

EARLY INTERVENTION EDITION

The Newsletter of the School-Based Early Intervention Unit Fall 2009



The Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families www.kids.delaware.gov

FCTs Provide Structured Summer Programming *by Belvie Herbert-Perry*

The Early Intervention Program's Family Crisis Therapists pride themselves on their ability to be creative; and this summer, they demonstrated just how creative they could be by developing and implementing mini themed camps for students at their respective schools. The camps were facilitated by groups of FCTs and ran for four weeks. The activities included field trips,

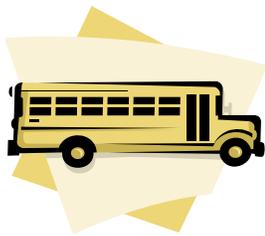


FCT Cindy Jones

journaling and instruction on such topics as exercise and nutrition. From Sussex County Deborah Ritter, Alex Hume, Mary O'Neill, Lori

Johnson and Lovell Baker-Hudson facilitated "The H.O.P.E. Project"- Having Opportunities Present Everyday. The premise of the camp is the idea that learning takes place in many different environments, in our everyday lives, and not just in the classroom. Students were provided with the opportunity to learn something new during field trips, but were also encouraged to learn something each day at home. Students were taught they could learn something new by simply asking questions, and they were required to keep a daily log of all of their new knowledge. A field trip to a restaurant was designed to teach students proper table manners and how to order nutritious meals. At the end of camp students were invited to Jungle Jim's to celebrate the knowledge that they gained over the summer months.

Continued on page 2



News Flash From Our Schools

by Maria Griffin

On Friday, May 8, 2009, 4th and 5th grade students at Benjamin Banneker Elementary School attended an assembly promoting disability awareness. Kevin Reilly, a former NFL player who is also disabled, was the keynote speaker. The students found it humorous that Mr. Reilly could beat them in a shoe tying race with only one hand. Mr. Reilly shared with the students that his disability occurred during a game he played against the Dallas Cowboys. He also shared

that as a youngster he was a dreamer and that playing professional football was a dream come true. He further stated that he never regretted living his dream and that, in spite of his disability, he still lives a full and happy life. Mr. Reilly wanted the students to know that they can do anything they want to do and be anything they want to be. He stated that the key was what they felt in their hearts and minds. He also encouraged students to leave behind the negative thoughts of others and to think positively about themselves. Students were presented with an autographed picture and a red wrist band to wear throughout the week as a show of unity.

Message from the Manager

Joyce D. Hawkins



The Early Intervention Program staff and children had a productive summer. The Family Crisis Therapists provided structured programming for our students. Staff developed mini themed camps whose curriculum included character education, nutrition, exercise and weekly educational field trips. In addition staff participated in our annual intensive summer training which included such topics as: Engaging Caregivers in Treatment of Trauma, Dealing With Difficult People, Managing Stress and Burnout, Multiple Intelligences, Financial Certainty in Uncertain Times and Verbal Judo-The Art of Gentle Persuasion. Also through our partnership with the Adopt-A-Family program backpacks and school supplies will be provided to students in need. Although we continue to face economic constraints we must be steadfast in our commitment to the families and children we serve. In all that we do we "Think of the Child First."



The **“Pint Size Picassos”** camp developed by Jacqueline Saunders, Melanie Harmon and Anna Robinson was designed to teach students how to recognize their emotions, the emotions of others and how to express them in a healthy manner through various arts. Some of the activities included small group discussions about different emotions, arts and craft projects and field trips to various art museums. Students were encouraged daily to express a different emotion through an arts and craft project. Pre and post tests were administered to determine how much students knew about different emotions within themselves and if they were able to recognize the different emotions in others. Post tests clearly demonstrated that students’ knowledge of the subject matter increased.

“Children's Camp Cornucopia” facilitated by Dawn Jackson, Ed Burks, Monica Fisher, Michael Jackson and Dana Thompkins was based on the premise that Differential Learning provides the optimum opportunity for students to gain and retain new information. The students were engaged in three types of learning styles: visual (field trips), auditory (literacy) and tactile (hands on). The activities revolved around weekly themes and included Farm Week, Sports Week and Community Helpers Week. Field trips included local libraries, a local farm where students made butter and an outing to a Blue Rocks game.

