

Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Halloween
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

What a “spooktacular” event! On Thursday, October 31st, Celebrate the Children hosted their annual Trunk-or-Treat Halloween extravaganza! We loved seeing everyone’s costumes during the Halloween Parade and had a great time Trunk-or-Treating! Many thanks to our parents, families, friends and staff who participated in the event!

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CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Save the Date



*“Education
is all a
matter of
building
bridges.”*

It was born out of a vision and passion for children with alternative learning styles with 4 students in a small center.

Now, we celebrate 10 years of excellence and passion with almost 120 students from over 70 school districts. Join us as we remember our journey and celebrate the past, present and future of Celebrate the Children at our annual benefit!

Annual Benefit
March 14, 2013
Randolph, New Jersey

Formal Invitation to Follow

*- Ralph
Ellison*



CELEBRATE THE VISITORS!



Liz Torres, right, works with Rebecca Singer to measure progress in a clinical trial of a new treatment for children with autism.

Celebrate the Children was happy to welcome Elizabeth Torres to their schools last week. Elizabeth is a Rutgers University Professional and is conducting a lot of new research highlighting and supporting the importance of motor development, which is the cornerstone of our program. She has been recognized for her groundbreaking work and has been asked to speak at various Universities including Princeton, Harvard and Columbia. She was extremely impressed and blown away by our students, staff and programs and she would like to use Celebrate the Children as a potential research site. Accompanying her on her visit was Dr. Serena Wieder and Rosemary White OTR/L. Read more about Elizabeth Torres in the article on the next page!

RUTGERS SENSORY MOTOR INTEGRATION LAB PIONEERING NEW METHOD OF DETECTING AUTISM

Elizabeth Torres believes sensory and motor impairments of children on the spectrum may be the key to diagnosis and therapy

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

By Carrie Stetler

Could a team at Rutgers University revolutionize the way autism is diagnosed and treated? Elizabeth Torres, a Rutgers computational neuroscientist, thinks they can.

Torres and her fellow researchers have developed a method of measuring minute fluctuations in body movements to potentially reveal, as early as infancy, whether the developmental trajectory of a child is off the typical course, says Torres, who worked on the project with help from researchers at Indiana University.

"What's happening now is there's a score system to diagnose autism, but it's extremely general," says Torres, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, School of Arts and Sciences. It doesn't include an objective way to measure the degree of impairment tailored to the individual child, she says.

Torres's method, developed in the Rutgers Sensory Motor Integration Lab, uses a digital real-time map of the subject moving through space – at 240 frames per second – and can determine the exact degree to which these patterns of motion differ from more typically developing individuals.

Many children with autism have a severely impaired sense of how their bodies move and feel. They have a limited ability to connect their actions with their intentions, she says. For them, the simple act of pointing or reaching for an object can be a challenge or impossibility. "There is a disconnect in the way these children sense and perceive the physical world and the ways in which they integrate that information with their own body motions," Torres says.

People without the disorder, she explains, can perceive their own physical behavior. "We have maps of our body in various parts of the brain that tell you, for example, where your foot is in relation to your hand, or when and where someone touched you. But for them, this information is corrupted. From moment to moment the timing of their motions is different. It's like a radio tuned to the wrong frequency."

In 2009, Torres received a \$650,000 grant from the National Science Foundation shared with Rutgers' Dimitri Metaxas, a professor in the Department of Computer Science. The two teamed up with medical and physics researchers at Indiana University to test and develop the technology, a study that ended in August. The researchers also are working to refine a method of using computer interfaces to treat non-verbal children on the autism spectrum.

In Torres' studies, autistic children exposed to onscreen media – such as videos of themselves, cartoons, a music video or a favorite TV show – can learn to communicate what they like with a simple motion. "It's kind of like the Wii," Torres explains. "Every time the children cross a certain region in space, the media they like best goes on. They start out randomly exploring their surroundings. They seek where in space that interesting spot is which causes the media to play, and then they do so more systematically. Once they see a cause and effect connection, they move deliberately. The action becomes an intentional behavior."

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, one in 88 children nationwide is on the autism spectrum. Torres believes that the autism community hasn't paid enough attention to the sensory and motor impairments of children on the spectrum or recognized how it can be key to diagnosis and treatment.

