



ESC NJ Update

The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey

New Jersey's Leader In Shared Services

ALC Students Work Well In Corporate World

Several Academy Learning Center (ALC) students are working successfully in a corporate environment at the Manalapan based RxS LLC, a provider of "Compliance Sample Management Solutions" to pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

For years, ALC students, and students from other ESCNJ school Community-based Instruction (CBI) have done well with area employers, including department stores, supermarkets and restaurants. However, ALC's Vocational Education Teacher Judy Kellner, and Mrs. Rena Brenman, a CBI aide, said the placement at RxS is particularly significant because it demonstrates some students "are capable of working productively and interacting with employees in a corporate setting."

"This is a good job, and I like coming here," said ALC student Tanvee Patel, one of the workers at RxS.

The ALC students work at RxS Mondays and Wednesdays. The students open returned envelopes containing signed acknowledgment forms sent from doctor's offices confirming receipt of various drug samples. The drug samples were distributed to the doctors by sales representatives from various pharmaceutical firms. After opening each envelope, the students remove the form, and then stack it in the appropriate pile, which can range from signed forms and unsigned forms, to forms that are ripped. All forms are then transferred to another department for scanning and data entry. Mrs. Brenman is with the students in their designated office space at all times and double-checks their work.



RxS Managing Director Mark Jara working with Academy Learning Center students (L) Tanvee Patel, (R) Vaibhav Krishna, and CBI aide Rena Brenman.

Sorting the forms is a significant responsibility which has to be completed by RxS mailroom employees when the students are not on site.

"Distribution of pharmaceutical samples is strictly monitored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and one of our key roles is establishing a paper trail that ensures the product has been distributed properly," said RxS Managing Director Mr. Mark Jara.

"The student's role is significant because they are

the first step in establishing that a doctor's office has returned their form related to the sample drugs they received from the sales representatives,"

Mr. Jara added.

RxS clients include various U.S. based multinational pharmaceutical companies, including small, midsize and biotech startups, representing thousands of sales representatives.

"We are more than satisfied with the student's contribution, and see no reason why this relationship cannot continue indefinitely," said Mr. Jara, whose company recently relocated to

(See **Corporate** on page 8)

PAL Students Learn About Public Transportation

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Around The ESCNJ



A spirited performance at BBLC, courtesy of The Holiday Express, a team of volunteer professional musicians.



Michael Ayala, an ALC student, and finalist in the Art Educators of NJ contest for his "Northern Lights" artwork, created with chalk and water colors, with recently retired Art Teacher Audrey Roderman, at the opening of the NJPAC art exhibit, where his work was on display for several weeks.



BBLC students took advantage of some warm weather before the arrival of winter.



The Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey, a statewide organization dedicated to supporting individuals affected by brain injury and raising awareness through education and prevention, recently held a workshop led by Public Education Coordinator Joanna Boyd at The Professional Development Academy.



Stonebridge Men's Club representatives Joe Pavlichko and John Colella continued the organization's longtime support of ALC by raising \$3,800 for the purchase of a specialized adaptive chair and four iPads.



NuView Academy students created a self-esteem display for the Central Office bulletin board.



The 50,000 square foot addition on the Piscataway Campus has been cleared and is ready for construction.

Bike Rider Keeps Raising Funds For PRDS Students

Born without a heartbeat and unable to breathe on her own, Ashley Perez, a student at PRDS since the age of three, is considered a "miracle child."

Now 16 and nonverbal, Ashley has battled additional challenges including cerebral palsy, seizure disorders and visual impairment. Nevertheless, she usually has a huge smile and enjoys interacting with people, said Case Manager Debbie Bussiere.

"She saves the biggest smiles for her mom," Ms. Bussiere said, adding: "It is obvious where Ashley learned resilience and courage."

That attitude is why Ashley's family was the "obvious choice" to receive the \$6,200 raised by Mr. William Zuppa's OneManOneBikeOneChild not for profit organization.

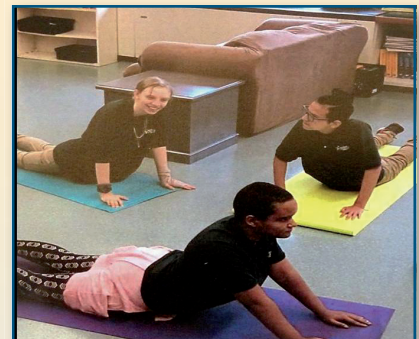
Mr. Zuppa has been riding thousands of miles to raise funds for PRDS families ever since his nephew, Georgie Caunt, a former PRDS student, passed away at the age of 14 in 1995. Each year the PRDS OneManOneBikeOneChild Committee votes to determine which of several PRDS families nominated should be awarded the funds raised by Mr. Zuppa.

"This is a special moment and I know the money will be used to benefit Ashley," Mr. Zuppa said. •



OneManOneBikeOneChild's William Zuppa presents Suhail Perez, and husband Angel Perez (not pictured), with \$6,200 he raised for PRDS student Ashley Perez.

