

SCHRAMM EDUCATIONAL CENTER

**From the Desk of Jan Staker,
Coordinator Schramm Educational Center**

Don't be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetime, is certain for those who are friends.
~Richard Bach

Once again it is time to say goodbye for the 2009-2010 school year. It is hard to believe we are already in the month of May. As a group, we worked on developing a three tiered intervention system and a school wide positive behavior system. Both of these documents will be included in the beginning of the school year packet. We have had many exciting activities throughout the school year and staff has had some excellent training which will continue to improve programming for your children. We have been trained in the use of non-verbal prompting, sleeping and eating strategies and LAMP training (Language Acquisition Through Motor Planning). Another Schramm teacher and Speech therapist will be involved in the summer experiential training which will be held in Metamora. This trains individuals in best teaching practices for children on the autism spectrum.

Once again, our over-night camping experience will not take place this year due to Clara Soldwedel Girl Scout Camp being sold. We will check next year to determine what the status of the camp is and hopefully be able to resume this activity. Fun Day activities are being scheduled for May 28th at Schramm. We would like to invite you to come and join in the fun.

We value the time we are able to spend with your children and look forward to continued involvement in their education. We have five individuals participating in the graduation ceremony which will be held on Tuesday, May 25th. We want to wish Patrick, Brent, Andy, Crystal, and Jennifer the best and we have enjoyed working with them over the years. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and I look forward to working with you once again in the fall and would like to close with the following poem in honor of your children.

For every child who attends Schramm Educational Center, we would like to leave you with this thought:

You are a very special person

And you should know,

How I loved to be your principal

How fast the year did go!

Please come back in August

As through the summer you continue to grow

Try hard to learn all that you can

There is so much to know!

The one thing we tried to teach you

To last your whole life through

Is to know that you are special

Just because you are you!

Author unknown

2009-2010



Language Arts and Math
Sue, Mary and Carrie

We celebrate three special holidays in the month of May...Cinco de Mayo (May 5), Mother's Day (May 9), and Memorial Day (May 31).

Students have been busy making a project for a very special person in their lives. Happy Mother's Day to Mom's and Grandmas!

Stories this month will focus on warm weather and all of the wonderful changes we see around us. We will read about caterpillars, bugs, flowers, rain, wind, kites and read about special holidays in May.

The holiday of Cinco de Mayo, is a Mexican holiday that celebrates the victory of the Mexican Army over the French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Students will learn about Mexican customs and culture. Mexican Americans use bright colors to commemorate important holidays. Students will decorate a sun art paper plate, noisemaker to celebrate this holiday.

Memorial Day honors all men and women who have died in military service while serving our country. It is a day set aside for us to say "thank you" for our freedoms as Americans. The National Moment of Remembrance, established by Congress in 2000, asks Americans wherever they are at 3:00 p.m. local time, on Memorial Day to pause in silence for 1 minute in an act of national unity to honor the fallen and their families ensuring that they are not, and never will be, forgotten.

"Last Monday in May"

By John T. Bird

We pause to remember those who died

With so much courage, so much pride.

They'll never come back, yet memories endure

To remind us of freedom: fragile, pure.

We're worthy of their sacrifice if we pause each day

Not just on the last Monday in May.

This poem was written by John Bird to honor his father, a WWII veteran, and to convey the real significance of Memorial Day. He wanted to make sure that future generations understand the sacrifices made by these people to preserve our freedoms.

Enjoy your summer! We look forward to seeing you August 19th.

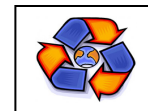
Workshop
Kim, Nelena and Chit

Spring is finally here and I think we are all thrilled. It is finally that time when we can enjoy the great outdoors and begin thinking of the fun things we will do this summer like planting a garden.

The workshop center continues to be busy recycling. Recycling has held a number of months to celebrate the observance of this vital practice. The month of April, May, and June have been selected as common recycling months in the United States of America. President Ronald Reagan and President George Bush were among a few recent Presidents who recognized the importance of this vital process to the continued survival of our planet. Both enacted National Recycling Month bills during their terms as Presidents, hoping to encourage Americans to practice recycling on a daily basis.

Within the workshop center we recycle junk mail, any and all paper we receive, and as a school we recycle our aluminum cans. Our students are all exposed to the practices of opening junk mail, shredding it, and emptying various recycling containers into bags that are taken to local recycling centers. It is a great way for them to participate in recycling practices.