"We have found ways to design therapies where one can help these children develop and improve their cognitive abilities," says Jorge Jose, a Professor of Integrative and Cellular Physiology at Indiana University, who is working with Torres. "This is so unexplored. The way autism is studied is completely divorced from the body, even though this is a physical problem," she says. "People should know how this could help."

Conventional therapies for autistic children, Torres says, may even be attempting to curb behavior that may be helping them in some way.

A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM DEBBIE'S CLASS

In homeroom, we have been busy working on *Executive Functioning* skills and following *Multi-Step Instructions*. We've also been improving upon peer relationships during group Floortime™ sessions. We had a great deal of fun making paper mache' bats, shopping for decorations and turning our classroom into a spooky *Bat Cave* for *Halloween*. We also had a blast learning mixed Martial Arts techniques at the Tiger Schulmann studio in Rockaway.

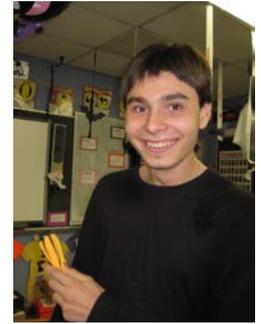
In Language Arts we have read the biography of *Milton Hershey*. In doing so, we have learned about the timeline of Hershey's candy, wrote a book report, followed multi-step directions to make caramel apples and sampled *Hershey's Milk Chocolate*. We have learned about the process of harvesting cocoa beans and making cocoa powder. We will soon be making our own signature chocolates, naming them, designing candy wrappers and dressing up as *Milton Hershey* for a photo shoot. In addition, we've worked on the rules of *Capitalization* and how to properly *Address an Envelope*.

In Language Arts II we have been working on reading *Narrative Essays* and learning the mechanics of writing our own. We read, critiqued and edited one another's stories and wrote peer reviews. To sharpen our comprehension skills and increase our vocabulary, we recently read *Vampire Stories from Around the World*. In addition, we took part in several visual/spatial and motor planning activities to reinforce the vampire theme and sharpen our vocabulary skills. (*I Spy Game, Defeat the Vampire, Create a Vampire, Eyeball Tracking* and *Coffin Configuration*). We also practiced *Addressing Envelopes*.

*CHECK FOR A SURPRISE TO ARRIVE IN THE MAIL!

In US History we've reviewed the seven *Continents*, identified all 44 *U.S. Presidents* and researched important facts about them. We played the game *I Have, Who Has* to recount the Presidents in numerical order and matched the Presidents' baby pictures to their adult photos on the Smart board. We've just begun learning about the first *Early Hunters and Gatherers* to reach North America.

In World History we started out by identifying the *Continental Regions* of the world. We learned exactly where they are located on the *World Map* and practiced labeling and placing them in their respective location on the Smart board. We've recently begun learning about *Early Hunters and Gatherers (Nomads)* and their journey across the continents. We practiced hunting with a bow and arrow for deer, bison, rabbits and small game (rabbits, fish) and gathered berries, nuts and wheat for survival. In addition, we enjoyed playing interactive Smart board activities to simulate the skill of hunting.



A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM CHELSEA'S CLASS

Miss Chelsea's class had a spectacular week full of exciting events! On Saturday Nick, Jess, and Miss Chelsea cheered on Matt at Frankenfest where he took the ice and scored a goal! Way to go Matt! At school we continued our studies about community safety with Sergeant Boll and plan to practice his tips and ideas when we travel into the community each week. Our class thoroughly enjoyed the Fall Festivities by playing games with friends, eating treats, and showing off our tricks! We ended the week with horseback riding with our friends at the farm! Thanks Miss Colleen! Happy November CTC!



A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM MUSIC PROGRAM

This week we learned about the significance of Thomas Edison's invention of the phonograph. His device to record sound (and ultimately music) changed the way we listen to music. We examined all the mediums in which music has been marketed - from wax cylinders to vinyl albums to 8 track and cassette tapes to cd's and now iPods! We also listened to the oldest known recording from 1888!

