

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

SPECTRUM SPOTLIGHT



ISSUE 01 • OCT 2026

Two schools, one mission, a new campus opens



the new Treasure Coast campus

SPECTRUM SPOTLIGHT



Palm Beach School for Autism · Treasure Coast School for Autism

ISSUE 01 · OCT 2026

FEATURE STORY

Treasure Coast Opens Its Doors

Treasure Coast School for Autism **opened in August 2026**, welcoming its first students and families to a brand-new campus in Port St. Lucie. Built on the model of Palm Beach School for Autism, it is designed around how our students learn.



IN THE CLASSROOM

What's Happening Across Our Schools

Small student-to-staff ratios let teachers focus on each student's IEP goals while **building academic, communication, social, behavioral, and independent living skills.**



DATES & DETAILS

Mark Your Calendar

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: **Tuesday, October 13 at 11:00 a.m.**
Remarks from state and district leaders, then food trucks, a bounce house, and campus tours.



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CAMPUS NEWS · TCSFA

Treasure Coast School for Autism opens its doors

The opening of Treasure Coast School for Autism marks an exciting new chapter for students with autism and their families throughout the Treasure Coast community. Its first students arrived in August 2026.

FROM NEW VIEWS

Same mission. Same vision.

Built on the successful model of Palm Beach School for Autism, the new nonprofit charter school welcomed its first group of students and families to a brand-new campus in Port St. Lucie.

A SPECIALIZED ENVIRONMENT

The school was created for students with autism, with an educational environment designed around their unique learning, communication, behavioral, and social needs.

WHAT STUDENTS BUILD

Individualized, evidence-based instruction and small student-to-staff ratios keep the focus on each student's IEP goals.

A COMMUNITY EFFORT

St. Lucie Public Schools, foundations, grant partners, businesses, donors, and families provided furniture, technology, curriculum, and training.

RIBBON CUTTING

October 13

To learn more, visit
the TCSFA website



01 Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., led by the St. Lucie County Chamber

02 Remarks from Florida State Senator Gayle Harrell; Dr. Jon Prince, Superintendent of St. Lucie Public Schools; Randee Gabriel, Governing Board President of PBSFA and TCSFA; and Ann Eisenberg, Regional Executive Director

03 Food trucks, a bounce house, and time to enjoy the new campus



CAFÉ NEXT AT PBSFA

Confidence Is On the Menu

In Café Next, students build independence through real kitchen routines, teamwork, and service.

FROM THE KITCHEN

Learning by Doing

Jaden, Graycie, and Alex prepared deviled eggs for staff. Samantha took on drinks, lunch prep, and a made-to-order smoothie.



SKILLS IN ACTION

This Quarter

- 01 Following recipes and food-safety routines
- 02 Preparing drinks, eggs, and lunch orders
- 03 Serving staff and building workplace confidence



CAFÉ NEXT AT PBSFA

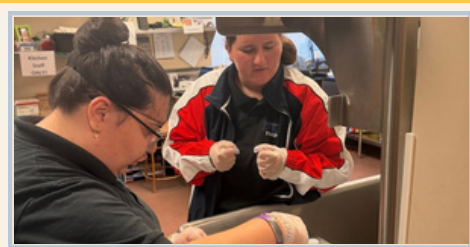
Kenny and Daniel

Kenny and Daniel worked together in the kitchen making a delicious smoothie for a customer.

FROM THE KITCHEN

Graycie and Alex

Graycie and Alex teamed up to prep supplies for the upstairs class, measuring and portioning into containers. They also cut aluminum for customer trays on their own and filled water containers for the afternoon.



MORE CAFÉ NEXT WINS AT PBSFA



Mohammad prepared a smoothie for a customer, following step-by-step directions and doing it all independently.



Kenny washed and cut vegetables into small pieces and prepped for the day's service.

RECOGNITION & MILESTONES

Celebrating our people

Anniversaries, certifications, and the small wins that keep this family running.

