

Park Lake School

Fall/Winter 2014

Principal: Marci Spadafora



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CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS
AREN'T SENT TO
SPECIAL PARENTS
THEY MAKE
PARENTS SPECIAL

*Thank you for
being who you are!*

Mrs. Goldbach's Class

"Oh the Places We'll Go" Dr. Seuss

Ms. Jeannie's class went to many different places the first few months of school!

In September, we went to Newton, New Jersey, to go apple picking at Windy Brow Farm. The students had a great time taking the tractor to the orchard, loading their bags with apples and learning how apple cider is made. As much as they enjoyed that, they loved the apple cider donut they gave us! We ended our trip in Byram,

New Jersey with lunch at McDonald's. The students had the opportunity to order their own lunch, receive their change and show off their manners by eating properly and waiting for the others to finish before getting up. In October, we were very busy! In our EBA we started our trip in Europe and traveled across the ocean to discover land, which we called The United States. This wasn't an easy trip by any means. The students had to pretend to be Columbus and ask the king and queen for money.



Then they had to graph and tally how much money was collected. While traveling across the ocean, they encountered waves in room 226 and even got wet!

We had a great time being Columbus! Our second trip in October kept us closer to school. We went to Wightman's Farm in Morristown, New Jersey to go pumpkin picking. The students loved going up the very steep and long hill to get to the patch, climbing the hay bails, going in the pipe mazes and making a visit to the store for, you guessed it, an apple cider donut!

November had us busy with two trips again! The first kept us local at a place we all know (and some of us love), Rockaway Mall. This trip had two high priority items, visit Santa and have a delicious lunch with bottomless fries at Red Robin. In between visiting Santa, the students went shopping. They did great making choices, holding their items, accepting being told "no, they couldn't get a particular item", and paying for their items. Our lunch was at Red Robin was uneventful, which was awesome! The students sat and waited for their food, answered the wait staff when they asked a question, practiced good manners and table etiquette, and most importantly, enjoyed their lunch! In our newest EBA, which we started the end of November and will continue to the

end of the year, we are migrating to the South. We have been so busy learning about which animals migrate south, which hibernate and the differences between the North and South.

In December, we continue to migrate to the South, but we also traveled to Parsippany, New Jersey. The students all enjoyed the Penguins and popcorn on our field trip.

The students and teachers in our room would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season! ~"You have brains in your head and feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself in any direction you choose!" -Dr. Seuss

Mrs. Neglia's Class

Wow, I can't believe we are already at Winter Recess. I would like to first take the opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday season and a good New Year. Please be safe and enjoy your time off.

I am very fortunate to have in our class this year, Patrick, Jonathan, Jack, Justin and Alex. Our new addition is Dayanna and we are so happy to have her in our class. I

would also like to introduce Ms. Ann Marie and Ms. Tracey. We have done so much already this year. In September we were able to go Apple Picking. We filled our bag with different types of apples and then enjoyed tasting them. We also tasted different things that could go on apples and made some great dishes. Dayanna enjoyed tasting all the apples, Patrick enjoyed walking around all the trees, and Alex enjoyed the hay ride.

In October we were able to go to Wightman's Farm. We took a very long hay round in which Justin couldn't get over how high up we went into a mountain. Jack picked the perfect pumpkin and Jonathan loved the cinnamon donuts.



In November, we went to the mall to shop and have lunch at Red Robin. The children enjoyed ordering their food themselves and of course the never ending french fries were a hit. In December, we went to the movies and enjoyed popcorn, which was the best part

of the movie. I would like to thank the PTA for sponsoring all of these wonderful trips for us. The children really enjoy them and so do we.

Now for the classroom: we are fortunate to start a new program in our classroom called EBA (Experienced Based Activity). Our first theme was Christopher Columbus. The EBA provides the students with hands on, meaningful and functional experiences. The children learn about history while practicing OT, PT and Speech skills as well as working on Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Justin enjoyed being King Fernand, Dayanna was Queen Isabella and Patrick was Christopher Columbus. From this one theme, activities are expanded over a couple months. We added in facts about the Pilgrims and the Mayflower and did a comparison of same and different. We did more or less of ships with numbers on them, we added different ships; the children really enjoyed themselves!

