



Principal's Kudos for Achievement



The staff and students at Believers Academy have been striving day in and day out to demonstrate academic growth. We are only half way through the year and our students are already exceeding even the loftiest of expectations. These students have struggled in traditional settings but here at Believers Academy they are embracing their education, developing a hunger for learning and showing a sense of entitlement for their accomplishments.

The following students need special recognition because in less than 2 semesters they have increased their reading levels by 1 year: **Rashaud Jackson, Kevin Jones, Markeith Mack, Jenna Oliver, and Gerald Eutsey.**

Willie Bedford and **Kelvin Brown** both showed an increase of 1.9 grade levels in this short duration. Whereas, **Kilean Cesar** and **Patrick Jenkins** respectively garnered increases of 2.2 and 2.1 grade levels.

Additionally, we have a very special group of students who have blown their annual reading goals out of the water with half of the school year still remaining. **James Poole** has increased his reading skills by 3.2 grade levels, **Shanrae Haywood** achieved a 4.1 increase while **Sammy Miller** racked in a 5.1 increase. These students should be proud and commended for their hard work and dedication. Please take the time to let them know what an amazing job they have done. Remember this quote, "Be proud of what you have accomplished but DON'T be satisfied!" We will continue to raise the bar for student performance and success!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU - CORAL REEF ELEMENTARY



CORAL REEF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS HEADED BY **Christine Muldowney** has taken the initiative to "Pay it Forward." They are learning how to give back to the community and help others. Laura Marolla, a teacher here at Believers Academy, expressed to Ms. Muldowney some of the challenges our students face and the obstacles that they are trying to conquer. It was at this point the Coral Reef 4th grade class consisting of: Sam, Stephanie, Talore, Melissa, Jeremy, Emily, Sara, Dylan M, Dylan K., Malena, Jayda, Michael, Nick, Scott, Nicole, Annie, Carl, Marissa, Ashley, Brittany, Tyler and Ryan decided that they could make a difference. And they did. The class was able to round up and bring in a variety of school supplies to donate to the Academy. They held a Halloween celebration and invited Believers Academy to attend. The students were able to participate in activities, make root beer floats, and share one another's dreams and career aspirations. Coral Reef didn't stop there. They wanted to take their giving and sharing a step further. They held a benefit at the local Cold Stone Creamery. The group organized and marketed the event where 50% of the proceeds were allocated to Believers Academy. The community members scooped up the opportunity to make the event a huge success. The administration, staff and students at Believers Academy would like to thank our new friends for the lessons they have taught us and for the help they have given to foster our journey toward success.

We "LIKE IT, LOVE IT AND GOTTA HAVE IT!"

Mr. Romine scooping it up for Believers Academy



VOCATIONAL PLACEMENTS
 "SOARING HIGH"



Mr. Manners is our Operation Director at Believers Academy. He is the intricate part of the Vocational placements and success of the students out in the work force. Currently we have all our students placed in paid employment positions or in vocational training sessions. The biggest challenge that we have run into is finding employment opportunities for our 14– 15 year olds. Through conversation with employers, this area is hardest to employ because of the maturity levels, child labor law limitations and insurance restrictions. When students either lose employment or haven't yet obtained employment, they attend training sessions . The training sessions provide experience with: the application process, interview process, job seeking skills, decision making process (related to life and employment), problem solving techniques as well as actively seeking employment opportunities. The majority of our students are working in Tier I positions, which are jobs that will teach them basic employment skills. Once mastering these placements the students move into a Tier II positions. The students that are placed in Tier II positions are working in a career field that matches their interests and abilities. Currently we have students placed at the following locations: E.L. Clark's Allstate Insurance Agency, Believers Academy, UPS, Publix, V. A. Hospital, Sears, Russo's, Jimmy John's, Papa John's, Popeye's, Steak-n-Shake, Slaton Insurance, Park Ave. Hardware, Jersey Mike's Subs, Transatlantic Continental Lending Group, Wendy's, Panera Bread Company, Palms West Hospital and The Academy Practice for Nursing. Below you will find some of our students being featured at their jobs and read about their experiences.

Tori Williams at E.L. Clark's AllState Insurance Agency

Tori entered Believers Academy with no work experience but had aspirations to work in an office. It wasn't very long into the first semester that she acquired a job with a local Allstate Insurance Agency. Erica and Debbie embraced this opportunity to mentor, teach and reduce their workloads. Their participation in our vocational program has allowed them to give back to the community that they work in and serve as mentors for the youth of today and the work force of tomorrow.

