



### *A Message from Paula Bodzioch, Director of Education*

Over the past quarter, students have continued to make great progress toward their academic and therapeutic goals. We are so proud of how hard they have worked!

Students, teachers and staff also had the chance to enjoy crafts, games and other fun, during our Valentine's Day parties. During Dr. Seuss Week, members of Marklund's leadership team visited our classrooms to read *Cat in the Hat*, *Put Me in the Zoo*, and other Seuss classics.

**In late May, we will be distributing registration packets for the 2018-19 academic year.** Please take a moment to complete the registration form and return it to our office as soon as possible. School districts are in the process of confirming enrollment for next year, so contact your home district regarding their registration requirements for the 2018-19 school year. Feel free to call us if you need assistance.

**As a reminder: We will continue to have early release days at 1:45 on Wednesdays, during the 2018-19 academic year.**

**We will be closed on May 28 for Memorial Day, as well as on June 1-8, to prepare for the extended school year.**

**Summer school begins on June 11.** We will dismiss at 2:15, Monday through Friday.

I recently had the privilege of representing Marklund Day School at the **19th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities**, in January. I was among six school administrators who participated in a panel discussion on solutions to key challenges within special education. It was an honor to be asked to participate, and to represent Marklund at a national conference.

If you haven't had the chance to see our latest video blog that commemorates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, check it out [here](#). Finally, I'd like to invite you to the Marklund Run, Walk & Roll 5K, which takes place on April 29, at the Marklund Philip Center, in Bloomingdale. We hope you can join us for this special event, to run, walk, and cheer on participants! Register and learn more [here](#).

### *Did you know?*

**Eleven special education students from Wheaton College visited Marklund Day School over the past quarter to learn about teaching methods, curriculum, technology and how our teachers and staff meet the unique needs of our students.**

**In addition, Paula Bodzioch, director of education, spoke to students at the Wheaton College campus, about utilizing and supervising paraprofessionals within a classroom setting.**

**The goal of the partnership is to train and equip future teachers - and give them a real-world experience beyond classroom learning.**

**The partnership between the college and Marklund Day School has been made possible by the Ann Haskins Foundation. See the full article [here](#).**

### *Life Skills Program*



Students have been learning about staying healthy! We learned about fruits, vegetables and other types of foods that keep our bodies healthy and working hard. We explored the similarities and differences between fruits and vegetables. We also explored different types of exercises! Best of all, we learned all about the proper way to wash the germs off our hands, and how important it is to do that multiple times every day!

We all had fun during Dr. Seuss Week! We made Cat In The Hat masks out of paper plates, and enjoyed visiting our friends in Ms. Jessica's class for a special Dr. Seuss read-aloud.

**Primary: Jessica Redmond and Cassie Bieberstein**

Students learned all about snow - they made play snow, counted snowballs, and painted with ice! Students also conducted a science experiment to see how salt keeps the snow and ice off the roads. Students learned about living in a community and keeping their bodies healthy. The Olympics were a huge hit! Students read about different winter sports, made Olympics medals and counted the gold, silver and bronze medals each country won.

Classrooms enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of school by making T-shirts. We also practiced our social skills by delivering homemade Valentines to peers. In social studies, students read about different types of communities and the people who live there. To celebrate President's Day, students made Abe Lincoln's log cabin out of pretzels, and used *News 2 You* to read about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

**Intermediate Life Skills: Irmira Jaskolka and Madeline Stein**

In math, students focused on composing and decomposing numbers relating to addition. They also took a multi-sensory approach while working with numbers and learning about addition. In social studies, students focused on the formation of the colonies and continents around the world.

Students learned about having a healthy body and how to keep it strong with proper exercise and nutrition. We also learned about germs and proper hand washing to stay healthy. In language arts, students focused on core words, including: give, get, stop, go, eat, drink, big, little and happy and sad. The students in middle school also got to participate in aqua therapy with our recreation therapist.

**High School and Transition: Cassidy Blair and Samantha Miller**

Our students continue to go on two outings each week. We go to Walmart once a week to buy ingredients for cooking lessons. Students make shopping lists, shop for ingredients, practice waiting in line, and pay at the cash register. We also have gone on weekly recreational outings to Panera, Portillo's, Subway, the bowling alley and the mall!

Students have continued to make progress in their daily jobs. They include making copies, delivering items, stocking breakfast and lunch foods, wiping tables, cleaning dishes, sweeping, and doing laundry.