Productive Day Begins With "Morning Meeting" At NAA



NAA students engaged in "Morning Meeting" activities.

Whether it's a strong cup of coffee, looking over the newspaper, or a quick jog, people tend to find a routine to help begin their day with. At NuView Academy Annex, the "Morning Meeting" is helping students get the school day off to a good start.

"The idea is to have a welcoming, predictable routine for students to start the day with and get in the right

frame of mind for learning," said NAA Principal Chastity Rivera.

The main Morning Meeting components include: a personal welcome from staff to each student; a comment about the previous day from each student once they are in their classroom; a group activity such as yoga or exercise, followed by the "morning message," or discussion of

the day's agenda.

"The routine sets the tone for respectful learning, establishes a climate of trust, and addresses the need for belonging," said Mrs. Rivera.

The approach often transforms "ordinary moments into extraordinary moments, by merging social, emotional and intellectual learning," she added. •

NJSBA Presentation On New Brunswick Schools Collaboration



The ESCNJ's Board President Dr. Dale Caldwell (above), and Asst. Supt. Gary Molenaar, teamed up with New Brunswick Public Schools Supt. Dr. Aubrey A. Johnson, and Asst. Supt. for Pupil Personnel Kathy Antoine-Smith, for an NJSBA Convention presentation on the successful collaboration resulting in a preschool disabled class for students with Autism.

County Superintendent Tours ALC



An ALC student meeting with (L-R) Case Manager Colleen Hoffensperger, Interim Executive County Superintendent Ms. Yasmin Hernández-Manno, and ALC Principal Dr. Erik Solberg during a recent visit.

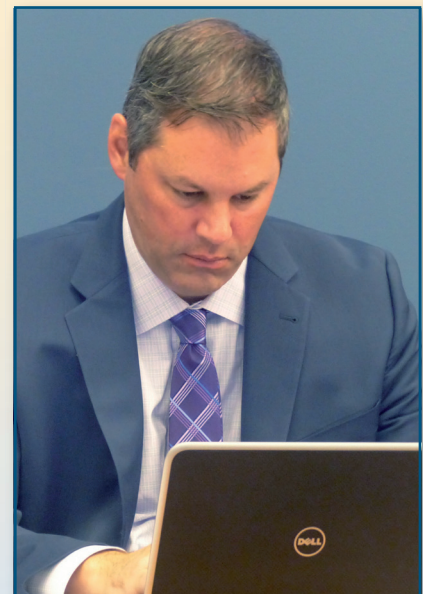
Welcome Aboard... Welcome Aboard... Welcome Aboard



Board President Dr. Dale Caldwell (L) with new Board Members Ms. Sylvia Zircher, Ms. Rosa Diaz, and Dr. Stephen Genco.



New Board Members Ms. Dianne Veilleux and Ms. Beth Maroney.



New Board Member Mr. Graham Peabody.

Solomon Schechter Students Return To CLL

For the second year in a row, students from the Solomon Schechter Day School in Marlboro visited CLL as part of its "Thanks" and "Giving" project. About 20 third graders from Solomon Schechter recently spent the morning with C and D community students, engaging in art projects and physical

activities in the gymnasium.

"By building a relationship with Solomon Schechter, we have provided our students with a great opportunity to interact with typical peers, and we look forward to more events in the future," said Principal Mary Beth Conley. •



Save The Date!
May 23, 2018
Wednesday

2018 ESCNJ "VENDOR EXPO"

• Free CEU's • Free Lunch • Free Registration

New Jersey Convention and Expo Center – Edison, NJ
www.escnj.k12.nj.us

Thanksgiving At NuView



Students enjoyed a substantial Thanksgiving lunch.

PAL Students Travel New Jersey Transit

Given the close proximity of the Pathways to Adult Living (PAL) program to the New Jersey Transit bus line, there are many opportunities for students to gain competence in understanding schedules, purchasing tickets, and traveling to different locations. Please visit <http://www.teachertube.com/video/escnjs-pal-students-practice-using-public-transportation-461984> to view a brief video of PAL students learning pedestrian safety practices, and using public transportation to visit the Rt. 18 Shopping Center.

A life skills day program at 95 Main St., for students 18-21,



NJ TIP Manager Louis Hoffman prepares students for safely crossing Route 18.

the PAL program also offers job sampling, food shopping and meal preparation. Learn more about this bridge program to independent living, by contacting Supervisor of Community-based Instruction Raissa Prus at rprus@escnj.k12.nj.us, or 732-777-9848 Ext. 6690. •



PAL students learned how to let the bus driver know when they were approaching their stop.

Robotics Having Remarkable Impact On Student Progress

To really motivate a student, "identify an activity they would walk over water to participate in," BBLC Principal Sandy Giardino advised, during a recent *Better Together* podcast.

"Hands down, integrating NAO Robots in our special needs classrooms at BBLC and BBLC/Secondary is engaging students in a way we have never seen," she said.

