

Exceptional Eagle Scout Project at the Colonial Early Learning Center



On October 1 2016, Christian Janscarics, a sophomore at Freedom High School and member of Troop 362 out of Bethlehem, completed his eagle scout project at the Colonial Early Learning Center. He chose this project to improve the outside playground and outdoor areas to benefit the students and staff. The

project consisted of getting new mulch for the playground, trimming the ivy all around the building and the trees on the property, cleaning up around the fence, removing the weeds from the back flower garden and replacing it with stone, and adding a memorial bench in honor of all the children that have passed away.

Christian worked hard to obtain donations to fund the entire project. The donations were from the United Way's TeenWorks™, Ott Consulting, Kleppingers Concrete, other local businesses, and staff at the Colonial Early Learning Center. He also worked to get volunteers to assist him and had 53 volunteers to help with the project including scouts, parents of scouts, family, friends, and Colonial Early Learning Center staff members.

Christian received an award from Dr. Joseph J. Roy, Superintendent of the Bethlehem Area School District, on December 7, 2016. He also received recognition from the CIU 20 Administration and the Board of Directors at the Board Meeting on December 14, 2016. The Early Intervention Preschool Program is extremely grateful for the hard work and kindness of this exceptional young man.



CIU 20 to Host Parent Network Training Series

CIU 20 will be hosting a series of three workshops aimed at equipping parents with the knowledge to foster high expectations for children that may be utilizing our programs and services. The workshops are designed to be interactive and will feature participants providing their own life experiences.

This training series is an extension of the Project MAX initiative. The purpose of Project MAX is to increase the capacity of Pennsylvania schools to provide all students, including those with complex instructional needs, with maximum access to and learning of the general education curriculum and the Pennsylvania Core Standards.

Dates & Topics:

February 16, 2017 (9:30 - 11:30 am): Access to the General Education Curriculum Across Settings

This training will describe the importance and methods used to provide access to the general education curriculum across different settings.

April 3, 2017 (9:30 - 11:30 am): Maximizing Communication and Learning for Your Child

This training will explore what is meant by "students with complex instructional needs." It will define the what, why, and how of communication as well as describe Assistive Technology and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

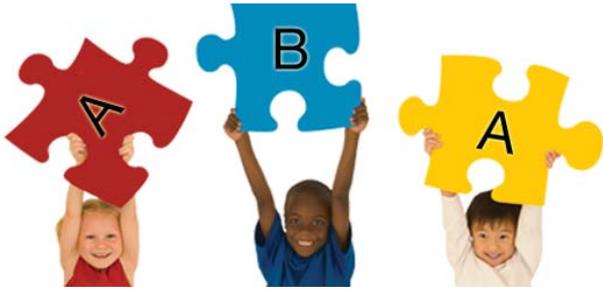
May 31, 2017 (9:30 - 11:30 am): Leading Change

This training will have participants learn how families have been initiators and leaders in making change in schools.

Location: CIU 20 Central Office, 6 Danforth Drive, Easton, PA 18045

Registration & Contact Info: To register, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NWZM8F8>

If you have any questions, you may also email Lorie Brew at lbrew@pealcenter.org; Enid Calderon or Yovana Bustamante at La línea de asistencia del Proyecto MAX: 215-595-5866 or parentnetwork@pattan.net.



CIU20's ABA Services: Expanding Services to Meet Increasing Demands

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 (CIU 20) and the Resolve Behavioral Health Services program have been providing Applied Behavior Analytic (ABA) services to our local school districts and private schools for approximately five years. Originally established in 2012, CIU 20's ABA services involved the science of Behavior Analysis applied to the school setting. Since its inception, ABA Services have gradually expanded and now include a projected 1,200 hours of services for the 2016-2017 school year. This increasing demand for the services is a direct result of the changing field in Behavioral Health and the need for Board Certified Behavior Analysts. CIU 20'S ABA Services include consultations, treatment planning, Functional Behavioral Assessments and training. Additional plans exist to include a direct service component through the credential of a Registered Behavioral Technician.

All ABA Services provided by CIU 20 are delivered by a Board Certificated Behavior Analyst (BCBA) which is a credential issued by the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board (BACB). The requirement of having services be delivered by a BC-BA-credentialed individual is important due to the fact that this credential ensures the services meet the highest standard in the behavioral health field. CIU 20's ABA Services can be accessed through a board-approved contract that specifies the services desired along with associated timeframes and service hours. Please contact Ken Smith, Treatment Coordinator, at 610-515-6469 for additional information on CIU 20's ABA Program.



Wind Gap Middle School Student Wins Principal's Achievement Award!

Kylee Diaz, a student in the CIU20 Life Skills Program located at Wind Gap Middle School, was nominated and chosen for the Wind Gap Middle School Principal's Achievement Award that was given for the 1st trimester of the 2016-2017 school year.



This award started during the 2000-2001 school year, and is given on a trimester basis to one student from each grade level. The student is selected for this award based on a number of qualities. Teachers are asked to select one student per grade that exemplifies academic achievement, co-curricular achievement, and community pride. The recipient of this award must possess an

extraordinary work ethic, be helpful to his or her peers and shine as a positive role model. This award, quite simply, is the highest award available to any student who attends Wind Gap Middle School. The award is presented to the recipients at the school board meeting.

