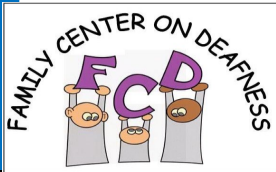


January  
2020



## MISSION STATEMENT

The **FAMILY CENTER on DEAFNESS** empowers Pinellas County families with deaf or hard of hearing members by providing programs and services to promote

## Free Amplified Telephones



Call FCD at  
727-399-9983 for  
details

### CONTACT US:

12445 62nd St. N #303  
Largo, FL 33773  
727-501-2323 voice  
727-235-6285 vp  
[www.fcdpinellas.org](http://www.fcdpinellas.org)

Check our website  
for latest news and  
announcements!

 Juvenile Welfare Board

 Florida  
Telecommunications  
FTRI Relay, Inc.

# HandTalk

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

November and December are always fun and busy months at FCD. On November 23rd, we had our annual Thanksgiving picnic at Taylor park. FCD provided the turkeys and everyone brought a dish to share which resulted in a HUGE feast! A new activity this year was a drum circle presented by the Deaf Literacy Center. It was great to see everyone bond together and have a great time. No one went home hungry!

On December 15th, the FCD and DLC had their Mingle and Jingle. We enjoyed a great meal with new and old friends in a cute little park in Safety Harbor. There were also children's activities, ASL holiday music and stories, and a visit from Signing Santa.

High School Teens celebrated with an Italian Feast on December 20th. They also played some fun holiday games and received movie tickets as presents to be used for an upcoming Teen Scene Activity.

REACH celebrated winter holidays and Christmas with a party at FCD. Games, snacks, and a special visit from Signing Santa had each child filled with holiday joy. Each child was given a gift and a goodie bag.





January 17, 24 31

No Teen Social  
January 10th

Field Trip :  
January 11th  
Puzzling Adventure  
(12—5 pm)



January 7,8,9,  
14,15,16,21,22,23,  
28,29,30

Field Trip  
January 14th -  
Grades K-3 head to  
the park to play  
games and sign with  
Senior Citizens



January  
9,14,16,21,23,28,30



Please welcome our 2019-2020 Deaf/Hard of Hearing Academic Bowl team!

The team has been studying hard since September for the regional competition February 14-17th at Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington D.C.

Left to right (back row): Tyna Kim, Drew Hornyak, Vipin Suren, and Bella Engelman. Coaches (front row) Franklin Smith and Melissa Hebbeler.



Girls Squad—January 17th  
New Leader: Caitlyn Dollar



Boys Club — January 17th  
4:30 pm—6:00 pm

SIGN UP NOW!

**2020 Sign Language Classes**

Sat. Mornings  
Feb. 1st- March 7th  
9:30-11:00 am  
12445 62nd St. N. #303  
Largo, FL 33773

**\$15 for FCD Clients**  
**\$50 Community Members**

Childcare provided upon request if volunteers are available.

REGISTER by: Friday Jan. 24th

Remove bottom portion and return to your child's teacher or contact  
Dawn Varner / 727-452-3040 / dawn@fcdpinellas.org

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Are you an FCD Participant? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you want to become an FCD Participant? \_\_\_\_\_

Participant 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for enrolling: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of D/HH Child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_



**Volunteers**

Crystal Collyer  
 Andrew Estima  
 Brianna Greene  
 Cindy Hebbeler  
 Alex Jenkins  
 DiQwan Johnson  
 Keller Williams-  
 (Seminole)  
 Katie Killebrew  
 Sirrenna Petty  
 Bridget Phelan  
 Jessica Potts  
 Sue Rosenbluth  
 Hannah Rutherford  
 Zoe Schonmann  
 Rachelle Settambriano  
 Dennis Sofr  
 Rene' Vojnovic  
 Ben Wallis  
 Daphne Woodham

**Donations**

**In-Kind**  
 Monique Garcia  
 Rene' Vojnovic  
 Open Arms Ministries  
 St. Paul's Methodist  
 Church  
 Mary Ann Zielger

**Financial**

Marsh Foundation  
 Walmart #5931  
 Walmart #1536



Please join our 2020 Parent Committee!

