

DAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

BY DR. SYLVIA SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello All,

It is hard to believe that today is November 1st! The first few months of this school year have been full of fun, learning, and collaboration. . . just as in most years.

Some of the exciting events that our students have enjoyed this Fall are the 5 K Walk, Homecoming Spirit Week, Trunk or Treat and most recently our students participated in Halloween Activities.

Moreover, we still have Thanksgiving and the season holidays to come. Indeed, this is an exciting time of year for our students and their families! It is also an exciting time of year to observe the new and challenging learning that is taking place in each classroom. Walking by classrooms and observing our students participating in innovative learning activities, as they smile and enjoy learning, is wonderful.

Our students are growing and learning each day to the best of their abilities.

I am proud of our faculty and staff for all of their hard work in creating such an enjoyable learning and life experience environment for our students. Their caring dedication to every students is fantastic. Please join me in giving them a huge THANK YOU!

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Picture Retake Day will be on Tuesday November 19 in the morning at Giant Steps.

Picture proofs were sent home with students October 30 and 31st.

If you did not receive picture proofs it may be due to a student being absent or a student having difficulty attending to the photographer for their photo.

If you wish to have your students picture retaken please return the entire picture package on Retake day **November 19, 2019**.

To order pictures please visit mylifetouch.com and enter the Portrait ID and Access Code included with your proof.

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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!

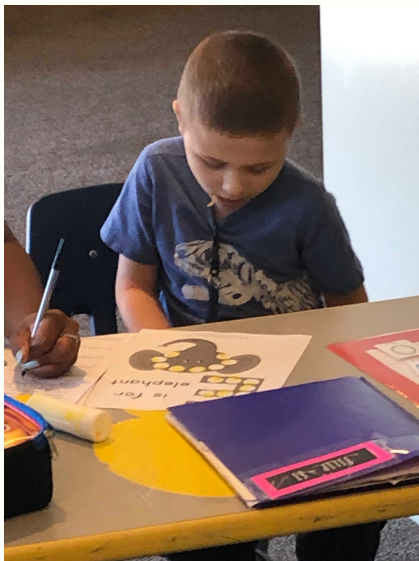
When leaving a message please leave your child's name, your child's teacher/classroom, as well as the reason for their absence.

Thank you!

ELEMENTARY SPOTLIGHT: CLASSROOM B

BY KRISTIN ARQUILLA, CLASSROOM B TEACHER

Did you know that Classroom B has some of our youngest students at Giant Steps? That's right! Classroom B is home to seven boys grades Kindergarten-2nd grade. Classroom B is busy! The boys have been learning so much already. We have had some fun with letter and number identification. We have also learned about shapes and colors, too. Some of our favorite activities in Classroom B include dancing along to Sesame Street videos, making lemonade, and playing ABCMouse. We have also been having a blast during our Community Based Instruction as we have been lucky to be able to go to several different parks and small zoos. We loved participating in the Halloween Activities!



SECONDARY/TRANSITION SPOTLIGHT: CLASSROOM YOSEMITE

BY JESSICA OLSEN, YOSEMITE TEACHER

Yosemite has been focused on incorporating science experiments as a whole group. The students have been engaged in making volcanoes, color mixing and investigating a pumpkin. The students' favorite whole group class activity was looking inside of the pumpkin. They were very engaged and helped scoop out the insides. We also made this into a math lesson as the students helped count all the seeds inside as well. To incorporate science into a reading lesson the students have been reading "Science Fair Day". The students will be engaged in many science experiments that correspond with the story. The students enjoy being engaged in hands on activities throughout the day!



STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



PRIMARY STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ian - Classroom C

For demonstrating an emerging ability to communicate effectively, an ability to safely participate in groups of 5+ students, follow spoken/visual directions from multiple people and advocate for his needs appropriately!



INTERMEDIATE STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ian M. Classroom G

For demonstrating an ability to consistently participate safely in groups of 5+ students, follow spoken/visual directions from multiple people, independently manage self-care routines, and safely engaging in leisure activities for up to 10 minutes!



SECONDARY/ TRANSITION STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Chris - Classroom Oz

Chris has shown consistent ownership of his device by taking it with him when he leaves the classroom. Recently Chris has been using his device spontaneously to communicate greetings and when he has completed a task to name a few!



Jimmy - Classroom Addams

Jimmy has shown great flexibility with schedule changes in his OT sessions. Jimmy removed a task icon from his schedule to share with another student and was still able to engage and complete the task himself!

BUILDING ESSENTIAL SKILLS

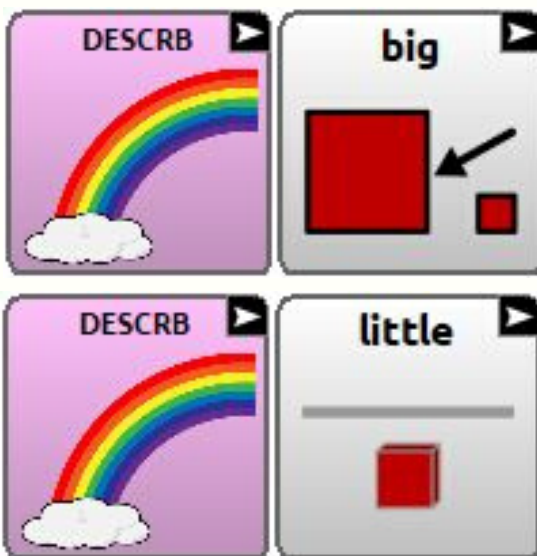
Essential Skills

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: BIG & LITTLE

SOCIAL LANGUAGE SKILL: SIZE OF THE PROBLEM



How big is your problem?

1 Tiny	2 Small	3 Medium	4 Large	5 Emergency
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Do they match? ↓

How big is your reaction?

