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NEWS NETWORK

Spring 2019

EDUCATION

guide



St. Teresa of Calcutta Education Center

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Limerick Township

2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



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EDUCATION

St. Teresa of Calcutta puts family first

St. Teresa of Calcutta Education Center is a thriving establishment based on Mother Teresa's heart-felt focus of family. The Rev. Paul Brandt had a vision for our parish and school community that encompassed this family devotion many years ago.

We offer an environment with a foundation based on love, learning, commitment and trust. Our Education Center is composed of our school for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, preschool and child care beginning at 6 weeks of age.

Our teachers inspire our students to grow academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally.

They have an excellent knowledge base of instruction, communication skills and above all passion for teaching. They partner with parents to develop a cohesive and successful environment for learning.

Our academic program is one of national merit. In 2017, we were the recipients of the National Blue Rib-



bon School of Excellence. This prestigious award puts us in the top 15 percent of schools nationwide. Our conscientious faculty and staff are committed to upholding this honor and status on a daily basis.

In addition to our vigorous academic curriculum, students in the up-

per grades are exposed to instrumental lessons, student council, various learning clubs, altar serving and CYO sports.

Partaking in these activities increases self-esteem, promotes leadership skills and instills responsibility and accountability. These activities and attributes help mold students into becoming well-rounded individuals.

At St. Teresa of Calcutta Education Center, we are devoted to our families. We spend time in and out of school as we learn, pray and play together. We are a close-knit school community that feels like family. We are committed to creating a legacy of faith-filled learners as we face the challenges of the 21st century.

Registration is now open for our school, preschool and child care.

To learn more, please call 610-287-2500 to schedule your personal tour.

We would love for you to be a part of our STC family!



EDUCATION

Role of technology in today's education continues to grow



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students work in the Makerspace section of the Beard Center for Innovation at Germantown Academy.

By Bob Keeler

bkeeler@21st-centurymedia.com

@bybobkeeler on Twitter

Whether it's online, in the classroom, a makerspace or outside the school building, technology is part of today's education.

"Essentially, most any kind of cutting-edge technology that's out there right now, we've either begun exploring or we are using," said Jessica Grisafi Killo, a Germantown Academy Lower School art teacher, Lower School Art Department coordinator, Makerspace/Tinkerlab coordinator and the school's PreK-12 STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) coordinator. The school is located in Fort

Washington, Montgomery County.

When you walk through the school, you'll see students everywhere with iPads, Killo said.

"Kids are constantly using them. They're using them for coding. They're using them for typing up reports. They're creating videos. Some kids are doing podcasts," she said.

Other uses include virtual reality or artificial reality, she said.

All the students in the Lower School use the Tinkerlab on a regular basis, she said. The technology and training is also integrated into other parts of the curriculum, she said, giving as an example one of her recent classes in which the students used Tinkerlab

skills on an art project.

Diane Goldstein, a science teacher in GA's Upper School and co-leader of the Vex Robotics Team, recalled thinking when she went to college that a CNC machine was "miraculous."

Now, along with other more traditional hand tools, the Makerspace area of the four-year-old Beard Center for Innovation, where classes including an Honors Engineering course are held, has 3-D printers and a laser cutter.

"I definitely am not a proponent of just saying, oh, 3-D printers are going to change the world or laser cutters are going to change the world, but if you have access to them and you're

TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

» PAGE 4



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Saturday, April 6

bloomu.edu/huskydecision

Technology in education

FROM PAGE 3

thinking just a little bit outside of the box, your projects are going to be a lot better," Goldstein said.

The makerspace gives students a chance to actually build things, instead of just designing things, she said.

The "ilab" (Innovation Lab), which accompanies the Makerspace, provides space for group or individual work to plan for the things being made in the Makerspace, Mary Fraser, director of the Middle School and Upper School libraries, said. Both the ilab and Makerspace are in the Roberts Family Library and Technology Center, which Fraser said forms a combined learning area.

"The three spaces were really designed to work

together as you move through," she said.

