



Celebrate VPK's 10th Birthday with a VPK Parfait



VPK Parfait contests are a great way to celebrate

As part of the month-long celebration of VPK's 10th birthday, the Office of Early Learning encourages ELCs and VPK programs to participate in our VPK Birthday contests. Participants interested in taking part in the [Taste Testing contest](#) must express their interest by Tuesday, Feb. 9, to Koral.Griggs@oel.myflorida.com. Participants must arrive at the ELC of the Big Bend Region in Tallahassee on Friday, Feb. 12, 10:15 a.m. While the parfait must be classroom-created, teachers may choose to recreate the parfait during the taste testing contest using the same recipe. Make sure to check out [Florida's Office Early Learning Pinterest](#) for inspiration. Entrants in the [Parfait Presentation Photo contest](#) must submit a photo of a class-created parfait along with photo releases for any students present in the photo by Wednesday, Feb. 10, to Koral.Griggs@oel.myflorida.com.

VPK Birthday Kickoff Proves Successful

Florida leaders celebrated 10 years of VPK on the Capitol steps

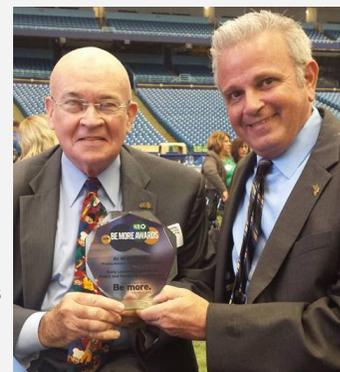


Florida's VPK Birthday celebration kicked off Tuesday, Jan. 26 on the steps of Florida's Capitol during Children's Day. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and participated in singing Happy Birthday in appreciation of 10 successful years of VPK in Florida. Check out this video of Lieutenant Governor Lopez-Cantera [singing Happy Birthday, VPK](#) with children before blowing out the candles on our cake.

ELC Wins "Be More" Award

The ELC of Pasco Hernando celebrates a win from the "Be More Awards"

The [ELC of Pasco Hernando](#) was a finalist in three categories for the 2016 WEDU "Be More Awards," including "Be More Humble," "Be More Entertaining" and "Be More Unstoppable." The coalition was recognized with fellow nonprofit organizations in the Tampa Bay area at the awards luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016, in St. Petersburg. During the event, the ELC was announced as the winner of the Warren Averett People's Choice Award for "Be More Humble," exhibiting the connection and relationship the organization shares with the community and its



people.

Orange County ELC Receives Significant Grant

The Orlando Magic Youth Fund looks to impact local community

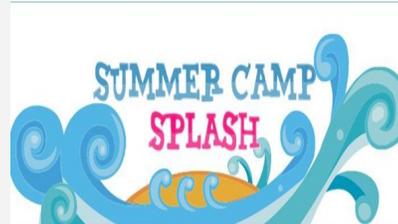
The **ELC of Orange County** is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from the Orlando Magic Youth Fund. Eligible for match contributions of \$15.67 per each dollar, the grant will provide more than \$780,000 for training to assist with moving children off wait lists and creating affordable early learning services. Grants like these continue to move early learning forward in Orange County and statewide.



ELC Looks Forward to Summer Camp Splash Event

The Big Bend Region is making it easy to select a summer camp

As Florida residents anticipate the return of spring and summer, the **ELC of the Big Bend Region** is preparing for their 6th Annual Summer Camp Splash in advance. The event kicks off on Saturday, Mar. 5, 2016, from 10 to 2 p.m. and will showcase more than 50 local summer camps. The ELC will host food trucks, face painting, an outdoor sandpit and a bounce house at the event, while also offering the opportunity to win a free week of summer camp.



ELC Sets Community Agenda

Breakfast event prompts early learning discussion in Orange County

The **ELC of Orange County** set the community agenda at a "Destination Kindergarten" breakfast event on Jan. 27, 2016, ensuring that accessibility to its programs is a priority. Guests responded by making donations to the ELC, which will assist in launching their annual giving society. This society helps support programs and initiatives that aid young children and set them up for future success.



Lake County ELC to Host Uniting for Children Conference

Conference will be centered around empowering educators and parents

Registration is now open for the **ELC of Lake County's** 2016 Uniting for Children Conference on Saturday, Apr. 2, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event's theme, "The Power of You," focuses on empowering local early childhood educators and parents. [Register](#) by Friday, Mar. 18, 2016, for a chance to attend this early learning event.



Miami-Dade/Monroe Celebrates Black

History Month with ELC Café

Learn how architecture is used to challenge the status quo and unite a community

On Friday, Feb. 11, 2016, the **ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe** is hosting a *Hallowed Ground ELC Café* to honor Black History Month. Award-winning architect and Designer-in-Residence, Germane Barnes, will host the event and speak on refining spaces through community involvement.



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

