

Inside the Halls of Linwood



Jan 2014-Feb 2014

Issue 2

School News

Welcome to our second edition of "Inside the Halls of Linwood". There have been many exciting changes that have developed within the school program.

One of the very exciting changes is in our staffing. We currently have four new staff members. The new staff that have joined our team are Ms. Mangala, Mr. Zach, Mr. Reginald, and Ms. Stephanie.

Now for our students! Our students in Grades 3 through 10 are working diligently on their Alt-MSA artifacts. There has been an immense amount of progress made in math, reading, and science.

Our students in Grades

11 and 12 are now being immersed in many new job opportunities. The job opportunities that have come about are available both in-house and off campus. This program is under the direction of our Vocational Coordinator, Jeremy Manning.

Another one of the many exciting endeavors that Linwood School has embarked upon is the grand opening of our new school store. The School Store is run by various students on a rotating schedule. After earning money for completing pre-career jobs, the students are able to take a trip to the store and make their very own purchases.

We are also incredibly excited about the development of our new Manding

Room that will be in the early stages of development through January and into February. Manding, or requesting, is an important skill that helps with the development of communication for students with Autism. Thus a Manding Room is designed to provide students with an opportunity to communicate through words or pictures for items that they desire. Once it is finished, this room will be a great asset to our school and to our students.

- Genese Neal
Education Director

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Residential News

In our Residential Program we have had a lot of great activities that happened to get our students involved in the fun the holidays brought, as well as activities that are planned for the New Year.

On December 1st, we had some of our residents attend a sensory friendly breakfast with Santa in Annapolis, Maryland. This even was designed for students with Autism and related disabilities. It allowed them to enjoy a good breakfast in a calm environment while being able

to visit with Santa. Pictured to the right is one of our students, enjoying his time!



Aside from the activities, we have had a number of parents and guardians express their thankfulness in our residential program. One of our grandparents even commented saying that she was

hesitant at first about her grandson being in the program full time. However, after the holidays came and went, she has seen much progress and is very thankful for all that we are doing to help her grandson.

It was an encouraging moment for the residential program, and we are glad to be making a difference in the lives of our students.

- Shenell Sowers
Residential Director

Calendar of Events Coming up!

January

2nd- Welcome Back!

17th- In-Service for Staff (half day)- School closes at 12:00pm

20th- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday- School Closed

February

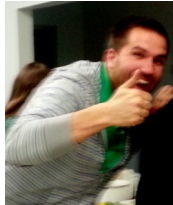
14th- In-Service for Staff (half day)-School closes at 12:00pm

17th- President's Day- School Closed

Classroom Adventures

As we conclude 2013, we embark on a brand new year with many new possibilities. Our classrooms have been working vigorously to go out with a bang and begin 2014 fresh and ready to go.

In Mr. Sam's classroom the students worked hard to complete all of the tasks before the new year. They received a big thumbs up from Mr. Sam (pictured on right). For this class, 2014 will begin by addressing the Constitution and the many different ideas that built the foundation of our country. Mr. Sam will also touch upon the monumental Presidents and leaders that influenced and educated the nation. They will then delve into Black History month, in February, which acknowledges one of the most influential people in the world, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



In Ms. Harriet's classroom for December, students explored holidays around the world. Some of the holidays they studied are Christmas, Ramadan, and Hanukkah. In math, the unit study was money. Students had hands on experiences with manipulatives, puzzles, and learning a song about money. Projects for our class in December involved making a Tunnel of Fudge cake

(pictured on right), homemade sugar cookies that were decorated (pictured below) as well as making birdfeeders of pinecones, peanut butter, and bird seed. For a class field trip, Ms. Harriet's class visited

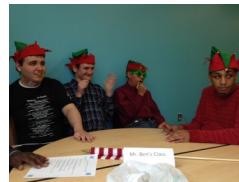


the train display at the Ellicott City fire station and then got a milk shake at the McDonald's.

Ms. Christie's room has been working hard to complete their Alt MSA objectives. In January the class will focus on wrapping up these objectives.

Inspired by learning about the new movie "Frozen", Mr. Ben's class

(pictured on right) had been studying changing states of matter, in science. As an example, they observed ice melting into water, and then talked about why it happened. For the new year, Mr. Ben's class will be



starting out with a review on the states of matter.

Ms. Erin's classroom has finished December off to a great start with almost being completely finished with their Alt-MSA objectives. For the new year, they will begin a history unit on our government.

During the month of December Ms. Wendy's class had been learning about the similarities and differences between Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza. The students learned that one similarity is that all three holidays include some type of candles for decorations. In Science, the students were learning about famous scientists and the scientific method. In January, the students will continue to learn about a few more famous scientist such as Leonardo Da Vinci before beginning a social studies unit on our country's government.

As you can see, all of our classrooms have been working hard to finish out the year. We cannot wait to see what the new year has in store for the students as they embark upon their educational endeavors.



