockledge, FL. There is no cost to participate and all equipment, sleds and sticks will be provided. This activity is intended for those of all ages with all levels of cognitive and physical abilities. We will have pushers available for those needing help getting around. All sessions are on Saturdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



Session dates are:
September 12, 19, 26
October 10, 24, 31
November 21, 28



To register for the fall series email Tom Reinarts at: tomreinarts@earthlink.net
*Come join one of the fastest growing adaptive sports! The emphasis is on fun!
The exercise is a bonus!*



October 8, 2009
Read for the Record
Marilyn Hibbard
Program Specialist
Pre-K Children with Disabilities
Department of Education, BEESS

I have been involved in a project called *Read for the Record*. It is an international campaign to encourage children to read the same book on the same day in communities all over the world. Sponsored by Jumpstart, the campaign began in 2006. Last year, nearly 700,000 readers participated. This year, the selected book is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, and the chosen date is **October 8, 2009**. You may wish to participate by reading the book to some children!

In addition to reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, other possible activities are:

1. Before October 8, 2009, go to the *Read for the Record* Web site at <http://www.readfortherecord.org/> to register your participation.
2. On October 8, 2009, read the book to a child or classroom.
3. Visit a local museum that may have insects such as caterpillars or butterflies to learn more about them.
4. Have an older child read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to a younger class.
5. Create a craft project involving caterpillars at home or school.

Read for the Record will encourage the love of reading for children.



To Infinity and Beyond
Very Special Arts of Brevard 2009

Morgan Malfara's life has been positively influenced by his participation in Brevard's 2009 Very Special Arts program. Morgan is a wheelchair bound student at Ocean Breeze Elementary School. Last spring he attended the VSA event at the Brevard County Zoo. Morgan was able to experience the arts via painting, music, dance, and a variety of other exciting activities. In addition, Morgan was able to enjoy the zoo. Morgan reacted very well to the friendly attention of those around him. The smiling, laughing, and the very spirit of appreciation of the environment caused Morgan to smile and coo for the entire day. He participated in the pattern drawing and listening to music. The sounds of the animals, butterflies landing on his arms, and a giraffe licking his hand were other experiences Morgan will never forget.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS' Young Athletes Program

NEW to Volusia

United Cerebral Palsy of East Central Florida is enrolling youngsters 2-7 for Special Olympics' **new** Young Athletes Program. Weekly activities help develop physical, cognitive and social skills in children with or without disabilities including kids who use wheelchairs. *The program is free* but class size is limited. Contact Dotti Bernhard at 386.274.6474 or specialolympics@ucpecf.org.



You're Invited!

Communication-
An Important Piece of the Puzzle

Speakers:

Terry Tomaka & Jim Gerhauer
Family Liaison Project

For:

Parents of Students on the Autism Spectrum

Date: Friday, October 23, 2009

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

Place: ESF (School Board Building, Board Room)
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera

RSVP: Ginny Gleason 633-1000 ext. 389 or
GLEASON.GINNY@BREVARDSCHOOLS.ORG

by October 19th to reserve a seat.

The LEAP Program

Brevard County's Exceptional Student Education **LEAP (Learner Empowerment through Agency Partnerships) Program** at Brevard County's Traffic Engineering site in Viera is a recipient of the **Brevard County Board of County Commissioner's Civic Involvement Award**. This prestigious award was specifically developed by the Board of County Commissioners to acknowledge volunteers and the positive impact their time and talents have had within our community. The LEAP program was created and developed by its coordinator Kathy Lowe, Adults with Disabilities Learning Specialist, in 1999 and is supervised by Della Jordan, Lead Trainer. Eva Lewis, Director of Program Support Services, oversees the program.

LEAP is a transition program for adults with developmental disabilities, eighteen years and older, who are seeking non-paid, community-based skills training in a real world setting. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity for individuals with physical or mental disabilities to learn the skills needed to obtain self-sufficiency, enhance their potential and find employment. Through this program, the School Board of Brevard County and its partners provide qualified individuals an opportunity to develop social and communication skills necessary for employment in a well-supervised environment. The LEAP program has nine training sites throughout Brevard County. They are: Clerk of the Courts County Government site in Titusville, Criminal Justice Services County Government site in Rockledge, Wuesthoff Hospital Central and South, three Wal-Mart sites in Titusville, Melbourne and Palm Bay.

The individuals pictured below received the award on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at the Board of County Commissioner's Commission meeting.



Selma Johnson, LEAP Trainer, Stevon Roberts, Jerod Reese and Michael Dudzinski

PARENTS:
Do you understand your child's disability?



Maybe we can help.
Call 888-612-9273 for a free packet of information.

Central Florida Parent Center

Distributed by the Central Florida Parent Training and Information Center



SOLO Edition Write Outloud Training in Volusia

Elementary Schools Write Away!

Thanks to IDEA money, all elementary schools in Volusia County now have unlimited site licenses for SOLO Edition of Write:Outloud. This talking word processor program helps build confidence for all writers, but especially for struggling writers and readers. The program provides an easy to use visual toolbar, text-to-speech support, talking spellchecker and dictionary, homonym checker and bibliographer. As part of "Teacher Central," teachers may create and assign work, give feedback and track data. As we all move towards "Universal Design for Learning," this is a great tool to have in our toolbox!

