



The Coastline Newsletter

spring 2007
volume XXVI #4

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System/East serving Brevard & Volusia Counties

2007 Exceptional Student Education *PARENT SURVEY*

The Florida Department of Education is working with school districts to gather information on how well parents think their child's school is partnering with parents of students with disabilities. The parent responses will help guide efforts to improve services and results for children and families. If their child is receiving specially designed instruction and has an individual educational plan (IEP), then the parents will be asked to complete a 25 question survey and return it in a prepaid postage envelope. The 2007 ESE Parent Survey will be mailed to parents the last week of April. The deadline for parents completing the survey will be May 31, 2007. All information provided will remain confidential.

There is also an optional electronic survey. If the parents want to complete the survey using a computer, they are to go to this website - <http://www.ESESurvey.com> At this website the parent will be asked to log in using the unique identification number located in the box on the bottom left-hand corner of the paper survey. The electronic survey should be completed by May 31, 2007. The parents are to complete only ONE survey – the paper form OR the electronic form.

Here are a few sample questions from the survey. For each statement, the parent is to select one of the six following response choices: very strongly disagree, strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree, or very strongly agree.

- I was offered special assistance (such as child care) so that I could participate in the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meeting.
- At the IEP meeting, we discussed how my child would participate in statewide assessments.
- At the IEP meeting, we discussed accommodations and modifications that my child would need.
- I was given information about organizations that offer support for parents of students with disabilities.
- Teachers and administrators ensure that I have fully understood the Procedural Safeguards (the rules in federal law that protect the rights of parents).
- The school has a person on staff who is available to answer parents' questions.
- The school offers parents training about ESE issues.
- The school provides information on agencies that can assist my child in the transition from school.
- The school explains what options parents have if they disagree with a decision of the school.

If any ESE parent needs help completing the survey,
they should contact their local FDLRS office:
Brevard (321) 631-1911, ext. 540, Volusia (386) 258-4684.

*Inside the
Coastline Spring*

page 2:

- Brevard County's Kathy Lowe
Wins State Award!

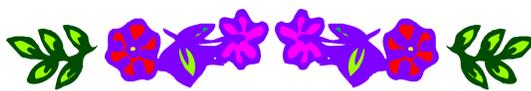
page 3:

- PDA-ESE Online Reading Module

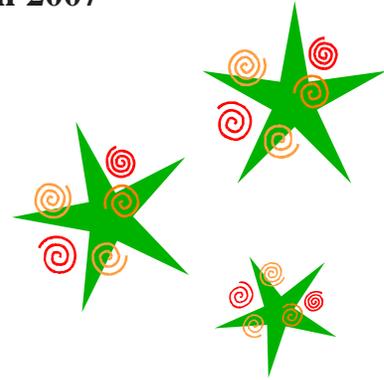
page 4:

- APD's "New" Phone Number
- Book Corner - Recommended Reading





Kathy Lowe Receives State Award: Outstanding Educator in Transition 2007



Kathy Lowe, Adults with Disabilities Learning Specialist in Brevard County, was selected as the state's "**Debra Husted Dreams Can Come True Outstanding Educator in Transition**" at the annual *Visions Conference* held February 2007 in Jacksonville, Florida. This annual state award is given by the *Florida Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Career Development and Transition* at the *Visions* state conference. Kathy is known for her passion, persistence, enthusiasm and commitment in advocating and providing services for persons with disabilities. She is responsible for creating and leading the way for the program implementation of *Project Success*, a program for individuals with disabilities offered at three adult education centers in Brevard County, and the *LEAP Program* (Learner Empowerment through Agency Partnerships) for individuals with developmental disabilities 18 years and older and those in the community interested in improving their personal, social and employability skills or needing assistance in finding and maintaining supported employment. She revitalized Brevard County's Interagency Council for Individuals with Disabilities in 1999 at the request of Eva Lewis, Director, Program Support Services. This organization now has over thirty-three (33) agencies that meet 10 times a year to address transition issues facing youth and adults with disabilities in finding desirable post-school and lifelong outcomes. She is the co-site coordinator for *Project Connect*, along with Heather Mack. *Project Connect* is a statewide Transition initiative that focuses on improving interagency collaboration in Transition planning for individuals with disabilities at the community level through the formation or reinvigoration of local community transition teams. The project is housed at the Transition Center at the University of Florida.

Kathy oversees the Adults with Disabilities Grant each year for Brevard County which provides Adult Basic Education instruction to persons 18 years and older with developmental disabilities at five community agencies and LEAP trainer services at seven sites in the community.

In addition to this award, Kathy received the coveted "Mark Gold National Award" along with Heather Mack from the *National Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Career Development and Transition Board* April 2003 in Seattle, Washington, at the *International Council for Exceptional Children Conference*. This award is given each year to programs and individuals who provide exemplary employment services to individuals with severe disabilities. The programs created by Kathy Lowe and Heather Mack offer a continuum of employment services and personal- social skills training services for youth and adults with disabilities in Brevard County.



