

# Inside the Halls of Linwood



May 2015– June 2015

Issue 7

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## School News

Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of “Inside the Linwood Halls.” We have had a wonderful amount of growth to our Linwood team in the past few months. We now have nine classrooms with students ranging in ages six through twenty-one. It is truly amazing to see the amount of growth that our program has experienced over the past two school years since opening the new school building.

Everyone is very excited about the upcoming events this summer! Each student will have the opportunity to go swimming each week, and we have many fun summer field trips being planned. A calendar of our trips and more information regarding the summer pro-

gram will follow in the upcoming weeks.

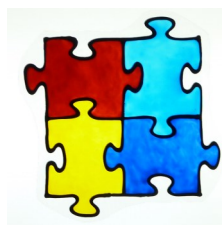
On Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be honoring the Linwood Class of 2015 at our annual Graduation Ceremony. Our four graduates this year include Jared Bullard, Colin McLeod, Jonathan Gutierrez, and Andrew Jeske. All four graduates have made great strides and have grown into wonderful young men. We will miss seeing them each day at Linwood, but know that they will be wonderful members of the programs that they are heading to in the upcoming weeks.

I would like to send a special thank you to our Linwood School Parent-Teacher Organization, who organized a delicious luncheon for our

staff for Teacher Appreciation Week! Thank you to everyone who sent in something to eat, made a donation to the event, or volunteered to help. If you are interested in joining our PTO, please contact our PTO President, Sharon Dockery, at [sharondockery@aol.com](mailto:sharondockery@aol.com).

Thank you for your continued support of Linwood School! We look forward to a fun summer with our students!

- Genese Neal  
Education Director



## Residential News

It's been an exciting time for our Residential Program! In November 2014, Joy Smith joined Linwood as the new Residential Director, and Julia Jensen joined us as the Assistant Residential Director. In the months since their arrival, there have been many wonderful changes! Every house in the Children's Residential Program has undergone an “Extreme Home Makeover” of its own. Walls were painted, flooring replaced, furniture purchased, and pictures hung on the walls to make it more of a

home. In addition, bed linens and towels were replaced, dishes and supplies for the kitchens were provided, and lots of deep cleaning has been and is being done on a daily basis. To make things more supportive overall, visual schedules, picture steps for personal management skills, and choice boards have been put to use to give as much structure and consistency as possible. The children have been going into the community on a weekly basis and are enjoying the nice weather at local parks! Though we

realize change is sometimes hard for anyone involved, Joy and Julia have a great team of Residential Staff that have worked together to help things go as smoothly as possible. Everyone on the team is working to make sure all of the children have a loving, happy, and nurturing home! Thank you to all of the families for your support and cooperation during this transition! We are excited for more positive things to come!

- Julia Jensen  
Assistant Children's Residential Director

## Calendar of Events Coming up!

### May

15th-In-Service Day for Staff (School closes at 12:00pm)

25th- Memorial Day (School Closed)

### June

15th– Full Day In-Service for Staff (School Closed)

26th–In-Service Day for Staff (School closes at 12:00pm)

30th– Last Day of School

# Classroom Adventures

Our classrooms, here at Linwood, are very active and excited to share what they are doing in class.

**Ms. Colleen's Class** has bloomed into spring by planting their very own plants. They have been busy learning about the life cycle of plants and making observations along the way. Their bean plant experiment has helped them understand how the seed grows, and how roots are made. In math, they have been looking at different types of measurements and how they can use their skills to figure out problems that may arise. Flying forward, Ms. Colleen's class is excited to learn more about animals. Growing their own butterflies in the class will help them understand their life cycle and their different life stages. They are excited for their summer adventures as well!



**Mr. Don's Class** has been getting ready for the end of the school year, and preparing to say goodbye to a few of the graduates in their class. Right now the students are reading about fast food restaurants and learning strategies on how to behave properly when in those atmospheres. In Math, the students are working on place values. Not only are they rocking addition and subtraction, but multiplication has been introduced as well. Mr. Don's class is also mastering the concept of independent coin counting. In the near future, the students are definitely looking forward to summertime, swimming, and fieldtrips.



