



1st Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey
Unique needs deserve a unique school
www.cerebralpalsycenter.org

December 2014
Volume 6, Issue 4

Patrick Colligan, Director
Joan Krotenberg, Principal

In the News

Special Dates to Remember

Football Championship
Tuesday the 2nd at 1:00

Paper Mill Players Holiday Show
Wednesday the 10th at 10:00

CP Center Singers Holiday Performance
Wednesday the 10th at 1:30

Elk's Christmas Party
Friday the 19th

Verona Police Character Visitation
Friday the 19th

Josephine's Holiday Party
Monday the 22nd

Breakfast with Santa / 1:00 Dismissal
Tuesday the 23rd

Holiday Recess
Wednesday the 24th—
January 2, 2015

December Happenings

As is always the case, December is a very exciting and busy month here at school. There are many holiday events scheduled that the students look forward to every year. We are very excited and honored to have The Papermill Players return for their annual holiday musical on the 10th. This is certainly a highlight for both students and staff. Feel free to stop by and enjoy the show! Each production seems to outdo the previous! Then of course there are the many organizations who generously give of their time and gifts for the students. They include but are not limited to the North Central District Elks, The North Arlington Knights of Columbus, Holy Family of Nutley, and the Saint Anthony Rosary Society of Belleville, The Belleville Fire Dept., The Marra Family, Josephine Fer-

ranti, The Cheer Me Up Foundation, and the Verona Police Department. We are so appreciative of all they do!

Everyone is also looking forward to our first musical presentation by Ms. Christa's CP Center Singers on the 10th!

Both students and staff will enjoy breakfast with Santa on the 23rd before heading home for the holidays! On behalf of every one here at The 1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ School, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and the very best for the upcoming new year! Please mark your calendars and keep in mind that the students will have a 1:00 dismissal on Tuesday the 23rd and we will be closed for the holiday recess from Wednesday the 24th through Friday January 2, 2015! School will reopen on Monday the 5th!

Did You Know?

You can see an new video remix of our Halloween activities and Door Decorations by visiting our YouTube Page!

Welcome New Student

We would like to welcome Juana to our school. She joins the excited students in Ms. Laurel's class! If you have not had an opportunity

to meet her don't hesitate to stop by and introduce yourself! We are looking forward to getting to know her!

Belleville Veteran’s Day Parade

Joey C. represented his Boy Scout Troop 5795 at the Veteran's Day Parade in Belleville on Sunday, November 9th. He helped set up his station at the bandstand area of the parade. He welcomed all the veterans who passed by with the Thank You For Your Service postcards the Scouts made using vistaprint.com. He handed out the Poppies that were made by the Scouts as

well. There was a sign up sheet on our table to welcome all veterans and active military members to join us at the school on November 24th for the 3rd Annual Honor Our Heroes Breakfast Buffet. School bands and dance teams, local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts troops, Emerald Bag Pipes Bands, police, fire and rescue squads joined Veteran groups from the local area, as well as,

visitors throughout NJ to march in the parade. All donations that were given to the troop were put toward our breakfast event.



Disney On Ice Trip

Students from Ms. Andi’s, Ms. Laurel’s, Mr. Greg’s, and Ms. Michelle’s classes went to the Prudential Center in Newark to see Disney’s Frozen on Ice! Of course seeing Olaf skate around was

a thrill! It was amazing to see Marshmallow the giant ice guard of Elsa’s ice palace come to life and become huge before our eyes! The trolls gave everyone a great laugh when they performed the Fixer

Upper song! At the end many classic Disney Characters joined the characters from Frozen on the ice! Everyone had a great time singing along to their favorite songs!



Transition Trip

Ms. Cindy's class went on a field trip to Goodwill in Harrison for a tour. We learned all about the different jobs there. They use banners to make bags. They ship out electronics by the pound. They have a retail store stocked with clothes, household items and jewelry. The clothes are not sold at their

usual retail price. Their main customers are people who come to buy clothes for interviews. They wrap used clothing to ship to other countries.

When new clients arrive they first are evaluated to make sure they can do the job. If they can't do the job they will help find an alternative job that matches your

skills and desires.