How has Tori benefited?

This placement has padded Tori's resume with a plethora of skills to add to her repertoire for future employment options. Some skills are but not limited to: filing, maintaining the office, secretarial work (answering phone, taking messages, writing memos, producing mass mailings), marketing and follow-up for non-payments, basic computer skills for insurance programs.

How has Allstate benefited from this placement?

Debbie replied with the following, "It is a continuous learning experience on both ends. We have developed our teaching skills within our profession and while showing Tori how to meet expectations and become a successful employee. She has improved since her first day." With the addition of Tori to the office, it has freed Erica and Debbie up to develop, foster and maintain excellent customer relationships. They are able to dedicate more time to selling insurance and building the business.



**Debbie Schatz (Agent), Tori Williams (Student),
 Erica L. Clark (Owner)**

Kermie Jackson at Jimmy John's



Kermie has been receiving rave reviews for weeks now at Jimmy John's. His manager, Matt, refers to him as "What's Next", he tackles everything he can on that days task list. His friends tease him and say he just likes to see his name on the checkout sheet, but contrary to his peer reviews his work ethic is outstanding. In a vocational interview, Kermie was asked "How has this experience affected your life?" He responded with, "I have learned how to complete applications and go through the interview process successfully. Working at Jimmy John's has put money in my pocket. When you have money to do things you automatically gain more freedom. Ultimately, this job has given me an avenue to exercise a lot of responsibility and achieve the goals I have set in my life. My career aspirations are to obtain employment in the automobile industry. While I am at Jimmy John's, I am building my resume to prepare for my next step in life."

Mavrick Banzewski at V.A. Hospital



While enrolled at Believers Academy, Mavrick has garnered a ton of experience in the application, interview and employment processes. He started out by volunteering to work with children at Palm Beach Elementary. This experience allowed him to build his resume and employment skills. His supervisors expressed how wonderful he was with the young students and gave Mavrick great reviews. Using this volunteer experience and rave reviews, he was able to acquire a paid position at the Veterans Administration Hospital. Currently, Mavrick works about 30 hours per week. He's striving to acquire and sustain full time employment to meet his graduation requirements. Mavrick is a perfect example that the gift of giving gives back. If it weren't for his experiences with volunteering, he wouldn't be employed and making money at the V.A. Hospital.

Luke Bowen & Rashaud Jackson at Believers Academy

Luke and Rashaud have been taken the reigns of the general maintenance at Believers Academy. These two young men take pride in their jobs and school. In addition, have taught their peers how to respect the school and the school's property. They have tackled their tasks and exceeded expectations on a daily basis. These two young men are ready to jump out into Corporate America to chase their career aspirations. They will be a great loss to our staff but will make a positive impact in the endeavors that they decide to pursue. A special conversation: One day Luke was cleaning the building and knocked on my door saying, "Miss, I am tired of trying to clean up the gum that the guys leave behind. Can we make a rule that no gum is allowed in the school?" I replied with, "Luke, I appreciate the pride and standard you are setting and I will have no problem implementing that rule!" - It is amazing to watch people rise to the challenges and responsibility placed before them!



Public Transportation

Allyson Dinin, Sammy Miller and Willie Bedford board Palm Tran. They are heading to the beach for a Community Service Day.

“BEACH CLEAN-UP”

The students at Believers Academy have acquired skills to independently access the public transportation system. In fact they are so good at it that they direct us when we use the system. As you see in the picture to the right



BEACH CLEAN-UP & BBQ



A few of the students just hanging out on the beach with Ms. Dinin



Mr. Romine & Mr. Marolla running the BBQ

After picking up trash along the beach from Singer Island to Ocean Reef the students were able to enjoy the amenities that reside in their backyards. The students and staff played football, swam, listened to and sang along with their favorite tunes. The day was topped off with a BBQ lunch.

A SILENT BUT INTRICATE COMPONENT



CYNDEE ZECK—There are not enough words to express what an amazing job she has done with us from the very beginning. Cyndee was a part of the founding and rising of Believers Academy, but her role has not stopped there. She is the master mind at the helm of our financials. Her expertise and experience have been crucial in all the success at Believers Academy. I think it is important that our students, parents, staff, and community know how much we truly appreciate her hard work and dedication to Believers Academy. It is a true honor to be working with School Accounting Services, Inc. (SASINC)