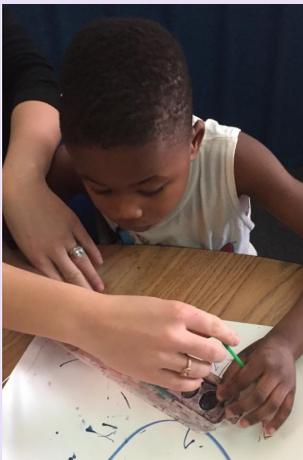




Students in the Life Skills program participate in "Mock Movie Theater Days."



More than 600 teddy bears were donated to Marklund Day School.



### *A message from the Principal Paula Bodzioch*

This quarter has gone by quickly! Students in our Life Skills program, as well as our Multi-Needs programs in Bloomingdale and Elgin, have all worked hard on their academic and therapeutic goals.

They've all had a lot of fun, too. Students enjoyed games, crafts and time to socialize with their peers, at our Halloween and Holiday Parties. They also went on a wide range of outings, including to Stratford Square mall to shop and visit with Santa, an animal shelter, and a theater to see a holiday musical.

Over the past few months, our Life Skills program held several "Mock Movie Theater Days" in our Multi-Purpose room. Through the experience, students learned how to better tolerate crowds and noise - and enjoy a real-life movie experience with their classmates.

We recently welcomed our new instructional coach, **Jackie Angioletti**. She will support the transition of new students, and help teachers implement new curriculum. Jackie will remain in the Intermediate Life Skills classroom until a new teacher is hired.

I'd like to remind you that we will be conducting the Dynamic Learning Maps testing, from mid-March through April. More information will become available as the date draws nearer.

Marklund Day School has been in the news! You can check out an article, featured in the **Chicago Tribune**, by clicking [here](#).

Our teachers and staff are looking forward to working with students in the next quarter!

### *Did you know?*

**Marklund Day School recently received 600 teddy bears as part of the annual Teddy Bear Toss, presented by Geneva Family Dental. More than 650 bears were donated, including 277 from the Cyclones Amateur Hockey Association's Squirts A2 team. The gift was a wonderful surprise! Our students all enjoyed receiving the teddy bears!**

### *Life Skills Program*

#### **Early Childhood: Christina Cannistra**

Students had fun learning about Pablo Picasso, and even created their own versions of his work: Picasso's "Face Paintings," a large version of "Artist and His Model," and "The Musketeer"!

#### **Primary: Jessica Redmond and Cassie Bieberston**

Students learned about pilgrims, Thanksgiving and December holidays. Ms. Cassie's classroom learned about holiday trees and decorated their own with hand-made ornaments. Ms. Jessica's classroom completed units on snowmen and arctic animals, and experimented with shortening to see how animal blubber keeps animals warm.

In math, students from both classrooms surveyed peers and created graphs. Ms. Jessica's room practiced early numeracy skills by counting holiday-themed items, and making patterns with gift wrap and bows. Ms. Cassie's room enjoyed an outing to the mall for story time with Santa, and passed out candy canes at the Bloomingdale Park District! We all loved cooking delicious snacks each week, including mini pizzas, queso and holiday Rice Krispy treats.

#### **Intermediate Life Skills: Irmira Jaskolka and Jaclyn Angioletti**

In language arts, students read about life in the 1930s, and compared it to their



lives today. We learned about a museum can teach you about the past. In addition, students explored winter holiday traditions, and practiced celebrating different cultural practices through crafts, group projects, and sensory activities.

In math, we learned vocabulary words related to graphs, such as big/small, more/less, equal, and same/different. Students worked on answering compare-and-contrast questions about data presented in charts, bar graphs and pictographs. In addition, we used graphs to solve simple math problems.

#### **High School and Transition: Sarah Weathered and Cassidy Blair**

Our two classrooms had outings to Petland, a bowling alley, Chick-Fil-A, Dollar Tree, Wendy's, and many other destinations. Students went to Walmart to buy ingredients for cooking class. They made pizza, popcorn-chicken bowls, sloppy Joes, tacos, and other lunch foods. In addition, students prepared and sold pizza lunches to staff on Fridays in November.

We worked on weekly jobs, such as stocking breakfast foods, cleaning the multi-purpose room, performing clerical tasks, and doing laundry and dishes. Social studies topics included holiday traditions from around the world. In science, we focused on arctic animals, weather, and force and motion. For social skills we focused on emotions, stress and hygiene.

### *Multi-Needs Program: Bloomingdale*

#### **Early Childhood and Primary - Nancy Vincej and Lisa Fuesz**

Students collected and sorted colorful leaves, placed them on light boxes, and used the leaves for arts and crafts. In reading, we continued to focus on phonics, phonemic awareness and reading comprehension. In math, students surveyed staff on a variety of topics, gathered results, and created bar graphs. In social studies, we touched a tactile globe and learned about different parts of the world. In science, students sorted different colored popcorn kernels, and popped them to create an artistic Santa Claus beard.

#### **Intermediate -Jan Knudson**

Students learned about Native American heritage and pilgrims, and even made their own Dream Catchers. In social studies, we learned about traditions celebrated around the world. Students made fun ornaments and a Gingerbread House after learning about ginger and some German traditions related to holiday trees and ornaments. We used some of these traditional items, such as gingerbread men, in our math unit, incorporating counting, adding and subtracting, as well as determining which set has more or less than the other.

