

## Academic Director's Corner



This school year denotes our 4th year of operation. We are ecstatic to announce that we have doubled our entire school's population, size of our facility and personnel to better service the students and community of Palm Beach County. This year, we have many exciting things happening for our student body. We have implemented an intensive academic focus for our content courses that will monitor, assess and promote even greater academic gains. Additionally, we have provided the students with in-depth, hands-on, and a vocational training program that encompasses 44 different career exploration courses and a hands-on daily living skills curriculum that fosters the development of each student's ability to live a successful and independent life. Just as we have done in the past 3 years, our students are dedicated to servicing the community in which they reside. As a school we are involved in 2-3 community service activities per month. Just this past month our students helped build a home for Habitat for Humanity, served meals at a local Soup Kitchen, and cleaned up the trash at a local beach.

During the first 9 weeks, our students and staff have been working diligently on raising their reading scores on the Scholastic Reading Inventory and their Math scores on the STAR Math Assessment. Our teachers are completing evaluations on student progress approximately every 2-3 weeks. I am very pleased to say the results of the mini assessments indicate that these young men and women are on track to knock their previous scores out of the water. I want to thank our parents for making sure that their child attends school and completes his/her homework on a daily basis; as those are keys to their continued success. To the corporate partners, we thank you for mentoring our students in your career field and always putting education as a priority in your workplace. That philosophy helps motivate these young men and women. Your mentorship speaks volumes. Keep leading these young people and making a difference. Finally, to the student and teachers, Keep striving for perfection, because along the way you will reach excellence. Nothing is more powerful nor as meaningful than the feeling of accomplishment, especially when you put your sweat and tears into it. I can't wait for the results of the mid-year assessments.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

According to your child's IEP he/she will be taking the Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA) instead of the FCAT. This assessment is designed by the State and will be administered to your child in a one-on-one setting by his/her teachers during the week of **January 11th - 15th, 2009**. During this week of testing there will be **NO REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASSES** your child will be assigned a testing time and day and during that week, they will only attend school on the day assigned. A testing schedule should be released by holiday break. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 561-340-2507.

### PARENT TRAINING DATES

Relief is here, Believers Academy will be hosting the following trainings to help you better assist your child in their current and future endeavors.

**December 9, 2009** - Reading Strategies and Job Skills Training

**January 27, 2010** - Developing Budgets, Agency Resources, Completing Taxes,

**March 24, 2010** - Love & Logic Parent Training.

### HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

The students at Believers Academy will be participating in an overnight venture crew expedition on Wednesday, Dec. 16th & Thursday 17th. The students will explore a combination of Low and High Ropes Courses during the expedition, which enables them to grow as a team and on individual levels. They will explore risks, develop leadership qualities, acquire communication and problem-solving skills, while receiving continuous coaching. The Low Ropes Course focused on collaboration and communication. The challenges call upon every member of the team to participate, and they are presented with unending opportunities for self-discovery and team growth. The High Ropes Course emphasizes risk-taking, trust, and coaching. The challenges allow participants to expand their comfort zones—sometimes dramatically—and recognize fears that may block personal achievement. Each moment is rich with discoveries, whether a person was climbing, supporting "on belay," or finding an effective way to encourage a teammate. Additionally on this trip, the students are tested on independent living skills. Each student will be submerged in the protocol involved with developing a budget, planning and cooking meals, preparing a camping trip, and participating in numerous leisure activities. These two days will be full of fun, adventure and learning; stay tuned for pictures and highlights from this event. If you have any questions or want to volunteer to chaperone the event, please contact us as soon as possible.

\* NCLB SPAR Reports is available in the Academic Director's Office for your review

# 20 Things you don't know about your 2009-2010 Staff

1. I bowled a 178 last week.
2. I was born four weeks early.
3. I've used the same cereal bowl since I was 12 – ATL Braves Helmet Bowl.
4. I own the complete Calvin & Hobbes Collection.
5. My first TWO concerts were Neil Diamond.
6. I've had to get stitches 3 times...left leg ( 7), chin (5), right eye (19).
7. I have a basketball pillow that I've had since 96.
8. When taking a shower I always wash my left arm first.
9. I've had the same alarm clock since middle school.
10. I fell asleep during a test in college, woke up, and still passed.
11. I had perfect attendance in K, 3, 5 & 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
12. I won my high school's inaugural pitch tournament (it's a card game).
13. I used to sell golf balls during the summer.
14. When having cereal and OJ, I always pour the OJ into the cup first.
15. My Pre-K wanted to hold me back from K because I lacked the fine motor skills (i.e. Coloring between the lines).
16. When I woke up to my radio alarm telling me Michael Jordan had retired in 1993, I started crying.
17. I almost got arrested in college for lighting off fireworks (illegal in NY).
18. Once made \$35 doing a cereal taste-testing survey.
19. I've had letters to the editor published in ESPN the Magazine and Sports Illustrated.
20. I wore the same clothes during each SU game of the 2003 NCAA Tournament.



