

January Newsletter

2017



Cincinnati Center for Autism

Treatment Tailored to Each Child's Needs



CCA HIGHLIGHTS

Susie's Corner...

It is so exciting every month to witness all that is happening at CCA. I am running out of room to keep the newsletter to 1 page, but I think that is a good thing. Enjoy reading about the field trips and the classroom activities. Now that camp information is out, the management team is finalizing the school calendar and planning summer programming. We have received many generous donations over the holidays. As a result we are making progress toward our Play Space goal of \$50,000 and are having our new server installed in February. The goal is for every staff member to have access to a computer. Next month I look forward to sharing the Carnival, Art Museum, and Pet Land Activities. The next PTO meeting is Friday, February 24, 2017 at 9am.

Donation

Music Kate contacted an organization that supports hospitals and music therapists by donating guitars for their programming. They have agreed to donate 6 guitars to CCA. Some instructional materials are also included, which will be a great help for teaching students! The guitars have arrived and we cannot wait to begin to use them. Thank you Music Kate!!!



CCA Summer Camp

We are gearing up for an exciting 2017 Summer Camp Program. The brochures and registration forms are at the front desk and have been sent via email. Please contact Susie or Katie G. if you have any questions.



Susie and Amanda Dotson attended a Princeton Summer Camp Fair on January 24, 2017. There were approximately 15 vendors present. We had a lot of interest from outside agencies inquiring about our camp programs.

LaRosa's Buddy Card Fundraiser



CCA'S Parent Teacher Organization has been selling Buddy Cards to raise money for our new Sensory PlaySpace (a therapeutically

designed playground). Parents are selling the Buddy Cards for \$10 each and the PTO keeps \$5 of every sale. The cards entitle the bearer to one free large cheese pizza for large every pizza they buy at La Rosa's (up to 14 free pizzas) and are good for one year after they are activated. HUGE THANKS to the parents who have been doing such an amazing job of selling cards. We have already raised over \$1,000!

Welcome New Occupational Therapist

We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Williams, Occupational Therapist to our CCA Team. She begins employment February 13, 2017. She received her Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience and a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from Virginia Commonwealth University. We have increased occupational therapy hours to support the therapy needs of our students.

Important Upcoming Dates

Please mark your calendars with the following important dates.



Feb. 17th - No School, Staff In-Service Day

Feb. 20th - No School

Mar. 17th - Optional Parent Teacher Conferences

Mar. 27th - Apr. 2nd - Spring Break- CCA Closed

Apr. 3rd - School Resumes

Functional Living Activities



CCA is eagerly investigating opportunities for students to participate in daily activities in natural environments to support independence. We are looking at developing curriculum opportunities in the following skill areas: Daily Living, Community, Recreation and Leisure, and Vocational. The objective is to continue to provide academic content with

access to functional life skills. We want to pair this with positive interactions and allowing personal choice with the potential to increase the students' happiness and overall quality of life. The Superhero and Buckeye Rooms have provided some examples incorporating academics with functional living skills.

The **Buckeye Room** has started practicing real world job skills by stocking a shelf with school supplies. The board has photos of the products, indicating where the students should hang the actual products. They unpack a box of supplies, stock the shelf, and then journal about their experience. One of the students, Jacob, is very proud of his hard work and recently wrote an email to his parents and the CCA staff about it. "Hi this is jacob. i did a good job stocking. look at picture. i did really good job. good day. jacob". We are proud of Jacob and his classmates for working so hard on this new skill!

On Tuesday, January 31st, 2017 the **Superhero Room** took a functional field trip to Goodwill. Students were able to purchase clothing items utilizing their budget of \$10. It was amazing to see what the children were able to independently pick out and purchase, especially since it was 50% off, no exclusions! Their budget enabled them to purchase name brand sweaters, shirts, and a leather jacket. What a fun day and a way to incorporate math skills (i.e., budgeting, taxes, and money management)!

School Contact Information

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Zoo Field Trip



The University of Cincinnati's National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) has selected CCA as the recipient of their community service project. The group is working to involve our

students more in the community. The members of NSSLHA have been fundraising to provide all of the LEAPS students and staff with transportation, free admission to the zoo, and a packed lunch (2 slices of pizza, chips, and water). The zoo field trip will take place on Wednesday, March 22nd. Specially designed t-shirts will be available for purchase. Thank you to Sara Hazelton for organizing this awesome event with NSSLHA.

Listening Ears



This month the Leapster classroom has been learning about good manners and what it means to be a good friend. This includes sharing, saying

"please" and "thank you", helping out and supporting each other. We made "listening ear" hats to show that it's important to be a good listener.

Children's Learning Library

A few classrooms attended the Cincinnati Public Library on January 20, began the day by listening to stories about Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and the (then) upcoming Chinese New Year! They got to write down their New Year resolutions, try out different instruments, and to discover their Chinese Zodiac signs! Afterwards, the students were able to explore the library to find a book to checkout! Some students stayed in the Kid Zone, finding their Lego and Pokémon books, while some of the older kids got to explore the Teen Zone, checking out their favorite series books. Here's what some of our students had to say about their experience at the library!
Austin, "It's something you've got to try for yourself. It was educational!"
Nik, "It was fun! It was really cool. I found an awesome Pokémon book!"