

KENDALL GAZETTE

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Carrie Brazer Center for Autism students are rocket scientists

BY CLAIRE DONNELLY

Guillermo's Queris classes at the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism are studying inventions and their current project is learning about rockets.

The students watched in awe, excitement and glee recently as they took turns blasting "soda bottle" rockets into "space."

Since 1999, the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism, with locations in Kendall and South Dade, has provided cognitive training and educational therapy to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities from birth through adulthood. The incredible staff works collaboratively to develop individualized programs for each child.

The students are becoming better able to communicate with their teachers, classmates and family through augmentative communication devices such as the iPad. Physical education Therapeutic horseback riding is offered as part of the fall/winter physical education program and swimming instruction takes place in the spring.

Community based instruction and social skills training are provided through regular field trips to local attractions like the zoo, bowling, skating, children's museum, etc. The older students are learning life skills and vocational training skills to help them become more independent.

Instruction and therapy continues throughout the school day and after school. The center is open even when



Guillermo's Queris shows students how to launch "soda bottle" rockets.

school is closed. Programming continues on Saturdays, teacher workdays, and most holidays. Winter, spring and summer camps take place two days a week at aquatic locations like the Hammocks Nature Center and the Biscayne Nature Center or sailing with Shake A Leg. Exciting on-site activities and field trips are scheduled the other three days.

The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism has two area locations. The Kendall Center, at 8790 SW 94 St., serves students from birth through age 12. The South Dade Center, located at 16905 SW 100 Ave., is the middle school and

high school as well as the adult vocational center.

The older students at the South Dade Center are learning vocational and life skills. These students range from higher functioning individuals who are capable of learning job skills and seeking employment to lower functioning, non-verbal students who are learning to be more independent and learning simple self-help skills.

For more information about the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism, call 305-271-8790 or 305-234-0490. Visit the website at <www.cbc4autism.org>.