Since it is garden season, it is a great time to start a compost bag at home of various food materials that can be dumped into the garden to feed your future vegetation. For example, at our house, we keep our egg shells, potatoes peels, and various other items that will be mixed into our garden. We also keep our aluminum cans and take them to a local recycling center. There are hundreds of ways to recycle. Here are a few practical things you can do at home to make a difference with your child and family to get everyone involved in saving our planet:



Teach kids the three R's:

- **Reduce - reduce the amount of things you buy and use and you will have less to throw away**
- **Reuse - keep using the same things as many times as you can**
- **Recycle - find new ways to use old things**

**REMEMBER...THIS IS "OUR" PLANET
HAVE FUN AND RECYCLE!**

Transition/Social Skills

Sally, Susan, Deb and Wendy



Wow...the end of the school year is already here! This has been the fastest year I have ever experienced!!! In the transition class, we have made leaps and bounds with our work stations. As a class, we have worked on every station at some point throughout the year...and that's 15 stations! Good work kids!! We have also been enjoying lots of play time outside in the beautiful spring (and sometimes summer-like) weather.

We have also welcomed a new personal assistant to our class...Wendy Wright. She has an energetic personality and has been a great asset to our room. Welcome Wendy!

In social skills, we have watched numerous social skill-building videos, from going out to eat, saying "Hi", expressing feelings, and calming skills. We start each class with self calming strategies. For example, we squeeze our hands together, rub our head, and rub our legs. We do this sequence 3 times with the lights down low and we are all ready to work after this activity! Great job social skills class!

Have a great summer and see you next year!!

Technology

Tina, Tina, and Joe

Summer Vacation

Hello from the Technology Center!

Another year has quickly gone by. It seems just like yesterday it was August and school was starting. This year has been very productive and fun. The students have all come a long way in their academics. It has been a joy to see their progress throughout the year. This past month we have been learning about fruits and vegetables and how it is important to eat healthy. We also have been learning about the five senses. We will be quite busy in May with Camp Day and other fun activities. We hope you have a great and safe summer.

Communication

Chris, Stephanie, Bobbie Jo and Linda

Our communications class has had a busy semester! We started off in January by discussing winter. Our topics of interest included the appropriate clothing to wear, fun activities for the cold and the weather that comes in those months.

Valentine's Day brought plenty of excitement to our class as well. We had the classes make their own Valentine's Day basket to hold all of the Valentine Cards the students received. We also talked about President's Day, Groundhog's Day, and Dr. Seuss's birthday.

For the second year in a row, we had each classroom pick a March Madness tournament bracket. This year's winner, Tina Carlson's room, won a pizza party. That class even selected Duke as the national champion! In March, we also talked about Easter, St. Patrick's Day, and leprechauns.

In the month of April, we talked about Earth Day, as well as played some Earth Day bingo. We also played communication baseball and talked about April Showers.

We hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer vacation and we look forward to seeing all of the students in the fall.

Adaptive P.E.

Tony and Becky



What a great year it's been. Becky and I have really enjoyed having your child in our class. I would like to say special congratulations to our graduates, Crystal and Jennifer and thank you to their parents for working with us to provide the best possible care and education for your child. Also, thank you Becky for working with me and making everyday fun. I hope everyone has a great summer.

Living Skills
Maribeth and Tyler

During the month of April we really worked hard on identifying our safety signs. We did matching, played sign Bingo & on some of the very nice days we were able to take a walk in the community to match & identify signs that we found. We also made handprint flowers where we chose the colors for each flower & got to use the stapler to hook to the straw "stem". Everyone's bouquet turned out beautiful.

So far in the month of May we made May Day baskets & put our handprint flowers in them to take home. We also made Mother's Day cards. We will be going outside as much as possible to get the planter boxes ready for all of the beautiful flowers we will be planting all along the Nature Trail. We are also looking forward to Fun Day on May 28th.

Nurses Corner
Christy, Diana and Sheri

It's been another fun, yet busy year! I hope you read the summer poison prevention safety tips brochure that was sent home with your child. It shared a lot of interesting and helpful information to keep your family safe and healthy during the upcoming summer months.

Just a reminder:

1. Students entering kindergarten, sixth, and ninth grades must have a school health examination (including an updated immunization record), by the start of the next school year.
2. Students entering kindergarten are also required to have an eye examination, by an eye doctor, by the start of the next school year.
3. Dental examinations are required for kindergarten, second, and sixth graders by 5/15/2011 of the next school year.

Enjoy your summer and we'll see you back in the fall!!