**Mrs. Erin's Class** has grown in the past few months, and is now a class of four active students. The students in her class have been working hard on mastering their independent IEP goals and, together, strengthening their motor skills. They are looking forward to more outdoor projects and gross motor

activities as the weather continues to get nicer, as well as introducing more group time to develop and encourage additional social skills.



**Mr. Jon's Class** has been having fun learning about teamwork and community. They are currently saving up money, so that they can go on a class trip to Walmart to purchase a brand new toy for the classroom. Recently, after saving up, Mr. Jon's class went to McDonald's for a lunch together. Aside from learning about teamwork and community, Mr. Jon's class has been exploring different aspects of spring and looking forward to upcoming summer adventures such as, nature walks, caterpillar catch/butterfly growth, trips to local swimming pools, etc.



**Mr. Justin's Class** is excited about the accomplishments they have achieved so far, and are looking forward to the summer months! In addition to addressing their individual goals, they have been learning a lot about their community. Mr. Justin's class has learned about community safety, shopping, transportation, and all the options and opportunities that the community has to offer. Moving forward, they will continue to become more involved in the local community. They are going to focus on independent living skills as the class learns about cooking and kitchen safety this summer.



**Mrs. Katie's Class** has been full of exciting changes in the past couple months, and has been doing some amazing work. They have been vigorously working on meeting their IEP goals. As a class, they have been learning about hygiene and also about identifying characters in a story. Next month, Mrs. Katie's class will begin a cross-curricular unit on spiders and insects. They are definitely looking forward to swimming and playground time this summer as well.



**Ms. Kim's Class** is learning about classifying animals, in Science, and doing various activities to reinforce that knowledge. In reading the class is learning about community helpers. They took a trip to a local fire department, and are going to be working on mailing letters. They have been working on learning functional daily life skills such as: washing dishes, putting them away, making a bed, cleaning counters and tables, and purchasing items for the school store. Ms. Kim's class is looking forward to fun trips and a class cookout in the near future.



**Mr. Sam's Class** has yet again, gotten creative! Here's a poem from them:

Spring is here  
 And the time has come  
 To go out and play  
 Bring out those green thumbs!  
 In science we have planted  
 An abundance of flowers  
 Just waiting for  
 Those euphoric spring showers  
 Multiplication may be challenging  
 Perfect practice will be our aim  
 Let's keep driving forward  
 Our students are more than game!  
 Reading comes in many different topics  
 The students are ready  
 Vocabulary and punctuation is our goal  
 We have mastered phonics already  
 Let's open our arms  
 To that warm spring sun  
 And watch our students  
 Aim for that home-run

**Ms. Tracey's Class** is excited about spring! The students have been thrilled to be learning all about the new life that blooms in the spring; from plants growing to baby animals. The class is even getting to watch their very own plants grow. In the future the class is looking forward to adventures outside, and having a great time this summer together.



# Student's Corner- Thoughts About Summer

"I am looking forward to going swimming this summer."  
 -Kevin Dunnock



"I am looking forward to graduating this summer."  
 -Andrew Jeske



"I am looking forward to going to Walmart for a class trip."  
 -Kahlil Forbes

"I am looking forward to going to the pool this summer."  
 -Alex Philips



## Tips from Rachel for Safe Fun and Travel!

Greetings! My name is Rachel Maher, and I am the Behavioral Specialist at Linwood. In order to better prepare for the upcoming summer season, below you will find a few tips for traveling and safe summer fun!

In order to have safe summer fun, it is always a great idea to start preparing your child early on with social stories, pictures of destinations, scheduled activities, etc. Anything that can allow them to feel comfortable with the upcoming events is beneficial.

Another beneficial idea is practicing “taking” the trip. Many traveling methods (flight, train, bus, etc.) may allow for children to explore the vehicles before the actual trip.

