News from the Director

Most days, it probably feels like you're on auto-pilot, doing all those things you have to in this complex world of ours. So while you're at it, why not make a bit of joy a daily requirement, too?

***CORRECTION***

Our elementary and middle school students are in training and will
Unstuck is a website that provides subscribers food for thought. They suggest we inject some joy into every day. Is that possible? Do we really have time for that? Ask yourself these three questions-

1. What makes you feel happy to be alive?
2. How can you make that feeling happen every day?
3. At the end of every day, ask yourself, “What was my intentional moment today?”

I love to learn something new each day. That’s what makes me happy. The internet has made this so much easier! I can dig deeper into a topic of interest with whatever time I have available. When my children lived at home, each night at the supper table, we would ask them what they learned today. We joke about that now, but it communicated to them, that we valued learning. While on spring break, my husband and I took a tour of Charleston and Fort Sumter. I loved learning about the history that took place in Charleston.

So, how can I continue to have that feeling of learning something new every day, when so much of my time is spent doing the things that need to be done? That’s a good question and even with the best of intentions, it is difficult. Sometimes, it is talking with someone about what they did over break, squeezing in a little non-fiction reading, or watching the National news. I need to become intentional about making sure that every day I learn something new - something that interests or excites me. At the end of each day, ask yourself, “what have I done today that made me feel happiness?”

_Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn’t know you left open._ ~John Barrymore

Sincerely,

Kathy Stricker
"When a flower doesn't bloom you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower."

@Shrinksdom

Sensory Sensitive Sundays at Chuck E. Cheese's
A safe and fun place for children with autism or other special needs.
The first Sunday of every month, 2 hours before the store's opening time.
Click here for more information and for participating locations.

BEST BUDDIES FRIENDSHIP WALK
April 23, 2017
Celebration Plaza & White River State Park Canal
Downtown Indianapolis
Click here for more info.

 Presents Innovative Housing for Adults with Disabilities
Saturday, April 29, 2017
White River Library
1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood, IN - 46142
9:30AM to 11:30AM

CASS Housing is a startup not-for-profit based out of Fort Wayne creating long-term housing and support options for people with developmental disabilities. David Buuck, Founder and Executive Director of CASS Housing, will present on the background of the organization and how the model could be replicated in our community.

Three different models are available for Core Members (residents) based on their strengths and abilities. Because CASS Housing does not utilize Medicaid waiver dollars to operate the homes, each residence can be customized at a very high level. Waiver dollars are used as they currently are in the family home. You can learn more at casshousing.org.

Please join us and learn more about CASS and if it might be an option for your family.

You must RSVP in advance to jcasg@jcasg.com. No childcare will be provided at this meeting.

Transition Fair
Sponsored By: Goodwill Education Initiatives

All students receiving special education or 504 services are encouraged to attend this fair to equip themselves with valuable information as they transition from school.

Thursday, April 27 at 2 - 4 P.M.
Goodwill Industries, Indianapolis, IN

Your friends from Camp Hi-Ho and the Children's Hospital Foundation invite you to Thunder Day, a special day of spring fun!

Saturday, April 22, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Camp Hi-Ho
Louisville, KY 40245

Informational Flyer

Camp Erin Indianapolis is a free, weekend bereavement camp for children and teens ages 6-17 who are grieving the death of someone close to them. It is a traditional, fun, high-energy camp combined with grief education, peer bonding, and emotional support led by grief support professionals and trained volunteers. Camp Erin Indianapolis is part of The Moyer Foundation.
Welcome SSJCS employees!

At the board meeting on March 16, we welcomed all of our wonderful Special Services employees into Center Grove! We are thrilled that they will all be Center Grove employees next school year and will continue to serve our students. What a great group!

At Camp Yes And, autistic teens and educators learn improv as a way to develop social communication skills and transform teaching and learning. Sponsored by the Center on Education and Lifelong Learning and the Indiana Resource Center for Autism, camp is designed to support teens (13-18) on the autism spectrum with Asperger's or compatible diagnoses and educators -- including general educators, special educators, speech-language pathologists, arts educators, para-educators, mentors, supervisors, etc. -- of any discipline working in K-12 public or private, university, and/or community-based settings (e.g. arts or social services organizations).

For Camp dates, locations, more information and to register, click here.
My Child is Transitioning to Adulthood: What Now? Indianapolis

Location: ProKids
6923 Hillsdale Court
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Date: 5/03/2017

Event Times
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Transition planning offers youth with disabilities a path to connect their daily high school activities to their goals for independent life after completing high school. This training will discuss options and how to start making plans now to set up a positive future. Some areas covered will be:

- Transition IEPs
- Options for after High School: Employment, Secondary Education, Day Centers, etc.
- How to stay involved in the Community: Volunteering, Recreation, etc.
- Independent Living / Support Living
- Financial Planning
- Other Community and State Resources

Pricing Details
Price for Family Member: $0
Professionals: $25

Contact: Cindy Robinson
Email: asktraining@aboutspecialkids.org
Phone 800-964-4746

REGISTRATION

Camp Can Do is a summer day camp for kids on the autism spectrum, ages 12-18. Our fun filled days help keep kids in a routine that can make the transition back to school much easier. Traditional camp activities will be led by trained staff and will incorporate a variety of life skills in a fun learning environment.

Monday - Thursday: The day will be split into activities that include sports & games, mad science (fun experiments), arts & crafts, life skills, cooking and special guests. Built into these activities will be ways kids can earn camp dollars to spend at the camp store at the end of each week.

Fridays: Field trip day. Campers and staff will use Access Johnson County to visit area attractions that might include bowling, roller skating and the Edinburgh Aquatic Center.

Week 1: June 12-16
Week 2: June 19-23
Week 3: June 26-30

Now accepting Camper Registrations!

Camp Flyer
Camper Registration
Thank You for a Great World Down Syndrome Day Celebration!

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day with us on Tuesday, March 21st at the Indianapolis ArtsGarden! Over 100 friends and family came together for a Flash Mob and then canvased Circle Centre Mall passing out Random Acts of Kindness bags to spread awareness about Down syndrome. It was a beautiful day! We even made the cover of the Indianapolis Star on March 22nd!


Above & Beyond

Each month, we receive heartfelt nominations for the Above and Beyond Award! It is very difficult to identify one person or a group of people who have earned the Above and Beyond award for the month. Thank you to all of you who have been nominated!

March Award Winner - Deb Norris

Congratulations to Deb Norris and the other March nominees:

- Susan Dotson
- Karsey King
- Tammy Falk
- Kathy Springman
- Lisa Anderson
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