

Inside the Halls of Linwood



May 2014-June 2014

Issue 4

School News

Welcome to the fourth edition of "Inside the Halls of Linwood." We are happy that Spring weather is approaching! As our school program continues to grow, we are also looking forward to new and exciting activities and opportunities.

Speaking of growth, Linwood School has recently opened our 7th classroom, which is led by Ms. Ashley Dolan. Ms. Ashley comes to us from Trelis Services, Inc. and has in-depth experience in verbal behavior and Applied Behavior Analysis. We

have also had several new staff join our team. They are Miss Kim, Mr. Dominic, and Mr. Stephen. Welcome to Linwood!

As the weather gets warmer, we are looking forward to more exciting trips into the community! On May 13th, the students will be going on a trip to Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore City. Our classrooms are also participating in regular Community Based Instruction trips to work on functional community skills.

We are very proud to

announce that on Friday, June 27th, Linwood will be holding a Graduation Ceremony. Our two graduates this year are Justice Worsley and James (JT) Dolan. We are incredibly proud of the accomplishments and achievements of both JT and Justice, and we will miss both young men very much! Invitations will be distributed closer to the ceremony and all Linwood staff, students, and families are welcome!

-Genese Neal
Education Director



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Calendar of Events Coming up!

May

13th—Field Trip: Port Discovery

16th—In Service Day for Staff (School Closes at 12:00pm)

26th—Memorial Day (School is Closed)

June

16th—In Service Day for Staff (School Closes at 12:00pm)

27th—In-Service Day for Staff (School Closes at 12:00pm)

30th—Last Day of School

Classroom Adventures

As we dive into Summer, some awesome adventures are in the making here at Linwood! Here is a little look into what we have geared up for the students in the months ahead.

Ms. Erin's classroom has been working hard learning to tell time, even using some technical terms like "quarter after" and "half past." They have also been working on distinguishing between both nouns and verbs, and singular and plural words. In Science, Ms. Erin's class has read about movement and Newton's Laws of Motion. We even learned to dance the Loco-Motion!



Ms. Wendy's class has been exploring the topic of forces in physical science; mainly through friction as it applies to soles of your shoes. In reading these past few months, they have learned about the topics of: St. Patrick's Day, Easter, the new baby polar bear at Toronto Zoo, guide dogs, herb gardens, gorillas, brown bears, and games, just to name a few. As the summer season progresses, Ms. Wendy would like to invite families to email her with recipe ideas for carbohydrate free, gluten free, dairy free, egg free diets. The students and staff, in Ms. Wendy's room, are looking forward to spending time outside in the upcoming months as they continue to learn together.

Ms. Christie's class will spend the following months completing exercises in phonics. Her students will continue to identify each letter by sight

and sound, as well as various sight words. In math, they will be learning the difference between greater than, less than, and equal to. They will also identify and use math strategies to solve problems. Finally in Social Studies, Ms. Christie's class will focus on different types of jobs. This will help them to develop a sense of what they would like to focus on in the future.

Ms. Jasmine's class has had a lot of fun the past few weeks. One of the exciting events that they had was having the opportunity to color Easter eggs, and go



on an Easter egg hunt before Spring break (pictured on left). Ms. Jasmine's class is also finishing up their unit on motion. They had previously explored force, gravity, and friction. As they continue to learn, they will finish up with Sir Issac Newton's Laws of Motion. In the weeks to come Ms. Jasmine's class will take a look at job preferences, in addition to earning, spending, and saving money as some of our students are transitioning out of the school program. They are also looking forward to the warm weather and a chance to have more outside activities!

Ms. Harriet's class has completed their unit on money and now is contemplating graphs, in math. Students have worked with pictographs, bar graphs, learned how to take a survey, and construct graphs. In reading, they explored such topics as Jeopardy turning 50 years old, the TED Prize, herbs and how to make an herb garden

(pictured on right are the herb biscuits made from the herb gardens), and kites. In



geography, the students learned about the seven continents and participated in International Day. Each class presented a craft to represent the continent they had selected. Our class selected Africa and made African masks.

Mr. Sam and his class like to have fun and get creative with their learning, so here's a poem by Mr. Sam himself regarding the activities in his classroom.

"As our class brings in the month of May,

We still remember those great April days! Classifying and learning about animals is going to be fun.

Science class is where we are going to get that all done!

While in Math, we are starting place values of ten-thousand and more. This won't stop us, we will climb higher and sore.

As for Reading, we are going to compare and contrast.

We use Venn Diagrams to do that, and have a blast!

If you want to know more, Just come stop on by and knock on the door!"

Ms. Ashley, our newest addition to the teaching staff, has had her class for only a short time thus far. However, in the months ahead, they will be identifying and classifying the following: letters, shapes, animals, and colors. Ms. Ashley is also beginning to explore books with her students, and start the process of learning to read.

Student's Corner—Thoughts on Spring Break!

