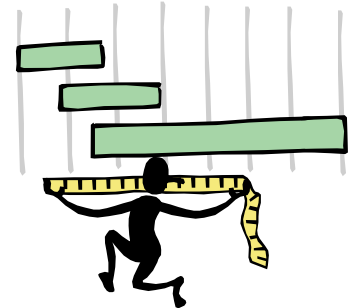


August 2014

Tonight's training: Our very own Diane Hietpas will be presenting: **The Incredible 5 Point Scale**

This system is used to teach social and emotional concepts to individuals on the autism spectrum. After the training tonight if you wish to read more about this topic, go to <http://www.5pointscale.com/>. This was written by a teacher in MN and looks to be very informative also.

1,2,3,4,5



As summer is passing us by, we are saying good bye to a handful of valued staff: Casey, Adam and Nick are already gone, and unfortunately, soon Hayley, Hannah and Lucas will be leaving us. Most of these staff have full time positions or internships waiting for them, some of them are going back to school. We wish them well in whatever they choose to do.

“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”
~ [Albert Schweitzer](#)

Happy Birthday to our staff who have August birthdays:

(Sorry if I missed anyone; Stephanie usually tracks this.)



Michael Mullikin 8/29



ASP

-Heads up, Amanda is out until August 19th. Coordinators/teachers will be around to support during this time. All items needed are in a labeled folder on Amanda's desk in the teacher offices.



-BG is to sit in the back seat until further notice. He had an issue with opening the car door while the car was moving so staff should make certain they have their child locks on when transporting him. When transporting NS and BG together, BG should sit in back due to the previously stated issue.



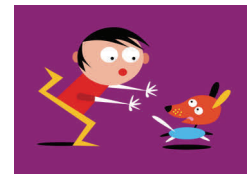
-BG is also having some dosing changes in his medications so be aware of any behaviors, or changes in behavior and be certain to report them to Amanda and BG's mom.



-JB has been struggling with meeting his goal of having 0 strikes. Staff should attempt to be proactive and remind him that he can have good days and remind him of the incentive (25 cents per day without any strikes; to be spent on Saturday after he volunteers at the Humane Society).



-JB has been doing very well with his volunteering at the Humane Society. He does need reminders about staying focused on his work at times. Also, be aware that upon arrival JB and staff should go around the right side of the building to ring the doorbell in order to be let in.

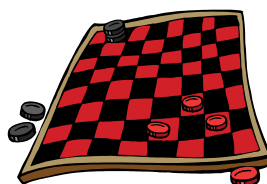


-When working with HD, check with lead staff to see if she should be signed in to ASP or Summer School for her time if she is staying in the building after 3:30.



Summer Program—Holmen

As Summer Programming is wrapping up this week in Holmen, it has been a great summer with all the participants! From the opening activities every morning as a class, completing their individual work sessions and best of all the engagement of the many different social activities, which helped each participant grow and learn. Some of the favorite social activities were playing intense games of UNO, CHECKERS and a new favorite BOCCE BALL! Also, the weekly trips to the movies, park and pool were a big hit along with cooking and science experiments. We would like to thank the School District of Holmen for the use of their Middle School facilities this summer. We had 19 students enrolled from three different school districts and two counties. Many students came from Holmen, Galesville and from as far away at Ettrick and Melrose.



Day School



Staff need to check the schedule every day! The daily schedule is taped to the white board in the office.

There are also notes on the white board that keep staff updated on important information.

Staff NEED to be doing their paperwork (behavior and goal tracking, etc.). It is an essential job function!

Naomi Is back at CC

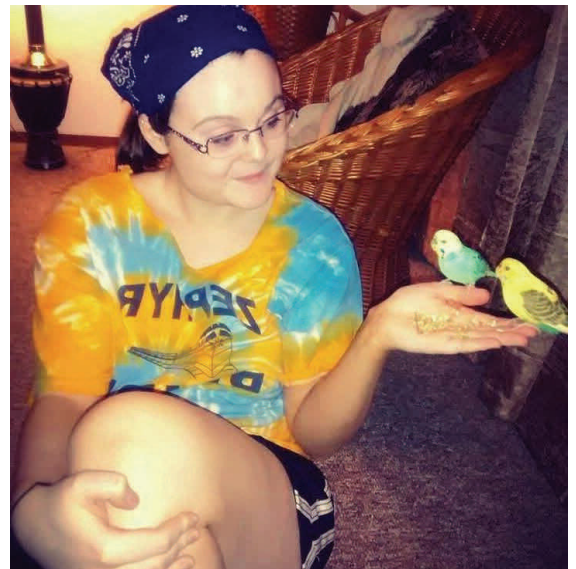
- She is here 3 days a week in the summer and 5 days during the school year
- She has been having behavioral struggles. It is important we are consistent when dealing with behaviors
- Her schedule is fairly similar to before she left. She will have additional sensory needs that staff will be updated and trained on

Again, thanks to all staff who have helped out in any way with schedule changes, leaving early, staying late, etc.