Science and Social Science
Donna and Mary



We can not believe another school year is about to over! The students have been busy doing various activities in Science and Social Science this semester. In Science we made snow, played with magic sand, made a penguin thermometer, made milk shakes, exploded balloons, learned that taco sauce is a good cleaner, made bird feeders, learned how strong bird bones are, made sherbet smoothies, made worms, made rain sticks, dyed eggs with food color, changed the color of milk, crushed cans with heat, made a ping pong ball defy gravity, and planted flowers. In Social Science we did an interactive book on a snowman, talked about Martin Luther King with the Weekly Reader, Penguins - Weekly Reader, talked about Groundhog's Day and made predictions about the weather, talked about dentists and teeth, President's Day - Weekly Reader, Space - Weekly Reader, read a interactive book on Spring, read 'What's in your Easter Basket?', read about various weather using the Weekly Reader and read the Social Story on our Fun Day.

At this time, we are sad to say that Mary Ball, my wonderful, right-hand assistant is retiring after 23 years of service. We will totally miss her! HAPPY RETIREMENT - MARY!

Have a wonderful summer and we will see everyone in August!

Dates to Remember:

Monday, May 31st
Memorial Day - No School

Tuesday, June 1st
Last Day of School
(Full Day)

Wednesday, June 2nd
Teacher Institute

Thursday, August 19th
First Day of Student Attendance
(Full Day)

Early Childhood

Ramie, Sharon, Linda and Jennifer

The Early Childhood class has grown! Since the beginning of 2010 we grew by 4 students. Richard joined our class in January; Maci and Katie came in February; and Austin joined us in March. After Christmas break our friend Aidan moved to a district 108 class. So now we are 10!

In February we went to Sunset Lanes to bowl. This is always a fun CBR. We also went to Discovery Days preschool in February. It was fun to play with all the kids and then to play on the giant slide from Fun-On-the-Run that was there for St. Joseph's school carnival. The eighth graders helped us climb up and slide down. It was a great day. In April we went on a CBR to the Pekin Park. We had fun walking around the lagoon, fishing and playing on the play ground equipment. May is our month for swimming at the YWCA and a field trip to the Glen Oak Zoo. We are all looking forward to the zoo with a picnic afterwards. We are also looking forward to Fun Day here at Schramm on May 28th.

April 27th was our Early Childhood Family Night. It was held in conjunction with a parent in-service. Approximately 30 students and their families joined us for Subway sandwiches, salads and dessert. All the students and their siblings played in an inflatable bouncer before dinner. A good time was had by all.

The end of the school year is quickly approaching. We look forward to summer vacation but are always ready for school to resume in August. A big change in the Early Childhood class next year is the return to full time teaching for Ramie and the "re-retiring" of Sharon.

Enjoy your summer!

Job Coaches

Deb and Brandon

The year may be winding down, but our students are still hard at work out in the community! We have kept a very busy schedule this year and have had some pretty amazing job experiences!

On Mondays, we take Andy M. and Jasmine C. to T.A.P.S., where they help care for the animals there. Tasks such as window washing, hair removal from furniture and

rolling newspapers for bedding have been commonplace. This not only shows our students the responsibilities of being a pet owner, but also instills a work ethic that can be used in every day life.

Our Tuesdays are split between two job sites. In the mornings, James B. and Matthew S. package non-perishable food items for families in need at the Pekin Township Food Pantry. While, in the afternoon, Greg C. and Nick H. performs a multitude of tasks at Schnuck's grocery store. This has proven to be our toughest work day of the week!

Our mid-week work includes cleaning tables and organizing the banquet room at The Moose Lodge. Joe B., Brent C. and B.J. W. have handled this workload very well and have made constant improvements. Also, Wednesday afternoon gives us the opportunity to shred documents at the Tazewell County School Employees Credit Union. We have a crew consisting of Christina M., Jennifer B., Jesse S., Bobby B and Michael Y. to handle this undertaking. They have done quite well and have even shredded the Credit Union clean out of bank documents, requiring us to bring our own work from school on occasion!

Thursday mornings have Misty W. and Loretta S. out at Excalibur Seasonings, where they have been labeling boxes to be shipped worldwide! And, in the afternoon, we have been using a team of Jacob G., Crystal B. and Destiny H. to walk our city parks and keep them clean by picking up trash. What a way to keep our town green!

We wind our week down on Friday mornings with a trip to PTS, where we also shred their documents with the help of Brittany E., Matthew B. and Nic W. This group has worked very well together and tries to encourage each other to work harder every week! And, of course, we have a great group of in-house workers that take care of crushing our cans, collecting recycling, stocking our snack box, doing laundry and even washing the hand rails. So, a special thank you to Dillon C., R.J. R. and Juli V. for all their hard work!

It has been a very successful year and we look forward to continuing our progress in the future!

