

DAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

BY JEN BROWN, SENIOR PROGRAM SUPERVISOR -
SECONDARY/TRANSITION

Hello Giant Steps Families,

Can you believe it is already the end of the Second Quarter? This school year has been moving at lightning speed and we have so many things to be grateful for as we reflect on the last few months. It's important to think of how far we have all come. We may spend time celebrating the challenges we were able to overcome, focus on staying positive about the barriers we are still climbing, and being grateful for the people surrounding us through it all. No matter what the journey has felt like so far this year, I'm glad to be on this journey with you. Our Secondary/Transition Team and Voyagers classroom demonstrated gratitude this year with a Thanksgiving Feast. This special celebration was a time for our students, families, and staff to sit together and enjoy a meal. Many of our students contributed to making this holiday lunch a success by adding their own special touches on the day. Students made decorations, helped to set up for the event, and even cooked food. I am so proud of the hard work our students and staff put in to make this feast possible. I'm also grateful that so many of our families were able to contribute in some way to this celebration as well. It's days like these that remind us of the possibilities of the impact we can make just by coming together for a few hours. I am certain that 2020 will be a great year and I'm looking forward to many more celebrations together!

Best, Jen Brown

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IS YOUR CHILD UNABLE TO COME TO SCHOOL TODAY?

Please call our student absence hotline if your child will miss school, **630-864-3800 x 3**.

Calling prior to 8am significantly helps us plan our staffing for the day!

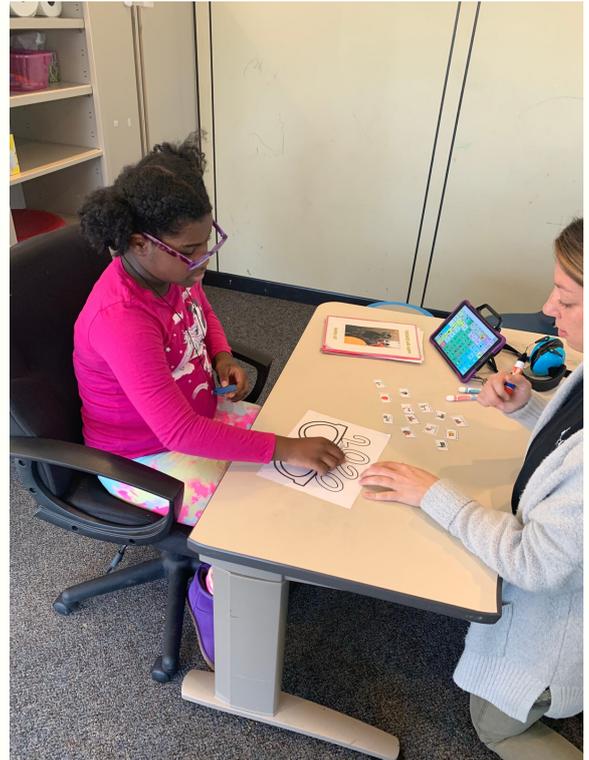
When leaving a message please leave your child's name, your child's teacher/classroom, as well as the reason for their absence.

Thank you!

ELEMENTARY SPOTLIGHT: CLASSROOM D

BY AMY ZAROLINSKI , CLASSROOM D TEACHER

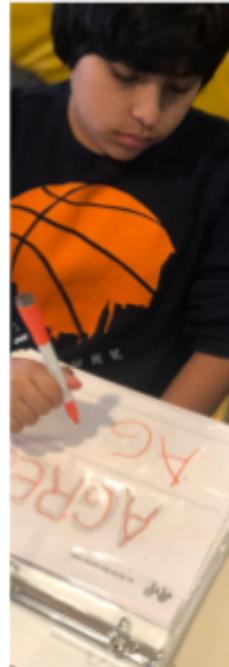
Happy New Year from Classroom D! We have been super busy so far this winter! 2020 started with our students learning about whole body listening and how all parts of our bodies are used to learn and be safe at school! In addition the students have gone on many fun Community Based Instruction outings such as McDonald's, Culver's, Forest The Fox's Playbox, the Dollar Store and so many more! In November we had a Thanksgiving feast and in December the students performed a Spongebob SquarePants Christmas song! In math the students are working on number identification and 1:1 correspondence, in Social Studies the students made New Year's resolutions! In our English class some students are working on letter identification and others are working on reading comprehension. We have started this new decade being busy and we look forward to what's to come for the rest of the year!



