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*To provide students a quality and comprehensive education that will assist them in their quest to become productive members of our society.*

Juvenile Justice Educational Centers

# JJEC Parent Newsletter

<http://djj.leeschools.net/>

Stay connected with our new facebook and twitter pages.

## Message from our Math Coach

Mathematics is perhaps the least favorite academic subject for many students - oftentimes because at some point during their academic career, someone told them that mathematics was not their best subject. As the Mathematics Coach for the Department of Juvenile Justice, one of my primary goals is to support instructors in empowering students with the skills necessary to overcome math anxiety and realize their personal mathematics potential. A few of my additional objectives include compiling and analyzing student achievement data and the design and implementation of ongoing teacher professional development workshops focusing on topics such as assessment, instructional technology, and best practices. Essentially, I will be working closely with teachers to enhance mathematics instruction culminating in an increase in student achievement.



Philosophically, I strongly believe that every person has the potential to achieve academic success given the type of instruction that appeals to his/her individual learning style. As teachers, it is our responsibility to find that path.

During the past 18 years, I have had the pleasure of teaching at the middle, high school, adult education, and college levels. Academically I have earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education from the University of South Florida, a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, and subject area endorsements in Reading and English as a Second Language. During my tenure I have been honored to receive the Cape Coral Excellence in Education Award from Mariner Middle School and the Cape Coral Institute of Technology.

I look forward to building a productive academic relationship with the Department of Juvenile Justice's family of instructors and students. I will close with my favorite quote: *Some people dream of success while others wake up and work hard at it. ~Winston*



### The School Board of Lee County, Florida

Cathleen O'Daniel Morgan, District 3, Chairman  
Steven K. Teuber, District 4, Vice Chairman

Mary Fischer, District 1  
Jeanne S. Dozier, District 2  
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Nancy J. Graham, Ed.D  
Superintendent

# JOIN THE DJJ SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

## What We Do

The Southwest Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and associated facilities are committed to ensuring your student's future is bright and secure. What your child experiences and learns in our centers will impact their decisions for the rest of their life.

Become part of our School Advisory Committee and have your voice heard - learn about district-wide and site-specific goals, meet the men and women working with and for your child, and be active in their future. We look forward to seeing you there!

**What:** Southwest Florida Department of Juvenile Justice School Advisory Committee Meeting

**When:** December 16, 2014, 5pm-6:30pm

**Where:** The Vince Smith Center

2450 Prince Street  
Fort Myers, FL 33916

**Who:** Parents of and people who work with students at PACE Center for Girls, AMIkids Inc., The Vince Smith Center, Price Halfway House, The SWFL Detention Center and Lee County Jail and Stockade



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## Classroom News...



Hear All About It!

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There have been many engaging activities going on recently at PACE, Lee. Two events in particular created some excitement around the school. First, the middle and high school classes spent several weeks studying spoken word poetry, which is performance-based poetry that is focused on the aesthetics of word play and story-telling, and is performed for an audience. The young ladies of PACE viewed examples and wrote touching and dramatic poetry, telling stories of their own lives and experiences. Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, PACE staff and students gathered for the Spoken Word Poetry Performance. Students bravely stepped up to the mic, one by one, and performed their art. Finding voice in their writing, and telling their stories was a powerful experience for all who performed and all who listened. The second event was the culminating awards ceremony celebrating a ten week career program with the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). The professional women of NAWIC provided insight and hands-on exploration of the various jobs and careers in the field of construction, including general contracting, swimming pool design and construction, surveying, engineering, code inspection, and architecture. On Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, the NAWIC members celebrated by issuing each PACE participant a certificate of completion and their own personal tool belt with tools! Additionally, NAWIC members have sponsored three PACE girls with student memberships to their organization, to continue supporting them in future career development.

# Discipline and Guidance



## Setting Rules and Boundaries

There are many changes which come along with the onset of the teen years. But there is one part of child rearing that remains constant. Children, no matter what their age, need loving, consistent discipline.