MILESTONES THIS QUARTER

New PBSFA Assistant Principal: Ms. Jenny Glassberg

New PBSFA IT Director: Mr. Trent Patterson

Testing complete: Fall FAST PM1, both divisions (PBSFA)

A new baby girl: congrats, Chef Jeaniel (PBSFA)!

PEER SHOUTOUTS

- ★ **To Ms. Leigh (TCSFA)**, for creating real structure in her KG class while making sure every student's individual needs are met.
- ★ **To Chef Jeaniel (PBSFA)** for always working hard and being willing to help with anything. (From Chef Vraanica)
- ★ **To our teachers and teaching assistants** for getting all our students through the first round of testing. You are ROCK STARS! (From Debra Rosenfeld, PBSFA)

WANT TO SHOUT SOMEONE OUT?

Submissions are open until Issue No. 2. Add a name and a sentence to the staff form (see the back page or use the QR code) and we will feature it here. No good deed goes unmentioned.



PROGRAM FEATURE • PROJECT NEXT • PBSFA

Preparing Students for Life Beyond the Classroom

Project Next is Palm Beach School for Autism's **transition program for students preparing for adult life after high school**. The program combines classroom instruction with hands-on vocational training, community experiences, and daily life skills opportunities to practice greater independence.

Students participate in several community job sites, including partnerships with Duffy's and Outback Steakhouse locations, as well as vocational training through Café NEXT. At restaurant job sites, students practice following workplace directions, completing tasks in the correct sequence, maintaining clean and organized work areas, using materials safely, working alongside employees, and remaining focused until an assignment is finished. Students also learn the importance of arriving prepared, accepting feedback, asking for assistance, and representing themselves professionally. Our more supported programming prepares students with essential life skills training.

Café NEXT gives students another opportunity to experience the routines and responsibilities of a working business. Students may assist with food preparation, sanitation, organizing supplies, fulfilling orders, customer service, and communicating with coworkers. These responsibilities help students understand that every role contributes to the success of a workplace.

The skills taught at Project Next extend beyond employment. Students work on following schedules, making choices, communicating their needs, managing purchases, navigating public settings, solving everyday problems, following safety expectations, and interacting appropriately with others. They also practice flexibility, self-advocacy, teamwork, and completing responsibilities with less adult assistance.

Our staff provide individualized instruction and support based on each student's needs. As students become more successful, assistance is gradually reduced so they can complete tasks with greater confidence and independence.

Project Next is about more than learning how to perform a job. It is about helping students discover their strengths, understand the value of meaningful work, and develop skills that support fuller participation at home, at work, and in the community.

Throughout the school year, we look forward to sharing more about our students' experiences, progress, and accomplishments. We are grateful to our families, staff, donors, businesses, and community partners whose support makes these opportunities possible.

Patrick Pierre, Jr., M.Ed., MS, BCBA, Director of Project Next

PRINCIPAL UPDATE · MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL · PBSFA

A Strong Start

We are delighted to welcome **Ms. Jenny Glassberg as our new Assistant Principal**. Jenny has been a wonderful addition to our program and has immersed herself in the day-to-day work of the school. She has spent time in classrooms getting to know our students and supporting our staff. She is also working closely with families to improve student attendance and help students make the most of each school day. We are grateful for the energy and care she brings to our middle and high school community.

It is hard to believe we are fast approaching the end of the first quarter on October 9! Our middle and high school students have made a terrific start to the year. They have settled into classroom routines, built connections with staff and peers, and are moving through instruction at a strong pace. **Both divisions have completed the Fall Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) PM1 testing**, an accomplishment made possible by the hard work of our students and staff. We are proud of all they have done in these first weeks of school.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Our high school students are gaining valuable work experience on and off campus with the guidance of our job coaches. At school, they help with attendance, lunch forms, clean living, and recycling. In the community, students are building job skills through experiences at Publix, Palm Beach Food Bank, Walgreens, Barnes & Noble, PDQ, The Soup Kitchen, and Keke's. It is exciting to see them practice responsibility, teamwork, and independence in real-world settings.