PDA-ESE Online Reading Course *Differentiated Reading Instruction: Making It Explicit*

Research is clear that differentiated lessons using explicit instruction are essential for K-12 students who are experiencing any level of reading difficulty. This free online course, *Differentiated Reading Instruction: Making It Explicit*, focuses on how to use the guidelines for differentiation to improve instruction for all students. It also emphasizes a variety of ways to make instruction more explicit and intense to achieve optimal results for students with reading difficulties, especially those who experience significant or persistent challenges in learning to read or in reading to learn. The content aligns with and extends current Florida reading initiatives and satisfies requirements for Competencies 4 and 5 of the Reading Endorsement.

This online course is currently underway in both Brevard and Volusia Counties. For more information about this PDA-ESE online course and others, contact Cindy Wickham, Brevard County, (321) 633-1000 x559 or Linda Davidson, Volusia County, (386) 258-4684.

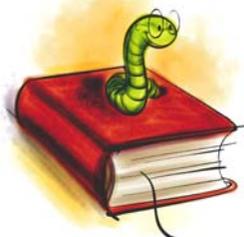


Volusia County's PDA-ESE Reading Facilitator, Melissa Bisesi, prepares her participants at the first face-to-face meeting.

Read the testimonial of one of the Volusia's PDA-ESE online reading course participants!

Hi Melissa! I attempted a differentiated lesson for the first time this week. I am so happy at how it turned out!! The biggest challenge in this for me, was to be able to separate the class into groups without making anyone feel either superior or inferior—a problem I have wrestled with in my mind for a long time. This course gave me the idea and some terminology to actually explain to the students how they were being divided. (concrete vs. abstract; also if they had been absent a lot; reading scores—they all know their reading scores because many of them are in intensive reading; a formative assessment I'd given them the day before on which they had to write a paragraph describing what was happening in the equation for photosynthesis) Basically, I divided them into two groups: one group went outside with Mrs. Casey to the "OUTDOOR CLASSROOM" to work individually on a guided reading I wrote to go with the chapter on photosynthesis. These guys needed a challenge and our text book is definitely a challenge! The "INDOOR CLASSROOM" group worked with me as we learned to read the equation for photosynthesis. We used colored markers to write the equation across a large piece of white paper, one step at a time. As we went we described above each formula, in words, what the plant was doing, then drew a picture below it. After this, I drilled them (small group of 10 so it worked so well!) and then they completed a worksheet in which I had left blanks—basically exactly what we had just done. They were very successful, happy they were the "inside concrete group", and they retained much of the info the next day. Many of them participated successfully in answering oral review questions the next day, "competing" well with the "outdoor group". I explained to them that we would group in many different ways and that this was only one way. I also asked them to let us know if they felt they were wrongly grouped. We have a couple that we're going to rearrange. I just had to share my success. This is something I've wanted to do for the 15 years I've taught, but I didn't know how to pull it off. Through this course, I am gaining the models I need to enable me to better meet my students where they are.

Susan Atti, Cotaught Biology, DeLand High School, PDA online reading course participant - Volusia County, March 2007



Book Corner Recommended Reading

Hannaford, Carla, Dr. Smart Moves: Why Learning is Not All in Your Head. Great Oceans, Inc., 1995. ISBN: 0-915556-26-X

Brain research has enhanced our knowledge about the body's role in thinking and learning. Today's students are not getting enough movement for excellent cognition as well as health.

Dr. Hannaford, a neurophysiologist, presents a very readable book containing information on how the human mind/body system can reach its full potential. The cerebellum research indicates that what makes us move also makes us think.

"When we don't move and activate the vestibular system, we are not taking information from the environment," as stated by Dr. Hannaford in her book. Knowledge from the neurosciences, bodily movement, emotional expression, nutrition, and the social and physical environment are presented with very practical applications for all educators.

The health of our children in today's society is being diminished. This will in turn affect their learning and ultimately our future society. Every teacher would benefit from reading this book and gain considerable knowledge on what we can do to help as educators.



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

Palm Terrace Elementary
1825 Dunn Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32114



Governor's Office Launches New Phone Number



In the spirit of Florida, Governor Charlie Crist's *Office of Open Government and Plain Language Initiative*, the **Agency for Persons with Disabilities** has secured a toll-free phone number to better serve Florida citizens.

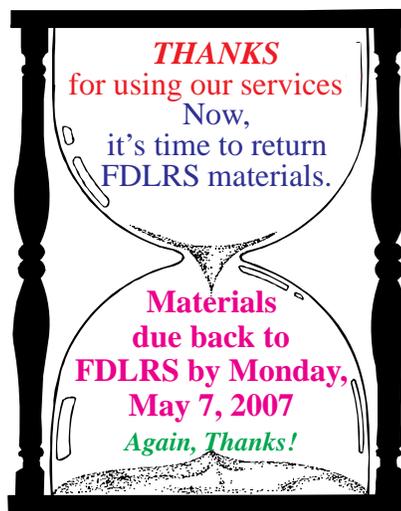
The agency's new number is 1-866-APD-CARES or 1-866-273-2273. It will be manned Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. (EDT)

The operators will answer questions directly. For more complex questions, however, the caller will be transferred to the best person to respond in a timely manner. The goal is to answer a citizen's question quickly and accurately while not making the citizen incur long distance phone charges.

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities currently serves more than 35,000 Floridians with the developmental disabilities of mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and Prader-Willi Syndrome.

For more information on the agency, call 1-866-APD-CARES or visit www.apd.myflorida.com

It's Time to Round Up FDLRS Materials



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, 1825 Dunn Avenue, 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