



Winter 2010

For those of you who are new to JPT, this newsletter is a resource for parents and students. It includes special ESE events, ESE Parent Advisory meetings, IEP information, and parent resources for information and opportunities for you and your child. Additional information can be found at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentsupport/ese/>

On behalf of the entire ESE staff at Taravella, we would like to thank all of the administrators, teachers, students, and parents, for their generosity and support during the holiday season.

All of our students are highly encouraged to participate in school activities, sporting events, dances, and clubs. Please visit the jptaravella.com website for club and activity information.

Important Things to Know

➤ All parents wanting to apply for accommodations for your child on the PSAT, SAT, and/or A.P. exams, need to apply for them. You can visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/> for more information.

➤ Information for accommodations for the ACT can be found at <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/index.html>

Did you know ...?

☐ About the Transfer of Rights – on your child's 18th birthday, they become legally responsible for their files. Please read the Transfer of Rights letter that is generated when your child is 17. Their signature is required for all paperwork related to the IEP when they turn 18.

☐ All ESE students have personalized ID cards with their accommodations, case manager information, and information pertaining to access to the Content Mastery Lab.

☐ All JPT teachers are in the loop regarding accommodations and the needs of our students. Each teacher has a document called IEP-at-a-Glance that describes your child's present levels of functioning, accommodations, and goals.

☐ With teacher permission, all of our students have access to the Content Mastery Lab. It is open every period of the day. Remediation, organization, and implementation of accommodations can be accomplished there. Many of our students choose to take their assessments in there as well. Students must request that their tests be sent to the lab at least one day prior to the test. After they report to the gen. ed. teacher for attendance, they sign into the lab to take the test. It will be waiting for them there.

➤ The Lab is also used for students whose IEPs indicate the need for small group testing.

➤ Our VE staff includes Ms. James, Ms. Ouellette, Ms. Rusnak, Ms. Herzog, and Ms. Henderson. Please call Merrill Levine or Robin Jacobson for more information at 754-322-2311.

➤ We have designated two nights per month to meet with parents who are unavailable during the day. Please call Robin Jacobson to set up an appointment. 754-322-2311

L.I.F.T.

Learning Independence through Focused Transition

L.I.F.T. is a free afterschool program offered through the YMCA. This club meets daily afterschool in room 312. Participants work on employability, social, and independent living skills. Each student works with the staff to develop and reach goals that are specific to their needs. The group uses non-school days for field trips. L.I.F.T. provides a safe and fun environment for students. If you would like to learn more, please call Debra Futterman at 954-623-5555 ext 236.

Contacts and Resources

Broward Gold Coast *Down Syndrome* Organization

Please contact: Diane De Braga, Executive Director for more information and event calendar
954-577-4122 www.bgcdownsyrndrome.org

Autism Resources

Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD) is among the world's largest and most experienced organizations effectively treating children with autism and related disorders. Following the principles of [Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\)](#), a treatment for autism that has been thoroughly researched and empirically validated by the scientific community, CARD develops individualized treatment plans. CARD was established in 1990 and has several offices throughout the world. With their network of trained supervisors and therapists, they can provide services to families throughout the world. <http://www.centerforautism.com/>

ARC Broward -10250 NW 53 St, Sunrise (Just south of Commercial Blvd and west of Nob Hill Road)

February 17, 2010 Special Needs Summer Camps

March 17, 2010 Sexuality and Autism

April 21, 2010 Social Skills

ASA Broward provides free information to parents, professionals, and educators. Visit our website at: www.asabroward.org or **954-577-4141**

Taravella has one of the biggest Special Olympics program in Broward County. You can contact Candy Allen at 754-322-2311 for more information.

We also have a huge Best Buddies program. Please call Ms. Joanne Wallace for more information at 754-322-2300.

Parks and Recreation Division invite you to meet friends and have fun. All events are free.

Pre-registration is required.

Call the Special Populations Section at **954-357-8160** or e-mail Specialpopulations@broward.org at least 10 days prior to the event.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in County programs, services, and activities must contact the Special Populations Section at 954-357-8170 or TTY 954-537-2844 at least ten (10) business days prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. For middle and high school students with developmental disabilities, ages 13-21

The Children's Services Council of Broward County

6600 W. Commercial Blvd, Lauderhill, FL 33319

msoza@cscbroward.org

Our Mission:

To provide the leadership, advocacy and resources necessary to enhance children's lives and empower them to become responsible, productive adults through collaborative planning and funding of a continuum of quality care

www.hippocampus.org

www.schooltube.com

□ two great websites with some valuable information for math and other subjects.

Getting ready to graduate?

Ms. Kaplan (our BRACE Advisor) has a wealth of information pertaining to available scholarships. I HIGHLY recommend that parents of juniors and seniors make an appointment to see her in the guidance office.

Here are a couple of websites you may find helpful.

✓ facts.org is Florida's Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students. Sponsored by the Department of Education and the Florida Center for Advising & Academic Support, this free online advising website helps students plan and track their education progress from middle school through college

✓ **The College Admission & Student Aid Resource Link** <http://www.inlikeme.com>

✓ jptaravella.com will give you specific updates about senior activities

Looking for scholarship opportunities?

○ Try www.fastweb.com www.facts.org

○ **If you are going into college, a vocational, technical school or if you are planning to enter the workforce, you will find valuable supports from Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc. Rehab.). The agency referral forms can be found in room 320. Voc. Rehab. Will request permission to evaluate the student and determine the necessary resources they will financially support.**

○ **Scholarships for students who are visually impaired... Visual Aid Volunteers of Florida (VAVF) provides training, coordination, and assistance to the various groups in Florida who utilize Braille and record materials for the visually impaired. VAVF awards scholarships to selected high school seniors who are legally blind residents of the State of Florida and are continuing their education. These scholarships are based on merit.**

○ Eligibility: Florida resident, legally blind (verification from doctor or Division of Blind Services required), letters of recommendation, List of extracurricular activities/community service, statement of career goals

essay (statement of how scholarship will make a difference)

○ Award: Varies (number and award amount available varies according to the funds available) Deadline: March 30, 2010

○ Mrs. Levine has lists of "ESE friendly" colleges. I will be happy to send a copy upon

request.

○ **Students entering college, a vocational, technical school are encouraged to contact the Office of Disabilities on their new campus.**

Parent Resources/Online Tutorials

Take a workshop on your own computer from the comfort of your own home.

□ Go to www.fndfl.org/Tutorials.asp

Viewing each workshop takes about 30 minutes you can but go at your own pace! There are 29 tutorials including a variety of topics:

▪ Exceptional Student Education (IDEA/Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), Conflict Resolution, IEP, FCAT Accommodations, Collaborative Communication, Related Services, Juvenile Justice and IDEA, Evaluation, Positive Behavior Supports, 504 Plans, Rights and Responsibilities, Self-Determination); Transition from School to Community (Transition, Olmstead disability civil rights term/person's right to choose where they live, From IEP to IPE/Individualized Plan for Employment, Rehabilitation Act, Assistive Technology, Why the Arts/Career in the Arts/career interests); Trusts and Special Needs Planning (Tools for Independence, Involve the Whole Family), and Parent Involvement (Bullying, Helping with Homework, Impact on Family and Community, Father's Involvement, A Compact for Reading, Understanding Your Child's Learning Styles, Effective Parent Conferences, Family Literacy). The Family Network on Disabilities (FND) of Broward County may be reached at: (754) 321-1705 or fndbroward@hotmail.com

Keep checking this site. If you have great resources please email me with your suggestions.

merrill.levine@browardschools.com