

Winter 2017



SPEED S.E.J.A. #802

## SPEED Family Enrichment Program

Parents and toddlers in SPEED's Family Enrichment Program are learning about healthy food preparation at its monthly Parent Academy.

It is the first year that FEP is working with University of Illinois Extension's Nutrition Education Program to provide the SNAP-Ed program. The parents and their children meet with a bilingual educator in the kitchen at the Academy for Lifelong Learning to learn about alternatives on how to use healthy food and reading food labels, among other topics.

Families have learned to make healthier pumpkin pie, pumpkin soup, yogurt parfaits, canned tuna salad, among others.

FEP is a birth to 3 Prevention Initiative Program funded by the Illinois State Board of Education. The goal is to assure school success by providing information and support to at-risk families with infants and toddlers.

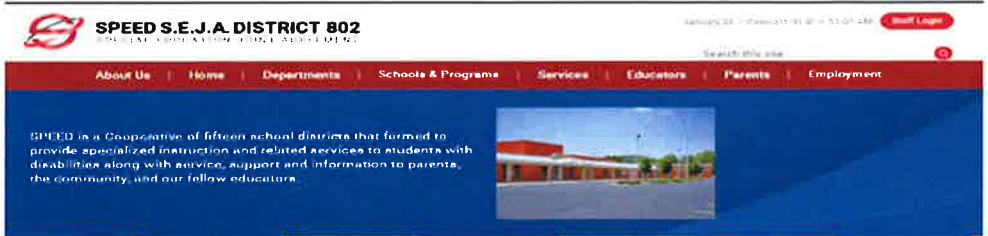
FEP provides services to families in SPEED SEJA 802 member school districts, including those in Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, Glenwood, Homewood, Matteson, Park Forest and Markham.

Call (708) 481-6101, ext. 4215 or email: [fep@speed802.org](mailto:fep@speed802.org) to learn if you are eligible for this free program.



## Updated SPEED Website

The new SPEED website has many exciting features. It is much easier to navigate, and features a section for parents and guardians with menus, a calendar of events, and emergency closings. There is also section for SPEED Departments, all of our schools and programs, and the services offered. SPEED Staff now has access to a secure page with their personal information from any location. The new website also responds to different devices by resizing the page to fit on smart phones, tablets, or personal computers. Please visit [www.speed802.org](http://www.speed802.org) to see more.



# SPEED Early Learning Center

At SPEED Early Learning Center we serve Preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our teachers focus on teaching both academic skills and independent living skills. Independent living skills include communication skills, social skills and community access skills. Taking our students on community experiences is one way we teach and enforce a wide range of skills. For instance community experiences allow the students opportunities to practice their reading and math skills, communication skills, social skills, coping skills and more in new settings. The teachers develop lessons to prepare the students before the community trip. Students learn about the site, develop questions for the site employees, review appropriate behavior conduct for that site and review safety proce-

dures. Students also participate in follow up lessons after the experience. Teachers have reported that students have shown an increase in their abilities through community experiences, especially in communication and independence skills.

During first semester individual classrooms have participated in:

- Cooking and nutrition classes at the Academy for Lifelong Learning with the Illinois Nutrition Program.
- Tours of community services (e.g. firehouse, library, and police station).
- Visiting restaurants, stores and other retail businesses.
- Visiting nature centers and parks.

All classrooms participated in our school-wide field trip to Konow's Pumpkin Patch. We also have upcoming field trips to Shedd Aquarium and Governor State University's Center for the Performing Arts.



## ELC Media Center

Some students in the Early Learning Center are learning about Flat Stanley and his adventures in the Media Center.

Students in the third through fifth grade MOVE classroom are reading *Flat Stanley: His Original Adventures* chapter book as a group. After each chapter the group answers questions about what they just read using voice output devices also called "switches."

Students in first and second grade are reading *Flat Stanley and the Haunted House*, a guided reader more appropriate for lower grades. Each child has a copy of the book to read. After the students read about Stanley's adventures, they answer questions on the SMART Board.

All of the readers have created a folder to keep all of their worksheets and projects in the Media Center.

Weekly projects have included coloring pages, making cardboard kites and will culminate with children making their own Flat Stanley dolls to take on adventures throughout the school.

Media Center Paraprofessional Janet Nozar said the projects give the children more time to read a book and explore different ways of interpreting the information gathered. The unit will last about six weeks.

# Academy for Lifelong Learning

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The Academy is a transition program that accommodates young adults ages 18-22. Here at The Academy, our staff assists students in daily learning activities that offer students preparation for functional independent living and community experience. We currently have 35 students who attend the Academy. The academic and functional skills that we focus on weekly are Community Access, Household Management, Foods, Personal Health, Business English, Workstations/Work place Readiness, Production and Money Management. Many of our students have prevocational employment experiences at stores in our communities, such as Ultra Foods, Walgreens, Burlington,

TJMAXX, Kirschner Vision, volunteering at St. James Hospital, Beans&Greens and more. On Fridays at The Academy, students attend small community outings in our community. The purpose is to give our students exposure to real life activities in their surrounding communities. They're able to practice learned daily living and social skills in order to become productive members of their community. Some of our themed activities include field trips to the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum, visits to the Allstate Arena to enjoy a Chicago Wolves hockey game while participating in their "Get schooled by Skates" educational program. Some of our in house themes recently in-

involved the inauguration and being an American, Chinese New Year activities and we are currently working on making and selling "candy grams" for Valentine's Day. The Academy for Lifelong Learning, Up-cycle, and Resale Exchange (ALLURE) provides students with opportunities to learn the operations of a resale store. Students are involved through a process that begins with sorting, separating, and cleaning items that will be displayed and sold in our store. All of these items are donated by various community members. The proceeds from the store go into our student production and craft class; these items will in turn be sold in the ALLURE store.



## Independence School News

In the month of February we will be celebrating Black History Month with our students and families. We share weekly Black History facts over the intercom systems. The high school students went on a field trip to the movie theater to see Hidden Figures. February 16th each classroom in Independence Elementary and High School will participate in a door decorating contest. The doors will symbolize an African American movie or book or a famous person. Our Black History Program will be on February 23rd at 10:00 am. The students from each classroom will perform skits about moments in Black History. We hope you will be able to come to the performance.

We have been participating in our CAAL league for basketball this month. Our Jr. High and High School Eagles have played two games each. We are currently 1 win/1 loss for each team. Parents are welcome to come out to support our teams.

Stay on the lookout for our Science Fair coming in March.

## Program for Adaptive Learning

During the month of February the students at the Program for Adaptive Learning are celebrating Black History Month with assemblies every Thursday. It is important for us to expose our students to contributions African Americans have made to society. Each week students will participate in themed activities depicting the accomplishments of African Americans from the past and present that have impacted the world.

Staff members of PAL must be diligent, determined, dedicated and deliberate when providing services to your child. As we embark on Spring, we look forward to creating opportunities for our students to practice functional skills both inside our school building and with the community.

Dates to Remember:

DLM Testing: March 15, 2017- May 1, 2017

PARCC Testing: March 7, 2017- April 25, 2017

Prom: May 19, 2017

Graduation: May 30, 2017



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