Their mission is to help persons with disabilities and those who are disadvantaged achieve self-sufficiency through employments and to keep children and youth on the path towards a successful future. ~Written and submitted by Alvin and Ismail; two of our high school students.

Honor Our Heroes Breakfast

The Scouts and Scout Leader Ms. Kim would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Honor Our Heroes Breakfast a success!

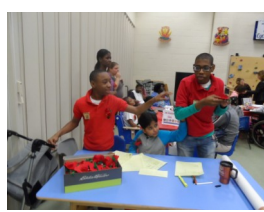
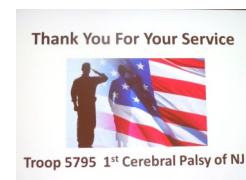
This year there were a total of 21 veterans who attended! That is seven more than the previous year! The Veterans were very appreciative and praised the Scouts for their efforts! Keep a look out for an upcoming article covering the event in the Belleville Times!

Veterans were given a basket put together for them by the scouts and all attendees were given a poppy pin

to wear that the scouts also made. During breakfast attendees had an opportunity to view a slide show highlighting some of the Veterans the scouts have supported as well as those who have attended the breakfast. We would like to thank Ms. Kim C. for doing an amazing job on the slide show which was shown on our new large projection screen!

The Scouts will next prepare for a Veterans' event at the Nutley Elks on Dec 10th where they will give out the remaining baskets to the attendees. The baskets will also be delivered to the West Or-

ange Veterans' Hospital by a helping Elk member. We would like to thank everyone who donated supplies to make the toiletries bags. The Scouts would also like to thank everyone who supported the popcorn sale. The proceeds of which were used for the buffet breakfast. We would like to thank Frank's Deli in Belleville, Nutley ShopRite, Clifton Costco, Sunrise Bagels in Belleville, Bagel Plus in Bloomfield, Belleville Dunkin Donuts, Belleville Walgreens, and the Ervolino family for donations as well.



Belleville High School Orchestra

Once again the Belleville High School Orchestra helped us usher in the holiday season with a special performance for us! In addition to holiday clas-

sics they also played new favorites such as songs from the movie Frozen! We truly appreciate the students sharing their talents with us!



Thanksgiving Lunch

We would like to thank all the families who sent in a dessert or other special dish to share during our Thanksgiving Lunch as well as those who volunteered their time to help

at lunch!! Each class had an opportunity to express what they are thankful for before their meal. We truly have much to be thankful for!



Improving Language Skills

The following article was submitted by Ms. Marge; an occupational therapist at our school. It was published by Science Daily on September 30, 2014. The source was provided by Rutgers University. The original article was written by Rob Forman.

In the first months of life, when babies begin to distinguish sounds that make up language from all other sounds in the world, they can be trained to more effectively recognize which sounds "might" be language, accelerating development of the brain maps which are critical to language acquisition and processing, according to new Rutgers research.

The researchers found that when 4-month-old babies learned to pay attention to increasingly complex non-language audio patterns and were rewarded for correctly shifting their eyes to a video

reward when the sound changed slightly, their brain scans at 7 months old showed they were faster and more accurate at detecting other sounds important to language than babies who had not been exposed to the sound patters.

April Benasich, one of the researchers, says "Young babies are constantly scanning the environment to identify sounds that might be language. This is one of their key jobs—as between 4 and 7 months of age they are setting up their pre-linguistic acoustic maps."

Acoustic maps are pools of interconnected brain cells that an infant brain constructs to allow it to decode language both quickly and automatically — and well-formed maps allow faster and more accurate processing of language, a function that is critical to optimal cognitive functioning.

Benasich says she was

able to accelerate and optimize the construction of babies' acoustic maps, as compared to those of infants who either passively listened or received no training, by rewarding the babies with a brief colorful video when they responded to changes in the rapidly varying sound patterns. The sound changes could take just tens of milliseconds, and became more complex as the training progressed. E E G (electroencephalogram) scans showed the babies brains processed sound patterns with increased efficiency at 7 months of age after six weekly training sessions.

For the 8 to 15% of infants at highest risk for poor acoustic processing and subsequent delayed language, this baby-friendly behavioral intervention could have far-reaching implications and may offer the promise of improving or preventing language difficulties.



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