



Notes from the ESE Director

I am thrilled and honored to be the new Director of Exceptional Student Education! As a 28 year veteran in the field of Special Education, I have worked across all grade levels and with students in all areas of exceptionality. What I love most about the Palm Beach County ESE "world" is the quality of our staff: teachers, therapists, psychologists, ESE Contacts, Pre-K and Child Find, and all the others.



As I visit our schools and our students, I am always thrilled to see what we do with our kids to make sure they are making progress. Whether it's an ESE teacher working on explaining Algebra in a whole new way to a Learning Disabled student, or a Speech/ Language Pathologist working one-on-one with a student who stutters, we are an amazing group! I look forward to working in my new position and am proud to be part of such an outstanding bunch of professionals. More importantly, I am proud of our ESE students who never cease to amaze me with their accomplishments!

Have a great rest of the year!
Jeff Silverman

ESE Science Fair 2011

Very Special Science Fair: A Very Special Day for Very Special Students

The Department of Exceptional Student Education sponsored the 3rd Annual Very Special Science Fair held on April 5 and April 6, 2011. The event was again hosted by the Palm Beach Zoo. Over 500 students with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder, grades kindergarten through 12, participated in the Fair.

The purpose of the Very Special Science Fair is to enable students with significant disabilities the opportunity to participate in scientific inquiry and discovery. Each classroom develops a science project which is displayed at the Palm Beach Zoo's facility. Science Fair projects follow standard Science Fair protocol.



(Continued on page 6)

Inside this issue:

Child Find /Parent Services	2
Uniquely Science	3
C.E.C.	4
C.E.C.	5
Science Fair 2012	6
PDA/ESE	7
PALs and PDA	8



FDLRS/Alpha Staff

Manager

Marsha Kufel

Parent Services

Marsha Kufel

Child Find

Vicki McClellan
Susan Darr

HRD

Julie Drewes

Technology

Linda Laverty
Jim Dunlap

Support Staff

Theresa Daniels
Brenda Tanfield

Contact :

561-434-8975
561-434-8047 (fax)

On the web:

www.palmbeachschools.org/ese/fdlrs.htm



Child Find



If you suspect that your child, or a child you know, may have a delay or disability in...

- *Speaking or Understanding*
- *Vision or Hearing*
- *Learning and Paying Attention*
- *Moving or Playing*
- *Getting Along with Other Children*
- *Self-Care Skills*

Child Find can provide screening and, if needed, further evaluation to find out if early intervention would help. These services are free to children birth to age 21 who are not enrolled in a school program (kindergarten to 12th grade).

**For more Information, please call Child Find at:
561-434-7337 ☎ 800-734-9707**

Need A PAL?

Parents As Liaisons (PALs) are parents of School District of Palm Beach County students with disabilities. The PALs have received special training in the following areas:

- IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- State Law
- Individual Education Plans (IEPs/504 Plans)
- Mediation
- Classroom Strategies/Inclusion
- Advocacy
- Disability and Network Information

PALs encourage positive relationships between school and home.

***Need a PAL?
Call 561-434-8393 or 561-718-2968
Ranee Gabriel***

As parents of children with special needs, the PALs are uniquely able to assist parents and educators in a variety of ways. PALs encourage school/home relationships by facilitating positive proactive communication between families and educators.

The PALs are contracted consultants with the Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE).

PALs can answer questions about:

Your child's education
IEPs and other acronyms
District Policies and Procedures

PALs can provide:

Information on parenting the child with special needs
Information and guidance on how to access educational and community services
Referrals to community, state or federal resources

PALs can attend IEP/504 meetings:

Assisting parents
Assisting schools

Unique Learning Systems: A UNIQUE Approach to Curriculum

As part of the science adoption for SY 2011-2012, the Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) purchased a subscription to Unique Learning System. This is the ONLY online, dynamic, standards-based curriculum specifically designed for special learners with significant disabilities. The subscription has been purchased for 7 years, thus providing teachers with a plethora of engaging, appropriate, and interactive curriculum in all content areas. Subscribers download monthly instructional thematic units based on either a science or social studies topic. Each unit contains 29 lesson plans, all correlated to Sunshine State Standard Access Points, and downloadable materials that teachers can readily implement into classroom learning activities. All materials contain icon support from Symbol-Sticks. The unit lesson plans define three levels of differentiated tasks to accommodate the diversity of learners with significant disabilities. In addition to curriculum activities, each activity contains a lesson plan with suggestions on how to teach and reinforce each concept. Monthly units include a recipe, craft, and science experiment. Data collection on student progress is measured through pre and post tests, which can be administered on the computer. Just as important, each month's unit contains a Core Curriculum, focusing on essential life skills that students with significant disabilities need to acquire in order to live as productive a life as possible.

