

Submitted by: Peter Rosenkranz,
Director of Enhanced Learning Opportunities.

Students:

Currently we are working with a family where one of their children (Batman) has a compromised immune system and is medically unable to attend the elementary school. Additionally, this prevents his older brother (Superman) from attending the middle school as he could bring contaminants from school. In order to create a school community for these students and families we have established access to the classroom through the use of iPads and Skype. Kim Hollopeter, Walt Shucka and Peter Poppert have been amazing champions of innovation as we work to help Batman and Superman access the classroom. Dan Bentson and his team are incredibly supportive in our continued work with this family. This project is still in its infancy. We are still working through several aspects, however, we are experiencing huge success with building a community around two boys who had limited access to our school.

Madison Suliafu:

I had the good fortune to observe Madi's class the other day. The instruction was amazing, students with a variety of ability levels were all working on writing. The key was that students were able to access the writing at their entry point providing an amazing access point for kids and every option for success. Students were relaying what happened from recess to the weekend linking the writing to their own experiences, while being provided direct instruction on the specifics where support was needed.

Hearing Screening:

A quick update about the 2015-2016 hearing screening. The Lions Club has screened our students K-3, 5th and 7th for hearing. From that screening 153 students were referred on for further testing. Danielle Rivers, our nurse, was able to conduct the rescreening internally and 23 students were referred on for further testing. Thank you so much for purchasing our audiology machine to allow us to support our own students.

Career and Postsecondary:

Sara Clegg is working with the local colleges to pull together what is needed of our students to have the necessary supports to access college. Each university and college has the ability to support and helps students with learning disabilities so they have access to the credits and degrees offered. Sara is making great strides in learning the necessary information so she can provide information to families as they plan beyond high school. Thank you Sara for your work on post secondary options for special education students.

Professional Development:

Crisis Prevention Institute: (CPI)

In March I will be attending a four day CPI training to make sure we are supporting our students with proven de-escalation strategies and specific training for approved restraint if needed in a crisis situation. I

will become a trainer, returning to train our staff on the de-escalation techniques and proper physical restraint when an emergency arises and requires restraint.

With this in mind, this highest priority is to teach the de-escalation techniques upon return. We have scheduled a paraeducator training for the first RSLSA in April, after my training. I am very excited about the training and supporting our paraeducators.