For more information contact your school principal or Shari Hill at FDLRS East, (386) 258-4684.

Parenting in Today's World

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2009
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Place: Brevard County School Board, Viera
Who: All Parents of Children Ages 3-18

Register by October 2nd
Call (321) 633-1000
Ginny Gleason, Ext. 389
Kaye Benton, Ext. 325

Keynote: Belinda Lorch, *It Is All About Choices*

Workshop Topics

- Choices for the Young Child – Belinda Lorch
- Fathering: A Contact Sport – Bill Walker
- Your Child's Brain & the Media – Sharon Tolson
- Being the Best Parent You Can Be – Dr. Anthony Ferretti
- Yikes! My Teen/Tween Just Trapped Me Into Another Argument – Robbin Oakley
- Creating Happy Families & Raising Responsible Kids – Terry LaPlante
- If You Don't Know, You Can't Protect Them.
- INTERNET Safety – Tod Goodyear
- The Gift of ADHD – Dr. Charles Stevens

Sponsored by:

- Brevard Public Schools
- Child Abuse Prevention Task Force of Brevard
- Family Involvement
- FDLRS and SEDNET Offices

Free Parenting book given in the last session!



Target Corporation Field Trip Grants – VSA arts Teachers Please Read!

As part of their commitment to education, Target has created the one-of-a-kind Target Field Trip Grants program. Target will award 5,000 grants of up to \$800 each for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Find out more about this funding opportunity by going to: <https://targetfieldtripgrants.target.com/>

If you are a VSA arts teacher, please consider applying for this grant to help with your bus transportation to the VSA arts festival in April 2010 at the Brevard Zoo. Thank you!

LDA Conference

The Learning Disabilities Association of Florida (LDA), a non profit organization that provides support to parents of students with special needs, is hosting a conference in Altamonte Springs on January 30, 2010 at the Embassy Suites. Parents are invited to attend! The keynote speaker, Rick Lavoie. The registration form is available at <http://www.lda-fl.com> under "Events."

We see news daily about troubled youth who are making inappropriate choices. Many of these young people are challenged in their learning abilities and look for some way to gain attention, even if it is negative. The percentage of juveniles incarcerated that have a learning disability or poor abilities in social skills is staggering, and unfortunately, these young adults may never get the help they need to overcome their challenges.

The LDA of Florida is providing an opportunity for parents and professionals to learn more about the dynamics of the social world for our children who struggle in school. Rick Lavoie is presenting the aspects of the social issues and recommendations for our parents, teachers and professionals to consider to help our children get on the right path. Based on his book "It's So Much Work To Be Your Friend," Rick shares insight to the world of children with learning disabilities and how they may view the social network with their peers, why they become a "bully magnet" and how to address their needs so they don't become a statistic.



For additional information contact:
Jacqueline Egli
Conference Chair for Florida LDA
Executive Director
Bridges Academy, Inc.
894 Gary Hillery Drive
Winter Springs, Florida 32708
Campus: 407-366-1099
Office: 407-365-7868



Disability History and Awareness Weeks
October 2009
Promotional Ideas

On June 13, 2008, Governor Crist signed into law Senate Bill 856, creating section 1003.4205, Florida Statutes. The bill, called “Disability History and Awareness Instruction,” requires school districts to designate the first two weeks of October of each year as Disability History & Awareness Weeks. The bill also allows schools to provide information about disability history and promote awareness of the contributions of individuals with disabilities. Following are some ideas for celebrating these two weeks.

- Hang banners in your school and/or use school marquee to recognize Disability History and Awareness Weeks.
- Allow students to design posters, fliers, and/or buttons related to Disability History and Awareness. Post student-designed posters and flyers in the school. Disability History and Awareness Weeks Resource Guide is available at: <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/>
- Use school and district websites to promote disability history and awareness.
- Ask your PTA/PTO to include articles related to disability history and awareness in their newsletters.
- Ask your PTA/PTO to include activity related to disability history awareness in their October PTA meetings.
- Incorporate into teacher lesson plans information about disability history and awareness. Contact FDLRS for classroom activities.
- Post a timeline of disability history in the school. Allow students to design timelines. Contact FDLRS for timeline ideas.
- Encourage your school library to do a book exhibit to expand students’ understanding and awareness of individuals with disabilities and related history on the disability movement. (Book lists are available through FDLRS.)

- Recognize the achievement of local and other people with disabilities all year. Focus on their abilities and achievements through newsletters and morning announcements.
- Host schoolwide events such as viewing the video “FAT CITY” (available through FDLRS), holding an ESE breakfast, having an open house in your classroom, etc.
- Encourage your media specialist to add *The Noodle*, the Florida Youth Council newsletter, to their materials. *The Noodle* may be downloaded free from: <http://www.familycafe.net>

These ideas and activities have been developed to promote disability history and awareness in Florida by representatives of the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student services and Workforce Education, the Family Café, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, the Florida Youth Council, and the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology.



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, 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.brevardschools.org/east/> OR <http://myvolusiaschools.org> (click on “departments” “fdlrs”)