

SCHRAMM EDUCATIONAL CENTER

From the Desk of Jan Staker,
Coordinator Schramm Educational Center

Once again it is time to say goodbye for the 2010-2011 school year. It is hard to believe we are already in the month of May. As a group, we worked on developing "core" vocabulary with students using eye gaze, voice, communication systems, or PECS. 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 lifting and positioning, core vocabulary strategies, IPOD touch, MAPS (Making Action Plans), collaboration between schools and families, food allergies, looking at behavior as a form of communication, and teaching play skills through games. Full day in-services included "Building Social Relationships" by Dr. Scott Bellini and "Applying Autism Research to Intervention" by Dr. Martha Burns. Parents are always welcome to participate in any professional activities TMCSEA plans and in the fall we will supply you with a list of next year's activities.

Our over-night camping experience will be held on Thursday, May 26th at Soldwedel Program Center. Many fun activities will be planned and some of our older students will have an opportunity to spend the night.

We value the time we are able to spend with your children and look forward to continued involvement in their education. We have two individuals participating in the graduation ceremony which will be held on May 31 from 1 to 2:30 in the afternoon. We want to wish Brittany and Bobby 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 and your children once again in the fall and would like to close with the following poem.

In honor of our 2011 graduates.



Goodbye for now
We have been through everything together
Now it is time for us to part
You will always have a place in our heart

But not to worry
Friends never really say goodbye
Many long years we've known each other
We were your teachers

Now all of a sudden
You need to go
Forward into adult services

Keep in touch
For your lives are only beginning
We have much more to look forward to
We will miss you

Faith will let us meet again
You will find new friends wherever you are
So Until we meet again
Farewell our friends

Good Bye

Author Jonathon



Communication

Chris, Stephanie, Bobbie Jo,
Mark and Dave



It's hard to believe that it is May already! The year really went by quick. We use a variety of different types of communication systems, such as Picture Exchange Communication systems, switches with pre-recorded voice output, as well as choice making devices; we even received a donation for an Apple Ipad for the classroom as well.

This semester we covered a variety of different topics in Communications. In January, we started the year off with "What to wear when it's cold outside" and the Super Bowl. February we talked about all kinds of different topics, such as The Chinese New Year, Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, and President's Day. We even watched a video about Martin Luther King, Jr's "I have a dream speech."

March was a busy month for all the students as well. We began the month doing a two week long lesson about our solar system and the planets. Each of the classrooms that came to Communication got to make a Paper Mache model of a planet. After the solar system, we moved on to one of my favorite lessons of the year - March Madness. Each classroom picked a bracket and cheered on their favorite teams. This year, Shelby's class, won the grand prize - a pizza party for lunch.

Workshop

Kim, Nelena and Chit



Happy spring from the Workshop Center!

This spring we developed some new work boxes for our center. We work very closely with our transition team to prepare students for their real life experiences. So, we have developed some work boxes that will help them develop their skills. One of the boxes is sorting cards alphabetically. This is a good vocabulary building activity as well as matching the correct letters to the correct alphabet divider box. Another activity we developed was sorting various products by the groupings of "food" or "non-food". This gives our students the training to sort grocery products well in their community jobs. And, we are sure the customers they serve will appreciate that! Another work box we developed for the center is a money activity. We have the students sort various coupon values and put the coupon in the appropriate envelope which has both a written and visual representation of the dollar value on the front of the envelope. This helps students again match equal dollar values together and gives them a concept of different money combinations.

We have been using these with students for a couple of months now and many are really enjoying the challenge that they bring.

We are continually evaluating our student's needs and coming up with activities that will help them develop their skill levels. We are also working on teaching them how to make choices and requests known to others. They are doing a tremendous job with this skill development also.

Have a fantastic spring. Enjoy the smells and sights of beautiful flowers blooming everywhere!

Transition/Social Skills
Sally and Bethany

Happy Mother's Day to all of the moms out there! We have spent the last weeks doing some really fun art projects along with our daily routine. As some of you may know, crafts are not my strong point but I have had some help from my Illinois State University students, Katie and Ryan, in coming up with ideas and putting them into action. Katie and Ryan had their last days in our class the last week of April and we miss them already. The kids had a lot of fun with them and they were a huge help.

In social skills center we have spent a lot of time focusing on sensory strategies to use for calming. We have also worked on expressing our emotions and figuring out what different emotions look and feel like. We had a terrific inservice about teaching social skills with board games and I am excited to implement this during social skills center.

Technology
Tina, Deb and Joe

Summer Vacation

You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance. I recently read this quote and it made me laugh because of the truth. "At times we learn we have lots or little patience". I am sure we can all relate to it. This quote also made me think of how much my students have taught me this year. When I think I am teaching them communication and social skills they are at times showing me how to be a better person. The students have taught me to keep an open mind, when things go awry, laugh and move on, be creative, and enjoy life's simple pleasures. It has been a learning year for all. The month of May will continue to be full of fun and excitement. Thanks for the great year!

Adaptive P.E.
Tony and Becky



Becky Moore is retiring and her last day is May 31st. I will not miss Becky because I always get to see her. She is like a Mom to me and will continue to be that in my life. I have been the luckiest person here at Schramm to have been blessed with getting to work with Becky for the last I don't know how many years. But I can tell you, they have been the best years in my life. With our relationship, I won't have to miss her. I am so thankful to have her in my life.

Thank you, Becky. I love you.

