

NEXTGEN[®]

www.nextgenmagazine.org

family magazine

From Bradenton To Broadway

Jacqueline Galvano

**MOORE PASSION
FOR GIVING**

**THE SOUND OF
MUSIK...**

**CHIEF BEVAN:
SAFETY FIRST!**

**WIN
Busch Gardens
Tickets!**



\$4.99 US



1 2 >

SPECIAL ISSUE: HOW TO SURVIVE THE HOLIDAYS!



40 YEARS OF MEMORIES AND MILESTONES



Whether buying a home in the perfect neighborhood, selling when it's time for a little more space or renting close to a top-rated school, Michael Saunders & Company has been helping families reach milestones on Florida's Gulf Coast for 40 years.

Contact us today to take the first step toward success.

Michael Saunders & Company

LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

Residential • Commercial • Rental • Mortgage • Title

michaelsaunders.com

ANNA MARIA ISLAND
6000 Marina Drive
Holmes Beach, FL 34217
941.896.9981

BRADENTON
4400 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941.748.6300

IMG ACADEMY
5500 34th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34210
941.752.2683

LAKEWOOD RANCH
8325 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
941.907.9595

Manatee Technical College



Massage Therapy



Machining Technologies



Marketing Management & Entrepreneurial Principles



LPN / Practical Nursing

Top Five Reasons to Choose Manatee Technical College

- With over 50 career prep programs, finding a career you'll love is easy.
- Our "Career in a Year" programs get you into the workforce as soon as possible.
- You may earn articulated college credit and state licensure or industry certification.
- MTC offers training for careers in 10 of the 20 fastest growing industries in Manatee County.
- Tuition is affordable, and many students qualify for financial aid/scholarships.

APPLY NOW

ManateeTech.edu



MTC
MANATEE
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE



Main Campus Career Prep Programs

Approximate costs, full-time attendance

3-D Animation - 10 months

Prepare for a career in 3-D animation, film production, or graphic design. Acquire specialized skills including video editing, audio features, and animation/authoring software. **\$4,000**

Accounting Operations▲* - 9 months

Learn about double-entry principles, methods of recording business transactions, payroll, control systems, transaction analysis, inventory methods. Prepare for Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) or Master Certification and QuickBooks Pro Certified User. **\$3,910**

Administrative Office Specialist▲ - 11 months

Learn high-tech skills in Microsoft Office, keyboarding, business communications, letter writing, etc. Prepare for Microsoft Office certifications and QuickBooks Pro Certified User. **\$4,890**

Advanced Esthetics - 6 months

Participate in theory classes, practical/laboratory activities and hands-on classes. Demonstrations from outside personnel and field trips to doctors' offices are included. Learn in-depth skin care and the ability to work with plastic surgeons and dermatologists. **\$2,630**

Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology - 13 months

Prepare for employment in the HVAC-R industry with our extensive program. You will learn to master both the refrigeration cycle and electrical controls, obtain your HVAC Excellence Certification, an EPA Certification and other industry-specific certifications. **\$4,980**

Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Tech. 1 (Eve. Only) 11 mos

Prepare for employment in the industry. You will learn the refrigeration cycle and electrical controls, obtain your HVAC Excellence Certification and an EPA certification. **\$3,000**

Automation and Production Technology - 6 months

Study the application of automation in manufacturing, engineering and robotics. Includes study of enterprise systems, assembly, safety, quality and leadership skills. Stresses tools, materials and processes. Prepare for MSSC certification. **\$2,540**

Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing - 14 months

Learn refinishing, sheet metal repairs, frame and unibody squaring and aligning, fillers, paint systems and undercoats, trim-hardware maintenance, glass servicing, steering and suspension. Prepare for ASE certifications as well as I-CAR ProLevel 1 credentials. **\$5,560**

Automotive Service Technology▲ - 18 months

Learn applied theory, the use of tools, equipment, materials, diagnostics, processes, engine repair, transmission, axle, brake system, heating/a/c, electrical, drivetrain and engine performance. Prepare for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications. **\$6,660**

Automotive Service Technology 1 (Evening Only) - 11 months

Learn applied theory, use of tools, equipment, materials, diagnosis process, the brake system, steering, suspension, electrical system, applied theory and engine repair. **\$4,050**

Baking and Pastry Arts - 6 months

Learn about making breads, bakery goods, creams/mousses, chocolate and sugar applications, formal dining desserts, displays and more. Earn Certified Food Protection Manager (ServSafe). **\$3,810**

Barbering - 11 months

Prepare for employment as a Florida Licensed Barber. Includes theory and practical experiences with guest artists and an active clinic. **\$5,290**

Brick and Block Masonry Apprenticeship - 36 months

Provides the credentials necessary to become a Journeyman mason. Must be a full-time employee at a licensed, participating employer, 18 years or older and have a high school diploma or GED®. Application is processed through employer.

Building Trades & Construction Design Technology▲ - 9 months

Prepare for employment in the building construction industry. NCCER certification and assistance with job placement available for adults. Classroom, shop, and laboratory activities are an integral part. **\$4,060**

Carpentry▲ - 11 months (10 week fast-track available)

Learn the use of hand and power tools, selection and use of materials, estimating, blueprint reading, and interpretation of building codes. NCCER certification and assistance with job placement available for adults. **\$5,080**

Commercial Foods & Culinary Arts▲ - 11 months

An intense program with a hands-on "brigade" approach. Learn nutrition, sanitation, management, stocks, soups, sauces, cold cuisine, vegetables, meats, grains, legumes, starchy foods, formal dining room service, baking and pastry arts. Earn Certified Food Protection Manager (ServSafe). **\$6,860**

Cosmetology* - 11 months

Learn all aspects of cosmetology: hair, skin, nails, diseases and disorders, with emphasis on beautification. Instruction includes theory and hands-on. Clinicals include working as a stylist, receptionist and in the dispensary. Prepare to become a FL Licensed Cosmetologist. **\$5,120**

Digital Design▲ - 11 months

Build visual designs using Adobe Creative Suite. Includes Digital Graphic Design and Photography, Image Editing and Retouching, and Camera and Lighting. Graduate with an interview-ready full portfolio case and international Adobe certification. **\$5,860**

Digital Photography Technology - 10 months

Learn leadership and human relations skills, digital camera techniques, commercial and industrial applications, composition, color dynamics, printing, work-flow software and use, care and maintenance of photographic equipment. Graduate with an interview-ready full portfolio case and international Adobe certification. **\$5,120**

Digital Video Production▲ - 12 months

Learn the latest techniques offered in the production of digital video activities including: scripts, lighting, camera operation, electronic news gathering, field/studio production, and video editing. Prepare for Adobe Premiere Pro certification. **\$5,700**

Drafting▲ - 14 months

Learn manual drafting and CAD procedures incorporating theory and practice. Extensive training in 2D and 3D modeling applications preparing real-world drawings. Earn national certifications in AutoCAD and Solidworks. **\$5,560**

Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship▲ - 24 months

Provides the advanced credentials necessary to meet DCF licensing standards. Must be a full-time employee at a licensed, participating child care facility, 18 years or older and have a high school diploma or GED®. Application is processed through employer.

Electrician▲* - 15 months

Learn the use of tools, Ohm's Law, blueprint reading, NEC (National Electric Code), DC and AC, circuits, basic safety, construction site etiquette, conduit bending, residential, commercial and industrial wiring. Obtain NCCER national accreditation. **\$6,170**

Electronic Technology - 15 months

Use precision test equipment for analyzing, troubleshooting and repairing electronic circuitry. Graduates pursue working with entertainment, commercial, industrial, and medical diagnostic equipment. Prepare for ETA and IS CET certifications. **\$5,040**

Facials Specialty (Evening Only) - 3 months

Participate in theory and hands-on activities. Clinical consists of machine, chemical and manual applications for facial cleansing. Skin toning, hair removal, lash and brow tint are also taught. Prepare for FL Registered Facials Specialist exam. **\$1,460**

Industrial Technology - 16 months

Learn CAD, Lean Manufacturing, Automated Manufacturing Technology (computer-aided manufacturing and numerical control), Rapid Prototyping and Robotics. Earn national certifications in AutoCAD and Solidworks. **\$5,940**

I.T./Computer Career Gateways

1. Computer Systems & Information Technology▲* - 9 months

Learn computer hardware and software support. Prepare for the CompTIA A+ and Network + industry certifications. The starting point for I.T. careers. **\$3,890**

2. Network Support Services▲ - 10 months

Learn advanced technologies, configuring and troubleshooting switches, routers and how to build/maintain network systems. Learn about wireless, security, LANs, WANs, ACLs and routing protocols. Prepare for Cisco CCENT & CCNA certifications. **\$3,770**

3. Web Development▲ - 10 months

Includes intro to IT and computer systems, HTML5, CSS3, web design principles and technology, JavaScript, multimedia, responsive web design, e-commerce, CMS, SEO. Prepare for CIW Site Development Associate certification. **\$3,790**

4. Applied Cybersecurity▲ - 8 months

Learn to protect computers from hackers and malware, secure wireless networks, intrusion detection and prevention, and incident response. Prepare for Security+ and other nationally recognized security industry certifications. **\$3,310**

Legal Administrative Specialist - 11 months

Learn Microsoft Office 2013 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), legal software applications, legal transcription, legal terminology, basics of the legal system, accounting basics, keyboarding, business communications. Prepare for MOS certification. **\$4,890**

Machining Technologies* - 15 months

Prepare for employment or advanced training in the machining technology industry. Learn the use of lathes, CNC machines, mills, grinders and milling machines. Prepare for NIMS certification. **\$5,700**

Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair - 14 months

Learn how to diagnose and repair washers, dryers, dishwashers, trash compactors, ranges, refrigerators, microwave ovens and window air conditioners. Prepare for the PSA Certified Appliance Repair Graduate Technician exams. **\$5,280**

Marine Service Technologies - 11 months

Focus on outboard engines, 2-stroke and 4-stroke theory. Troubleshoot and repair boats and engines, rig boats with proper wiring, and install engines and accessories. Prepare for Mercury Marine, Bombardier and Yamaha certifications. **\$4,840**

Marketing, Management & Entrepreneurial Principles▲ - 6 months

Learn skills needed for retail sales, marketing management and general management including human relations skills, distribution, financing, pricing, promotion, purchasing, location analysis, financial planning, strategy and global trends. **\$2,320**



**ONLINE
CLASSES
AVAILABLE**

Medical Administrative Specialist▲ - 11 months

Learn skills needed in high-tech medical offices: Microsoft Office, MediSoft, medical billing and insurance, terminology, EHR, accounting basics and medical administrative assisting. Prepare for MOS certification and CMAA exam. **\$4,925**

Medical Coder/Biller ATD▲* - 11 months

Learn ICD-10-CM, medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, coding, fundamentals of disease including pharmacology, health care delivery systems, medical records, ethical and legal responsibilities, safety/security procedures. Prepare for CPC exam. **\$5,660**

Nails Specialty (Evening Only) - 3 months

Encompasses hand, arm, foot and leg care. Theory and hands-on excellence through live clinical situations. Related beautification is added through a total knowledge of artificial nail applications, chemistry of products and other techniques. **\$1,330**

Plumbing Technology▲ - 10 months

Includes safety, plumbing-related math, blueprint and job specifications, building codes, pipe-cutting-and-joining skills, rough and trim plumbing, water heaters, and storm drains. Prepare for NCCER Core and/or Plumbing Technology certifications. **\$4,185**

Welding Technology* - 10 months

Covers all four major welding processes including SMAW, GTAW, GMAW and FCAW. Torch Cutting, Plasma Cutting, and Carbon Arc Gouging are also covered. Prepare for American Welding Society certifications and National Welder Registry. **\$5,360**

Online Classes

MTC, in partnership with Ed2Go, offers 418 Instructor Led, Academic Success and Bundled Courses; most of these are six weeks in duration. Plus, we have 208 Career Courses that are six month career certificate classes.

More information is available at ManateeTech.edu/online-classes or contact Tim Arb at 941.209.6800 x 2177.

Continuing Education Programs

Want to upgrade your current skills for job retention or promotion? Most classes take just a few months. Please visit our website ManateeTech.edu and click on Continuing Education for a list of over 50 program such as:

Advanced & Basic Driver Improvement (ADI/BDI), Advanced/Intermediate Maintenance of Traffic (A/IMOT), AutoCAD & SolidWorks, Bucket Truck, Excavation, First Aid, Forklift, HEO, IMOT Refresher, OSHA 10-Hour, PRCSE, Spanish for Law Enforcement, Trenching & Shoring, Universal R-410A Safety and Training Class, and more.



ENC 1101 Written Communication

Grammar and diction, composition, expository writing, library use, research paper, oral communication.

For more information about this specific course call 941.363.7216. Please visit "Future Students" at www.scf.edu.

East Campus Career Prep Programs

Approximate costs, full-time attendance

CNA+ [Patient Care Technician (PCT)] - 6 months

Study health science core curriculum, medical terminology, emergency care, patient care procedures, nutrition, aging process and gerontology, infection control, phlebotomy, EKG, CPR and more. Dual enrollment available for H.S. seniors. **\$1,300 (CNA) | \$2,720 (PCT)**

Dental Assisting Technology & Management ATD▲ - 11 months

Learn general chair-side, dental lab and business office admin. Earn a state certificate in dental radiography & dental assisting expanded functions. Prepare to take the DANB exam to become a Certified Dental Assistant. Must be 18 years of age with a HS diploma or equivalent. Limit 20/class. **\$6,110**

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) ATD▲* - 3.5 mos day/5.5 mos eve.

Equips students with the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to be a member of an emergency medical services team. Qualifies students to sit for the State of Florida EMT Licensure Examination. **\$1,850**

Fire Fighter I/II ▲* - 3 months full-time / 7 months part-time.

Participate in the state required program to become a Certified Fire Fighter. Approved by the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. Must pass a background check, pass a physical and attend a mandatory orientation. **\$4,370**

Fire Fighter/Emergency Medical Technician Combined▲* - 7 months

Combination of Emergency Medical Technician and Fire Fighter I/II. **\$6,209**

Florida Law Enforcement Academy - 8 months

Train in all High Liabilities FDLE required curriculum. Must be 18, US citizen, HS diploma/GED®, good character, no felony or misdemeanor convictions, must be in good physical shape, and completed F-BAT. **\$4,800**

LPN (Practical Nursing)▲ - 13 months

Learn basic theory and clinical skills to become a Licensed Practical Nurse(LP.N). One half of program scheduled in clinical settings. After successful completion of program, eligible to take NCLEX to become an LPN. Available in full-time and part-time option. **\$6,560**

Massage Therapy - 7 months

Includes theory, practice, anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, ethics, law, leadership, business, hydrotherapy, modalities, medical errors, health, safety and CPR. Includes 60 hours in a clinic. Prepare to be eligible to apply for FL licensure. **\$3,420**

Medical Assisting - 12 months

Obtain clerical and managerial skills, competent in ECG, phlebotomy, laboratory skills, patient care and education. Become eligible for national certification by exam for the CMA, Certified EKG Technician & Certified Phlebotomy Technician. **\$5,750**

Nursing Assistant (Articulated) - 2 months

Learn to provide basic patient care under the direct supervision of a nurse in a variety of settings. Successful completion of this 5-week program prepares you to take and pass the CNA exam. Limit 15 students. **\$1,230**

Optometric Assisting▲ - 10 months

Study ocular anatomy & physiology, diseases, refractive errors, vision & special testing, eyeglasses, contact lenses & business management. Completers eligible to sit for the AOA Certified Paraoptometric Assistant Exam. **\$4,370**

Paramedic▲ - 11 months

Acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become a licensed Florida Paramedic. Program certified by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professionals. Must be a state certified EMT with 250 hours of patient contact. 24 student limit. Qualifies students to sit for the State of Florida Paramedic Licensure Exam. **\$4,980**

Pharmacy Technician▲ - 11 months

Learn terminology, pharmacology, medication processing, law & ethics, IV/chemotherapy preparation, inventory, automation/computer applications and customer service. Become eligible to sit for the Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) exam. **\$4,680**

Phlebotomy (Comprehensive)▲ - 6 months (9 week fast-track available)

Prepare to take the nationally certified phlebotomist exam. Course includes entire spectrum of becoming a phlebotomist. Includes health science core program and comprehensive training. Learn how to obtain correct blood specimens by capillary or venipuncture on adults, children and neonates and more. **\$900**

Surgical Technology - 12 months

Learn legal/ethical responsibilities, terms, anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, microbiology and pharmacology. Practice sterilization/disinfection, surgery room and patient prep. Includes clinical learning. Successful completors may sit for the CST. **\$6,000**

Non-Credit Enrichment Programs

Information about other non-credit enrichment classes such as Art, Photography, Culinary, Basic Marine Mechanics, Computer Basics, Golf, Handyman, Auto Body, Fishing and more is available at ManateeTech.edu and click on Enrichment Classes.

West & North Campus Adult General Education Programs

Adult Basic Education

Improve basic skills including reading, writing, math, science, social studies, workplace skills and basic computer skills. Must be 16 or older and not in high school. Registration ongoing.

Applied Academics

Career assessment, employability behavior and basic skills for students who have tested at the 9th grade and above to meet the requirements of a program in which they are enrolled. Must be 16 or older and not in high school. Registration ongoing.

Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages

Includes language studies, civics, consumer education, cultural awareness, family reading/parenting, career planning and personal development. Must be 16 or older and not in high school. Registration ongoing.

GED® Test Preparation

For adults, 16 years old or older, not enrolled in high school who wish to pass the GED test. Online classes, computer-lab or teacher-taught classes available. Ongoing registration.

Apply Now! • 941.751.7900 • ManateeTech.edu



Choose Your Future

Choosing a career path is an important decision. Manatee Tech's counselors are available to help you find the right program based on your interests and future goals. Our counselors are here to guide you through the enrollment process and will help you understand our admission requirements, procedures and deadlines. Counselors work hand-in-hand with our Financial Aid Department and, working together, will help you identify financial aid resources and program specific scholarships.

Admissions

For Career Preparation Programs

Speak to one of our counselors in person or via phone. Complete the following enrollment steps in any order:

- Submit MTC Application at ManateeTech.edu/apply.html
(East Campus programs also have an additional application)
- Take the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) or provide proof of exemption.
(Visit our website at ManateeTech.edu/tabe). The TABE may not be needed for some programs.
- Submit Florida Residency Documents and Residency Form.
- Apply for Financial Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov; use school code 015496.

For Continuing Education Courses

- Visit our website at: ManateeTech.edu and click on Continuing Education.

For Adult General Education Programs

Speak to one of our counselors in person or via phone. Complete the following enrollment steps in any order:

- Submit MTC Application at ManateeTech.edu/apply.html
- Take the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE).
(Visit our website at ManateeTech.edu/tabe)

For Non-Credit Enrichment Classes

Contact our Enrichment Team at 941.751.7900 for enrollment or further information.

- Visit ManateeTech.edu and click on Enrichment Classes. Online classes may be found at ManateeTech.edu and click on Online Classes.

Farmworker Career Development Program of the School District of Manatee County

Learn a job skill. Get work experience. Get the support you need to succeed. **Call 941.751.7947.**

Programa de Educación para Trabajadores Agrícolas

Estudie una carrera vocacional. Obtenga un trabajo de tiempo completo. Obtenga el apoyo que usted necesita para salir adelante y triunfar. **Llámenos al 941.751.7947.**



American Heart Association

AUTHORIZED TRAINING CENTER

For more information or answers to specific questions, contact us!



Main Campus
6305 State Road 70 East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941.751.7900

Building Hours
Mon - Thurs: 7 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Fri: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Counselors/Financial Aid/
TABE Scheduling**
Mon - Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bookstore Hours
Mon, Wed: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tues, Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.



East Campus
5520 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
Bradenton, FL 34211
941.752.8100

Building Hours
Mon - Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

School year hours listed. Call for summer/holiday hours.



West Campus
5505 34th St. W., Bldg 6.
Bradenton, FL 34210
941.209.6800

Building Hours
Mon - Thurs: 8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fri: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



North Campus
801 Ninth Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941.845.2092

Building Hours
Mon - Wed: 8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Thurs - Fri: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



The mission of Manatee Technical College is to produce highly skilled individuals and resourceful leaders through collaborative education to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities and the workforce.

