

March 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 communication 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!



# Hand Talk



A huge THANKS go to  
**Liquid Therapy**  
for their generous donation!  
They want to be involved in  
another fundraiser in the near future.



**Exciting News!**

Come and see our Literacy Center at FCD! We have books that cover a wide variety of topics for parents and families. We have sign language books for those who want to learn. We also have many children's books. There is even a table that shows books that are all about insects! Come on over and take a look!





It has been an exciting month for the FCD middle school students.

### Math Competition

Our Math team has been working tirelessly on Thursdays after school hours to prepare for the upcoming competition at RIT in New York on March 27<sup>th</sup>. They are eagerly looking forward to the unique experience of competing against other middle school deaf and hard of hearing students. We are rooting for them!

### An Enriching Literacy Project

The Deaf Literacy Center provided the students with an opportunity to create a memory book. The students truly enjoyed designing, creating and writing their own story/memory books.

### Puppy Party

The middle school students enjoyed a puppy party on February 13<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you goes to Pet Land and Tracy for making this possible. Parents, why don't you ask your daughter/son what their favorite puppy was.

### A Presentation at SPC

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, three of our incredible students participated in a presentation that celebrated Deaf Black History.

### Robotics Teams

Our Robotic teams returned from Austin, Texas as winners. Both of our teams placed in the top ten out of twenty-four teams. Congratulations to our awesome students who participated. They are already looking forward to going again next year!

### Optimist Club News

The students have been busy preparing for a regional speech competition hosted by the Optimist Club. It will be held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School. Parents are welcome to attend. The first place winner will receive a scholarship of \$2,500.



## Academic Bowl Team News

The Pinellas County Academic Bowl team travelled to Washington, D.C. for the regional Academic Bowl competition on February 13-16. The weekend was filled with nail-biting matches, new friends, amazing sportsmanship and thrilling victories. Vipin Suren was awarded the Most Outstanding Player and the team brought home the third place prize. They will continue the road to victory when they travel back to Washington, D.C. April 16-19 for the National Academic Bowl competition. Here is a huge shout out and congratulations to Bella Engelman, Drew Hornyak, Tyna Kim and Vipin Suren! We wish them the best of luck at Nationals!



### SAT Prep Class

Come to FCD and learn new words through drama and games! It will be on Tuesdays, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm, starting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at FCD. As a culmination activity, the students will put on a drama presentation showing their knowledge for vocabulary. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Cindy at 727-674-3022(text) or [cindy@fcdpinellas.org](mailto:cindy@fcdpinellas.org)



Did you know that FCD provides employment services for transition youth (eligible high schoolers) and Deaf/HH adults through Vocational Rehabilitation? If you are interested or have questions, contact Lisa Kingston at 727-218-8206 voice/text or 727-330-2338 VP or [Lisa@fcdpinellas.org](mailto:Lisa@fcdpinellas.org) email.

One of our main goals within our program is for our kids to learn how to take turns, lose with grace, win with humility, and what good sportsmanship is all about. We accomplish this on an ongoing basis by playing card games: War, Go Fish, Phase 10 and many more. Definitely card galore!

We are excited about a special project being led by Rosa Rodriguez from the Deaf Literacy Center. She obtained a grant for children to compose their own books that will be professionally published when completed. The stories and illustrations came from the kids themselves. It is indeed a wonderful way to promote literacy and creativity in these young minds.

On March 3rd, the children enjoyed a performance by Javi, the deaf mime. He is originally from Spain and is currently on tour traveling throughout Florida.

## Boys/Girls Squad

On Valentine's Day, the Boys Squad and Girls Squad got together to play Polish kickball. It was an exciting game; the boys won by only 2 points!

After the game, we socialized with each other and hung out.

## Boys Squad

Next month, the Boys Squad will meet to discuss future activities they would like to do and to come up with topics they want to discuss. Our foremost aim is for the Boys Squad to be essentially led by the boys and their interests. At the same time, we, as FCD staff provide support and structure. We are looking forward to future numerous meetings and in growing together, developmentally and emotionally.

## Girls Squad

On March 21st, the Girls Squad will be learning about dinner table etiquette.

Next month, the girls will put their training to the test at a fancy restaurant. They are looking forward to this unique experience.

## Applebee's Fundraiser a Huge Success!

The Applebee's Pancake Breakfast was a roaring success as evidenced by the number of people who came to the event. The money earned will go towards payment of summer programs. Thank you to all of you for making this possible!







March 4<sup>th</sup>- A Deaf comedian is coming!

March 10<sup>th</sup>- REACH field trip- K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip, Puppy party at Disability Achievement Center.

March 12<sup>th</sup>- REACH field trip to strawberry farm to pick strawberries. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders.

March 16-20<sup>th</sup>- There will be NO REACH during Spring Break!!

April 4<sup>th</sup>- Spring Picnic, location TBA.

### Teen Scene Social:

March 6 & 27 at 2pm – 6pm

No Teen Social on March 20 due to Spring Break

March 21: Teen Scene Movie Day

### Middle School and High School Tutoring

March 3,5,10,12,24,26, and 31

No tutoring on March 17 & 19 due to Spring Break

### March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

www.calendaroptions.com



### Community Event

March 21: A Quiet Place 2, an open captioned movie at Studio Movie Grill in Seminole and Tampa, 4 pm



### 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