"As you're moving through any type of designing, you're starting with some type of research, then you're working on a solution," Fraser said, "and then you're building and prototyping."

Building the item is the most exciting part, she said, but only one part of the process.

"I think the most interesting part of it, and what our kids are learning, is that all of the parts of this cycle are equally important," Fraser said.

Upper Darby School District in Delaware County currently has about 6,000 Chromebooks for its 12,000 students, Bob Hilinski, the district's director of technology, said.

"Each year, we're going to be adding over 2,000 Chromebooks to get to our one-to-one availability within the next three

years," he said.

The district currently uses carts to make the computers available to all students, although not all the students can use the equipment at the same time, he said.

"Each classroom has dedicated wireless access points so that the teacher can take the whole cart of Chromebooks for the kids and get each kid on the network at any given time," Hilinski said.

There are also computer labs available for students to use after school, he said.

One of the ways the technology is used is for benchmark assessment testing, Christine Kelley, the district's director of curriculum, said.

The assessments show teachers the areas a student is lacking or excelling in, she said.

"The students are using the Chromebooks to take the assessments," Kelley

said. "The teacher then uses those results to enhance their instruction."

She said the district is looking at ways to add coding and computer science standards the state has not yet officially adopted but is encouraging districts to make available.

Other technology use includes projectors in classrooms that teachers can use to show lesson plans and for interactive lessons in the elementary grades, where students can use the technology for demonstrations to the class, Hilinski said.

"We are looking at ways to incorporate more technology with the younger students through our reading program so that the reading becomes visual for the students," Kelley said.

That could include things such as projections onto a SMART Board or reading online text, she said.

The one case in which the district gives students note-

books or Chromebooks to take home is for students in the district's cyberschool, Hilinski said.

The district's cyberschool is only for Upper Darby students, he said.

"We're trying to keep them in our district so they don't go to an outside cyber program, so we developed our own cyber program," Hilinski said. "The kids work online; they can contact the teacher and get help online 24/7."

The Chester County Intermediate Unit provides support for more than 40 school districts, most of which are in southeastern Pennsylvania, for the districts to operate online programs, said Mary Curley, the I.U.'s director of communications and Learning Solutions Division.

"What we do is we provide the content, the teachers, the actual technology if the district wants and also the help desk and support,"

she said.

School districts can choose from a menu of options between the entire package to only portions, she said.

Students enrolled in a cyber charter school are required to take all their courses online through that cyberschool, but that's not the case with CCIU's online programs, she said.

Students can enroll full time and many do, but it's not required, she said.

"In our program, you might have a student who only takes one course online, two courses online or all their courses online," Curley said.

Students could still take most of their classes in their school district but also take additional classes offered online, she said.

"It actually provides the student with more options and more choices," Curley said.

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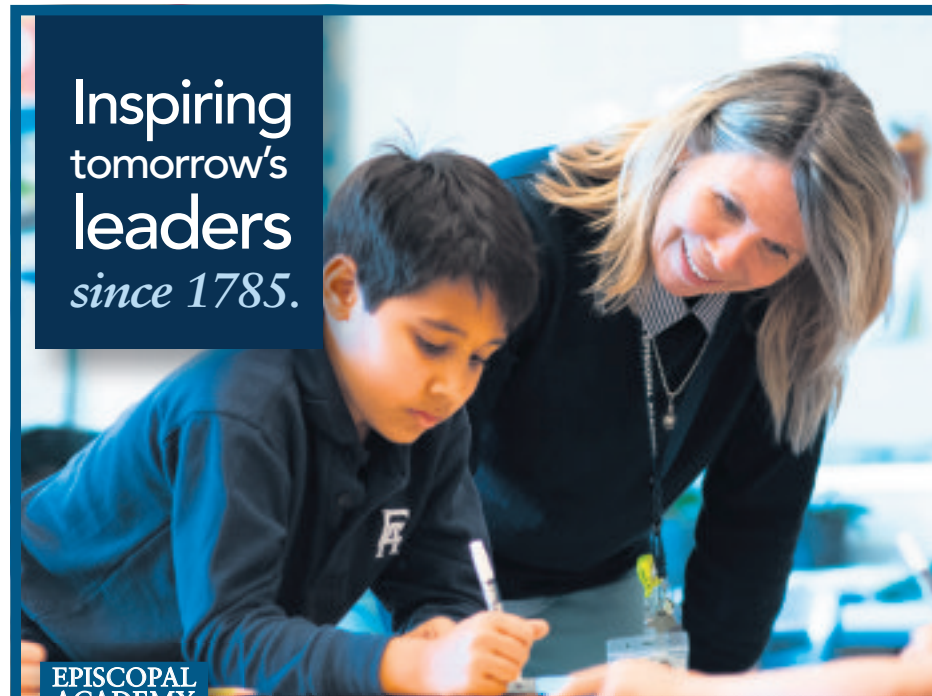
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EDUCATION

