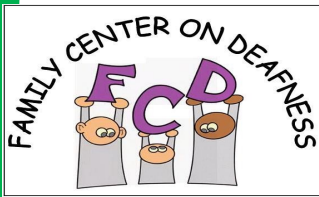


**December 2018  
January 2019**



### MISSION STATEMENT

The **FAMILY CENTER on DEAFNESS** empowers Pinellas County's Deaf community to meet its full potential by providing opportunities to enhance communication, education and independence.

### FREE AMPLIFIED PHONES



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!



# HandTalk

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Family Center on Deafness has been busy celebrating the holidays! November 17th was the 3rd annual Thanksgiving picnic at Taylor Park. The Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) joined FCD for a big feast and fun activities on a gorgeous autumn day. Former FCD participants also attended. It was a celebration for all ages and no one went home hungry!

On December 1, FCD and the Deaf Literacy Center presented Mingle and Jingle Holiday Celebration in Safety Harbor. There was more great food, children's activities, ASL holiday music and stories, and a visit from Signing Santa Claus.

High school students baked holiday cookies at our Dunedin facility on November 26th. Then REACH children brought the cookies to Mease Manor and helped the senior citizen residents decorate the cookies and make ornaments. The Mease Manor residents have been learning sign language, and they were very excited and enthusiastic to practice their skills with the children.

On December 12th, REACH celebrated the winter holidays with a party at FCD. Games, snacks, and a special visit from Santa had each child filled with holiday joy. Every child was given a gift, through the generosity of Lori Rea and Verizon. Finally, on December 19th, Lydia Silver visited REACH to celebrate Hanukkah, complete with a dreidel game and potato latkes. Happy Holidays!



# **FUTUREQUEST** WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

**Where:** Pinellas Park High School  
6305 118th Ave N

**Who:** D/hh high school students and parents

**When:** Sat. January 26, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Help ensure your high school student's success at FutureQuest, a one-day workshop offered for students in grades 9-12 and their parents. The workshop is sponsored by Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Register online to attend FutureQuest at [www.rit.edu/NTIS/Futurequest](http://www.rit.edu/NTIS/Futurequest). Experts from RIT/NTID will conduct workshops for parents and students about: Picking the right high school curriculum for college-bound students, starting the college search process, financing a college education and connecting with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor/office.

Workshops and lunch are free for parents and students. Attendees will also receive a FREE movie ticket and other prizes! Enrollment is limited, register today.

## **HOLIDAY TEENS ONLY PARTY!**

Fcd's Teen Holiday Party will be held on December 21st from 2pm – 6pm. All high school and middle school students are welcome! There will be fun games, a movie shown outside, refreshments, hot chocolate, and some goodies!

If you have any questions, please contact Franklin or Addie: 727-235-6281 (VP) or [franklin@fcdpinellas.org](mailto:franklin@fcdpinellas.org), [addie@fcdpinellas.org](mailto:addie@fcdpinellas.org)

The weekend of November 9-12, FCD middle school participants had the opportunity to participate in the Marine Lab Environmental weekend in the Florida Keys, sponsored by Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf.



FCD staff and four middle school students travelled five hours south to the Marine Lab facility in Key Largo. After orientation and swim testing, students practiced snorkeling. While snorkeling they learned about Seagrass Ecology then later did a lab on Zooplankton identification.

On day 2 participants started the day with snorkeling on a seagrass ecology field trip. Then there was an informative lecture about coral reefs. Later, students experienced net fishing and caught some neat creatures! They ended their day with a lab on invertebrate diversity. The last day was spent on the boat; snorkeling in different coral reef areas. Snorkelers spotted a barracuda, multiple colorful fish, and a couple of eels. They also did a lab on the boat identifying different sea creatures. It was a fun learning experience for all!



## **Poinsettia Sale a Success**

Thank you to all of the participants, parents, family members and customers who helped make our 2018 poinsettia fundraiser a huge success. The sale raised more than \$6,000, which will help us make sure that all FCD students are able to attend accessible summer camp programs in 2019.







On November 29th, the Girl Squad participated in a challenging exercise workout led by Zoe Schonmann, an FCD volunteer. Zoe enjoys working out to dance videos and wanted to share this fun

way of exercising with the Girl Squad. Afterwards, they discussed Thanksgiving and how families from different cultures celebrate. Finally, the girls decorated holiday cookies. On December 13th, participants discussed healthy ways to relax including meditation and journaling. They also had some fun making some slime and playing with kinetic sand! The next Girl Squad meeting will be January 31st.



# REACH

Raising  
Expectations &  
Achievement of  
Children with  
Hearing Loss



On December 9th, the REACH participants were invited to sign the national anthem at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. New Orleans Saints game. The group was led by FCD Board Member Sue Rosenbluth and Jennifer Boggess. Jason Licht donated tickets, t-shirts and food vouchers. A huge thanks to the Bucs for extending this honor to our group!



## Mississippi Here We Come!

FCD's 2019 Academic Bowl Team was chosen to participate in the regional competition in Jackson Mississippi February 21-23! On November 3rd, the team auditioned with judges from Gallaudet University. Twenty of the 27 teams that auditioned were accepted for the regional competition and FCD made the cut. If the team does well in the regional competition, they will be eligible to participate in the National Competition at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC.



Academic Bowl team members (from left) Tyna Kim, RJ Brooks, Vipin Suren and Aaliyah Thomas, and coaches Franklin Smith and Tracy Kasch will travel to the Mississippi School for the Deaf to participate in regional competition.

On November 14 Officer Pringle and his K-9 Nyko from the Pinellas Park Police Department visited REACH. He taught the students about the extensive training that Nyko went through to become a police K-9 dog. The students even got to pet Nyko at the end of the presentation.





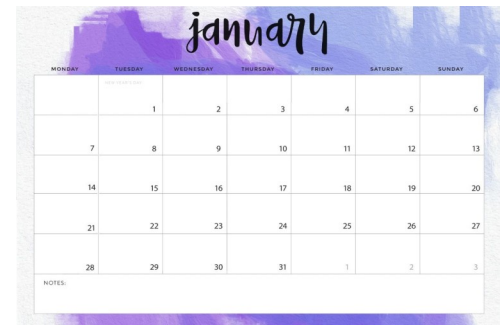
**DECEMBER** 19th will be the LAST DAY of REACH for 2018  
REACH will start again on January 8th



Last day of tutoring 8th (Tuesday) and it will start after the holidays on January 10th (Thursday).



**December** 7th, 14th, 21st  
**January** 11th, 18th  
**Girl SQUAD** January 31st 4-9PM



# Thank You

## Financial

### Donations

Marsh Foundation  
Mary Ann Ziegler  
Lori Rea/Verizon Match

### In-kind Donations

June & Vince Scartz  
Michelle Egan  
Adrian Anderson  
Carley Nisbet  
Peter Jutis of Kelly's/  
Chic A Boom Room

\*Debbie Connors  
\*Kimberly Crawford  
\*Rachel Goette  
\*Bridget Phelan  
\*Katie Killebrew  
\*Denis Sofr  
\*Rene Vojnovic  
\*Ben Wallis  
\*Zoe Schonmann  
\*Rachel Powers  
\*Roger Wildenstein  
\*Sharon Wildenstein  
\*Amanda Keene  
\*Erin Aurich

## Volunteers

\*Kendall Ciaravino  
\*Rebecca Feingold  
\*Samantha Frick  
\*Emily Caseiro  
\*Leah Toro  
\*Carolina Piamba  
\*Luis Piamba  
\*Josh Barber  
\*Lee Siebert  
\*Brandy Wilson  
\*Chelsea Gonzalez  
\*Crystal  
\*Adrian Anderson



## Family Center on Deafness Staff

**Julie Church** Executive Director  
**Kathy Kemp** Office Manager  
**Jennifer Boggess** Lead Youth/Family Support Specialist  
**Franklin Smith** Youth/Family Support Specialist  
**Addie Osmar** Youth/Family Support Assistant  
**Caitlyn Dollar** Youth /Family Support Assistant  
**Dana Cechnicki** Parent Support Specialist  
**Sally Shortz** Program Support Specialist  
**Dawn Varner** Employment Specialist  
**Gwen Sand** FTRI Supervisor  
**Lisa Kingston** FTRI Equipment Specialist  
**Tracy Kasch** Program Support Specialist

## Services for your Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child

### GUEST SPEAKERS:

Julia Michalka-Disability Achievement Center  
Lisa Kingston- Florida Telecommunications Relay

**WHEN:** January 15, 2019  
5:30PM-6:45

**WHERE:** Family Center on Deafness  
12445 62nd Street N #303  
Largo

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides special telephones with Bluetooth for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind, and Speech Impaired Floridians ages 3 and older.

Disability Achievement Center serves residents of Pasco and Pinellas Counties and have a full time staff member fluent in ASL. They work with people of all ages and hearing family members. They provide assistive devices including doorbell flashers, vibrating alarm clocks, fire alarm system, baby crying alerting systems, etc.