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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.

## Parent/Guardian Q&A

*What types of institutions qualify as institutions for neglected or delinquent students?*

Institutions that qualify under the provisions of the federal law fall into two categories, schools and non-schools. Institutions must meet all of the following criteria:

- Public or private residential facility other than a foster home.
- Operates for the care of children who have been either:
  - Committed to or voluntarily placed in the institution due to abandonment, neglect, or death of their parents or guardians; or
  - Adjudicated to be delinquent or in need of supervision (including adult correctional institutions in which children reside).

Examples of possible eligible institutions include:

- Juvenile detention centers
- Children's homes
- Halfway house and addiction recovery facilities
- County jails and boot camps
- Girls' and boys' ranches
- Wilderness institutes



In addition, non-residential institutions for neglected or delinquent children, such as day school and day treatment programs must be reported.



**The School Board of Lee County, Florida**

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# 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:** February 10, 2015, 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

## Classroom News...



## Hear All About It!

### A Look at Reading at the Juvenile Detention Center

Inside Ms. Shields' reading class, students are engaged in researched based strategies for reading and writing skills to increase their comprehension (discussing, listening, reading and writing). Students are encouraged to read all types of genres (current events, cultural diversity and real life topics). In addition, her students read informational text while using strategies that help increase their writing skills. During the past three months, the students at the Southwest Florida Regional Detention Center have studied the criminal juvenile justice system, current events in the world and have learned how ideas, music, and attitudes have changed over different time periods. Significant history figures such as Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. have been discussed, debated and researched. Ms. Shields truly believes all students are capable of learning and deserve the best education we can offer regardless of the legal situation. The reading teacher provides the juveniles with reading materials outside of the classroom. If you would like to donate appropriate young adult literature paperback books, we will welcome such donations. Remember reading strategies are not one size fits all. If you have any questions or concerns on how to encourage your child to become a better reader, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Shields at the Southwest Florida Regional Juvenile Detention Center (DonnaLSh@leeschools.net or 239-332-6927).

# Discipline and Guidance

## Adolescent Rebellion



Just hearing the word ‘teenager’ can send chills down the backs of some parents. In our society, adolescence is often viewed with dread and fear. The media often portrays teenagers as rebellious troublemakers that cause their parents untold grief. Actually, most adolescents weather the teen years with minimal difficulty.

It is true that adolescence does contain its own set of unique challenges and changes. However, these adjustments don’t have to cause upheaval and disrupt the entire family structure. Most of the struggles faced during this time of growth are natural and necessary.

So, as parents, how can we tell if a certain behavior is ‘normal’ or if it is a cause for concern and/or action? Following are a few pointers to help parents tell the difference between the two and ways to make this remarkable time less difficult.

**What is Going On?** Adolescent rebellion begins as a result of the desire to become independent. The opposite of this would be a child who had no desire to leave home, refused to take on responsibilities, and cannot make appropriate decisions. Becoming an adult includes the beginning of personal decision making and because our teens are inexperienced, they are naturally going to make mistakes. Failure is a critical part of the learning process!

### Healthy Rebellion:

- The adolescent examines and challenges parental values and ideas that were once accepted without hesitation.
- Comes and goes. It is not characterized by continual increasing defiance. Some days are going to be a challenge for everyone, but rebellion is not a way of life for the teen.
- Is a process that involves an increased desire to make personal decisions regarding things like hair style, clothing, music and what college to attend.

### Unhealthy Rebellion:

- Defiant outbursts and explosive anger accompanied by destructive behaviors and abusive language.
- Is marked by bitterness. Barriers of anger are built up between parents and teen, and constructive communication is impossible. The adolescent may manifest resentment towards all authority figures.
- May be rooted in adults who insist on high levels of control. Instead of working towards independence, the parents tighten their grip on the teen therefore blocking the natural progression towards maturity.

### What Can You Do?

- It is essential that teens be allowed space to form personal opinions so that they have ‘ownership’ of the standards they adopt. This creates the strength of character needed to stand up for their beliefs in the face of opposition and peer pressure.
- Pick your battles! Decide on a few vital issues and rules that you feel are essential to the health and well being of the entire family and concentrate on those. Fads come and go quickly and are rarely worth the conflict.
- Remain approachable and flexible. Allow exceptions when you can and be willing to admit your own mistakes and apologize if necessary.
- Get involved! Show an interest in what your teen finds interesting and fun. They don’t need you less now, but more!
- Don’t be afraid to ask for help! If you believe that your teen is involved in dangerous behaviors seek advice from qualified professionals.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 10th - SAC Meeting at Vince Smith Center from 5pm-6:30pm

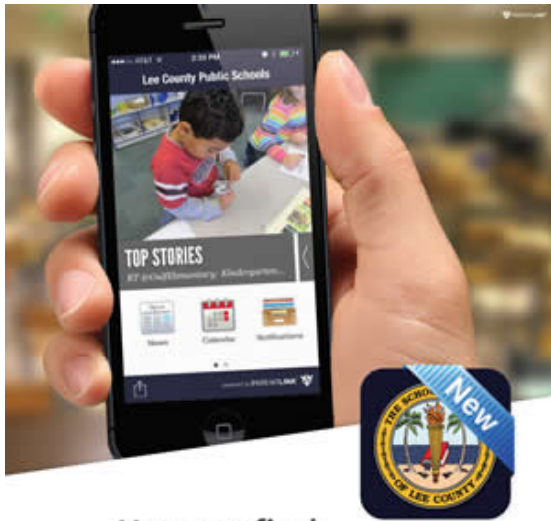
March 27th - Professional Duty Day/No Class for Students

April 3rd - Good Friday/No Class for Students

May 25th - Memorial Day/No Class for Students

June 3rd-5th - Early Dismissal Days for Students

June 8th - Professional Duty Day/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. 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.