News from the Coordinator

The recent weather patterns we have experienced have made me question why I choose to live in Indiana. 70 and sunny one day; 30 and snowing the next. It has my sinuses going crazy and my 2-year old confused as to why he can't play outside every day. Although I dread the ups and downs, I wouldn't change it if I could. Honestly, I love Indiana for our weather. I appreciate the 70 and sunny days so much more because I know we don't get them everyday. It gives us all something to look forward to as the spring (or mid-February) weather approaches.
All children also have their goods days and bad days and can, at times, be unpredictable. No matter what type of day they are having, as parents, you love and support your child. Through the ups and downs that many children can face, remember to appreciate the “70 and sunny” days when they come along. And when a “30 and snowy” day comes along, be there for them and remember that tomorrow is a new day, potentially with a completely different forecast. No matter what type of day your child is experiencing, their teachers and school staff are also here to help and support.

Enjoy the upcoming spring break with your family!

Sincerely,

Alli Chance

"Fair Isn't everyone getting the same thing. Fair Is everyone getting what they need in order to be Successful!"
March is Disability Awareness Month
From our friends at the Governor's Courses for People with Disabilities:

Each March, Disability Awareness Month is celebrated throughout Indiana. And given that adults and children with disabilities represent slightly more than 19 percent of Indiana's population, disability awareness is important for all of us. Led by the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, the goal of Disability Awareness Month is to increase awareness and promote independence, integration and inclusion of all people with disabilities. The Council develops a unique theme for this annual event and produces campaign materials that are available free of charge to Hoosiers who want to help make a difference.

The 2017 Disability Awareness Month campaign theme is "I'm Not Your Inspiration." Often, people with disabilities who are successful, athletic, employed or simply good neighbors are put in the spotlight as inspiration to others. This year's campaign theme emphasizes that people with disabilities are people first - people who want to be fully included in their communities, just like everyone else. For more information, click here.

The IDOE contract with myON allowed schools to evaluate the product risk free. That access has now expired. MyON offers school and district licenses if you would like to pursue that opportunity.

Some options for free access to online books and texts can be found here.

Increase in Students with Autism

According to the December 2010 child count data, the number of students served under the eligibility category ASD was 11,514. By December 2011, the count was 12,226. According to the child count data from December 2012, the number of children served under the diagnostic category of ASD was 13,020; and with the December 2013 data, the number had grown to 13,675. By December 2014, this number had grown to 14,179. Last year's child count data (December 2015) shows an increase from the previous year of 1,112 for a total of 15,291 students. This year's child count data (December 2016) is 15,815 for an increase of 524 students ages 3-21.
Center Grove has been selected to participate in the Unified Sports Program which combines students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team for sports training and competition. Our elementary and middle school students are in training and will have a Unified Game Day on May 7th at MSC. Students will participate in a variety of track and field events.

Thank you to Barb Kindred, Laban Clark and Sue Larmore for all of their hard work in making this happen!

The Arc of Indiana Utility Support Program

The Arc of Indiana's Utility Support Program has new income eligibility guidelines. Families who meet the following eligibility requirements may now qualify for assistance. They include:

- Family with a dependent child under the age of 18
- One or more residents in household must have a disability
- Thirty days' income verification
- Family income at or below 250% of federal poverty level

Two-person household - $40,600
Three-person household - $51,050
Four-person household - $61,500
Five-person household - $71,950
Six-person household - $82,400

For more information, visit The Arc of Indiana Utility Support

The number of students enrolled in Indiana's public and non-public schools during the 2016-2017 school year also grew to 1,133,380. Using that data and the child count data from December 2016, approximately 14 in 1,000 students in Indiana have a diagnosis of ASD. Last year's identification rate was 1 in 68. This year's identification rate is 1 in 72 despite the actual increase in number of students identified. This decrease in the incidence rate is due to the increase overall of the number of students educated in our schools. The child count data does not include children who are not on special education service plans, are home schooled or are in non-public schools. All who have either an IEP or special education service plan are counted.

PARENT NIGHT
Guardianship

The next parent night for students of Special Needs sponsored by the Johnson County Transition Council is April 11, 2017.

Please click here for the flyer. Feel free to print and send home with your students.
April 29 - 2017 Down Syndrome Research Conference!

Down Syndrome Indiana is excited to announce that we will be teaming up with the National Down Syndrome Society and the DS360 Project at Emory University in 2017 to bring the Down Syndrome Research Conference to Indianapolis! Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 29th from 8:30 - 1:30. This one day conference will be FREE and will highlight local, regional, and national research efforts. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Childcare will also be provided to those who RSVP by 4/21/17.

Why is research important!? Research is the key to improving health, physical development, lifespan, and cognition in our loved ones with Down syndrome! Your participation in research today helps to ensure a better future for individuals with Down syndrome.

For more information, visit [http://www.dsindiana.org/conference.php](http://www.dsindiana.org/conference.php). To register for the conference, please email register@dsindiana.org or call 317-925-7617.

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**The Big Idea: Move from Abstract Language to Concrete Language**

Adults often use abstract language with students as behavioral feedback. Common abstract phrases include, "Be respectful!" "Show more responsibility!" and "That wasn't appropriate!" The problem with using these terms is that much of a student's abstract thinking ability develops well after puberty. In addition, the definition of the...
abstract term is often vague and it changes based on the context in which the behavior occurs. For example, "appropriate" behavior in the classroom is markedly different than "appropriate" behavior at a birthday party. Perhaps most important, adults each have unique understandings of what "responsible" or "respectful" means to them. As a result, students often find it difficult to engage in the behavior desired in a specific circumstance, particularly under the stress of receiving abstract behavioral feedback from an adult.

The solution? Avoid using abstract terms without providing a concrete example. Focus on action before providing students with abstract behavioral feedback.

Summer 2017
Camps and Programs

Please note that this directory has been compiled and posted as a service to the community. The Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA) does not endorse any particular activity or organization on this list. Camps listed specifically serve persons with disabilities and/or include this population in their program. Some solely serve children and/or adults on the autism spectrum. Parents are advised to investigate the opportunities presented below to determine the appropriateness of each activity for their family member.

Read Article and List of Summer 2017 Camps and Programs>>

Bradford Woods - Camp Riley
Summer 2017

We are excited to announce that applications for Camp Riley are now available for Summer 2017! Please find the attached letter explaining some of the changes you'll see regarding the application process and administrative oversight of Camp Riley.

The application packet can be found at bradford woods/camp riley and is due by March 17th. Please contact the Bradford Woods Recreation Therapy office with any questions about the application at 765-349-5135 x5218.

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!
February Award Winner - Beth Bryant

Congratulations to Beth Bryant and the other February nominees:

- Terri Malone
- Sharon Smith
- CGHS Special Services Department
- Sarah Page
- Betsy Baxter
- Sam Fritz
- Amy Pennington
- Jessie Hyde

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