

The Chase Academy

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Autism Awareness Month

Letter from the Executive Director

If you have been following our progress, you can't help but notice we have come VERY close to naming a building almost three times now.

Alas, each has, for its own reason, fallen through, and at this late date we are still eagerly searching for a suitable place. I choose to look at these near-misses, not as losses, but as messages from the universe telling us that these were not the place for the Academy – there is something better, something more out there with our name on it, and we still need to find it.

Of course, finding it today would make us all feel better, and what we find today has to look much different than what we were looking for last fall. Last fall we had time for renovations and redesigns, for zoning issues and parking issues, but today, we need to find a location that has all these details taken care of, and is move-in ready. Quite simply, we have run out of time for any real issues.

That is why our new plan is to talk with churches – church facilities lend themselves to private schooling, and are zoned for the ability to educate; they have playgrounds open

rooms for meeting. That is why we are targeting the church market for a lease possibility. This scenario is one everyone can help with and it can lead to immediate results – like opening in the fall and having the McKay scholarship lined up for our parents to rely on this September.

We are also looking long term, at build-out space that we could own so that our program has a permanent home that will allow us to grow in the future.

What you can do to help is to approach your local church and any local church you know of that doesn't currently use its space for weekly daycare or educational purposes. We have a budget, and we can pay "rent" – we just need a year to get our program off the ground and allow us the time to build our own facility the way we see it serving our students best. And we need a location right now!

At the same time, we are gearing up for our inaugural charity auction. This event is designed to serve you parents – not the school, in that these funds will be earmarked each year for student



MIRIAM "MIMI" LUNDELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

scholarship. This year we imagine the funding split between the necessities required to get our school classrooms ready and the remainder going to scholarship. So please, for your own sake, get involved in the volunteering for this event.

We have benefactors to secure for sponsorships and auction items, and we have guests to invite who can afford these specialty items and the price they command. We would like to see each family contribute to this event in some way. No contribution is too small, and you will be glad come fall that you worked hard for us this summer.

The money we raise, could be yours!

Mimi Lundell

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Special points of interest:

- *Next General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th, 7:00 pm, ARC - Bldg 2, Multipurpose Room*
- *Do you know of a facility that has space available for The Chase Academy? Please help us find a home for the Academy. Time is of the essence!*
- *If you are a member of the Academy, please join one of our 4 advisory committees today! We need you!*
- *Support the Academy by purchasing a T-shirt. Logo on front and self-portrait of Chase on back. \$10 - children; \$15 adults.*

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MISSION STATEMENT

To provide educational services specifically tailored to meet the individualized needs of students with high-functioning Autism or any of the related Autism Spectrum Disorders and to focus these services on maximizing the students' potential for inclusion into mainstream society.

Chase Academy Educational Program Update

One of the many important topics discussed at the March 14th General Meeting was the design of the Chase Academy Educational Program. In addition, Gail Filson, Board Member and Program Committee Chairperson, was introduced to the group. Days after the meeting, Gail had a meeting with a couple of publishing companies that sell text books. She was able to get quite a significant donation from these companies for the Academy! Thank you so much, Gail. We really appreciate your help.

Here is the program information that was presented at the meeting:

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The administration, faculty, and staff at The Chase Academy believe that student success is dependent upon the integration of the student's personal interests into the curriculum. Students will be highly encouraged to explore their individual passions in a manner that encourages a desire to learn. This latest educational philosophy is called teaching with relevance. Making the educational experience relevant and applicable to the individual student's life encourages extended focus, memory and recall, critical thinking skills, and love of learning.

FEATURES:

- ⌘ Dual program focuses on academic rigor and behavioral /pragmatic development
- ⌘ Academic Quadrants allow students to self-pace their academic growth

- ⌘ CCLP – Comprehensive Customized Learning Plan for each student
- ⌘ Kinesthetic-based learning centers in all subject areas
- ⌘ Integrated Academic Units
- ⌘ Emphasis on technology-based learning tools and supports
- ⌘ Social skill development through pragmatic learning and real-world application
- ⌘ Therapeutic services

PROGRAM QUADRANTS:

Kindergarten Program emphasizes:

- ⌘ SCERTS® Behavioral Program to address Joint Attention, Communication and Peer Interaction Skills
- ⌘ Classroom Readiness Skills
- ⌘ Social-Language Acquisition

Primary Program (1-3) emphasizes:

- ⌘ Academic Skills' Acquisition and Memorization
- ⌘ Cognitive Development
- ⌘ Language and Vocabulary Building
- ⌘ Reading/Decoding Skills

Intermediate Program (4-6) emphasizes:

- ⌘ Academic Skill Synthesis and Application
- ⌘ Critical Thinking and Problem-solving Skills
- ⌘ Social Peer-based Pragmatic Development and Application

Junior Program (7-9) emphasizes:

- ⌘ Academic exploration through lab-based science, writing with purpose, reading with intent, and math concept application
- ⌘ Social pragmatic "cotillion" program to develop formal social skills

Senior Program (10-12) emphasizes:

- ⌘ Career and College Preparatory Academics
- ⌘ Independent Organization Skills
- ⌘ Life skills
- ⌘ Career-based Pragmatic Skills

ASSESSMENTS:

- ⌘ Portfolio-based Assessment
- ⌘ Annual Standardized Testing (Norm Reference

Advisory Committees Established

In addition to the four Board Committees, the Chase Academy has established four Advisory Committees to be chaired and joined by members of the Academy.

