



THE HAWTHORNE HERALD

"A Behavioral Approach to Lifelong Care ®"



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A Note from our Nurse

"It is a true privilege to work with caring, warm professionals. The skill and affection you all provide to the students are outstanding. The tools and knowledge I learn from all of you ensures that the best possible care is provided. With great appreciation, *thank you for all you do!*"
- Ginger

Students from HCDS- Westchester visited the Manhattan campus to help their peers set-up the store. (Image on the right)

Student- Run Enterprises- HCDS- Manhattan

The school store at the HCDS - Manhattan Campus, known as "The Musketeer," will have its grand opening on February 27th. The store will be based in the Multi-Purpose Room on the second floor. This has become an opportunity for the students to gain hands-on experience utilizing store equipment. Students will use a cash register and scanner to count money. Students will also stock shelves and collect and record inventory. Students will be using a practical approach by selling food and drink items. Different roles will be assigned to students periodically so they can gain the valuable skill-sets of a cashier, restock associate, and accountant.

"These tasks are designed to meet specific goals that are listed on both student's IEP and CDOS Credential requirements," stated Senior Job Coach, Robert Fortes.



Cupid Visits HCDS-Westchester

On February 14th, 2020, Cupid visited HCDS-Westchester. The Valentine's Day Dance was an extraordinary event for Teachers, Staff, and the students. The immense collaboration from Teachers, Related Service, Work-Based Learning (WBL) program, the Physical Education Department, and students set a positive atmosphere for everyone.



To note: the Sunshine Committee raised more than \$300. The funds enabled teachers and staff to put together a valentine's day themed bake-sale and purchase decorative items to be hung in the gymnasium, where the dance was held. Related Services created Valentine's Day themed activities for the students to enjoy! These

activities included a painting activity and a "Sensory Sticky Wall." Students were engaged and could create their own version of a heart using paint and other materials. A 50/50 raffle, which raised over \$300, raffled away school-themed apparel, designed and made by one of the staff members. This raffle generated a lot of excitement for all.

The WBL Program worked with staff and students to decorate and put together gift bags for their fellow classmates and peers. Also, each class created a themed banner for the event. The banner was worked on by teachers, staff, and students in the class. There were many collaborative tasks for everyone that made the day special. "It was extraordinary to see everyone go the extra mile and do a little extra to make the Valentine's Day Dance special for everyone," mentioned Physical Education Teacher Steve Pinto.





“All Abilities Night”- Westchester Knicks event hosted by Fit4Fun

On Saturday, February 8th, 2020, *Fit4fun* held “All Abilities Night” at the Westchester County Center, White Plains, N.Y, during a Westchester Knicks basketball game. Fit4fun is an organization dedicated to incorporating movement in fitness in a fun, safe, nurturing environment while enhancing the lives of children and young adults of all abilities.

Fit4Fun invited members of the Hawthorne Foundation Inc., who had an exciting time the game; “the players played really well, and the game even went into triple over-time; it was a great experience,” said one of Hawthorne’s representatives.

The purpose of the Knicks event was to “give back to some of our fit4fun families and others to recognize and celebrate all abilities,” said Fit4Fun Program Director, Jason Cratty.

The program was started by Program Director Jason Cratty and Assistant Program Director and Educational Director, Charles DeFrancesco. Mr. Cratty’s passion to working with special needs children comes from his sibling who has Cerebral Palsy. Mr. DeFrancesco’s passion derives from a personal connection to his son, who has Autism. Both are committed to making fitness and wellness a priority for special needs children.

Mr. Cratty, Mr. DeFrancesco, and the Fit4Fun team would like to offer everyone within the Hawthorne Foundation Inc., a FREE one-on-one or group training session. Please present this newsletter along with the pass attached for a free session. They can be reached at info@fit4funall.com and at (914)-694-4841. Their website is fit4funall.com.

Free Training Sessions
 This card entitles you to:
 1) a one-on-one 30-minute personal training session
 OR
 2) a group obstacle course fitness class
www.fit4funall.com - info@fit4funall.com - (914) 694-4841

Day-Habilitation Visits Animal Shelter

Day habilitation participants Jeanne and Evan volunteering at Paws Crossed animal shelter. Volunteers help care for the animals and give them much needed love and attention.



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Reading is essential for the growth and development of any individual. There is a growing trend where authors are now writing books that include a storyline of a character(s) that have a learning difference.

The American Library Association (ALA) named honorees of its Schneider Family Book Awards.

Two books received the John Newbery Medal and The Randolph Caldecott Medal. “A Friend for Henry,” written by Jenn Bailey, illustrated by Mika Song- is about friendship told from the perspective of a boy with autism. “Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You,” is the other written by U.S Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and illustrated by Rafael Lopez. This book is a storyline that promotes interaction among individuals with differences and that it makes us stronger. Both books are definitely a “must read.”

The John Newbery Medal is a literary award given by the Association for Liberty Service to Children (ALSC) to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. The Randolph Caldecott Medal awards the most distinguished picture book in America for children.

These two awards are the most prestigious awards for children’s literature in the United States.

Story originated: Shaun Heasley, disabilityscoop.com

For more information or if you’d like to contribute to the Hawthorne Foundation Inc., please visit hawthornefoundation.org



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Community Support Network



*Join WIHD for an important round table discussion
"Building Sustainable Futures"
presented by Gail Nachimson, Executive Director of Hawthorne
Foundation Inc., and members of the HFI staff*



Wednesday, March 18th from 8:30am to 9:30am

Join us for a frank round table discussion about the current options available at HFI, the challenges they are facing to provide their programs and give them feedback on what families want for the future for their adult children living with complex developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan.

*NOTE: space is limited. Please only RSVP if you plan to participate:
email Tara at tklein@wihd.org*

**Location: Hawthorne Foundation, Training Facility
200 Clearbrook Road, Elmsford NY Suite 114
<https://www.hawthornefoundation.org/>**

Coffee and breakfast treats will be provided.

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES