

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Volume 5, Issue 1

Back to School, 2015

St. Johns County School District-ESE Dept

Pacetti Bay Welcomes A Special New Class

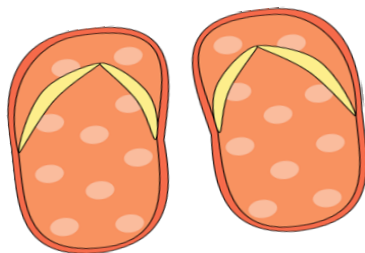


Pacetti Bay Middle School is having a very “special” start to the 2015-2016 school year. There are currently nine students enrolled so far in the inaugural PBMS Special Needs Classroom. The Bay is excited to welcome the expertise of Allen DeVos, a veteran teacher of 14 years, who has spent his entire educational career as an educator of students with varying exceptionalities.

PBMS Principal Jay Willets and his incredible staff, along with general district support, have all come together to create an atmosphere of academic and functional learning that is welcoming to students of all levels of engagement. All our students are truly blessed with this beautiful addition to The Bay. Go Wildcats!!!

A very special thanks also goes out to Lee Craig of the local Bed, Bath, and Beyond for his generous gifts of pots, pans, utensils, dishes, and glassware which are helping to stock the kitchen to aid in student learning. Our students and staff are deeply appreciative.

Contributed by: Twila Powers, Assistant Principal, Pacetti Bay Middle School



Summer Concert Fun!



Amanda has always had a love for music. She has a knack for learning and memorizing the lyrics. She started getting into country music a few years ago with Carrie Underwood, Scotty McCreery and Blake Shelton. Then she discovered Keith Urban. She liked his style of music and the fact that he was a father of two wonderful little girls. She enjoyed watching him on American Idol and really wanted to go see him in concert. So when I found out he's going to be at the Florida Country Superfest it was a no brainer!! So we bought her the tickets to go see him and also joined his fan club. I then entered her into the Meet and Greet contest and she was picked!!! We didn't tell her until we were on line for the Meet and Greet the day of the concert and she flipped out. She didn't care if she had to wait in line all day she was the happiest girl in the world!! Keith was just as amazing in person as he was on TV. He spent some time with her, asked her what her favorite song was and then sang it to her. She will never ever forget that day. He has touched her heart more than he can imagine.

Contributed by: Lynn, Parent, Creekside High School



Music Therapy For Children With Special Needs Now in 3 Ponte Vedra Elementary Schools



The Cultural Center is pleased to announce that our nationally recognized music therapy program for children with special needs was extended to three more public schools in Ponte Vedra this fall for a total of four elementary schools in St. Johns County. Now, in addition to Cunningham Creek Elementary School (in its 9th year), this amazing program is in PV/PV Rawlings, Ocean Palms and Valley Ridge public schools– benefiting hundreds of children with moderate to profound disabilities like Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and Autism. We have received seed funding from the Persbacker Wyman Family Foundation for the 2015-2016 school session and we are confident that our community will support this program which will provide a lifetime of child in need. Hundreds of children in St. Johns County have felt the joy of making music and are leading more productive and meaningful lives as a result of the Cultural Center Program. For more information on Music Therapy for Children with Special Needs, please contact Leigh Rodante at Lrodante@ccpvb.org.



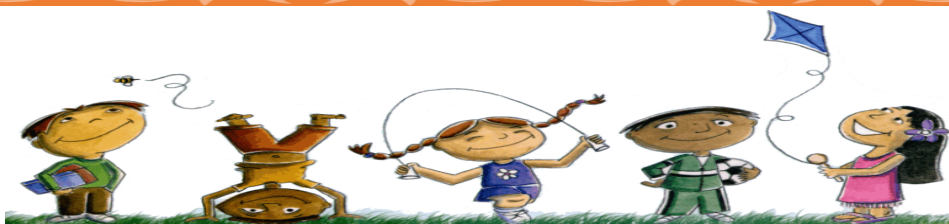
Photo courtesy of: Kim Kirk Photography

By: Cultural Center at PVB newsletter, Fall 2015

www.ccpvb.org

There is a lot happening at **St. Augustine High School** and we are looking forward to a “Super” year! We are proud to welcome our newest faculty members to the ESE department: Alyssa Kelley, Gwenivere Love, Kari Kilpatrick, Lynne Tiner, Peggy Larson, Sara Zeilman, and Ashley Wampler. This year, Mr. Ringwood is starting a brand new transition program that will facilitate our post-grads obtaining jobs in the area, gaining employment based skills, learning the Sunshine bus system, and working with job coaches. This year the department is focusing on encouraging our students to own their learning and increase their self-advocacy skills.