Science and Social Science
Donna and Jennifer



WOW! We can not believe we only have 4 weeks of school left! Where did this school year go? The students were busy doing various science experiments since the last newsletter. They played with pennies with the Lincoln High Dive, learned about birds and how to make bird feeders, traveled deep into space, made shakes, made candy bird nests, and tried to get eggs into bottles. As the weather starts getting warmer we will be doing silly and fun experiments outside! In Social Science the students worked with the Weekly Reader and learned about President's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Earth Day, spring, weather and insects.

We are all looking forward to our Camp Day on May 26. At this time I would like to introduce our newest student, Aisling. She joined us in the middle of March. She brings laughter and joy to her classmates and teachers! Have a great summer!

Speech News
Whitney de Haseth



Wow, how the year has flown by! During the first semester, we initiated a school-wide communication effort to use four core vocabulary words, that one, more, all done, and help. We continue to incorporate these four core vocabulary words into multiple settings and activities. It has been awesome to see students make meaningful choices using the phrase, "That one!" As students have mastered requesting more or indicating that they are all done, we have introduced "help." The ability to communicate "help" provides a student with the opportunity to appropriately express their frustration or difficulty with a task. When teaching "help," we often will sabotage a situation or activity by putting materials in a container or out of reach.

As always, we continue to promote communication through the best means possible for each of our students during speech therapy and within their classroom. Use of various switches, picture exchange, sign language, and objects are all methods we explore to promote communication for the students.

It has been a great school year! Have a wonderful summer!

Nurses Corner
Christy, Sheri and Dianna

It's been another fun, yet busy year! Attached is the summer poison prevention safety tips brochure which has lots 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.

Living Skills
Maribeth, Deb, Tammy and
Tina



Well it's finally Spring! It seemed like it would never get here. We have been busy in Living Skills. In February we worked on dressing in the right clothes for the weather outside. We also made valentine card holders for all of the cards our friends & teachers gave us. In March we baked and played several different types of bingo games. In April we made Rice Krispie bird nests & put chocolate eggs in them. We also made cookies for the dedication ceremony for the new playground. In May we will be planting all of the flowers in the large planters on the nature trail.

It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over but we know that it has been a very productive one for everyone. We want to wish Becky Moore, Deb Turner, Deb Sommer & Linda Curto good luck as they retire. WE WILL MISS YOU ALL!!!!

Language Arts and Math
Sue, Carrie and Julia

January-May, Monthly themes, literature connection and special activities:

January

- Students explored winter themes....snow and animals in winter.
- After reading If You Give A Moose A Muffin, by Laura Numeroff, students created a muffin for their moose to eat.

February

- Monthly themes centered on Chinese New Year, Valentine's day, George Washington's birthday and general winter topics
- Students listened to Snowballs by Lois Ehlert and made a perfect snowman. They used paper napkins decorated with snowflakes to make a 6 page book.
- Sun Nin, The Chinese New Year is celebrated by Chinese people around the world. The celebration lasts 15 days. Each year is named after one of the twelve animals on the Chinese zodiac, It is said that a person born in a year dedicated to a particular animal will have that animal's characteristics. 2011 is the year of the rabbit and the celebration began Feb 3, Calm, gentle, & persistent are three words that best describe characteristics of the rabbit.

Chinese families make great preparations in anticipation of the holiday. Everything must be very clean. Special foods are prepared. New clothes are worn. Everyone gets ready to start out fresh and new. Red and orange are special colors used to decorate. Everyone wishes each other Good Health, Long Life, Luck, and Prosperity & Happiness. Students made a Chinese New Year banner. Gung hay fat choy!...Happy New Year!

- Although George Washington did NOT chop down a cherry tree, the story is a moral lesson invented by Washington's first biographer. We will still had fun reading biographies about our 1st president and making President's Pie (cherry) to celebrate his birthday.

March

- Monthly themes centered on weather & seasons, St. Patrick's Day & children's author Dr. Seuss
- Happy Birthday Theodor Seuss Geisel (alias Dr. Seuss)! Students created their own hat to wear while reading The Cat in the Hat.
- Students helped predict early or late spring...Lion or Lamb? They charted March weather and also made a lion or lamb craft.
- Hurray for the Irish! Students celebrated St. Patrick's day by making a tasty treat...Leprechaun Snack mix & decorating a Shamrock wand.

April

- Monthly themes centered on Easter, Arbor Day,

and ways to keep America beautiful

- Students made an "egg to chick" Easter card.
- Students read Curious George Plants a Tree by H. A. Rey and Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- Students used egg shapes for number matching and patterning.

May

- Monthly themes will center on Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day & Memorial Day
- May 5, is fiesta time. Students will read books celebrating the traditions of Mexico and perhaps listen to traditional mariachi music.
- Students have already been working on a special project for their Mom's. [Happy Mother's Day. You are amazing and very special people!](#)

Summer is rapidly approaching. Please have a fun and safe time.

**Early Childhood
Ramie and Jennifer**

We have had a fabulous spring! Lucas joined our class in April and we are all very glad to have him. He has been a wonderful addition to our class. Our student teacher, Katie, just finished in our classroom and she will be graduating this weekend. We all enjoyed having her help out in our classroom. The kids really enjoyed going shopping at East Court Village. They did a great job making choices and picking out items for our classroom. All of us have enjoyed the new playground. On the few nice days we have had, we have enjoyed swinging and walking the nature trail. We are looking forward to our trip to the zoo. The kids have enjoyed talking about the animals that they are going to see. Camp is approaching quickly and we are going to have a great time! Thanks to all of the parents who have been a great support this year. It was a fun family night and the staff really enjoyed spending time with all of the Early Childhood families. We are excited about the next few fun-filled weeks ahead.