



THE TWENTY



*This Month: Reslove Behavioral Health Services,
Special Education, Nonpublic School Services*

Volume 5 Issue 8

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

April 2010

Executive Director's Message

BY DR. CHARLENE M. BRENNAN

The Twenty for April

As April comes to a close, I'd like to end the month (that seems as if it just started) on a good note for our charter member school districts of Colonial Academy. Colonial Academy is our school for alternative education and emotional support students. Our IU 20 districts came together about five years ago to combine resources to serve this very difficult population, while controlling costs by leveraging our regional resources. The school serves an important function as an alternative to residential placement settings and other more restrictive environments.

When the Academy was established, an Operating Committee was set up through the Articles of Agreement to oversee the school and its finances with the intermediate unit. At the end of each year, IU staff reviews with the Operating Committee the number of students served at the Academy during the year and any monies remaining, if any, due to higher student numbers than were expected when the budget was created.

This year, on behalf of the Colonial Academy Operating Committee and the IU, I'm pleased to say that we will be returning to school districts approximately \$222,000 for the 2008-09 school year. The monies will be pro-rated out to the districts based on the students from each district at the Academy. This return of dollars to our districts demonstrates (1) the commitment of the IU to operate on a cost recovery model and return to districts funds that result from higher than anticipated enrollment in IU programs; and (2) how consolidating services for targeted student populations through the IU, in collaboration with districts, can indeed save taxpayer dollars.

This return of these monies to districts means that for the 2008-09 school year, our school districts had a NEGATIVE .5% increase in the instructional costs for the students at Colonial Academy. Again, that is for students that normally would be sent to residential placements or other higher levels of care if we did not have the Academy. Combining regional resources can have significant benefits to taxpayers as this example demonstrates. We are committed to working with our superintendents and our districts to find other ways to collaborate regionally in this unprecedented time, so that needed services are provided to students, while realizing cost savings for taxpayers.

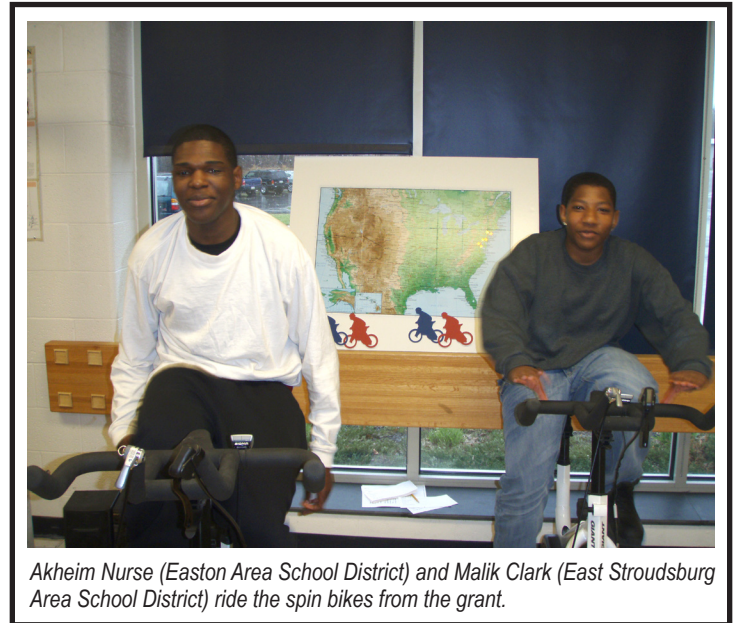
DID YOU KNOW . . .

that PDE just published an "Introductory Guide for Educators" stating that "Children and adolescents can have mental health disorders that interfere with the way they think, feel and act. When untreated, mental health disorders can lead to school failure, family conflicts, drug abuse, violence and even suicide." Over the course of the last calendar year, over 1,200 students and families were enrolled in one of the RESOLVE Behavioral Health Programs.

RESOLVE Awarded Grant Involving Spin-Bike Activity

BY RON PRATOR, Ph.D., *Supervisor of Quality Assurance for RESOLVE*

During January 2010, the RESOLVE department was notified that they were one of 20 recipients throughout Pennsylvania awarded a GET ACTIVE! Mini-grant. These grants are offered through the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. The mission of this Council is to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians by providing leadership that promotes physically active lifestyles. The award of this grant was \$3,000.