Community-Based Instruction (CBI) trips have begun in both middle and high school. One highlight was a [Day of Giving at a local food bank](#), where high school students learned about compassion, helping those in need, and communication, all while earning community service hours. Their efforts even made the news ([see news coverage](#))! More service-focused CBIs are on the horizon: PBSFA has teamed up with Meals on Wheels and Duffy's for a holiday pie-making project. We look forward to seeing our students continue to learn, contribute, and connect with their community.

Thank you to our families and staff for helping us begin the year with such positive momentum! I am looking forward to sharing our accomplishments with all of you throughout the year.

Jonathan Coyle, Middle and High School Principal

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE • PBSFA

The pain of accepting my nest may never be empty

My youngest daughter turned 18 a few months ago. Her sisters, ten and six years older, had flown the nest years before and were making their way in the world. I watched as she blew out her candles on her super Mario cake and thought what's next?

As a parent of a special needs child, acceptance has come in waves. There is the diagnosis. Acceptance was not immediate. Maybe we just do too much for her, we are always holding her, her sisters talk for her.

So I accepted the diagnosis but secretly in the dark I thought, she will grow out of this, by the time she gets to kindergarten this will all be in the past. It wasn't.

WHAT IS THE WORD FOR THAT?

Last May I watched her peers from her elementary school go to prom, announce college acceptances and get ready to fly their nest and that's when I started contemplating my nest. It's not empty but it's also not full. As parents our goal is to raise these magical little creatures who will eventually grow up and separate from us to make their own way in the world, but what if your nest never empties. What is the word for that?

That's what I think about now in the dark. What's next. What's next for her, for me, for us as a family. Will she be a burden to her sisters? That's not fair to them, but the truth is, it's never been fair to them. In fact they may have escaped the nest more than flown it, because being a sibling to a special needs child is hard and their acceptance was expected. And acceptance is hard.

There is joy in knowing my nest will never be completely empty but I'd be lying if I didn't admit there is also pain. It's that pain that keeps me up at night in the dark. It is a pain every special needs parent knows but one, for some reason, we don't talk about. Maybe we are too overwhelmed with the everyday care required for our now adult kids, or maybe it's because if we say it out loud then we have to accept it and, as you know, acceptance is the hardest part.

