



FDLRS/East  
spring 2008  
volume XXVII #4

# Coastline Newsletter

## **Thinking Maps® Are on the Map in Brevard and Volusia Counties**

*Thinking Maps®* are eight fundamental thinking skills defined and animated by maps, and introduced as a common visual language for thinking and learning across whole learning communities. They are used across all subject areas from kindergarten through grade twelve. On a more global level, they also may be defined as a synthesis of three types of visual tools that educators have been using for generations: mind mapping-brainstorming webs, graphic organizers, and thinking-process tools such as concept mapping.

*Thinking Maps®* implementation started in Brevard County in 2005 with one trainer (Sharon Tolson, Director of FDLRS/East) and has expanded to a current cadre of 130 trainers throughout Brevard. The goal is to have on-site trainers available to each school or a cluster of schools. Currently, 1264 participants from 40 schools have participated in this professional development.

*Thinking Maps®* implementation started in Volusia County in 2007 with 38 school-based and 22 district-based trainers. Currently, 1140 teachers from 26 schools have been trained.

*Thinking Maps®* student samples can be viewed online:

Brevard site: <http://fdlrs.brevard.k12.fl.us/ThinkingMaps/default.html>.

Volusia site: [http://www.volusia.k12.fl.us/titleI/thinking\\_maps.htm](http://www.volusia.k12.fl.us/titleI/thinking_maps.htm)

Following, are some teacher highlights regarding *Thinking Maps®* implementation in both Brevard and Volusia Counties!

**Priscilla Layer, Viera High School, Reading Dept., Brevard County:** *Thinking Maps®* are an integral part of our emphasis on effective reading instruction. The maps are utilized during each step of the learning process. By teaching the maps, I am providing students with a valuable tool that they can utilize, not just in my class, but also as a lifelong resource throughout their education. I utilize the maps, in conjunction with the newspaper, current events, textbooks, vocabulary and FCAT prep materials. I find the maps most useful when incorporating nonfiction material because I am able to teach thinking skills with real world relevant materials. The maps have helped students to see that the thinking skills practiced by using the maps are skills they utilize in everyday life.



**Lori Cantaloupe, 6th Grade Reading & LeeAnne Herold, 6th Grade Science, Enterprise Elementary, Brevard County:** *Thinking Maps®* are a major part of our daily agenda and are used throughout the entire explicit instruction process, from teaching through assessment. When given a task for independent practice, responses generally are in the form of a thinking map or a written response that has been generated from a thinking map. Because the *Thinking Maps®* are a true representation of what the students have understood from the lesson, we are able to evaluate both our instruction and student progress. The consistent use of *Thinking Maps®* has provided equity and access to students of all ability levels and gives the students a common language for discussion and the creation of quality products when working in cooperative groups.

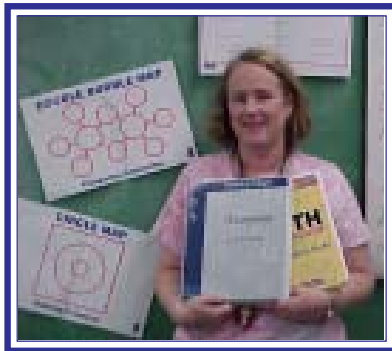
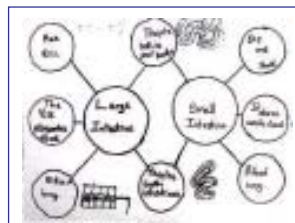
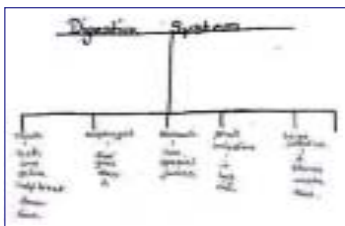
Inside the  
Spring  
Coastline

*Thinking Maps®* are on the Map.....pages 1-3  
Project SCIPP.....page 4  
Library RoundUp.....page 4  
National Dropout Prevention Center .....page 4

**Jenifer Born, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Williams Elementary, Brevard County:** My second grade students use *Thinking Maps*® across all subject areas. While studying life science, students will classify types of animals using Tree Maps. Students also use Tree Maps to plan their writing, incorporate details, and enhance their work with elaboration. Bubble Maps are used in writing to describe topics utilizing colorful vocabulary. Students use Brace Maps in science to identify parts of an insect. Students sequence story events and determine beginning, middle, and end using Flow Maps. Bridge Maps are used to identify similarities between relationships. In mathematics, students utilize Bridge Maps for equivalent measures. For example, the relating factor might be “is equal to” and students would write that four cups is equal to one quart. Practicing opposites, synonyms, homophones, and homonyms can all be accomplished using Bridge Maps.



For the teacher, *Thinking Maps*® are easily integrated into our already packed curriculums and students benefit because they use the tools as they critically think about the content, which leads to meaningful learning.



**Patty Bohan, Math Intervention Teacher, Palm Terrace Elementary, Volusia County:**

Patty Bohan, math intervention teacher at Palm Terrace Elementary in Daytona Beach, works with first through fifth grade students. Patty was introduced to *Thinking Maps*® through an online course she took last year as well as at professional development days at her school. Additionally, *Thinking Maps*® training was provided at Patty’s math contact meetings.

Patty uses all of the maps with her math lessons. Beginning with the Circle Map, her students quickly caught on to the use of the map and even became competitive with each other as to how well done their maps were. “The students met with immediate success and loved the idea that their maps would be displayed,” reports Patty. One of her students who could not add single digit numbers found success using the maps and asked if Mrs. Bohan couldn’t provide her with harder number problems! “All of my students enjoy using the maps! I plan to use them from here on and why not? I THINK in MAPS now!”

