



IRL Newsletter

April 2021

ISSUE 14

Our Mission:

To empower individuals of all abilities to take charge of their own learning and lives, making it possible for them to be competent, caring and contributing members of society; and to provide learning opportunities for families, professionals, and communities to support those efforts.

In the Spotlight! - We Are Back In-Person!



After 13 months of virtually learning, Almansor Academy welcomed back 30 students and Westmoreland Academy welcomed back 14 students. The smiles on students' faces brought tears to the eyes of the school staff. Welcome back everyone!!!

We are also working on plans to bring the middle and high schoolers back on campus in May. In addition, the Transition and Adult Services will re-open its day program with 10-15 adults returning on May 3rd.

We Started a Podcast!

IRL and Total Education Solutions are sponsoring a monthly podcast called I AM ABLE in which we interview individuals from our community and discuss different topics. Since March was National Developmental Disabilities Month, we started the Podcast with interviews from two clients of IRL's Transition and Adult Services (TAS) program and asked about their daily lives working at IRL. Please check out Enrique and Nataly's stories as we highlight our clients and our TAS program. <https://www.redesignlearning.org/blog/>

I Am Able - Episode 1

Watch later Share

I Am Able!

Raising Awareness from the Voices of All Abilities

Episode 1

Enrique shares what it is like to work with an IRL job coach and how he turned his passion for music into a career.

Our Sponsors:

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Watch on YouTube on, visit www.tesidea.com or www.redesignlearning

I Am Able - Episode 2

Watch later Share

I Am Able!

Raising Awareness from the Voices of All Abilities

Episode 2

Nataly shares her dreams for her future and how working hard and utilizing her support system can help her get closer to her goals.

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In the Community

Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19 during 2020, IRL never stopped looking for new avenues to support our clients making it possible for them to be competent, caring, and contributing members of society. South Pas Fitness, located at 220 Pasadena Avenue, opened their doors to Transition and Adult Services by extending several internship opportunities to some of our clients. They also extended a job offer to one of our recent Almansor Academy graduates, Lexus R. “She’s doing a great job”, said Josch, manager at the South Pas Fitness.



Thanks to La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center for donating 13 shorts and 38 jerseys for our Almansor soccer players. Our students will be so excited to wear brand new uniforms on the field. Thank you for your support, Rick Kahn!



**La Casa de San Gabriel
Community Center**



Once again we spotlight South Pasadena Grocery Outlet. Thank you, Karina and Ernesto for supporting IRL through your “give back to the community program.” During the last two months, IRL employees and their families shopped at this location, resulting in \$166.40 gift card for food and supplies.

A Message from our Founder, Nancy J. Lavelle

April is Autism Spectrum Disorders Acceptance Month. The Institute for the Redesign of Learning has been serving students on the Autism Spectrum since its founding in 1974. Although little was known about the causes of Autism years ago, we are now beginning to understand how broad and pervasive the sensory and language challenges children diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum must face. While labeling ensures that children receive the educational, mental health, medical, and therapy services that support their learning and growth, we all know that labels can also limit these children’s full inclusion in our communities and their self-sufficiency as they grow older. Recently, the term “neurodiversity” has caught on among parents and professionals who recognize that all human beings have unique brain and behavioral traits, develop in their own way, and learn differently. That is, children and adults with neurological or cognitive differences are merely unique expressions of what it is to be a human and should not be diagnosed or treated differently. In all the Institute’s programs and at the Westmoreland Academy, the Institute’s specialty school for children on the Autism Spectrum, we share in that basic premise. We believe that we are all *learners* (i.e. students, teachers, parents, therapists, etc.), able and capable of reaching our full potential and taking personal responsibility for our own learning breakdowns and learning successes in life. We empower all *learners* to identify their concerns in life and take steps to develop competence to handle those concerns. Importantly, we hold that, as *learners*, we are all *whole, able, and complete just as we are and just as we are not*. Join us in celebrating all learners, during Autism Spectrum Disorders Acceptance Month!

We’re Reopening!!

As the COVID-19 infection rate drops in Los Angeles County, our schools are allowed to open for all grades. As we have a tremendous amount of planning and preparation for our campuses to ensure that our students and staff have the safest environment possible, Almansor Academy and Westmoreland Academy need assistance in purchasing basic items for our students. Our staff would greatly appreciate your assistance in purchasing crayons, markers, colored pencils, and pencils to get our K-6 classes well-stocked before bringing the students back on campus. Please click on the link below to purchase items from our Amazon Wish List. Our staff and students thank you for your continued support of our schools.
<https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/3RCLD4KP6TXXN/guest-view>



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