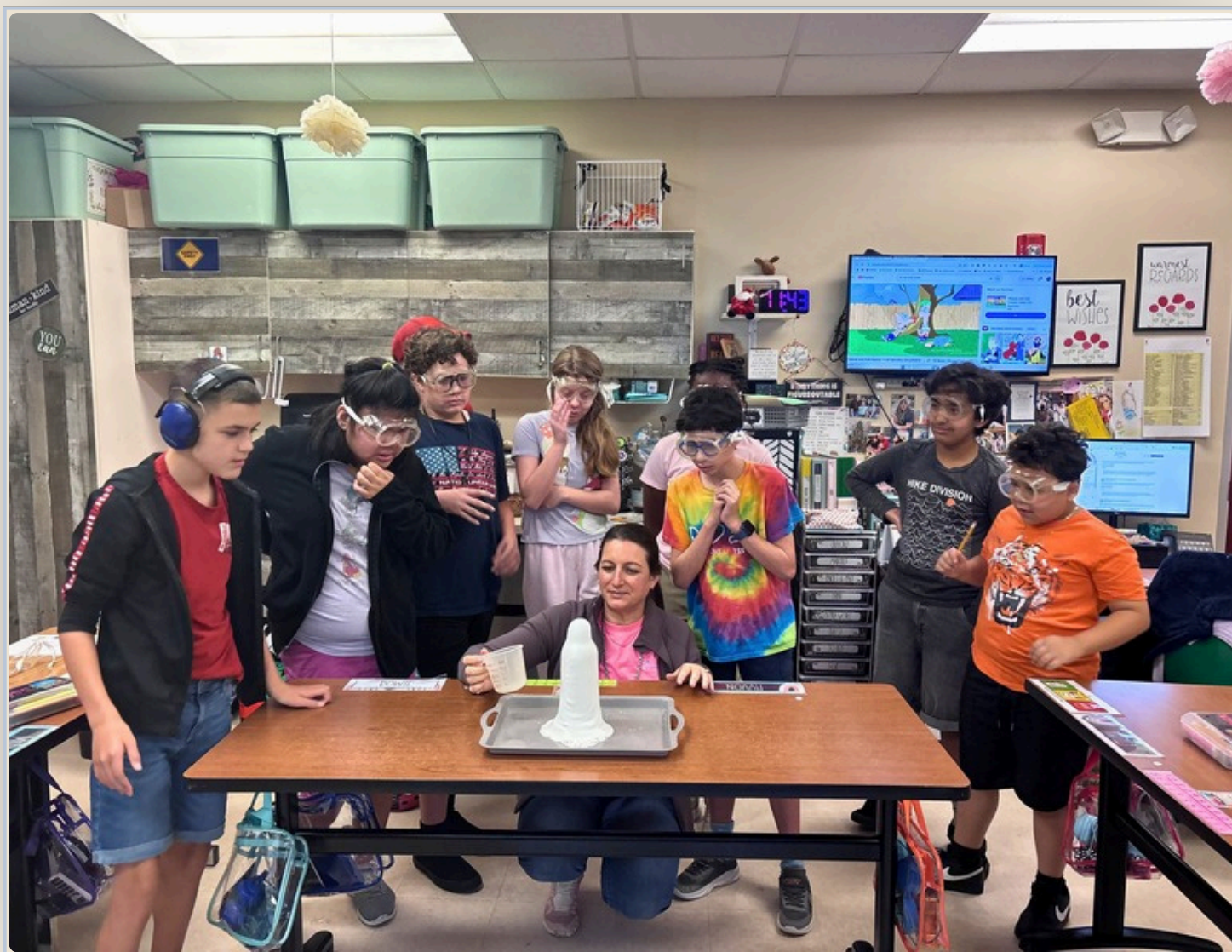
— Darby Volguardson



CLASSROOM FEATURE • MIDDLE SCHOOL • PBSFA

First, Safety. NEXT, Fun Science Experiment.

We did the "elephant toothpaste" science experiment this week in speech/language therapy. We targeted sequencing, descriptive vocabulary, predicting, following multi-step directions, and answering WH questions.



Jessica Faga, Speech-Language Pathologist, Palm Beach School for Autism

COMMUNITY SERVICE • HIGH SCHOOL • PBSFA

Packing Meals, Building Community

On September 15th, our high school students joined the Palm Beach County Food Bank's 3rd Annual Pack to Give Back event at the Kravis Center. Alongside more than 1,000 volunteers, they helped package 308,000 meals for neighbors across the county and earned community service hours along the way.



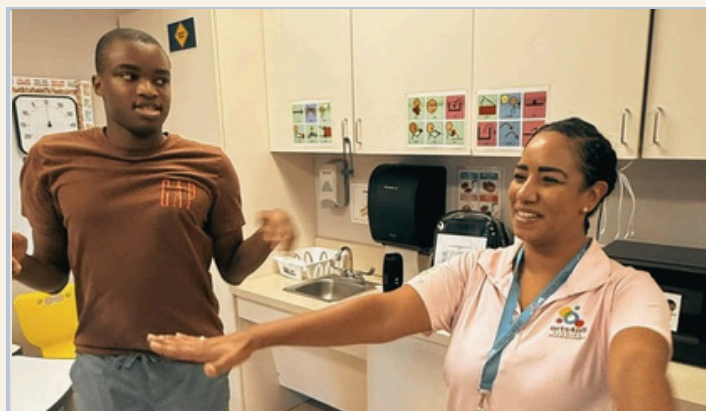
Students worked as a team from start to finish, sorting and packing alongside volunteers of every age and background. Their effort was featured in [local news coverage](#) and on the Food Bank's own social media page, a proud moment for the whole group.

