

# What's in a Name?

Name this Newsletter Oct. 2019 Vol. 1

## CONTACT US

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7555 CLAXSTRAUSS DR. SARASOTA, FL 34240  
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sshepard@easterseals-swfl.org

### Our Staff

**Academy Principal-** Leatha Pfanmiller  
**Sr. Director Autism Services-** Deb Pack  
**Instructional Specialist-** Theresa Collins  
**Dir. of Vocacion/Employment-** Don Herndon  
**Case Manager** Meighen Hopton  
**Mgr. Family Support Services-** Katie O'Brien  
**School Nurse-** Judith Sewell  
**Autism Specialist-** Maia Burnard  
**Therapy Coordinator-** Cheryl Weichert  
**BCBA-** Michelle Fenton  
**BCBA-** Jean Ott  
**BCaBA-** Joanna Berens  
**ABA Front Office/Attendance-** Sherri Shepard

### Happiness House K-1

**Barbra Berger-** Adrian Lugo  
Lauren Bill

### Orange Room 1st/ 2nd Grade

**Ali Rempfer-** Stephanie Garcia  
Bonnie Berry

### Purple Room 2nd/3rd Grade

**Valerie Carpenter-** Wendy Collier-Phillips

### Blue Room 4th/5th Grade

**April House-** Sherree Garvin  
Brennan Ruch  
Kailey Bissell

### Green Room 6th/7th Grade

**Ronda Pennington-** Shyla James

### VIP Academy

**Betty Ramspeck-**

Sabria Willis  
Sheila Graham  
Zamyra Torres  
Stella Dougherty  
Tobi Omolewa  
Steven Ruch

## From The Principal

Dear Parents/guardians, I wanted to take a moment to thank each of you that have attended our Monthly Community Meetings that were held in August and September. In August, we reviewed updated curriculum changes and enrichment activities and got to know each other.

In September we met our new case manager Meighen Hopton and our new principal Leatha Pfanmiller. We welcomed our new teachers Ms. Barbra (K/1) and Ms. April (4/5/6th). Mrs. Collins, our instructional specialist, reviewed upcoming assessments, grading periods and parent conferences. We finish each evening with a Q&A for parents.

If you have not been able to join us, we would love to see you at the October Parent Community Meeting where we will learn about Easterseals ABA Academy's IEP process.

It has been my pleasure to lead as interim principal while we took the necessary time to secure a great leader for the Academy. I am confident Ms. Leatha is that leader.

As we begin transitioning the leadership role to her, please know that I have so appreciated the opportunity to build relationships with the staff, children, and all of you. I will continue to attend parent community meetings, and will be on campus at least a few days a month, once Ms. Leatha is firmly settled in. I am very excited to resume my role supporting all Easterseals programs, but will definitely miss my days here. In the future, please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I wanted to share my favorite quote that I have heard from Alex K. I was observing the math lesson in purple. Alex said, "Why do I keep getting all of these right?!" Ms. Valerie responded, "Because you are so good at math!" You have wonderful children. We are lucky to spend our days together!

*Jaquie*

## Help us Name this Newsletter!

We need a name for this newsletter that lets all the readers know this is a publication for communication between the staff and families of all Easterseals ABA Academy and V.I.P. Programs, Upcoming Events, Special Recognition, Helpful Information, and Fun Family Games, Puzzles, and PRIZES!

Send your name suggestion to [sshepard@easterseals-swfl.org](mailto:sshepard@easterseals-swfl.org)



ABA Academy/V.I.P. Academy

# Easterseals V.I.P. Academy 8-12th Grade



Most experts recommend that students with ASD begin planning for the transition to the world of work in junior high school or earlier. Working with school-to-work programs, Easterseals helps young adults with autism develop career skills that are clear and measurable. Our [V.I.P. Academy Program](#) at The Brand New DeSoto Boys and Girls Club, offers many unique opportunities.



Our Speech Language Pathologists use Hippotherapy at InStride Therapy as a means to improve a patient's cognitive functioning, receptive, and expressive language skills. Speech Therapy and horses...

Who knew?

**SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AT INSTRIDE**

Utilizing hippotherapy as a means to improve a patient's cognitive functioning and receptive language skills.

Follow us on Social Media 

Easterseals-Southwest Florida  
The ABA Academy, Inc.   
InStride Therapy, Inc. 



