



ESC NJ Update

The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey

New Jersey's Leader In Shared Services

Homemade 'PAL Treats' Gaining Popularity

Pathways to Adult Living (PAL) students baked their popular "PAL Treats," and sold them at the first Rutgers Pet Care School Day recently at Cook Campus in New Brunswick.

PAL students also took part in two workshops, sharing how they cook, package and sell the dog biscuits for \$2 a bag.

"One element of our program is to be entrepreneurial," said PAL Teacher Marci Rubin, adding that students have sold well over 1,000 bags to date.

"This kind of experience helps students gain exposure to the skills needed to run a business, and bring a product to market," said Ms. Rubin.

Students mix flour and eggs for dough, add chicken or bacon bits for extra flavor, and use cookie cutters shaped like dog bones, to make the treats. Over a dozen PAL Treats, placed on baking pans, cook 15 minutes in a preheated oven, cooled, then packed in a professionally designed PAL Treats bag.

"The process helps students build their capacity to collaborate, follow instructions, operate equipment safely, and other required life skills," said Ms. Rubin.

The PAL program is designed to facilitate a successful transition to independent living for 18-21 year-olds who have



Pathways to Adult Living (PAL) students prepared homemade "PAL Treats" prior to participating in the first "Rutgers Pet Care School Day", at Cook Campus in New Brunswick.

completed their high school requirements. For additional information, please contact Supervisor Raissa Prus, M.A., SLE/C at rprus@escnj.us or 732-777-9848 Ext. 6690. •

Post 21 Committee Formed



The first meeting of the Post 21 Committee (above), included administrators, teachers, and community leaders. The committee was created to guide ESCNJ in its preparation for offering daily support services to over 21 adults with special needs starting in September 2019.

Board Members Visit PRDS Open House



Several ESCNJ Board Members attended the PRDS Open House, which included a tour of the facility led by Principal Phyllis DeLucia, and a Social Skills presentation facilitated by Case Manager Debbie Bussiere. (L-R) Principal Phyllis DeLucia, Board Members Dr. Susan Genco, Dr. Scott Taylor, and Dr. Brian Zychowski; also attending the Open House but not pictured was Monroe Acting Superintendent Mr. Robert Goodall.

RWJ Medical School Leads Opioid Use Workshop



A workshop at the PDA on opioid use and misuse, facilitated by Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Division of Addiction Psychiatry, included a review of factors leading to opioid use, and prevention strategies. Participants also received free training and distribution of Naloxone Nasal Spray Kits, available at drug stores without a prescription to use in the event of a life-threatening opioid overdose.

CLL Art Featured



CLL's James Szewczyk and family members gathered to celebrate the selection of three works of art he completed under the guidance of Teacher Lois Bobchin. The work was selected for display as part of the Pollak Gallery's "Art & Autism Exhibition," presented by Monmouth University's Center for the Arts.

Guidelines for Nonpublic Schools Reviewed

Several nonpublic special education administrators, including recently appointed Assistant Superintendent, Metuchen Diocesan Office of Schools Dr. Robert A. Lockwood, attended a workshop facilitated by Director of Nonpublic Services Nancy Armbruster, to review state and federal laws and guidelines.



(L-R) Superintendent Mark J. Finkelstein; Dr. Lockwood; Mrs. Armbruster; Nonpublic Supervisor, Ms. Sharon Marinello and Dr. Rosaura Bagolie.

Salad Days At FFA



FFA students learned about the nutritional benefits of salads and how to prepare them, which they then sell to staff each week.

NuView Academy Participates In National Online Learning Day

First and second graders at NuView Academy were up to the challenge of dispensing with pencil and paper for the day and only using their Google Chromebooks during National Online Learning Day this year.

Students used their Chromebooks for all academic classes, listened to stories online, located NuView Academy using Google Earth, and identified online manipulatives to solve math problems.

NuView Academy Teacher Nicole Elimini (a former Hybrid Learning Institute award winner for her contributions to personalized learning), said students enjoyed the day.

"National Online Learning Day recognizes the advantages and vast potential of online learning," said Mrs. Elimini.

"The students had no problem completing all of their assignments online," she added. •



Teacher Nicole Elimini said NuView students were receptive to National Online Learning Day activities.

Technology Guidelines Shared With BBLC And FAA Staff



Speech-Language Pathologist Jennifer Kogan, M.S., CCC-SLP facilitated an interactive afterschool training for BBLC and FAA staff that focused on the functional and responsible use of Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AAC) equipment.

Board Members Learn To 'TAPit'



Part of a Board Presentation by PRDS Speech Language Specialist Ms. Marlanna Pierce and Teacher Terri Thompson included a chance to use TAPit® (Touch Accessible Platform for Interactive Technology). Learning about the technology from Ms. Pierce (R) were (L-R), Board Vice President Bill Petscavage, newly appointed Board Member Dr. Gretchen Dempsey, Somerset Hills Regional, and Board President Dr. Dale Caldwell.

Special Person's Day At ALC



Over 25 student family members, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and older siblings, attended Special Person's Day, led by Principal Dr. Eric Solberg, BCBA-D. The day included a workshop on ALC instructional methods, a school tour, and classroom observations.

Assembly Speaker Attends Board Meeting



New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin shared his thoughts on a range of current political issues, and fielded questions from Board Members to begin the first meeting of the 2018-2019 school year.

New Special Services Academy Program Well Received

Special education administrators statewide responded enthusiastically to the first offering from the Special Services Professional Development Academy (SPDA), a new shared service from the ESCNJ.

The "Academy Initiation Mini Conference" drew over 70 Child Study Team case managers from as far as Bergen and Camden counties, to ESCNJ's Piscataway campus in central New Jersey.

The Keynote Speaker for the SPDA conference was Kathleen Rotter, Ed.D. who led a comprehensive "Managing the IEP Meeting," workshop.

The IEP (Individualized Education Program) is the legal document mandating public schools to meet the special needs of students as defined by state and federal law.

Dr. Rotter, a retired Associate Professor at The College of New Jersey, has been an expert witness in over 40 due process hearings pertaining to students with disabilities, and a speaker at numerous national and state conferences.

"Given the SPDA's mission to identify best practices and promote greater collaboration among special education professionals, we were pleased with both the turnout and the quality of



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Dr. Rotter's presentation," said Assistant Superintendent for Learning/Ed. Services Gary Molenaar.

In September 2019, the ESCNJ will have completed construction on a new 50,000 square foot Future Foundations Academy, which includes two contemporary conference rooms with a 300-seat capacity.

"I think administrators, teachers, and aides want to be current on best practices, and welcome having time to collaborate in a convenient location," said Supervisor Dr. Rosaura Bagolie.

Upcoming SPDA offerings include:

- (Dec. 4) Seclusion and Restraint, Erik R. Solberg, Ph.D. BCBA-D
- (Feb. 6) Current Legal Issues and Updates: Isabel Machado, JD
- (March 13) School Avoidance, Debra G. Salzman, Ph.D.
- (May 1) Mindfulness, Dr. Terry Burik and Dr. Aili Pogust

For additional information, please contact Supervisor Sharon Marinello at smarinello@escnj.us, or 732-777-9848 Ext.6570. •



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