

FEBRUARY 2019



Hand Talk

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 communication and independence.



A huge thanks of appreciation goes to Julie Church for her dedication to FCD. We wish her well on her retirement.

FREE AMPLIFIED PHONES



CALL FCD AT
727-399-9983
FOR DETAILS

PARENT NETWORK Deaf Cultural Insights



Connecting with parents who have shared experiences can be encouraging, enlightening and strengthening to your family. Share and receive "real life" help on your journey of raising a deaf or hard of hearing child.

Tonight you will learn about several cultural differences in the Deaf community. Join us for a fun, hands on experience!

Meet our new interim Executive Director as well as our new middle school and elementary school Youth a Family Support Specialists!

Dinner - Interpreters - Childcare Provided!

Date: Wed. Feb., 26th

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location:

Cross Bayou El.

Deaf Ed Commons

6886 102nd Ave. N.

Pinellas Park, 33782

RSVP: Dawn Varner

Text: 727-452-3040

dawn@fcdpinellas.org

CONTACT US:

12445 62nd St. N #303
Largo, FL 33773
727-501-2323 voice
727-235-6285 vp
www.fcdpinellas.org

Check our website for latest news and announcements!


Applebee's
FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER



Leap Year ASL Breakfast

Tickets
\$7 each/or
4 for \$20

Date: Saturday, February 29th
Time: 8am -10am
Address: 10911 Starkey Rd
Largo, FL 33777

Contact FCD Staff

For tickets:

lisa@fcdpinellas.org

Text: 727-218-8206

No tickets at the door!

Purchase Deadline:

February 24

All proceeds benefit camps and programs



Juvenile Welfare Board



Florida
Telecommunications
FTRI Relay, Inc.



On January 11, 2020 the middle and high school students eagerly participated in Puzzling Adventures located in downtown St. Petersburg. It is a cross between a scavenger hunt, an adventure race, and a highly informative self-guided tour. The students were split into two teams and raced through the numerous streets of St. Petersburg, answering questions or challenging puzzles to reveal the next clue. They worked well together to reveal the clues regarding local history. Before the challenge, they found a great little pizza joint for lunch with sidewalk seating. It was perfect for our large group. As a grand finale, the day ended with ice cream at Checkers.



Academic Bowl Team Regional Competition February 14th -16th

The team will travel to Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, DC on February 13th for the regional competition.

If you want to follow us on the scores and get updates, go to our Facebook page: FCD Teen Scene. We will post them after each game until the end of competition.

High School Tutoring/Mentoring: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Every Tuesday, from 2 pm to 5 pm, tutoring and teaching the students about playing educational games will be the focus.

Every Thursday, the high school kids will mentor REACH students at Cross Bayou Elementary School. This will provide high school students an opportunity to be role models for elementary students.

Girls Squad

Wow, on January 17th, the Girls Squad had a terrific gathering! The girls discussed a variety of topics which included mall trips and learning life skills. We unanimously agreed to avoid girly things. The Girl Squad will meet on February 14th for an awesome kickball challenge with the Boys Squad. Girl Power, here we go!

Boys Squad

On January 17th, the Boys Club had their first meeting. We went to Pinebrook Park where we played Horse, Wall Ball, and Basketball. After we played, we had a discussion about our objectives for the Boys Club. The group is comprised of middle and high school aged male students. We agreed about the goal of Boys Club: to spend time with each other, mentor and support each other, all while learning how to be kind, caring, responsible, and mature young men. The next meeting will be on February 14th. We will have a kickball game vs the Girls Squad. We are eagerly looking forward to it.



REACH

Raising Expectations & Achievement of Children with Hearing Loss

On January 8th, the REACH students learned about Hanukkah. They had so much fun learning how to play with dreidels and gelt. We had two special guests come and teach the students about Jewish heritage.



The K- 5 grade students had a field trip day. The students had fun playing at a local park. After the park, the students enjoyed some yummy ice cream.



Parent Corner

P.L.A.Y.

Building Language Acquisition for Youth Play Group will meet on **Thursday, Feb 13th** at 3:30 pm at Largo Library Kids Area.

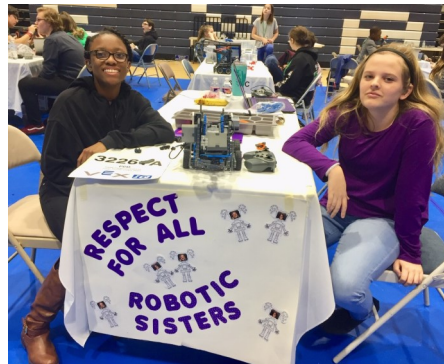
On **Monday, February 24th**, at 10 am, the Playgroup will meet at Tyrone Mall Play Area.

We are off to a terrific start with our ASL class. It will continue every Saturday through March 7th.

Exciting News About Competitions!

Robotics

The FCD Robotics teams had an awesome experience at the inaugural Deaf/HoH VEXiQ competition in Austin, Texas on Feb 7&8th.. Upon arrival, the Eagles and the Robotic Sisters passed inspection. We had the day to practice driving, met other teams and learned from them. On Saturday, the official competition began. It was amazing to watch. The Robotic Sisters placed tenth and the Eagles placed 9th out of 24 teams. This is indeed a phenomenal accomplishment as it was our first experience. We are super proud! A special thanks go to our parent chaperones, Luis Piamba and Yojanni Tumay. Kudos go to Tracy and Sally for a job well done.



Math Competition

Math competition practice is in full swing. Coach Rebecca Robert is leading the team in weekly practices and our awesome students are wowing us with their mathematics prowess! 4 team members will travel to RIT in New York for competition on March 27th. Last year, the team won \$200, placing second in the competition. We are proud of our team, win or lose!



February 12th- Valentine's Day party at REACH

February 14-Girls and Boys Squads

TBA- K-2 Puppy Play Date



Teen Scene Social:

February 7 and 21 at 2pm – 6pm

February 21st – Deaf Motivational Speaker

NO TEEN SOCIAL on February 28

High School Tutoring

Tues: February 4, 11, 18, & 25

Thurs: February 6 & 20

No tutoring on February 13

Volunteers for January

Kimberly Albury
Julie Church
Peter Hebbeler
Izzy Olsen
Carolina Piamba
Bridget Phelan
Marika Robinson
Sue Rosenbluth
Dennis Sofr

Mikail Baptiste
Brianna Greene
Alex Jenkins
Sirrenna Petty
Luis Piamba
Jessica Potts
Rosa Rodriguez
Lydia Silver
Rene' Vojnovic

Middle School Tutoring

Feb 4,6,11,13,18, 20, 25 &27

Girls/Boys Squad: Feb 14

Donations - In-Kind

Chelsea Riley
Rene' Vojnovic

Speedway #6554
Thomas Bogadi

Family Center on Deafness Staff

Lucinda Hebbeler	Interim Executive Director
Kathy Kemp	Office Manager
Tracy Kasch	Program Manager
Franklin Smith	Lead Youth/Family Support Specialist
Maurice Abenchuchan	Youth and Family Support Specialist
Caitlyn Dollar	Youth and Family Support Specialist
Nannette Friend	Youth and Family Support Specialist
Dawn Varner	Parent Support Specialist
Sally Shortz	Program Support Specialist
Gwen Sand	FTRI Supervisor
Lisa Kingston	Employment Specialist

Community Events

Feb 22nd- Open captioned movie at Studio Movie Grill:
Seminole: Sonic, the Hedgehog

Tampa - Movie TBA