Manatee Technical College is accredited by the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education.
7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325
Atlanta, GA 30350
770-396-3898 | f: 770-396-3790
www.council.org

ManateeTech.edu   

No employee, student, applicant for admission or applicant for employment, volunteer, vendor, or member of the public, shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender orientation, disability, marital status, age, religion, or any other basis prohibited by law, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination or harassment under any educational programs, activities, services, or in any employment conditions, policies or practices conducted by the School District of Manatee County.

Produced and Designed by: Damon May

Information correct at time of publication. Please contact a Career Counselor for the most up-to-date information.

PTL 161008

NEXTGEN[®]

family magazine

PUBLISHER

Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County

EDITOR

Darrell King

PRODUCTION EDITOR

Kelly Harbour

DESIGN EDITOR

Mara Stork

COVER PICTURE

Bridget Lopez Photography Bradenton

PHOTOGRAPHY

Whitney Patton
Wendy Dewhurst

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Stephanie Hefner, Kara Chalmers,
Carlee Colonneso, Susan Miller Kelly,
Dr. Sharon Otis, Jen Colombo,
Wendy Dewhurst, Amy Bell,
Anna Maria Carleton, Lela Rast Hartsaw,
Carol Darling, Dr. Andrew J. Culter

CALENDAR OF FAMILY EVENTS

Bradenton Macaroni Kid: Denise Granata

ADVERTISING SALES

Hilarie Jackson: hjackson@elc-manatee.org

PRODUCTION/DISTRIBUTION

PCI Communications, Inc.

CONTACT NEXTGEN

EDITORIAL.....941-757-2912
ADVERTISING 941-400-2454
FAX 941-757-2917

EDITOR

editor@nextgenmagazine.org

COMPETITION ENTRIES

competitions@nextgenmagazine.org

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

advertising@nextgenmagazine.org

ADVERTISING SUBMISSIONS

adsubmissions@nextgenmagazine.org

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

articles@nextgenmagazine.org

EARLY LEARNING COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES

Howard Veltz (*Chairman*)
Robert Bell (*Secretary/Treasurer*)
Andrew Minor

PRIVATE SECTOR APPOINTED MEMBERS

Patrick Cassella, Tim Pye,
Madison Wells, Joseph Miller,
Rachel Kendzior, James R. Chatham, M.D.,
Diane Neeves, Lupita Wells,
Len Tabicman, Dr. Sharon Otis,
Adam Mohammadbhoy,
Michael Rampino, Christina Riggio

LEGISLATIVELY REQUIRED MEMBERS

Angela Gilmore
Faith-Based Provider Representative
Debbie Kibler
*Children With Disabilities
Program Representative*
Deborah Ludwig
Private, For-Profit Provider Representative
Dr. Robin Thompson
Manatee County School Board Designee
Jennifer Passmore
Board of County Commissioners' Appointee
Kathy Patreka
Head Start Director
Mary Beth Wehnes
Department of Children and Families Designee
Beverly Williams
CareerSource Suncoast
Dr. Carla McGill
County Health Department Designee
Paul Sharff
Chief Executive Officer

SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD

Linda Guritz
Annette Larkin

MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Colon, Karen Carpenter
Dave Miner, Robert Gause
Charlie Kennedy
Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent

Contents

December 2016 - January 2017

8 MANATEE'S GOT TALENT

Bradenton's Rising Star

20 EXECUTIVELY SPEAKING

Connected to the Community

26 CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS!

Manatee Children's Services

32 HOLIDAY HEADACHES

Guide to easing the financial strain
from BMO Bank

34 Stephanie Says

The relationship between food and behavior

44 THE SOUND OF MUSIK!

ELC'S new program strikes a chord

54 BON APPETIT

Taco's with a new twist!

56 SAFETY FIRST

Important advice from Police Chief Bevan

60 Tips for Coping with ADHD During the Holidays

68 Winter Craft

70 THE BIG PRIZE!

Win tickets to Busch Gardens

74 Calendar of Events

December, 2016 - January, 2017

84 BEYOND GENEROUS

Elizabeth Moore

80 Kids in the Kitchen

81 On the Bookshelf

87 Ask Dr. Sharon

Holidays and Traditions

92 PLEASE DON'T STRESS!

How to get kids through the
holiday season

94 PAUL OR NOTHING

Profile of school district's Jim Pauley



NEXTGEN and the Early Learning Coalition do not endorse or warrant any products or services contained herein, unless otherwise expressly noted. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors. Submitted materials will not be returned. Whole or part of this publication may not be used or duplicated in any way without written permission from the Early Learning Coalition.

The Early Learning Coalition is a 501-C (3) nonprofit organization committed to ensuring affordable and creditable early child care and early education through School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs. Sponsorship by the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County and the State of Florida, Office of Early Learning and Manatee County Government.



PICTURE: Bridget Lopez Photography Bradenton

Bradenton's Rising Star!



Jacqueline Galvano lands role in *Annie* and hits the stage for seven months.

WORDS: Amy Bell

As little orphan Annie famously sings, “The sun will come out... tomorrow.” But for 11-year-old Jacqueline Galvano of Bradenton, it’s already shining brightly. The daughter of State Senator Bill Galvano and his wife, Julie, beat hundreds of young actresses during auditions for *Annie* in New York City this summer. Not only did Jacqueline land the role as the orphan July, but she is also the understudy for Annie. (Tori Bates, another 11-year-old actress from Sarasota, is playing the title role of Annie.)

Jacqueline and her mom, Julie, hit the road with Troika Entertainment’s seven-month production of *Annie* this fall. The nationwide tour kicked off in Oklahoma City in early November and will end in

Boston in May, covering about 30 states and 80 cities along the way, including a few stops in Canada.

A Dream Come True

When asked about her preview performance in Oklahoma City, Jacqueline exclaimed, “It went really well. It was so much fun!”

“I know it was a dream come true for her, and for me too,” said mom, Julie. “A lot of the mothers, we all sat together, and had tears in our eyes, happy tears. It was awesome.”

Annie started as a Broadway musical based on Harold Gray’s comic strip, “Little Orphan Annie.” The musical is set

in 1933 when 11-year-old Annie is in an orphanage along with six fellow orphans, Molly, 6, Kate, 7, Tessie, 10, Pepper, 12, July, 13, and Duffy, 13. When the show first opened in 1977, it won the Tony Award for Best Musical. Over the last few decades, *Annie* has gone on to see numerous national tours, international productions and two Hollywood movies.

The 2016-2017 *Annie* tour will be directed by the original lyricist and director Martin Charnin for the 19th time. Charnin staged the very first production of *Annie* on Broadway.

“He’s been directing *Annie* for like 40 years, so working with him is amazing,” Jacqueline gushed. “Every note he gives



Orphans in “You’re Never Fully Dressed without a Smile” – Photo by Joan Marcus. (L to R): Katie Wylie as Duffy, Amanda Wylie as Tessie, Bunny Baldwin as Molly, Ava Slater as Kate, Jacqueline Galvano as July and Amanda Swickle as Pepper.



Jacqueline with Macy and Sunny, who play Sandy in *Annie*



you is like an acting lesson that you can keep with you forever. He has an idea of what it should look like, and he won't compliment us unless it does look like he wants it. So far, I think he likes it," she added with a giggle.

Jacqueline said her favorite *Annie* song to perform is probably "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile." "The orphans sing that one, and we do a huge dance break and a kick line," she explained. "I think it's one of the crowd pleasers."

"Everyone starts clapping when they do the kicks," Julie added with a laugh.

The production features a 25-member cast, and Jacqueline said all of them get along fabulously. "I couldn't be luckier to have the cast I do," she said. "The six other orphans who are my age and a little younger, they're all so sweet. It's very rare to have seven kids all get along every day, but we do."

The same goes for the canine cast members. Because Jacqueline is the understudy for *Annie*, she's been working closely with the two rescue terrier mixes starring as Sandy. "They're both so cute," Jacqueline raved. "There's Macy and Sunny. Macy and Sunny share the role of Sandy. I've been working with both of the dogs. They're the cutest dogs ever and they're so well-trained. And we get to have sleepovers with them, which is so fun!"

"The trainers want the dogs to be super comfortable with the cast members," Julie explained. "So the girls spend a lot of time with them and even feed them."



Jacqueline playing Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker* at Manatee Performing Arts Center

While she doesn't have a dog at home, this isn't Jacqueline's first time working with a furry cast member. "I played Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, and I worked with a dog in that production."

No Stranger to the Spotlight

Although *Annie* is Jacqueline's first touring production, the budding actress has spent her fair share of time onstage. Her love of acting was first ignited when she attended a drama camp on Anna Maria Island at the young age of 7.

"I realized that I really love to perform," Jacqueline recalled. "After that, I started doing community theater, and now I can't picture myself doing anything else."



Jacqueline singing *Quiet* from *Matilda* in New York



Mom and Dad proudly listen as Jacqueline signs the national anthem at the 2016 opening of State Legislative in Tallahassee.



Winner of Stewart Elementary Third Grade Talent Show



Winner of Broadway Star Best Vocalist 11/12 Division

After playing Helen Keller in the Manatee Player's production of *The Miracle Worker* in 2015, Jacqueline went on to perform as Edwina in *Dear Edwina* and Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird* in 2016. In addition to her impressive resume with the Manatee Players, Jacqueline is also involved in Spotlight Kids and Dance Theatre of Bradenton. She also sang the National Anthem at the Florida Legislature in Tallahassee for both the Senate's opening session, and the joint opening session between the House and the Senate in January 2016.

School On-The-Go

Jacqueline, who previously attended Stewart Elementary, would have started sixth grade at King Middle School in Bradenton this year. However, when she was cast for the *Annie* tour, her parents enrolled her in Florida Virtual School (FVS).

"There's another girl in the cast who is doing Florida Virtual School, as well," Jacqueline explained. "We're both very fortunate to have such a flexible school program."

"We just found out from some of the other orphans from other states that they don't have a program like Florida Virtual School," Julie added. "It's really nice because Jacqueline has four teachers that she's working with and we're in touch with them. It keeps her on track. If there's a week that she can't get quite as much done, they can be flexible, and she can make it up later."

To top it off, there's a teacher on tour who is there to help all the young *Annie* cast members with their school work.

"She's like a teacher to all the orphans," Jacqueline said. "She's so nice and helpful and sweet, and we're fortunate to have her around. If we don't understand something, she's there for us."

Exploring Exciting Cities

During the *Annie* tour, Jacqueline will get to explore quite a few cities she's never seen before. She's particularly excited about visiting the cold and snowy regions, since she was born and raised in balmy Florida.

"I've never been to a lot of these places, and I'm so excited," she remarked. "Especially like North Dakota and Canada...I've never been there and it sounds really cool. Hopefully we'll be dressed warm enough because we're not used to all that cold weather!"

Jacqueline and her mom are also looking forward to the tour stops in Florida. "The night before Thanksgiving, we're going to be in Tallahassee," Julie said, adding that her husband, Senator Galvano, knows a lot of people who live in the capital. "Some of the legislators are coming to that show, and that's also the first time my parents will get to see it."

"And then the next day is Thanksgiving, so we'll get to spend part of Thanksgiving with our family!" Jacqueline interjected.

On March 14-15, *Annie* will come to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota, and hundreds of the Galvanos' friends are expected to attend. "I'm so excited about that," said Jacqueline. "And I'm excited to show my other friends in the cast where I live!"

But once the tour is over in May, what's in store for this talented young actress? "I think I'm going to keep auditioning for things and just see what happens next," Jacqueline remarked. "With this amazing experience, I think it will be good for future opportunities."

In the meantime, Jacqueline plans to enjoy every minute of the *Annie* tour. "I'm really excited," she said. "We just started, and I'm ready to hit the road!" 🙌

• For tickets and more information, visit www.Anniethemusical.com.

**HALF YEAR CHEERLEADING
TEAMS STARTING NOW!**



**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
FOR AFTER SCHOOL CARE
& TRANSPORTATION**

NINJA WARRIOR • GYMNASTICS • CHEERLEADING • VOLLEYBALL

WHERE CHAMPIONS EVOLVE.

CLASSES • BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS • OPEN GYMS • ADULT FITNESS



- Ninja warrior
- Gymnastics
- Cheerleading
- Volleyball
- Tumbling / Acro
- Youth Open Gym Every Friday
- Birthday Parties
- Team Building Events
- After School Care
- Ages 3 and up
- Classes for all skill levels
- State-of-the-art equipment
- Nationally recognized coaches
- Unsurpassed amenities
- And much more!



EVOathletics.com



941-727-1100

Primary Care Services You Can Count On ... right here in our community.



NORTH RIVER

Family Health Center

606 4th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221

Treats Children to Seniors

www.northriverfamilyhealthcenter.com

941.722.7785

James A. Briles, MD
Daniel J. Johnson, MD
David J. Krull, MD
Angel Llanio, MD
Christina M. Mehriary, MD
Raymond L. Raitz, MD
Blair Bunden, PA-C
Kathleen Greenfield, PA-C



Lakewood Ranch Medical Group

8340 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, Suite 210
Bradenton, FL 34202

Treats Infants to Seniors

www.lpaprimarycare.com

941.782.2800

Reed Holland, DO
Payal Jhavar, MD
Sheryl Okuhara, DO
Karen Jacobs, DO
Eric Molnar, DO



Lakewood Ranch Primary Care

Rye Road

1854 Rye Road East
Bradenton, FL 34212

Treats Children to Seniors

www.lparyerod.com

941.216.3939

Aaron Guthrie, MD



Manatee Primary Care Associates

Pediatric and Adult Medicine

5225 Manatee Avenue West • Bradenton, FL 34209
Treats Children to Seniors

www.manateeprimarycare.com

941.708.8081

Ronald Grubb, DO
Lisa Shannon, DO



Doctors of Manatee

1720 Manatee Avenue East • Bradenton, FL 34208

Treats patients ages 18 to Seniors

941.216.2878

Rafael J. Calzadilla, MD
Francisco A. Estevez, MD
Jennifer M. Toscano, MSN, ARNP-C



Members of Manatee Physician Alliance



Vintage HOLLYWOOD HORNE &

PICTURES: Whitney Patton



MOON SOCIAL 2016

ZOO CAMP

Now offering Zoo Camp During Sarasota and Manatee County School Breaks!

Give your child the opportunity to explore nature up close through hands-on games, crafts, animal interactions and other fun activities.

Zoo Camp Hours

9am-4pm (before and aftercare available)

Lunch and snacks are included

For information visit SarasotaJungleGardens.com
or call **941-355-1112, ext. 307**



3701 Bay Shore Rd
Sarasota, FL 34234
941-355-5305



enRich

A BISTRO

Sunday Brunch Reopening January 15th 10:30am-2:00pm

(941) 792-0990 • www.enrichbistro.com • 5629 Manatee Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34209

OASIS Middle School

You have the power to change your child's future...

All the advantages of a Private School education located at one of Manatee County's Charter Schools for FREE!

- Low student/teacher ratio of 15/1.
- Special and individualized attention in a supportive, structured and disciplined school environment.
- Teaching through technology and an individualized academic plan designed to help meet specific needs of each child.
- NEW – Chapter member of Future Business Leaders of America, a nationally renowned organization providing business training opportunities and scholarships.
- A Business Management/Leadership Academy that promotes each child's educational endeavors, social welfare and careers/college readiness.



**NOW ENROLLING
SIXTH & SEVENTH GRADERS!**

Call (941) 749-1979 for more information or to schedule an interview today!
4304 32nd Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34205



Moricz & Varone
ORTHODONTICS



Receive \$500 off any new patient treatment when you schedule your initial exam before December 21st! **

Call 941.907.8898 to schedule your free consultation!



** \$500 off our usual and customary fee for comprehensive treatment. \$200 off Phase 1 treatment. Ad must be mentioned at new patient exam. Cannot be combined with any other discount. Cannot be combined with any insurance discount exceeding \$500 (\$200 for Phase 1) Not redeemable for cash. Treatment coupon valid for one new patient only and cannot be used toward siblings or other family members already in treatment. New patient exam must be scheduled before December 21, 2016. Treatment must begin before January 31, 2017.



invisalign | teen

invisalign®

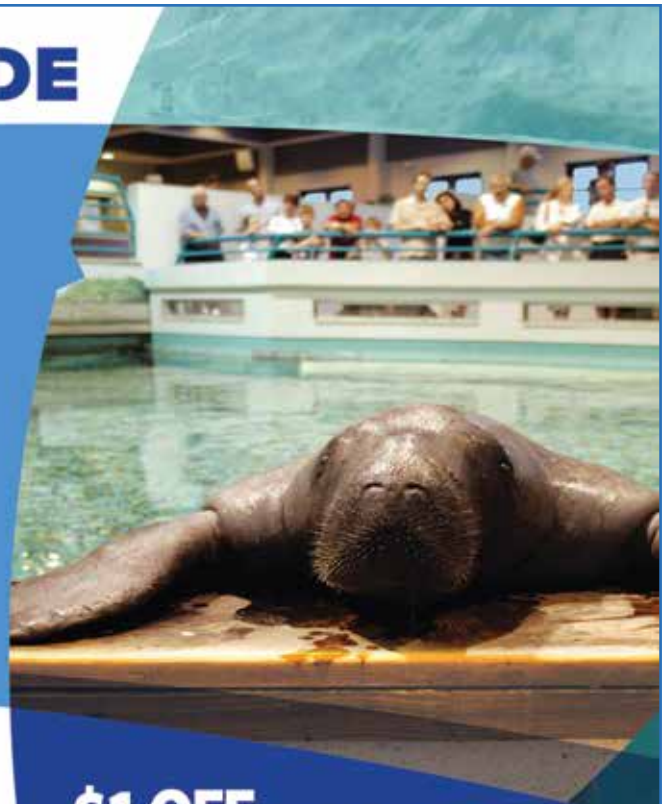


American Association of Orthodontists

SEE WHAT'S INSIDE

- Prehistoric artifacts
- **Florida manatees**
- Ice age fossils
- Natural wonders
- Historic relics
- Space shows

- Film Fridays
- Family nights
- Science talks
- Cultural parties



SOUTH FLORIDA MUSEUM

BISHOP PLANETARIUM • PARKER MANATEE AQUARIUM

201 10th Street W., Bradenton, Florida 34205

941.746.4131 www.southfloridamuseum.org

\$1 OFF
up to 6 guests

*(Not valid with any other discounts or for special events.)
Expires 2/28/17*

Rowlett Academy for Arts and Communications

William Monroe Rowlett Academy for Arts and Communications is a public charter school and is the **No.1** elementary school of choice in Manatee County. Our unique programs include:

VISUAL ARTS, DRAMA, FILM, MUSIC, DANCE, STRINGS, DRUMS, MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, SPANISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION & TELEVISION PRODUCTION



To find out more or to schedule a tour, call

Visit us on the web at
www.rowlettacademy.org

941-708-6100

Florida's
Sweetest
Attraction!



Mixon's...
Not Just A
Fruit Farm!

Mixon's Amazing Play Place!



MIXON'S... A GREAT PLACE FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES & FIELD TRIPS!

Enjoy our Tram Tour through the grove, spend time at the Wildlife Rescue, eat lunch on Rosa's Porch (bring your own or purchase from us) & MUCH MORE!



SLIDE!

20 FOOT WATER OR BALL PIT SLIDE!
Water Pump Duck Race
Bounce House
Tire Hill
Lookout Tower
HUGE Sandbox
Tram & Tractor Fun
Animal Rescue
MUCH MORE!



TIRE MOUNTAIN!



OUTDOOR CHESS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
Call Becky Miller at
941-748-5829, Ext. 256

Mixon's Fresh Fruit... Great Before & After Holiday Gifts!



ORANGES
PINK GRAPEFRUIT
MINNEOLA
HONEYBELLS

Plump, juicy and delicious anytime!
Perfect for snacking...
And good for you, too!
Shop in store, online at mixon.com, or call us to place your order today!

EXCITING EVENTS YEAR ROUND!