The Committees are:

Fundraising - Lora Brewer, Chair;
Membership & Volunteers - Leah Mallace, Chair; **Gifts & Scholarship** - John Sadowski, Chair; **Parent Advisory** - Dr. Bill Kuhn, Chair.

Several members have already signed up to work on these committees at the March 14th General Meeting. Nevertheless, we need more manpower!

If you are a member, please consider joining one of these committees.

If you are not a member and would like to work on one of these committees, please get your application in today!

Currently, the Fundraising committee

is working on *Riverfest 2007*. It is also working on the Charity Auction with the Membership & Volunteers committee. The Parent Advisory committee is addressing solutions to the transportation/car-pooling issue. The Gifts & Scholarship Committee will be announcing its project at the May 16th General Meeting.

Many thanks to our Chairpersons and their committee members for their hard work and dedication!

KIDS KORNER

Calling All Artists for Riverfest 2007 - May 5th & 6th

The Chase Academy is working hard to realize the dream of opening it's doors to students for the 2007-2008 school year. There is a unique opportunity for our children to contribute: The Academy is participating in Riverfest 2007 in New Smyrna Beach by having a booth that features the sell of original art work done by Autistic children.

All proceeds will help build the scholarship program and/or help meet classroom costs. Artwork can be submitted from any child that is on the "Spectrum," and we welcome all types of medium. The theme for each piece should revolve around the Indian River Lagoon, and/or it's inhabitants.

So come on all you artists, whether you

sketch, paint, photograph, sculpt, or sew, contact us to make arrangements to present your artwork to benefit the educational needs of our children. This is a great opportunity to let our children show how much of a difference they can make.

Please feel free to contact our Fund-raising Chairperson, Lora Brewer, 386-679-3368, lora_bfocasd@msn.com, with any questions you may have concerning the event.

If you would like to volunteer, please let Lora know. We need both days covered. We need at least 3 people to cover a 3-hour shift.

While you're working the booth, your

family can enjoy the event. There will be:

- Food booths by 10 notable local restaurants
- Music from several local bands
- Entertainment including Civil War reenactment and cannon blasts
- Coast Guard search and rescue boat and officers at a honoring ceremony
- A Creatures of the Lagoon children's parade
- Boat races and parades
- Beer & soft drinks under a big top tent
- Eco boat tours, kayak activities, sightseeing boats
- Environmental and marine science exhibits & activities
- Arts and crafts booths featuring local artists

Student of the Month

Lora Barry



Lora Barry
1st Grade
Port Orange
Elementary

This month's Student of the Month is Lora Barry, a 7 year old who is currently in first grade at Port Orange Elementary School. She lives in Port Orange with Mom and Dad, and her twin brother Patrick.

Lora is notable in that she is not particularly remark-

able in any obvious way. Certainly, she's bright – she's reading with comprehension, but she doesn't have conversational speech to discuss it. She can add and subtract, but as far as she's concern "cat" is "cat" and it doesn't really matter how many there are. She is good at puzzles, but not freaky-good. She's musical, but not freaky-talented. She is acrobatic, but not par-

Parents: If you would like your child to be featured in Kids Korner, please send a photo and a brief bio to Eileen Taft, letaft@chaseacademyofvolusia.org.

ticularly athletic. She's a beautiful, healthy, extraordinarily happy child who thinks in pictures. But, as her neurologist pointed out, "If she were to have a particular, extraordinary talent, her prognosis would be more optimistic." Yeah. Right.



Pigs and Monkeys
by Lora Barry

to be self-sufficient and self-supporting.

Damn the torpedoes; full speed ahead.

But where? And how? Anyone who has tried to find someone to direct the education of an autistic child in the Daytona area knows how futile it can be. Behavior therapy? Sensory integration? Music therapy? Right. Ask CARD, and they'll tell you of several in Orlando, but Daytona? Do y'all have paved roads out there yet?

I can't tell you how excited I am about the Chase Academy opening this fall. I finally feel like I have an ally in my quest for an appropriate education for my perfectly normal, bright, happy, beautiful child who happens to be autistic. Full speed ahead!

Submitted by Sharon Barry



Lora with twin brother, Patrick

Bob Carr Performing Arts Center - June 15th - 6:30 pm Reception; 7:30 pm Auction; 8:45 pm Concert

The Chase Academy

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM



Chase Lundell
2nd Grade

The Chase Academy & High Velocity Strings

are proud to announce their inaugural

Charity Auction

to benefit the opening of The Chase Academy facility for children with Autism and to promote music education and cultural development for school children.