Akheim Nurse (Easton Area School District) and Malik Clark (East Stroudsburg Area School District) ride the spin bikes from the grant.

The project that was awarded involves two teams of students at Colonial Academy racing against each other using spin bikes. The teams of students will log the miles they ride on the spin bikes with a goal of biking the equivalent number of miles as riding across the United States. The riders have been provided with an itinerary indicating the course they will take across the country. The ride starts at the Atlantic Ocean and will end at the Pacific Ocean. In between, students will make "stops" at 15 locations including New York City, NY; Baltimore, MD; Cincinnati, OH; Kansas City, MO; Wichita, KA; Pueblo, CO; Carson City, NV; and San Francisco, CA.

At each stop, the students will create a log entry related to that particular city. To create the log entry, students will need to research the history, landmarks, current weather, and local foods and customs of that city. Some students are even collaborating to use a movie-making software package to create a "documentary" of their ride across America.

This activity is one that is fun and engaging, promotes physical well-being, and supports a number of skills across the academic curriculum (math, geography, writing, computers/technology, and health).

Colonial Academy Raises Money for Haiti

BY HEATHER MACDONALD, *Alternative Education Teacher*, AND STUDENTS (MATT FIGUCCIO, SAVAHNNA MARASON – BANGOR; AZIM BROWN, LUIS PAGAN, ANGEL ROBLES – BETHLEHEM; TIFFANY PEREZ – EAST STROUDSBURG; AARON CSASZAR, JEREMY DEIHL – NORTHAMPTON; MICHAEL DADDEA, MARIO DEMARIA, TYLER HARZ – PLEASANT VALLEY; DESHAUN INNOCENT – POCONO MOUNTAIN; AND SHAWN MEAD – STROUDSBURG)

The student, teachers, and staff of Colonial Academy participated in a fundraiser to raise money for the victims of Haiti's devastating earthquake. For two weeks students learned about Haiti's history as well as its current state, having had one of the most dangerous and horrific natural disasters ever to occur in the country.

Students watched reports, read news articles, and saw pictures to learn about what people were going through. Haitians were injured, and many suffered and died. Citizens struggled to survive through the pain, but found it difficult without the appropriate medical supplies and assistance. It was very depressing to see families suffer with starvation and dangerous, unhealthy conditions.

The students wanted to help in some way, so they began an activity called Penny Wars. Each homeroom had a jar that could hold pennies and other change. The object of this friendly competition was to have the most points by adding pennies to the jars. Pennies were worth positive points, and silver coins were negative points based on the value of the coin. For example, a nickel is worth -5, and a quarter is worth -25. Students could put change in any jar throughout the Academy. Students brought pennies for their own homerooms' jars, and other coins to put in their rival classrooms' jars. All the money raised in this fundraiser was donated to the American Red Cross.

During the two weeks that Penny Wars took place, students and staff raised \$1,017 to donate for relief efforts in Haiti. Mr. Franczak's class won the contest by collecting over 9,900 pennies. Everyone enjoyed the Penny Wars, not only because the fundraiser was a fun game, but because it was going to a good cause!

Extended School Year Planning Underway

BY BECKY ELLER, *Supervisor of Special Education*

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 is getting all set to host the annual Extended School Year (ESY) Program. This summer the program has a record breaking 330 students set to attend from Northampton and Monroe County school districts. The programs, being held at Farmersville Elementary School in Bethlehem Area School District and Pocono Mountain East Jr. High School, will run from June 28, 2010 until July 22, 2010. The students will attend half days Monday through Friday.

ESY is a special education program provided beyond the regular 180 day school year to children with disabilities in order to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). All students with disabilities must be considered annually for ESY programming. The program is designed to assist students with special needs in maintaining skills or behaviors relevant to goals that were addressed as a part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

CIU 20 looks forward to hosting this year's program and knows it will be a huge success for all.