**Sue Gallico, Intensive Reading Teacher & Vann Davis, Reading Coach, Holly Hill Elementary, Volusia County:**

Both Sue and Vann were part of a cadre trained in the fall. In turn, they trained all of the teachers at their school, Holly Hill Elementary. The teachers were encouraged to introduce one map per week. Sue and Vann were surprised how quickly *the maps took off!* Teachers were asked to share one map per week at a faculty meeting. “The teachers loved this opportunity to get more ideas on how to use the maps in different curriculum areas!” reports Vann. *Thinking Maps*® are displayed in classrooms and in display cases all around campus. “We have noticed visitors stopping to look at the maps and they are asking questions about them,” comments Sue. The students at Holly Hill love using *Thinking Maps*®!



On page three are other teachers’ reports on the use of *Thinking Maps*® in their Holly Hill Elementary classrooms.

# Spring



**Rebecca Henry, First Grade Teacher, Holly Hill Elementary, Volusia County:** “My students love using *Thinking Maps*®. I started out with the Circle Map but am now using all the maps in all areas of the curriculum. I especially like using the Double Bubble Map with reading intervention activities. I plan to continue using the maps! They are a great tool to help students gather and organize information.”

**Nancy Gill, Math Fusion Teacher, Holly Hill Elementary, Volusia County:** “*Thinking Maps*® are a great tool for helping students understand math concepts, especially the more difficult math concepts. After the fall training, I received a CD of ideas on how to use the maps with math. That really helped me get a handle on their uses. Now, I use all of the maps!”

“One of the most popular with our faculty was a Circle Map my students created to define prime numbers. The teachers loved it! I can also use the maps as an assessment tool to share with individual classroom teachers. They can easily evaluate their students’ math strengths and weaknesses by examining individual maps.”



**Jennifer Lindler, Third Grade Teacher, Holly Hill Elementary, Volusia County:** Jennifer uses *Thinking Maps*® across the curriculum. “My students took to the maps very easily! They are a great way to *get a topic going* and a great way for students to organize information. After organization of the topic, students have a guide to follow in taking the information to a first writing piece.”

**Synthia Fletcher, Second Grade Teacher, Holly Hill Elementary, Volusia County:** Synthia uses *Thinking Maps*® across the curriculum. “We have fun using the maps. I use the overhead projector to develop the map and then they are transferred to paper and displayed. I like to print out computer graphics and gather dimensional items to add to the maps. My students embellish their maps with them. *Thinking Maps*® help students develop vocabulary and help improve their comprehension. The maps help with the mechanics of learning. *Thinking Maps*® make students THINK!”

One of Ms. Fletcher’s students, Ariana, added, “I like the Circle Map best of all!”



*Thinking Maps*® training in Volusia County



**Project SCIPP: Endorsement to Teach Students with Severe Disabilities  
(including Autism & Deaf-Blindness)**

**Project SCIPP** (Significant Cognitive Impairments Personnel Preparation) is a federally funded grant that supports coursework toward the state endorsement in severe disabilities. The University of Florida is coordinating this grant and working with five universities (listed below) throughout the state of Florida to provide local access to courses through distance learning technologies.

Two three credit courses, available to current graduate students and current teachers, will be offered this summer term beginning May 12, 2008. Using the Internet, these courses will include both web-based instruction and interactive sessions across the State. Participants can apply and register through local universities. Financial assistance is available for a limited number of participants.

**University of Florida**

Dr. Diane Ryndak  
Email: dryndak@coe.ufl.edu  
Phone: 352-392-0701

**University of North Florida**

Dr. Len Roberson  
Email: lroberso@unf.edu  
Phone: 904-620-2185

**Florida Gulf Coast University**

Dr. Patricia Wachholz  
Email: pwachhol@fgcu.edu  
Phone: 239-590-7808



**University of South Florida**

Dr. Phyllis Jones  
Email: Pjones@usf.edu  
Phone: 941-359-4395

**Florida State University**

Dr. Bruce Menchetti  
Email: bmenchet@fsu.edu  
Phone: 850-644-4880

**University of West Florida**

Dr. Stacie Whinnery  
Email: swhinnery@uwf.edu  
Phone: 850-474-3268

**Project SCIPP Courses for Summer 2008**

*Secondary Education and Transition for Students with Severe Disabilities*

Summer A: May 12 - June 20, 2008  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 5-8 p.m., facilitated by Dr. Bruce Menchetti

*Advanced Curriculum & Instruction for Students with Severe Disabilities In Inclusive Settings*

Summer C: May 12 - August 8, 2008  
Wednesdays 5-8 p.m., facilitated by Dr. Diane Ryndak

**It's Round Up Time**

We're Roundin' up a heap of thanks for your use of our FDLRS Library. Now it's time to return the materials.

FDLRS Library materials should be returned to FDLRS by Monday, May 12, 2008.

**Thank you!**



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

Palm Terrace Elementary  
1825 Dunn Avenue  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114



*National Dropout Prevention Center  
for Students with Disabilities*

The purpose of the Center is to assist states in building capacity to design/select and then implement effective, evidence-based programs and interventions to address dropout prevention among students with disabilities. **Visit our website:**

[www.ndpc-sd.org](http://www.ndpc-sd.org)

**"The road to success is always under construction."**



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](http://www.volusia.k12.fl.us/ese/fdlrs_east)