



THE TWENTY



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

Volume 6 Issue 10

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

June 2011

Executive Director's Message

BY DR. CHARLENE M. BRENNAN

With only one more week to go until June 30, we still have no state budget. News media are reporting that a budget agreement by June 30 is likely but so far we do not have anything definite. I suppose that since this is Governor Corbett's first budget proposal that not having an agreement by now might be expected, and given that in seven years prior to this we did not have an on-time state budget, this year probably seems as any other to most of us.

As we head to another "down to the wire" budget year, though, we could step back and wonder what a year that has a state budget by, let's say June 1, might bring: (1) certainty regarding each district's (and IU's) state funding; (2) which would drive the ability to make definite budget decisions based on accurate information; (3) that would allow districts to focus on kids and the upcoming school year. That is how it should work.

However, as we all know, the state budget is not easy. Our government services and programs have gotten extremely complex, and I'm sure trying to balance the needs of all is a daunting task for any of our legislators and for anyone who might be in the Governor's office. To compensate, school district administrators, particularly our school business managers, have gotten extremely good at developing budgets based on incomplete data or information.

As we end the school year, I wanted to recognize the hard work all of our business managers and other administrators do for us in developing budgets on our timeline of June 30. So often their efforts go unrecognized. I know here at IU 20, our business manager and his staff, along with our administrators, have become experts at a budget process that can be most uncertain. School district business officials rise to the challenge as well, and their efforts on behalf of us all should be recognized.

We hope your school year has been a positive one for kids. Have a great summer.

Students Dance the Night Away at Special Education Prom

BY DR. GAIL VOGEL, *Director of Special Education*

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 Special Education classes celebrated the end of the school year at the annual Special Education Prom. The prom, held at Colonial Academy in Wind Gap, PA, was themed "50's Sock Hop," and students followed the theme by dressing the part or in traditional prom gowns and suits. Approximately 300 attendees, including current and former special education program graduates and IU staff, attended this year's celebration.

In addition to the fun, festivities also included the traditional crowning of the Prom King and Queen. This year's Prom King was Colton Kline from Nazareth High School and Prom Queen was Sarah Hummel from Northampton High School.

The Sock Hop Diner themed food, refreshments and favors were donated by Alex & Kathy Negreao, owners of Alexandria Manor Assisted Living and Personal Care facilities. DJ Freddie Fredericks, Jr., got the dance party started as the event DJ providing dancing, music, a light show and fun for all!

Colonial Academy Pilots New Character Education Program

BY MARTY W. BREIDENTHALL, M.A., *MHTS for Alternative Education*

Character Education has always been an important part of the clinical/educational process at Colonial Academy. This process is facilitated by Mental Health Workers and Mental Health Treatment Specialists during the first period of each school day. The first period interactions allow Mental Health staff to observe students and perform, in some cases, psychological triage before they begin their school day.

During the first marking period, Ms. Colleen Corcoran, Mental Health Worker for Alternative Education, approached the clinical staff with a program she researched pertinent to Character Education. The program, "Character Development and Leadership," was developed by Dr. Hoedel. The program materials include: a Role Models textbook, weekly topics, character traits, and DVDs reinforcing these character traits that students can directly relate to their personal lives. This is a 36-week program whereby each student will spend two weeks on each character trait. Some of the 18 character traits and 18 role models that students will learn about are honesty, duty, responsibility, leadership, character, and these traits directly correlate to a role model, such as Booker T. Washington, Christopher Reed, Pat Tillman, and Nancy Reagan. The weekly format allows the students to explore ethical dilemmas, lectures with character movie segments, current events, role models, and reading/expository writing assignments.

The Mental Health staff piloted this program during the second marking period with four classrooms. Ms. Corcoran and Mr. Albert Uliana from the Alternative Education Program, as well as Mrs. Carrie Powlette and Mr. Adam Kaltreider from the Emotional Support Program, all Mental Health Workers, delivered this curriculum. The results and responses from students were extremely positive. Meaningful discussions and dialogue ensued readily relating to Character Education issues that apply to their issues in the home, school, and community.