The **“Pay It Forward”** camp

developed by Dorangely Johnson and Katharine Snyder introduced students to an array of educational experiences within the community while emphasizing the value of community enrichment. Activities revolved around weekly themes which included Creative Arts Week, Sports Week, and Earth Science Week. Students were engaged in educational activities two times per week and community enrichment projects once per week. The **“G.O.L.F. Summer Camp”** developed by Mary Ann Edgison, Darrell Jones, Jewel Hopkins and Ellery Bowser provided students the opportunity to learn skills through golf and team building that would serve them in all areas of life. Each student and parent was required to sign a contract regarding their responsibilities to the program. Students were given pre and post tests for evaluation purposes. Students were also required to keep a journal to complete homework assignments related to team building and sportsmanship as well as record their own progress. Students received lessons from a semi-professional golf instructor twice per week. The **“S.T.A.R.”** -Strength Training And Responsibility camp developed by Amber Johnson, Erick Warren and Devon Dyal was designed to encourage positive physical and mental health conditioning through teamwork, nutritional education and personal responsibility. Students were introduced to fresh fruit and root vegetables and were encouraged to compare and contrast them to canned fruit and vegetables. Students also participated in daily physical activities to promote teambuilding, and physical fitness.

The **“Funkology”** camp, developed by Maria Griffin and Cindy Jones encouraged students to continue learning throughout the summer months, build new friendships, acquire new skills and just have fun!

Students participated in writing and illustrating a book, and creative arts that included music and dance. Students enjoyed field trips to the local news station, a green house and the SPCA.



The **“Expanding Horizons”** camp developed by Nicole Mosley, Michelle Johnston, Linda Schimp, Sarah Lancaster and Joy D’Souza also encouraged learning throughout the summer months by providing science, social studies and art activities. Students also practiced basic social skills and participated in physical activities. Arts and craft projects were done to encourage self expression. The **“Summer Explorers”** camp developed by Jaclyn Durant, Jennifer Lorenzana, Robert Beeman, Heather Pombo, and Nancy Rybinski, involved weekly themes that included Green Week, Community Helpers Week, Reptile Week, Farm Week and Sports Week. Students participated in activities that included literacy, hands on learning and arts and crafts. Some of the field trips included local libraries, museums and a Blue Rocks game. As a part of their hands on activities student made fresh butter during Farm Week and terrariums during Reptile Week.



Jaclyn Durant, school-based Family Crisis Therapist at Richey Elementary School, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Family and Community

Services from the University of Delaware in 1999. She went on to receive her Masters Degree in Social Work from Delaware State University

Monica Fisher, school-based Family Crisis Therapist at Carrie Downie Elementary School in Colonial School District, joined the Early

Intervention Team in January 2009. Mrs. Fisher graduated from Delaware State University with a Bachelor's

degree in Social Work and began her career with the state in 2004 as Family Service Specialist with the Division of Family Services. After three years in the Investigation Unit Mrs. Fisher accepted her position as a Family Crisis Therapist with the Early Intervention Unit and was assigned to Carrie Downie. At Carrie Downie Mrs. Fisher facilitates group and individual counseling sessions with the students on her

caseload. She was also instrumental in providing structured summer programming for her students. Some of the activities included small groups sessions and weekly field trips. Mrs. Fisher enjoys working with children and their families as she believes that they are the foundations in the development of a great nation and a bright future. Mrs. Fisher resides in Dover with her husband. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with family and friends, traveling, reading and watching movies.

students, has begun a school wide recycling program, completed a character quilt and a playground cleaning project. They donated toiletries to women's shelters, stockings to our soldiers, and school supplies to a school in Mississippi affected by Hurricane Katrina. They have also raised money for various community and global causes. Mrs. Durant, a newlywed, resides in Wilmington with her husband.