ELEMENTARY SPOTLIGHT: CLASSROOM E

BY JULIE JUVANCIC , CLASSROOM E TEACHER

Holy cow! How is it already February? Time really does fly when you are having fun. This year Classroom E students have truly grown in their independence within our classroom and within the community. During the month of January, Classroom E students and staff enjoyed our outings at McDonald's and Wendy's. Classroom E has been learning about compromise and working hard on improving our handwriting skills during ELA. We are currently wrapping up our units on addition and place value in Math. In Science, students have had a lot of hands on learning as they become experts on their five senses. Classroom E students stay on top of current events each week as they read a News 2 You article. When our students are not actively engaged in learning, you might find them relaxing on our classroom's crash pad, watching a favorite video on one of our classroom's iPad's, or riding around our hallways on a scooter. Shout out to our very own Jack for winning Star Student of the month!





SECONDARY/TRANSITION SPOTLIGHT: CLASSROOM OLYMPIC

BY KRIS ADAMO, CLASSROOM OLYMPIC TEACHER

Our 9th, 10th, and 11th graders in the Olympic classroom are well on their way to becoming master chefs! Since the beginning of the school year, the group has gone grocery shopping at the beginning of every week to gather ingredients for a recipe they all cook together on Fridays. During outings to local grocery stores, our students have practiced the skills that will prepare them for adulthood: navigating community spaces, using shopping lists and budgeting to plan ahead, problem-solving in the moment, and completing routine tasks like waiting in line, paying for groceries, bagging groceries, and putting them away once they've returned to school. Likewise, Olympic students practice crucial independent living skills during our Food & Nutrition cooking sessions. After carefully following a recipe, the group cleans up together and then returns to the classroom to sample their dish. Next, they review the recipe, answering survey questions like Was it difficult to make? Is it healthy? How did it taste? So far, the most popular recipes have been baked penne, cheesy nacho taco salad, and salted pretzel bars. We can't wait to see what they make next!



SECONDARY/TRANSITION SPOTLIGHT: CLASSROOM OZ

BY KATIE COEN, CLASSROOM OZ TEACHER

In the classroom, Oz students have been learning about other countries and cultures during our social studies session "Disney Around the World," geography, landforms, plants and animals during our science session "National Parks," filling out Google forms, typing and composing emails in one of our ELA sessions "Computer Skills" and reading and understanding graphs, maps and time schedules during one of our math sessions "Navigating." In the community, Oz students have been expanding their safety awareness and social skills in parking lots, stores, restaurants and recreational locations like Airtastic and Extreme Trampoline Park. Students have also been increasing their work tolerance, accuracy and work duration with new volunteer, vocational and life skills opportunities such as, the adopt-a-park program for the Naperville Park District picking up trash, stocking shelves and preparing items for clients at the West Suburban Community Pantry and doing their own laundry from start to finish at the laundromat.



STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



PRIMARY STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Camarion was nominated for demonstrating the ability to participate safely in large and small groups, follow spoken directions from multiple people, emerging functional communication, and gaining independence in completing known routines!



INTERMEDIATE STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jack - Classroom E

Jack was nominated for demonstrating the ability to follow spoken/written directions from multiple people, completing personal care independently, safely participating in groups of 5+ peers, and an emerging ability complete functional care routines with greater independence!

STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Bassel -Classroom Zion

Bassel was flexible to go a different route when a situation happened on his regular route during dismissal. He was able to shave a safe body and waited for his bus in the bus lobby!



Pablo - Classroom Kennedy

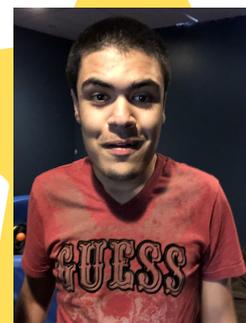
Pablo has consistently shown an increase in independence this year by transition quickly, participating in large groups and follow directions from multiple people!

SECONDARY/ TRANSITION STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:



Mason -Classroom Zion

Mason was nominated for doing an amazing job increasing his independence with self-care tasks and advocating for his needs. the entire Zion team is SO proud of him!



Faaris - Classroom Acadia

Faaris continues to grow and engage with multiple staff safely and appropriately. He also continues to demonstrate self-management of his behavior and participate in his program. He has also been asking for a break when needed!