Visit us online at mixon.com! Follow us on both our Facebook & Twitter pages to keep up with current events!

MIXON'S...
THERE'S
SOMETHING
FOR
EVERYONE!



STORE HOURS:
Mon - Sat, 10am - 5pm
TRAM TOURS:
11am, 1pm and 3pm

2525 27th St East • Bradenton, FL • 941-748-5829



Comprehensive Eye Exams • 1-Hour Service • Pediatric Eye Care
Designer Frames, Glasses and Contact Lenses
Glaucoma and Cataract Evaluations • Diabetic Eye Exams

Board Certified Optometrists

Dr. Michael A. Mackie • Dr. Sarah S. Mackie
Dr. Paige A. Gillenwaters • Dr. Brad S. Laudicina
Dr. Douglas K. Black

Three Convenient Locations

CORTEZ OFFICE 2003 Cortez Road Bradenton, Florida 34207 (941) 756-20/20	MANATEE OFFICE 5106 Manatee Avenue West Bradenton, Florida 34209 (941) 795-20/20	PARRISH OFFICE 8312 US Hwy 301 N, Suite 105 Parrish, Florida 34219 (941) 776-5770
---	--	---

Call to schedule your appointment: **(941) 756-20/20** Or visit us online: EyeCenterInc.com

CENTER FOR MEDICINE

Welcomes
Amanda Briles, ARNP, NP.-C
Internal Medicine
Joining
Vishal Sharma, MD
Board Certified

**NOW ACCEPTING
NEW PATIENTS!**

Located At:
6400 Manatee Ave. West
Suite A
Bradenton, FL 34209
&
7032 US Highway 301
Ellenton, FL 34222



(941) 761-8505



Connected To The Community

WORDS: Lela Rast Hartsaw
PICTURES: Whitney Patton

Bob Turner is a newspaperman in every sense of the word

In this time of instant access to news 24/7/365, you can count on the Bradenton Herald to stay not only relevant, but also committed to excellence in journalism. This is partially possible because the team at the Herald is comprised of professionals who know the important questions to ask, and thoughtfully report their findings. It's also partially due to the fact that their leader is Bob Turner.

Turner arrived in Bradenton in 1979 via a promotion from a Herald sister newspaper in his hometown of Columbus, Georgia. When asked what impressed him most upon arrival in Manatee County, he was quick to reply: "The natural beauty. I like to kayak, and be out on the water. I always say, if you don't get out on the water you miss half of the story."

Speaking of stories, what was his first impression of the Bradenton Herald? "Soon after I arrived, in May of 1980, the Skyway Bridge fell," he recalled, "I liked the way the Herald handled the story and gathered accurate information."

People have a natural curiosity about the news, so relating the facts as quickly and accurately as possible is what the news industry is all about, then and today. Since arriving as Retail Advertising Manager, three decades at the Bradenton Herald has given Turner the experience and skillset to make him perfect for leading the paper and its online entity into the future.

When asked about the emergence of digital over paper, Turner says with assured positivity: "Paper is simply a medium of delivery. Separate paper from the equation, and what's at the heart of the Bradenton Herald is news-gathering and quality journalism."

Taking it a step further, Turner believes that so many people mistake online blogging for journalism. There is no barrier to entry as a blogger, therefore in Turner's opinion, there is a prevalence of misinformation online. That's why, in a scene muddled by amateurs, the Herald



shines. Getting the news gathered quickly, accurately, and reported attentively in a timely manner, is a challenge for all media sources. The Bradenton Herald remains the leader in local and national news for this area's residents.

"Our goal here at the Herald is to remain relevant as a news source *and* as a workplace," Turner says. He envisions an office with fewer pretenses and a more thoughtful workspace that will attract the next generation into the fold. If local companies fail to do this, it affects the community's workforce. "The Millennials will leave the area. We intend to do what we can to help keep them as readers and residents," he added.

Turner has seen the paper run under several different owners. R.W. Page Corporation was owner when he transferred from Columbus, where he had taken his first job at the local paper as a 16-year-old. Knight Newspapers and Ridder Publications groups merged in 1974, about the time they purchased the Bradenton Herald.

The Herald remained a Knight-Ridder publication until McClatchy purchased the group in 2006. During that time under Knight-Ridder, Turner watched as the computer age developed and forever transformed the newspaper industry. Knight-Ridder was the first newspaper publisher to experiment with something called 'videotex', a rudimentary (yet at the time quite revolutionary) type of one-way Internet system.

Turner recalled: "In 1980, the Herald had ONE desktop computer in the building. It was kept in the Human Resources department." It's difficult to imagine that today, when everyone has a mobile phone which functions as a mini-computer in his or her pocket, or in Turner's case on his wrist.

The way the news is delivered may change, but one thing remains the same. Turner believes one of the greatest assets of the Bradenton Herald over the years has been its connection to the community. One of his favorites is The Golden Herald Awards. Started in 1978,



the Golden Herald Awards annually honor high school seniors in Manatee County for noble service to their schools and the community.

Qualified students are measured in the areas of achievement, leadership, and character. The Golden Herald's 15 categories are all encompassing: art, athletics, business, citizenship, computer & technology, English & literature, foreign language, general scholarship, journalism, mathematics, music, science, social science, speech & drama, and vocational.

Every year there is no shortage of outstanding applicants, proving that this community is strong and vibrant. Turner said: "This community has another great asset, besides natural beauty, and that's good people. Really good people... the ones just down the street and the ones in power."

When asked what advice Turner would give to parents reading NextGen, he did not hesitate. "Look at my father. My dad was my biggest influence," he said "He taught me many things and, in day-to-day living, he led by example. My advice is to lead the kind of life you want your children to live. We may fall down, but this is important. We have to be our children's guide. My dad SHOWED me how to be a man."

And Turner went on: "When I started my first job, my father gave me a binder for keeping my papers organized. Inside the front cover, he had glued a card that read '10 Steps to Being Successful.' I still have that binder. One of the most important steps was Make a Plan and Write It Down." Turner feels this is excellent advice and smiled: "Write your plan down on paper and occasionally go back and check on your progress and make changes as needed."

This advice has served Bob Turner well. He has had a great career helping make the Bradenton Herald the number one source for news in our area. He is very active in the community, serving on many important boards and committees over the years. He is married to Dottie Bowen Turner, has two grown children, and now has two grandchildren.

On Turner's office wall there is a framed newspaper ad featuring a quote from James L. Knight. Under Knight's photograph it reads: "Service to your community is inseparable from your responsibility as a newspaperman."

Turner smiled: "The Knights were smart. They knew the importance of the community exchange." Bob Turner is a newspaperman the Knight brothers would admire. 🖐️



Where in the world is Lugalo?



The village in Tanzania is just one of many international destinations our students visit virtually during the school year. By interacting regularly with classrooms worldwide, Saint Stephen's students experience different cultures, customs and languages. It's part of our goal to create responsible global citizens.



Saint Stephen's is an independent, college-preparatory school providing a world-class education for students in grades Pre-K3 to 12. Schedule a tour today.

315 41st St. W., Bradenton, FL 34209 | (941) 746-2121 | www.saintstephens.org | Welcoming all faiths



Let's Create Art

Professional & fun instruction customized for each skill level beginner to advanced

Lil' Picasso & Young Artists Classes

Paint Parties
Open Studio

(941) 361-1491 www.LetsCreateArt.com
8111 Lakewood Main St., Ste. 102, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Drama Develops Kids

Whether destined for the stage or the boardroom. Drama Kids builds confidence, speaking skills, and acting skills in young people and teenagers, ages 5-18. Our Programs are fast paced and fun!

**CLASSES HELD IN:
Sarasota and Manatee Counties!**

Drama Kids INTERNATIONAL
Discover your Dramatic Side!

ENROLLING NOW!
(941) 922-8121

www.dramakids.com/fl
dramakids@comcast.net

The Highest Standard of Service,
Quality, and Expertise in
Pediatric Dentistry, Ages 1-18



Designed to delight and warmly engage children from 1-18 years old, Sarasota's most modern and unique pediatric dental office will entertain and invite your kids to learn about their dental health. Children love the open, play-oriented environment and parents love the high level of one-on-one pediatric dental expertise they receive. Come visit our state-of-the-art office and experience a whole new way of caring for infants, toddlers, children, and teens!

**Dr. M&M's
Mini
Molars
Ages 1-3**



Similar to well-checks at the Pediatrician, our dedicated infant oral health program, Dr. M&M's Mini Molars, helps identify, monitor, and prevent future dental problems in children ages 1-3.



Dr. M&M - Manav Malik, DMD
• Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Dentistry
• Sarasota native & Pine View School graduate
• Fluent in Spanish and English
• Consultant to the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Oral Clinical Exam



3103 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34237
SmileWorksKids.com - 941.953.2111



**CARPENTER'S FAMILY
TAEKWONDO**

American Taekwondo Association Member
Fun & Exciting Martial Arts Programs for All Ages
Saturday Morning "Mommy & Me" Classes
FREE Trial Class



(941) 727-2883 • www.carpentersata.com
8618 SR 70 East Bradenton, FL 34202

**HAPPY
HOUR
Every Day!**

**Something Fun
For Everyone!**



- Delicious Seafood • Amazing Margaritas
- Mouth-Watering Appetizers
- Fresh Chipotle Oysters
- Grouper Sandwiches • Tasty Local Favorites

**Kids Eat For A
Penny An Inch
Sunday Thru Thursday**
49 inches tall... pay just 49¢
for a Kids Meal. Ages 10 and under.

"We're More Than Just Oysters"



Try one of our four
family-friendly locations.

- PIER • 941.778.AMOB (2662) • 200 Bridge Street
- LANDSIDE • 941.758.7880 • 6906 14th St. W. on US 41
- CORTEZ • 941.792.0077 • 6696 Cortez Rd.
- ELLENTON • 941.721.7773 • 1525 51st Ave. E.



1227



Unity Of Vision

The Strength of Manatee Children's Services' Child Advocacy Center

WORDS: Lela Rast Hartsaw

PICTURES: Whitney Patton

It's nightmarish to think that any child would ever need the type of services provided by Manatee Children's Services' Child Advocacy Center (MCS). Yet for various, often unthinkable reasons—none the fault of the child—tens of thousands of Manatee County children and their families have turned to MCS over the years and been provided quality intervention and prevention programs, strong personal advocacy, residential safe haven, and trauma-focused therapy to child victims of abuse.

It's for these reasons, that the businesses and residents of our area support this phenomenal organization, allowing MCS to continue to provide help when the unthinkable occurs.

Founded in 1977 by child advocate and champion of abused children, Carol Chamberlain (see Founder's Feature), MCS has grown as the community's needs have grown and as education efforts have proven effective. Mrs. Chamberlain (92) says unity of vision is the most important part of the success of the team at MCS and always has been. Through this vision, MCS now offers numerous differentiated types of service.

Access to services can be provided through any of the following service delivery "doors" when contact is made with any program advocate in the agency.

Intervention Services provide a child the opportunity to tell her story to a member of the Child Protection Team and the SCAN

Program (Services for children abused by non-caregivers). Information is gathered by Advocates and Case Coordinators through specialized non-leading forensic interviews and medical exams are completed by a Doctor who specializes in child abuse.

After evaluating the results of those activities, the Team makes recommendations to law enforcement on how to best keep the child safe, providing other resources in order to best stabilize the child and provide expert testimony when necessary.

Prevention Services are the cornerstone of the operation. The hope is that the more preventative measures are available to the community, fewer children will need intervention. Sounds simple... yet, large scale social complications like the current heroin epidemic are putting more and more children in harm's way than ever before.

Through the MCS KIDS Personal Safety Program's Educational Workshops, children in schools are

being taught how to recognize and report abuse. Parents can receive training in parenting skills to work towards reunification with their children through the BRIC Parenting Program. (BRIC stands for Building Resiliency In Communities.)

Two other huge portions of the Prevention Services picture are the





Teenage Pregnancy Prevention and assistance for grandparents and relative caregivers (Grandparents as Parents) who have taken on the role of parents. Through mentoring, education, advocacy services, and support groups people in Manatee County have a place to turn to for help.

Treatment Programs provide an umbrella for

child victims of trauma to receive counseling to help them begin recovering both physically and emotionally. Advocates on site assist the family to stabilize as the child works with their therapist.

The professionals in this area are strong social workers with huge hearts who know that often times the children just really need someone to provide a safe and protected environment that promotes healing. Sexual Abuse Treatment, Victims of Crime Counseling and Crisis Intervention Counseling are all available at the agency.

Residential Services are the foundation of the original MCS vision. In the 1970's before there were dedicated shelters, advocates like MCS Founder Carol Chamberlain were left with the task of finding safe places for abused children.

Thanks to donations and countless staff and volunteer hours, the MCS Advocacy Center also maintains a 12-bed Children's Emergency Shelter for children ages 6-17 and three long term group homes that include a Girl's Group Home, a Boy's Group Home, and a home called Our Place Group Home where children can access more acute and on site services when necessary.

Each of the group homes are licensed and equipped to care for six children ages 12-17 and provide a family living arrangement which aids in the normalcy needed to help transition child victims into self-sufficiency.

The extensive list of services at the MCS Advocacy Center is impressive. Realizing why these services are even necessary is horrifying. Yet, the talented and committed team at MCS is dedicated to help all children who have been victims of abuse.

These people truly make a difference one case at a time. One counselor chose a radical career change and intensive secondary studies to now do what she loves. She went from what some consider a 'dream job' with a TV news channel to helping nearly 500 children in seven years time through the assistance provided by MCS.

As members of the community it is imperative to know that

ANYONE can and should report suspected abuse. The Florida Department of Children and Families website, MyFLFamilies.com, offers valuable information and a quick guide to frequently asked questions like: *What should I expect when I call the Hotline?*—OR— *Who is a mandated reporter?* The answer to that last one is important. We are ALL mandated reporters according to the Florida statutes. Your report will be completely confidential and could save someone's life.

The staff members of MCS, under the guiding hand of their CEO Melinda Thompson, agree that what they do is extraordinary. Each member is highly qualified and deeply inspired to do the work. They also agree that they function as a family, not merely as co-workers.

The unity they share is easy to see and feel. Each and every one believes strongly in their WHY. The mission of Manatee Children's Services Child Advocacy Center is threaded deeply throughout every program and service and is the same one crafted and inked by Carol almost 40 years ago: To break the cycle of child abuse by advocating and providing the resources, skills and shelter to alleviate abuse through prevention and intervention for all children and their families.

They know the burden is heavy, yet armored with the strength of their MCS family they are able to strengthen wounded children and families in need. 🙌



For more information and to find out how you can support this much-needed effort, visit their website www.manateechildrensservices.com.

A Woman Of Unyielding Courage

Do you get nervous when you meet a famous person? We all do. I felt that way to some degree when I recently went to meet Manatee Children's Services founder, Carol Chamberlain. She's not nearly as famous as she should be.

What Mrs. Chamberlain did for our community is worthy of more praise than that of most celebrity entertainers or sports figures. What Carol Chamberlain did was truly selfless. My admiration of her grew in the short while we spent together on a recent early evening.

First, Mrs. Chamberlain deserves a medal for bravery. In the days before law enforcement officers handled cases of neglect and abuse, she put herself in harm's way to go into dangerous homes to remove children from abusive situations. Mrs. Chamberlain would often do this alone and on more than one occasion recalls being threatened, always verbally, sometimes with weapons!

"I was shot at with a real gun," she told me in our recent interview. After a beat she added, "He missed!"

Luckily for us all the shooter missed. From early on, Mrs. Chamberlain believed in getting these abused children out of the situation they had found themselves in and into a safe, loving environment. Sometimes this meant foster care or permanent adoption. What mattered most was that these children were safe and cared for, and given a second chance.

Mrs. Chamberlain quickly realized the need for a shelter was unavoidable. Being the go-getter she was, she set out to make it happen by researching grants and fundraising options, making countless phone calls, numerous visits to civic groups, and writing letters to legislators. Mrs. Chamberlain did all of this at the same time she was raising four children of her own.

I saw a charming black and white photograph of Mrs. Chamberlain with two of her daughters when the two were Girl Scouts.

"Did you ever get asked to be a Girl Scout leader?" I queried. "Oh, of course. I was the girls' Girl Scout leader when we were stationed in Japan while my husband was in the Army," was Mrs. Chamberlain's reply, a smile raising her cheeks and softening her eyes. I discovered she not only was a troop leader, she was involved in promoting international relations between Girl Scouts in Japan and the United States through the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo (1964-1966.)



Lt. Col. Donald E. Chamberlain retired after 27 years of active duty and the Chamberlain family chose to make Florida their home in June of 1970.

Right from the start, Mrs. Chamberlain became an active member in the community. She was a substitute teacher for the Manatee County Schools and even served one year as the Bookmobile Librarian for the Manatee County Library.

Her volunteerism reached from Advisory Committee to the Bradenton Herald to the Salvation Army to the Zonta Club, an international service organization of executive women. Mrs. Chamberlain was involved with many other organizations including the League of Women Voters, Order of the Eastern Star, and being a charter

member of the Manatee Association for Youth Services, and Manatee County Review Council for Juvenile Justice (now known as Manatee Community Council for Children.)

After retirement, Mrs. Chamberlain continued to work for children's advocacy by serving as Guardian Ad Litem in the 12th Judicial Court system (1989-1999.)

A definite note of pride carries in Mrs. Chamberlain's voice when she tells me of her involvement as a charter member of her home church, Faith United Church of Christ, which she helped establish in 1988. Her service to God through this church was unlimited.

She served as Congregational President, chaired numerous committees, sang in the choir, assisted with the yearbook, and even was Editor/Producer of the weekly church newsletter, *The Faithful Follower*, for ten years (1990-2000.) Anyone who has ever produced a newsletter, large or small, knows that job alone can be time-consuming.

Nowadays Mrs. Chamberlain doesn't get to church or events like she would probably prefer. Her hobbies of crewel embroidery, drawing, calligraphy and working out at the YMCA are limited by her declining health. But, her legacy lives on in a BIG way.

Visit the Manatee Children's Services campus or simply check out their website and you can see that the energy of Carol Chamberlain remains resonant and her vision is making it possible for those who might otherwise feel hopeless to realize there is indeed hope... and help, thanks to the unyielding courage and determination of a woman who still cares deeply and gives selflessly. 🙌

We are proud to support those who nourish

Imagination

because progress is the product of dreams.



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS
CHARITIES

Nourishing communities.

easterseals

Southwest Florida

Easter Seals SWFL Academy Now Accepting
2017-2018 Enrollment Applications for Kindergarten and 1st Grade



FREE VPK
Preschool (6 weeks-5 years)
Afterschool Care
(up to 12 years)
Low Student-Teacher Ratios
Specialized Reading
Integrated Therapies
Kindermusik Program
Creative Arts
Spanish



Open House
January 12th 2017 5:30pm
All Are Welcome!

350 Braden Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34243

For more information, contact Tim Foor, M.Ed. (941) 355-7637 ext. 502

The Parent's Guide to 15 Last

Brought to you by BMO Harris Bank

It's the most wonderful time of the year – and also the most hectic. So we're helping out with 15 last-minute, budget-friendly gift ideas you can order, pick up or put together within 48 hours.

For Your Kids

If you're not armed with a carefully crafted wish list, look into one of the following tips, courtesy of bmoharris.com/life:

- **The experience:** Is your child a budding scientist, artist-in-training or adventurer? Tap into their hobbies, and treat them to a day at your local science museum, an art class or a go-carting adventure.
Tip: Many local museums offer free days to visit, as well as discounted tickets for kids, which can help save on costs. Additionally, to save on time, try booking your tickets and classes online.
- **The practical need:** Mix practical needs with the holiday season by gifting supplies for all the fun that's to come in 2017 — think soccer cleats, a swimsuit or an e-reader for the new year.
Tip: Be sure to double-check shipping dates! Only order these goods online if they're guaranteed to arrive on time. If not, you'll want to hit the local shops instead.
- **The thoughtful DIY:** Print some fun photos of you and your kids from throughout 2016, and work with them to create collages to hang in their rooms.
Tip: Get some quality printer paper, or visit a nearby printing shop. Swing by the dollar store on your way home to pick up paper, glue and glitter to give your collages a little something extra.