**Mr. Kelley**

1. I love strawberries and pretzels dipped in fluff and colored sprinkles
2. I can make animal balloons.
3. My least favorite words is "purse"
4. I always put on my left shoe, sleeve, sock, etc... first
5. Not going to law school was the best decision ever!
6. If I could stretch all day long, I would.
7. My middle name is Jill and I hate it!
8. I couldn't live without dark chocolate or fresh mozzarella.
9. I wear pink once a year.
10. I grow my own spices and vegetables.
11. I'm really 5'1 3/4"; not 5'2"
12. I'm know I'm really not as tough as I think I am.
13. I must have 8 hours of sleep to function.
14. I am a totally organized slob. My chaos forms piles.
15. My favorite movie is Breakfast at Tiffany's
16. I am scared of spiders and drowning.
17. I am trained in tap dancing.
18. Every bite of food must have the perfect ratio of all the ingredients; the perfect bite is my philosophy of life
19. I actually thought I was going to be the first female short-stop for the New York Yankees!
20. I celebrate Happy December and the 7 Days of Mickey Mantle (who was number 7)



**Ms. Dinin**

1. I eat green beans with ketchup.
2. I was born at home.
3. I got stitches in my thigh in 5th grade due to a pencil accident.
4. The stitches were the only time I've been to the hospital.
5. I took a road trip to California and lived there for a summer.
6. I lost a kid I was babysitting at Disneyland; I found him later.
7. I dyed the bottom of my hair purple in college.
8. I fell for an April Fools joke my coach played on me because I was scared of getting in trouble.
9. When I was a flight attendant, I got to fly Beyonce, Jay-Z, and Seal.
10. I gave Jevon Kearse from the Philadelphia Eagles my autograph.
11. I have to have meat on the bottom of a sandwich, veggies on top.
12. I put my left sock on before my right, left shoe before the right shoe.
13. I have my nose pierced.
14. I lost my voice at the Astrodome when Nolan Ryan was pitching.
15. When I was 5, I stepped on a bottle rocket and got a hole in my toe. Thanks, Dad!
16. My first concert was Tiffany and Chicago.
17. I was barefoot when I went skydiving.
18. I love Taco Tuesday and make a mean guacamole.
19. I look under my bed and in my closet when I come home to an empty house at night.
20. My car's name is Ricardo.



**Ms. Hess**

1. I sleep on the floor
2. I don't have five adult teeth.
3. I love Abba.
4. I love to vacuum.
5. I love to buy luggage.
6. I love peanut butter and figs.
7. I love fruits and vegetables.
8. My first concert was Kiss (without their makeup)
9. I like to go to movies by myself.
10. I love to fly.
11. I ran through a glass door when I was young.
12. I had braces until I was 20.
13. I had a mullet in high school.
14. I dyed my hair blue once
15. I broke my fibula and tibia completely in middle school skiing into a slow sign.
16. I cut my eyebrow because I was wearing my mother's high heels when I was 4.
17. I sxlept in a camper van for eight days during the World Cup in 2006.
18. I love to hang out with my parents.
19. I eat cereal whenever possible.!
20. I would love to run on walls.



**Mr. Chee**

1. I never have matching socks.
2. I hate facial zits.
3. I fear flying.
4. I once drove from NY to FL straight 20 hours.
5. I sleep with no blankets.
6. I eat mayo and mustard on a sandwich.
7. I have many nicknames, including Books, Bucc, Bookshelf.
8. I had a bubble butt in high school.
9. I had a high pitched voice until the 12th grade.
10. I drove many 'ghetto' rides, including a 1989 Cadillac Deville.
11. I crashed into a priest when I first started driving.
12. I play practical jokes on my mother, still at the age of 25.
13. I love cats.
14. I once drove to Florida with a parrot sitting in the back seat.
15. We thought the parrot died because when we cut through Manhattan, all the lights froze him up for hours.
16. I am addicted to Wendy's.
17. I hate gambling.
18. I love big sandwiches.
19. I love to eat other peoples food!
20. The staff calls me MOOCH- A - RELLI



**Mr. Buccarelli**

1. I sometimes wear Crocs to do outside work around the house.
2. I take naps on the couch with my Golden Retriever.
3. I play hard/expert level in Rock Band & Guitar Hero.
4. I have every release of Rock Band & Guitar Hero.
5. I consider Facebook a "train Wreck"...repulsed, yet strangely attracted to it.
6. I use "boardshorts" as pajamas.
7. I blew out my ankle trying to make a skateboarding comeback...when I was 40.
8. I thoroughly enjoy bad movies.
9. I enjoy seeing my children sleep...definition of peace.
10. I am a news junkie.
11. There is nothing better than having the family at the beach when the waves are waist to chest high and the picnic basket & cooler are full.
12. I love building sand castles with my kids.
13. I love teaching my girls to surf.
14. I love teaching my girls to fish.
15. I love eating my wife's cooking.
16. I love my truck.
17. I love being outdoors.
18. I love to travel
19. I love Hawaii.
20. I love to teach!



**Mr. Romine**

## Project Discovery

Our students have been exploring possible careers in the following areas throughout Term 1: Meteorology, Animal Care, Medical Patient Care and Cleaning/Maintenance. Each student was able to develop their career specific vocabulary, refine their hands-on skill sets as well as explore the professions throughout the community. A special thank you to Channel 12 News and Garden's Animal Hospital (Dr. Jack and Dr. Morris) for taking time to share their career and passion with our students.



# Community Service/Field Trips



Habitat for Humanity



Public Library Field Trip (above)

Volunteer at local Soup Kitchen (below)



## FY10 BELIEVERS ACADEMY BOARD MEMBERS

The Board that governs Believers Academy meets on the second Tuesday every Month; except December and July. These meetings are held at 6:00pm in the Believers Academy Conference room. Listed below are the names of our Board Members, their titles and their email/contact information. If you would like to put an item on the agenda, submit it to Ms. Dyer 72 hours prior to the meeting date.

**Melissa Smith (President) - MSmith@cherryedgarlaw.com**

**Sue Leeds (Vice President) - sue@leedscapitalsolutions.com**

**Lisa Shank (Secretary) - lisashank@bellsouth.net**

**Bruce Fowler (Treasurer) - rbf903@comcast.net**

**Adam Gellis (Board Member) - Adam@AdamGellis.com**