



# IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!

*What the new year brings to you depends on what you bring to the new year.*

Newsletter for the Clearview Adult Education Center Students

January 2022

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## 2021-22 Pinellas County Schools Calendar

Monday, January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Schools Closed
Monday, February 21	Non-Student Day – No Classes
Monday, March 14 – Friday, March 18	Spring Holidays – Schools Closed
Monday, March 21	Non-Student Day – No Classes
Tuesday, March 22	Schools Open – Classes Resume
Friday, April 15	Non-Student Day – No Classes
Friday, May 27	Non-Student Day – No Classes
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day Holiday – Schools Closed



### December GED Student of the Week

Collin has been an incredibly dedicated and loyal Salvation Army GED student. Due to his refusal to give up or give in, Collin has passed two sections of the GED test and is well on his way to passing the other two. Collin lights up the room when he enters and is an absolute pleasure to work with. In fact, we might have to sabotage his progress for fear we may miss him too much when he graduates. Thanks Collin for enlightening us with your amusing stories! by CVEAC Salvation Army ABE/GED Teachers, Ms. Amy Jo and Ms. Terry.

### December ESOL Student of the Week

Her name is Elza Saenz, a true fighter and a woman to be highly admired. She never gives up. She handles all obstacles with a smile, always looking to see whom she can help, always entering the room with an abundance of energy that lightens everything up. She's has the biggest heart, constantly praying and asking to pray for others in need since she became very active in her Portuguese church. Elza grew up in poverty in Brazil with eight siblings and very little knowledge of her own language since she had to help provide for the family. She then married a Columbian man. She had to learn to communicate in Spanish then in English living in America. With four children to raise and speaking three languages, she has not given up. She tries very hard in class and studies at home when she has a chance. She has not given up in attaining her goal to read, speak and write in English. I am proud to say I am her teacher. by CVAEC Madeira Beach ESOL Teacher, Ms. Mildred.



## December Adult High School Student of the Week



We are so incredibly proud of Obed for all his hard work and perseverance to make his dream of obtaining his high school diploma a reality. Obed started at Clearview about a year ago. He had several APEX courses to complete, a couple of EOCs to pass, and one daunting ACT Reading Test to conquer. We know at times Obed felt like it would take him forever to “cross the finish line” as he was working with his father in Miami and often out of town for several days at a time, but we constantly encouraged him to stay focused and come to class whenever he found the time. Obed did just that. Slowly, but surely, he chipped away at his list of courses he needed to complete and once he was nearly finished with APEX, he began prepping for the ACT. It was just this past semester that Obed seemed to develop a drive and determination to earn his diploma; he even made a pact with me and Ms. Jet that he wouldn't go to work in Miami until we felt he was ready for the ACT in October.

He was coming in 2-3 times a week to take and review practice tests, and to finish up the last course for APEX. It was just one week before the ACT, and while he was passing his ACT practice test with flying colors, we asked Obed to promise us that the final week he would stay in town and stay focused on his studies. He agreed and his dedication to everything we asked him to do paid off. Obed finished his last APEX course, completed his two required EOCs, and dominated the ACT by earning a reading score of 22 (19 was needed to pass). Congratulations, Obed! by CVAEC AHS Teachers, Ms. Abby and Ms. Jet.

## December Graduate of the Week

Shelley B. is the epitome of persistence. She began ABE/GED classes with Ms. Stephanie in 2019 after being out of school for about 35 years. Many years ago, she turned down the wrong path and struggled with addiction. She was strong enough to fight it and come out above. Shelley has even spoken to a few other students about that struggle and how her life has changed. She raised her sons and helps her husband with his business. When she first enrolled, she said it was her turn to get a diploma. Shelley could not attend class every day due to work and family medical issues, but on the days she could not attend, she studied online and with books from home. She is proof that if you work hard, dreams can come true! Shelley graduated on December 2, 2021 and is now in the process of working with Branka to find the perfect program at Pinellas Technical College. By CVAEC ABE/GED Teacher, Ms. Stephanie.



Ana Lacarra was one of our first teachers at Clearview Adult Education Center. She was a part-time ESOL teacher. She was wonderful and loved her job. She then got a full-time job in K-12. After she worked for a few years, she returned to her home in Spain. She sent us some pictures of where she volunteers with refugees. She said this may be an idea for the artists at Clearview Adult Education Center; building some history. It's been 5 years since we opened this wonderful school working with adult students. Everyone that has been a part of our school will always have a place in our hearts. Merry Christmas to you Ana.







ESOL student, Nilton Souza, a Brazilian dentist and dental surgeon, gave an important presentation on oral health to his fellow ESOL students. He was assisted in this presentation by his wife Amanda who is also an ESOL student here at CVAEC. Nilton provided tips and



techniques for proper brushing and flossing, and he thoroughly explained the importance of good dental care. He showed a video demonstrating the damage to teeth and gums that can be caused by neglecting oral health. Nilton's presentation included information about the biology and bacteria of the mouth. Students Vicky Sosa from Mexico and Jana Bednarcikova from Slovakia had the rare opportunity to serve in the roles of "Bacteria 1" and "Bacteria 2" as Nilton dramatized how the different kinds of bacteria in the mouth work together to cause serious problems. Nilton answered many questions at the end of his presentation. Surely everyone in the room left thinking, "I am going to brush my teeth more often!" And don't forget, floss before you brush, not the other way around. by CVAEC ESOL Teacher, Mr. James



Each year our ESOL team gets together to plan the annual ESOL Holiday Get Together. The ESOL students bring in food from their country and tell about it at the party. They are so proud to share their dish and to tell about its ingredients. They also love to try other student's dishes from around the world. After the meal, the teachers introduce the students to the "White Elephant Game"; is a popular Christmas event where people vie to walk away with the best present. The real fun of the game is the exchange process. Each player brings one wrapped gift to contribute to the common pool. If someone does not bring a gift, there are always extras, so no one is left out. Players draw numbers to determine what order they will go in. Players sit where they can see the gift pile. The first player selects a gift from the pool and opens it. The following players can either choose to pick an unwrapped gift from the pool or steal a previous player's gift. Anyone who gets their gift stolen can then do the same. After all players have had a turn, the first player gets the last chance to swap the gift. Teaching the ESOL students to steal a gift is the challenging part. Usually the teacher must make the first steal and then the "stealing" begins. Many laughs are had, and the students leave with a sense of community. They all say, "This was so much fun. We love our school and teachers". They end the year with a smile and are anxious to return for the New Year! We look forward to another year working with our wonderful students.