For Your Parents

Give your parents something thoughtful and sweet (and team up with siblings to save on costs):

- **The experience:** A subscription to ancestry.com may give your parents a chance to re-connect with their past in a new and exciting way.
Tip: Subscriptions for this “story of a lifetime” are available month to month, or you can purchase a six-month membership.
- **The practical need:** If they have everything, consider stopping by your local market or specialty store and filling a gift basket with their favorite foods (pasta, sauce and parmesan, perhaps?), topped with a bottle of wine for a nice night in.
Tip: If your budget permits, make this a gift that keeps on giving by signing your parents up for a “gift of the month” club. You'll save yourself a shopping trip (you can order online!) and ensure they can enjoy delightful treats year-long.
- **The thoughtful DIY:** Enlist the kids to craft a pair of ridiculously cute mugs that will add a little more joy to your parents' morning routine. Then, pair those mugs with their favorite coffee, tea or sweets.
Tip: You should be able to find all the materials needed to create the mugs at your local dollar or craft store.

For Teachers and Caregivers

A simple thank you will often do, but if you want to give a little more, try one of these:

- **The experience:** Make a donation in a teacher's name for a feel-good holiday season.
Tip: Need some inspiration? Consider donating to your school's food program, or a charity that's close to your heart.
- **The practical need:** Classrooms always need new supplies, so find out what's missing in yours. Then, hit your local dollar or office supply store to fill a basket of essentials.
Tip: If time permits, team up with other parents (on a donate-what-you-can basis) to save money and fill the basket with even more supplies.
- **The thoughtful DIY:** Set up an art station for the kids to create holiday cards. You'll simply need paper, markers and crayons, and maybe a few festive cookies to spread some cheer.
Tip: Have more time to spare? Try a fun DIY project, like a customized notebook and planter box.

For more financial tips from BMO Harris visit bmoharris.com/life



BMO Harris Bank® is a trade name used by BMO Harris Bank N.A. Member FDIC.

Third party web sites may have privacy and security policies different from BMO Harris. Links to other web sites do not imply the endorsement or approval of such web sites. Please review the privacy and security policies of web sites reached through links in this article.

-Minute, Budget-Friendly Gifts

For Your Partner

If your partner hasn't hinted at what they want, one of the following should do the trick:

- **The experience:** Vouchers to the local movie theatre will provide a sweet, simple night for around \$30.
Tip: Looking to spend a little more? Consider a tasting tour, or tickets to a local concert or play.
- **The practical need:** For cozy nights in, consider gifting a new book on a topic your partner loves (and scan the best sellers list for ideas!).
Tip: Prefer to spread the sweetness throughout the year? Consider getting them a subscription to a hobby magazine or a mix of magazines .
- **The thoughtful DIY:** Up your snack game, and whip up a batch of homemade salsa (with festive labels to boot) , or simply frame a fun photo of the two of you.
Tip: Want to cut back on gifts, but spend more time together? Plan, prep and enjoy a homemade holiday feast from your partner's favorite cookbook.

For Your Friends

Want to pass along a little festive cheer to your friends? Try one of these:

- **The experience:** Save yourselves the stress of finding the perfect gift, and discuss going out for a nice dinner together.
Tip: It's an opportunity to simply catch up and enjoy each other's company, absolutely stress-free!
- **The practical need:** Help your friends stay in touch while keeping warm this winter — consider gifting a pair of trendy texting gloves they can wear while using any touchscreen.
Tip: If you're in a time-crunch, swing by a nearby holiday market to support local makers.
- **The thoughtful DIY:** Once you gather a few supplies from the bulk store, you can put together festive mulled-cider sachets or hot cocoa mix. The perfect complement to cold winter nights.
Tip: For a gift that's even sweeter, add a few homemade cookies to the mix.



STEPHANIE SAYS



The Relationship Between Food and Behavior

WORDS: Stephanie Hefner, MA

Most of us blame sugar for our kids bouncing off the walls after eating their favorite candy or afternoon snack, but recent studies are showing it's not just sugar that can contribute to behavioral problems. A variety of ingredients in processed foods could be the culprit.

Processed foods are described as having synthetic ingredients your body cannot absorb as well as the nutrients in "real foods" and are packed with refined grains, sugar, high fructose corn syrup, artificial colors, preservatives, and flavor enhancers. This is concerning because food additives are being found as a possible cause for reactions such as irritability, restlessness, inattention and sleep disturbances.

According to the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, 61% of the food purchased by Americans is classified as processed food. Convenient foods certainly save time, but it's important to understand the consequences for our children.

If you're like me, completely eliminating processed foods may be difficult, but I am a firm believer in making improvements wherever possible. This is what led me to Julie Bender-Sibbio, Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist, Certified Wellness Coach, and Owner of JBS Nutrition & Wellness, LLC. I wanted to examine my own diet and ensure I was getting the right balance of nutrients amidst my long, busy days.

This led us into a lively discussion about what children are eating these days as well. When I voiced my concern of children eating foods that contain ingredients negatively affecting their behavior, she shared a story dating back to her dietetic internship program on Long Island, NY in the 1990's.

Parents reported noticeable relief from their children's unmanageable behaviors when attending a daycare center where food colorings, dyes, artificial sweeteners, added sugars, and anything highly processed was not permitted. Her experience makes me wonder how many parents are struggling with their children's behavior as a result of the food they are eating.

Julie is passionate about helping people achieve their wellness dreams, so I asked her for some simple tips to help parents limit food additives, dyes, pesticides, and genetically modified foods for improved health and behavior:

1. Write down all the fresh fruits and veggies your child loves or wants to try. Together, research the health benefit of each one, discover creative ways to eat and cook them, and make it a point to keep them in the house.
2. Set aside time to plan ahead and cook meals at home at least 80-90% of the time. Consider this as an investment in

your children's health and future. Include them in the planning and preparing!

3. Select organic produce from the "Dirty Dozen" list to limit exposure to pesticides. (Consider downloading the free app from EWG).
4. Avoid GMOs and food colorings – Check out the food label and look for non-GMO or the GMO project label. Look for foods that replace food dyes with actual foods such as beetroot red, annatto, and paprika extract.
5. Read food labels with your children. Can they pronounce the words? If not, have them look them up and find out what they are. Make it a fun time to learn. The key is balance, not to over-restrict the fun cupcake for dessert, but rather compare how "real" food is a better choice than processed foods with synthetic ingredients.
6. Keep fresh fruits and vegetables at eye level in the fridge for children. Concerned about fruit going bad quickly? Freeze them to use in a smoothie at another time.
7. Avoid all soda and beverages with dyes, additives, caffeine, and artificial sugars. (Need something flavorful and fizzy? Try something like Spindrift sparkling waters OR homemade lemonade or ice tea with limited added sugar.)
8. Serve healthy snacks in a unique and fun way that your kids love. For example, fruit kabobs dipped in yogurt, homemade trail mixes and frozen fruit bars, and carrot chips dipped in hummus.
9. Grow your own veggies or herbs. It is amazing how kids that will never eat their veggies, will often eat what they've grown!
10. Avoid using food as a reward. The adolescent years are critical to nurturing a healthy relationship with food.
11. Model healthy behaviors. Your children observe your habits and choices more closely than you may realize.

All-or-nothing thinking can be overwhelming; therefore, I encourage you to gradually incorporate these tips into your life. They will be a gift of knowledge to your children that will empower them make food choices for their best physical and emotional health! 🙌

For more information from Julie, visit her at www.JBSnourishwell.com

Stephanie Hefner, MA
Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator
Licensed Mental Health Counselor | Collaborative Divorce Facilitator

Center For Counseling and Mediation Services
7313 Merchant Court, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34240
www.CenterForCMS.com
Stephanie@CenterForCMS.com
941-957-8266

January 28, 2017

Save the Date



Celebrating our 10th year
of supporting the Arts

The Manatee Education
Foundation is hosting the

10th Annual
ART
& SOUL

2017 Gala & Live Art Auction

featuring Manatee County high school student artwork

Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 5:30 pm
at the Manatee Performing Arts Center

502 3rd Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida

with Auctioneer Dr. Larry Thompson,
President of Ringling College of Art & Design

The event will benefit the art programs of the
School District of Manatee County through the
work of the Manatee Education Foundation.



MANATEE
Education Foundation

This event sells out every year, so reserve your
table now! Sponsorship opportunities are available.
For more information, please call (941) 251-4937
or visit www.MEInfo.org/community

TPI
Therapeutic Potentials, Inc.

Are you looking to boost your child's communication, social, motor, and academic skills? TPI offers:

- Speech Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- ABA Therapy
- Reading & Writing Camps
- Social Skills & Kindergarten Readiness

Three convenient locations
 in Manatee & Sarasota Counties

Call 941-758-3140 or Visit www.TPIkids.com

See, hear, feel the potential!

11th Annual Community
SHOE BOX RECEPTION
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016
 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

DAYBREAK, ADULT DAY CENTER
 A Program of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee
 10920 State Road 70 East ~ Spring Forest Park
 Lakewood Ranch - 34202

Admission is FREE with a WRAPPED & FILLED Shoe Box
 or a \$20 Donation to Meals on Wheels Plus

**Fill a Shoe Box
 Fill a Heart**

Filled & Wrapped Boxes are delivered to Home Bound Seniors throughout Manatee County during the Christmas Holiday. These boxes are often times the only Christmas present seniors receive. Please, help us brighten our Seniors Holiday!

Catered by our Presenting Sponsor: **The Ranch Grill**
 RESTAURANT & BISTRO
 941.756.9400

Thank You to our Sponsors:

- Vanessa FINE JEWELRY
- SMR
- Boar's Head
- TIDE MARK POOL DESIGN CONCEPTS
- AFFORDABLE TORSION
- SUNCOAST Living
- Pro-Motion Notions

WE ARE SMART SNACK APPROVED

KONA ICE
www.kona-ice.com

WE BRING THE CELEBRATION TO PTO EVENTS, FALL SPORTS, FALL FESTIVALS, QUARTERLY REWARDS, CORPORATE EVENTS, HOLIDAYS, AND BIRTHDAY PARTIES.

p. 941.465.0802 | e. scedwards@kona-ice.com

School District of Manatee County



Extended Day Enrichment Program

Available to School Age Children at their Assigned School

2016-2017 Tuition Schedule

CHILD	BEFORE/AFTER (Weekly)	PART-TIME (AM Only)	PART-TIME (PM Only)
First Child	\$55.00	\$25.00	\$45.00
Additional Child	\$45.00	\$15.00	\$35.00

- Affordable
- Before/After School Care
- Nutritious Snack
- Highly Qualified Educational & Care Specialists
- Daily Homework Support
- Outdoor Activities
- Enrichment Clubs/Activities



- Early Outs/Modified Wednesdays Only \$10.00 per child
- NON-REFUNDABLE Registration Fee \$30.00
- Late Payment Fee \$10.00 per child
- Late Pick up Fee \$10.00 per child/per 15 minutes
- Return Check Fee \$25.00 or up to the face amount of the check

Participating Elementary Schools:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Abel | Gullett | Prine |
| Ballard | Kinnan | Tara |
| Bashaw | McNeal | Sea Breeze |
| Bayshore | Miller | Stewart |
| Blackburn | Mills | Wakeland |
| Braden River | Moody | Williams |
| Freedom | Palma Sola | Willis |
| | | Witt |

For more information visit www.manateeschools.net

Learning Unlimited & Manatee Learning Academy

Your Partners in success!

- Complete Preschool ages 6 weeks-PreK * Private School Grades K-12th
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation
Early Learning Coalition Contracted * 4 Star Quality Program
MCCYN Military Contracted * DCF Licensing Gold Seal School
- Small class sizes to meet your child's individual needs * Gifted * ESE
Secure campus * Multiple playgrounds * State of the art facility
Online Classes Available
- Electives offered for 6th-12th Grade:
Physical Education * Karate * Capoeira * Chorus * Piano * Drums
Basic Psychology * Art * Spanish
Comparative Religion, Speech, Math & Science Lab, Critical Thinking



Secure your child's future today!

6210 17th Ave. W, Bradenton, Florida 34209

(941) 794-5838

www.learningunlimitedschools.net





Pictures: Wendy Dewhurst



Thank you,

To all our tournament sponsors, players, and volunteers for making the 2016 Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County's 5th Annual Golf Classic, hosted by State Representative Jim Boyd, our most successful to date!



Our 2016 Jim Boyd State Representative Golf Classic Sponsors



Florida Association of Insurance Agents



ELC INSIDER



Childcare Provider Directory

A Child's Galaxy Preschool

4417 20th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-755-6302

A Growing Start Childcare Center, LLC

525 3rd Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-896-9750

Albatross Learning Center

7323 Merchant Court
Sarasota, FL 34240
941-907-8828

All God's Children

11107 Palmbrush Trail
Bradenton, FL 34202
941-739-2776

Angels Friends

611 North East Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34237
941-953-3852

Anna Maria Island Community Center, Inc.**TLC Program**

407 Magnolia Avenue
Anna Maria, FL 34216
941-778-1908

A Plus Growing Academy

800 10th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-722-0797

A Readiness Learning Academy

9045 59th Avenue Circle East
Bradenton, FL 34202
941-727-9354

A Readiness Learning Academy 2

6130 SR 70 East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-752-4927

Art Center Manatee

209 9th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-746-2862

Beautiful Blessings

1609 10th Street
Sarasota, FL 34234
941-952-1871

Bible Baptist Church Academy

1750 6th Avenue West
Unit 101
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-479-4958

Blanton, Suzette

216 60th Street Northwest
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-8563

Boys And Girls Club DeSoto

5231 34th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34210
941-758-3828

Boys And Girls Club Palmetto

1600 10th Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-722-1268

Boys And Girls Club at Daughtrey Elementary

515 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-751-7023

Boys And Girls Club at Orange Ridge-Bullock Elementary

400 30th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-741-3325

Boys And Girls Club at Harlee Middle

6423 9th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-751-7027

Boys And Girls Club at Lincoln Memorial Middle

305 17th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-721-6840

Boys And Girls Club at Southeast High

1200 37th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-741-3366

Bradenton Christian School West

3304 43rd Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-5454

Bright Beginnings Academy

614 10th Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-479-7910

Bright Futures Daycare & Preschool, LLC

1617 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-251-5436

Capokids Martial Arts Preschool

11534 Palmbrush Trail
Bradenton, FL 34202
941-922-4520

Center For Early Childhood Education

6024 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-753-4987

Children First

1723 North Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34234
941-953-3877

Children First At Helen Payne Annex

1742 Dr. MLK Jr. Way
Sarasota, FL 34234
941-363-0312

Children First At Helen Payne Day

1729 33rd Street
Sarasota, FL 34234
941-355-4984

Children's Nest of Manatee, Inc.

5051 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-753-9024

Christian Childcare Center

7601 Clark Road
Sarasota, FL 34241
941-924-6072

Collins, Jacqueline

Lil Bears Academy
108 12th Street Court East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-565-3117

Community Christian School

5500 18th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-755-4968

Community Haven For Adults And Children

4405 DeSoto Road
Sarasota, FL 34235
941-355-8808

Core Early Education And Learning

605 13th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-729-9069

Countryside Academy For Children

5807 18th Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-747-3044

Creative Kids 75th

408 75th Street Northwest
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-794-8687

Davis, Katherine

Kathy's Kiddie Care
14715 7th Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34212
941-748-3837

DC's Child Care Center

5105 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-746-6090

Discover Our World

455 48th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-749-5263

Dougherty, Nancy

607 65th Avenue Drive West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-752-9226

Drake, Melinda

4215 Fairfax Drive East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-807-9506

Drama Kids International

Multiple locations in Sarasota & Bradenton
941-922-8121

Dupre, Donna

5110 36th Avenue Drive West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-4837

East Coast Migrant Head Start

2725 16th Avenue East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-723-4563

Easter Seals of Southwest Florida

350 Braden Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-355-7637

Education Time

5165 33rd Street East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-753-7332

Ellen Meade School of Creative Learning

1323 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-755-1757

Ellenton United Methodist Preschool

3607 US Highway 301 North
Ellenton, FL 34222
941-722-2318

Faith Preschool of Faith UCC

4850 SR 64 East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-746-7895

First For Kids Children's Christian Center

603 11th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-748-0824

Foundations Developmental Learning Academies, Inc

4141 DeSoto Road
Sarasota, FL 34235
941-907-7078

Foundation For Dreams

16110 Dream Oaks Place
Bradenton, FL 34212
941-746-5659

Goddard School

14534 Arbor Green Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
941-752-6600

Happy Cubs

6207 21st Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-798-6173

The Sound

WORDS: Susan Miller Kelly

PICTURES: Wendy Dewhurst

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County is thrilled to pilot the Kindermusik@School program in several classrooms this year. A Child's Galaxy and Bright Beginnings are both implementing the "Baby Bag" curriculum in their infant classroom; the "Sing & Play" curriculum in their one-year-old/two-year-old classrooms; the "Wiggle & Grow" curriculum in their two-year-old/three-year-old classroom; and the "Laugh & Learn" curriculum in their VPK classroom. In addition, Learning Tree Early Learning Center and Palm View Elementary School are both piloting the "Laugh & Learn" curriculum for their VPK classrooms.

Recognizing the vital role of parents and caregivers in their children's overall

academic success, Kindermusik@School supports family engagement by bringing the musical fun and learning into the home. Home materials that are provided to each child on a monthly basis include a book, a CD, and every other month, a musical instrument. The families also have access to online activities.

Launched in the United States in 1978, Kindermusik was designed as an early childhood educational music and movement program for children from birth to 7 years of age. The Kindermusik program was shaped by developmentally appropriate musical activities. At first, Kindermusik was used in private music studios around the world, but also contained "at home" materials that



of musik!

made it popular with both children and their parents.

Kindermusik@School is a research-based program designed especially for schools, that brings that same significant benefit of music education for which Kindermusik has been renowned, to the classroom! Over the past decade, Kindermusik@School has proven its effectiveness. Results from a recent independent research study revealed that preschoolers who participated in a Kindermusik@School curriculum for as little as 30 minutes each week, demonstrated a 32% greater gain in early language and literacy skills over the control group.

Kindermusik@School uses high-quality recordings, instruments, and award-

winning literature, as well as music-and-movement activities that are paired with traditional nursery rhymes, finger plays, and songs. The child-centered, developmentally applicable activities build a strong foundation not only in music knowledge, but also in areas such as cognitive, emotional, social, physical, and language development.

Listening skills, receptive and expressive language skills, coordination, and social-emotional skills, such as turn-taking and self-control, are examples of other types of learning concepts being developed through Kindermusik@School. The curricula are designed to work in virtually any school-based, home-based, or childcare setting. 🖐️

Kindermusik®
a good beginning
never ends



Happy Go Lucky

1606 55th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-752-4608

Horizons Unlimited Christian Academy

2674 Dr. MLK Jr. Way
Sarasota, FL 34234
941-957-0409

Imagine Charter School Lakewood Ranch

10535 Portal Crossing
Bradenton, FL 34211
941-750-0900

Imagine Charter School North Manatee

9275 49th Avenue East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-981-5345

In The Beginning Learning Center

5503 12th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-567-6106

It's A Small World, Inc. Daycare And Preschool

900 3rd Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-405-4532

Johnson, Lori

2403 Lehigh Avenue
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-755-2098

Joy Learning & Development Academy

2515 37th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-721-0684

Joyner, Stephanie

House of J Baby's
1107 3rd Street East
Bradenton, FL 34205

J's Bright Learners LLC

5304 7th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-251-6925

Jump Start Preschool of the Arts

11005 Passage Drive
Bradenton, FL 34211
941-747-8900

Just For Girls East Bradenton

1011 21st Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-747-3337

Just For Girls Palmetto

1500 10th Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-722-8988

Just For Girls West Bradenton

3809 59th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-2137

Kiddie Academy of Bradenton

4225 Concept Court
Bradenton, FL 34211
941-727-9072

Kids Academy Plus

1415 57th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-727-1841

Kids Academy Plus 38th

5415 38th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-3678

Kids Academy Plus HL

4635 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-524-1045

Kids Club

3700 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-751-4182

Kids On The Rock

1401 14th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-729-4567

Kids R Kids

11520 Palmbrush Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
941-727-9990

Kidzone Preschool

116 27th Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-746-2727

Kingdom Academy

1801 North Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34234
941-365-5433

Kings Kids First Baptist Church Palmetto

1020 5th Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-722-0840

Koala Early Learning Center

3710 North Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34234
941-378-2362

La Petite Academy 37th

4301 37th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-756-5227

La Petite Academy SR 70

6919 53rd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-753-2336

La Petite Academy Vintage Road

4507 Vintage Drive
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-355-7677

Lane, Barbara

602 31st Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-746-1774

Laugh & Learn Academy

5231-5233 4th Avenue Circle East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-405-4998

Laugh N Learn Academy II

5304 7th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-201-6432

Learning Tree Early Learning Center

707 3rd Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-721-7500

Learning Unlimited

6210 17th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-794-5838

Learning With Love

2712 47th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-751-4989

Let's Learn Early Childhood Center

2118 1st Street
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-567-4279

Little People's Place

374 Scott Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-355-8741

Loving Hands Daycare

1204 60th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-755-6306

Manatee United Methodist Preschool

315 15th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-750-6739

MCAA Head Start

302 Manatee Avenue East
Suite 322
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-750-6667

Mini Me Kids Learning Center, LLC

3005 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-254-4940

Minnie Miracles Preschool

600 7th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-479-4488

Miss Amy's Happy Place Preschool

2211 53rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-739-5533

Morgan, Victoria

2809 8th Street Court West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-745-2401

My First Steps of Bradenton, Inc.