In reading, students continued to listen to fairy tales, folk tales and fantasy. We listened for character, plot and setting, as well as familiar phrases: "Once upon a time" and "Long ago, in a land far away..." In science, we continued to investigate force: push/pull and density: sink/float. We also made sensory dough for our holiday ornaments. Students enjoyed hydro-therapy, pet therapy, and even had the opportunity to attend a play!

#### **High School - Allison Jenkins and Jill Fernandez**

In reading/language arts, we did Thanksgiving-themed Mad-Libs, where students rolled dice to choose a word. Students also read various stories about Thanksgiving and other winter holidays. Students used voice output switches, high contrast backgrounds, and light boxes to answer comprehension questions.

Students read poetry, fictional text, and informational text about different holidays. In math, students created their own Thanksgiving restaurant, choosing a traditional Thanksgiving menu, and using money to purchase food. Students also made Thankful bags for teachers and staff, sorting and counting items and placing them in bags. In science and social studies, students did holiday experiments, like making fizzy ice, making crystallized ornaments, and creating a menorah and Kwanzaa-themed candle.

### *Multi-Needs Program: Elgin*

#### **Primary: Jennifer Riley**

#### **High School: Terry Wilkinson**

We incorporated the theme, "Celebrate Every Day!" into both of our classrooms, and learned how every day is unique, and how we can celebrate every day in every way. Our classes learned how people celebrate traditional and unique holidays, such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, Native American Heritage Month, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah.

In STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math), we focused on counting, and learned about more/less, and next higher/lower numbers. We also worked on thematic-word and story problems. Other topics included weather and the seasons. We conducted experiments, which involved combining chemicals, and making slime and "pumpkin rockets." Some of the best science of all was cooking.

In social studies, we discussed the history of holidays, how people celebrate them around the world, and how people keep heritage and customs alive. In vocational, our students made holiday ornaments, assembled and decorated a Christmas



Our students made holiday ornaments, assembled and decorated a Christmas tree, and mixed items for baking. Most importantly, we focused on sensory engagement with our students, to help them experience our lessons.

Our classrooms have had some unique and enjoyable outings recently. We went to an animal shelter to pet animals and feel their different coats, and we attended a holiday musical that made us laugh a lot!

## *A Message from the PTO President Ann Hacker*

Happy New Year! Looking ahead to the next quarter, we have a variety of ways parents and guardians can get involved and support Marklund Day School.

A new event will take place on April 29: the Marklund "Run Walk & Roll" 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk, at the Marklund Philip Center, in Bloomingdale. We welcome anyone who would like to help before and on the day of the race, and to cheer on the runners and participants! To learn more, contact me, and I can get you a list of volunteer opportunities.

I will be reaching out to parents and guardians, via email, or through Class Dojo, with more specific information about upcoming class parties, special events and other occasions to get involved. So keep your eyes open!

Teacher Appreciation Week will be here before we know it! Please reach out to me at [mikehacker@comcast.net](mailto:mikehacker@comcast.net) if you have any early suggestions on how we can make teachers and staff feel special.

I'm available, too, if you have questions, or if you'd like to learn more about the Marklund Parent Teacher Organization. Thank you!

## **Behind the Scenes**

We have recently started embedding therapy goals into instruction time for students in the Life Skills and Multi-Needs programs.

For example, a therapist can encourage a student to climb the stairs, rather than take the elevator, to deliver the classroom attendance list to the front office. This would allow the student to meet a physical therapy goal.

This new approach illustrates how teachers, staff and therapists at Marklund Day School collaborate to meet students' needs in a creative way.

## *Therapist of the Quarter: Meghan Edwards*

As a Board Certified Behavior Analyst for Marklund Day School, Meghan's overall goal is to implement strategies, so students can reach their fullest potential.

Meghan conducts behavioral assessments of students, develops individualized behavior treatment plans, and trains and supports school staff in executing the plans.

"The purpose is to teach and shape behaviors so students can transition back to their home school, learn the skills necessary to live as independently as possible, or learn life skills needed when they are finished with school," Meghan explained.

Meghan joined Marklund in August, having previously worked as a special education teacher in various levels of classrooms, from kindergarten to high school. She also served as a behavior therapist in homes, schools and community settings.

Meghan credits the team effort at Marklund for helping students achieve their goals. "Everyone works so hard and is ready to help wherever and whenever they are needed," she said.

"I love being at Marklund," Meghan added. "Everyone is here for the kids and has their best interest at heart. You don't find that in every organization."



Meghan credits the team effort at Marklund for helping students achieve their goals. "Everyone works so hard and is ready to help wherever and whenever they are needed," she said.

## MARKLUND IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Jan. 31: Early Release Day @ 1:45 p.m.**
- **Jan. 31: 100th Day of School**
- **Feb. Early Release Days @ 1:45 p.m.: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28**
- **Feb. 3: Marklund Top Hat Ball, Chicago**
- **March Early Release Days @ 1:45 p.m.: March 7, 14, 21, 28**
- **March 23: End of Third Quarter**
- **April 29: Marklund "Run, Walk & Roll" 5K, Bloomingdale**
- **Click [here](#) for the entire 2017-18 school year calendar.**

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Help us tell our story. Let others know about the great things that go on at Marklund.  
Spread the word about our events and job openings.

The more who know about Marklund, the more supporters, volunteers, and donors we may find and people (students) we may help!