***Multi-Needs Program: Bloomingdale***

**Early Childhood - Nancy Vincej**

Students explored snow by timing how long it took to melt, painting it with color paints, and even building small snowmen. In reading, students worked on comprehension, exploring such themes as the arctic, presidents, and Martin Luther King Jr. We also continued to focus on phonics and the sounds they make. We built letters with PlayDoh, found letters in sensory bins, and listened to songs about phonics.

In math, students explored numbers and counting with a variety of hands-on materials. Students also took a survey and graphed the results. In science, students enjoyed creating sensory bins that focused on the weekly theme. For example, they felt arctic animals that were frozen into a block of ice, in order to connect with the idea of cold. In social studies, we learned about our likes and dislikes, worked on social interactions with peers, and learned about historical events and holidays, such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Valentine's Day.

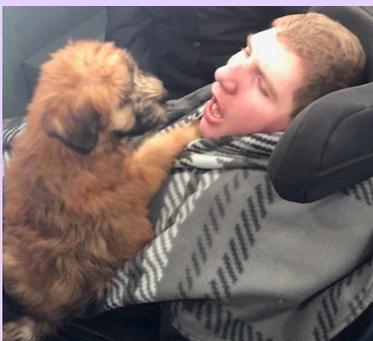
**Primary - Maureen Morris**

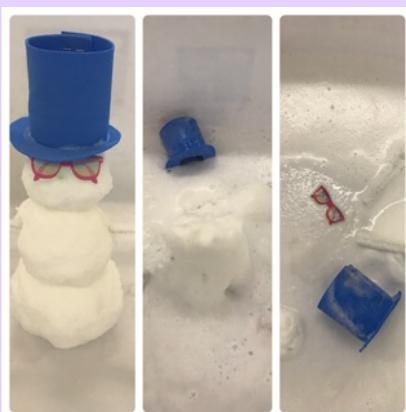
In reading, we focused on comprehension while reading about weather, snow, ice, and winter sports. In science, students learned how to read a thermometer and measure with a ruler. We also explored DIY snow versus real snow, during a miniature snowman-building activity.

In math, students worked on sorting, matching and counting. In social studies, we learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and U.S. presidents, including George Washington. We crafted an American Flag, while listening to "The Star-Spangled Banner" and other patriotic songs. Students also learned about the Winter Olympics. They had their own Olympic Torch relay, looked at flags from different countries, and touched the tactile globe to learn where the countries are located.

**Intermediate -Jan Knudson**

In math, we worked on number recognition, simple equations, graphing and





fractions. We incorporated mysteries, legends, Black History Month, countries, and weather into reading. Students continued to amaze us with their reading comprehension, as seen with their accurate responses to questions!

In science, students studied winter weather: snow, ice, and blizzards, and touched a large ice block to experience the cold. We also learned about our five senses, and our heart and bones. Through our water-bead sensory experiment, students learned that just like our bodies and plants, water beads need water to grow bigger. In social studies, we learned about the culture and land forms of the United States, Egypt, Mexico, and China. Students then made dough relief maps of the U.S. and Egypt, and painted them.

#### High School - Rebecca Shelton

To gear up for the upcoming Olympics, we learned about Greek mythology, Greek gods and goddess, and ancient Greece. We also learned about the ancient Olympics and the Olympics today. In reading, we learned about the history of the gods and goddesses, and the different athletes competing in the games. In social studies we created a family tree, and shared fun facts about the Olympics host city, PyeongChang.

In art, we created our own mythological creature out of play dough, created constellations, and used different tactile materials to create Olympic rings. In science, students enjoyed learning about surface tension and an ancient Greek water clock. In math, we created our own patterns on Greek pots and plates, and played matching games. We enjoyed following the Olympic games closely, keeping track of the medal count every day.

### Multi-Needs Program: Elgin

#### High School: Terry Wilkinson

In reading, our class focused on the book, "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane." We also stayed up to date with current events by reading local and national news stories, especially about the Olympics.

In STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math), we worked with thematic word and story problems, and continued to develop our skills by answering addition/subtraction algebraic equations, graphing, and using volume measurement systems, such as cups, tablespoons, etc. We looked at the human body and learned how muscles and tendons operate skeletons. We even built a skeleton model of our hand. Our students mixed chemicals for hot ice crystals, and made magnetic slime.

In social studies, we discussed the history of Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year, and we studied how people celebrate them. We also celebrated the 2018 Winter Olympics and cheered on Team USA, while looking at different sports, activities, and cultures.

In Vocational, students made bird feeders and Valentines. Our classroom continues to gain experience through community outings, too. We really enjoyed going to the mall, Elgin History Museum, a pet store, and even bowling!