3815 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-727-5511

Myakka City Community Center

10070 Wauchula Road
Myakka City, FL 34251
941-322-8114

Myakka Early Learning Center, Inc.

37190 Singletary Road
Myakka City, FL 34251
941-322-2605

Nana's Preschool Center

1716 53rd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-727-4258

New Path Academy East

2601 7th Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-746-3503

New Path Academy

2531 9th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-747-8726

New Path Academy Manasota

1621 66th Avenue Terrace East
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-752-4574

Next Generation Academics, Inc.

3011 19th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-748-4612

No Limits Learning Academy

2015 75th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-251-9948

Palma Sola Early Learning Academy

7315 1st Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-795-0788

Palma Sola Presby Preschool

6510 3rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-794-0818

Palmetto Youth Center

501 17th Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-722-0783

Parrish Baptist Learning Center

12125 71st Street East
Parrish, FL 34219
941-776-1333



READING IS REALLY ROCKING AT KIDS ON THE ROCK!

WORDS: Kerry Gaylord
 PICTURES: Whitney Patton

Another amazing donation from the Manatee Community Foundation has allowed the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County to partner with the Palmetto pre-school to offer the invaluable *Raising A Reader* program, which has already been rolled out in several pre-school's across the local community.

Research shows that family engagement at home is one of the most influential factors affecting literacy and academic

outcomes (Shumow, 2010). A literacy-rich household – including books in the home, regular reading between parents and children, and discussions with children – predicts language and literacy gains in the early years and early grades.

Raising A Reader empowers families with knowledge and resources. Children participating in the program reap the benefits of healthy brain development, family bonding, and increased literacy

skills—all proven elements for lifetime success. Children will enter school with a love of books and will be motivated and ready to learn.

Raising a Reader helps families build book-sharing routines through a weekly book bag rotation in which children bring home a red bag each week filled with four high quality children's books. Families are connected with libraries to maintain the habit of borrowing and sharing books.

Kids on the Rock VPK classroom teacher Vera Koonce said, "Books are so important in a child's life. They spark the imagination. Reading books with your child will encourage knowledge and the use of a wide vocabulary of words. It also helps to form a special bond between the child and the parent."

Classroom aide Sharon Montgomery said, "I believe that reading to, and with, children is the single most beneficial thing we can do to build their vocabulary and comprehension skills. It also is an opportunity for parents to spend quality time with their child, and that is why I am excited our class is participating in this program." 📖





Early Steps to School Success Program

- Open to all families in Palmetto, Parrish, and Ellenton with children ages birth to two years old or expecting parents.
- No charge for services.
- The parent/child support and education groups will build your child's social, emotional and language development skills which are essential for success in school.
- Learn how to support your child's language development and pre-literacy education.
- Transition to school activities will help connect you and your child to the preschool or kindergarten he/she will attend.

How can I enroll in the program?

To enroll in the Early Steps to School Success Program or for more information about this exciting new program in your community, contact:

ELC of Manatee County:
(941) 757-2900 ext. 244

Palm View Elementary:
(941) 723-4812 ext. 2007

Programa para desarrollar literatura y lenguaje

- Disponible para todas las familias en Palmetto, Parrish, y Ellenton con niños entre las edades de recién nacido hasta los 2 años de edad o futuros padres
- Servicios son gratis
- El grupo de padres/niños y grupos educativos construirán los pilares del desarrollo social, emocional, lenguaje y literatura que son fundamentales para el éxito de los niños en la escuela
- Aprenda como apoyar a su hijo(a) en la educación del desarrollo de lenguaje y pre-literatura
- Transición a las actividades escolares le ayudarán a usted y a su hijo(a) a conectarse a la escuela preescolar o al kindergarten que asistirán

¿Como puedo enrollar en este programa?

Para más información, pueden comunicarse con:

ELC of Manatee County:
(941) 757-2900 ext. 244

Palm View Elementary:
(941) 723-4812 ext. 2007

Pate, Laquanda

Little People's Dynasty
1619 18th Street Court East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-448-7206

Pate Thomas, Vanzetta

Future Leaders FCCH
1018 35th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-746-6305

Pathways To Learning LLC

1300 Manatee Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-896-8802

Pathways To Learning 15th

1050 15th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-896-8804

Pines of Sarasota Day Care

1501 North Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-552-1861

Plasencia, Teresa

Rayitos De Sol Daycare
1019 61st Avenue Drive East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-580-4347

Pompey, Victoria

329 Crosby Court
Sarasota, FL 34237
941-312-4600

Poole, Mary

Kidz Learning Steps
1425 10th Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-538-0231

Primary Preparatory of Bradenton

2506 12th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-746-4816

Primrose School At Lakewood Ranch Town Center

9127 Town Center Parkway
Bradenton, FL 34202
941-373-6363

Puppy Patch Preschool

1116 35th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-748-6648

Reaching For The Stars Academy

1924 10th Avenue Drive East
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-748-3901

Renaissance Preschool

2500 10th Street
Sarasota, FL 34237
941-365-0749

Saint Joseph's Catholic School

2990 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-755-2611

Sandman Preschool And Academy

924 Wilmerling Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-755-2591

School District of Manatee County

Professional Support Center
12125 44th Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34211
941-751-6550

School For Constructive Play, Inc.

302 Pine Avenue
Anna Maria, FL 34216
941-778-2210

Scott, Twyla

Lil Angels Daycare
1415 7th Avenue East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-729-0442

Smarty Pants Preschool

832 62nd Street Circle East
Suite 101
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-747-7710

Smarty Pants Preschool 2

904 43rd Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-896-4796

Smiling Faces Academy, Inc.

5302 1st Street East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-756-1234

Smiling Faces Center For Children

202 3rd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-746-5999

Smith, Juanita

Toddlers Ark
711 35th Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-879-2407

Sprouts Child Development Center

14305 Covenant Way
Bradenton, FL 34202
941-907-7333

Sun Academy

2425 38th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-752-1715

Sunny Daze Preschool East

9922 SR 64 East
Bradenton, FL 34212
941-750-0042

Sunshine Academy

2520 43rd Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-794-3143

Sunshine's School of Fish

5715 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34207
941-251-4226

The Bella Rose Academy

708 32nd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-565-7652

Thompson Academy

1212 43rd Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-748-2162

Tiny Tots University

930 9th Street Drive West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-723-9072

TLC Day Care Center

3407 17th Street Court East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-748-4799

Toad Hall Children's Center, Inc.

4004 8th Avenue Drive West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-746-3951

Toddlers Inn Child Care Center

2611 9th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-746-4631

Tree Of Life Preschool

2200 26th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-747-1756

United Community Center

922 24th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-746-7470

Wee Care Center For Children, Inc.

1720 11th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-747-3925

WEE World Preschool

1020 4th Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-722-0810

West Coast Christian Academy

1112 49th Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-755-9667

Wiggins, Selina

Great Beginnings Childcare
1302 31st Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-708-3247

Wolfgang, Darlene

Doodle Bug Daycare
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-405-4156

Wooden Shoes Childcare Center

4875 Swift Road
Sarasota, FL 34231
941-924-0717

Woodland Early Childhood Center

9607 SR 70 East
Bradenton, FL 34202
941-753-8588

Wright, May Dixon

Learning And Caring
1016 31st Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-721-0232

YMCA Manatee Family

3805 59th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-782-0220



**Early Learning
Coalition**

OF MANATEE COUNTY

Childcare Resource & Referral

(941) 757-2910

Surviving the Holidays...

WORDS: Jennifer Colombo, M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist

As the holidays quickly approach, we look forward to spending time with family, friends, and enjoying all the joys of the season. However, the holidays can also elicit stress such as: finances, finding the perfect gifts, traveling, and keeping children occupied while they are out of school.

The American Psychological Association (APA) indicated that 8 out of 10 Americans expect to experience some form of stress during the holiday season. This stress can carry over to your children. Some of the best ways to reduce the stress of the holidays are to share the true meaning of the holiday season with your children in an educational manner that will provide them with a meaningful learning experience.

Keeping children occupied during the long break from school can be quite stressful. We have these idyllic images in our heads: snuggling, reading books, long walks in the cooler temperatures, and sipping on hot chocolate. That quickly devolves into survival mode as the business of the holiday season begins. Here are a few ideas to keep your kids engaged and happy this holiday season

Let's Create By Making Gifts

Having your child make gifts for grandparents, teachers, and their friends is an excellent way to alleviate the wallet and put a personal touch on gift giving. Making gifts involves many important cognitive skills too: creativity, sequencing, and problem solving skills are incorporated.

Pinterest and DIY blogs are wonderful resources for finding child-friendly crafts and gift ideas that your children can easily create. You can find anything from lunch bag scrap books to wind chimes made out of old unused keys. By facilitating your child's inner artist this holiday season, you are not only enhancing their cognition and creativity but showing them the true meaning of the season.

Let's Get Cooking

Involving your children in cooking and baking is a fantastic way to develop many important skills in the areas of math, reading, sequencing, and organization. Children can help bake holiday treats, make salads, and prepare appetizers for holiday dinners and parties.

Don't forget to involve them in setting the tables too. This is a great way to develop the ability to follow multi-step directions. Making table name cards and centerpieces from their very own art work collection is an excellent way to involve them in all the preparations as well.

Let's Play A Game Ideas

Board and card games like Sorry, Yahtzee, Chutes and Ladders, Uno, and Operation are great classics that are both educational and fun. A few less known games that are both engaging and educational include: Kids on Stage and Picture Charades (ages

3-6), Frankies Food Truck (preschool), Snack Attack (5+), HeadBands (6+), 20 Questions (6+), Slam the Door (6+), Bubble Talk (ages 8+), and Guesstures (8+). Other engaging activities that are low to no cost include: scavenger hunts, obstacle courses, yarn laser maze, and fort building. 🐾



Jennifer Colombo, M.S., CCC-SLP
Owner of Therapeutic Potentials, Inc.
www.TPIKids.com

WHAT A PERFORMANCE!

The Early Learning Coalition was delighted to distribute over \$75,000 in bonus awards to Manatee County providers who participated in The Early Learning Performance Funding Project in 2015-2016.

Checks were personally delivered to the seven participants by ELC Director of Communications, Darrell King.

This is a program implemented three years ago by the Department of Education's Office of Early Learning. Its purpose is to increase the programming quality of providers serving children funded with School Readiness dollars. All participating providers must have a substantially clean licensing record for the past two years; the school readiness portion of children must be at least 30% of its birth to age five capacity; and all staff must agree to participate.

The project has three categories or tiers. Tier I providers must have all staff attend ten weeks of specialized training on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System or CLASS, and be pre- and post-assessed with the CLASS.

Tier II providers are assessed, must achieve mastery in two Early Learning Florida online courses, must participate in four coaching sessions, and must purchase and use one of three online child assessment tools on all school readiness children birth to five. Tier III providers do all of Tier II requirements, but must assess all children regardless of funding.

The providers receive a base allocation paid quarterly for meeting specific deliverables, with reporting required for how the funding will be spent toward quality. At the end of the project year, the CLASS post-assessment scores are compared with the CLASS pre-assessment scores. Providers are then awarded bonus dollars for levels of improvement in each classroom active in the project, with the reporting again required.

We congratulate these providers for their hard work and dedication to serving our most vulnerable children. We look forward to more and even higher awards for 2016-2017! 🙌



Wanda Reeves, Owner
A Plus Growing Academy



Shelby Birch, Owner/Director
Sandman Preschool & Academy



Nikki Presha, Owner/Director
Bright Beginnings Academy



Angela Gilmore, Director
Manatee United Methodist Preschool



Victoria Morgan, Owner
Family Child Care Home

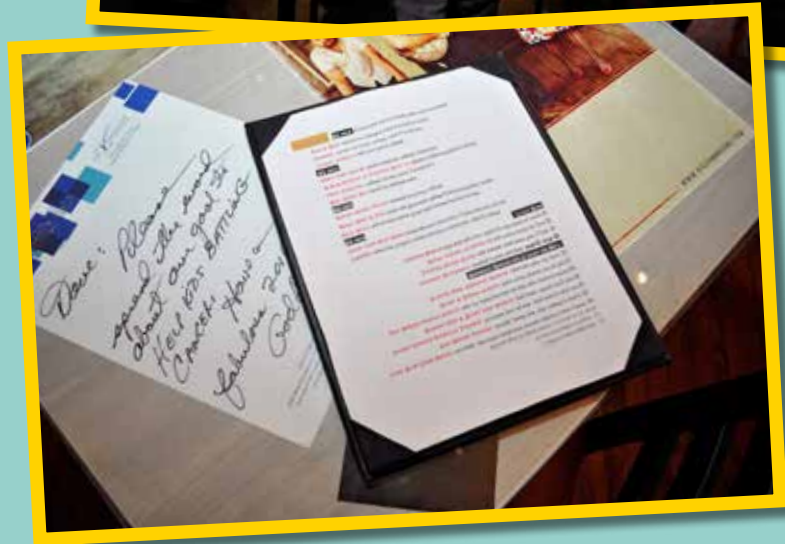


Kristi Melin, Owner
Kids Academy Plus



Valorie Mathews, Owner
Family Child Care Home

Tacos With A Twist



Local restaurateur, Dave Shiplett, has done it all, from super-formal, white-tablecloth restaurants where your server's in a tux, to his newest venture, the casual, funky Birdrock taco shack in Bradenton's Village of the Arts. His restaurant, named after a La Jolla, California surf spot that Shiplett frequented "as a kid" in the 1970s, offers tacos, burritos and other delicacies, as well as beer, wine and a laid-back atmosphere that encourages lingering over an IPA Big Swell, or two.

Shiplett has owned and run four Manatee County restaurants, and he's been head chef at a handful of others, both here and in California, where he graduated from culinary school and began his career. Yet no place has truly epitomized him - his style and approach to cooking - until Birdrock. The "shack" is a bungalow, a former home on 10th Avenue West, the outside decorated with some 1,000 broken skateboards, given to Shiplett by a friend who owned a skate shop.

Shiplett painted peace signs on the chimney and sidewalk and inside he's tacked up photos of surf spots and live music posters, alongside wall art from local artists. Birdrock's the kind of place where you're likely to hear "California Girls" playing in the background, and Shiplett's work "uniform" is shorts and an Angry Orchard baseball cap - a far cry from the chef's whites of restaurants past.

"I'm an old skater and surfer," said Shiplett, 56. "So when you say, 'It's me,' it is."

The menu was inspired by the kinds of foods Shiplett ate in southern California - fish tacos, rice and bean burritos and other Baja-style Mexican dishes. But Shiplett, known for his fusion of flavors and culinary styles, has put his own twist on the offerings. Yes, there's a rice and bean taco, but there's also an edamame one, with curry lime, moringa, radish and tomato pico.

WORDS: Kara Chalmers
PICTURES: Whitney Patton



There are mahi mahi, shrimp, carnitas, chicken, and short rib tacos. But there's also a BBQ chicken and avocado banh mi, a roast beef and feta taco with peach chili glaze with cabbage, as well as a pork belly taco with sriracha-peanut, green apple and honey-key lime red slaw. The above tacos range from \$2 to \$4, but there are also two \$5 tacos; the local lump blue crab with mango habanero chimi churri, and the lobster with Cuban lime, oregano, smoked chili mayo, tomato pico, radish and cabbage.

"This was the kind of food I always loved, Southern California, Baja-style. I always wanted to open up a place like this," said Shiplett.

A Surf-and Skate-themed Setting

Birdrock's location, smack in the middle of Bradenton's artists' enclave, feels like a perfect fit. In the village, not only is Shiplett allowed to paint orange peace signs on the sidewalks out front, he is encouraged to do so, he said. In fact, Shiplett and his wife Ciara White liked the neighborhood so much that soon after opening the restaurant, they moved to the village to live.

"It's such a creative environment to live and work in," Shiplett said, noting that much of his restaurant's wall art was created by local artists. "I'm around like-minded people."

Like many of the village's other restaurants, art galleries, shops and studios, Birdrock is colorfully painted in soft yellow, lime green, turquoise and pink. Surrounding the outdoor patio and tables, there are plants and trees, including edibles like amaranth, garlic, oregano and sunflowers, which Shiplett uses in his dishes. And, of course, the skateboard halves.

Inside are treasures Shiplett has collected over the years, such as an electric guitar, for example. One corner of the eatery is set aside for guitarists or

keyboardists, who play on the weekends and Wednesday open mic nights. Dishes are served on mismatched china, or in plastic baskets.

While there's a counter in back for takeout, the vast majority of customers are eat-in, said Shiplett.

"People like to be here," he said. And people like to come see Shiplett. Having grown up in downtown Bradenton, and having owned as many local eateries as he has, Shiplett has lots of local friends. Connecting with his customers is something he's known for.

Birdrock opened in late January, but Shiplett could only work there on Saturdays, since he was running his other restaurant, SOMA Creekside, as well as consulting for Ace's Live Music in Bradenton. In August, Shiplett sold SOMA, stopped consulting and went to work full-time at Birdrock.

"Every time I'd come here, I'd want to hang out," he said. "I had a great run and we did amazing things [at SOMA Creekside]. But, I much prefer here."

The Details

- Birdrock offers table service, takeout and catering. Seating includes outdoor tables on the front patio, an indoor dining area and a waiting room with a couch, bench and coffee table.

- In addition to tacos, the menu includes four kinds of burritos, two queso dishes, a Cuban chicken picadillo tostada, lobster bisque, iced shrimp ceviche and lump blue crab nachos.

- Hours are noon to 9 p.m. (and to 10 p.m. on weekends) Tuesday through Saturday.

- Birdrock participates in many local events, including the monthly Artwalks in the Village of the Arts and the Saturday Farmers Market. 'Like' it on Facebook to stay abreast of them. 🙌





Safety First is a trite slogan, but parents are always concerned about the safety of their children at home, school, and on the Internet. As we face a changing society and advancing technology, protecting children from birth to late teens requires that everyone - whether they interact with children daily or not - keep their eyes and ears open.

STRANGER THREAT

Parents teach children to be kind to their family members, classmates, and adults. But City of Bradenton Police Chief Melanie Bevan advises parents to review the following information with children of all ages to ward off an attempted kidnapping:

- If a stranger approaches you either on foot or in a vehicle, you should take a giant step backwards.
- If they attempt to talk to you, offer food, or ask for help for any reason (such as helping to look for a lost dog), yell “NO.”
- Run away as fast as you can, while yelling “NO.”
- Immediately tell someone (parent, teacher, police officer, or trusted adult) what happened.
- A stranger should never pick you up from school, a school activity, or a neighborhood playground.
- Tell your parents the walking route you take to school, relatives’ and friends’ houses, and the nearby playground. Do not change your route or cut through woods or yards—ever!