Sarah Emmett, Job Coach, Palm Beach School for Autism

ENRICHMENT • ARTS FOR ALL • PBSFA

Dancing and Making Music Together

Our High School and Project Next students had a wonderful time this month participating in music and movement with Arts for All. Students danced, listened to music, and expressed themselves through movement, building confidence and connection in a setting built entirely around joy.



Sessions like these bring rhythm, creativity, and self-expression into the school week in a way that meets every student where they are. The group looks forward to Arts for All returning to campus each month.

Sarah Emmett, Job Coach, Palm Beach School for Autism

CAMPUS LIFE • MONTHLY VISIT • PBSFA

Our Favorite Monthly Visitors

Our students love their monthly therapy dog visits, and it shows. Each visit brings smiles across campus as students take turns saying hello, offering pets, and enjoying a calm, joyful break in the day.



A special thank you to Certified Therapy Dog, Inc. for visiting our school every month and making this tradition something students genuinely look forward to.

Sarah Emmett, Job Coach, Palm Beach School for Autism

PROGRAM FEATURE • MEDIA PROGRAM • PBSFA

Lights, camera, confidence: the Media Program

A new enrichment program built around what our students do best: trying, doing, and showing up for each other.

This year, Project Next students step behind and in front of the camera in the school's new **World of Media Production Enrichment Program**. It is not a traditional production class. It is short, hands-on activities that build **communication, teamwork, and independence**, with students exploring real roles like presenter, interviewer, camera operator, and editor.

The goal in year one is comfort and confidence, not polish. Students record, play it back, give each other kind feedback, and slowly build toward creating short pieces of their own. Every student can take part in the way that fits them best.



ROLES

Something for everyone

On camera, behind it, planning, or editing. Students choose and grow into new roles over time.

RHYTHM

Predictable by design

Welcome, short demo, hands-on activity, playback, feedback, wrap-up. Same shape every session.

PARTNER

Guided by a pro

Emmy Award winner Bill Margol of Rabbit Run Media is advising the program's design.



WHY IT MATTERS

Media gives our students a way to be seen and heard on their own terms. The skills they build here, speaking up, working as a team, following a plan, reach far beyond the classroom.

DID YOU KNOW • RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Two quick things worth knowing

DID YOU KNOW?

- Palm Beach School for Autism started with a single classroom and a simple belief: potential has no label.
- Today it serves students across two campuses and multiple programs, from early learners to young adults in Project Next.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

The AFIRM Modules (afirm.fpg.unc.edu)

Free, self-paced training on evidence-based practices for supporting students on the spectrum. Great for new staff and a solid refresher for everyone else. Roughly 1 to 2 hours per module.



MISSION & IMPACT

Why we do this

The page you can share with a family or a sponsor and feel proud of.

2

campuses serving our community

Pre-K–22

early learners to young adults

1

belief: potential has no label

**FROM THE CAFÉ**

"Kenny is an exceptional worker, always willing to work. He never complains, always willing to help his coworkers."

Chef Vraanica, Café supervisor

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Every program on these pages is possible because of the donors, sponsors, and community partners who believe in our students. A special thank you this issue to the families and friends who supported our events last year. Your generosity shows up in real classrooms, every single day.





SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Every Gift Builds Possibility

Classrooms, technology, training, and student programs grow because people choose to invest in our students. These pages celebrate the foundations, families, businesses, and community partners who made that work possible.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Generosity in Action

Three pages of gratitude, grouped by campus and impact.

