

Inside the Halls of Linwood

School News

Welcome to the fifth edition of "Inside the Halls of Linwood." We enjoyed a fantastic first school year in the new building and are looking forward to starting the 2014-2015 school year!

We are very proud to announce the graduation of Justice Worsley and James (JT) Dolan. Justice and JT have been scholar students here at Linwood School and we will miss them both greatly. We are proud of all of their accomplishments and wish them the best!

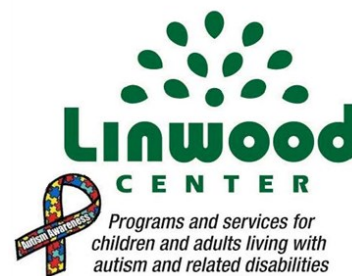
Now that summer is upon us, our students will not only be working on their academic skills, but also shifting their focus to more recreational activities in the community. Some of our summer activities include swimming, a trip to the Baltimore zoo, bowling, movies, and a trip to Sandy Point State Park. The swimming trips will be held on Mondays or Wednesdays, depending on your student's class-

room teacher assignment. Community trips will be held on Fridays.

Due to our continued growth in enrollment, we have several new staff who have recently joined our team. They are Mr. Joshua, Mr. Benjamin, Ms. Erica, Ms. Leora, Ms. Erin, and Mr. Brandon. Mr. Joshua and Mr. Benjamin joined our team as student assistants in two of our classrooms. Ms. Erin joins our team as a Paraprofessional in one of our classrooms. Ms. Erin is a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCABA) and comes to us from the Ivymount School, in Rockville. Mr. Brandon has joined us as our newest teacher. He has recently earned his Master's Degree in Special Education from Towson University, and has extensive experience in Applied Behavior Analysis. Ms. Leora is our new behavior specialist who joined our team in June. Ms. Leora is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in be-

havior management. Not to worry, Ms. Kim is still here at Linwood. She will be helping to facilitate seamless transitions for our older students (post-graduation at age twenty-one) whose families are pursuing Linwood as an Adult Services Provider. Last, but not least, Ms. Erica Sherry has taken on the position of Assistant Education Director. Ms. Erica has experience working with both children and adults on the autism spectrum. She worked as a consultant for Howard County Public School during the establishment of their autism program, and worked as a director at Chimes, in their adult program. We are very excited to have all of these talented individuals join our school team, to work in collaboration with the phenomenal existing staff that we have in our program. Welcome to Linwood!

- Genese Neal
Education Director



July 2014-August 2014

Issue 5

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Calendar of Events Coming up!

July

1st- First Day of New School Year

4th-Independence Day (School Closed)

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

August

18th-22nd- Summer Vacation (School is Closed)

25th- School Reopens, Welcome Back!

Classroom Adventures

Ms. Christie's class, in reading, will continue to explore the area of reading phonics. Students will also be developing sight word recognition, as well as reading comprehension skills. In Science, Ms. Christie's students will explore the concept of Biology. Some of the topics that will be researched include genetics and

DNA. Finally in Math, Ms. Christie's class will gain an understanding of one-to-one correspondence, as well as development strategies for counting objects.

Mr. Sam's class likes to get creative in the way they learn, so here's a poem to tell you all about what's going on this term.

The Sun is up, not one sight of a frown
 The boys are ready to be running
 around!
 First we have work to do; let's open up
 those books
 That must be the first clue; come on,
 let's take a little look
 In science, animals will be the main
 topic
 Many of these animals are so micro-
 scopic
 Math and algebra are all about repeti-
 tion
 The boys are working on learning some
 multiplication
 Difficulties and challenges arise with
 Reading Comprehension
 But the stories are amusing which
 helps relieve all the tension
 On Mondays and Wednesdays we get to
 swim and play
 So let's bring on these fun summer
 days!



Hats Off to the Class of 2014



Linwood School has some very exciting news to share!

On June 27th, 2014, two of our students were celebrated as they received their diplomas. Justice Worsley (pictured on left) and James Terrence (JT) Dolan (pictured on right) were encouraged by smiling staff, students, and administration as they

Ms. Erin's class is looking forward to the warm weather and all the fun activities, like swimming, that come along with that. They have already started reading about summer camp and are planning to have some camp fun of our own. Pictured (on the right) is their class making a "cabin" out of newspaper. They will also be tie dyeing some shirts, sun-baking s'mores, and making a homemade sprinkler for those dog days of summer.



Ms. Harriet's class has been exploring many topics. In reading, students studied about bees and did a cooking project using honey. They also studied the World Cup soccer match currently being held in Brazil, South America. In math, they have contemplated time. Aside



from learning how to read a clock, students have studied the different times of day such as morning, noon, afternoon, and evening. With summer here, our next unit of study will be focused on the 4th of July and historic events and landmarks. Students are currently learning the songs The Star Spangled Banner and You're a Grand Old Flag.