PLAYING IT SAFE

Every year 200,000 children under the age of 14 are seen in emergency rooms for fractures and abrasions sustained on playgrounds, but 10 percent of these children suffer a brain injury. Injuries to children four years old and under usually occur on swings and slides while children five years old and older are injured on swings, monkey bars, and equipment that involves climbing.

Parents should avoid playgrounds that have rusty or broken equipment and

SAFETY FIRST!

WORDS: Carol Darling, Ph.D.

PICTURES: Whitney Patton



a hard surface. As someone who has had skin issues due to sun exposure when she was very young, Chief Bevan wants parents to cover their children with sunscreen beginning at age five during outside activities.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Cars and Bicycles

As a parent of two high school seniors, Chief Bevan said, “I want to tell parents that the safest place for children is in the back seat of the car, in the middle seat. My own kids rode in the back seat until they were 15 years old. Air bag deployment causes more damage to a child in the

front seat than to an adult. Always be sure children wear a seat belt.”

According to the State of Florida, children five years old or younger must be secured in a federally-approved child restraint system, and children three years old and younger, must use a separate car seat or the vehicle’s built-in child seat.

According to Florida law, children under 16 years old must wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Chief Bevan recommends that younger children ride on the sidewalk since it is safer than riding in the street. Remind children to watch for people walking on the sidewalk and for cars backing out of driveways.



SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SAFETY

Chief Bevan and her staff are committed to protecting children as they interact on social media and the Internet. She explained, "Images and online information can live forever since it is almost impossible to take down information that is posted.

"Photos and information may have already been copied and posted elsewhere. Go online with your children and ask them to show you all of their personal profiles and their friends' profiles, too. Ask questions about what they do, who their friends are, and if they have made any new friends."

Chief Bevan warns parents to be especially aware of apps that pride themselves on anonymity such as Kik and Snapchat—sites that even young children use. These sites time out, and preserve users' anonymity so they cannot be located on

the computer. It is almost impossible for parents to monitor these types of sites as content quickly disappears.

Parents should set rules on what children are allowed to do online, such as posting photos of themselves and/or their friends, and opening accounts without parent permission. While apps are available to monitor children's social media use, they cannot take the place of talking to your children and spending time with them in a non-judgmental manner.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children does not recommend taking Internet access away from a child, but rather advises parents to talk to their children about how to protect themselves and respect others online.

GUIDANCE FOR A SERIOUS ISSUE

The popularity of the Internet has given rise to a disturbing topic that law enforcement diligently addresses every day. According to Detective Kevin Bunch of the Bradenton Police Department, parents should monitor their older children's cell phones and the Internet sites and online chat rooms that they frequent.

Chief Bevan and Detective Bunch urge parents to discuss the following with their children:

- Do not post anything online that a stranger could use to determine where they live, play, or go to school.
- Some people you meet online may not be truthful about who they are.
- Never meet people face-to-face that you meet online.
- If cyberbullying or anything occurs online that makes you uncomfortable or scares you, tell an adult.
- For additional information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/safekids and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at www.missingkids.com. 🖐️



**Carol Darling, Ph.D. is VPK Director
at Saint Joseph Catholic School,
2990 26th Street W Bradenton, FL
34205. www.sjsfl.org (941-755-2611)**

TGIF

Thank Goodness It's Friday

Begin working on your New Years resolution early becoming stronger, healthier and happier at the Y. **FREE access to all every Friday in December. Become a member on Friday and pay**

\$0 Joining Fee

Only at the Y will you receive FREE "12 Weeks to a New You" program. Enjoy the comforts of having a fitness coach guide you through your personalized fitness program.



MANATEE YMCA

BRADENTON / LAKEWOOD RANCH / PARRISH
941-798-9622

Up to \$50 Savings
to join the Y!

www.manateeymca.org

NO lines, wait, stress, kidding.

AIR CANADA 
TORONTO - (YYZ)

American Airlines 
CHARLOTTE, NC - (CLT)
WASHINGTON DC - (DCA)

DELTA 
ATLANTA - (ATL)
DETROIT - (DTW)
NEW YORK - (LGA)

Elite Airways 
PORTLAND, ME - (PWM)

jetBlue 

BOSTON - (BOS)
NEW YORK - (JFK)

UNITED 
CHICAGO O'HARE - (ORD)
NEWARK - (EWR)

WESTJET 
TORONTO - (YYZ)



You'll fly through here.

srq-airport.com

EIGHT TIPS FOR COPING WITH ADHD DURING THE HOLIDAYS

WORDS: Andrew J. Culter, MD

If your child has ADHD, you know that it can be tough keeping them focused and on track for school, sports and their other activities. Come fall and winter when there seems to be a holiday every other week and kids have more time off from school, ADHD can become even more challenging to manage. When the distractions of the holidays kick in, what can you do? Read on for some tips to make things easier for you and your child this season.

1. Maintain A Normal Schedule

Your child is probably on a very strict schedule during the school year, getting ready in the morning and doing homework and after school activities in the afternoon, at the same time, in the same place. Try to keep some semblance of that schedule during school vacation time. Keep bed and wakeup times consistent, or at least close to the same time. As best you can, plan activities to keep your child occupied during the day, and do them at the same time each day of the break. Keeping your child in the schedule mindset will help them cope with traveling and

visiting relatives during the season and will make readjusting to the school schedule easier.

2. Enlist Their Help With Holiday Tasks

Going along with the idea of a schedule, have your child help you with odd jobs. If your daughter likes math, have her measure out the dry ingredients for a recipe. Your son with neat handwriting could write out gift tags. If your child is creative, enlist their help in planning, shopping for, and cooking holiday meals. You could also let them help with holiday decorations.

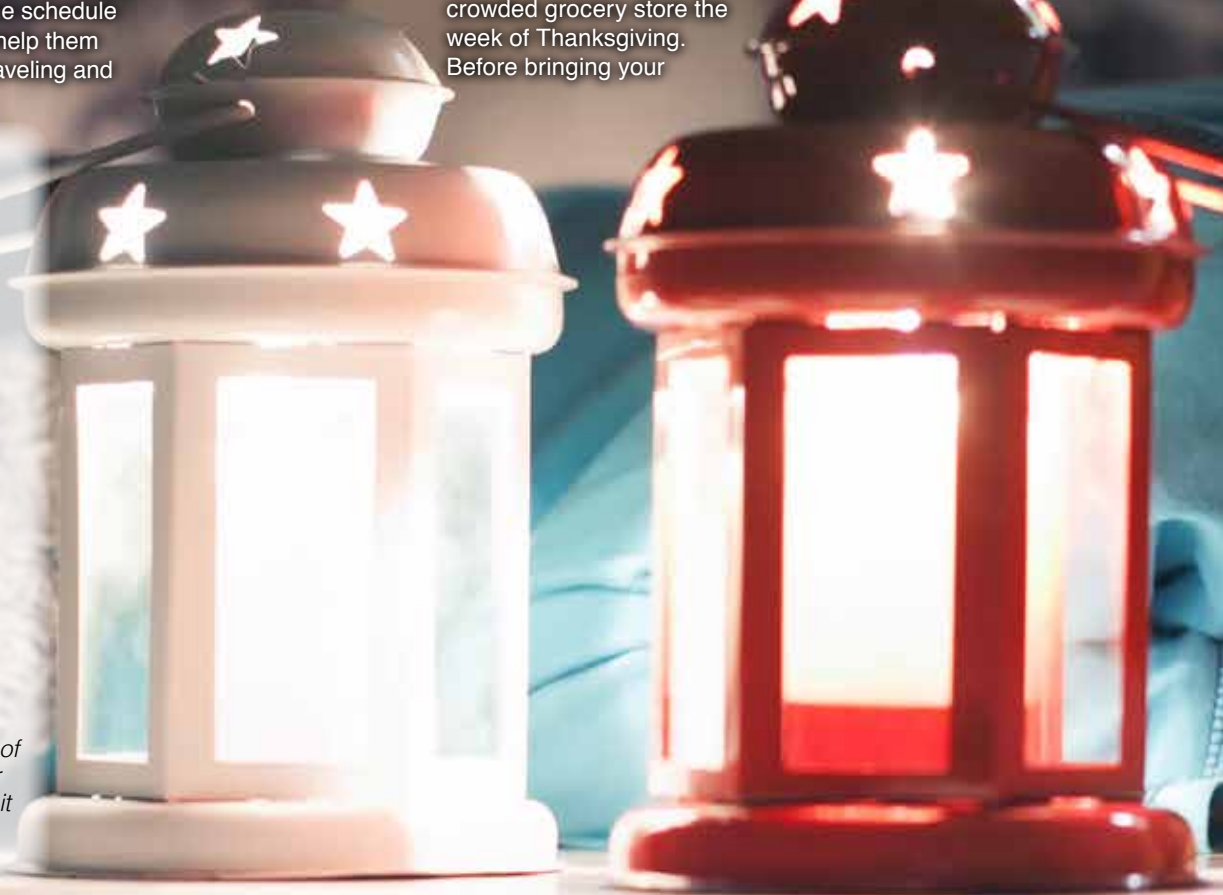
A child with a lot of energy could help entertain younger family members at a gathering or collect everyone's information for a family contact list. Keep them busy and cross things off your to-do list at the same time.

3. Practice Calming Exercises

There's a lot of stimulation everywhere you look during the Holidays, whether it be at the class holiday party or a crowded grocery store the week of Thanksgiving. Before bringing your



Andrew J. Culter, MD, is the Chief Medical Officer at Meridien Research in Bradenton, Florida. He is a Board Certified Psychiatrist and has conducted dozens of pediatric ADHD studies. For more information, please visit www.NewStudyInfo.com.



child into a scenario that might overwhelm him or cause him to act out, practice thinking through his responses. Encourage him to stop and think before responding to a situation instead of acting impulsively.

If you know sitting still at a family dinner has been difficult for him in the past, role play the scenario before it happens to practice responses. Do yoga or deep breathing exercises together to stave off stress, anxiety and excess energy. Physical exercise before stimulating or boring situations can also help discharge excessive energy and release endorphins and other calming brain chemicals.

4. Keep Them Fed And Watered

Everyone gets a little 'hangry' (hungry and angry) if they wait too long between meals. For those with ADHD, whose brains are already working harder, this can be an even bigger issue. Make sure lack of food doesn't make a stressful day worse. ADHD medication can suppress their appetite for both food and drink, so it is more important to offer frequent snacks and drinks to children with ADHD.

Keep a healthy supply of snacks and their favorite non-caffeinated beverages available in the fridge for easy access. The important thing is to avoid hypoglycemia and dehydration, in order to keep them from struggling to pay attention and help them to behave appropriately.

5. Outline The Expectations Before You Go Somewhere

Tell your child how long you'll be at the party or the store. If you'll be at someone else's house with different rules from your home, explain exactly what those rules are – for example, no food outside the kitchen or dining room.

Give your child a dress code, if appropriate, but allow for some flexibility. Tell your child who will be attending the event so they can be prepared. Kids with ADHD do better with clear expectations and often don't handle change or transitions well without adequate preparation.

6. Give Your Child A Coping Mechanism Once You're There

Identify how to get out of a situation he is not comfortable in, and find a quiet place for him to go if he becomes overwhelmed or thinks he might act out. With ADHD, overstimulation or boredom can cause problems. Check in with him periodically, and don't ask too much of him.

If meeting new people gives him anxiety, maybe don't force him to talk to every one of your extended relatives. Understood.org, an online community for families living with learning and attention disorders, suggests keeping a "comfort kit" in the car of items that your child enjoys, like healthy snacks or small toys and appropriate games or electronic devices.

7. Be Strategic About Shopping

Any child would be distracted at a mall or department store by an interesting-looking toy, but it can be especially difficult for kids with ADHD to control those impulses. Consider your child's likely reaction to a scenario like this before taking them out shopping with you.

Even grocery stores, with their candy in pretty packaging and decadent frosted cakes, can cause a meltdown. Add in large crowds of frantic people, and you have the potential recipe for disaster. Plan ahead and consider going at less crowded times of day. Think about whether online shopping, where you control what your child sees, might be a better option.

8. Be Positive

The magazine ADDitude suggests reminding your child that you believe in them to help prevent him from acting out. Before going into a religious service or your older child's holiday recital, tell your child, "I know you can do this. It will only be a short part of the day." Tell your child that you recognize and appreciate his good behavior. Reward him with extra time with you wrapping presents or preparing a meal.

ADHD doesn't have to bring the holidays to a halt. Using some (or all) of these techniques can lead to a less stressful time for you and your child. 🙌



MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

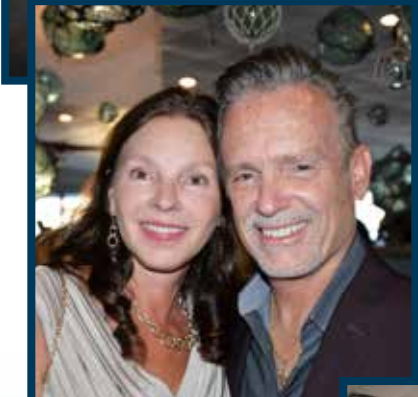


NEPTUNE'S

Seaside Bash

2016 AUCTION GALA





MANATEE
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES
db

PICTURES: Wendy Dewhurst



TINSWORTH ORTHODONTICS

Creating a Bright Future...One Smile at a Time

Orthodontics for all ages
Invisalign Provider

Steven H. Tinsworth, D.M.D.

1500 59th St. West
Bradenton, FL 34209

6060 SR70 Suite A
Bradenton, FL 34203

(941) 792-1533 www.tinsworth.com



Insuring Your
Peace of Mind & Financial Security



GET YOUR FREE AND AFFORDABLE LIFE QUOTE TODAY



**BENEFITS
CONSULTING
GROUP**

Employee Benefits • Payroll • Workers Comp
401 K • Life Insurance • HR Services



Richard M. Piero CEO, DMC, CFP, FID
941.753.3053 ext. 229 or
rich@kpins.com



Josh Kitchner
941.753.3053 ext. 227 or
jkitchner@kpins.com

PHOTO

BACKSTREET HAIR DESIGNERS

Full Service Salon

941-792-7134
5902 Manatee Ave W
Bradenton, FL 34209

David Lynch
OWNER



**BOUNCE
DOWNUNDER**


Skippy's Hassle Free
**BIRTHDAY
PARTIES!**

**Walk-In Play, Any Time!
Inflatable Party & Play Center**

Sarasota Commons • 935 N. Beneva Road, Suite 802 • Sarasota, FL 34232

VISIT US ONLINE AT:
www.bouncedownunder.com

941.366.0123



146193

MUSIC LESSONS
Piano-Guitar
Drums-Vocal
Violin-Other

DANCE CLASSES
HipHop-Ballet
Jazz-Pre School
Competition

FIRST LESSON FREE!

FLORIDA ENRICHMENT ACADEMY
The Music, Art, Dance and Computer Learning Place!

941-773-6301

ART CLASSES
Drawing-Painting
Animation
Art-NotCrafts

COMPUTER CLASSES
Robots-Coding
Build Video Games

5708 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL
FloridaEnrichmentAcademy.com

Leslie Wells

REALTY, INC.



Madison Wells
REALTOR®
 Office: 941-776-5571
 Cell: 941-405-6917
 realtormadisonwells@gmail.com
 mrealtoradisonwells.com

*Helping Families
 Make the Right
 Move for
 Over 30 years!*

Whether buying or selling,
 our service is personalized
 to suit your every requirement.
 From our famous no-hassle
 concierge service for sellers
 to our state-of-the-art "E-match"
 system for buyers, we will be
 there for you every step
 of the way!



Matthew Guthrie
REALTOR®
 Office: 941-737-1500
 Cell: 941-776-5571
 mguthrie34219@yahoo.com
 www.LeslieWellsRealty.com

**8268 US 301N,
 Parrish, FL 34219**



**EVERY WED. KIDS
 EAT FREE**
 (10 AND UNDER)

**LIVE MUSIC EVERY
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY BRUNCH • 14.99
 KIDS 10 & UNDER 1/2 PRICE**



The Ranch Grill

RESTAURANT • SPORTS BAR • CATERING



**Outdoor Patio • Banquet/Meeting Room
 Catering • NFL Package • Delivery/Takeout**



Located next to:



**14475 SR 70 • Lakewood Ranch
 941.756.9400 • www.theranchflorida.com**

On the Corner of Lorraine & SR 70

SMALLCAKES
 CUPCAKERY AND CREAMERY

Now Open

6202 US Highway 301 North, Ellenton
 North River Village Shopping Center (Kmart Plaza)
Monday - Saturday 10am - 8pm

AMERICAN CAR CARE CENTER

Makes a great gift for teachers!

Full-Service Car Wash & Detail Center • Open 7 days A Week
 6412 Manatee Avenue West • Bradenton • (941) 794-5007
 www.americancarcarebradenton.com

Family Owned & Operated • Serving Manatee County Since 1994
 Gift Certificates Available

<p>"The Works"</p> <p>\$3.00 OFF</p> <p>Full Service Car Wash, Plus Polish 'N' Wax Under Chassis Wash Armor All® On Tires & Air Freshener Most Vehicles</p> <p>American Car Care Center - 794-5007 With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Offer expires 1-31-17.</p>	<p>"The Ultimate"</p> <p>\$4.00 OFF</p> <p>"The Works" PLUS Interior & Exterior Armor All™ Most Vehicles</p> <p>American Car Care Center - 794-5007 With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Offer expires 1-31-17.</p>
---	---



2017
FAIR
Manatee County

Your Ticket to "Fair Fun 101"

Arts & Crafts
Queens Pageant
Baby Contests
Food & Rides
Live Entertainment
4-H & Youth Livestock Shows
Distinguished Citizens Award
& MUCH MORE!

January
12th-22nd
2017



www.ManateeCountyFair.com

Greatness Starts Here.

3 ways to
APPLY
Online. Call. Visit.

**We Take
Your Child's
Education
Personally**



Every student deserves to be treated as an individual. Our personal learning plans meet students where they are and help them grow. Start your student on the path to greatness.

TUITION-FREE
Public Charter School
Grade K-8

Call us today for a personal tour at (941) 465-4296 or
APPLY ONLINE today at www.ManateeCharter.org.
Located at 4550 30th Street E Bradenton, FL 34203



We are tuition-free public charter schools. Accredited by AdvancED, and proud members of the Charter Schools USA family of schools.



THE SEEDS OF A

Magical Winter

Even before my children were born, I have tried to encourage wildlife to visit our property. This has been either through a bird bath, planting butterfly or bee friendly plants, or adding birdseed to either a store bought or upcycled bird feeder.

We have seen colorful flying insects and have also been visited by squirrels, doves, mockingbirds, and cardinals, as well as blue jays, throughout the year. My husband has found a few abandoned bird nests which the kids took to show their friends at school, and we also have a bunny or two hopping around.

In addition, there have been a couple of snake skins shed in our yard, and to our surprise, we have had run-ins with a live pair of snakes in our pool cage. It is quite the animal kingdom around here, which is awesome considering that we live in a residential area.

Now, after doing a little research at the Humane Society of America website, I read that it is perfectly acceptable to motivate birds to visit. They suggest in the cooler weather months to offer millet, peanuts, peanut butter, and suet cakes.

This idea, of course, helped inspire a craft with my family, and we decided to create a Winter Themed Bird Seed Wreath.



WORDS & PICTURES:
Carlee Colonnese

Carlee Colonnese is a wife, and stay at home mother of three. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida and author of funlearninglife.com.

Her website is a lifestyle blog that centers on family, crafts, recipes, and frugal living.

If you would like to recreate this activity with your family, you will need the following:

- Sturdy Paper Plate
(We used a red one)
- Red Yarn
- Hole Punch
- Safety Scissors
- Spoon
- Bird Seed
- Peanut Butter

DIRECTIONS:

To get started, have your child fold the paper plate in half and cut out the middle section to form a wreath shape. Then, take a hole punch and create about 20 holes along the center of the ring.

Next, cut enough yarn to weave through the holes and tie it off at the end so the wreath can be hung.