Due to the success of this pilot program, the building has adopted this Character Education Program with the entire student body for the third marking period and it has been extremely well received.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

...CIU 20 provides Extended School Year (ESY) services for students with special needs? This summer CIU 20 anticipates approximately 300 students will participate in programs at East Hills Middle School and East Stroudsburg High School South. Staff have been hired for ESY to meet the needs of students who qualify for services.

CIU 20 Celebrates Graduation of Students with Special Needs

BY DR. GAIL VOGEL, *Director of Special Education*

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 celebrated the achievements of 24 students with special needs at the annual graduation ceremony on May 26, 2011. Students from the Multidisability Support, Life Skills Support, Physical Support and Autistic Support programs participated in the celebration of their accomplishments throughout their time in CIU 20 classrooms.

The 2011 commencement speech was delivered by Clint Heisler, from the Physical Support Program at Northampton Area High School (home school district is Pen Argyl Area School District). With his service dog, Freedom, by his side, Clint delivered a message of inspiration to his fellow graduates, acknowledging that they have had help from teachers, fellow students, families and even a service dog to help them reach their graduation day. Now they find themselves prepared for their next journey in life, whether it is as an employee entering the workforce or a community volunteer.

Students' families, in addition to IU staff, board members, and school district representatives from the students' home school districts, were in attendance at the ceremony. Each student was called by name by an intermediate unit special education administrator and district representative to come forward and receive an IU graduation certificate as well as their diploma from their home school district.



The CIU 20 graduates on graduation day! Back Row (L to R): Helen Trimmer (Wilson), Colton Kline (Nazareth), Amy Kise (Easton), Michael Sandberg (Saucon Valley), Will Snyder (Wilson), Matt Pandorf (Pleasant Valley), Daniel Rivera (East Stroudsburg), Michael Vega (East Stroudsburg), Karen Taormina (Easton), Maurice Bush (Pleasant Valley). Center Row (L to R): Kevin Benton (Easton), Sean Katsock (Stroudsburg), Sarah Hummel (Northampton), Nyrika Brown (Wilson), Christina Maxey (Northampton). Front Row (L to R): Clint Heisler (Pen Argyl), Stephanie Laurie (Bangor).

Early Intervention Celebrates 20th Year for Preschool Special Olympics

BY BECKY ELLER, *Supervisor of Special Education*

On Friday, June 3rd, at Wind Gap Park, over 100 three to five year old athletes participated in over nine Special Olympic Events including the beanbag toss and target throw. The children not only enjoyed the annual events, but also participated in several newly created activities run by the Early Intervention staff. The new activities, such as face painting, karaoke, guitar sing-alongs, mural painting, and the Olympic village were a hit with the participants.

Families and students were also treated to a picnic lunch, gifts and a Special Olympic t-shirt, all donated by community businesses and community service groups. Elmo also made a special appearance to celebrate and join in the festivities.

This is the 20th year that Early Intervention has been holding this special event for students in early intervention and their families.

Spring Events "Light Up" Autism Awareness at Pocono Mountain West High School

BY MELISSA OWENS, *Autistic Support Teacher*, and SEAN LeDONNE, *Supervisor of Special Education*

April 1 was World Autism Day and the students in the Pocono Mountain West High School Autistic Support Class had several events this spring to increase awareness and thank those who support them.

In April, the students took part in "Light It Up Blue," an event to raise awareness for Autism. They created a tri-fold poster with Autism facts that was displayed during lunches prior to the event and encouraged staff and peers to wear blue on World Autism Day. On April 1st, they handed out blue ribbons and had supporters sign puzzle pieces which were displayed on the wall outside of the classroom. They handed out over 150 ribbons and received over 100 signed puzzle pieces from the students and staff.

On May 11th, the class held their yearly Mother's Day lunch. This year's theme was a Spa Day. The students created a menu and shopping list. They shopped for the groceries, cooked the food, and set up the classroom to look like a restaurant. Students made simple gifts to show their generosity to the moms in the building. The menu this year included ziti, garlic bread, salad, a fondue station and an assortment of cookies. To go with their theme, they made goodie bags that included emery boards and a homemade hand scrub. An area was set up to sample the hand scrub and many moms were surprised with how soft their hands were after the treatment. In addition to the usual activities at the lunch, they also had a free raffle for a gift basket that included spa related items like an eye mask, nail polish, body scrubs, and relaxing music. The winner was Mrs. Narst, one of the school's hall monitors. The mothers in the building look forward to attending the lunch and praised the boys for their wonderful work.