Students at NuView Academy and NuView Academy Annex are also learning valuable computer coding skills, an in demand workplace competency, demonstrating improved behavior, and recognizing the value of peer collaboration. The *Better Together* podcast can be heard by visiting: <http://cdnmedia1.teachertube.com/audio604/11016.mp3>.

The other educators on *Better Together*, the ESCNJ podcast hosted by Coordinator of Communications David Sandler, were equally impressed.

"Students with nonfunctional verbal abilities, and limited social and self-care skills are experiencing remarkable success," said BBLC Teacher Naomi Glassman.

The NAO Robot, is 23 inches tall;

weighs 9.5 pounds; has two eyes (high definition cameras), and a mouth (four directional microphones and loudspeakers). Those features and others enable students to program the robots to talk, hear, walk, and other functions.

"Our students bring challenging behavioral and learning issues to the table, so the learning engagement the robotics curriculum is having is, quite



The robotics curriculum is a model others should consider, Executive Committee Board Member Dr. Scott Taylor said on ESCNJ's Better Together podcast.

frankly, astounding," said Dr. Scott Taylor, a member of the ESCNJ Board of Director's Executive Committee, and Superintendent of the Highland Park School District.

"It's a model other districts should consider exploring," Dr. Taylor added.

Mr. Gary Molenaar, ESCNJ's Assistant Superintendent was instrumental in bringing the three robots into the curriculum, and said: "It is possible some students will have employable computer coding skills when they graduate."

Staff collaboration is another key, said NuView Academy Teacher Laura Cagle.

The support from administrators and other teachers helped build my skills and comfort level," she said.

During a presentation at the Techspo 17 convention, Ms. Glassman said many participants were "humbled" by the experience.

"Many people assume computer coding functions are beyond the capabilities of our students, so when some educators had difficulty doing what many of our students can do, it offered great insight into appreciating the diversity of the human mind," Ms. Glassman said. •

Nature Trail For ALC Students

Greg Braun, Monroe High School Junior and Boy Scout Troop #3 members, coordinated volunteers, and secured donations to construct a wheelchair accessible "Nature Trail" for ALC students. The project served to demonstrate his leadership skills in his effort to become an Eagle Scout.

"Greg asked about doing the project, successfully managed it, and now students are enjoying the ALC Nature Trail," Dr. Solberg said.

The Nature Trail includes: A wheelchair friendly path; signs with interesting nature facts; a bark board; birdhouses; a Bug Garden and benches.

"It's like an outdoor classroom," said Mr. Nicholas Richardella, a faculty advisor with Ms. Janice Lee. ESCNJ's Mr. Lou DiMeglio and Mr. John Howard also played major roles in the project, along with other ALC staff and PTO members. •



Board Members (L-R) Jorge Diaz and Rosa Diaz Tour ALC Nature Trail



Board Members Rosa Diaz and Jorge Diaz Observe ALC Students



Alumni Dance At PRDS



Former students and families enjoyed themselves at the annual Alumni Dance At PRDS.

Board Member Attends NAA Open House



NAA Principal Chastity Rivera (L), accompanied Board Member Ms. Beth Maroney on a tour led by Student Council President Da'Naisja Melton-Whitaker.

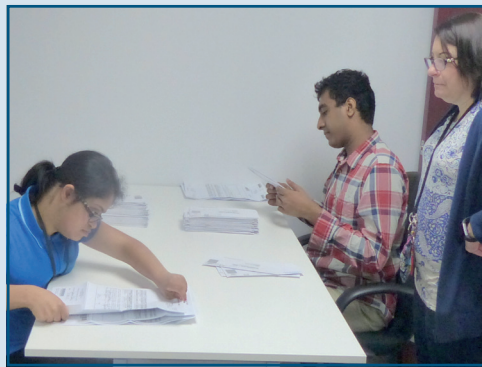
Corporate (Cont'd from page 1)

larger corporate space in Manalapan to accommodate its rapid growth.

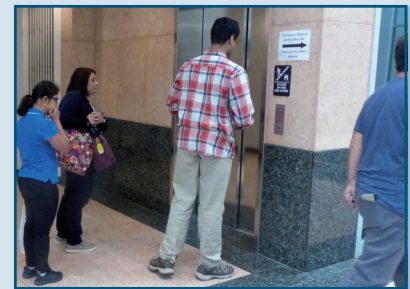
ALC student, Vaibhav Krishna said, "It is fun working here, and there are a lot of nice people."

The relationship between ALC and RxS has proven to be of great value to students and the company.

"This is a win-win, because students gain experience working in a corporate office environment, while some of our mailroom staff is freed up to deal with other responsibilities," said Mr. Jara. •



ALC's Rena Brenman monitors students' work at RxS at all times.



ALC students Tanvee Patel (L) and Vaibhav Krishna (R) arrive for work at the corporate headquarters of RxS in Manalapan with Community-based Instruction aide Rena Brenman.



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