

Inside the Halls of Linwood

School News

Welcome to our third edition of "Inside the Halls of Linwood!" As our school program continues to grow, our students are consistently being exposed to new and innovating programs that benefit our students with autism. One exciting new partnership that Linwood is developing is with Port Discovery of Baltimore. One of our students has recently started a position at Port Discovery as a greeter! In addition to his new position, Port Discovery will also be coming to Linwood School to implement science lessons aligned to the Common Core Curriculum.

We would like to introduce a new staff member in our program. His name is Mr. Alonzo and he has joined Ms. Harriet's classroom.

In March, we will be participating in School Spirit Week! Each day will feature a different theme for students and staff to participate in. Spirit week will run from March 17th-21st and will feature the following themes: St. Patty's Day gear, hat day, mis-match day, pajama day, and sports day. More information will follow as Spirit Week approaches.

As a school for children with autism, we are looking forward to April, when we will celebrate Autism Awareness Month. We certainly encourage all students, their families, and supporters of autism awareness to Light It Up Blue during the month of April. Autism Speaks offers a variety of fundraisers and unique ideas that help support autism awareness.

For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.autismspeaks.org/wordpress-tags/autism-awareness-month>.

Finally, to promote autism awareness, Linwood School and Trellis Services, Inc. will be teaming up to hold an open house for families of individuals with autism in Howard and nearby counties. We encourage all Linwood families and friends to join us on April 25th to celebrate our individuals with autism and for families in the area to learn more about the services offered by Linwood School and Trellis. More information will follow in the upcoming weeks.

-Genese Neal
Education Director
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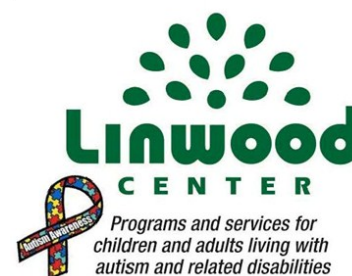
Residential News

We have been attempting to keep busy this snowy winter. Staff and residents have been enjoying days of playing in the snow as well as being active in the community. February 1st, our boys had a great time attending the Autism Awareness Basketball event at Towson University. With the help of Residential Coordinator, Jermaine Glover, we have been successful at engaging the residents of Linwood with more community and recreational activities such as bowling, and restaurant night. We anticipate the frequency to increase even more as the weather improves. Unfortunately, due to the weather, Family Fun Night was cancelled for the month of February. Please mark your calendars for the next family fun night event scheduled for March 24th, with the approval of Mother Nature, of course.

We would like to welcome Ken Calloway as the new house manager of Rogers's Avenue. Mr. Ken has been with Linwood for just over a year as a Residential Assistant of the same house. With his leadership skills and great rapport with the residents, it was an easy decision to promote him to his new position. We look forward to many great years with him as a part of our family.

-Shenell Sowers
Residential Coordinator
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We would like to welcome Ken Calloway as the new



March 2014-April 2014

Issue 3

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Calendar of Events Coming up!

March

28th— In-Service Day for Staff
(School closes at 12:00pm)

April

16th— School closes at 3:00pm

17th-21st— Spring Break,
School Closed

22nd— School Re-Opens

25th— In-Service Day for Staff
(School Closes at 12:00pm)

Classroom Adventures

Many classroom adventures are going on inside the halls of Linwood. Here is a little peak into the action!

In Ms. Erin's classroom, pictured on right hard at work, have finished with



Alt-MSA and their unit on our government. They are going to be learning about countries around the world and enjoying the Spring weather!

Ms. Wendy's class has been learning about Europe, Asia, and Africa and some of the special places to visit and things to see in those continents. They will continue to travel the continents in March. Anyone having artifacts or cultural activities from any continent besides North America is welcomed to share with the class. Students are becoming more proficient in using pictures to create sentences to express what they want for break time between classes and longer activities. Ms. Wendy's class is looking forward to warmer weather and a chance to get out. The students have been charting the frigid temperatures daily on their individual weather pages.

Ms. Christie's class will be very busy, this March and April! In Reading, her students will learn to identify letters and their sounds, as well as

learn various sight words associated with each letter. In math, the focus will be on identifying shapes and their individual characteristics. With Social Studies we will discover the concept of geography, as well as how people live all over the world. This cycle will end with a multicultural celebration of different cultures around the world.

In Mr. Ben's Room, they have been studying the seasons of the year, and learning about the birth of LEGOs, on their 65th birthday. In the weeks to come, they will be learning about Rio de Janeiro's "Carnival", and how it's driven by the Music of Samba. They will be learning about the TED Prize, given to individuals who wish to "spark global change", by the non-profit organization TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design). It's TED's goal to "allow dreamers to think bigger about what's possible" by helping to fund their worthwhile projects. They have been enjoying our snow thoroughly, but also look forward to continuing walks in the



community, once it's warmer. (Pictured to the left is one of Mr. Ben's students saying the "Pledge of Allegiance")

In Ms. Harriet's class, this quarter for reading, has experimented with reading newspaper articles. The articles are adapted with pictorial symbols with

words. Students have kept abreast of the news about Black History Month, Winter Olympics, and Beatle mania.

To enrich their learning, we have also watched related YouTube videos about these topics. In math, we have continued our exploration of money. Students worked to learn the name and



value of coins and comparison of money amounts, as pictured on right. With the cold, snowy weather, Ms. Harriet has treated her class to hot chocolate and a good book read to them on our new Smart board. The reading from Tumble books uses audio and visual pictures of the story.