Goshen Friends School — celebrating 60 years of joyful learning



When Barbara Dickson founded Goshen Friends in 1959, she envisioned a school that provided a quality education where children are empowered as learners, a community where all are valued as individuals, and a place that promotes peaceful conflict

resolution and respect for spiritual growth.

From its beginnings as a kindergarten, Goshen Friends expanded to include preschool, then first through fifth grades. In 2017, the school returned to its roots of educating the community's young-

est learners and now offers By My Side for toddlers, preschool and pre-kindergarten classes for children ages 2½ to 5 and a summer camp for preschoolers, pre-kindergartners and rising kindergartners.

Today, as it celebrates six decades of educating the whole child, Goshen Friends continues Dixon's mission on its 10-acre campus in West Chester, Pa., providing experiences that prepare children for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

The curriculum engages Goshen Friends' youngest learners in pre-school through the oldest students in pre-kindergarten with opportunities for hands-on learning that spark children's natural curiosity and desire to learn.

Simple, engaging concepts in the young 3s

classrooms (colors, animals) progress to more advanced ideas (gravity and outer space, dinosaurs, hibernation) that hold older students' attention and allow for in-class experimentation. Circle times become progressively longer as children get older, building focus and stamina for a full kindergarten day.

Individual, small-group and large-group activities gradually introduce developmentally appropriate cognitive experiences, from speaking and listening to pre-writing, pre-reading and mathematical thinking. Small class sizes — 12 in preschool and 15 in preK — allow teachers to meet each child at his or her level of academic readiness and ensure individualized attention.

But beyond their ABCs and 123s, students are led

on an intentional, thoughtful progression of social and emotional skills from preschool through pre-kindergarten that lays the foundation for a successful kindergarten year.

"Students come to kindergarten with varying cognitive skills, literacy skills, learning styles and physical development," said Mimi Ackers, head of Goshen Friends. "We know that if we focus on growing children socially and emotionally as preschoolers, we are setting them up for success once they get to kindergarten. They arrive with open minds, ready to learn."

At all ages, children are encouraged to advocate for themselves by identifying feelings and sharing them with teachers and classmates. At the same time, children learn peaceful conflict resolu-

tion strategies through the school's focus on respect, empathy for others and the value of diversity.

In Meeting for Worship, students pause, take a breath, center themselves and reflect. This mindfulness is also found in the classroom, where children "settle in" for storytime, group activities, art projects and other tasks that require self-regulation, listening skills and focus.

"As educators, we appreciate that we live in a time where information is just a click away. As educators in a Quaker school, we continually strive to add balance to the modern world by teaching kids how to be their best selves," Ackers continued, "because it is in themselves that they will find the peace of mind that is essential for being ready to learn."

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EDUCATION

How to encourage kids to love music



PHOTO COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE

Music education can have a profound impact on children. According to PBS, research has found that learning music facilitates learning other subjects, enhancing skills children will inevitably use elsewhere.

The benefits of music education might be even more tangible than that. A 2004 study published in the journal *Psychological Science* found that 6-year-olds who were given weekly voice and piano lessons benefited from small increase in IQs. Groups that received drama lessons or no lessons at all experienced no such increases.