Then, have your child spread peanut butter over the white side of the plate with a spoon. Once covered with a thin layer, spread bird seed over the top and pat into the peanut butter with the back of the spoon.

This Bird Seed Wreath is then ready to hang up, and I suggest finding a bush or tree with lots of limbs where you typically see birds. Use the yarn to support the weight of it, and also place the center of the wreath over a branch to help prop it up.

If there is any doubt in whether or not the birds have found it, you will know because they will consume the seed rather quickly. Since this is so simple to put together, you can easily create another one to replace it.

After my family finished this activity, my oldest son told me that this had been one of his favorite crafts thus far. Personally, I think this opinion was formed due to the kids licking the peanut butter off their hands as they made the wreaths.

Tip: Consider heading outside to enjoy the cooler weather, as well as making cleanup easier after this craft.

I hope your family will get just as much enjoyment from making this wreath as mine did, and Happy Holidays!

• **Looking for a peanut butter free bird feeder activity? Be sure to visit my website at www.funlearninglife.com and search for **HOMEMADE BIRD FEEDER** for an alternative upcycling project and tutorial.** 🐾



Busch Gardens Tampa is the ultimate family adventure, offering 300 acres of fascinating attractions based on exotic explorations around the world.

And, courtesy of NEXTGEN Family Magazine, you can enjoy an amazing day out for FOUR at one of Florida's most famous attractions.

A unique blend of thrilling rides, one of the country's premier zoos with 12,000 animals, live shows, restaurants, shops and games, Busch Gardens Tampa provides unrivaled excitement for guests of every age.

Explore Busch Gardens' newest reimagined land, Pantopia™, which boasts Falcon's Fury™, North America's tallest freestanding drop tower. This one-of-a-kind ride stands at 335 feet and takes riders soaring straight down in a 60mph plunge.

The contest is open to children in K thru 5th grade with **one** lucky winner receiving TWO adult and TWO children one-day passes.

To win this fantastic prize, simply tell us how many animals live at Busch Gardens?

Entries must be emailed by January 10th, 2017 to competitions@nextgenmagazine.org

They can also mailed or hand delivered to the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County office at 600 8th Avenue West, Suite 100, Palmetto, FL, 34221.

Please mark them for the attention of BUSCH GARDENS Contest, NEXTGEN magazine.

Normal competition rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



Congratulations to Our Contest Winners!



Linda is a Receptionist at Palma Sola Elementary. She was the first winner of the October/November 2016 NEXTGEN Elementary School Distribution Prize Drawing. She received a \$100 gift certificate to the Ranch Grill. Congratulations Linda! Your help is greatly appreciated!



Congratulations to Adriana Stanzione, a Fifth Grader at McNeal Elementary, and Caleb Martin from Williams Elementary. They were the lucky winners of the October/November 2016 NEXTGEN contest. Each received four tickets to the Crayola Experience in Orlando! Time to get creative, enjoy!



Kathy is the Senior Secretary & Bookkeeper at Freedom Elementary. She was the second winner of the October/November 2016 NEXTGEN Elementary School Distribution Prize Drawing. She received a \$100 gift certificate to the Ranch Grill. Congratulations Kathy! Your help is greatly appreciated!

Nobody does it like Dakin

Kids Birthday Parties

- * Open 10:00am-5:00pm Saturdays
- * Dakin Dairy Cafe Open Year Round
- * Tire Swings & Slides
- * Roast Hot Dogs & S'mores Over A Campfire
- * Sand Mountain
- * Cow Train, Hay Maze, Fossil Dig
- * Strider Balance Bikes
- * Tree Climbing Goats & Racing Pigs
- * Feed the Calves!



Myakka City, Florida www.DakinDairyFarms.com info@dakindairyfarms.com

Bradenton's FIRST Escape Room!

Great for parties, a mom's night out, friends & family fun, and any social gathering!

Exclusive Coupon for NextGen readers - "EBMAG5" for \$5 off EACH person!

www.EscapeBradenton.com

465 Cortez Road West Bradenton, FL 34207

(941) 666-5358

Mon-Fri: 3pm-11pm Sat-Sun: 11am-11pm



"...leaves you battling with yourself to remain focused while trying to find our way out." - Samantha on Facebook

Find us on Social Media:



PICTURES: Wendy Dewhurst



13th Annual Tournament FORE Dreams



Endless Summer Nights 2016

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Tabernacle Church 11 Living Nativity 7:30pm Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 9:00am-11:00am Siesta Key Drum Circle Dusk	Ringling Museum 12 FREE Admission 10:00am-5:00pm	Sky Zone Sarasota 13 Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Art Rocks 11:00am-12:00pm Woodland Community Church Preschool & Mom's Playgroup 9:00am-11:00am Latte Luna Kids Craft Club 3:30pm-4:30pm	Lakewood Ranch 14 Gymnastics Open Gym 11:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Can You Dig It? 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm Kids Super Gym Drop-In Class 10:00am-11:00am	Sky Zone Sarasota 15 Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Evo Athletics Toddler Play Days 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm Kids Super Gym Drop-In Class 10:00am-11:00am	Winter Wonderland 16 Frank Berlin YMCA 5:00pm-8:00pm Robert L Taylor Community Complex Winter Wonderland 6:00pm-7:30pm Manatee County Area Transit Tour of Lights Snow Fest Sarasota LWR Sports Campus 12:00pm-10:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Magic Nature Box 11:00am-12:00pm ROAR! At Ringling 10:30m-11:30am	Living Nativity 10 Parrish United Methodist Church 6:30pm-8:30pm Sarasota Boat Parade of Lights 6:00pm-9:00pm Anna Maria Island Privateers Christmas Parade 10:00am-12:30pm Bradenton Boat Parade 6:30pm-8:30pm Tabernacle Church Living Nativity 7:30pm
Snow Fest Sarasota 18 LWR Sports Campus 12:00pm-10:00pm Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 9:00am-11:00am Siesta Key Drum Circle Dusk	Ringling Museum 19 FREE Admission 10:00am-5:00pm	Sky Zone Sarasota 20 Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Art Rocks 11:00am-12:00pm	Lakewood Ranch 21 Gymnastics Open Gym 11:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Can You Dig It? 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm	Sky Zone Sarasota 22 Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Evo Athletics Toddler Play Days 11:00am-12:00pm	Christmas on Main 23 Street Lakewood Ranch 6:00pm-8:30pm Evo Athletics Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm	24 Christmas Eve
25 	A Taste of Chanukah 26 4:00pm-6:00pm Sailor Circus Holiday 2016 (various times) Ringling Museum FREE Admission 10:00am-5:00pm	Sailor Circus Holiday 27 2016 (various times) Sarasota Children's Garden Art Rocks 11:00am-12:00pm Woodland Community Church Preschool & Mom's Playgroup 9:00am-11:00am	Sailor Circus Holiday 28 2016 (various times) Lakewood Ranch Gymnastics Open Gym 11:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Can You Dig It? 11:00am-12:00pm	Sailor Circus Holiday 29 2016 (various times) Evo Athletics Toddler Play Days 11:00am-12:00pm	30 Evo Athletics Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm Kids Super Gym Drop-In Class 10:00am-11:00am	31 New Year's EVE

It's A Magical Time At the Children's Garden!

Candy Cane Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, December 3rd 10:15am

The gnomes have been busy hiding lots of candy canes in the Garden!
 Arrive at 10:00am for the best luck! Hot chocolate will be sold to warm your belly.
 This sweet event is included in your admission to the garden.

Fairy & Elf Enchanted Tea

Sunday, December 11th 2:00pm - 4:00pm

We are sprinkling the Garden with fairy dust & little elf magic.
 Take a nature walk with the fairies, make your special wand, build fairy houses
 & enjoy yummy fairy tea with sandwiches that will delight any elf!
 Reservations are a must, space is limited!
 Garden Members \$20 (+ tax) Non-Members \$25 (+ tax)

Elf Workshop

Saturday, December 17th 10:00am-2:00pm

Join us for this great workshop for elves of all ages! Purchase a birdhouse
 ornament to paint (\$5) or holiday cookie to decorate (\$5) at our sweet cookie bar!
 Both are perfect for a fun day at the Garden. Call today to preorder your tickets!

Visit us online at:
sarasotachildrengarden.com

Open Tuesday-Sunday 10-5
 Weekly Programs Available!

Non-Profit 501 C 3
 Public Charitable
 Organization

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	Ringling Museum FREE Admission 10:00am-5:00pm	Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Art Rocks 11:00am-12:00pm Kids Super Gym Drop In 10:00am-11:00am	Lakewood Ranch Gymnastics Open Gym 11:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Can You Dig It? 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm Kids Super Gym Drop-In Class 10:00am-11:00am	 Evo Athletics Toddler Play Days 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm Thunder by the Bay Lakewood Ranch Premier Sports Campus Kids Super Gym Drop-In Class 10:00am-11:00am	 Evo Athletics Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm Thunder by the Bay Lakewood Ranch Premier Sports Campus Music on Main Street Lakewood Ranch 6:00pm-9:00pm Village of the Arts Artwalk 6:00pm-9:30pm	Thunder by the Bay Lakewood Ranch Premier Sports Campus Village of the Arts Artwalk 11:00am-4:00pm FREE Home Depot Kids Workshop 9:00am-12:00pm South Florida Museum Family Night 3:00pm-8:00pm Sky Zone Sarasota Glow Zone 6:30pm-11:00pm	
Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 9:00am-11:00am Thunder by the Bay Lakewood Ranch Premier Sports Campus	Ringling Museum FREE Admission 10:00am-5:00pm	Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Art Rocks 11:00am-12:00pm Chick-Fil-A Family Fun Night 5:30pm-7:30pm (check with your location)	Lakewood Ranch Gymnastics Open Gym 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm Sarasota Children's Garden Can You Dig It? 11:00am-12:00pm Kids Super Gym Drop-In Class 10:00am-11:00am	Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm  Evo Athletics Toddler Play Days 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm 	Sarasota Children's Garden Magic Nature Box 11:00am-12:00pm  Evo Athletics Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm 	Lowes Build & Grow Children's Clinic 10:00am-11:00am Monster Jam Raymond James Stadium South Florida Museum Family Night 3:00pm-8:00pm Sky Zone Sarasota Glow Zone 6:30pm-11:00pm 	
Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 9:00am-11:00am Siesta Key Drum Circle Dusk 	Ringling Museum FREE Admission 10:00am-5:00pm 	Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Art Rocks 11:00am-12:00pm 	Lakewood Ranch Gymnastics Open Gym 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm Sarasota Children's Garden Can You Dig It? 11:00am-12:00pm 	Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm  Evo Athletics Toddler Play Days 11:00am-12:00pm 	Sarasota Children's Garden Magic Nature Box 11:00am-12:00pm  Evo Athletics Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm 	Ringling Museum Kid's Quest 1:00pm Lakewood Ranch Gymnastics Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm Sky Zone Sarasota Glow Zone 6:30pm-11:00pm 	
Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 9:00am-11:00am Siesta Key Drum Circle Dusk 	Ringling Museum FREE Admission 10:00am-5:00pm	Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Art Rocks 11:00am-12:00pm Chick-Fil-A Family Fun Night 5:30pm-7:30pm (check with your location)	Lakewood Ranch Gymnastics Open Gym 11:00am-12:00pm Just Bounce Toddler Time 10:00am-1:30pm Sarasota Children's Garden Can You Dig It? 11:00am-12:00pm Ringling Barnum and Bailey Circus Amalie Arena	Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm  Evo Athletics Toddler Play Days 11:00am-12:00pm Kids Super Gym Drop-In Class 10:00am-11:00am	Sarasota Children's Garden Magic Nature Box 11:00am-12:00pm  Evo Athletics Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm Ringling Barnum and Bailey Circus Amalie Arena	Ringling Museum Kid's Quest 1:00pm Lakewood Ranch Gymnastics Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm Sky Zone Sarasota Glow Zone 6:30pm-11:00pm Ringling Barnum and Bailey Circus Amalie Arena	
Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 9:00am-11:00am Ringling Barnum and Bailey Circus Amalie Arena Siesta Key Drum Circle Dusk	Ringling Museum FREE Admission 10:00am-5:00pm	Sky Zone Sarasota Toddler Time 10:00am-12:00pm Sarasota Children's Garden Art Rocks 11:00am-12:00pm Chick-Fil-A Family Fun Night 5:30pm-7:30pm (check with your location)	 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 	Bradenton Macaroni Kid is one of the area's top resources for all things family-friendly! With a comprehensive listing of holiday events, play groups, classes, festivals, summer programs, shows and much more, Bradenton Macaroni Kid makes it easy for parents to keep their children busy and entertained all year long. Don't miss the exciting giveaways, promotions, timely bits of parenting advice and humor! Like us on Facebook and sign up to receive the FREE weekly e-newsletter with the latest scoop on fun outings and events in Manatee County at www.bradenton.macaronikid.com .			



4 Convenient Locations

Open 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
No appointment necessary

Bradenton
4647 Manatee Ave W.
941.745.5999

Sarasota
6272 Lake Osprey Dr.
941.907.2800

Lakewood Ranch
9908 S.R. 64 East
941.747.8600

Sarasota West
1435 South Tamiami Trail
941.554.4301



\$25 School & Sports Physicals

www.bradentonurgentcare.com



Member of Manatee Physician Alliance

162849 10/16

**INSURANCE COMPANIES
PLAY HARDBALL
SO DO WE!**

Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyers
Personal Injury Law · Medical Malpractice
Family Law

(941)749-1446

"Asistencia en Español" Principal Offices Palmetto

Investing in our youth is not merely our responsibility. It is our privilege.

It's never too early—or too late—to plan for the financial future of your family or business.

Jodi D. Allen

Vice President, Business Banking
941.757.4561 | jodi.allen@bmo.com

Mandy Quinones

Branch Manager, Retail Banking
941.723.6933 | mandy.quinones@bmo.com



We're here to help.™

From Cradle to College™



Early Learning Community Task Force

What Materials Can I Recycle in the Blue Cart?

All Paper – if it's clean and unsoiled, put it in the cart!

No garbage, plastic bags or yard waste!

Containers – food and beverage containers

Recycle All Together
Recycle Right!

Gable Top Cartons – milk and juice cartons/boxes

Place cart at least 3 feet away from any objects, with lid closed and arrows facing the street!



mymanatee.org/recycling





2016

PICTURES:
Whitney Patton

Kids in the Kitchen

RECIPES: Susan Miller Kelly



Reindeer Pancakes

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 2 tbsp butter
- 4 slices of bacon
- 4 white marshmallows
- 8 dark chocolate chips
- 4 strawberries



PREPARATION

1. Make a basic pancake batter by whisking together milk and egg in a large bowl. Sift in flour and whisk until smooth.
2. Melt 2 teaspoons butter in a large frypan. Pour in batter to form one large circle, one smaller circle and two triangles for ears. Cook for a couple of minutes until bubbles form, flip and cook for another minute until cooked through. Remove, and keep warm. Repeat with remaining ingredients.
3. Cook bacon until crisp. To arrange Rudolph, place the large pancake on a plate. Place smaller pancake on top. Position bacon for antlers, and the triangular pancakes for ears.
4. Cut marshmallows in half. Press a chocolate chip into the center of each half. Decorate with marshmallow eyes and strawberry nose.

TIP

If you prefer a slightly fluffier pancake, some people swear you need buttermilk, which apparently traps air bubbles more effectively than this basic pancake recipe.

Snowman Pizza

INGREDIENTS

- Boxed, refrigerated, or a premade crust
- 1 cup tomato pasta sauce
- Shredded pizza cheese
- 1 carrot
- 28 black olives



PREPARATION

1. Prepare pizza crust as directed on package.
2. Preheat oven to specified temperature on package directions. Divide the dough into three uneven pieces, graduated from small to large. Roll these three balls out into three circles. Line a large tray with parchment paper. Place the largest circle on the bottom half of the tray. Place the medium-sized circle just overlapping. Place the smallest circle on top to form the head.
3. Spread some of the tomato sauce over the three circles of dough. Sprinkle with desired amount of cheese. Cut carrot into four even wedges.
4. Place two olives for eyes and five more for buttons down the body of the snowman. Place one carrot wedge for the nose. Bake for 8-10 minutes until cheese is golden and bubbly, and dough is cooked through. Repeat with remaining ingredients to make additional pizzas.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
MANATEE COUNTY

In Partnership with the Junior League of Manatee County...Woman Building Better Communities

On The Book Shelf

REVIEWS: Anna Maria Carleton

Jingle Bell Doc

(Birth to 3) • By Sheila Higginson

Christmas is a time full of sights and sounds. Every Christmas morning Doc knows it is time to wake up when she hears Jingle Bear's bell. It has been a family tradition since her father was a boy. This Christmas morning though, the house is quiet.

Jingle Bear's bell isn't ringing! What could be wrong with him? Doc diagnoses him with a case of No-jingle-itis. She discovers the ringer fell out of Jingle Bear's bell. A quick trip to the kitchen drawer for a ringer and the house is soon filled with the Jing-a-ling-a-ling of Jingle Bear's bell. Hooray for Doc; you saved Christmas!

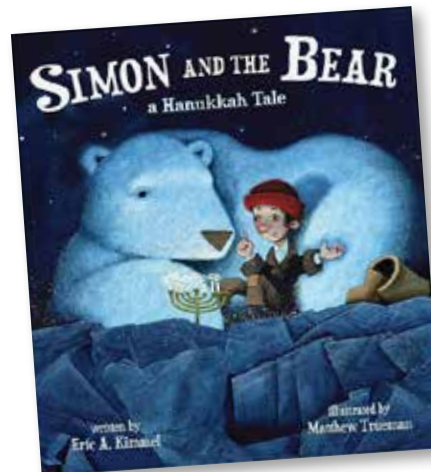


SIMON AND THE BEAR a Hanukkah Tale

(7-9) • By Eric A. Kimmel

This beautifully illustrated book features the art of Matthew Trueman who attended the Ringling School of Art and Design. Simon sets sail for America with hopes to one day make enough money to send for his mother and brothers and sisters. When Simon's mother packed him a knapsack for the journey, she packed something very special, a menorah. She reminded

him that no matter where you are, you must celebrate Hanukkah and all its miracles. For days, Simon rode the big ship taking him to America, and closer to his dream. As the seas rolled on, they encountered an iceberg! The ship is sinking. Turns out Simon does need a Hanukkah miracle afterall...



Olaf's Night Before Christmas

(4-6) • By Jessica Julius



This tale is not your traditional, classic the Night before Christmas. Olaf is full of questions like why are the stockings hung by the chimney? Had they gotten wet? The pages are filled with brightly-colored, festive pages. The entire favorite cast of characters from Frozen, Anna, Elsa, Sven, and Kristoff, play a special part in the retelling of this classic. This beautifully illustrated picture book comes with a read-along CD featuring audio narration by Olaf. Fans of all generations will delight in Olaf's innocent and humorous account of "The Night before

Christmas." Will Olaf get the gift he wished for from Santa? What will it be? Yes, he did get the greatest Christmas gift of all, a warm hug from Santa who smelled like a snowball, cookies, and Christmassy spice.



The first 50 people to come into the lobby of the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, 600 8th Avenue West, Suite 100, Palmetto can pick up free copies of the books reviewed.

12.09.16

F R I D A Y



Presented by: **LWR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**
WWW.LWRCAC.COM

HOLIDAYS

Around The Ranch

6-9pm

Lakewood Ranch
Main Street

ICE SKATING!
ENJOY THE ACRYLIC RINK!
SKATES PROVIDED.

RIDE THE TRACKLESS TRAIN!

TREE LIGHTING
AT THE FOUNTAIN: 6:30PM

SANTA'S WORKSHOP: CHILDREN'S CRAFTS
AND SUGAR COOKIE DECORATING

DANCE HEADS FLORIDA: TAKE HOME A DVD OF YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY STARRING IN YOUR OWN MUSIC VIDEO!

PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL DANCE AND MUSICAL GROUPS!



Santa ARRIVES ON A HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE AT 6PM!

Presenting Sponsors:

CoolToday

Saint Stephen's
Episcopal School



Supporting Sponsors:



Michael Saunders
& Company



EVENTS • CULTURE • ENTERTAINMENT



Looking for something **FUN** to do in the 941 area?