Our story for the winter is "Animals in Winter". The story starts off with us demonstrating how cold winter is. Jonathan likes wrapping his arm around himself to show the cold. Then we discuss

how birds migrate to the south. We spell out the word migrate and Alex is able to do it pointing to the keys on the keyboard. Then we fly our bird across the classroom from north to south. Jack enjoys pulling the bird on the string. We answer questions about what we just did, and the children need to pick A, B or C. We then learn about the hibernating woodchuck and what he does. The children are enjoying getting up and moving all over the classroom and our great animals that we made. In between EBA, we are busy with Art, Music, Drumming, Gym and Academics. Thank you to all the parents for your support of our classroom, fundraising and our school. Once again have a wonderful winter break and enjoy your time off. See you in January of 2015.

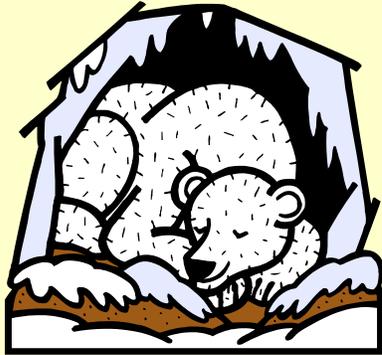
Mrs. Gebbia's Class

These last four months have gone by so quickly! I feel like we were just taking first day of school photos! Mrs. Gebbia's class started the year off great! Everyone learned the new schedule and got into the everyday routine. We learned about and experimented with apples and followed up with the Apple Picking

trip to the farm. A few of our students applied for and got jobs from Mrs. Frost. They do their designated job each day or each week and then they get paid on Friday! Some of the students use their money to purchase snacks from the snack cart or they have been saving it to buy lunch! In October, We were busy learning about Christopher Columbus! This month's Experienced Based Activity has the students exploring Columbus' journey from Europe to America. We made ships, learned how to get them in a bottle, and rolled them across our desks to get them from Europe to America! We also learned that Columbus needed money and that he asked the King and Queen for money. We role played this - having the students take turns being the King, the Queen and Columbus.

We also enjoyed experimenting with pumpkins that we picked on our field trip! Halloween was fun as well! The students loved trick or treating and partying in the gym! November was a busy month!

We worked hard to prepare for our new Experienced Based Activity - Animals in Winter".



We put our crafty hats on and looked towards Pinterest for ideas! We made woodchucks, bats, birds, and butterflies. Through the EBA, we have been learning about migration, hibernation, and adaptation. The other major concept is the difference between North and South. The students have been exploring this concept - labeling the North end of our room and the South end. They have been learning that it is hot in the South and cold in the North.

Everyone enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving with our Park Lake family! The feast was a big success!!

As we end 2014, December found the students shopping at the Holiday store for their families, making cards and gifts for their families, cooking holiday themed goodies including candy bar cookies

and latkes, and working on many holiday themed activities!!

Peace, Love and Joy to you all during this Holiday Season!

Mrs. Gebel's Class

What an incredibly busy 4 months. This year has flown by! We have experienced so many wonderful things. A class favorite is the Monday afternoon trip. Each Monday we embark on an adventure into the community. Each student must use his or her skills to accomplish a given task. Students use their math skills for purchases and social skills to interact with the public. Some favorites include: Target, The Rockaway Mall, ShopRite and the Apple Store to learn about new technology. This fall we experienced a terrific apple-picking trip to Warwick, New York. The students went on a hayride to the orchards to pick apples. In October we embarked on a fabulous trip to a pumpkin patch where students were able to go for a festive hayride and pick out their perfect pumpkin. We ended November with a feast in the Park Lake gym. It was a time for families to enjoy a meal with their children and the staff. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food.