Additional studies have linked music education to other benefits. The Children's Music Workshop notes that research has shown that musical training physically develops the part of the brain associated with processing language.

These are just a handful of the ways music education can positively impact young minds. Parents who want their children to reap these rewards and more can take these steps to encourage a love of music in their

children.

- Cut a rug with your kids. Children are bundles of energy who want to expend as much of that energy as possible. Dancing along to music is a great way for kids to use it up. Kids might not be able to waltz or dance an Irish jig, but many love to jump up and down. If they begin to associate music and dancing with jumping up and down, they're more likely to smile when mom and dad crank up the stereo.

- Sing and encourage kids to sing along. Kids won't know if their parents are classically trained opera singers or performers whose vocal talents are best restricted to the shower. Singing along to favorite songs may encourage kids to follow suit, allowing them to learn words and language. Singing also is a fun activity kids are sure to embrace, making them look forward to daily music sessions.

- Let kids be the DJ. When you start playing music, keep a close on children to see how they react to different types of mu-

sic. If they seem to favor one style over another, play that favorite style more often. If they tend to like it all, continue to expand their horizons, which many even open your eyes to musical styles and acts you'd never consider otherwise.

- Let kids participate in music. Especially young children might not be able to pick up a guitar and make it sing, but that doesn't mean they can't participate. Purchase age-appropriate instruments for your children the moment they start playing with toys. Their curiosity might compel them to embrace musical lessons as they grow older. In addition, look for children's musical events in your community, whether it's a sing-along at the local library or an introduction to musical instruments at a nearby community center.

Music can enrich kids' lives in various ways, and it's never too early for parents to encourage a love of music in their children.

Article courtesy of MetroCreative

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The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School

The Learning Never Stops
PAcyber.org

Spring into the summer with new enrichment opportunities offered by the CCIU

Downingtown, PA – Want more out of your summer? Have you ever flown a drone or programmed a robot? The Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) recently launched STEM Your Future, a new enrichment opportunity for home-schooled and cyber school students in grades 6-9. This student-centered activity program features two-hour sessions that highlight a specific career path, include an industry guest speaker and

promote a STEM-related activity that aligns with the featured career.

During the program's first three sessions, students engaged with like-minded peers, brought their at-home studies to life and strengthened their collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity skills, all while integrating STEM.

In the first session, students

heard from industry guest speaker Gerald Damon, computer information systems (CIS) instructor at the Technical College High School (TCHS) Brandywine Campus, and learned how to code Sphero robots. During their hands-on activity, students used the robots to play shuffleboard and navigate through a maze.

During the second session, students heard from Officer Dunne from the Downingtown Police Department. She spoke about the educational path she followed to become a police officer, skills sought by prospective employers and what type of specialized training is needed to become a police officer. The students then participated in an escape-the-room activity

where they analyzed clues and solved riddles.

Students learned about the health care career path in the third STEM Your Future session. They engaged with their peers and worked together as a team to practice safety and effectiveness through a health care simulation.

Laura Harris, language arts teacher at the CCIU's Brandywine Virtual Academy (BVA) and lead for the STEM Your Future program, explains, "The goal of the program is to provide students with the opportunity to develop career awareness in STEM-related fields. It is the ability to collaborate, communicate effectively and think critically in order to problem solve that is the basis of STEM education."

Do you enjoy flying drones? Join us on Monday, April 29, 2019, for the fourth session. Students will learn how to code a drone and then fly it on a unique mission that they will design themselves. Did you miss the first three sessions? Stay tuned for upcoming STEM Your Future sessions by visiting: www.cciu.org/SYF.

Looking for more enrichment opportunities this summer? The CCIU's Brandywine Virtual Academy (BVA) can help you get more out of your summer through online summer school. Students can recover a credit, get ahead of next year's busy schedule or explore new electives whenever and wherever they choose during the summer months.