Thanks just for being flexible. We really appreciate it!

Our featured employee... Alexa Harbor (a.k.a. Lexee)

In high school Lexee enjoyed being in musicals, plays and competitions, so don't let her quiet demeanor fool you. She is originally from Neenah, WI and has one younger brother. Lexee has two parakeets (pictured) as pets and is teaching them to speak. She came here to begin formation to become a nun. She originally interviewed for a position helping out at the front desk area (where Maggie ended up), but Stephanie saw potential in her as a support staff. Lexee started at CC about one year ago. She likes working here because it is family oriented, the staff work as a team and communicate well. She enjoys the variety of participants and the different things they do together each day. She was nominated because of her willingness to learn new things, she builds great rapport with her participants and is very flexible. She is living independently this year, but is looking forward to joining a religious order in the near future. The order she is hoping to join does pottery, animal husbandry, and organic farming along with her spiritual training and Lexee is excited for her next adventure after Catholic Charities to begin.



THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD OF ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

By Paul Kosir

[This essay is a revision of a story I wrote for Chileda's employee newsletter 5 or 6 years ago, when my son was 12 or 13, but the events in the story happened when he was in grade school.]

My son has high-functioning autism that is similar to Asperger's Syndrome. He knows he is not normal... and won't be. Yet because he is cognitively advanced, most people, including some who know he is autistic, expect him to be normal... and he can't be. This situation distresses his mother and me greatly, but it sometimes cuts our son to the quick.

Our son looks normal, although he's very small and thin. He is of normal intelligence, though he's quite advanced in reading ability and science knowledge. And his personality is normal, though he's rather quiet and timid... except when he has behavior outbursts.

The majority of the time our son appears to be normal, so when his behavior is nasty, he probably is seen as a spoiled brat, a juvenile delinquent, or a raving maniac. But what is most disappointing is that I'm sure many people believe he *intends* to have those outbursts. He does not. Nor, I believe does anyone with Asperger's Syndrome or autism.

I don't think my son really wanted to hit his bus buddy on the playground and lose his friendship. He just wanted him to stop climbing up a slide instead of its ladder, a rule I had made for my sons. I'm pretty sure he didn't plan to scream at several of his classmates at a school picnic and try to stop their soccer game. He just wanted them to play it the right way, with the correct number of players at each position, rather than just kicking the ball around. And I'm absolutely certain he really was *not* trying to blind his brother when he pinned him down on a bus seat and pushed his thumb in the corner of his brother's eye with all his might. (Fortunately, no real damage was done.) He just wanted his brother to know the answer to a quiz question he had asked him and was very upset when he didn't know it.

Most children are rather forgiving of indiscretions like my son's, but are far less forgiving when it comes to being different. And my son's style of playing is *very* different. His diminished social skills don't allow him to play with other children the way they want to play. Sometimes my son will run alongside other children who look like they're having fun. But then, when he doesn't understand what they're doing or why it's fun, he'll just wander away. Other times, he will try to enlist other children (usually his brother) to play "starship" or "science lab". He will be the captain of the ship or the director of the lab and tell the others on the ship what to do to act out what he's seen in a video or inform the others in the lab of interesting science facts.

Most of my son's schoolmates think his style of play is weird. Many of his classmates think *he* is weird. They expect him to be normal and don't change their expectations for his behavior because he is autistic (which they don't know). Some of the students at his school, including a couple of the few schoolmates who *will* play with him, sometimes target him. His last birthday ended with him in tears because two playmates targeted him during water play. At bed time that night, between sobs he said, "Everyone at school hates me." and "Why do I have to be different?" and finally "I just want to be normal."

The double-edged sword of Asperger's Syndrome cuts my son twice. He is like others with Asperger's Syndrome, who want their behavior to be normal, but *can't* change their brains. His schoolmates are like the rest of the population, who place normal expectations on those with Asperger's Syndrome, but *won't* change their minds.

Be sure to check out the author above and remember this quote:

"How would your life be different if...You stopped making negative judgmental assumptions about people you encounter? Let today be the day...You look for the good in everyone you meet and respect their journey."

~ [Steve Maraboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free*](#)