The roll-out of the program began in August, with an introductory training offered to teachers who taught Access Point Science Course Codes. Full day Professional Development was offered monthly. The last training on Unique Learning Systems will be held on January 31, 2012. Two hundred licenses were purchased. Since then, 196 teachers have documented using the program many times during the course of a month. The ESE Department will purchase an additional 100 licenses for the 2012/2013 School Year for those classrooms in which Social Studies are taught.

With all that Unique Learning Systems offers, it is indeed a UNIQUE product that supplies exactly what it purports to contain: an easy-to-use, differentiated curriculum correlated to Florida Sunshine State Standards.

Linda Laverty
FDLRS/Alpha
Instructional Technology Specialist



Council For Exceptional Children Chapter #200

A Taste of the Tropics



Save the Date!

2012 Florida CEC Conference

October 24-27, 2012

Hosted by Palm Beach County CEC Chapter #200



Call 877-485-7966 for Information Room Rate \$134.00

**Chapter 200 is thrilled to introduce Marilyn Friend, Ph.D.
as the 2012 Florida CEC Keynote Speaker.**

Dr. Friend is currently Chair and Professor of Education in the Department of Specialized Education Services at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and also serves as the national CEC President.

Contact: www.palmbeachcountycec.org

Kristy Hoot: klhh79@comcast.net

Jennifer Lesh: im4iujjlesh@aol.com

Save the Date!

2012 Florida CEC Conference
October 24-27, 2012
Hosted by Palm Beach County
CEC Chapter #200



Palm Beach County Council for Exceptional Children Chapter #200 is proud to announce that we are sponsoring the 2012 Florida CEC Conference to be held at the Jupiter Resort and Spa October 24-27, 2012. CEC is currently the largest international organization dedicated to improving the education success of students with disabilities as well as students with gifts and talents. CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, advocates for individuals with exceptionalities and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice. Please visit our website at www.palmbeachcountycec.org to learn more about the chapter and the upcoming conference. We are currently forming committees and would welcome volunteers. If you are interested please contact **Kristy Hoot at klhh79@comcast.net or Jennifer Lesh at im4iujjlesh@aol.com.**



ESE Science Fair 2011

(Continued from page 1)

Since its inception 3 years ago, the Very Special Science Fair has tripled the number of classrooms participating in this event. Students are proud of the hard work they've generated in developing their science projects and thrilled at seeing them displayed at the Zoo's Pavilion. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the special wildlife presentations given by Palm Beach Zoo staff, watching all the animals in their habitats, and picnicking under the shade of many trees. Regina Brodsky from Royal Palm School said, "Royal Palm students and staff remember the Science Fair as a perfect day that is both fun and educational for all! It is very meaningful for our students to be involved in sharing what they learned with each other in such an exceptional setting and way."



At the end of the Science Fair, as the students board the buses to return to school, they are each given a medal that says, "I Am a Winner!" And, indeed, they all are.

The Department of Exceptional Student Education wishes to thank the Department of Federal and State Programs, the Palm Beach Zoo, Kid's Dreams, and the Graham-Eckes Palm Beach Academy Foundation for their generous support in making this very special day a reality.

Linda Lavery, FDLRS/Alpha
Instructional Technology Specialist

Spirit Night

On October 6, 2011, The Department of Exceptional Student Education and Chick-fil-A proudly held Spirit Night to support the **VERY SPECIAL SCIENCE FAIR** for students in grades K-12 with significant disabilities. The Very Special Science Fair, now in its fourth year, is devoted to enabling these special children the opportunity to make and display a science project that follows National Science Foundation guidelines. Last year, approximately 600 students attended the Very Special Science Fair hosted by the Palm Beach Zoo. Transportation for these special needs students, many of whom are in wheelchairs, cost \$10,000. Chick-fil-A franchises throughout Palm Beach County agreed to host a Spirit Night in which a substantial portion of sales were donated to the Very Special Science Fair.

