

**Arts4All Florida
Student of the Month
October, 2018**

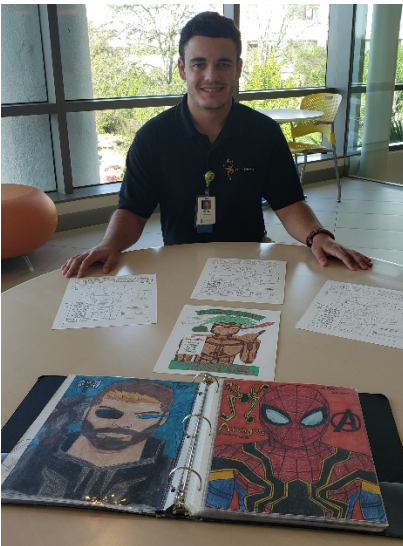


Florida is pleased to announce 11-year-old **Alexa Magana** as one of their October 2018 Students of the Month. Alexa was nominated by her music teacher, Sara DiPardo from Fellsmere Elementary School in Fellsmere, FL where she currently attends. Alexa has participated in the music club for 3 years and Mrs. DiPardo writes, “Alexa is extremely dedicated. She comes to every performance both on and off campus.” This extracurricular club exposes students to chorus, Orff and now Drums Alive, a unique sensory motor drumming program. “She has done them all with perfection!”

Alexa has arthrogryposis (AMC), which includes weakened muscles and curved joints. That said, Ms. DiPardo has offered Alexa accommodations every step of the way throughout the 4 years that she’s taught her. “She refuses; she wants to do it”, she writes. She describes this amazing young lady as the epitome of perseverance who never gives up.

More notable yet, Mrs. DiPardo discusses Alexa’s emotional development in her nomination. “Alexa shows a level of maturity above and beyond her peers. In my experience, she has been able to rise above the more petty and immature concerns that typify youth today. She instead often serves as a clear moral and intellectual standard to which you can see her friends aspire”.

Besides the love of music, Alexa is in the school book club and in the library when needed.



Arts4All Florida is pleased to announce 20-year-old **Matteo Ingegneri** as one of their October 2018 Students of the Month. Matteo was nominated by his classroom teacher, Colleen Tenfelde with Project SEARCH, an internship program for students with disabilities through the Lee County School District.

Matteo has been drawing since he was 7 years old and has continued creating imaginative art which defines his character and happiness. Beginning with stick figures, his tenacious and curious mind went full steam ahead, helping him expand his full figure super hero collection into what has become thriving notoriety through Project SEARCH and the Golisano Children’s Hospital.

Remaining an honors student since middle school, Matteo is currently enrolled as an intern in the Project SEARCH program. This program helps students gain a multitude of independent living and employability skills that aid in developing career paths.

Matteo has high functioning autism and currently works at McDonald’s, but interns in the Central Supply Department at Health Park Hospital and the Arts in Healthcare Department at Golisano Children’s Hospital through Project SEARCH. There, Matteo has been able to use his drawing skills to develop some outstanding super hero marketing materials for the hospital.