A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM RELATED SERVICES

Since November 1st, the Related Services Department has been collecting canned goods for Denville Township Social Services and the Denville Food Party. Donations will be collected for two weeks and delivered by our students on November 15th. The **only** items needed include:

Canned Pumpkin
Pie crust
Evaporated milk
Gravy
Chicken broth
Corn muffin mix

Canned fruit
Bread crumbs
Stuffing
Cranberry sauce
Canned yams/sweet potato
Brownie/cake mix



If you would like to donate, please send items to school with your children or drop them off in the main office at each campus.

A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM RELATED SERVICES FALL FESTIVAL

CTC's Related Service department in conjunction with our very own Physical Education Teacher, Wendy Beffert hosted a Fall Festival Friday, November 1st. All students met at the Wharton campus and enjoyed over 25 stations of autumn fun including; "whats in the pumpkin" (ewww www), BOOvement shuffle, and Apple relay. They also experienced face painting and a sticky spider web, which caught everything that we threw at it! The students were also able to go outside to collect autumn materials for various craft projects. This Fall Festival allowed our students to relax and have fun with seasonal games and enjoy time with their peers as well as our dedicated staff.



A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM TRANSITION DEPARTMENT

Students have been hard at work completing a variety of jobs for the Celebrate the Children PTO. From processing KidStuff book orders to entering data for the PTO Directory, students have had the opportunity to exercise skills such as problem-solving, following a sequence of directions, communication skills and interpersonal skills. This type of work is designed to promote job-skills training within the school environment.

Just recently, over 1250 box tops were processed as part of the Box Tops for Education program. A total of \$132.40 was raised for CTC! Thank you for all of your contributions and keep collecting those box tops!



*“The
mind is
not a
vessel to
be filled,
but a fire
to be
kindled.”*

A PEEK INTO THE PROGRAM “EX-FEAR-IENCE” BASED LEARNING

Last week, Wharton campus staff and teachers hosted a Halloween/Fall Festival for the Wharton students. Each station had a fun game, Halloween treat and a Fall Craft. Students made candy corn stained glass, Q-tip skeletons, gauze mummies, Halloween owls, and more! Tasty treats available to students included candy corn, apples with cinnamon, pumpkin butter on crackers, popcorn witch hands, marshmallows, and apple cider. Students went “batty” over creative activities and games like candy corn bean-bag toss, spider web maze, broomstick golf, mummy wrap, and ghost bowling. Everyone had a “spooktacular” time!

- Plutarch



BLOG

This year, Celebrate the Children is introducing a BLOG! Contributions to the blog will be made by Celebrate the Children's highly talented, interdisciplinary team, as well as some of our wonderful families. Posts will include personal stories, experiences or advice as it relates to our students and children with similar gifts. If you would like to contribute to our blog, please email jhammond@celebratethechildren.org, we'd love to share your story! Please visit our website to read our entries!



WHY ARE WE USING SOCIAL MEDIA AND WHY SHOULD YOU FOLLOW US?

Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States and now affects 1 in 50 children. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than AIDS, Diabetes and Cancer combined.

We are at an important time in the field of special needs intervention as many people are beginning to recognize the need for approaches that look at the overall development of a child and target areas such as abstract thinking, problem solving, independence, self-esteem, emotions, language, and social interactions in a natural and supportive setting. At this time, the demand for this type of intervention is much greater than what clinicians and educators are able to supply. Therefore, it is crucial that we share the amazing programs we have to offer and the "how to" with others.

To fulfill our mission, we need your help and ask you to participate with us in the development of work, in the sharing and building of materials, and in the structure and growth of our organizations: Celebrate the Children and Profectum. Like us on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter and spread awareness of progressive programs that support families and help individuals reach their highest potential and find success in society.

Please share our pages and posts with your family and friends! ☺



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5 th Election Day	November 14 th Food Drive Donations Due	November 20 th Thanksgiving Feast 11:00am Wharton Campus
November 8 th Sibling Day 9:00-1:00pm	November 15 th Yankee Candle Fundraiser Due	November 20 th PTO Meeting 1:00pm
November 1, 8, 15, 22 Small Group Parent Series 11:00am Dover Conference Room	November 20 th Coffee with Dr. Mike 9:30am Administration Building	March 14 th Annual Benefit Celebrating 10 Years!

Celebrate the Children
A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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