

October-December Newsletter 2017



Cincinnati Center for Autism

Treatment Tailored to Each Child's Needs



CCA HIGHLIGHTS



Susie's Corner...

It is hard to believe that it is now January. Where has the time gone? It has been so busy that our newsletters are behind. My New Year's resolution is to create more timely newsletters, so to catch up with this resolution, this newsletter will cover October-December. We have completed the PTO popcorn fundraiser and raised approximately \$2,000. This fundraiser will support the remaining money needed for the sensory gym. Staff's current favorite flavor is "cookies and cream". We hope to have another popcorn fundraiser in the future.

Family Movie Night was held on November 17th at 6:30 p.m. at CCA. Two movie options were available: The Peanuts Movie and Home Alone. Staff supported students and family members to create crafts after the movie. Everyone enjoyed the concession stand.

Our additional parking lot is now usable but needs lines. Work has begun on the breezeway connecting the two buildings. A special thank you for the support and patience during the construction especially with drop-off and pick-up. I know it has been chaotic. I am keeping my eye on the big picture and all of the new space, especially the two new bathrooms.

Halloween Day at CCA

CCA students had an awesome Halloween experience. CCA staff and students dressed up and the students went from room-to-room "trick or treating". The activity of "trick or treating" encouraged social communication along with the classroom activities.

Please check out Christian Batross, CCA Halloween Day Policeman. It was a fun-filled day for all.



Leapster's Halloween Activity



This Halloween, the Leapsters had the chance to engage in some hands-on learning with our Occupational Therapist about one of fall's most favorite traditions: PUMPKINS! Our youngest students enjoyed exploring the insides of

the pumpkins and making their very own sensory bags full of pumpkin slime. While some were hesitant to get their hands dirty, they were all excited to find the creepy critters and other spooky surprises that were hiding in the slime. Afterwards, they each showed off their creativity and individuality when they painted miniature pumpkins, complete with ribbons, glitter, and even a few "googly" eyes.

Express Room Dressed to Impress

The Express Room is embracing their path to independence with functional outings, budgets, preparing simple

meals, and so much more. They also do it all in style. The boys in the Express Room participate in weekly Business Casual Thursdays. They shopped for appropriate wear to get an idea of what qualifies as business casual. Everyone loves to see these suave gentlemen dressed in polos and button-up shirts with their nice jeans and khaki pants. They represent CCA handsomely in the community and make everyone at CCA so proud!



Picture Day

CCA Picture Day was October 27th. A special thank you to Amy Schwab for making picture day so successful and to Beth



Barr for being a great assistant. Every student and classroom had their pictures taken. We will keep you updated on picture delivery.

STEPS Functional Field Trip

The STEPS guys had the opportunity to go to lunch at Gold Star on Thursday, December 7th. Some students decided to brave the wintery weather and walk, while some were like "No way! I'm riding in the van!". They enjoyed great company and good food! They even got to work on their money skills with paying and leaving a tip.



Adventure Room Update

In the Adventure Room, our students have worked extremely hard learning about the various parts of plant and animal cells, along with their individual functions. They truly enjoyed creating their own three-dimensional models of these cells, thanks to our wonderful volunteer, Chris Nuxoll. Several students have taken their models home to share with their families. Currently, the Adventure Room is learning about the American Revolution in History and will be working hard to create individual tri-fold boards that display key information about the Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, and the First Continental Congress. They have also begun creating models of their own SLR cameras for Photography and are now learning about the various functions of a SLR camera and how to use them. Our students are looking forward to sharing more of their fantastic projects with our CCA families in future newsletters!

Construction Update



The pod has finally been put into place and a majority of the fine tuning is almost complete by the Pac-Van company. Over break, Duke Energy ran power lines and installed a meter on the pod.

We are excited about these updates as it means the project is progressing and we are getting closer to being able to use this space with our students. The breezeway construction has started. We have also been in communication with our IT department, so that they will be able to get the wiring for internet connection started.

Express Room Habitat Exploration

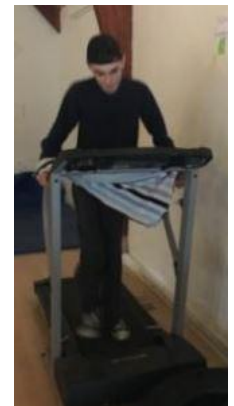


The boys of Express, who have been studying animals in science, went out in search of the perfect habitat for a lizard. They ventured down to the creek in search of evidence of food, shelter, water, warmth, and signs of life.

Thinking like lizards, they found plenty of bugs and plants to eat, rocks and logs to live under, running water in the creek to drink, plenty of sunshine to warm their bodies, saw footprints and feathers, and heard bird calls proving it to be a habitable environment! The boys declared it the perfect place for a lizard to live in!

STEPS Gross Motor

STEPS students enjoying gross motor time in the gym. Luke and Gary throwing the football and Michael exercising on the treadmill.



Recipe of the Quarter

Banana with Fruity Pebbles Sushi Recipe,
by Jacob

- 1 Banana
- 1 tablespoon of Greek Yogurt (whipped works best)
- 1 cup of Fruity or Cocoa Pebbles
- 1 handful of berries (blueberries or blackberries)

Put cereal in a bowl. Put yogurt on your plate. Spread the yogurt on the banana with a knife or spoon. Then, roll the banana in the cereal. Cut the banana into slices. Make them not too big. Make them bite sized. Eat the slices with berries.



It tastes good. You should try it even if you don't like yogurt like me. You should try to eat them with chopsticks like me.

Superhero Room Update

The Superheroes have been busy going on functional field trips to Kroger and local restaurants. They have been working hard on mastering skills such as navigating a grocery store and getting all the items on their list, ordering from a menu, and paying for their purchases. The students enjoy taking their learning from the classroom and applying it out in the community to build upon the repertoire of skills they have, so they will be able to live as independently as possible.

Owl Room Spotlight

The Owl classroom had a fun two weeks before Winter Break! Our friends made picture frames for their loved ones, with a picture of their visit with Santa. They learned Christmas songs with music Allyson and read the Polar Express. On the last day before Winter Break, they enjoyed Christmas games with the tadpoles, as well as watched the Polar Express movie.

Holiday Spirit Week

CCA students and staff celebrated Spirit Week Dec 11th -15th. The following activities took place:

- Monday- Polar Perfect Pajama & Festive Feet Day
- Tuesday- Holly Jolly Hat Day
- Wednesday- Dress Like Your Favorite Holiday Movie
- Thursday- Festive Sweater Day
- Friday- North Pole Visitors

Please enjoy the collage of photos from the week.



Staff Appreciation Luncheon



An enormous thank you to all of the parents and caregivers whom supplied dishes and drinks for the staff appreciation luncheon on December 15th. Our Board President, Mark Broughton, was in attendance, to share the Board's appreciation and support for the staff in leading

the Center's mission so positively. A huge shout out to the CCA PTO members who worked behind the scenes to make this possible.

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