BVA has partnered with a number of course vendors to provide students with a wide variety of electives. Each BVA course is infused with robust vocabulary, teaching and reinforcement practices, real world situations and various assessment strategies. Students can choose from classes



such as photojournalism, forensic science and world languages – to name a few. Flexibility is one of the greatest advantages of BVA's online summer school. There is no need for students to be confined to a classroom, miss out on a week of class due to family vacation or have to choose between class and summer employment. Students can access courses 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all with the unique supports that ensure student success. In addition to subject-matter teachers, students have access to BVA student support liaisons and technology support specialists. Registration for BVA's online summer school opens on April 1, 2019, and students can choose from three sessions: Jump Start (April 23-July 31),

True Summer (May 28-July 31) and Credit Recovery (May 28-July 31). For more information and to register, please visit: www.cciu.org/2019BVAsummer-school.



PA SEED's Remake Learning Days
May 15-24

Students, educators and community members are invited to a **free, ten-day festival** of fun and discovery during PA Seed's Remake Learning Days, offering innovative STEM workshops and hands-on activities held across **Southeastern PA.**



To learn more and to see all of the exciting events you won't want to miss this spring, visit: www.remakelearningdays.org/southeastern-pa



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For more information, please visit: www.cciu.org/CommunityDay

280 Pennock's Bridge Road, West Grove, PA 19390

EDUCATION

Choices in your child's education

Did you know that when it comes to your child's education, you do have a choice?

Each year, National School Choice Week (NSCW) is held in January to raise awareness of all types of education options for children.

During this past NSCW, the Putt family spoke out about why school choice is important to them and why they feel they made the right choice for their family and their son, Levon.

"School choice to us means the privilege of being able to be a part of a fantastic school that we wouldn't normally have the chance," states Jessica. "It means having a chance at a much better education than Levon would have normally been offered. We wanted more opportunity for him. We wanted options and choices. But above all, we wanted the best education he could get."

Just like all public schools, charter and cyber charter schools also provide their students with all services and resources needed, including counselors, special education services, state-certified teachers and school nurses. Students may also participate in extracurricular

activities through their home district, according to the PA Department of Education.

"When most people think cyber charter school, they think no socialization and limitations. Our concern, because he's so young, was making sure he had interaction with peers and teachers," Jessica explains.

"PALCS was one of the only schools to offer it and a lot of it," she assured. "When we discovered PALCS and began to learn all of things they offered for his education and his social well-being, that combined with how well others spoke of PALCS, it was pretty much an instant choice. Our alternative was sending him to a local brick and mortar school that faced an uncertain future — a school that didn't have a library for students and didn't always have enough materials. Finding PALCS and seeing what they offered made it an easy choice."

Cyber charter schools, like PA Leadership Charter School, provides families with

all the materials in order to help students succeed. PALCS provides students with a laptop, a printer and a headset with microphone.

"We hope that PALCS continues to help us foster Levon's love of learning and helps him see that there are choices in life and more than one way to be successful," Jessica says. "We think that Levon will do amazing things at PALCS. We know we made the right choice for him and are glad we had the choice. Education is fighting an uphill battle right now, and not every school has the tools they need to help make each student successful. So having a choice to do something not 'normal' is amazing."

It's safe to say there are now several options a family can choose for their child's education. PALCS may, or may not, be the perfect fit for your family, which is why it's imperative to do your research and find the best fit for you; you are no longer limited to just your local school district or a private school education.



A large advertisement for PALCS is displayed on a corkboard. The ad features the PALCS logo at the top left, followed by the text "PA Leadership Charter School" and "Rated #1 Online School in PA Grades K-12". Below this, it says "Give your child the individualized education that they deserve." To the right of the main text is a yellow sticky note that reads "Learn more! Visit www.palcs.org or call us 1.877.725.2785". To the right of the main text is a white sticky note that reads "Learn with us at PA Leadership Charter School Now accepting applications for the 19-20 school year!". At the bottom right of the ad is a photograph of a smiling girl sitting at a desk with a laptop.

