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DLC NURSE & LEARN JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH NEWS



A letter from our Executive Director,

As we have moved into the New Year of 2019, I am in awe! DLC opened its doors in August of 1989, so doing the math, it means there is a huge anniversary of 30 years fast approaching. From a crazy idea created by a 25 year old young lady, that became a young mom of 27 opening a tiny nonprofit, to now a 30th Anniversary of DLC Nurse & Learn! My head knows it's been 30 years but my heart feels like it was just a few years ago. So many beautiful children with varying special needs have been through our doors and graced us with their precious souls! So many families that have told us we made a difference in their lives, and the lives of their children. So many employees that have offered us their gifts and dedication to get us to where we are today. Not to mention the countless individuals and groups that have donated their time, talent, dollars and prayers. And with all of these, I know the real reason of DLC's longevity is the Lord God who has directed it all and seen me though!

This year we graduated another 19 students, bringing the total to somewhere around 500 preschool graduates. **The total number of students that have attended DLC Nurse & Learn and Therapy & Care is nearly 4,000 and we have given away close to \$4.5 million in free services.** I don't have exact numbers, because 30 years ago I knew nothing about writing grants or keeping documentation of successes. We now record everything and realize we are also serving the extended families of our students. This includes parents, siblings, grandparents and more. So, the number of people helped by DLC is actually around 18,000! We have documented success stories of the many miracles we've seen happen to our students that overcame the odds and along with their parents becoming successful, productive and independent. Their many stories can be found on our website, dlcnl.org and on our Facebook page.

Please celebrate with us all year long by following our stories through the newsletter, Facebook and other media outlets and be on the lookout for more details of our plans to 'Party like its 1989' with a 30th Anniversary Gala near the beginning of next school year. Help us celebrate **30 years of Miracles and Hope** by sharing our story with friends and plan to buy a ticket and attend this wonderful event so that we can continue to be a part of the lives of these special children well into the future. If you are one of our miracle families, please reach out to us and tell us how you are doing and what DLC has meant to you! We'd love to hear from you.

Blessings and Happy New Year to you and yours. *Amy Buggle*

Founder and Executive Director, DLC Nurse & Learn

Positively Jax— WJXT

Nancy Jantz was featured on the Positively Jax segment which was aired on WJXT on December 21st. She talked about her connection to DLC and the 200+ hours she committed to our school over the summer to paint murals in the hallways of Worley Hall, where the DLC classrooms are also located. The murals have been featured in the The Times Union, Resident Community News and now WJXT. We are honored to have her artwork on display for our families and staff to enjoy for many years to come!

St. Johns Flower Market

Congratulations' to the St. Johns Flower Market for Celebrating 25 years in the Fairfax community! They kicked off their 25th Anniversary with a fundraiser on 12/20 for DLC which featured live music, food trucks and libations from Bold City Brewery!

~ Holidays ~

Closed * 1/21
MLK HOLIDAY

Closed * 2/18
PRESIDENTS DAY

Closed * 3/11–3/15
SPRING BREAK

Closed * 4/19
GOOD FRIDAY

~ Special Events ~

2/13 – Valentine's Dance at 10am

3/15 – St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt at 10am

4/17 – Easter Egg Hunt at 10am

~ Birthdays ~

Aixa Atherton 3/19

~ Anniversaries ~

Aixa Atherton—10 years

Aaliyah Gonzalez—1 year

Upcoming Events at DLC

Mark your Calendars —

We hope to see you there!



- Thursday, January 24th: Breakfast with the Bears at 9:30am
- Wednesday, February 13th: DLC Valentines Dance at 10am
- Friday, March 15th: St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt at 10am
 - Wednesday, April 17th: Easter Egg Hunt at 10am
 - Thursday, May 30th: DLC Graduation Ceremony

PASSPORT TO RIVERSIDE & AVONDALE 2018!

We are pleased to announce that this year we raised nearly \$15,000 from our "2018 Passport to Riverside Avondale" Event through ticket sales and sponsorships. This is a \$5,000 increase from last year, and we greatly appreciate the support from our Board Members and volunteers who helped make this event so successful!

We have received a ton of wonderful feedback from both participating merchants and ticket holders. The event continues to grow each year and the 2019 event will be our 5th year running Passport. Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed the event, especially those of you who participate every year! This funding will go toward therapy and nursing services for our students at DLC. God Bless you!

Thank you to our 2018 Passport Sponsors: **Publix Super Markets Charities, Omnitrust Financial, Independent Living Resource Center, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Susan and Ron Masucci, Avondale UMC, Riverside Park UMC, The Local Artist and Hamburger Mary's!**



Bible Time with Pastor Haley!