Click the boxes below for quick access:

[OUR
SUPPORTERS](#)[COMMUNITY
PARTNERS](#)[TREASURE COAST
SUPPORTERS](#)

WAYS TO GIVE

Give Today

[Click here to visit our
Support page](#)

01 Annual Fund: everyday support for programs, materials, and staff

02 Corporate Sponsorship: partner with us all year long

03 Planned Giving: leave a lasting legacy for future students

OUR SUPPORTERS · PBSFA

What Your Support Made Possible

[Click here to visit our Support page](#)

Palm Beach School for Autism: a year of generosity translated into classrooms, tools, programs, and opportunity.

ANONYMOUS FOUNDATION: Purchased new classroom furniture for our elementary students and two high school classrooms, creating updated and welcoming learning environments.

HENRY NIAS FOUNDATION: Purchased technology to enhance student learning and supported staff capacity building and professional development, including opportunities for staff to attend conferences throughout the state of Florida.

HYMAN FAMILY: Purchased updated technology to enhance student learning and provide students with access to important educational tools.

DESANTIS FOUNDATION: Provided funding for our Project Next Program, allowing students to continue participating in the Recipe for Success Program, where they learn valuable culinary skills and have the opportunity to earn their ServSafe Certification. Funding also allowed us to create a mobile teaching kitchen for students who benefit from small-group instruction in cooking and kitchen safety. In addition, we purchased the Big Interview software program, which helps students preparing for employment practice interviewing and develop important job-readiness skills.

WYCLIFFE COUNTRY CLUB FOUNDATION: Provided funding to identify and train staff to establish and facilitate Sibshops beginning in late fall. The Foundation has also generously supported our Recipe for Success Program and the purchase of much-needed student technology in previous years.

B COLLIN STRONG FOUNDATION: Provides ongoing funding for the B Collin Strong Technology Program, established at the school in 2019. This program supports the purchase of classroom technology as well as individualized technology to meet specific student needs.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS: Provides funding for classroom materials and supplies, helping our teachers access the resources they need to support student learning.

MIDLER FAMILY DANCE AND MOVEMENT PROGRAM: Generously supports a weekly dance and movement program for some of our upper school students, providing opportunities for movement, creativity, and engagement.

PALM BEACH SCHOOL FOR AUTISM FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Generously donated funds to provide our dedicated staff with a heartfelt Staff Appreciation Week. Our families and community members also supported our annual holiday drive by providing gift cards for school families experiencing financial hardship during the holiday season.

BRYAN BRICKER, BUILT BY BRICKER: Raised funds to help purchase iPads for students who rely on technology to support communication and learning.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER EVENT 2025-2026: Raised much-needed funds through the generosity of donors, families, and community members. These funds helped us purchase and upgrade technology, expand student programming, provide additional support for our career placement program, offset the cost of community-based instruction, and purchase essential classroom materials and supplies.

ELKS LODGE, WEST PALM BEACH: Donated Chromebooks to provide students with additional technology to support learning.

CHRIS THOMAS, BINGO MAGIC OF LAKE WORTH: Raised funds through the generosity of Bingo Magic patrons to support our annual holiday gift card drive for families experiencing financial hardship.

MOON BAY NEIGHBORHOOD: Held a community fundraiser to raise funds for much-needed classroom materials and supplies.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS · PBSFA

Standing With Our Students

[Click here to visit our Support page](#)

Palm Beach School for Autism, continued, and the sponsors who stood behind our students this year.

ST. CATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH: Hosts an annual tea fundraiser to support the purchase of classroom materials and supplies for our students and teachers.

EVELYN & ARTHUR CLOTHING STORE: Supports our students by promoting an annual school supply drive and collecting much-needed supplies for the school year.

SPIRIT OF GIVING: Supports our students through an annual school supply drive, helping ensure students and classrooms have the supplies they need. This organization also provides holiday toys for every one of our students.

