



# Coastline Newsletter

## HOW TO CHOOSE A SAFE SUMMER CAMP

Summer is just around the corner and the *Department of Children and Families* wants to remind parents, schools and community organizations of new regulations that help ensure safety at summer camps across the state.

In 2010, the Legislature approved a new law to promote safety at summer camps by requiring that all owners, operators, employees and volunteers who work more than 10 hours a month undergo background screens for state and federal criminal histories. Previously, these checks were only required for owners and operators.

“Parents and families need to be confident that their children are safe in the care of well-meaning adults,” said Secretary David Wilkins. “Florida’s law requiring federal background screens is one of the strictest in the nation, and parents need to make sure they diligently research their choices for summer camps.”

Here are some questions you can ask about summer camps to make sure your child is being cared for appropriately:



- Have all directors, employees and volunteers at this camp had proper background screening?
- Can I see the clearance letters for all your employees in their files?
- Ask about qualifications and experience of staff who will be working directly with your child.
- Know the camps’ policies and procedures, including how they handle sickness, an accident, an emergency, fire and other safety drills.
- Are employees trained in first aid and CPR?
- Visit and observe the camp in action if possible, or attend activities with your child.
- Talk to your child about their daily experiences.



Together we can give children a safe and happy summer experience. If you have concerns that a summer camp is being operated without background screening of required employees, please bring them to our attention at 1-888-352-2842 or by email at [background\\_screening@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:background_screening@dcf.state.fl.us).

For more information, please go to: [www.dcfbackgroundscreening.com](http://www.dcfbackgroundscreening.com)

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>CONTENTS</b> | page 2: <i>New IEP Software</i><br><i>ESE Parent Survey</i>                                |
|                 | page 3: <i>Pathways to Transition</i><br><i>Earth Day; May Better Hearing/Speech Month</i> |
|                 | page 4: <i>Palm Bay Unified Sports</i>   |
|                 | page 5: <i>VSA Arts Brevard</i>  |
|                 | page 6: <i>VSA Artist in Residence</i>   |
|                 | page 7: <i>ASAP Science EXPO 2012</i>  |
|                 | page 8: <i>LEAP Program Awards</i>   |
|                 | page 9: <i>What We Learned at FETC/LD Retires</i>  |

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**We appreciate you reading the *Coastline* newsletter. Please click on this link to complete a quick satisfaction survey. Thanks!**  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MN5BPT5>

**New Individual Education Plan Software Being Implemented in Brevard Public Schools**

by **Tricia Frame**, QIEP, Enrich, and Transition Teacher Trainer and **Jeff Pruitt**, QIEP, Enrich, Transition, and Technology Resource Teacher

Enrich will be taking the place of Excent, our current IEP writing software. Enrich is developed by the same software company as Excent and provides much more functionality than just simply writing an IEP. Enrich will be used for writing Individual Education Plans, Education Plans (for those students who are gifted), Service Plans, and 504 Plans, as well as providing an electronic format for staffing students in an ESE program and reporting of Medicaid to the state.

Currently all secondary schools have been trained in Enrich and we hope to roll it out for use with these schools by the end of this school year. All elementary schools are scheduled to begin training in May 2012 and completed in October 2012.

Enrich enables users to not only write an IEP, it also allows teachers to monitor progress toward these goals and actually helps to store data with concern to IEP progress.

What changes can be expected by the parents of those students whose plans are being written in Enrich? The IEP and Progress Reports will look different but the information contained in them will remain the same.



Tricia and Jeff

**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 in February. The deadline to complete it is June 30, 2012 so don't delay in letting the United States Department of Education know your thoughts regarding how well your child's school is supporting the 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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,  
[sharlac@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:sharlac@volusia.k12.fl.us)

**Don't Forget!!!**



## Earth Day, April 22, 2012

*Volusia Style*

In recognition of **Earth Day**, Gail Borland's VE modified students have recycled over **100 pounds** of aluminum so far this year. In the picture below, Diamante and Muhammed gather up cans from around the campus at University High School.