941NOW is the **NEW** place to discover your next must-do event and meet like-minded individuals.



#941NOW



facebook.com/941NOW

Photo Credit: Realize Bradenton





MOORE Athletic Complex at TURNER Fields



SCHOLARSHIP



LEADERSHIP



SERVICE



A Passionate PHILANTHROPIST

For Elizabeth Moore, giving is more than just writing a check.

WORDS: Amy Bell

PICTURES: Whitney Patton

When Elizabeth Moore moved from Boston to Bradenton nine years ago, she brought her passion for philanthropy along with her. “The Moore family hails from the Boston area where the spirit of philanthropy has deep roots,” she said. “So when we moved down to Bradenton, we brought with us that same spirit of philanthropy and the desire to get involved in making our community a better one.”

Since her arrival in Manatee County, Elizabeth has definitely made Bradenton a better place. In fact, she has made so many generous personal and philanthropic investments in the community, the Manatee Community Foundation honored her with the prominent 2016 Spirit of Manatee Award in March.

Supporting Saint Stephen's

Over the past nine years, Elizabeth has made extraordinarily generous contributions to Saint Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton. Three of her children are Saint Stephen's graduates and her youngest, Merry, is currently a junior at the school.

“When we first moved down from Massachusetts, we had four children at Saint Stephen's, one in each level,” she said. “The warm, welcoming, faith-based, K-12 independent school perfectly fit our needs.”

Today, Elizabeth is Vice President of the Saint Stephen's Board, where she's in charge of Development and Community Outreach. Her financial gifts to Saint Stephen's exceed \$3.5 million, including contributions to the Moore Athletic Complex, completed in 2013, and the Marine Science Center, which opened this year.

Before the Moore Athletic Complex was built, the school's athletic fields weren't all that impressive. “We have 33 acres at St. Stephen's, and before there was just this random assortment of athletic fields; you'd have to change these plastic barriers to switch from baseball to soccer to football,” Elizabeth recalled. “Saint Stephen's needed an athletic facility, and not just a

mediocre one. We wanted to make sure the school had a college-level facility. We needed a strong athletic complex that the school could be proud of. So, we worked really hard to raise money and oversee the project and make sure everything was first-class—and it is.”

The Moore Athletic Complex features a state-of-the-art stadium with lights, a scoreboard, an eight-lane track, a press box with a wireless hookup, a public-address system, and bleachers that accommodate more than 800 spectators. The complex also includes baseball and softball fields—complete with home and away dugouts, bullpens and three batting cages—as well as a three-sided concession stand, restrooms and a fieldhouse with locker rooms, a weight room, a training room, and coaches' offices.

More recently, Elizabeth contributed to the Saint Stephen's Marine Science Center. She was inspired by her daughter Merry, a science whiz who is interested in a marine biology career. The \$1.5 million, 5,993-square-foot marine science center officially opened during a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony in



February 2016. The new building leads out to the McLewis Bayou behind the school's gym. The center features an open-air classroom with a pebble path leading down to the water in addition to indoor classrooms. The floor of the Marine Science Center showcases a bathymetric map of the world—so it's as if students and guests are walking across the ocean floor as they stroll through the building.

The Marine Science Center was dedicated to Ann Marie Shields, Science Department chairwoman of the school. "This has been her dream for 18 years, so we surprised her by dedicating the center to her," Elizabeth explains.

Boundless Generosity

While she's a strong supporter of Saint Stephen's, Elizabeth's contributions extend far beyond the private school. She is also an active member of the Boys & Girls Club Board. "The Boys and Girls Club of Manatee County is dedicated to improving the lives of kids in our community by providing them with safe clubhouses, good mentors and opportunities to demonstrate leadership," she enthuses. "Both up in Boston and here in Bradenton, I have heard Club kids say the Boys & Girls Club saved their life." The Board is currently planning to build a new clubhouse in Bradenton to replace the existing Boys & Girls Club at 34th Street and 53rd Avenue.

Elizabeth is also the newest member of the Board for the Mote Marine Laboratory, where she sits on the Aquarium Committee, Research Committee and Education Committee. She recently donated \$1 million to the new Coral Reef Restoration Lab at the Mote Tropical Research Laboratory in Summerland Key, Florida, which is run by Dr. David Vaughn.

"This is part of the Mote's Oceans of Opportunity campaign, where we're growing coral and planting it back in the ocean," she explains. "Merry and I have learned about how to help restore coral reefs and have literally dived right in to do it with scientists."

Most recently, Elizabeth purchased Triangle Ranch, a 1143-acre ranch just north of Myakka State Park. She wanted to preserve

this large tract of watershed land and forests, saving it from future development and allowing its abundant wildlife to thrive.

"This large ranch had been owned by the Carlton family for six generations," Elizabeth explains. "It's a huge watershed. Watershed is really important because we need to let water flow and percolate down into the ground and into the springs and rivers." After sitting on the market for three years, the ranch was about to be sold to developers when Elizabeth decided to purchase it with the help of Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast and the Florida Forever fund. However, she does not plan on living there.

"I have a wonderful small family whose dream it is to raise their children on a ranch and teach them to have a strong work ethic," she explains. "They will take care of the decreasing cattle herd and oversee some of the infrastructure projects such as putting culverts through the berms. It will continue to be a habitat to many wild animals, and I may consider it being an animal sanctuary."

There are around 109 different types of birds on the land, as well as river otters, racoons, skunks, and coyotes. "It's so beautiful," Elizabeth says. "There are Spanish Oaks and Cypress with three miles of the Myakka River running through it."

Manatee Maven

When she isn't volunteering, Elizabeth enjoys scuba diving, gardening and reading. She is also the proud mother of five children. Her oldest, William, is a farmer outside of Asheville in North Carolina. Nick, Peter and Grace are all Saint Stephen's alumni. Nick went on to graduate from Emory University and recently returned from Nigeria where he is building a digital medical records startup. Peter, a physics major, is in his last year at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, and Grace just started her freshman year at New York University. Merry, 16, is a junior at St. Stephen's.

"We would not have made the move to Bradenton if it hadn't been for Saint Stephen's Episcopal School to give our four children a world-class education," she explains.



Twenty years ago, Elizabeth's former husband Stuart started a company called Sapiient. "Thanks to his years of hard work and the success of his company, we have had the resources to back up our enthusiasm and support for many organizations up north, out west and here in the Sarasota-Bradenton area," she explains.

When asked why she gives so generously to the community, Elizabeth's answer is simple: "It's a really wonderful community. People are so nice here, and it's a breath of fresh air. But there are areas that need work and support."

However, when it comes to contributing to local causes, Elizabeth isn't content with simply writing a check. "I invest carefully and thoughtfully," she emphasizes, "but I also roll up my sleeves and get involved." 🙌

ASK DR. SHARON

doctorotis@nextgenmagazine.org



Holidays and Traditions

My son is five years-old and shares the holidays with his father's family and with mine. What is the best way to explain to him about the differences in holiday traditions between our two families? JHD - Bradenton

This is a great time to explain the differences in the celebrations and to start new traditions. Talk to your son about how each family celebrates Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as they may alternate the following year. Many families have different cultures and religions. Your son has probably realized from visits in the previous years that the families are the same in many ways, but also different. He learned about same and different in preschool, so he will understand the explanation in these terms. Try to not add bias, but just list the facts.

What a great opportunity this year can be to start some new holiday traditions of your own based on your own beliefs. Do things differently now that the family has changed. This would be a good time to make the holidays simpler, and just enjoy the time with your son. Resources such as time and money may be more limited. Make handmade ornaments and string popcorn for the tree.

We have an old manger that has endured the test of time but the figures have changed through the years. Every year we hide baby Jesus and give a prize to the child who finds him on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve services are offered at most churches, and they usually have a service themed around children.

Buy a holiday book to read every Christmas Eve to add to a collection of Christmas memories. These books can be passed on down through the generations. On Christmas Eve, write a letter to your children outlining the funny stories and events of the past year. Have siblings draw a name to give a present to each other on Christmas Eve. Watch a movie about Christmas.

We did not have Elf on the Shelf but an old Santa that kept his eye on the children from the mantle. He disappeared every Christmas morning. There are also the traditional cookies for Santa and his reindeer. The Dollar Store sells special plates for the cookies.

Rather than focusing on presents this year, I want to teach my child the importance of giving to others during the holidays. What are some suggestions on activities we can do together? Anna – Palmetto.

The holidays are a great time to teach your children about random acts of kindness. It is a beautiful time to focus on giving the gift of time and thoughtfulness versus materialism. Children can learn to grow inexpensive plants as saplings to yield a bigger plant by Christmas.

Visit local stores to make inexpensive presents that the children may never have thought of, like shadow boxes and puff paint clothing. Visit Pinterest for clever Christmas gifts that can be made without spending too much money. Take candid pictures of family and friends over the summer and fall and give as presents in a decorated frame.

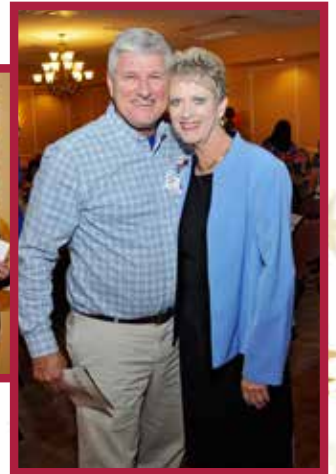
Many stores, hospitals, shelters, police stations, and fire stations are open on the holidays. Bake and decorate cookies or cook a meal and bring them to people who cannot be at home at this special time of year. Serve a meal at the shelter and children quickly learn that many children do not even have a roof over their head.

Rescue a pet from the animal shelter. Scour Goodwill and other thrift stores for books and toys and use the money saved to help another family.

Many stores and churches have angel trees to adopt a family. Children love picking out items for other children who may not have a Christmas without help.

Our local museum and aquarium have family memberships that the whole family can enjoy. Learning a new skill makes a fun gift. Publix offers cooking classes, and a pass to the ice exhibit is a fun outing. Bowling is something different to do as a family, or buy tickets to our local ball field. Kids are appreciative of small treats such as a gift certificate to Starbucks, Cold Stone or Smoothie King.

This year focus on family fun and gifts that keep on giving. 🙌



MANATEE EDUCATION

MEF Teacher Impact GRANTS

Pictures: Whitney Patton



FOUNDATION AWARDS 2016



Florida **V** **P** **K**

FREE FOR ALL 4-YEAR OLD CHILDREN

RESIDING IN FLORIDA REGARDLESS OF FAMILY INCOME

Register online at www.elc-manatee.org

 (941) 757-2910 





★ ★ ★ ★ *Be Inspired!* ★ ★ ★ ★



2017 LEADERSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7:30am

Bradenton Area Convention Center ★ 1 Haben Blvd., Palmetto, FL 34221

Keynote Speaker: Col. Rick Wells

The Leadership Prayer Breakfast is modeled after the National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington, D.C. since 1953. Every U.S. president since Dwight D. Eisenhower has participated in the breakfast, which brings leaders together to develop relationships and create common ground in building strong communities.

Sign up now to attend Take Stock in Children of Manatee County's 10th Annual Leadership Prayer Breakfast. Sponsored tables of eight are available now starting at \$500. Individual tickets are available for \$50. To purchase sponsor tables visit us online at www.takestockmanatee.org or call 941-751-6550.

Tables start at \$500

Order online now at:

<http://www.takestockmanatee.org/prayer-breakfast>



★ *Together we can make a difference in each others lives,* ★
in the lives of our children and for the future of our community.

TAKE THE STRESS

WORDS: Manatee County School District School Psychologists and Social Workers

The holidays can be a wonderful time of year, but they can also create stress in our already busy lives. The combined effort of shopping, attending social events, and entertaining guests, can quickly become overwhelming. A poll by the American Psychological Association shows that 8 out of 10 people anticipate increased stress over the holidays. Although the holiday season can be a stressful time, there are ways as parents that we can minimize stress, model appropriate behavior for our children, and in turn enjoy this festive time.

Setting a spending budget by planning ahead, reviewing finances, and determining a realistic budget, can prevent overspending. Decide on a maximum amount and stick to it. It is easy to feel

pressure to spend more than you can afford, but remember the old saying "It's the thought that counts."

Keep it simple. We often put too much on our plate and set unrealistic expectations. Remember that everything doesn't need to be perfect, and it is okay to ask for help and delegate. And take time for yourself. With so much going on during the holiday season, it is easy to forget to stop and set aside a minute for yourself. Whether it's taking a quick walk, listening to music, or having a cup of coffee, it's important to take a moment to clear your mind and refresh yourself during this busy time. When we take care of ourselves, we model healthy coping skills for our children.

OUT OF HOLIDAYS!



Exercise and other types of physical activity can help relieve stress, as well as improve your mood. Just 30 minutes of walking, jogging, or biking can stimulate the production of endorphins which can trigger a positive feeling in the body.

How can we help our children with holiday stress?

As parents, we want our children to enjoy the festive holiday season. Time off from school allows families to spend much-needed time together. However, in some families the holidays can also be complicated by divorce, separation, or loss. With patience, preparation, and honesty we can help our children embrace the season.

A Huffington Post article, “10 Tips for Helping Your Child Cope with Holiday Stress” by David Fassler, M.D., highlights what parents can do to help children cope with holiday stress.

1. Discuss holiday plans well in advance, and let kids participate in decisions to the extent possible. Kids need some degree of predictability. Prolonged uncertainty, constantly changing plans or last-minute decisions can all increase stress.

2. If you are traveling, leave plenty of time and bring child-friendly snacks, books, games, and/or music.

3. Don't overschedule. You may not be able to do everything or see everyone. Kids can easily get “burned out,” overtired, and cranky during the holidays.

4. Give kids some “downtime.” Leave room for some quiet activities, like listening to music, walking in the woods, or reading a book.

5. Make sure kids get plenty of sleep. While it may be exciting to stay up late, lack of sleep often leads to increased irritability.

6. Let kids be honest about their feelings. Don't force them to act happy and excited if they're feeling quiet or down.

7. Don't promise things you can't produce. For example, don't promise that a parent will be home in time for the holidays, if the decision is really out of your control. Don't promise that someone will call if they're in an area with limited phone service.

8. Uphold and maintain family traditions even if a parent is absent. Kids count on certain traditions, which can have an important grounding effect by letting kids know that even though some things aren't exactly the same, some traditions happen no matter what.

9. Don't try to compensate for an absent parent with extra gifts or toys. It won't work. Instead, give your time, attention, and reassurance.

10. Take care of yourself. Try to avoid getting overloaded with obligations. If you feel stressed, it increases the pressure and tension on your children.

Enjoy the holiday season, and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your School Psychologist or School Social Worker at your child's school. 🐾



A New Level Of Experience

WORDS & PICTURE: Wendy Dewhurst

I met with the new Manatee County School District's Executive Director of Secondary Schools, Jim Pauley, in his office at 8.00am thinking I would be his first appointment of the day. I admit, I scheduled it at that time, as I don't like to wait. However, according to his administrative assistant, Wendy Loge, he had arrived at 5:45am, as he does most mornings.

Thirty-one years ago, Jim, his wife of 42 years, Debbe, and their two children, Monika and Stacey, were vacationing here from West Virginia when they fell in love with the warm Florida weather. Soon after they called Palmetto home.

After receiving several job offers, Jim accepted a position as a science teacher at Palmetto High School where he taught for six years. Jim then took on the responsibility of Palmetto High School's Assistant Principal, then the Principal position, for the next 13 years.

In 2005, Jim became principal at the newly-built Braden River High School. He held that position until 2012 when he took over as the Senior Management Director of Secondary Education. After one year, Jim realized how much he missed the student interaction, and decided to return as a principal at Southeast High School.

In the summer of 2016, after encouragement from Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene, he once again accepted the position as Executive Director of Secondary Schools.

"Mr. Pauley brings a new level of experience to the position," said Supervisor of Athletics & Physical Education, Jason Montgomery.

"His many years of involvement with the Manatee County School District creates a depth and comfort zone that is needed in this office."

"It is a very different atmosphere in this position than it was in 2012," said Jim. "Today, under the direction of Dr. Greene, it is a more positive environment. She has such a pleasant and calm demeanor, and with her in charge, we are getting back to how the district used to be. We are encouraging strong family values, and making it about what is important, and that is our students."

There was mutual admiration and respect when I asked Dr. Greene about Mr. Pauley. She said, "Jim has successfully dedicated the past 31 years to our students here in Manatee County. He brings expertise, wisdom, and leadership to this position and is very well respected. His past experience of being a principal in three of our high schools gives him a unique perspective, and the distinct ability to provide guidance to our current principals. I can't think of a more qualified person to take on the responsibility of guiding our teachers, principals, and students."

Pauley is known for his strong work ethic that he learned at a very young age. In high school, while his friends were hanging out having fun, he worked many hours at his father's lumber company. His father would talk to him about the importance of education and tell him, "If you don't get an education, this is the type of work you will be doing the rest of your life."

Jim recalled, "By the time I got to college, I truly appreciated what he was doing.


When I got out on my own, I understood that if you work hard, good things can happen. That is something I have always tried to teach both my students, and my own children."

"Whether it's been teaching in the classroom, teaching AP, or in an administrative role, my motivation for my job has always been to prepare students as best I can for what happens beyond high school. I want them to be ready for the next opportunity when it knocks."

"One of the concerns I would like to address is the amount of stress we are putting on our kids with the multitude of high stakes testing. We do need a certain amount of accountability, but many of our kids are concentrating so much on required testing that they are not able to expand their horizons with things such as sports and the arts."

"Sports have always been a large part of my life. I played sports all through high school and college (at 6'1", basketball is his first love), and have coached all throughout my career. The channel on my television rarely switches off ESPN."

"After our older daughters left for the University of Florida (GO GATORS!!), my wife and I found ourselves empty nesters. One evening, while walking our two dogs, Susie and Dream, on the beach, we decided to adopt, and soon welcomed two children, Kyle and Angel, into our home."

"Now that we are empty nesters again, my wife and I love to get away in our RV. We drive down to the Keys as often as possible, and hope to someday be able to take it on trips throughout the country." 



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MANATEE



WELCOME



ABOARD

PICTURE: Wendy Dewhurst

70TH ANNIVERSARY PLATINUM CRUISE GALA

NOW OPEN at the
SOUTH FLORIDA MUSEUM

DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES

On exhibit through
December 31, 2016!

included with paid Museum admission

ANCIENT FOSSILS, NEW IDEAS

from the  AMERICAN MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY



www.SouthFloridaMuseum.org | 941-746-4131

The South Florida Museum is located in downtown Bradenton at
201 10th Street West, 34205

Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; The Field Museum, Chicago; the Houston Museum of Natural Science; and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh.

Sponsored by  Mosaic

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



OB/GYN

- 1 East Manatee Health and Wellness Center
(941) 708-8700
- 2 Edgar H. Price Family and Children Health Center
(941) 776-4050
- 3 River Landings OB/GYN
(941) 316-8200
- 4 West Manatee Health Center
(941) 714-7150

Dental

- 1 East Manatee Health and Wellness Center
(941) 708-8700
- 5 Lawton Chiles Children and Family Health Center
(941) 708-7607

Pediatrics

- 2 Edgar H. Price Family and Children Health Center
(941) 776-4050
- 5 Lawton Chiles Children and Family Health Center
(941) 708-8600
- 6 Manatee Pediatrics
(941) 748-4602
- 7 Whole Child Pediatrics
(941) 366-2273

• School and Sports Physicals



mcrhs.org



EMERGENCY SERVICES

from the Manatee Healthcare System



We have you covered ... 24/7

At Manatee Memorial Hospital and Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, you have access to rapid response, medical expertise and individualized care when you need it ...
right here at home.

Our emergency medical teams are highly experienced in managing emergencies for people of all ages. The Manatee Healthcare System is ready to respond to life-threatening emergencies with fast, high-quality care ...
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Need a Doctor? For a free physician referral, call Direct Doctors Plus® at **941.708.8100**.



206 Second Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208 | 941.746.5111

www.manateememorial.com



8330 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard
Bradenton, FL 34202 | 941.782.2100

www.lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com