December started off with a bang. Students learned about different cultures and holidays including Hanukah and Christmas. Students took a field trip to the Rockaway Mall where they were able to grab a bite to eat at the food court, which was a big hit. On December 8th, we took a trip to the Arboretum to admire the beautiful gingerbread houses



Our class is currently learning about "Animals in the winter", through an Experienced Based Activities approach. The students are engaging in hands on activities such as answering questions on the Smart Board, typing independently and participating in multi-sensory group activities. All students are learning while having fun.

Ms. Leslie, Ms. Nicole and Ms. Maureen and I would like to wish you and your families a very happy and healthy New Year. Looking forward to seeing everyone in 2015. Be safe😊

Mrs. Moore's Class

Our class has had a very busy school year so far! We enjoyed a wonderful apple picking trip to Warwick, NY. We went on a hayride that took us to a wonderful orchard. Robbie and Matt took a few bites of yummy apples while we picked and filled our bags. We also visited the farm animals while we were there. On our pumpkin picking trip, each student was able to choose a pumpkin from the field to take home. It was hard to choose just one! Then Camryn and Julia made their way through the corn maze together.

Our Halloween Parade was lots of fun. So many great costumes; Michael was a nerd, Camryn was a witch, Julia was an artist, Matt was a clown and Robbie was a slice of bacon! We had lots of treats and danced in the gym after the parade and trick-or-treating were over. Our class learned about Columbus in October and they were involved in many activities during this in depth unit. Each student had an opportunity to lead the class and pretend they were on a ship sailing from Europe to America.

Our Thanksgiving Feast was delicious and gave us an opportunity to sit down and enjoy a meal together. Jake enjoyed having his mom eat with us at the table. We also ate with Matt's parents and Michael's grandfather. It was a wonderful way to celebrate what we are truly thankful for - family.



We are now using Experience Based Activities to learn about winter, hibernation and migration from north to south. The whole class really enjoys all of the hands on and interactive activities that are helping them have a deeper understanding of what animals do in the winter. Our trip to the mall was fun! Matt, Robbie and Michael used their shopping lists to choose gifts for their family. We also practiced our ordering and money skills when we had lunch at the food court. Jake enjoyed picking out gifts for everyone in his family at the school holiday store. We are going to wrap all of our

presents and send them home to our families before the holidays. We recently enjoyed looking at the gingerbread house displays at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Julia and Camryn walked together admiring all of the detailed houses. We all liked choosing which one was our favorite - but it wasn't easy. It is hard to believe that the holidays are already upon us. We are all looking forward to spending time with family and friends and ringing in the New Year. We wish everyone happy and safe holidays and we will see you in 2015!

Ms. Ryan's Class

It is December already! The beginning of the year was so busy. We worked on all our skills and then put them to use out in the community. Ryan's garden is an amazing experience and something many of the boys enjoy. We continued to water, weed and harvest the vegetables through September. We picked tomatoes and green peppers to make salsa. We followed the recipe, cut the vegetables, measured the rest of the ingredients and enjoyed it with tortilla chips. We had enough to share at Back to School Night.



Ryan's Garden

We continued to explore horticulture and related activities by visiting an apple orchard and pumpkin farm.

We had so many great opportunities to go out. We have gone to the places in the community that provide services, like the bank and Laundromat. Leisure activities included Frelinghuysen Arboretum, bowling, crafts and different places to shop like, the supermarket, craft store, and different retail locations. Everyone likes to choose what they are going to buy and is able to use money and complete transactions with a cashier, and some practiced the self checkout aisles.

Holidays are always exciting and a chance to celebrate. Halloween was fun and the costumes were great.

Trick or Treating around the school yielded a lot of goodies! The Park Lake Thanksgiving Feast gave us the opportunity to share a delicious meal with our friends and family, and we were so happy for those that attended.

At the end of November, we went shopping at the mall, with one of the goals being to buy a present for someone other than ourselves. This was a bit challenging for some of us, but in the end everyone did it. We wrapped those presents and sent them home, so be on the lookout for those.

