Helping you make a difference in a child's life everyday.
October 2017

Your monthly connection to Center Grove Special Services

News

News from the Director

This is my last "News from your Director." I cannot express all of the emotions I have been feeling. Not only is it hard for me to imagine a life without Center Grove, without case conferences and without a schedule - it is so hard for me to believe my career in schools is over. I can remember the outfit I wore when interviewing for my first teaching position. How could that be 34 years ago!! I loved teaching - Star Wars had just come out, so my bulletin boards were full of R2D2 and C3PO. Whew! It has been quite the ride!

As we enter into a new month, the date I have been dreading is quickly approaching; October 13.

As all of you know, this will be Kathy Stricker's last day here. I personally cannot thank her enough for the support, guidance, encouragement, and collaboration that she has provided over the course of my career here in Center Grove, and I know many of you feel the same way. Kathy has
I have received such heartfelt wishes from so many people. Parents have sent emails thanking me, PGE threw a surprise party, and on October 4th, the ESC threw a wonderful retirement celebration for me!

Center Grove is blessed with parents who have high expectations for their children. You are an essential member of the team that helps your child achieve their goals. Thank you for all you do for your children, your children's schools and your children's teachers!

It has been tough to think about my legacy, but as I have, I don't think of the progress we have made as something "I" have done. We have always done things as a team. I just hope I am remembered as always focusing on what is best for the student, envisioning what could be and making that happen, and trying to provide the best education for all - students, teachers, staff and parents.

So after working in CG for 22 years, what will I miss the most? I will miss brainstorming ideas to help students. I will miss the laughter. I will miss hearing about student successes. In addition, I will miss all of you.

I thank you for all of the wonderful memories, the kind words and your friendship.

Take care of yourself,

Kathy Stricker

dedicated her career to support the world of special education, and I cannot thank her enough for the impact she has had on our school district.

Kathy, you will be missed more than words can express. I wish you nothing but the best in your travels and new adventures as a grandma-you have earned it!! -Alli

Early Learning Champion Alert

In a unique partnership to promote early education, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Commission of Higher Education, and Early Learning Indiana recently teamed up to publish a new magazine focusing on Hoosier children birth through age 5.

The publication is a part of the state's Learn More magazine series and is the first to focus exclusively on our littlest citizens. Available for download here, the publication offers information about school readiness, foundational activities families can do with their child, and information on how to start saving for college among other topics.

Take a moment to review the publication here and click here to share it with your family, friends, and colleagues.
The Fall Festival is a fundraiser set up last year in an attempt to raise more funding for APAC's clinics and as an effort to be able to expand APAC services potentially outside of the IUPUI campus. Adapted Physical Activity Clinics is a non-profit organization, and they are interested in growing and expanding their programs. This year they will be unveiling a new Brand and Logo as they transition from APAC to a new brand (This will be revealed at the Fall Festival).

Click here for event info

**Movin' and Groovin Dance Class**

Down Syndrome Indiana to Offer to Offer Movin' and Groovin' Dance Class for Youth!
Want to dance and have fun? Sign up for Movin' and Groovin' Today!
Open to Individuals with Down syndrome Ages: 5-18

**Dates:** October 17, October 24, November 7 and November 14

**Time:** 5-6 PM (can arrive as early as 4:30)

**Cost:** Free!

**Location:** Down Syndrome Indiana, 708 E Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Click here to RSVP

**Linking Up**

Here are some links to helpful information:

- [ASK Statewide Events](#)
- [About Special Kids (ASK) Events](#)
- [DSI Buddy Walk This Saturday, 10/14/15](#)
Please RSVP even if you cannot attend all the sessions. We want to make sure enough volunteers are present to make it the best possible experience for all.
For more info email: woodsonk@uindy.edu and/or decaninik@uindy.edu for Youth!

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."  ...Desmond Tutu

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!

September Award Winner - Shirley Brooks,
Custodian at The Academy

Shirley always goes above and beyond for the students in our building. She is always friendly, smiling and greeting those she comes across during the day. Shirley has connected to so many

This is a new feature for the 2017-18 school year.
Each Month we will spotlight 2 of our Special Education Bus Drivers.

October Spotlight

Jennifer Plummer - Bus #89
I am a 1985 graduate of CGHS. I have been driving a bus for Center Grove for 16 years in December; of which the last nine I have driven a Special Needs Bus. I love my job! In my spare time I enjoy following the CG Marching Trojans and CGHS choirs (my daughter is a senior in Debtones and CG Singers), playing hand bells in my church’s bell choir, and reading.

Marlene West - Bus #98
I have driven a bus for Center Grove for 43 years. In my spare time, I enjoy baking, oil painting, shopping, spoiling my 3 wonderful grandchildren, and participating in activities and classes at my church. I make sure each day that I am encouraging children in a positive way.
of our students. She will take the time to sit and talk with students and just seems to have a way of connecting with them. She always has time for our students and has been known to bring them treats like freshly canned grape jelly, to reward good behavior. She is just an all-around amazing person and we are so lucky to have her! - Natalie Shelton

Congratulations to Shirley and all our September nominees:

- Dan Andersen
- Melissa Harmon
- Betsy Baxter
- Pam Lickliter
- Lisa Pease
- Katie Gaff
- Brittany Feilen

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