Mr. Sam's class is just finishing up the units related to Black History Month and the Olympics! This month in Social Studies, the class has been identifying different continents and the countries that reside within their specific continent. In the coming weeks, with warm weather right around the corner, Mr. Sam's class will be...Many fun activities outside are in the plans for the month of March and April in Mr. Sam's class.

Student's Corner- Thoughts on Favorite Books!

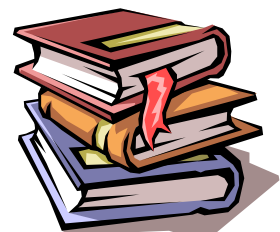
"My favorite book this month to look at or read is *Animalia* by Graeme Base. I like this book because of the pictures of the iguanas."-Andrew Jeske

"My favorite book this month to look at or read is *Star Wars ABC* by Scholastic. I like this book because of the pictures from the movie."-Colin McLeod

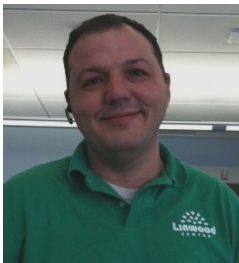
"My favorite book this month to look at or read is *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton. I like this book because I enjoy reading at school."- Kahlil Forbes

"My favorite book this month to look at or read is *Arthur's Valentine* by Marc Brown. I like this book because I like the story."- Kevin Dunnock

"My favorite book this month to look at or read is *Arthur's Valentine* by Marc Brown. I like this book because of the funny rhyme in the book."-Erol Orstan



Meet Our Coordination Staff



Scott Jesneck is Linwood's Recreational Coordinator. His main duty is to enhance the student's lives through various types of arts and crafts throughout the week. Not only does he enhance

the students' lives through that, but he also plans activities for the students. He also helps with the crisis management team within our school.



Jen Leyboldt has a very important job at Linwood. She coordinates the medical appointments for both the residential and day students. Her communication with parents regarding medical information

plays a key role in the daily happens here at the Linwood Center. She provides added support where needed, and is an extremely helpful person in our day to day activities.



Jeremy Manning is Linwood's Vocational Coordinator. Mr. Jeremy coordinates both on and off

campus jobs for the students to take part in. He also handles and helps with the students in their individual transitions upon arrival at our school as well as graduation from the school when they turn 21 years old. Mr. Jeremy is very flexible in his willingness to help where he is needed on a day to day basis.



Tips from Kim on Social Stories

Social stories are used in targeted ways to prepare students with Autism for social interactions and upcoming events. There are three benefits to social stories, and they are as follows.

The first benefit is pictures. Even if he or she can read, their mind responds better to pictures. The Internet is a great resource for finding photos, drawing, and clip art to help convey a story. For example, if you are writing a story about going to your local super market, then take an actual photo of the store.

Another benefit to be aware of is timing. When you read the social story to your

student it is very important to do so prior to the situation occurring. This is beneficial so that your student can process the information and soak in the details of what is about to happen. Another tip would be to have the actual social story with you in the situation for the student to look at as a visual reminder.

The last benefit of social stories is cataloging. Create a catalog of social stories that will help your student with future situations that occur often. Your student can look at the social stories at his/her leisure and build

memories from them. This will make it easier for adjustment the next time you are in that particular situation.

- Kim Brackeen,
Behavior Specialist
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Pictured to the right is one of our students who loves doing Social Stories!



Talking about Speech!



Greetings from the Speech and Language Room, where we are starting to FINALLY thaw out! Thinking about the weather made me stop and think about what key elements are crucial to keep everything running smoothly.

Unlike the weather, Linwood School keeps everything consistent during the students time here. And then it dawned on me to bring up how consistency is vital to our students success. Let me repeat that, CONSISTENCY IS VITAL!!

Having a set schedule, like Linwood's "first, next, and then" boards, helps state and show

pictures of what the student is expected to do first. Then, to allow the child to prepare for what is coming later, it states what will happen next. Finally it states, and uses pictures, to show what will happen after both of the previously shown activities occur (that's the "and then" portion).

Working closely with the behavior specialist has also allowed us to keep their behavior protocols consistent. For example, if the child does "X," then "Y" always occurs. Then, after the student has calmed, an explanation is always given. Keeping their schedules and routines consistent

allows them to be successful.

It is crucial to carry these ideas into the home to allow the student to understand and retain their home schedule. By carrying over these concepts, it will only aid in their success. The plan has been set into motion, now it is your job, as the parent, to keep it going!!!

- Matthew Graham
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PTO Updates!



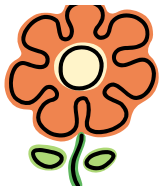
Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

As you may have known, we just finished our first fundraiser at Chick-fil-A. The fundraiser was successful and we are glad to have had the ability to partner with this restaurant!!

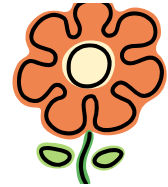
Very exciting things are happening with the PTO here at the Linwood School, and we are looking forward to many new opportunities in the coming months.

The next PTO meeting is TBA, so keep your eyes peeled for an email regarding the date/time!

Hope to see you there and thank you for your support!!



Welcome Spring!!



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