EDUCATION

EBS Children's Therapy provides advanced therapies to support children with autism



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The EBS Children's Therapy team can help!

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We offer diagnostic services and therapy in clinic, community, home and school-based settings.

Our ABA therapy services include:

- Natural Environment Teaching
- Social Skills and Communication
- Discrete Teaching
- Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior
- Behavior Intervention Plan Development
- Home and Community Support
- Incidental Teaching
- Parent Training and


Family Involvement


- Preventative and Reactive Strategies
- School Shadowing
- Special Education and Skill Development

EBS Children's Therapy is a part of the EBS Children's Institute, which is the research and treatment division of EBS Healthcare, the largest school-based consulting, management and training practice, and the global leader in providing pediatric therapy and special education services. EBS is headquartered in West Chester, Pa., and regularly conducts research and training that advances the field of pediatric ther-

EBS CHILDREN'S THERAPY »

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POPE JOHN PAUL II
HIGH SCHOOL



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7th graders
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PREVIEW BREAKFAST
6th & 7th graders & their families
April 8 or 10

Register online at www.vmahs.org

370 Central Avenue, Malvern, PA 19355 ★ 610-644-2551

EDUCATION

Saint Aloysius Parish School to hold Night of the Arts, open house

Saint Aloysius Parish School will be celebrating a Night of the Arts on Wednesday, May 29. Our students will put their God-given talents on display through art, music and dance.

In addition, we will host an open house for all interested families considering enrolling their children in a school rooted in faith, tradition and excellence.

Saint Aloysius offers a safe environment for students to learn and grow to their full potential every day. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to the mission of Saint Aloysius, which is rich in Catholic values and academic excellence.

Saint Aloysius Parish

School is known for its academic excellence. Seventeen of our students have been awarded Neumann Scholarships since 1995. Our current eighth-grade student, Sarah Bell, president of student council, is our 17th winner. The Neumann Scholarships are presented to students with the highest score on the Catholic high school entrance exams. Neumann Scholar winners receive full scholarships to an archdiocesan high school of their choice. We are very proud of Sarah's accomplishments.

Registration is open to new families for the 2019-2020 school year. Saint Aloysius offers a \$1,000.00 transfer grant for students

transitioning from public school in grades two through seven. Ask about our financial aid program as well.

We invite families to join us in our open house on Wednesday, May 29, at 6 p.m. Come enjoy the arts, view our school, meet our staff and learn more about Saint Aloysius Parish School and the positive impact it would have your child's education.

Private tours are available by appointment. To schedule a private tour, please contact our admissions office at 610-326-6167 ext. 427.

EBS Children's Therapy

FROM PAGE 11

apy and special education. EBS's research and evidence-based practices are taught in universities and modeled all across the country in our partnering school districts.

EBS Children's Therapy features a sensory gym, including a rock climbing wall, a therapeutic swing and a crash pit, as well as a fully functioning wheelchair-accessible kitchen to work on Activities of Daily Living (ADL). Parents and teachers are invited to be a part of therapy and also watch from observation rooms, so they can learn how to incorporate therapy goals into their home and school routines.

EBS Children's Therapy accepts most insurance and also offers group programs so that families have options.

Whether you are a parent looking for innovative treatment for your child, a district administrator looking to balance your district's needs or a therapist or special educator looking to grow within your field, EBS has multiple divisions to support education, outpatient clinics nationwide and a network of top specialists around the country to serve you.

Services:

- ABA Therapy
- Child Psychology
- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- AAC Therapy
- Feeding and Swallowing Therapy
- Early Intervention
- Transition to Adulthood

EBS is Lighting it up Blue for Autism Awareness Month

To celebrate Autism Awareness Month, EBS will be Lighting it up Blue!

Light it up Blue is a unique global initiative that kicks off Autism Awareness Month and helps raise awareness about autism. Thousands of iconic landmarks and buildings join the hundreds of thousands of homes and communities around the world to "light blue" in support of people living with autism.

EBS Children's Therapy is proud to be among the many showing support for Autism Awareness!