Exciting Events Happening with Northampton County Special Olympics

BY AMANDA SECHRIST, *Adaptive Physical Education Teacher*

As one of two school-based programs in the state of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Special Olympics is currently providing 953 athletes from schools in Northampton and Monroe counties with opportunities to participate in sports. Currently nine programs including aquatics, basketball, bowling, floor hockey, gymnastics, skiing, track and field, special specials (lower level track and field modified to fit individual student needs) and developmental (a motor activity training program) are offered to the student athletes.

Two major fundraisers to benefit Northampton County Special Olympics will be held in the upcoming months. The Second Annual Yard Sale will be held on April 24, 2010 at Colonial Academy in Wind Gap. This year's yard sale will also feature a car show for attendees. Opportunities to rent a space, donate items or attend the event are still available. The 15th Annual Golf Tournament is also being held on June 21, 2010 at the Whitetail Golf Club in Bath.

Additionally, on May 19th, 2010, Mr. Richard Agretto, Director of Special Education for the Bethlehem Area School District, will be inducted into the Pennsylvania State Special Olympics Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Philadelphia to honor his contributions to the organization. Rick has been a great asset to the state program as well as to Northampton County Special Olympics and is only the second volunteer from the local program to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Rick has volunteered his time to Special Olympics for over 20 years and is very deserving of this prestigious award.

There are still many student sports events left before the end of the school year and all are invited to come and support the athletes. Remaining events include:

- May 6, 2010- South Track and Field Event at Liberty High School
- May 18, 2010- North Track and Field Event at Pleasant Valley High School
- May 21, 2010- Aquatics Event at Pocono Mountain West High School
- May 27, 2010- Special Special North Event at Pleasant Valley Intermediate School
- June 4, 2010- Preschool Meet at Wind Gap Park

Northampton County Special Olympics welcomes anyone interested in volunteering for events, fundraising or the planning committee and are always looking for donations and prizes. Please email Amanda Sechrist at asechrist@ciu20.org with any questions regarding Northampton County Special Olympics.

For more information concerning CIU-20 Programs and Services, visit our website at www.ciu20.org or contact:

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IU 20 and CIT Pilot Program Helps Life Skills Students

BY TRACEY JACOBI, *Supervisor of Special Education*

CIU 20 has begun a partnership with the Career Institute of Technology (CIT) opening doors for students in the Life Skills Support program to participate in the new Hospitality and Lodging program.

As Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams begin the transition process of identifying post secondary outcomes, students are able to look to CIT as a viable option. This school year, two students from the Life Skills Support program have had the unique opportunity to attend the Hospitality and Lodging classes at CIT with the support of a Transition Coach. The students attend CIT in the afternoon on a daily basis just as their non-disabled peers. This has afforded students the opportunity to learn and engage in the activities within the Hospitality field and participate in on-the-job training at the Hampton Inn in Easton for two mornings per week. The students are continually supported by a Transition Coach from the IU as well as two Learning Support teachers. Throughout this opportunity these two students have been exposed to instruction that was not previously available. They have blossomed in the area of socialization with their peers while learning on the job skills.

CIT currently has over 20 educational programs for high school students who reside in five school districts: Bangor, Pen Argyl, Wilson, Easton and Nazareth. The mission of the Career Institute of Technology is to provide career and technical education in a safe and active environment. As per CIT's mission, the teaching and learning is dynamic and reflects the employment and citizenship needs and values of the students, the community, and business and industry. Students will leave CIT prepared to start careers and continue their educations.

CIU 20 is pleased that these students have been afforded this opportunity that could lead to employment upon graduation. As the year comes to a conclusion, these two students will continue for the second year of the program at CIT. The opportunity for two to three additional students to participate in this wonderful educational and vocational experience is forthcoming.

Colonial IU 20 Expands Educational Audiology Program

BY PAM SCHAFFER, *Audiologist*

Because a disability in hearing or auditory processing can significantly impact a student's success in the areas of speech/language development, reading, classroom listening, social development, emotional development, and classroom learning, it is important that school districts have access to services which would help them identify students with weaknesses in these areas. As a result, Colonial IU 20 has expanded their Educational Audiology Program to include an audiological sound suite at the main campus on Danforth Drive.