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Distinguished Principal

by Amber Johnson

Dr. Sondra Shippen, Head of School at Kuumba Academy Charter School assumed her position there in August 2006 and has been making steady improvements since. Dr. Shippen believe in order for every student to achieve their goals in life they must be provided with the tools to succeed. This includes an educational environment that demonstrates respect for each student, offers exposure to creative methods of teaching, provides appropriate nutrition, superior curriculum and necessary supplies. In addition, Dr. Shippen encourages each student to have a "You Can!" spirit.

Dr. Shippen received her Bachelors of Science in Social Work from Morgan State University, a Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania; and went on to Wilmington University to receive her Doctorate in Innovative Leadership Practices. In the beginning of her career she was unable to obtain employment as a Social Worker and took the suggestion of a friend to apply for a teaching position in the City of Baltimore's Head Start pre-school program. She did so and stated that she had more fun at her job than the children did. She later moved on to a position in Developmental Disabilities in Philadelphia, PA. She maintained a love for education and later became the Director of Head Start in Delaware County, then Director of United Way in Pennsylvania before accepting her current position as Head of School at Kuumba in 2006.

When it comes to the Early Intervention Program, Dr. Shippen stated that what she likes most about the program is it affords Family Crisis Therapists the opportunity to work with families that have serious challenges that affect a student's performance. She has found that this is one less thing for teachers to manage. Dr. Shippen also feels that the connection that Family Crisis Therapists make with the families and children is beneficial. She stated that "through the program parents are encouraged to participate and students are supported in their educational and behavioral goals"





Summer Training 2009

Although we were faced with budget constraints the Early Intervention Unit was able to complete another year of summer training. Our training committee was able to provide staff with some quality trainings at no cost to our program!

Training began the week of June 22 with Marsali Hansen whose topic was Engaging Caregivers in Treatment of Trauma which was followed on Tuesday by Vicki Kelly who provided staff with a follow-up to a previous training on trauma. On Wednesday Troy Farmer from HMS was well received by staff as she provided information on several topics including an HMS orientation. Other topics that she discussed were “Dealing With Difficult People” “Respect in the Workplace” and “Managing Stress and Burnout.” Susan Burns and the SOC team presented on Thursday. Friday our training was on Multiple Intelligence followed in the afternoon by the annual cultural picnic. The second week of training included topics such as grammar in the workplace, financial advice from the Delaware Money School, and different ways to communicate effectively. Overall staff rated the trainings as informative and even enjoyable!

Good Bye

Farewell to the following FCTs. Good luck in your new endeavors:

Jewel Hopkins
Andrea Woodard
Kathy DeFlaviis

Newsletter Staff:

Ed Burks, Belvie Herbert-Perry, Jacquelyn Saunders & Michael Jackson

Signed editorials are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the staff or advisors. The staff reserves the right to edit for reasons of space, libelous content, offensive language, or accuracy.

Congratulations to the following members of the Early Intervention Unit:

Kathleen DeFlaviis for 35 years of state service

Jaclyn Durant for 10 years of state service

Amber Johnson for 10 years of state service

Lovell Baker-Hudson for 10 years of state service

Edward Burks Jr. for 10 years of state service

Deborah Ritter for 10 years of state service

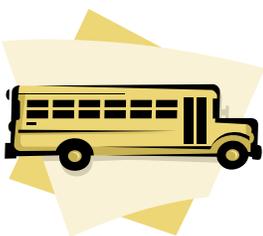
Michael Vincent for 5 years of state service

Devon Dyal for 5 years of state service

Congratulations to Nicole Elliott who won DMSS Employee of the second quarter!

Newsflash From Our Schools

by Melanie Harmon



Cody, an Early student has shown remarkable improvement in learning to manage his anger and socializing with his peers. As a result he has been able to focus on helping others. Along with his grandmother, he is a member of two bike clubs one of which is

Bikers Against Child Abuse. This past year at Southern he was involved in “Project Unify”, a national project aimed at activating youth to be agents of change. Cody was selected by his principal to be the announcer at a school-wide assembly on the project for students and parents. We at Southern are proud that Cody has begun his journey in becoming an agent of change!

