

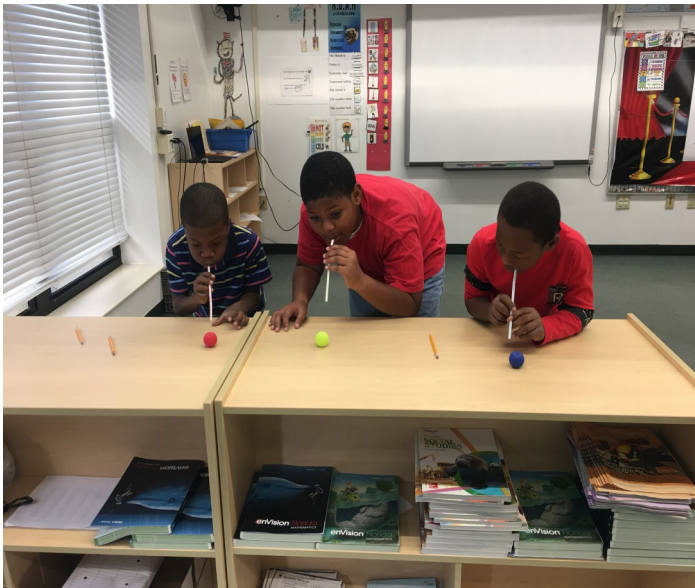
PARENTS AS PARTNERS

St. Johns County School District

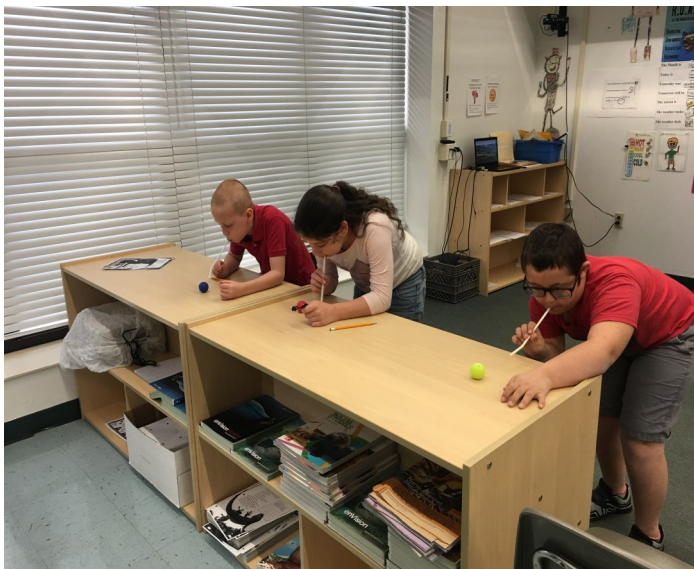
Volume 9, Issue 2
Winter



Mr. Hansen's Science Experiments



Mr. Hansen's 3rd-5th graders at The Webster School have been working hard with the scientific method. In this experiment, students are determining how far a ping pong ball travels depending on the amount of force from a puff of air. Students came up with the question, created a hypothesis, tested their hypothesis, collected data and made conclusions. There was so much excitement during this experiment, every child was engaged. They enjoyed testing their hypothesis and then talking about the data they collected. Mr. Hansen continues to hold high expectations for his students, and they continue to strive to meet them. Great things are happening at The Webster School!



Contributed By: Jennifer Sparks, Assistant Principal, The Webster School



A program just for brothers and sisters of children with special needs.

Brothers and sisters, ages 8-13, of kids with developmental disabilities now have a program that's just for them called Sibshops. They'll have a chance to meet other kids whose brothers and sisters have special needs and talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sibling with a disability. Most important, they'll have fun! This wonderful program is at no cost to your family.

- September 7, 2019
- November 16, 2019
- February 22, 2020
- May 2, 2020

Event hours: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Register online at

<https://sibshopsjax.eventbrite.com>

These events are at no cost to the individual or family.