However, it is no secret that parenting a teen brings unique challenges. Not only is she bigger, more verbal, and able to get into a lot more trouble, she is also preparing to become an adult. This strive for independence means she's more likely to test your authority and push the limits.

How can parents handle these challenging days? Following is a list of suggestions that you may find helpful.

- **Stop fighting and arguing.** You cannot effectively guide or mentor your teenager if you are arguing all the time. When conversations get heated, agree to walk away until things have calmed down. Refuse to listen to a teen who insists on talking in a disrespectful manner. The best way to stop negativity, nagging, fighting, and yelling is to not allow it or engage in it.
- **Be clear about your expectations.** Explain the rules, consequences, and rewards for behavior before it occurs. This is much more effective than trying to solve a problem after it's happened. All children feel more secure when they know what is expected of them.
- **Be consistent.** Since we cannot always be there to prevent our children from making mistakes we must be certain they at least learn from them. We do our children no favor when we set down rules and consequences and then do not follow through with them. Oftentimes it is very tough to watch our teenagers suffer the outcomes of bad choices - but it is essential that we do what we say we will. Our children need to know they can trust our word.
- **Children who are "out of control" are begging for limits.** Too often we want to be our child's best friend. Our teenagers don't need more friends; what they need are parents who are willing to stand firm and guide and protect them. They may beg for more freedom, but what they really want are clear boundaries that allow for growth within limits.
- **Don't expect your teenager to thank you for your discipline.** Parents are the most influential force in their child's life. Your children will thank you after they have had their own children but rarely during these trying times. Hold fast to your values and know that your unpopular decisions will pay off in the long run.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 16th - SAC Meeting at Vince Smith Center from 5pm-6:30pm

December 22nd - Hurricane Make-Up Day/No class for students

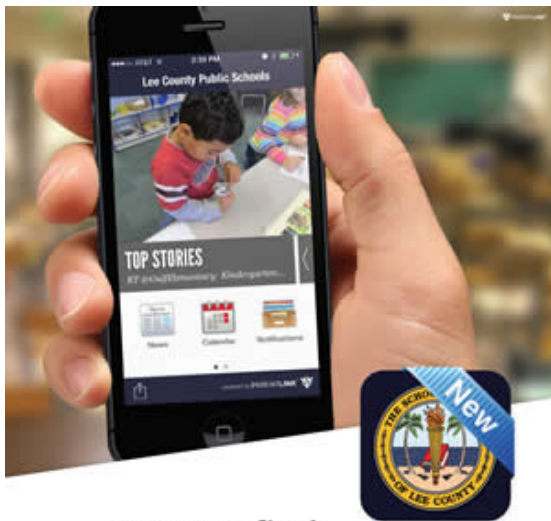
December 23rd-January 1st - Winter Break/No class for students

January 2nd - Hurricane Make-Up Day/No class for students

January 19th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day/No class for students

March 27th - Professional Duty Day/No class for students

April 3rd - Good Friday/No class for students



You can find

Lee County Public Schools

in the app store.



## Out of Field Teachers

Florida State Statute 1012.42 recognized that teachers at times must be assigned duties in a class outside the field in which the teacher is certified. The following teachers working at a Juvenile Justice Education Center are certified, but may be assigned one or more classes outside their areas of certification and are required to take the appropriate steps to comply with the statutory regulations:

To date,

Ms. Roberta Henderson is a teacher at Price Halfway House. Ms. Henderson is out of field in English 6-12, Reading, Social Science, and ESOL. She is currently seeking certificates in these areas.

Mr. Otis Dixon is a long-term substitute at Price Halfway House. Mr. Dixon is out of field in English 6-12, Reading, Social Science, and ESOL.

Ms. Sheron Smith is a long-term substitute at Price Halfway House. Ms. Smith is out of field in Science 6-12, Math 6-12, ESOL and ESE.

Mr. James Chaney is a teacher at the Lee County Jail. Mr. Chaney is out of field in ESOL and is currently seeking a certificate in this area.