Lora Barry
1st Grade

- & major sports event tickets
- & travel packages
- & fine art
- & jewelry
- & significant cultural events
- & celebrity items



Liam Ragan
3rd Grade



Jimmy Brewer
1st Grade

We will also offer some fun silent auction and raffle items such as spa treatments, exclusive restaurant dinner packages and mini-

vacations and weekend get-aways.



"DELL'ARTE" Bell Collection
Viktor Pirainen, Russia
Elite Bell Casters Society



Karen Lundell
7th Grade



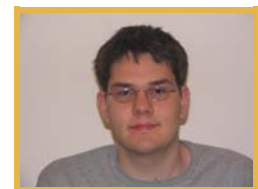
Kimberly Kunkel
High School Senior



High Velocity Strings

Concert

International violinist ARMAND MELNBARDIS, High Velocity Strings and Vio7 will perform for your enjoyment.
Classical, Jazz, Gypsy, Rock



Michael Salerno
DBCC Student

Your support is highly appreciated and all gifts are tax exempt.

DONATION: \$7 - Adults; \$3 - Student/Military ID; Under 12 Free



Only 27 cakes available!

Rum Cakes for Sale



GRAND MARNIER®
CAKE

Grand Marnier® cake: Florida Favorite. This cake tempts your tongue with the flavor of our home state of Florida. Created at the request of Chef Ron, we use luscious freshly-grated orange peel and Grand Marnier® liqueur. Sprinkled with chopped walnuts and pecans.



CHOCOLATE GRAND
MARNIER® CAKE

Chocolate Grand Marnier® cake: Chocolate! Orange! What more can I say? Two flavors that were born to go together meet magnificently in this marvelous munchie! Enough reading already. Mangia! Made with Grand Marnier® Liqueur, fine chocolate and freshly-grated orange peel. Sprinkled with chopped walnuts & pecans.



MALIBU® COCONUT
RUM CAKE

Malibu® Coconut Rum cake: Flavor of de islands, mon! Malibu® Coconut Rum and shredded coconut take your tongue to a tropical beach with shady palms.



LEMON CHAMBORD®
CAKE

Lemon Chambord® cake: Fruity and Fine. An inspired combination of two marvelous tastes - the zing of fresh lemon and the seductiveness of raspberries and blackberries. A perfect cake for a summer afternoon or a wintertime tea party. Made with Chambord® Liqueur and Caravella® Limoncello Liqueur. Sprinkled with chopped walnuts and pecans.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:



Thank you to Grace Episcopal Church and Re/Max Realtors for raising \$4400 for The Chase Academy Scholarship Fund!

Grace Episcopal Church's Outreach Committee selected The Chase Academy as the benefactor of this year's Celtic Festival.

Re/Max Realtors provided a \$ - \$ matching grant!!

Thank you so much for making the difference in a child's life!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Student Members:

📖 Kimberly Kunkel

Individual Members:

📖 Jason Carter

📖 Tanya Twombly

📖 Carla Taylor

Family Members:

📖 Tammy Owens & Gary Welborn

📖 Gail Filson

📖 Bruce & Maggie Thompson

📖 Owen & Eileen Zimmerman

Corporate Members:

📖 Teresa Valdes

Re/Max Realtors

📖 M. Emdadul Haque, M.D., PA

STEERING COMMITTEE

Mimi Lundell - 386/690-0893

mtlundell@chaseacademyofvolusia.org

Amy Filson - 386/295-5101

akfilson@chaseacademyofvolusia.org

Eileen Taft - 386/689-5933

letaft@chaseacademyofvolusia.org

Lora Brewer - 386/679-3368

lora_bfocasd@msn.com

John Sadowski - 386/304-3729

johntsadowski@sadowski.com

Dr. William & Linda Kuhn - 386/451-6609

islandimages1@cfl.rr.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For One Year Membership)

I wish to join The Chase Academy in the category of:

_____ **Student (18 years +)** **\$ 15.00**

Benefits: E- newsletter, priority notice for all Academy related functions and events, 10% discount on all Academy merchandise

_____ **Individual** **\$ 30.00**

Benefits: Same as Student plus - 2 pre-event discounted priced tickets for fundraisers or events

_____ **Family** **\$ 50.00**

Benefits: Same as Individual except for 4 pre-event discounted priced tickets for fundraisers or events

_____ **Non-Profit Organization** **\$100.00**

Benefits: Same as Family except for 12 pre-event discounted priced tickets for fundraisers or events plus - 4 complimentary tickets to any single event, 20% discount on all promotional advertising

_____ **Corporate** **\$300.00**

Benefits: Same as Non-Profit Organization

Enclosed is my check for \$_____

Please make checks payable to: The Chase Academy, Inc.

Name(s) _____

(If family, supply names of both spouses)

Company or College Name (If student) _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Home or Office Phone _____

Email Address _____

Join us today as we Chase the Dream!

www.chaseacademyofvolusia.org