Student's Corner: Holiday Season Thoughts

My favorite holiday song is *Jingle Bells*. I have enjoyed watching the movie *A Charlie Brown Christmas* during this holiday season. My favorite cookie I like to eat during the holidays is McDonald's holiday pie.
Erol Orstan

My favorite holiday song is *Jingle Bells*. I have enjoyed watching the movie *A Charlie Brown Christmas* during this holiday season. My favorite cookie I like to eat during the holidays is sugar cookie with icing.
Andrew Jeske

My favorite holiday song is *Jingle Bells*. I have enjoyed watching the movie *A Charlie Brown Christmas* during this holiday season. My favorite cookie I like to eat during the holidays is chocolate chip cookie.
Colin McLeod

My favorite holiday song is *Jingle Bells*. I have enjoyed watching the movie *Home Alone* during this holiday season. My favorite cookie I like to eat during the holidays is peanut butter cookie.
Kahlil Forbes



Meet Our Staff



Matthew Graham is Linwood School's Speech and Language Pathologist. He has obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Towson University, and is currently residing in the Baltimore area. Matthew currently works with all of our students here at Linwood to build and increase their understanding and use of speech and language skills. He has come to us with a vast amount of experience working with autism students; he has worked with the vocational services for adults with autism, individual clients with specific needs pertaining to their life goals with speech and language, as well as with Baltimore County's communication and language support programs.

Matthew is also extremely excited to announce the addition of two part-time speech and language pathologists at the Linwood School; Anne Jones and Seanna Mcovell. Both speech pathologists bring experience, compassion, and understanding of what is needed to aid our stu-

dents in improving their speech and language skills. The Linwood School is very fortunate to have these new additions to our staff.



Erin McCarthy is Linwood School's Occupational Therapist. She has obtained both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Towson University, and currently resides in Towson, Maryland. Erin works with the students on tasks regarding sensory integration and preparing them to attend better to classroom instruction. She also works closely with the students on increasing on-task behaviors and decreasing other negative behaviors, as well as vocational skills and fine motor skills. Erin has been at Linwood for three years now as our Occupational Therapist, and also works at other locations with student who have Autism.



Kim Brackeen is Linwood School's Behavior Specialist. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Human Services from Notre Dame of Maryland, and her Master's of Education in Psychology at American International College, located in Springfield, Massachusetts. Kim works with the students of Linwood to enhance and better tasks related to behavior, and their overall behavior management. She has had a plethora of experience spanning from the following: Special Education Teacher, Social/Emotional Support Assistant, Program Director, Rehabilitation Coordinator, Prevention Specialist, and now as our Behavioral Specialist.

These staff members have been and continue to be a great asset to our school community here at Linwood, and we feel very privileged to introduce them in our newsletter.

Tips from Kim for a Great Start to the New Year

A great way to start off the new year, would be getting down to the basics. Kim Brackeen, Linwood's behavior specialist, has given four basic behavior tips for better behavior in the new year.

Stick to a routine. Kids with autism need to have routine to feel secure. Even the smallest change in schedule can cause regression or tantrums.

Use repetition to modify behavior. Children with autism learn and retain information more easily when given that information repeatedly and in a variety of settings.

Use modeling to improve socialization. Children with autism have a difficult time reading and processing social cues, they require help to know how to act and respond in social situations. Model the behavior you want the child to exhibit.

Be patient and understanding with yourself and your child. Remember to take frequent breaks, and do not feel discouraged if your attempts are at first unsuccessful.

- Kim Brackeen, Behavior Specialist
kbrackeen@linwoodcenter.org



One of our students loves the "Tips from Kim" column!!

Talking about Speech!



Greetings from the speech and language room at the Linwood School!

As we say good-bye to the year 2013 and welcome in 2014, I would like to share how excited I am about how far Linwood has gone in such a short time. Between the new building, staff, faculty, and families; we have truly made Linwood an amazing place!

Moving past the holiday season, I would like everyone to stop, think, and reflect on what this time of the year has meant to you. We all have our own reasons for celebrating the traditions that we have created and made our own

throughout the years. With that said, it is very important to pass along the traditions and customs that we celebrate to our children.

Sharing memories and the ideas behind the holidays is just as important as celebrating each occasion. By aiding your child in understanding the reasons behind each party, event, and custom you can increase your child's desire to interact with you. By including them in the memories, and events, and then re-capping why you celebrate all of your traditions, you can make

the holidays that much more special.

Finally, in regards to the new year, MAKE IT FUN! Explain to your child what the new year entails: a new start and new fun! So, go ahead and spice the holiday season up by making games that explain your traditions. Take pictures, look at them again later, and remind your children just how special and amazing they are. I hope your holiday season is amazing!

- Matthew Graham
Speech and Language Pathologist
mgraham@linwoodcenter.org

PTO News Update!!



Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

After having our booth at the Holiday Concert, we have had an overwhelmingly positive response from parents and/or guardians. If you did not get a chance to visit the PTO table at the concert, and are interested in being a part of Linwood's PTO, a form is enclosed. Please return this form as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to having our first official PTO meeting. Dates and times for that meeting have not been set yet, so keep your ears and eyes open for details coming soon!

Thank you for your participation!



Have a great New Year!!



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>