1 calm	2 Ok	3 Concerned	4 Annoyed	5 Angry
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REMINDERS

THANKSGIVING CAMP 2019!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Book Fair: 11/4-11/8

Early Release (1:40): 11/6

Parent/Teacher Conferences: 11/7

Picture Retake Day: 11/19

Thanksgiving Feast for

Secondary/Transition: 11/21

Thanksgiving Break: 11/25-11/29

Training Event: 12/4

WHAT? REC CENTER CAMP

WHEN? NOVEMBER 25, 26, & 27TH! 9AM-3PM

WHERE? START/END AT GIANT STEPS

DAILY ACTIVITIES?

MONDAY - BUFFALO WILD WINGS

TUESDAY - THE MOVIES

WEDNESDAY - WEST SUBURBAN SPORTS COMPLEX,

WAIVER REQUIRED

WHO? GIANT STEPS STUDENTS AND PARTICIPANTS

HOW TO REGISTER? SEE BELOW!

Registration information was sent home via email from Karoline Kordalewski!

Registration and Full Payment for Thanksgiving Camp 2019 is due by Friday, November 8th.

Previous Rec Center Balances paid/account current -

contact Jenneane Timreck at jtimreck@mygiantsteps.org

Your student must be registered for Rec Center through Infinite Campus, fill out the Thanksgiving Camp 2019 registration form

and return with payment (or pay online) by November 8th.

For NEW Rec Center registrations you will need to turn in the 2019-2020 Rec Center Registration + Policies and Procedures with the Thanksgiving Form.

If your student is attending on Wednesday you will need to submit a waiver for West Suburban Sports Complex.

Questions? Looking for the registration forms?

Please Contact Karoline Kordalewski - kkordalewski@mygiantsteps.org

NURSE'S CORNER

BY: JILLIAN HILDEBRAND, RN

Continue to say **BOO!** to the Flu in November. Cold and Flu season is hitting the Health Office hard this month. To decrease the spread of seasonal viruses please keep your child home from school if they are showing respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, or if they have a fever higher than 100.0. Flu shots are available at your primary care provider and at most local pharmacies, and is often free with insurance coverage.

Below are some myths and facts about the flu!

Myths: **1.** You can catch the flu from the vaccine. **2.** You can catch the flu from going out in cold weather without a coat, with wet hair, or by sitting near a drafty window.

3. Healthy people do not need to be vaccinated. **4.** You can't spread the flu if your feeling well.

Facts: **1.** The vaccine is made from an inactivated virus that can't transmit infection.

2. The influenza virus changes (mutates) every year, so getting vaccinated every year is important!

3. 20%-30% of people carrying the influenza virus have no symptoms.

4. Current guidelines suggest that children ages 6 months- 19 years old, pregnant women, and anyone over the age of 49 years old should be vaccinated each year.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR AT GIANT STEPS

NOVEMBER 4 - NOVEMBER 8



We invite you to join in on our Special Person Event!

Special Person attendee(s) will be able to accompany their student to the Book Fair, read together, make a craft and enjoy a treat!

Special people can be parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or anyone they deem as special to them. Additional information was sent home in back packs on October 29th.

We appreciate your RSVP as it helps to know how many snacks we need!

If you have any questions please reach out to Rorre at hafnerr@sbcglobal.net

TRAINING EVENT FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

DECEMBER 4, 6:00 -8:00 PM
GIANT STEPS, 2500 CABOT DRIVE, LISLE, IL 60532

Join us for an opportunity for all families with children with Autism who want to learn more about adult planning, safety at home, and special needs legal planning.

Starting at 6:00 PM join us to hear from Benjamin Rubin Esq., to hear about "A Sibling Perspective".

Then at 7:00 join one of the breakout groups that will focus on the following topics:

- Crisis Management/Safety at Home: Tara Oetting
- Transition Planning: Kaitlin Smith, LSW, Type 73
- Legal Planning: Benjamin Rubin., Esq.

Free child care provided for Giant Steps students/Canopy participants and their siblings.

Max 10 participants; first come, first served. Drop-in not accepted.

To RSVP or for more details, visit www.mygiantsteps.org

or contact Tara Oetting at toetting@mygiantsteps.org

WAYS TO GIVE BACK

DONATIONS NEEDED

GIANT STEPS IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

If you have any gently used male clothing (pants, shirts, shorts, socks) that your children have outgrown, we would love to take them! (Size 6 through adult)

SCRIP IS BACK!

Looking to get a head start on your holiday shopping?

Scrip is back for your Holiday Shopping needs!

The first order runs through 11/19 and will be sent home before Thanksgiving Break!

For seasoned Scrip shoppers: just log into your account and place your order.

For new to Scrip shoppers:

1. Go to shopwithscrip.com
2. Register or join
3. Enter school code: E39FBA1255962
4. Create your account
5. Shop away!

You can also pay by check by filling out a paper form and returning both to Julie Zajac

Questions or Concerns:

contact jzajac@mygiantsteps.org



Giant Steps
Parents Club
COFFEETalk

Educate • Communicate • Participate

BY JULIE ZAJAC

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on November 6th at 9:15 AM in the Gator Galley for the next Parent's Club Meeting!

Purpose of the meeting:

Welcome established and new families and visit with one another while enjoying a small continental breakfast!

Presentation: Decreasing Challenging Behaviors Using Positive Supports. Present By Ashley Casey, M.S., BCBA (Elementary) and Stephanie Popovich, BCBA Secondary

Discuss:

Spirit Wear Ideas
Weekend play dates

Updates: Upcoming Events we can support

Zoom option to join the meeting via computer will be sent out to those who cannot make it.

Questions? Contact:

Julie Zajac at jzajac@mygiantsteps.org