EBS Children's Therapy is located at 200 Skiles Blvd., West Chester, PA 19382.

For more information, call 610-455-4040, email info@ebschildrenstherapy.com or visit www.ebschildrenstherapy.com.

GOSHEN FRIENDS

Fun Fair & Open House May 18, 10 a.m. to Noon

Meet our teachers, tour our classrooms, and enjoy fun activities for children:

Crafts * Face-Painting * Moonbounce * Open Play

Select Spots Remain for 2019

Summer Camp * By My Side * Preschool
Pre-Kindergarten

Small Class Sizes * Play-Based Curriculum
Spanish * Music * Art * Outdoor Ed
Community Service

Can't make it to our Open House?
Schedule a private tour by calling 610-696-8183.

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Saint Aloysius Parish School

Arts Night Out And Open House

WEDNESDAY

**MAY
29
2019**

**6:00 PM-
8:00 PM**

TOURS



School tours 6-8PM. Come view our school, meet our staff and learn about the benefits of Catholic Education in a safe setting. **Ask about \$1,000 transfer grant.**

MUSIC

Live performances by our Saint Aloysius Student Band in the Gymnasium beginning at 6:30PM.

ART

Pre-K3 thru 8th grade Art Show. Come see the many talents of our young artists. Work will be displayed throughout the school.

DANCE

Saint Aloysius Dancers will be in the dance studio. All are welcome to visit the studio.

FOOD

Pizza and snacks will be available for purchase in the school cafeteria.



Saint Aloysius Parish School

844 N. Keim Street, Pottstown, PA 19464

610-326-6167/ www.saintaloyssiusschool.com

EDUCATION

Six ways to recognize autism awareness



PHOTO COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE

Autism has become a household word because of the vast number of lives impacted by this highly scrutinized and often confusing series of conditions. In 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that one in 59 children currently has autism spectrum disorder in the United States.

ASD can affect the entire body, but it is typically marked by repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities. Difficulties with communication, intellectual disabilities and impaired social interactions also are noted. The autism awareness organization Autism Speaks estimates that one-third of people with ASD are nonverbal as well.

Research implicates genetics as the cause of ASD in the vast majority of cases. Generally speaking, children born to older parents are at a higher risk for having autism than those born to younger parents. Despite controversy, there is no definitive link between ASD and immunizations.

Each April is Autism Awareness Month. April also hosts World Autism Day (April 2). The Autism Society, one of the leading autism organizations, established the ob-

servance month to “promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all and to assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life.”

There are many steps people can take to help the group achieve that goal, both in April and throughout the year.

1. Wear blue. One of the significant markers of autism support and awareness is the displaying of the color blue. Many organizations sell blue T-shirts and other promotional items that help raise awareness and money for the cause.

2. Attend an event. There are many marches or fundraisers for ASD in April. Participating in such events shows those with ASD that people care about them.

3. Go to a sensory-friendly event. Venues like movie theaters and amusement parks offer “sensory-friendly” days for individuals with ASD and their families.

4. Embrace the ribbon. The puzzle piece ribbon represents the complexity and diversity of those with ASD. Pin a ribbon to clothing or attach ribbon magnets to cars.

AUTISM AWARENESS » PAGE 14

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Malvern Preparatory School is an independent, Augustinian school for young men in grades six through twelve.

EDUCATION

Episcopal Academy fifth-graders meet the Micro:bit

Episcopal Academy fifth-graders enthusiastically welcomed a new technology in their classroom recently.

"It's a tiny piece of computer that can be programmed," explained one student.

For the students who have grown up in a technological world, it was not the least bit intimidating when Lower School Technology Coordinator Kim Farrell '84 introduced them to the micro:bit.

"I think they thought it would be more compli-

cated, but they totally got it. I am not surprised," shared Farrell.

The introduction of the micro:bit in Lower School is part of the new Computer Science and Engineering Department's curriculum.

