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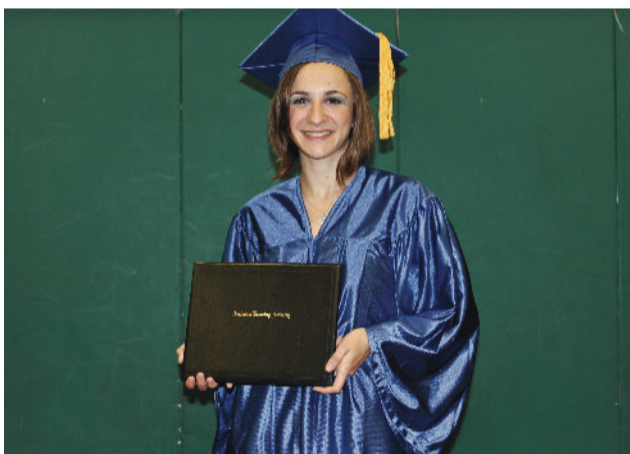
Newsletter of The Inclusive Learning Academy

Summer 2014

Issue 1

It's Graduation Time at ILA!

Our First High School Graduate!



On June 13, 2014, the staff of ILA were proud to present Stephanie S. with her high school diploma! During her time with us Stephanie contributed a great deal to her fellow students and the school as a whole. She distinguished herself in Track and Field at Butler High School and in class as an honor student who's sense of humor and kindness endeared her to students and staff alike.

Stephanie was our first student to participate in the Challenger Program at Morris County College. This program allows eligible high school seniors to take college classes and earn college credit. As a result, Stephanie left high school with six college credits. She will continue at CCM in the Fall as a student in the Nursing program.

Stephanie will always hold a special place at ILA. She is not only our first high school graduate, she also set a high standard for those who will come after her in terms of academics, community involvement, an impressive effort on completing our senior criteria, and her overall willingness to meet challenges head on.

We are all proud of, and honored by, Stephanie's accomplishments and look forward to her future success.

Mr. David Gidich Gives Commencement Speech

Our first high school graduation commencement speaker was Mr. David Gidich. Mr. Gidich, a graduate of Cleveland State University and Columbia University, has been at the forefront of progressive education since the 1970's. He was responsible for bringing "The Team School" to the Montclair Public School System in the mid 1970s. The Team School was an "open classroom" concept that promoted student choice, cooperation and democracy. Over the years Mr. Gidich has held numerous educational titles such as Teacher of English and Social Studies, Assistant Principal, Principal, Adjunct Professor and Superintendent.

Mr. Gidich spoke to our students, staff and families about the importance of education and the unique opportunities schools like ILA provide. He also spoke about the role of each child's family in the educational process and the home-school connection as a critical part of any child's success.

It was an honor to have a speaker of Mr. Gidich's caliber share his knowledge and many years of experience with us.



Middle School Graduation



This year five students graduated from 8th grade! Three of the graduates attend our Butler Middle School Campus and two attend our Stanhope Campus. Each student put forth strong efforts academically, behaviorally, and socially to get to this day. One graduate will join us at our Butler High School Campus in the Fall. One will move on to another school, and three of our graduates will return to their home districts for high school! Brendaliz, Joey, Justin, Kyle and Dylan, we applaud your efforts and look forward to your success in high school!

Extended School Year

Our Extended School Year kicked off on July 7! The ESY program is designed to bolster and reinforce learning from the previous school year and lessen the academic regression that often occurs after an entire summer off. The ESY utilizes hands-on, project-based techniques just like our regular school year program. However, during the summer we insert a "twist". Every year we design ESY around a theme in order to make learning more fun. Each week is based on a different part of the overall theme of the summer and culminates in an event or trip each Friday. Past themes have included Science, Travel and New Jersey. This year our theme is "Play Time!"

You may wonder, "How do they teach with a theme like Play Time?" We do it by designing curriculum based, hands-on lessons around the theme and relating learning to everyday concepts and activities. For example, week two is dedicated to "Toys and Culture". During that week students will engage in reading assignments, web-quests and projects related to toys in different cultures and at different times in history. A sample science lesson includes students testing the durability of different toys, from both present and past. Students will form hypotheses, run experiments, keep data, and draw conclusions based on their findings.

Students will gain both knowledge and personal understandings of what the generations that came before them considered fun as children.



Penny-Farthing Bicycle, USA, 1878



Pac Man, Japan, 1980

ESY Weekly Focus, 2014

Learning Through Games

Toys and Culture

Arcades: Ingenuity Meets Entertainment

Probability: Your friend or foe?

Ye Olde Time Fun: Leisure through history

The Olympics: More than just games



Nesting Dolls, Russia, 1890

Did You Know ...

- > On average, 15% of our student body returns to their home school district each year
- > Our high school seniors must complete a year-long senior criteria in order to graduate
- > The ILA motto translates, "Education is the ship, effort is the wind"

8th Annual BBQ



The annual ILA BBQ Social is our way of saying thank you and job well done! The students design games and events for kids of every age to participate in and enjoy. It's a great opportunity for ILA students to socialize with each other, staff members, and members of the community.

This year we were joined by many parents, Child Study Team members, a couple of Special Ed. Directors, and others who are partners in our ongoing efforts.



Coming this Fall...

Archaeology Club

Get ready for the ILA enrichment program starting in the Fall. Students will be able to choose from a variety of classes/experiences designed to foster learning, confidence, and cooperation. On the last Friday of each month, students will choose their area of study and spend the majority of the day engaging in new experiences with fellow ILA students and staff members from all of our campuses. Students can opt to participate in the same activity each month or can try them all!

Hiking Club

Photography

Participating staff members have volunteered to lead classes that they are personally enthusiastic about. Many will use knowledge from hobbies they've had for years to create unique learning experiences for our students. Classes will change or expand depending on the interest and success of the students participating in them.

Sports & Games

Creative Writing

Arts & Crafts

Boating



Inclusive Learning Academy

New Jersey's Leader in Inclusive Education

**Butler
Campus**

**Kinnelon
Campus**

**Stanhope
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"Erudio est traba, nixus est ventus"