Community service and good citizenship are other areas we work on. The older students held a food drive and donated 239 pounds of food to a local food pantry. When we delivered the food, we toured the facility and counted and packaged tea bags to be given out. Thank you to all who donated. Our class has recently begun participating in EBAs (Experience Based Activities) and we are having a great time with it, while reviewing prior knowledge, building upon it and learning many new concepts. We pretended to be Christopher Columbus discovering America, we sailed a ship around the room and used telescopes to practice vocabulary words and find

pictures. We also practiced speaking and writing our addresses, answering questions and spelling.

As it began to get colder, we started to talk about animals in winter. We have been exploring the concepts of hibernation, migration and adaptation. We are also incorporating map skills, like North and South, and the differing climates. Math skills include counting, 1:1 correspondence and graphing activities.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year. Happy Holidays!!!

Mrs. Frost-Vocational Class

The Vocational Program continues to provide our students with an opportunity to work on job skills. We have been keeping busy on many jobs throughout the building and some jobs for people in the community as well. While we complete these jobs, we are learning many work related skills such as appropriate work behavior, taking direction from our 'supervisor' and staying on task, independently. The students choose a reward that they are working for such as free time, a small snack or a toy from our

school store! This is the beginning of understanding that we work for a paycheck.

Our younger students are being exposed to the world of work by clocking in and out and performing simple sorting and packaging tasks. Ciro has shown such progress in his ability to perform complex office tasks such as finding missing numbers! Jack O. is able to stay on task for longer periods of time. Sean is now able to work independently! It is wonderful to see the students' growth.

Our older students also clock in and out at the beginning and end of their shift, however they work on real jobs such as copying, collating and filing for teachers, stuffing envelopes for our PTA and outside companies and filling die cut orders for teachers.



Chris, Jay, Charlie, Gabby, Robbie, Beth, and Erik all have jobs in the building which they work on every week and get paid! In addition, we

run the snack cart daily, take care of the recycling in the school and sharpen pencils for the classrooms. For our students who are 16 or older, we have been working in real life jobs in the community through a Structured Learning Experience. Currently, we have students placed at Potbelly's Riverside Cafe, TJ Maxx, IT Radix and Green Vision. James continues to thrive at Green Vision and is all set to attend full time after graduation! Antonio is learning to work in an office setting where he shreds paper and stuffs envelopes. Camryn and Julia worked at Giggles and do a great job counting out tokens. Erik works at TJ Maxx, sorting sizing keters. Robbie works at Potbelly's restaurant folding towels and napkins. Jay is cleaning and vacuuming at Green Vision. In January, we will start at a new location, Fino Electric. Community job sampling allows our students to get real life experience on the job!

Mrs. Dussault-Activities of Daily Living

We have had a busy fall here in ADL. The students worked hard on reviewing their cooking skills that they learned last spring. We practiced how to pour, stir, spread,

slice, and began to learn how to measure using either dry or liquid measuring cups and measuring spoons. It was fun making various recipes that incorporated all of these skills.

We also worked on how to fold towels and shirts. The children are still learning how to do this and enjoy using a folding board, for the shirts. Another great skill we are working on is putting groceries away in the appropriate location, either the refrigerator or cabinet. We have made it into a game and everyone enjoys participating.



Everyone is working hard to learn how to do all of the ADL tasks. We are looking forward to working on sweeping, vacuuming, bed making and personal hygiene skills in the spring. We will also continue to do our weekly cooking skills which everyone seems to enjoy very much. I wish everyone healthy and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Mr. Caffrey-Physical Education

Seasons Greetings to all!! We hope everyone is ready for an exciting holiday season and plans to have as much fun as we do. The students have been very busy in Physical Education. We have worked on hand-eye coordination and movement skills over the past few months. Various sports activities include adapted soccer, football and basketball. Some of the students' favorite activities include riding the adapted tricycles and scooter boards inside, as well as outside.



I would like to congratulate all the students on their successes, and thank all the parents for their dedicated support. Have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to all the upcoming events and activities.