Ms. Ashley's room has been reading various books this month. Earlier this month was their "Around the World Unit",

which involved making crafts and recipes from different Countries like Mexico, France, Japan, and Australia. Ms. Ashley's class also read about habitats, such as tropical rainforests and deep blue oceans. The highlight of this past month was definitely their class's first trip to the pool. This upcoming month they will continue exploring different topics through reading activities and will also be starting our science unit! Some of our readings will cover different types of community jobs, transportation, and places in the community. The class science unit will introduce students to growing their very own plants and learning about what they need to live.

Mr. Brandon's class is excited about upcoming adventures. Currently, and in the next few weeks, they will be using money in Math to help count and create real life situations. In reading, the class is going over signs. They have a stop sign, enter signs, etc. Several field trips for our students to take part in, including a hiking excursion and a trip to the Baltimore Zoo.



In Ms. Wendy's classroom, this July and August, the students will be keeping up to date with the latest world, sports, and entertainment news as shared on the Unique website. Additionally, they will be taking weekly walks near the school, swimming, and visiting local areas such as Patapsco Park and Centennial Park. The students may visit local stores to develop appropriate skills during community outings. Thank you teachers for an outstanding job this school year!!

embarked on the culmination of their time here at Linwood School.

The future is looking bright for our two graduates! JT is going to be starting at the Center for Social Change and Justice is going to be starting at Linwood's Adult Services Program.

We wish our graduates the best of luck on their future endeavors! Hats off to you two!



Meet Our Educators and Classroom Staff



As you know, we are taking some time in our editions of "Inside the Halls of Linwood" to recognize and introduce the teachers and classroom staff of our school. In this edition, we will be introducing Ms. Wendy and her classroom staff.

Ms. Wendy (pictured on the left), has

been with Linwood for just under one year as one of our classroom teachers. She plans, prepares, and guides her students and staff. She has been a great asset to the staff here and we are happy to have her.

Mr. Stephen (pictured in the middle) has been at Linwood for a little over three months as a student assistant in Ms. Wendy's classroom. He helps the students by facilitating material and helping them with their lessons on a daily basis.

Ms. Melanie (pictured on the

right) has been with Linwood for 11 years! Throughout the years Melanie has been such an asset to the team and even now, working as a Paraeducator in Ms. Wendy's classroom, she continues to shine! Melanie assists aid Ms. Wendy in her daily classroom routines and also guides the students in their learning.

While all three of these staff members have been such an asset to the team individually, together, they provide a great atmosphere for learning for each of the students that are in this classroom.

Tips from Leora on Enjoying the Moments



Enjoying The Moments

I was given the challenge and honor to write a short message to families. My message is a simple one for this newsletter. Often our students have difficulty saying, "I love you" or "thank you." My message for this newsletter is one that most of you have already figured out and know better than I ever will; your children and teens are telling you this.

They just don't use the same words as others may.

I experienced this personally at a recent graduation of two exceptionally bright students at Linwood School. Both students walked in and walked briskly to their families ignoring the crowded room of adults and peers cheering. No words were exchanged but the most amazing moment of family love occurred as hands were held and brief engaging eye contact was occurring. It was a moment of love. I will always be grateful that I encountered this moment. Additionally, I am grateful for the moments I see and encounter daily at the school. This is evident in daily interactions

with the staff and families here at Linwood School. I see it in the smiles, the laughter, the eye contact, and the hugs.

My message is simple. Find these moments and enjoy them. Your child may not be saying, "I love you," but it is undeniably present in interactions and moments.

- Leora Wagner
Behavior Specialist, M.A., BCBA
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Talking about Speech!



Summer is finally here!! June 21st marked the opening day of summer and promises of longer days, warmer weather, and some fun in the sun! Here at Linwood School, we plan on taking full advantage of the summer season. Apart from regular swimming adventures, the faculty and students will be planning other fun activities.

Typically, the speech-language pathologist does not participate in these activities; however, I'm very happy to say I will be joining in on the fun! I will be accompanying the staff members and students on whatever field trip

and activity I am able to attend. Speech and language is not something that can only be taught inside the walls of a building. It can be taught and used in all settings of life. When teaching kids speech and language skills, it is crucial that they learn to generalize these skills. This will enable them to use their skills in all settings of their lives.

That is the speech and language "take-home" message of this month's newsletter. As the student's teachers, guardians, therapists, and friends, it is our job to

ensure they learn to use these skills in various environments. Having them use and build their speech and language skills will only increase their desire to communicate and participate in life!

Do not let your student, child, and friend be a passive communicator. By having them communicate to receive their wants and needs, you are only helping them that much more!! So go ahead and help your child "generalize" those skills!!!!

- Matthew Graham, M.S., CCC-SLP
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PTO Updates!



Greetings from the PTO Parents!

Thank you for your continued support in Linwood's Parent Teacher Organization. We have some great things ahead, and are in the process of brainstorming for some creative events coming your way!

Stay tuned for flyers and more information!

Thank you!



Welcome Summer!!



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

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<http://www.linwoodcenter.org>