We are so blessed to share the same campus with Murray Hill UMC. Pastor Haley has hosted Bible Time with our students every Wednesday this year, to speak the word of God to our students and share the love of Jesus. Pastor Haley makes it fun for our children, and offers different stories each week which coincide with our teacher's lesson plans. We love you Pastor Haley, thank you for all you do for our children throughout the year!



DLC Christmas Party!

We truly enjoy this time of year at our school because we get to participate in lots of Christmas festivities with our children and families. This year we had both of our Christmas parties on 12/19. JEA and Florida Blue both donated gifts this for our students this Christmas.

Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special stop at DLC just for our students! You should have seen their faces light up with joy when they first saw Santa walk in the room. They each got to sit on Santa's knee and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. What a wonderful time of year it is! **Jesus is the Reason for the Season!**



DLC Volunteer Needs & Special Requests!

DLC is in need of a few very specific volunteer needs:

- Receptionist to help in the DLC office
- Music Teacher for the Children
- Board members to serve on our DLC Board of Directors!

Special Requests:

- Building Repairs
- Paint for Several Classrooms
- Classroom Computers

Donated Toys for Christmas

We wanted to reserve a special place in our Winter Newsletter for two outstanding organizations who helped collect toys for DLC students at both locations this Christmas. Judy Ellis from Florida Blue collected toys and has done so for over 10 years! Thank you Judy for continuing to keep DLC in the Florida Blue toy drive each year! Thank you also to Julie Lyons for spearheading the toy drive at JEA this year. This was their first year collecting toys, but they have volunteered at many of DLC's events over the past several years. Please be sure to thank these companies when you do business with them this year. They are truly outstanding people and we truly thank them for their continued support for our kids.



DLC MIRACLE CORNER: Meet Jermaine!

When Jermaine first started at DLC he was very delayed in nearly every area of his development and wasn't walking. Jermaine has been attending DLC for over three years and the progress he has made has been nothing short of incredible! We are so proud of this young man, as well as the dedication from our therapists and staff to make sure Jermaine excels.

Jermaine has improved greatly with his verbal communication. He has learned to tell his teachers what he wants instead of pointing. He now give us "yes" and "no" responses instead of shaking his head. He also calls some of our teachers and classmates by their name. Each morning and afternoon when Jermaine arrives he greets his teachers and all of his classmates with saying "hey" and giving them a hug. He is so sweet and lovable! Jermaine's fine motor skills have also improved tremendously, he is learning how to draw simple shapes. Way to go Jermaine! We are so proud of you!

Have you met with our School Counselor, Dr. Michelle Taveras?



Dr. Taveras

DLC offers **FREE & CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING** to all DLC families and employees. We strongly encourage our parents and staff to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, made possible by a grant from The Weaver Foundation.

Upcoming opportunities to meet with Dr. Taveras to discuss questions or concerns: Meetings are held from 2:00–6:00 every month in the DLC Library: 1/21, 2/25, 3/25, 4/22, 5/20, 6/20, 7/22

Sign up's are available in each classroom. You may sign up for half hour or one hour sessions, whichever you prefer. **If you have any questions please call 904-387-0370**

A note from Our Nurse, Janice Kelley:

February is National Dental Health Month



Children's teeth are meant to last a lifetime, and a healthy smile is important to a child's self-esteem. With proper care, a balanced diet and regular dental visits, their teeth can remain healthy and strong.

Nurse Janice wants to remind parents that their children can avoid cavities. Brushing our teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste, cleaning between our teeth daily, eating a healthy diet that limits sugary beverage and snacks, and seeing the dentist regularly- **every 6 months** for prevention and treatment of oral disease are the keys to a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. Children should have their first dental visit before age two. If your child has not had a dental examination, **schedule a –well baby checkup for his or her teeth**. The American Dental Association says that it is beneficial for the first dental visit to occur before the child's first birthday.

As soon as teeth appear in the mouth, decay can occur. One of the risk factors for early childhood caries (sometimes called baby bottle tooth decay or nursing mouth syndrome) is frequent and prolonged exposure of a baby's teeth to liquids, such as fruit juice, milk or formula, which all contain sugar. Tooth decay can occur when a baby is put to bed with a bottle. Infants should finish their naptime or bedtime bottle before going to bed. Because decay can destroy the teeth of an infant or young child, you should encourage your children to drink from a cup by their first birthday.

Reduce your children's risk of tooth decay: Sugary foods and drinks should be consumed with meals. Saliva production increases during meals and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth. Limit between-meal snacks. If kids crave a snack, offer them nutritious foods. If your kids chew gum, make it sugarless – Chewing sugarless gum after eating can increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decay-producing acid. Monitor beverage consumption – Children should make healthy beverage choices such water and low-fat milk. Help your children develop good brushing and flossing habits. Be sure to schedule regular dental visits. **Be Healthy! Nurse Janice**