**PARENT NETWORK**

Pinellas County families with Deaf/ HH children  
 Deaf Parents, CODA's, and siblings  
 Regularly scheduled dinner/meeting  
 Network with parents and professionals  
 Support group for real life situations  
 Education and communication resources  
 Express your questions and concerns  
 Share your experience with other families  
 "Kids Klub" for the children with RSVP

JOIN OUR PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP!  
 "Family Center on Deafness Parent Network"

**FOCUS GROUP**

Parent volunteers  
 Community members  
 Plan topics for Parent Network and family events  
 Share your opinions, ideas, and experience  
 Help direct our services to the needs of families  
 Your willingness and reliability are important  
 Regularly scheduled meetings  
 Phone/ email contact communication  
 Fundraising support for camps/ events

2020 Parent Network planning will be at our first Focus Group meeting.

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING**

Date: Thursday Jan. 9th  
 Time: 6pm-8pm  
 Location: 12445 62nd St. N. #303 Largo, Florida 33773

**INTERPRETERS PROVIDED!**

RSVP: Dawn Varner  
 dawn@fcdpinellas.org  
 727-452-3040  
 VP: 727-269-5674  
 WEB: www.fcdpinellas.org



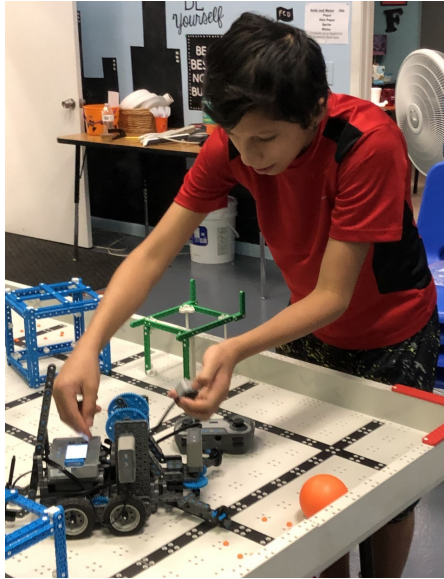
Middle and High School students from FCD participated in a "movie Day on December 30th at Studio Movie Grill in Seminole. The teens were treated to an open-captioned showing of "Jumanji: The next Level", which they thoroughly enjoyed. It was a great way for them to catch up and socialize during holiday break. **The next open-captioned movie, which is open to the public will be "Just Mercy" on January 12th at 5:15 p.m.**

**Family Center on Deafness Staff**

<b>Cindy Hebbeler</b>	Interim Executive Director
<b>Kathy Kemp</b>	Office Manager
<b>Tracy Kasch</b>	Program Manager
<b>Franklin Smith</b>	Lead Youth/Family Support Spc.
<b>Catilyn Dollar</b>	Youth/Family Support Specialist
<b>Maurice Abenchuchan</b>	Youth/Family Support Specialist
<b>Nannette Friend</b>	Youth/Family Support Specialist
<b>Dawn Varner</b>	Parent Support Specialist
<b>Sally Shortz</b>	Program Support Specialist
<b>Gwen Sand</b>	FTIRI Supervisor
<b>Lisa Kingston</b>	Employment Specialist



Special Thanks to the Pinellas Community Foundation for awarding FCD a \$20,000 Capital and Equipment Grant to be used to set up new computer Labs for Students!



The Middle School Robotics Club is preparing to compete in the inaugural Deaf/HoH robotics competition at Texas School for the Deaf in Austin. The team took a trip to Tampa to check out a competition, learn the rules, see successful robots, and get a feel for live competition. Team members this year are Elisha Boucher, Marco Quispe, Cayden Riley, Sandro Piamba, Nevaeh Lewis, and Bailey Hatton. We are so excited for our students to have this opportunity!

## Welcome New Staff Members



Maurice Abenchuchan joins FCD as a Youth and Family Support Specialist, working with elementary school students. Maurice is a graduate of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and Gallaudet University. He most recently worked at the Iowa School for the Deaf.



Nanette Friend will be working as a Youth and Family Support Specialist with middle school students. She is a graduate of St. Petersburg College, and most recently worked for the Deaf Literacy Center.



Cindy Hebbeler returns to FCD on a temporary basis as Interim Executive Director. Cindy worked at FCD from 2006-2016 as a Literacy Specialist and is a 20 year veteran of Pinellas County Schools, where she worked as a Deaf Education teacher.



FCD is also sending a team to the National Middle School Math Competition at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf March 27-29. Team members are: Elisha Boucher, Nayeli Cruz, Maria Ramos, and Bailey Hatton. Coaches are Tracy Kasch and Rebecca Roberts. This year there are 50 middle school teams from around the USA competing. The team starts practice on January 9.