For more information contact:
audrey.bringman@jax.ufl.edu





10 Tips for Traveling with Special Needs Kids

1. **BE BRAVE!** Unless your doctor or specialist has specifically ruled out travel, don't let your fears take over! Everyone needs to get away once in a while and a little planning and preparation can put many of your fears to rest.
2. **Planning is everything!** Map out your trip and select destinations and rest stops that can accommodate your child's needs. Call ahead to see if your destination can meet your needs.
3. **Consult with your child's physician.** Ask for recommendations, tips and a special "travel pack" with items you may need in case of a emergency.
4. **Pack extras.** Bring more than you need of the special items your child requires. Remember: "Better safe than sorry."
5. **Keep track of personal essentials.** As you pack, make a list of all essential items and double check it before you leave each stop of your journey.
6. **Find transportation to meet specific needs.** Be sure to ask about special guidelines or requirements for passengers with disabilities.
7. **Don't be shy.** As diplomatically as you can, let people know what you need and expect them to make accommodations for your child's special needs.
8. **Remember: It's a family trip.** Be sure to offer some quality time and attention to your other kids as well.
9. **Plan a day of rest.** Expect both your kids' and your own body to need some down time when you arrive at your destination, and again when you arrive home.
10. **Don't Expect perfection.** Every trip is a learning experience for you and a precious family memory for your children, whatever their needs.

Source: <https://myfamilytravels.com/content/11177-10-tips-traveling-special-needs-kids>

**REGISTRATION
for the Spring
2020
FIELD OF DREAMS
Season is
officially OPEN**

**Sign up for FREE online at
WWW.FODBASEBALL.COM
Please register by Dec. 1st**

The Field of Dreams Baseball League enables children with special needs (mental or physical disabilities) with the opportunity to play baseball in an organized league; to wear a uniform; to have their names announced; to participate in the singing of the National Anthem before each game and to be a player on an athletic team. A non-profit organization, 501(c)(3).



IF WE BUILD IT,
THEY WILL COME.



**Please Visit Our Website To Learn About Sponsorship
Opportunities: FODBASEBALL.COM**

The mission of the Field of Dreams (FOD) Baseball League is to provide a sustainable voluntary organization that provides a safe ADA certified facility where special needs children (ages 5-19 if still in school) can play baseball FREE

Team Hayden Promotes Inclusion in St. Johns County Schools

On October 10th Team Hayden with the support of Community Hospice and Palliative Care child life specialist, Danielle Eaves, presented at Freedom Crossing Academy in Mrs. Slopey's 5th grade classroom, about differently abled people and acceptance. Evan Chadwell, 10 year old brother to Hayden Chadwell, 8 years old and a medically fragile 3rd grader at Cunningham Creek Elementary, have been working together on this presentation for three years. Students asked questions and had the opportunity to share their own experiences. Evan and Hayden work together in the community to share their bond and answer questions people may have about living with a disability and in palliative care. They also have a therapy dog Beau that travels with them. To learn more about Team Hayden or need sibling support, contact: <https://www.facebook.com/teamhayden>



W. D. Hartley Elementary School

Ms. Jaci Racano, Teacher of the Gifted, teaches a lesson to 2nd/ 3rd grade Hartley students in Ms. Amber Kerly's class.

Students were given opportunities to explore a lesson on self-esteem. The INDEX Card Rotation activity allowed student to say positive statements about their classmates at random. After students got their cards back they used these statements and converted them into an "I statement", which empowered the students to see the good in themselves that others see in them.

We closed our enrichment time together with a fun building activity of Straws and Connectors. Students were given 15 minutes to do a free build with a team member. This activity allowed students to move around, use their imaginations, work together and physically represent something the team valued. We practiced listening skills as each group shared. Students did an amazing job with the creations they came up with! Everyone really enjoyed this activity.



Life Work Transition Program

The Life Work Program is busy wrapping up our first round of internships. At the Council on Aging, Kristen and Bre'Aushia worked closely with the lead head cook to prepare chicken for the clients of the COA and the Meals on Wheels program. Meanwhile, Destiny and Iona worked with Ms. Fort and Mr. Ringwood to package meals to be shipped out the following week for Meals on Wheels.



SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY



Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Speech & Language Therapy newsletter is now complete! You can access the newsletter on <https://www.smores.com/zkq9d>. You will find speech/language strategies and activities your family can use at home. The goal is for your child to practice using good speech and language skills outside of therapy in a fun and natural way!

We will continue to monitor and update the newsletter throughout the school year. If you have any questions or experience trouble accessing the newsletter, please let us know! 😊

Best,

Sarah Falls & Lori Derus

Durbin Creek Speech-Language Pathologists

Durbin Creek Elementary, 2019-2020

ESE PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is composed of parents, educators, administrators, business representatives, and other interested community members concerned with the education of students with disabilities.

The purpose of the committee is to provide information to parents and input to district staff regarding our ongoing effort to continuously improve services for students with disabilities.

Topic: ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES & THEIR FAMILIES TO SUCCESSFULLY MANAGE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN THE HOME & COMMUNITY

Presenter: Bart Barta, Retired First Responder **Date/Time:** 01/07/20 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Fullerwood Training Center – 10 Hildreth Drive St. Augustine, FL 32084

Topic: THE ABC'S OF ADHD – Part 1

Presenter: David O. Childers, M.D., Neurodevelopmental-Behavioral Pediatrician

Date/Time: 02/04/20 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Fullerwood Training Center – 10 Hildreth Drive St. Augustine, FL 32084

Topic: BEHAVIORAL & EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR STUDENTS WITH ADHD – Part 2

Presenter: Marlena Jenkins, UF Jacksonville Diagnostic Learning & Resource Systems Multidisciplinary Center at University of Florida Jacksonville

Date/Time: 03/03/20 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Fullerwood Training Center – 10 Hildreth Drive St. Augustine, FL 32084



Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with ALS at age 21 and he was given 2 more years to live. He lived until he was 76 years old. He had been paralyzed from head to toe for over thirty years and used a voice synthesizer to be able to communicate, and a wheelchair that he operated through slight movements of the head and eyes. None of this prevented him from developing his activity as an exemplary researcher and professor. Source: <https://www.sunrisemedical.co.uk/blog/famous-people-with-disabilities>

ESE Program Specialist Spotlight

Lynn Adkins is an ESE Program Specialist for St. Johns County School District. She oversees programming for students with specific learning disabilities and other health impairments, as well as oversees learning strategies courses, FSA and EOC waivers.

Lynn has been teaching students in Florida since 1995. She holds current Florida certifications in the areas of Educational Leadership (all levels), Specific Learning Disabilities (k-12), Elementary Education (k-6), and English for Speakers of Other Languages (k-12). She has also completed additional coursework in the areas of Early Childhood Development and Autism Spectrum Disorders. She has extensive experience with the LEA role and responsibilities, high yield instructional strategies, and classroom/testing accommodations.

We are very fortunate to have Lynn as a part of our ESE team. She is a great asset to the department. Her dedication and passion for serving our students in St. Johns County is undeniable.





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School, Surrogate Parents, , Parent Advisory
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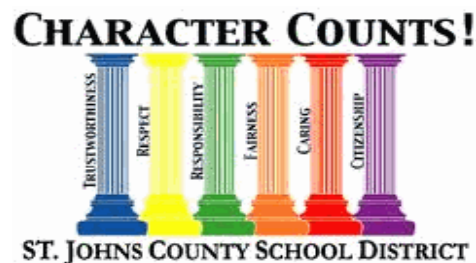
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ESE Curriculum

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Access Points Curriculum

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Carlyn Whitty, Confidential Secretary
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Mission Statement: To identify and meet the unique educational **needs of exceptional students and to provide support and re-** **sources 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 mild to moderate disabilities. PreK students with disabilities and 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.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and useful. *Parents As Partners Newsletters* are posted to the St. Johns County School District web site at:

<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ese/>