## MAY is **Better Hearing and Speech Month**

*Helping People Communicate*



This annual event provides opportunities to raise awareness about communication disorders and to provide treatment that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding, or hearing.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has many resources to help you celebrate *Better Hearing and Speech Month* every day.

Visit the ASHA website:

<http://www.asha.org/bshm/>

## Volusia's Annual "Pathways to Transition" Fair...A Big Success!

Volusia's annual "Pathways to Transition" Fair was a big success! Held on March 8th at Atlantic High School, participants were able to enjoy a free snack supper prepared and served by the Career Prep Class at Atlantic. Items made by school groups from around the county were for sale. This year, several gas card drawings were held so a few lucky people went away with a gas card in hand! Agency reps from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Brevard Achievement Center, Vocational Rehabilitation and Project 10 CONNECT provided valuable information to the participants who attended these breakout sessions. Several other local community agencies attended and distributed their resources. Almost 70 parents/family members attended the fair, as well as ESE teachers, district level staff and school-based administrators. After the count came in, 277 folks were in attendance at this year's event...a record breaker!



Representatives from disAbility Solutions answer questions for fair attendees.

A representatives from CARD shares resources with interested persons.





## *Palm Bay Elementary Unified Sports*

Reported by Coaches Barbi Miller, Terri Messer, and Sarah Cavallucci

How does Palm Bay Elementary provide students with and without disabilities with skills and opportunities to create social change? How does it motivate young people to seek a world of unity? Through Special Olympics. Kids are taught to play unified, live unified. Special Olympics is a sports organization, but also so much more.

Special Olympics Unified Sports® teams bring people together. Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle- that training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. Having sports in common is just one way that preconceptions and false ideas are swept away.

Palm Bay Elementary began its Unified Sports Program five years ago when a group of students from the gifted enrichment program began Project P.I.R.A.T.E.S. as a Community Problem Solving Project. The school's mascot is a Li'l Pirate, and the group's student-created acronym stands for Please Include Respect And Treasure Every Student.

That first group of five young people enlisted three coaches to help start their Track and Field Team. The small team of five Athletes and five Partners met with immediate success. The team's students, both with and without disabilities, worked together on the field, which carried into friendships off the field. Students grow socially, physically, emotionally and academically through the Unified Sports Program. The Track and Field Team is now twenty members strong, and the students' successes continue to mount. Last year Palm Bay Elementary started a Unified Softball program as well.

One of several promotional videos located on the International Special Olympics website, titled *Sport Teaches Us*, contains some very powerful words about the benefits of the Special Olympics program: "When we train, sport teaches us to dream. When we struggle, it teaches us determination. When we win, it teaches us joy. If we lose, it teaches us the will to try again. Sport teaches us who we really are.

Who can benefit most from this lesson? Those of us who are told most frequently that we can't. . . Sport teaches people who they really are, and we (Special Olympics) teach people sport. We are bridge builders, helping to forge relationships between our athletes and young people without intellectual disabilities, teaching them to become leaders in their own right.

There are additional community based Special Olympics Unified Sport Programs in Brevard County. A successful community Unified Volleyball team, Unified Basketball team, an adult Unified Softball team, and several community Unified Track teams currently exist in our area. For more information about beginning a successful Unified Special Olympics program, please visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org), [www.specialolympicsflorida.org](http://www.specialolympicsflorida.org), or [www.sobrevard.org](http://www.sobrevard.org). You may also contact Terri Messer or Sarah Cavallucci, Special Olympics Brevard Public School's Liaisons, at [Messer.Terri@BrevardSchools.org](mailto:Messer.Terri@BrevardSchools.org) or [Cavallucci.Sarah@BrevardSchools.org](mailto:Cavallucci.Sarah@BrevardSchools.org).