Mr. Mason-Art

Art with Mr. Mason. Experience Based Activities (EBA) Merged with Art's proclivities. In support, we built to please, Animals, both he's and she's Out of paper made from trees. Hollow birds that flew with ease, Ground hogs we could feed with ease To best endure the winter's freeze. School support's our expertise.



Speech Department- Stacey Patrick and Kelly Pezzanite

We started the school year welcoming new and returning students. We were busy learning about fall vocabulary, Columbus and Thanksgiving. On Halloween, the kids enjoyed a "The 5 Senses of Halloween" with the OT/PT and Speech Departments. Children were invited to experience the

sights, sounds, smells, sensations and language of the day. Fun was had by all!



Our holiday break is fast approaching and everyone is getting excited talking about our holiday celebrations to come. We are learning about "Animals in Winter" during experience based activities (EBA's). We are also "Sliding into Speech" where the children have each created their own penguin performing an activity (i.e. sledding, skating, skiing or standing). They are being asked to place it on the bulletin board using a prepositional phrase within a sentence. For example, Miss Stacey's **penguin is standing next to the tree**. Miss Kelly's **penguin is skating under the snowflakes**. During the holiday break, you may find yourself asking "What can we do for some fun?" Food shopping and cooking are two wonderful activities which encourage learning vocabulary, sequencing, following

directions, and turn-taking. Take out a board game or find a game on the iPad and play together. On a snowy day, venture outside to make a snowman or take a walk around your neighborhood.

If you're looking for some creative ideas, you may want to check out some websites for suggestions.

Kaboose.com, Kidzone.ws, and familyeducation.com are a few we like. They offer games, puzzles, word searches and craft activities for the whole family to participate in.

The Speech Department would like to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a very happy and healthy New Year!!

PTA-Parent/Teacher Association

What a wonderful year we have had; I can't believe it's almost 2015! We're off to a great start with parent/guardian and teacher involvement and support, thank you! Park Lake School is bursting with life! Seeing the building's fresh exterior, new smart boards, the garden's beautiful growth, and of course the hallways bustling with happy students, it's easy to appreciate how everyone's efforts

are benefitting the children of PLS. We missed those of you who were not able to attend the Thanksgiving Feast. It was a huge hit with the children, parents, grandparents and staff! Thank you Sandee Garrett for planning the event.

There are more great things to come in 2015! The PTA will continue to fund field trips and various off-campus activities.



The PTA is also purchasing Spirit Wear for the children and staff. (I know what my son will be wearing on Fridays!) In addition to field trips, we're also sponsoring a Siblings Night, which will coincide with an Adult Self-Defense class. Thank you for your participation in our fundraising year to date, the responses have been incredible! We have more lined up for 2015 and I'm sure they will be as successful as ever. The largest and most important fundraiser is our

annual Gala Night. It will be held at The Brown Stone on April 24, 2015. This event will help ensure a new accessible playground for our children. Whether you can donate goods or services, contribute monetarily, or give us your time, please contact Sandee Garrett or Simone Siandre to get involved. Everything you do makes a great difference in every child's life at PLS. I wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with love, health and happiness!

April Rofe'-PTA President

OT/PT Department

As we all look forward to the upcoming Holiday Season, with its snowy days, hot chocolate and the children all lined up on the couch to watch Frozen, we wanted to suggest the many fun winter activities that you can entertain your kids with, while working on their fine and gross motor skills.

The OT and PT staff hopes you have a wonderful season full of memories to last!

Handwriting, typing, pinching, lacing, coloring

Arts & Crafts play

Prone tummy time play wrapped up in a blanket

Playground equipment play

Yarn weaving and sewing

Hopping, skipping, jumping, balancing

Obstacle courses play climbing, pushing and pulling

Log rolling with home made clay

Imagination games

Dynamic Movement/motor planning/balance

Activities of Daily Living, work, play, leisure

Yoga and deep breathing exercises

Swings, sliding and snowball throwing

The OT/PT staff wishes everyone Happy Holidays!

Deb, Vis and Nancy