



Exceptional Student Learning Support News Bulletin

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Our Students Learn All About Safety

During Broward County School's Summer Program, Emergency Service departments around the county showed up for our Students with Disabilities attending Extended School Year Programs. It looks like our students are ready to help keep the community safe!

Fort Lauderdale Police Visit Fort Lauderdale High



The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department Community Engagement Team visited Fort Lauderdale High School's ESY program. Students had the opportunity to engage with Canine Officer Jill, her partners, Community Engagement Team Officer Diaz, and Officer Byer. Students enjoyed petting and posing for pictures with Officer Jill, a therapy dog, and were delighted to receive gift bags from Officers Diaz and Byer. This event was arranged by Officer Nicholas Cuevas of Stranahan High School after having worked with the ESY students at Fort Lauderdale High this summer.



Pompano Fire Department Visits Crystal Lake Middle

The Pompano Beach Fire Department provided SVE students with a hands-on lesson and that included learning about fire safety and how to use equipment from the fire truck.

Pictures by Rhonda Spencer, ESLS Curriculum Program Specialist











Save The Date:

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization Step Up 4 Down Syndrome Walk & 5K

Submitted by: Andrea Ciotti; InD Curriculum Supervisor

The ESLS Department will participate in the Annual Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization Step Up 4 Down Syndrome Walk and 5K Run on Sunday, October 10th at Markham Park in Sunrise. The Step Up 4 Down Syndrome Walk was established to promote acceptance and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome and to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October.

Schools wishing to form a team can take advantage of the early registration discount by clicking on the link below to register and get your team started. [Step Up 4 Down Syndrome Walk & 5k Run](https://runsignup.com/eslsteam2122), or you are invited to join the District ESLS Team. You can support our district ESLS team at: <https://runsignup.com/eslsteam2122>

We look forward to our annual participation in order to support our students in raising funds, awareness, advocacy, and inclusionary practices.

The Race is ON! Let's go Team Broward!!



The poster for the 2021 Step Up 4 Down Syndrome Walk & 5k Run features a group of participants in blue and yellow shirts. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 10, 2021, at Markham Park (16001 W State Rd 84, Sunrise, FL 33326). The 5K run starts at 7:30 am and the walk starts at 8:15 am. The course is a tested USA Triathlon certified course with finisher medals for registered 5K participants. Activities include lunch, family fun, bounce house, rock climbing, raffles, and much more. All proceeds benefit the Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization (954-825-0400). Social media links for Instagram and Facebook (SU4DS) are provided. Registration and donation information is at stepup4downsyndrome.com.

New ESLS Staff

ESLS has a New Middle School Supervisor

Stephanie Acosta Castro is beyond excited to open the 2021-2022 school year as the ESLS Middle School Supervisor and leader of the #RockStars. She joined BCPS in June of 2021 with over 10 years of experience in Special Education Coaching and Compliance.

She is Cuban American born and raised in South Florida. She is a proud University of Miami GRAD! Go 'Canes! Her graduate studies are in Education Law and Educational Leadership. Coaching is Stephanie's passion and she believes if we write and implement quality IEPs, we all win! She looks forward to supporting our Middle Schools, our Behavior Technician's, and our dream team, the #RockStars as they help #MiddleSchoolsRock this year. Follow her team on twitter and share your #ESLS happenings @acostacastro10



New to Our ESL Teams



Felicia graduated from Nazareth College in Rochester NY with a Master's Degree in Inclusive Education and has been working as an educator of students with exceptional needs for over 15 years. Her last related assignment was with the Georgia Department of Education working with Special Education Budgets and Grants and prior to that she worked for Atlanta Public Schools in a position equivalent to our county's ESE Specialist. Felicia is excited to join Broward County Schools this year serving as an ESL Transition Specialist! A part of her educational philosophy is post-secondary goals and solid transition services should drive a student's education plan. She is now a part of the team directly supporting students' goals and dreams; getting to witness them come to fruition is such an awesome opportunity! Felicia currently lives in Delray Beach with her husband Eric and 9th grade son Channing. When they are not at work or school you can find them on the beach living their dream of residing in Florida under the palm trees.