Kylee was chosen for this award based on her academic growth, citizenship, and determination. In school, Kylee is a part of the yearbook staff and manages the snack stand in the faculty room. Outside of school, she volunteers at a local hair salon and takes dance lessons at a local studio. She also participates in the after school Special Olympic Softball program. For the last 2 years, she has gone to Penn State for Summer Games and has competed in Athletics. While there, she has medaled in the 100 meter dash, softball throw, and the shot put events. Over the last 2 years, Kylee has grown tremendously in reading, math, and writing. It is because of all of this that she is well deserving of this great award.





Resolve Makes Positive Shift to Electronic Medical Records System

In August of 2015 CIU20 Resolve Behavioral Health Services officially made the shift to electronic medical records. With extensive preparation using the electronic medical record (EMR) system called Epitoma, we transitioned all of our paper documentation to an electronic version.

Just a few of the benefits of the EMR include providing accurate, up to date, and complete client information at the point of care. We enter information from the central office and all site team members are able to view the records in real time, creating more coordinated, efficient care. The use of the system automatically provides checks and balances to ensure flawless and thorough documentation for efficient billing, and enhances privacy and security of client information. The electronic system allows for a decrease in the large amount of paper that was used to generate and maintain each client's chart.

The EMR has greatly improved our ability to provide quality care to our clients by streamlining a number of routine tasks, reducing time spent on paperwork, and thus increasing staff-to-client direct care.

This past August marked one year into our transition to the new system. The clients and their families have reported positive feedback through the shift to EMR and have enjoyed the ease of viewing and signing documents electronically. As with any new system, we have adjusted to the learning curve and continue to increase our knowledge of the system throughout the transition period.

CIU 20 Organizes Northampton County Transition & Community Resource Fair at Freedom High School

In conjunction with the Bethlehem Area School District, CIU 20 organized a fair with over 30 community agencies and resources for parents of children with special needs who are transitioning to adulthood. The purpose was to alleviate confusion and frustration for parents trying to navigate the available services to help their child with this transition. The fair provided information to families and adults with disabilities, and was a great networking opportunity to match people with the services they need.



Representatives from local, state and federal services and agencies were on hand on November 1, 2016 to offer information about the assistance they can provide and how to access it. Parents, caretakers and loved ones were able to get answers to questions like: What are these agencies and services, and how might they help my child? How do I begin to plan for my child's transition from high school? Look for more information about our Transition & Community Resource fair in Monroe County this spring! If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Josef Franzo, CIU 20 Supervisor of Special Education, jfranzo@ciu20.org

New Training and Consulting Staff Member Joins CIU 20 with Focus on Behavior



Raquel Burns joined the Training and Consulting (TaC) staff in September 2016 with a focus on the initiative of behavior. She is currently in the Ph.D program in Special Education at Lehigh University. Some of her past experiences involve working as a lead program coordinator for one of Lehigh's field-based programs and serving as a director for a non-profit community supports organization. For the last seven years, she has coordinated supports for transition aged-youth and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities to provide meaningful inclusive community experiences and supports in residential, employment, and post-secondary education settings. In addition, she has supervised the field training experiences of a master's student specializing in special education in the areas of systematic data collection, social integration, long-term natural supports and relationships, and positive behavior supports in community settings. We are excited to have Raquel on our team, and she has already started to make an impact by building relationships with CIU 20 programs and the districts we support.

Colonial IU 20 & Pocono Mountain School District

Receive Grant for Therapeutic Emotional Support Program

In September 2016, CIU 20 Resolve Behavioral Health Services Therapeutic Emotional Support staff attended a conference presented by the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) in Malvern, PA. The purpose of this training was to provide a rubric of Quality Indicators of Emotional Support Services and Programs. (QIESSP). Through research and evidence-based methods, the state has determined what are considered to be best practices in quality emotional support classrooms.

At this training, PaTTAN informed the educators about a two-year pilot assistance program for districts and intermediate units that were looking to make their emotional support programs stronger and more effective in serving students with emotional needs.

CIU 20 and Pocono Mountain School District decided to partner, apply, and write the state grant together. The rationale behind partnering together was to make sure the full continuum of services at the district level to those offered through CIU 20 were addressed. By working together, this will allow for consistency among both district and IU programs for students to transition successfully from a higher or lower level of care.

The Pocono Mountain School District and CIU 20 have been working collaboratively over the last few

months in self-assessing our emotional support programs.

The QIESSP includes seven different domains: Academic Instruction and Support, Social-Emotional Instruction and Support, Behavior Management, Collaboration and Communication, Evaluation and Assessment, Post-secondary Transition, and Professional Development.

The pilot program will be used to develop action steps for any domains that are identified as needing improvement. It is the goal that through the collaboration between CIU 20 and PMSD, the coordination of supports and services, and the additional training and technical assistance from PaTTAN, CIU 20 will enhance and improve the quality of our therapeutic emotional support classrooms and better meet the needs of the students we serve.

CIU 20 is grateful for this opportunity and excited about the future of Therapeutic Emotional Support.



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