"The mission is to empower our students, PreK through 12th grade, with the knowledge and skills to excel at creative and collaborative problem-solving," explained Computer Science and Engineering Chair Matt Memmo. "We hope to shape responsible



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

digital citizens who optimize the use of technological resources in order to address the future challenges of our global society. The micro:bit project is a means of achieving this."

"It gives them the opportunity to work with some hardware," explained Farrell. "It can do a lot of different things like take temperatures, detect motion, and it can even operate like a fit bit."

Students used the micro:bit to conduct science experiments, including assessing lighting in various spaces and measuring soil moisture using connected probes. They also programmed the micro:bit to simulate a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors and programmed in an automatic scoreboard.

"It is really important that students understand

what is going on behind the scenes and learn to dictate to the computer what they want it to do," explained Farrell. "They come up with ways to solve problems on their own and see that there is more than one right way to get there."

Memmo explained that the skills they are learning now will help them when they move into Middle

School, where more functionality and advanced programming concepts can be explored using the same micro:bit kits. He also hopes to inspire students to be science and technology innovators.

One student shared, "Maybe one day I will have a job that includes this kind of technology!"

Autism awareness

FROM PAGE 13

5. Learn more. Dr. Temple Grandin is an autism expert who is on the spectrum herself. Through her own words, Grandin shares unprecedented insights into what the autistic brain experiences. This education can be used in one's own life or in the classroom.

There are other educators with ASD who also offer their expertise online.

6. Donate when possible. Although there is no cure for autism, researchers continue to work to learn more about it and any potential treatments that can improve the lives of those with ASD.

Learn more about ASD at autism-society.org.

*Article courtesy of
MetroCreative*

EBS Children's Therapy Provides Advanced Therapies to Support Children with Autism

Autism affects
1 in 59 children:



1 in 37
boys



1 in 151
girls

Autism is one of the
fastest-growing
developmental disorders
in the U.S.



A strong body of research indicates early diagnosis and intervention is key to helping your child succeed. *EBS Children's Therapy can help!*

At EBS Children's Therapy, we have a multidisciplinary team of Autism Specialists consisting of BCBAs, RBTs, SLPs, OTs, and Child Psychologists. The team works collaboratively using Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to guide individualized treatment and programming to help your child succeed. With all services under one roof, families feel comfort in knowing the team is communicating daily and working together to meet their child's needs. We offer diagnostic services and therapy in clinic, community, home, and school-based settings. We accept most insurance, and also offers group programs so that families have options.

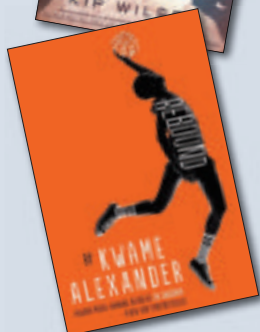
Our ABA Therapy Services include:

- Natural Environment Teaching
- Social Skills and Communication
- Discrete Teaching
- Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior
- Behavior Intervention Plan Development
- Home and Community Support
- Incidental Teaching
- Parent Training and Family Involvement
- Preventative and Reactive Strategies
- School Shadowing
- Special Education and Skill Development

SPEECH THERAPY • FEEDING THERAPY • OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY • PHYSICAL THERAPY • ABA THERAPY • PSYCHOLOGY • VOCATIONAL TRAINING



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL



Kwame Alexander and Friends: The Versify Tour **Friday, April 5 • 6:00 pm**

Friends' Central School • Shallcross Hall
1101 City Avenue • Wynnewood, PA 19096

Kwame Alexander, poet, educator, *New York Times* bestselling author of 21 books, and recipient of the 2015 Newbery Medal, is bringing his 'rock star' Versify Tour to FCS. Kwame and authors and illustrators from his new imprint will provide a performance unlike any other you've seen.

*This evening is free and open to the public,
but registration is required.*

Join us for this Children's Book World event, hosted by Friends' Central School.
For more information and to register, visit friendscentral.org.



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Tuesday, April 23 • 9 am

Admission Info Sessions
April 3 • May 1

Register online at friendscentral.org



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