On May 20, the students had classroom visitors from the wrestling world. Rob Fury and Sebastian Cruz of BWO (Bodyslam Wrestling Organization) visited the classroom. Joseph Smith, a student in the Pocono Mountain West High School class for students with Autism, aspires to be a professional wrestler. To motivate him towards taking steps to better his health and well-being, two pro wrestlers were invited to visit the classroom. The wrestlers took time to explain to Joseph and his classmates what foods they eat and how often they exercise. They explained the importance of staying fit. Joseph was challenged to an arm-wrestling match and taught how to do push-ups. Rob and Sebastian also emphasized the importance of having jobs to support themselves while they enjoyed their hobby of wrestling. When it was time for Joseph to participate in his school based vocational training job, the wrestlers accompanied him and reminded him why working is important to excel in life. Providing Joseph and his classmates with an opportunity to meet pro wrestlers will help motivate them into staying fit, eating right, and obtaining employment that aligns with their abilities.

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

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Resolve Honored with Growing Up Artfully Award for Excellence in Arts-in-Education

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

For the last 10 years, Resolve Behavioral Health Services, in conjunction with Touchstone Theatre, has offered a theater program for high school students. Over the course of those 10 years, the program has evolved from a simple theater activity to a much more sophisticated "tool" for delivering an academic and behavioral curriculum. The program has specifically-defined goals, procedures, and methods to measure outcomes. The goals of the program are linked to a number of Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

Twice annually, secondary students in IU Emotional Support and Partial Hospitalization classes participate in the program, which allows students to engage in theater exercises to help them understand use of body language, verbal and non-verbal communication, conflict resolution, expression of feelings, stage performance, cultural differences and problem solving.

Locally, the Allentown Art Museum oversees the statewide Arts in Education program. Representatives from the museum became aware of the program and asked if Resolve would accept a nomination for a Growing Up Artfully Award for Excellence in Arts-in-Education. This award was being offered by the Lehigh Valley Arts Council. Nominations were open to 23 school districts and the Diocese of Allentown. Resolve accepted the nomination and submitted all of the supporting documentation.

The program was named one of 10 finalists (for three awards) and Resolve staff was invited to the awards reception, which was held on April 14, 2011, at Penn State Lehigh Valley. The program won one of the awards and the Resolve staff representatives were presented with a specially-commissioned work by woodturner Tom Buchner. After the reception, Resolve representatives were approached by a member of the awards



Pictured from left to right are: Kathy Odorizzi, Allentown Art Museum; Dr. Ron Prator, Resolve Supervisor of Quality Assurance; Michael Matlock Jr., Resolve Facilitator for Therapeutic Activities; and Cathleen O'Malley, Touchstone Theatre. Mike is holding the award received by the program.

committee, who shared that the committee was "deeply moved" by the program and the impact it has on children.

In 2005, this theater program won a CASSP Principle Award for promoting cultural competence.

CIU 20 Employees IMPRESS-ing Many as They Make History

BY DONNA HOPSTETTER, D.Ed. CCC-SLP/L, *Supervisor of Special Education*

Six speech-language therapists employed by Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 have become the first graduating class of Project: IMPRESS from Bloomsburg University. These graduates include: Kimberly Artis, Rosemary Morgan and Jachelle Yingling from the speech and language department for school-age services along with Jennifer Anthony, Jennifer Brenize and Christina Bunting from the speech and language department for Early Intervention.

In response to the statewide shortage of speech-language pathologists, CIU 20 worked in collaboration with Bloomsburg University to develop a distance learning program that culminates in a Masters of Education in School-Based Speech-Language Pathology and teacher certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Approximately four years ago the concept was developed, courses were identified and curriculum was developed. In October 2008, a grant was written for project *Interactive Masters: Preparing, Responding, Enhancing School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists* (IMPRESS). The distance learning nature of the program allowed personnel to remain employed while receiving the training necessary to be a qualified and competent speech-language pathologist. Project IMPRESS has resulted in \$800,000 in financial support that makes it feasible for personnel to participate in this program.