The sound suite was generously donated to the IU by Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown and is a large, two room sound treated booth with a double-walled sound dampened testing side. The booth is also equipped with a large tester/client window to allow for visual access during testing. The sound suite complies with ANSI and ASHA standards.

With the expansion and acquisition of the sound suite, the IU is now able to provide school districts with the option of referring students for a comprehensive audiological assessment and/or a central auditory processing assessment. More specifically, the comprehensive audiological assessment would provide school districts with frequency and ear specific hearing thresholds along with ear specific speech understanding abilities and allows for hearing loss to be diagnosed. The central auditory processing test battery can identify students who may be having listening problems in the areas of speech in noise understanding, auditory memory, dichotic listening (fusing information for overall meaning as heard from the left and right ears individually), and in temporal patterning (listening to the stress and rhythm patterns of speech).

Identifying these areas of weakness will enable the audiologist to gain information necessary to in-service team members about a student's hearing needs and to make recommendations for specially designed instruction and specialized education plan purposes. On site testing began in February 2010 and is coordinated through the educational audiologist at IU 20. For further information about the sound suite, please contact Pam Schaffer at 610-515-6408 or pschaffer@ciu20.org.

Colonial Academy Shed Construction Project Continues

BY PETE FAZIO, *Treatment Coordinator, Colonial Academy*

Three years in development, three weeks in the making; the long-awaited shed is finally under construction. Mr. Franczak and Mr. Uliana have provided guidance to 22 students in the Construction Management Program at Colonial Academy. These students have had the opportunity to experience the full process of developing a building.

The students' participation began with drafting plans for the 8' by 12' structure, and ended with planning the finishing touches. Input was sought from the Colonial Academy Maintenance Department regarding the space requirements and dimensions. The shed will be occupied by the Maintenance Department this spring, and will provide some much needed space for the storage of grounds-keeping equipment and flammable liquids.

The students also have plans to work with concrete this spring and hope to install a concrete walkway between the main entrance of Colonial Academy and the parking lot that was added last year.

The Construction Management students are proud of the work that they have provided not only for Colonial Academy, but for the community with projects for Hugh Moore Park and Moravian Archives.



This is a photo of the Colonial Academy shed during its construction.

Autistic Support Transition: Connecting to the Community

BY SEAN LeDONNE, Supervisor of Special Education

When a student reaches the age of 14, transition services must be considered and developed into the student's IEP (individualized education program). Areas that are addressed include: postsecondary education and training, employment goals and independent living goals. These goals drive the IEP until the student graduates from a school age program.

The Autistic Support programs have looked for ways to apply transition goals in the classroom, the school building as well as the community at large. In the past school year, classes have asked their host school to provide opportunities for our students to develop job skills as well as the social skills needed in the workplace. Many classes have been given jobs through the school including shredding documents, bagging ice for the nurse, assembling mailings, making deliveries from the copy rooms and collecting recyclable paper. These opportunities have provided job training as well as an avenue to develop relationships with building staff.

This year several classrooms also assisted in the distribution of Digi-blocks to IU elementary classrooms. As part of this process, students had to sort, count and package materials that would be used by the elementary programs. This



Scott Reiter from the Easton Area School District, uses a knitting loom to make a hat that will be donated to people in need throughout the community.



Left to right: Timothy Orban, Tim Davis, Garret Kemmerer, Scott Reiter, and Daniel Ferrara, students from the Autistic Support class at Easton Area High School, sell concessions at the Special Olympics Gymnastics Event to support the program.

job has provided a meaningful service to students in their own program.

Development of transition goals often moves into the community with many classes looking for volunteer opportunities with local organizations. Several classes volunteer at the Salvation Army and in cleaning at local churches. This enables students to generalize the skills taught in the classroom to the natural environment. This year the Autistic Support class at Easton High School ran a concession stand at the Special Olympics gymnastics event. The proceeds of over \$400 were donated to Special Olympics.

Additionally, two classrooms began a knitting project to knit hats and scarves for the community. The hats and scarves will be donated to shelters and schools to pass on to people in need. The knitting project can develop into a life long leisure skill for the student, develop fine motor coordination and provide a sense of accomplishment for the completed work. It enables classrooms to give back to the community that often gives to us.

Revolutionary Thinking . . . Makes A Difference



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