

HIGHER EDUCATION

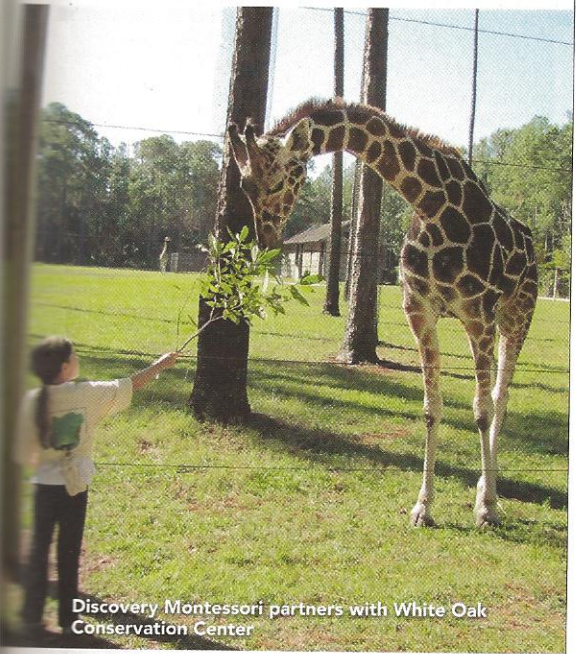
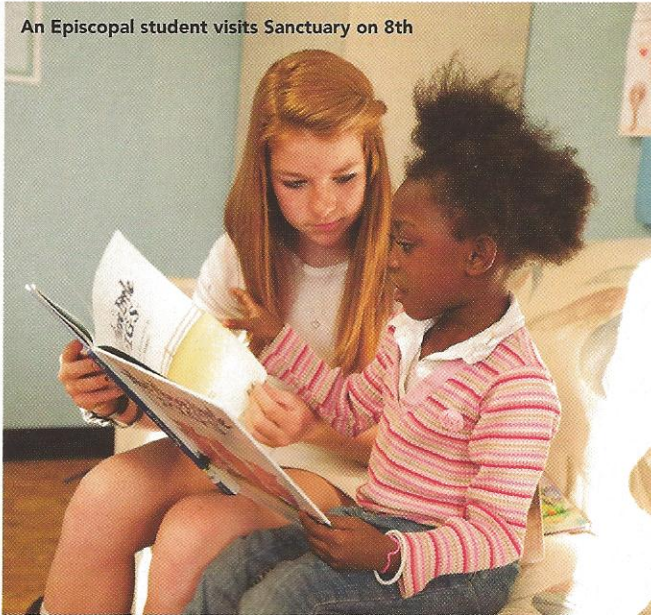
Many First Coast private schools provide an education in philanthropy

BY ANNA RABHAN

Many parents of today's students may remember a "service-learning hours" graduation requirement. Such community service initiatives provide students the opportunity to learn and develop by meeting a community need, and research confirms their efficacy. Luanna G. Nissan of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University writes in *The Growth of Youth Philanthropy in the United States*, "Students who participate in service learning are more likely to display concern for their communities, become volunteers as adults, perform better academically, and exhibit stronger critical-thinking and writing skills." While the approaches they take differ, area private and parochial schools have a strong tradition of teaching philanthropy through service, and both Jacksonville and its students reap the benefits.

Discovery Montessori, a primary school in Jacksonville Beach, combines direct learning about philanthropic concepts and an experiential approach. Students are applying what

An Episcopal student visits Sanctuary on 8th



Discovery Montessori partners with White Oak Conservation Center

they've learned about philanthropy to a partnership with White Oak Conservation Center in Yulee. For three years, teacher Nita Hurley has coordinated the students' work with the Rain Forest Alliance, which led to DM's adoption of the okapi, an endangered species. Students learned about the okapi, raised funds for the Okapi Conservation Project (a White Oak partner) by selling Rain Forest Alliance-certified organic chocolate and, in November 2011, visited White Oak to see the animals firsthand.

"Once you activate children in making a difference, they really rise to the occasion," says Hurley. "When we went to White Oak, Steve Shurter, the director, was with us for the day and told me that he was just blown away by the amount of knowledge these young children had. They are so engaged in this work."

Parents have noticed the benefits for their kids as well. "The parents are so amazed at what their children know," says Hurley, "not just about the okapi, but about what they can do and about how what we do here impacts the world."

Episcopal School of Jacksonville requires the completion of a set number of community-service hours. "It helps us expose students to opportunities that they might not necessarily choose to do," says Meg Sacks, director of marketing. "They learn that community service can be a huge part of their life and that they can do things that they love, like play soccer, but also create a community service component."

Middle school students fulfill the requirement via class projects, but upper school students participate in service projects in the community as well as on campus. Episcopal's fine arts department students recently

Monique Burr Foundation for Children has reached thousands of first-through-fifth-grade students with its **Up Be Safe** (SUBS) safety and child abuse prevention program. Clay and Duval counties implemented the program during the 2010-11 school year. The five Speak Up Be Safe safety rules include: "It's my body!" "Ask an adult if I am safe," "I have choices," "Tell someone if I'm in trouble." For more information, visit moniqueburrfoundation.org. * BY JESSICA MALDONADO

Provi
Comm

D
MO

Discovery M
citizen
Discovery is c

102 15th



Bolles students help with a food drive

performed a couple of acts from *Seussical* at Ronald McDonald House, and their soccer players worked with the Down Syndrome Association soccer program. "Because we're an Episcopal school," says Sacks, "a lot of our spiritual education focuses on being a community leader and giving back to the community." By the time all 143 students in the class of 2011 graduated, they had accumulated 27,000 hours of service.