Submitted by: Rebecca Busey, Self-Contained ESE Teacher, St. Augustine High School



Upcoming Events



College and Career Night 2015. September 9, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.,

Mark your calendars! College and Career Night 2015 will be held Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Pedro Menendez High School. The ESE Department is working with the Guidance and Choice Department to include information for all of our students with disabilities regarding life after high school. Currently scheduled to attend: University of North Florida Disability Resource Center, Project 10 (Transition Education Network), CARD (Center for Autism and Related Disorders), APD (Agency for Persons with Disabilities), The ARC of the St. Johns (Supported Employment Services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the St. Johns Community Campus Charter School for students age 18-22).

CARD College Bound– What’s New at UNF. September 14, 5:00p.m.-6:30 p.m.,

Dr. Russell Dubberly will present on the admissions process at the University of North Florida for students with disabilities, and the mission, services, and accommodations offered through the Disability Resource Center. The presentation will also cover THRIVE, a program for students with ASD, and ACCESS Academy (booster sessions) for students with disabilities and will end with a Q/A session. Registration is required.

*****New*** CARD APT Parenting Express. September 23, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.,** Introduction to strategies that promote good habits and help fix bad ones. Geared toward parents of children of all ages. Childcare provided. Price: \$50 per family. For more information visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/apt-parenting-express-tickets-17657552214>.

CARD Satellite Clinic-St. Johns County. October 12, 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., The UF-Jacksonville Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and the UF-Jacksonville Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System Multi-Disciplinary Center (FLDRS-MDC) offer clinics to outlying counties in order to more effectively serve their constituents. Sign up for a consultative appointment with clinicians who specialize in child psychology, behavior therapy, academic interventions, Autism Screeners, Transition, and more. Appointments are at no cost to the family. Location: the Auditorium at the Fullerwood Training Center, 10 Hildreth Drive. To schedule an appointment please contact Chanel.Baldwin@jax.ufl.edu, (904)633-0816.

23rd Annual CARD Conference.– Orlando. January 29-31, 2016., Mark your calendars for CARD’s Annual Autism Conference at the Florida Hotel & Conference Center in Orlando.

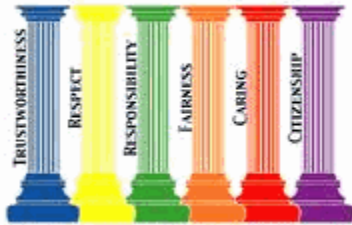


Sir Isaac Newton - (4 January 1643 - 31 March 1727) A very important scientist who is responsible for founding the three laws of motion along with studies concerning Universal Gravitation. He studied many scientific disciplines but mainly stayed inside the field of mechanics. It is said that Newton had mainly discovered gravity by examining a falling apple and that would have been one of the major reasons for him to start his researches in the subject. Isaac Newton once asked that the windows of Parliament be closed so the public wouldn't hear his stuttering.

See more at: http://www.disabled-world.com/artman/publish/article_0060.shtml



CHARACTER COUNTS!



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Mission Statement: To identify and meet the unique educational needs of exceptional students to provide support and resources to enhance educational opportunities so they become productive citizens.

ESE programs and services address the unique needs of students who are gifted in kindergarten through 12th grade and those with mild, moderate and severe disabilities from age three until they graduate with a regular diploma or until their 22nd birthday. ESE programs and services are designed to assist students in reaching their educational goals through the use of instructional and behavioral approaches which are research-based and exemplify best practices. Technology is used in many creative ways to meet student needs as well.

ESE services are available at all district schools for gifted students and students who have mid to moderate disabilities. Students with more significant disabilities are served in cluster programs at selected sites. Program support is provided to students, parents and school personnel by program specialists based at the district office. Students with disabilities who are not eligible for services through the ESE program may be eligible for an accommodations plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY?

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and useful. The next issue of the Parents As Partners Newsletter will be posted to the St. Johns County School District web site at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/dept/academic/services/ese.

If you would like to receive a copy via email, please send your email address to Sarah.Coffin@stjohns.k12.fl.us and we will gladly add you to our Parent Newsletter email list.