The M.Ed. program in school-based speech-language pathology requires individuals to obtain 45 graduate credits in course work such as: articulation and phonological disorders in children, language disorders in the school setting, research for educational settings, diagnostics, preschool language disorders,

professional issues, language for literacy development, communication disorders of English Language Learners, fluency disorders in children, communication disorders of low incidence populations, communication disorders of moderate and severe populations, communication disorders of hearing impaired children, seminar in autism, and student teaching. Individuals will also be required to complete a field experience that aligns with the program's coursework. Individuals in the program are supervised by ASHA certified speech-language pathologists with a minimum of five years' experience in the school setting.

Currently, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 serves a growing population in early intervention and a school age population of approximately 180 autistic students, 150 Deaf and hard of hearing students, 280 students with social and emotional disturbances, 175 students with mental retardation, 1,057 students with a variety of speech and language impairments, 91 students who are blind or visually impaired and 90 identified as multiple disabled and physically handicapped. Of these disabilities, 438 are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These populations have been increasing over the past several years while at the same time the number of certified speech-language pathologists is declining. Project IMPRESS is clearly answering the call to end the speech-language personnel shortage in CIU 20's area as well as other intermediate units and school districts across Pennsylvania with similar challenges and needs.

CONGRATUATIONS Graduates - You did it!

Colonial Academy Students Help Tsunami Victims through Soles4Souls Program

BY BARBARA BAUS, Teacher, Partial Hospitalization Program, Colonial Academy

Sniff, sniff! What's that smell? Spring flowers? ... No. Chef Chavez cooking? ... No. It's the smell of shoes; all types of shoes. Sandals, boots, high heels, and sneakers were all donated by staff and students at Colonial Academy to be sent to Japan to help relief efforts after a tsunami devastated much of the country.

Over 170 pairs of footwear were collected, cleaned, sprayed, and boxed up to be sent to the international organization, Soles4Souls. One hundred and ninety-five pounds of shoes, costing \$125 to ship, provided an opportunity for students to increase their knowledge of current events and geography, as well as extend empathy and caring to people who have lost everything.

Kudos are extended to all who participated in this event, students who donated dollars in change to help with the cost of shipping, and to the Construction Management class who hefted the heavy boxes and took them to the mail store. Colonial Academy students "step" up once again!



(Left) Theo Surrat of Bethlehem Area School District and (right) Jodie Simon of Stroudsburg Area School District participate in the Soles4Souls Program.

CIU 20 Provides Applied Behavioral Analytic (ABA) Consulting Services

BY KEN SMITH, LPC, BCBA, Treatment Coordinator for Provider 50, Resolve

ABA services are evidenced practices designed to assess behaviors in order to determine their function. By identifying functions, treatment planning can be more concise, systematic, and ultimately more efficient. Interventions will address not only the reduction of unwanted behaviors but the teaching and utilization of more appropriate replacement skills. Decisions within an ABA program are based upon the data gathered and service decisions that are made based on team input and behavioral data.

CIU 20 has several Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (BCBA's) that are qualified to provide the ABA services. Certification requires post graduate education in the area of Applied Behavioral Science and field experience in the use of ABA principles. In addition, all BCBA's must pass a comprehensive exam that assesses an individual clinician's ability to both answer questions and apply concepts regarding the science of Applied Behaviors.

ABA Services, provided by a qualified BCBA, can greatly improve the overall effectiveness of behavioral programming by making educated treatment decisions based on observable data and evidenced-based practices. Whether the need is for individual or whole classroom consultations, CIU 20's ABA services can be customized to meet any district's needs. In addition to the consultation component, CIU 20 can provide comprehensive Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavior Support Plan reports along with individual and team supervisions. These supervision sessions meet the credentialing standards for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. For more information, contact Ken Smith at (610) 515-6469.

Revolutionary Thinking . . . Makes A Difference



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For information regarding this statement, or special accommodations, please contact Mr. Anthony Pidgeon, Director of Human Resources and Research Services, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20, 6 Danforth Drive, Easton, PA 18045-7899, (610) 252-5550, TDD/TTY Hearing Impaired (610) 252-3786.