BUILDING ESSENTIAL SKILLS

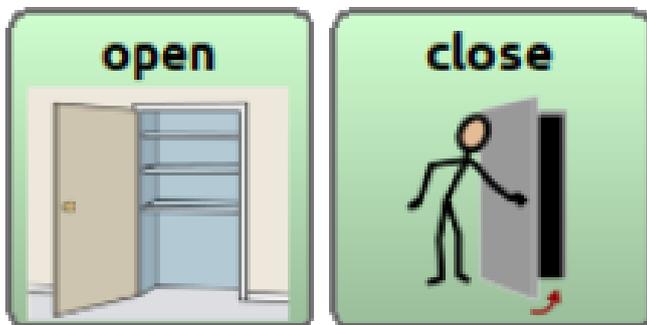
Essential Skills

1. Possesses and utilizes an identified **reliable, spontaneous communication** method
2. Demonstrates **self-management** of behavior
3. Safely **participates in groups** of 5+ individuals
4. Completes **personal care** routines independently (e.g., clean hands/ face, brushes teeth, hair combed/brushed, etc.)
5. **Follows spoken and visual direction**
6. Respects and maintains **appropriate boundaries** of self and others (physical and otherwise)
7. **Follows directions from multiple people**
8. **Manages bodily functions** independently (e.g., toileting, wiping nose, covering cough, etc.)
9. Demonstrates **choice-making**
10. **Waits appropriately** for 10 minutes
11. Possesses and utilizes skills/strategies to **manage emotions and/or sensory needs**
12. Demonstrates **problem solving**
13. Safely **engages in a recreational/leisure** activity for 15 minutes
14. **Reads and writes functionally**
15. **Advocates for him/herself**

COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF THE MONTH

**CORE WORDS:
OPEN/CLOSE**

**SOCIAL LANGUAGE CONCEPT:
SOCIAL FILTER**



USING MY MENTAL FILTER



NURSE'S CORNER

BY: JILLIAN HILDEBRAND, RN

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) marked flu activity in Illinois at the highest level right before the new year. Please see recommendations from the CDC about the best habits to prevent getting infected with the Flu Virus.

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year, but good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu.

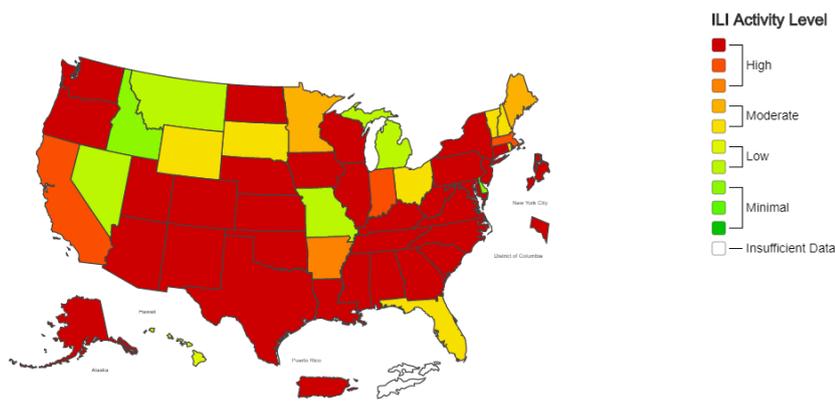
1. Get your flu shot! The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. There are several flu vaccine options this flu season.
2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
3. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.
4. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses, like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), are spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands.
5. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
6. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.



A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

2019-20 Influenza Season Week 52 ending Dec 28, 2019



*This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.
 *Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state.

You're invited!

SAVE THE DATE

THE GREAT GATSBY GALA

GIANT STEPS' ANNUAL GALA

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020 6:00 PM

DoubleTree by Hilton • Lisle/Naperville



GOLDEN TICKET

Giant Steps Annual Gala

Gala Tickets & Golden Tickets are now available!

<https://gsgala.givesmart.com/en>

WAYS TO GIVE BACK

SHOPAROO!

Holiday shopping may be over but don't forget to upload your grocery, restaurant, and retail receipts to Shoparoo!

If you are an android user:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=infoscout.shoparoo&hl=en_US

If you are an Iphone user:
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/shoparoo-fundraising/id549616361>

You can also send your receipts into Julie Zajac (they cannot be more than 14 days old) and we will download the receipts for you and then return them!

Questions or Concerns:
contact.jzajac@mygiantsteps.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Parent's Club Meeting: 2/5 9:15 AM
- Parent's Club Meeting: 2/5 6:15 PM
- Early Release (1:40 PM): 2/5
- President's Day, No School: 2/17
- Teacher Institute Day, No School: 2/28
- Early Release (1:40 PM): 3/4
- End of 3rd Quarter: 3/17
- No School, Spring Holiday: 3/30-4/3



**Giant Steps
 Parents Club**
COFFEE Talk

Educate • Communicate • Participate

BY JULIE ZAJAC

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on February 5th at 9:15 AM in the Gator Galley for the next Parent's Club Meeting!

Topic

"Communication Strategies at Home and in the Community"- "We will be covering strategies for our verbal and non-verbal communicators" lead by Giant Steps Speech Department

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on February 5th at 6:15 PM in the Gator Galley for the next Parent's Club Meeting!

Topic:

Learn about what's happening at Giant Steps, meet members of the Board of Directors, and meet other parents

Zoom option to join the meeting via computer will be sent out to those who cannot make it.

Questions? To RSVP please contact:
 Julie Zajac at jzajac@mygiantsteps.org