Allowing your child to have input in the planning with packing the suitcase, picking activities, and more will be wonderful for preparation for your child. Not only that, but making sure to plan for any possible sensory concerns (noise, temperature, etc.) will be beneficial as well.

When planning a schedule, plan for breaks! Whether frequent and short or more spread out and longer, breaks are needed.

Some items that would be ideal to carry are: up-to-date medical information, contact information for important parties, a current picture of your child. Make sure to daily take note of what

your child is wearing and if possible, have your child memorize or carry key identification information (name, parent’s name/phone number, etc.)

Lastly, if at all possible, call the destination, prior to arrival, to see if they offer any special accommodations for your child. Those accommodations could be anything from priority seating to convenient access to rooms, etc.

These tips are only a few, but will definitely help in having safe summer fun and travel! Enjoy your summer!

-Rachel Maher, BCBA  
Behavior Specialist



## Speak and Move Toward Success

As summertime and warm weather approaches, here are some fun tips to help keep your kids entertained while promoting fine motor, sensory, and speech development.

**Make Handwriting a Sensory Experience:** Handwriting doesn’t have to be boring paper/pencil anymore! Practice forming letters using sidewalk chalk, water toys, and other various sensory mediums. It’s both educational and fun! For recipes and project ideas take a look here: <http://www.growingajeweledrose.com/>.

**Play Outside:** Whether swinging in the park or playing on the beach, there are many sensory experiences that come a long with summer weather: don’t be afraid to take advantage of the great outdoors! It’s a great way for your child to play and meet their sensory needs.

**Encourage use of “Descriptor Words”:** Help to expand your child’s vocabulary by

encouraging them to add adjectives to their sentences i.e. “the grass is green; the sand feels rough.”

**Pack A Sensory Kit:** If vacationing or even going somewhere for long periods of time, bring along all of your child’s favorite sensory toys in a backpack to help them stay regulated. This could include a brush, sunglasses to block out bright light, gum to chew, or headphones to block out hard-to-tolerate sounds. A weighted lap pad or blanket can be useful for those long trips in the car or plane. The added weight of carrying a backpack can help with the transitions from one place to another. Think about the regulators your child uses at home. Bring or adapt items for travel.

**Make A Vacation Plan:** Include your child when planning vacations. They can even make small choices such as where to eat lunch. This will both

make them feel included and prepare them. When vacationing, use social stories or calendars to help prepare your child for changes in their routine, what to expect, etc. For sample stories and resources on how to write your own look here: [http://www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com/main/library\\_social\\_stories.html](http://www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com/main/library_social_stories.html)

No matter what you do, we wish you a safe and happy summer!

Erin McCarthy, MS, OTR/L  
Related Services Coordinator

Alison Brady, MS, CCC-SLP

Jere Beck, MA, CCC-SLP

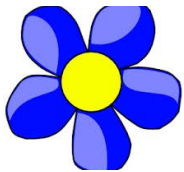
# Linwood PTO Updates!



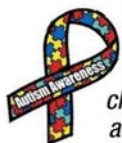
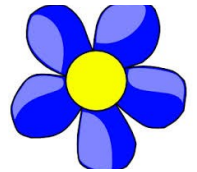
In recent events, PTO put on a delicious luncheon for the staff during Teacher Appreciation Week, in order to say thank you for all that they have been doing at the school with the students! Thank you to all of the parents who contributed to that event!

The Linwood PTO has been off to a great start and want to send a HUGE thank you to our parents who are getting involved! We couldn't do it without you!

For all upcoming events, please stay tuned, and if you want to get involved, please contact our PTO President, Sharon Dockery at the following email: [sharondockery@aol.com](mailto:sharondockery@aol.com)



*Let's Jump Into Spring*



Programs and services for  
children and adults living with  
autism and related disabilities

3421 Martha Bush Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Phone: 410-465-1352  
Fax: 410-461-1161

Check us out on the web at:  
<http://www.linwoodcenter.org>