



December 2018

www.floridaearlylearning.com

December 2018

- Less Stress, More Holiday Fun
- Teach Math Concepts
- Just in Time Parenting
- Celebrate Literacy Week



[Click to read the December issue.](#)

N-E-W-S

Early learning highlights from North, East, West and South Florida

It's full STEAM ahead for mobile classroom!

Manatee ELC earns two grants to support a second STEAM machine.

The [Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County](#) got back-to-back good news in late November and early December. The coalition picked up two grants--\$20,000 from the Bradenton Kiwanis Foundation and \$5,000 from the PNC Foundation--for a second STEAM Machine mobile classroom. The classroom is part of a successful STEAM Machine early learning program.



The STEAM machine is available to all VPK classrooms in Manatee County. During the 2017/18 school year, it visited 58 classrooms serving 826 4-year-olds. The program expects to visit 60 classrooms in 2018/19. STEAM curriculum focuses on science, technology, engineering, the arts and math.

The Manatee County School District donated a school bus to the ELC for the mobile classroom. Students at Manatee Technical College will transform the bus using building materials and an exterior wrap funded by the grants. When students participate in activities that combine different elements of STEAM, they develop problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, planning and observation skills under the umbrella of the creative process.

Destination Kindergarten is big success for coalition

Orange County ELC raises more than \$133 K for early learning

The [ELC of Orange County](#) held this year's Destination Kindergarten event on Tuesday, Nov. 13. It was quite a success raising nearly \$134 thousand with their state match. The goal? To help serve children ages birth-to-5 in Orange County. In a heartfelt thanks to supporters, the coalition wrote, "We are extremely grateful that you believe in the work we do to ensure that children in Orange County enter kindergarten 'Ready to Learn.' Thank you to all of our early learning advocates."



ELC ED moving to new role

Will continue to work for children's issues

The [ELC of Brevard County](#)'s executive director Sky Beard is leaving the coalition after 12 years to take a new position. Her last day will be Friday, Jan. 4. She will continue to work with children, in this case, anti-hunger campaigns related to children.



A full article is available on [Florida Today's website](#).

LAUNCHING A CHILD'S FUTURE

Hillsborough ELC adds six board members

The [ELC of Hillsborough County](#) recently announced the addition of six new members to its board of directors. New members included Daisy Cintron, director of St. Timothy Catholic Early Childhood Learning Center; Lise Fox, PhD, professor and co-director of the USF Center for Inclusive Communities at the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences; Leslene Gordon, PhD, community health director, Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County; Stephanie Holmquist Johnson, PhD, president of Holmquist Educational Consultants; April May, regional community development director, Florida Department of Children and Families; and Candy Olson, former member of the Hillsborough County school board. Newly reappointed board chair, Aakash Patel, welcomed the new board members.



Duval coalition thanks staff with sweets

Grateful employee says "Thanks."

"Employee engagement at the [ELC of Duval](#) is awesome," says one grateful employee. "Today, our bosses Angel Carro, chief operating officer, and Johnna Daniels, chief program officer, treated all of the staff to ice cream. They arranged for an ice cream truck to come to the ELC and then provided everyone a ticket for one free treat."

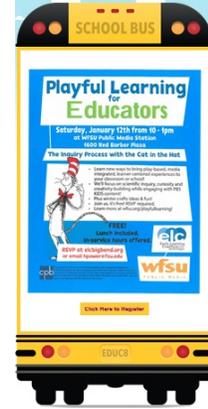


Coalition invites providers to come play!

Big Bend Region emphasizes play as a way to teach young kids.

In conjunction with WFSU, the [ELC of the Big Bend](#) Region is having a provider workshop on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10 am to 1 pm. Attendees will learn how to use play to teach early learners. There will be winter craft ideas, courtesy of PBS Kids. The event is free and includes lunch. Participants can earn in-service hours.

The only requirement is to make a reservation. Those who want to come can RSVP at elcbigbend.org or email hpowers@fsu.edu or [click this link](#).



Contact: Communications, Office of Early Learning
250 Marriott Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32399
866-357-3239