Kids Night Out  
Join Closed Group



Cope With Hope  
Join Closed Group

[www.Easterseals-swfl.org](http://www.Easterseals-swfl.org)  
[www.AbaAcademySarasota.org](http://www.AbaAcademySarasota.org)

Help me find my ACORNS!  
How many acorns are hidden in the newsletter?



## FLORIDA'S 5TH ANNUAL DADS TAKE THEIR CHILD TO SCHOOL DAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2019



A Special Thanks to these and All the Dads that participated in **Dads Take Their Child to School Day!**



# Easterseals ABA Academy K-7 Grade



We pleased to announce that **Ms. Barbra Berger** has joined our team as the New K/1 teacher.



Ms. Barbra holds a Master's Degree in Exceptional Student Education and brings more than 15 years of experience as an educator of persons with autism and other disabilities to our expanding program. We are very pleased to have her level of education and experience join our team here at Easterseals ABA Academy.



## ORANGE ROOM

The teachers & students in Orange room are so proud of our **"Student of the Week!"** A'Mariona follows our classroom rules, always tries her best and is a great friend and helper to all of her peers! Congratulations A'Mariona!

## PURPLE ROOM

It's been an exciting time in the 2nd/3rd grade classroom at The ABA Academy!! We have adjusted to our new teachers/schedules and are making new friends! We are learning about our government in Reading and studying the planets in Science. We look forward to a fun year together! **Miss Valerie and Miss Wendy**



## BLUE ROOM

Steven J.  
Helping Miss Sherri by  
assembling the sweepers

**Welcome our New Blue Room Teacher Mrs. April House** She has served as a pre-k teacher, elementary teacher, early intervention coordinator and an ABA therapist. She has a Bachelor's Degree in human development and master's degree in special education. We also wish to welcome the new Teacher's Assistant, **"Mrs. G"- Sherree Garvin**

## GREEN ROOM

The teachers and students in the Green Room are always moving in a forward motion! Our "village" is a dynamic team of individuals who bring many strengths to the collective table. It is an honor as teachers to be able to witness our student's achievements on a daily, weekly and yearly basis!

Keeping the positive praise going is easy to do, as the Green Room kids are so diligent, caring and determined. Though separately the kids come in with varying needs and abilities, together they comprise a beautiful team. Aristotle said, "We are greater than the sum of our parts." This is definitely true of our Green room kids, here at Easterseals ABA Academy!



Friday Ballroom Dance Instruction  
with Dynasty Dance T-A-N-G-O!

## A note from the Nurse

Please help our school nurse **Judith Sewell** care for your child by informing her if your child has:

- Any chronic or acute illnesses
- A new medication or change in dosage
- A life-threatening or new allergy
- A serious injury requiring hospitalization
- A diagnosed head concussion
- An injury requiring casting, sutures, a splint, or mobility assistance of crutches or wheelchair.

(941) 342-9992 x 111

[jsewall@easterseals-swfl.org](mailto:jsewall@easterseals-swfl.org)

Thank-you



## Monthly Parent Community Meeting

Thursday, October 24th 6-7:30

@ABA Academy- childcare provided

Come learn about our IEP Process

with Case Manager Meighen Hopton

## Costume Party

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST  
ABA ACADEMY LOCATION  
10:30-12:30

**NO SCARY/CREEPY COSTUMES**  
**NO WEAPONS**



DUE TO FOOD ALLERGIES AND RESTRICTIONS,  
ALWAYS SPEAK WITH THE SCHOOL NURSE  
BEFORE BRINGING IN CLASSROOM FOOD TREATS



## Upcoming Events

**GET YOUR PINK ON!**

Support Breast Cancer Awareness

**WEAR PINK ON TUESDAY 10/8/19**

**Kids Night Out \$5.00 per child**

**Saturday, October 12th 4-7 PM**



**Theme: Fall Festival / Costume Party**

**Boys/Girls Club Grand Opening**

**Saturday, October 17th 6:30-9:30 PM**



Inside Gallery C, 1547 State St,  
Sarasota, FL 34236



## All Programs Closed on:

Oct. 14th- Prof. Development Day

Nov. 28-29 Thanksgiving Break



Dec. 24-25 Christmas Eve, Christmas Day



Parents- Please remember to call

The Easterseals ABA Academy **ATTENDANCE DESK- 941.341.9992**

or Email [sshepard@easterseals-swfl.org](mailto:sshepard@easterseals-swfl.org) by 9:00 AM to report your child's absences