Spirit Night raised \$750 to be used for transportation. The Department of Exceptional Student Education wishes to thank Angela Bloom, Marketing Director of the Wellington Mall branch, in particular for her assistance in coordinating this event.



On-line Professional Development Opportunities!



As we begin the second half of the school year and start to reflect on the year so far, as well as what lies ahead, for many of us this is a time when we think about things like: “This year I am going to work on improving my classroom management skills” or “I really would like to improve my ability to differentiate instruction in my classroom”. Some of us are thinking about completing the last courses for reading endorsement while others are realizing their certification is up for renewal in June and are in need of in-service points.

Well, if you are one of these teachers, you should be thinking about enrolling in the Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) on-line modules. PDA are FREE on-line modules for teachers that are offered through your local FDLRS Center. The topics range from *Positive Behavior Supports* to *Differentiating Mathematics Instruction*. The *PDA Differentiating Reading Instruction: Making It Explicit* module not only awards in-service points, it also meets competencies 4 & 5 of Reading Endorsement.

PDA is for you if you are:

- a general or exceptional educator seeking points for recertification
- wanting to enhance your ability to teach learners with diverse needs
- preparing for the ESE K-12 subject area exam
- teaching out-of-field and need professional development points
- targeting an area on your professional development plan

PDA modules, offered statewide, utilize quality online instruction for self-paced study, ongoing communication with local facilitator support, and classroom-related assessment tasks.

Foundations of ESE (60 points)
Assessment and Evaluation (60 points)
Instructional Practices (60 points)
Positive Behavior Support (60 points)
Transition (60 points)
Language Development and Communication Skills (60 points)
Interpersonal Interactions and Participation (30 points)
Differentiated Reading Instruction for Students: Making it Explicit (60 points)
An Introduction to Differentiating Instruction (15 points)
Differentiating Math Instruction for All Students (30 points)
Differentiating Science Instruction for All Students (30 points)
Technology for Student Success (15 points)
Formative Assessment Process for Differentiating Instruction (15 points)

For additional information, please contact Julie Drewes FDLRS /Alpha PDA Coordinator
Julie.drewes@palmbeachschools.org or 561-434-8543.

PALs

The goal of Parent Services is to promote a positive educational experience for the student receiving special education services by providing families with information and guidance on how to access educational and community services. Family roles and responsibilities are strengthened in the education process by providing parents and school staff with up-to-date resources and support.

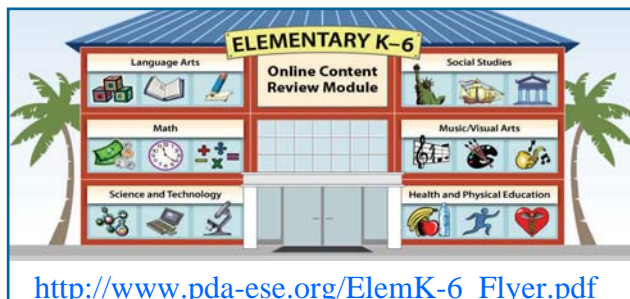
Parents as Liaisons (PALs) are parents of students with disabilities who have received training in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) procedures and policies. Currently PALs are offering an Educational Binder workshop for parents that is arranged at the school.

Parents as Liaisons (PALs) conducts a workshop for parents in which they develop an Educational Binder for their child. This is a hands-on, “make-and-take” session. Parents will receive instruction and prepare their own child’s ESE Educational Binder. Not only will the binder help parents save time at IEP meetings, but it will also serve as a valuable tool to keep an organized collection of their child’s ESE academic documents.

For information about FDLRS/Parent Services, please call 561-366-6903.

Professional Development Alternatives

Self-Guided Resources for Certification Exam Preparation



Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum Online Content Review Module

http://www.pda-ese.org/MGIC_Flyer.pdf



For additional information or questions, email

Julie Drewes

julie.drewes@palmbeachschools.org

**Pathways to
ESE K-12 Certification**

<http://www.pda-ese.org/certification.htm>