Ashley is currently the ESL Field Coach for middle school. Ashley is a product of Dillard High School. She graduated from Florida State earning a Bachelor and Master of Science in Emotional Disturbance/Learning Disabilities. Ashley has been with Broward County School Board for 16 years ago. She started as a 4th/5th grade ESE Teacher at Maplewood Elementary. She transferred to William Dandy Middle school as Varying Exceptionalities Teacher and then became the ESE Specialist. Working with the middle school population she realized she had a passion for students and their post-secondary goals, which lead Ashley to Coral Glades High School as an ESE Support Facilitator and Student Government Advisor. She had the pleasure of assisting students with their post-secondary educational and employment goals, in order to meet the students' needs after high school. Ashley thought she had found her dream job and would retire as a Support Facilitator, but it seemed her principal had another

plan instead and asked her to become the ESE Specialist. Ashley is delighted to be a part of the RockStar Team!



Patrizia Gillespie is happy to join the district ESLS department as a Curriculum Program Specialist for middle schools. Education is her second career, previously having worked as an administrator in Human Resources. She started her teaching career 25 years ago as a Spanish teacher and, after 12 years, she transferred over to Exceptional Student Education. She has been an SVE teacher, a Support Facilitator and most recently an ESE Specialist. She is originally from Venezuela, with Italian roots, but grew up in South Florida. Patty has two wonderful adult children. Her daughter has intellectual challenges and is the reason why she started working in the ESLS department. Patty's daughter has a huge heart and leaves happiness everywhere she goes. She inspires Patty to be a better person every day! Patty is looking forward to a wonderful year with the best Middle School Team!!!!

ESLS Staff Accomplishments

Broward County Recognition Program (BCRP)



Congratulations to Michelle Appelbaum, one of the ESLS Assistive Technology Program Specialists, for receiving her 5-year renewal of her Broward County Recognition Program (BCRP) accomplished standards. Her lifelong learning and continual collaboration within the SLP/AT profession have contributed to the success and integrity of the BCRP. ESLS is very proud of her receipt of this special honor.



Congratulations to Bari Aronson, Florida Inclusion Network Facilitator of the FDLRS Team. She completed her Broward County Recognition Program (BCRP) for the first time. She gives credit to all those that helped her complete her standards. These individuals include; Kathleen Hefferman, Genese Lapaix, Debbie Miller, Yolanda Francis and Barbara Krakower. Bari strives for excellence in her work and is always willing to meet a challenge. She looks forward to implementing what she has learned to ensure all students with disabilities are included in their educational environment as well as their community.

Peers as Partners in Learning



Calling all Middle and High Schools

Do you want to help your Students with Disabilities ...

- achieve more academically?
- be valued members of your school community?
- have improved engagement?
- have better attendance?
- develop positive relationships?

Then we have the program for you!

Peers as Partners in Learning can help improve all these areas for both students with and without disabilities.

It's not too late to start a program for the 21-22 school year.

For more information contact:
Bari Aronson and
Barbara Krakower





Peers as Partners in Learning 2021 Roundtable Sessions

with the Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)

Join FIN for a series of statewide roundtable discussions and conversations about implementing and sustaining the Peers as Partners in Learning courses at the middle and high school levels.

Session 1 - September 29, 2021
Session 2 - December 1, 2021
Session 3 - February 9, 2022
Session 4 - April 13, 2022

3:45-4:45 (EST)
2:45-3:45 (CST)

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3AXozn2> or using the QR code: 

The Florida Inclusion Network is a discretionary project of the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B.



Coming Soon



SU4DS Walk & 5K Run

Save the Date for

October 10, 2021



INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

DECEMBER 6-12, 2021



1 - [ISW Padlet](#)

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at [Exceptional Student Learning Support](#)