At The Bolles School, philanthropy education is part of a larger character education program. Bolles' senior director of communications and marketing, Jan Olson, explains, "We believe that if it's required, then they're not really learning what it means. Our kids participate because they want to."

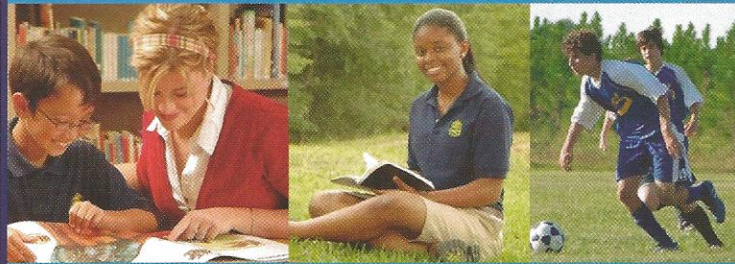
Bolles' upper school students complete every aspect of service through student-formed, chartered clubs that must include a philanthropic component. The upper school activities director, Piper Moyer-Shad, says, "It's pretty cool at [the upper school] level to see them maturing into that responsibility and taking ownership of the different activities they're doing."

Bolles' 800 high school students raised over \$30,000 last year for local, national and international charities and helped countless people through the Second Harvest Food Bank and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree. "We have a lot of students that go on to work with the same organizations in college," says Moyer-Shad.

The tradition of service in Jacksonville's private and parochial schools of exposing students to those opportunities engages them in learning while providing a concrete benefit to the community—and in that scenario, everyone wins. *

Seacoast

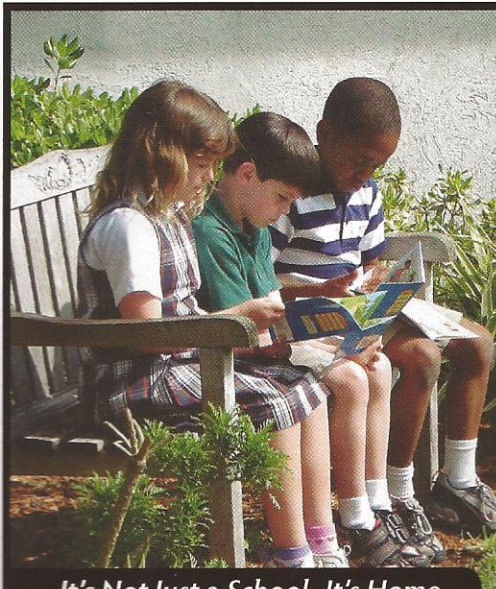
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



EDUCATING
MIND
BODY
SPIRIT

Pre K & Grades 6-12 • Voluntary Pre-K Program • Summer Camp Program
Challenging Academic Curriculum • Dual Enrollment College Program
Foreign Language • Music • Art • Drama • Dance • Computer
Physical Education • Athletic Program • FHSAA • FCAL Conference
Extended Day Program • Individual Learning Center • ACSI Accredited

PRESCHOOL • 9570 Regency Square Blvd., Jacksonville, FL • (904) 421-3900
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS • 8057 Arlington Expy., Jacksonville, FL • (904) 722-1738
www.seacoastchristianacademy.com



"Once you step on the campus, you just know."

Beaches Episcopal School parent

It's Not Just a School. It's Home.

Beaches Episcopal School is a safe place where every child is welcomed and known, where nurturing educators recognize and celebrate each student's unique gifts, and prepare young minds for future successes. And like your family, ours is a haven of learning, laughter and love, where parents and teachers partner together.

Upcoming Admissions Open Houses for Prospective Families
Thursday, January 19th and Thursday, February 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Please contact Heather Galloway, Admissions Director, at 246-2466 to RSVP or to schedule a personalized campus visit.



(904) 246-2466

Pre-k through sixth grade
BeachesEpiscopalSchool.org

Beaches Episcopal School does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, creed, or national origin.

PRESENTING THE VERY BEST OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA FOR 28 YEARS

JACKSONVILLE

JANUARY 2012 • JACKSONVILLEMAG.COM

PLUS:
TOP 25
RESTAURANTS

BEST

&
WORST

of 2012

★ BAR EATS ★ CHEAP DATE LOCATION ★ HAIR SALON ★ TACKY TOURIST STOP ★
★ PET STUFF ★ CULTURE BLOGGER ★ PARTY DRESSES ★ INNOVATIVE EATS ★
★ DESSERT CASE ★ ORGANIC GOODS ★ FRIED CHICKEN ★ PLACE TO RUN WILD ★
★ YOGA STUDIO ★ DANCE CLUB ★ TV MORNING SHOW ★

JACKSONVILLEMAG.COM

01 >



189036 5