"I enjoyed spring break by eating a lot of candy and playing outside."- Andrew Jeske

"I enjoyed spring break by watching TV."- Colin McLeod

"I enjoyed spring break by listening to music."- Kahlil Forbes

"I enjoyed spring break by playing outside."- Kevin Dunnock



Meet Our Educators and Classroom Staff

In the next few issues of "Inside the Halls of Linwood", we will be introducing the teachers and classroom staff for our school. The first classroom that we will be introducing is Ms. Erin's class.



Ms. Erin attended college at Millersville University, located in Millersville, Pennsylvania. She majored in Elementary Education and Special Education. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, she then went on to Johns Hopkins to receive her Master's Degree in Transition Services. Her most recent achievement has been receiving a graduate certificate in the Education of Students with Autism, also from Johns Hopkins. Ms. Erin worked at Linwood from 1991-1997, with a period in between to stay at

home with her children. She made her triumphant return back in 2011, and is not only currently teaching her own class, but has also taken on the role of Lead Teacher here at the Linwood School.

Mr. McDonald (not pictured) has been a great addition to Linwood's classroom staff since his arrival back in January of 2014. He works in Ms. Erin's classroom as the Para Educator. His role in the classroom is to help Ms. Erin in classroom activities, as well as assist in any way he can to help the class run smoothly.



Mr. John is one of our newest staff additions. He has been with Linwood School since April of 2014, and he has proven to be a wonderful addition to

the classroom staff. He also works in Ms. Erin's classroom as a Student Assistant. The role he plays in the classroom is to assist the students in any way possible to help create a learning environment suitable for their needs.

Ms. Erin and her staff created a balanced and wonderful work environment not only for their peer staff, but for the students in the classroom as well.



Talking about Speech!



Who is ready for SUMMER!?! I know that both, faculty and students, are ready for summer here at Linwood School. It is finally time to put away the scarves, parkas, and gloves and bring out the sunglasses, shorts, and bathing suits! One of the best things about summer is swimming! It not only allows the children to get out their energy, but also allows perfect opportunity to promote speech and language skills.

At Linwood School, we have so much fun going on our weekly trips to the pool. Even though I am an indoor speech-language pathologist, I also accompany the students and staff on each outdoor adventure; my favorite being the trips to the pool.

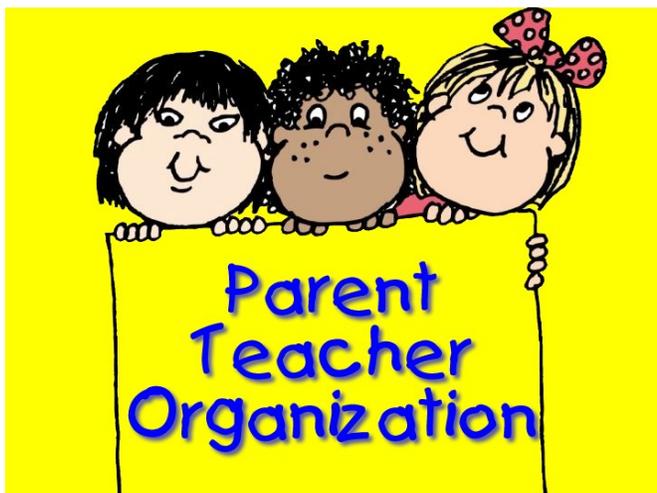
While swimming with the kids, I narrate everything that they do. For example, rather than just swimming, I begin by saying, "On 3 we will all jump in. One, two, three! We are jumping. We jumped into the pool."

You can never narrate what your child is doing enough. There are always things to comment on. For example, the color of the water, the dive rings they are playing with, and verbs to use that describe what they are doing. This brings me to the "take-home" portion of this newsletter. Always, and I do mean ALWAYS, narrate what your child is doing. Do not allow them to be passive and make them participate. You can have them point, use sign language, low-tech communicative de-

vices, and even words! It is important to allow them to have fun, but give them things to talk about and think upon!!

Until next time,
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PTO Updates!



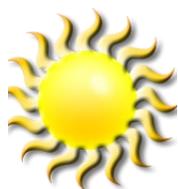
Greetings from the PTO parents!

First and foremost, thank you for all of your participation and help with our Open House/Bake Sale on April 25th. It was great to see the parents and get a chance to spread the word about what Linwood is doing for our students.

The Linwood PTO is excited to share our newly created list-serve (LinwoodschooPTO@googlegroups.com) to help parents and faculty stay connected. Please use this list-serve to post upcoming events in the community, great news about your son/daughter, updates on legislative issues, best practices you've heard about, and whatever other fun, productive information you want to share.

Also stay tuned for several fun upcoming events; our summer garden kickoff (TBD-after the snow has bid adieu), and a grilling fun time fundraiser (TBD—have your appetite and funds ready).

Thanks for all of your support!



Let's have some fun in the sun!!!



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

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