#### Primary: Jennifer Riley

The themes over the last quarter have been *winter* and *community*. In language arts, we explored those themes in picture books, such as "What if Everybody Did That?" We also wrote the first of many weekly journal entries!

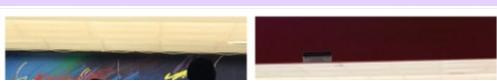
In social studies, students have been keeping up to date with current events through News-2-You. We also spent a lot of time learning about our community, and how it includes not only our school and town, but also our state, country, and planet. In math, we have been using manipulatives for counting, measuring, graphing, and solving simple equations. It turns out math is a lot of fun when you're learning with candy hearts, play dough, marshmallows and candy canes!

In science, students learned about the arctic and arctic animals. We used Venn diagrams to compare South America with Antarctica, and polar bears with penguins. Students participated in sensory-based experiments that included melting snowmen, making frozen slime, and creating bird feeders. Some of the highlights in art include painting with ice, and making bubble-wrap art. We have also been on many community outings, including the mall, Elgin History Museum, the pet store, and a trip to see Peter Rabbit at the movie theater!

### A Message from the PTO President Ann Hacker

Looking ahead to the next quarter, we have a wide range of ways parents and guardians can get involved and support Marklund Day School!

You can volunteer - or simply cheer on runners and other participants - at the Marklund "Run Walk & Roll" 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk, which takes place on April 29, at the Marklund Philip Center, in Bloomingdale. The event will be a fun way to get out and be part of the Marklund community. We welcome anyone who would like to





help before and on the day of the race.

**Teacher Appreciation Week will take place on May 7-11.** I will send information about this in your child's backpack and by email in the coming days. **As always, we welcome anyone who would like to volunteer their time, or donate materials.** We take all offers of help! If you have any suggestions on how we can make teachers and staff feel special, please let me know. Our teachers and staff work hard all year, and really appreciate the fun attention!

I know how busy life gets for us parents, but our kids get to go to an awesome school. It's rewarding to support Marklund with our time and talents. To learn more about volunteering, and how to get involved with the Marklund PTO, contact me at [mikehacker@comcast.net](mailto:mikehacker@comcast.net).

## Behind the Scenes

Students in the Life Skills and Multi-Needs programs have benefited from a new video series, which models appropriate ways to interact with peers.

"The goal of the video series is to foster a higher developmental level of play and interaction among students," said Marklund Day School Social Worker Tina McCue, who created the videos. "We hope to increase students' social interaction with their classmates and other students at Marklund."

One of the video segments shows teachers and staff directing and coaching students in reciprocal play. For example, they model how to exchange play materials, such as a toy, and how to take turns, while attending to their social partner. Another video illustrates how a student in the Multi-Needs program can get a peer's attention through vocalization.

The videos have been well-received by all. Teachers also have benefited from the video series, by learning different strategies to foster more natural social interactions among students, McCue said.



Joanna's goal as an occupational therapy assistant is to help each child reach their highest potential, while ensuring they are engaged in activities and goals that are meaningful to them, she said.

### *Therapist of the Quarter: Joanna Vicker*

Joanna Vicker knew she wanted to do something that helped people, when considering her career.

"I thought about going into teaching, but when my aunt told me about the field of occupational therapy, I immediately knew it was the right career choice for me," she said. "Since then, I have never looked back."

Joanna has worked at Marklund since becoming an occupational therapy assistant 21 years ago. Today, she serves adult clients at the Marklund Hyde Center, in Geneva, as well as students at Marklund Day School, in Bloomingtondale.

"Some of the young adults and high school kids were so little when I started, it feels so special to be able to be a part of their lives for that long," she said. "I love that I have gotten to know the kids and have seen them grow over the years. "You can't really get that in any other setting."

Joanna's goal is to help each child reach their highest potential, while ensuring they are engaged in activities and goals that are meaningful to them, she said.

"I love seeing the joy on a child's face when they accomplish something for the first time and show pride in themselves," she said.

"My hope for Marklund students is that they grow up to be happy and healthy, and live meaningful lives," she added.

## MARKLUND IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- April early release days @ 1:45 p.m.: April 4, 11, 18, 25
- April 29: Marklund "Run, Walk & Roll" 5K, Bloomingtondale
- May early release days @ 1:45 p.m.: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- May 28: Memorial Day. No school
- May 31: Last day of school
- June 1 - 8: No school.
- June 11: Summer school begins - dismissal at 2:15 p.m.
- 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!