UNITEDHEALTHCARE FOUNDATION: Donated funds to support our annual holiday gift card drive, helping families experiencing financial hardship during the holiday season.

EDS AIR CONDITIONING AND PLUMBING: Generously donated funds to support Staff Appreciation Week and recognize the dedication and hard work of our school staff.

SEHGAL FAMILY: Generously provided funding for Staff Appreciation Week, helping us celebrate and recognize our dedicated staff.

WITH THANKS TO OUR LAST YEAR'S SPONSORS:

- Paul Burrell
- Matt O'Connor
- SERVPRO
- TD Bank
- Duffy's Foundation
- Leslie Carlet
- Building Hope
- USI
- Stephanie Midler – MGR Wealth Management
- Jenn & Michael Betesh
- Gale & Michael Pascal
- Wines by Sophie Crawford
- Henry Nias
- Love, Tito's
- Butterfly Effects



Thank you!

TREASURE COAST SUPPORTERS

A New School, Built Together

To learn more, visit
the TCSFA website



The grants, clubs, and community partners who helped **Treasure Coast School for Autism** open its doors.

CSP STATE GRANT: Provided critical start-up funding for the new school, including classroom furniture, student and staff technology, curriculum, and other essential resources needed to successfully open the campus.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA REPLICATION GRANT: Will provide funding for student and classroom technology, security equipment, clinic supplies, fencing, and other essential resources to support a safe and effective learning environment.

NEWSCHOOLS VENTURE FUND: Provided start-up funding to support professional training, workshops, staff development, and other critical needs associated with launching a new school and building a strong, sustainable program.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: Generously donated funds to purchase much-needed materials and supplies for our students and classrooms.

FLORIDA BLUE FOUNDATION: Provided funding to purchase playground equipment and indoor play equipment, creating additional opportunities for recreation, movement, social interaction, and student engagement.

THE LEGACY GOLF AND TENNIS CLUB: Hosted one of our original fundraising events in support of Treasure Coast School for Autism and continued its commitment with an additional fundraiser in January 2026.

FRIENDS OF THE LEGACY: Individual members of The Legacy have generously provided donations and ongoing support for school programs, student needs, and other important initiatives.

THE WATCH AFICIONADO: Supported Treasure Coast School for Autism by sponsoring Autism Awareness initiatives and a School Supply Drive benefiting our students and classrooms.

UNIQUELY AUTISM: A neurodiverse support organization partnering with Treasure Coast School for Autism on a Spring 5K, with our school designated as the fundraising beneficiary.



WHAT'S AHEAD · QUARTERLY CALENDAR

What's ahead this school year

[More calendar events
on our website](#)

Spectrum Spotlight comes out once a quarter, so here is what is coming this school year.

Oct 9

End of Q1

Jan 18Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no
school**Oct 13**Ribbon cutting at TCSFA**Mar 6**Keys to Opportunity: A
Fundraising Event**Nov 11**

Veterans Day, no school

Mar 10

Spring holiday, no school

Nov 23-27

Thanksgiving break

Mar 22-26

Spring break

**Dec 21-
Jan 1**

Winter break

[Printable District Calendar](#)[School District Calendar
– Website](#)

GET INVOLVED · BACK PAGE

This newsletter is ours. Help fill it.

The best content comes from you. Here is how to get in.

SUBMIT

Share a win

An accomplishment, a goal, a good thing that happened to you or your students. Two minutes.

SHOUT OUT

Recognize a peer

Name a coworker who deserves a thank-you and we will feature it.

PITCH

Suggest a story

See something worth spotlighting? Tell us. Photos welcome, with permission.

Submit to the next issue

Takes about two minutes. Open all quarter, closes the week before each issue ships.

[Open the staff submission form →](#)

Questions, ideas, or content go to Logan Rogers, Marketing & Communications · loganr@pbsfa.org

