

# DAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

BY SHERRY BOCHENEK, SENIOR SUPERVISOR - CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & ASSESSMENT

As Spring is upon, we near the end of the third quarter of the school year. During this time, we reflect on the exciting and inspiring growth students have made so far this year. No matter how big or small the student's growth, we celebrate their success and look forward to each new milestone.

Spring also brings state assessment. Students in grades 3-11 will participate in academic state assessment. Depending on what assessment was decided upon at your student's IEP, they will be taking one of the following assessments: standard assessment- Illinois Assessment for Readiness (grades 3-8) and Illinois Science Assessment (grades 5 & 8), or PSAT(grades 9 & 10), or SAT (grade 11); alternate assessment – Dynamic Learning Maps (grades 3-11). The testing window begins March 11 and ends May 6 for most of the assessments. Additionally, students in grades 3-12 will participate in the Illinois Fitness Assessment or Brockport during PE classes.

State assessment can also be an opportunity for students to demonstrate growth. The growth can be seen not just in the actual results, but also in the students' Essential Skills. Students may have increased their ability to follow directions that are part of the assessment, increased their ability to choose an answer on the test, or advocate for themselves if they need a break from testing. The Essential Skills we are working on with students throughout their day relate to so many aspects of their lives, state testing is just one example.

If you want additional information or have questions about state assessment, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [sbochenek@mygiantsteps.org](mailto:sbochenek@mygiantsteps.org) or (630) 864-3897.

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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!

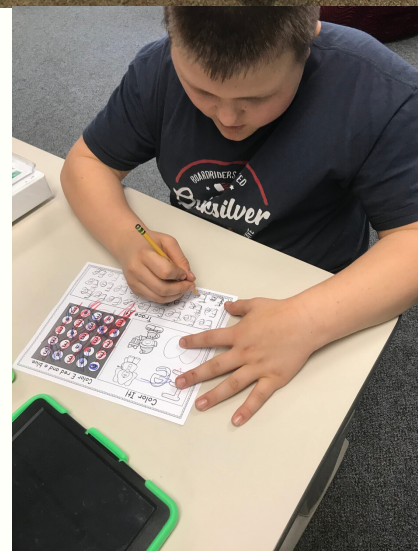
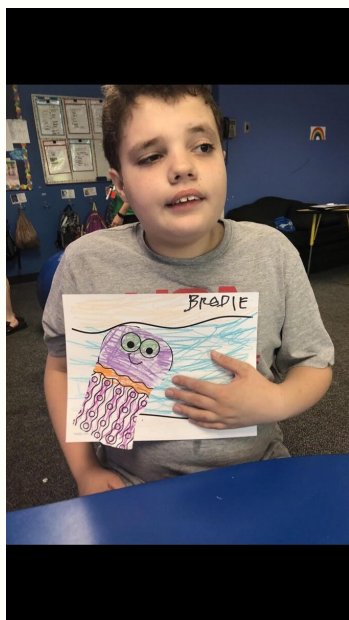
When leaving a message please leave your child's name, your child's teacher/classroom, as well as the reason for their absence.

Thank you!

# ELEMENTARY SPOTLIGHT: CLASSROOM F

BY ANNE ZIRCHER , CLASSROOM F TEACHER

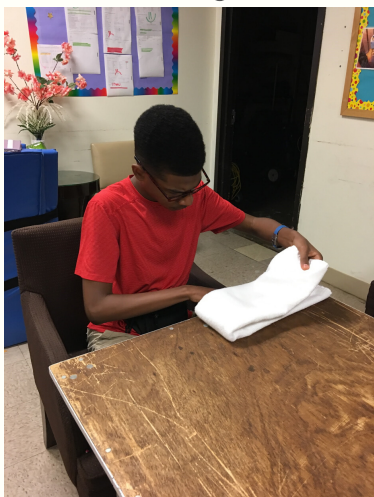
Our classroom team says Classroom F stands for Classroom Fantastic because our students are the definition of fantastic! Our students focus primarily on mastering group skills such as; staying in the instructional area, following written and oral directions, waiting turns, communicating needs and feelings, and sharing with one another. In addition to these foundational skills, some students practice reading skills, rhyming, spelling, counting with one-to-one correspondence, letter and number identification, addition and subtraction. Our classroom loves fun science experiments as well! Our favorite this year was a taste test where students tasted different foods and sorted them into the two categories sweet and sour. Classroom F is looking forward to more community outings, watching our classroom plants grow, and having fun holiday parties!



# SECONDARY/TRANSITION SPOTLIGHT: CLASSROOM NOBLE

BY BROOKE PALWAK, CLASSROOM NOBLE TEACHER

It's been a busy first few months of the year so far in Noble! We started off the year by celebrating the 100th day of school and going to the Winter Formal Dance. The students in Noble all love to dance! One of our favorite class periods during the week is Science. Currently in Science we recently started our unit on the 5 Senses. Each lesson has an activity that "activates" the sense we are learning about like using our ears to guess what sound is playing and using our noses to sniff out different smells. All of the students in Noble are also out and about in the community throughout the week. Our students are working on following directions, making choices, self-managing their own behavior and safely engaging in recreational and leisure activities at a variety of community locations including: grocery stores, libraries, movie theaters, and restaurants. They have also been working on increasing their vocational skills at Humanitarian Service Project, Feed My Starving Children, Hyatt Hotel & Disc Replay. Looking all looking forward to the coming months with hopefully some warmer weather so we're able to get outside!



# STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## PRIMARY STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

No Photo Available

Antwone - Classroom B  
Antwone has come a long way in his ability to transition, complete quick tasks, and become comfortable in his new environment! Antwone has shown emerging skills in his ability to use his AAC system as a reliable method of communication and a growing ability to advocate for himself, by approaching staff members to help navigate requesting his wants and needs!

## INTERMEDIATE STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

No Photo Available

Benny - Classroom H  
Benny has done an AMAZING job navigating many changes in the last year, which has been difficult for him in the past. We have seen emerging skills in self-managing his behavior (independently using coping skills in pre-crisis) as well as continuing to demonstrate an ability to follow directions from multiple staff, advocate appropriately for his needs, safely participate in large and small groups, demonstrate problem solving, and reading/writing functionally. Benny has become the model student in his classroom and we're so proud of his growth!

## SECONDARY/TRANSITION STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:



Colin - Classroom Oz

Colin is a Star Student for following directions and working with new individuals. He self-manages and requests tokens for his behavior. He did a great job with a speech testing/evaluation with a new staff member. Colin demonstrates many of the corresponding essential skills!



Lilay - Classroom Acadia

Lilay has been making consistent progress with following directions from multiple staff, advocating for his wants & needs and consistently utilizing his communication device!

# BUILDING ESSENTIAL SKILLS

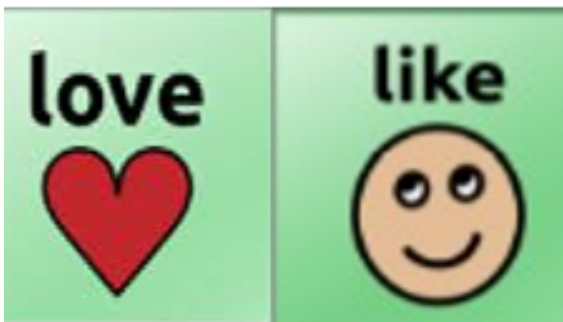
## Essential Skills

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:  
LOVE & LIKE**

**SOCIAL LANGUAGE CONCEPT:  
THOUGHTS & FEELINGS**

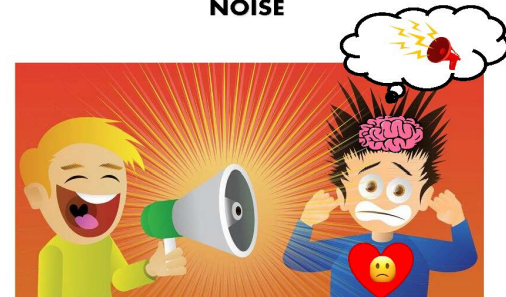


MY BRAIN IS THINKING ABOUT ICE CREA



I FEEL HAPPY

MY BRAIN IS THINKING ABOUT THE NOISE



I FEEL FRUSTRATED

**BY: JILLIAN HILDEBRAND, RN**

# NURSE'S CORNER

In March, we will be celebrating Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness on March 26th. The idea of Purple Day was created by Megan Cassidy, who lives with Epilepsy, and was hoping to dispel myths and promote information about Epilepsy. She also wanted other people who live with Epilepsy to know they are not alone. As there is often a higher risk for people with Autism to develop Epilepsy, Giant Steps will be wearing purple on March 26th to support Epilepsy Awareness. We look forward to seeing all our students wearing purple on this day! Please see [www.purpleday.org](http://www.purpleday.org) for further information.



## **PRO-ACTIVE WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON:**

- Keep children who are sick at home. DO not send them to school. If your child has a temperature greater than 100.0 F they must remain home until they are free from fevers for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.
- Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- Stay home from work or school if you are sick and avoid other people until you are better.



*Invites You To*

# THE GREAT GATSBY GALA

GIANT STEPS ANNUAL CHARITY GALA

Saturday, April 25, 2020 • 6:00 PM  
Double Tree by Hilton • Naperville/Lisle

PRESENTED BY



**GOLDEN TICKET**  
Giant Steps Annual Gala

Gala Tickets & Golden Tickets are now available! [gala.gsteps.org](http://gala.gsteps.org)

# WAYS TO GIVE BACK

## SHOPAROO!

Don't forget to upload your receipts to Shoparoo! This is a great way to earn points for Giant Steps!

If you are an android user:

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=infoscout.shoparoo&hl=en\\_US](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](mailto:jzajac@mygiantsteps.org)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Spirit Wear orders end: 3/9

End of 3rd Quarter: 3/17

No School, Spring Break: 3/30-4/3

Light It UP Blue Shirt Day: 4/8

Parent's Club Meeting 9:15 AM: 4/8

Early Release (1:40 PM): 4/8

No School (Spring Holiday): 4/10



Giant Steps  
Parents Club  
**COFFEE**Talk

*Educate • Communicate • Participate*

BY JULIE ZAJAC

### Notes from 3/4/2020 Parent's Club Meeting

- Don't forget to order your **Giant Steps Spirit Wear! Orders are due by Monday, March 9th**
- There is still time to purchase your raffle ticket for the **Gala Game!** The winning ticket will be drawn on March 16th, the winner does not need to be present! Watch for the LIVE video on Facebook!
- Wear **BLUE** on April 8th for Light It Up Blue Shirt day!

### Next Parent's Club Meeting:

Join us on April 8th at 9:15 AM in the Gator Galley for the next Parent's Club Meeting!

To RSVP please contact:

Julie Zajac at [jzajac@mygiantsteps.org](mailto:jzajac@mygiantsteps.org)

Questions?

Julie Zajac at [jzajac@mygiantsteps.org](mailto:jzajac@mygiantsteps.org)