

POTENTIAL

P.G. CHAMBERS SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY 2023 EDITION



MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP GROUP ORGANIZES HOLIDAY SHOP

Holiday cheer was in full swing at P.G. Chambers School when our Middle School Leadership Group collaborated with Fun Services to organize a holiday shop this past December! The students ran the shop from start to finish including taking inventory, wrapping presents, and helping customers tally their purchases and checkout. The students decided on a holiday shop because of their enthusiasm for shopping and they wanted to help their peers bring the holiday spirit home to their families.



P.G. RISE AT RANDOLPH STUDENTS CREATE SENSORY KITS TO SELL

Our students are always working hard to learn or build important life skills. This past holiday season, the students and their therapists wanted to be super hands-on. After a productive brainstorming session, the group decided to create DIY sensory kits to sell to their peers at Randolph High School. The students were involved in many different ways. Items needed were researched, ordered and materials were sorted. Students also created "how-tos" for their peers, sent emails on how to order and cut ribbon as needed. While working their Coffee Cart, they determined profit after all sales were complete.



Each product was assembled using a bottle, water beads, different gems, color tablet and snowflake. It was an incredible way to provide a great holiday gift for their peers and a wonderful opportunity to build their communication, leadership and vocational skills. A big thank you to Dominique Moore and Samantha Mangravito on working with the students to make a difference!

P.G. CHAMBERS SCHOOL GIVES BACK

EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILIES CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT P.G. CHAMBERS SCHOOL

On December 10th, P.G. Chambers School served as the host site for a Sensory Sensitive Holiday Celebration for the area's early intervention families. Children participated in crafts, story readings in both English and Spanish, parachute and ball play, obstacle courses, a "snow ball" fight, fun, festive refreshments, and got to meet a sensory friendly Santa! The building's accessibility allowed little ones to use their walkers and wheelchairs to easily navigate the event. P.G. Chambers School Early Intervention Program works with event organizer DAWN Center for Independent Living and their service coordinators to help families access the services of NJEIS. Each year DAWN hosts an event for their Early Intervention families and we were thrilled to partner with them in serving as the host site for this year's event.



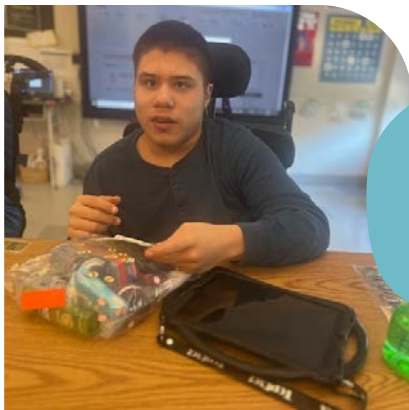
From l to r: Jamar, Karen and Ava Burger



Tyler Petersen and son, Robbie with Santa



THE LEADERSHIP GROUP SERVES LOCAL FRIENDS AT BRIDGES' HOMELESS SHELTER



"The students really enjoyed helping organize and run a project from start to finish. The leadership group has focused on giving students real life business skills and they truly look forward to the next meeting and project." – Jen Jacobs, Senior Speech Language Pathologist



The P.G. Chambers Middle School Leadership Group knows the importance of giving back and loves to find new ways to serve others in the community. For the month of December students partnered with the Bridges Homeless Shelter to assemble hygiene kits. The middle schoolers put all the necessary items (e.g., deodorant, socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, etc.) into a Ziploc bag and then decorated each bag to make it even more personal. P.G. Chambers school student, Efrain, said it "felt good" to provide these kits to the local shelter. Giovanni, also part of our leadership group understood the importance of providing for Bridges. "The bag will come in handy," Giovanni shared. This opportunity was a huge success and allowed the students to work on life skills like communication, math, customer service, community outreach, helping others and more.

NOTEWORTHY STAFF NEWS

JOYCE KWASNEY LEAVES A LASTING IMPACT!



P.G. Chambers School wants to honor and thank **Joyce Kwasney** for 27 years of dedication to the children and families she has served in our Early Intervention Program. Joyce leaves a lasting legacy of providing evidence based best practice propelling us to being the first New Jersey Early Intervention Program to have an approved curriculum program for children with Autism. Serving as both the Autism Curriculum Coordinator and Program Clinical Coordinator, Joyce supported the program through many transitions- from all center-based to home-based services and even virtual services throughout the pandemic. She approached every situation with a positive outlook and her leadership and mentorship will be greatly missed by all of her colleagues. We wish Joyce the best on her retirement and the travel adventures that await her!

PSYCHOLOGIST, DENISE ANNECCHINO JOINS P.G. CHAMBERS SCHOOL TEAM



P.G. Chambers School welcomes **Denise Annechino** to the staff family! Denise began this past October providing support to program staff and families to further the positive development of each child. With a M.A. in Clinical Psychology and a concentration in Child/Adolescent Clinical Psychology with nearly ten years' experience working in schools, Denise is already making a positive impact on our students and families.

Denise is a Mom of two daughters, almost 6 and 2. Her oldest has a rare genetic syndrome that has helped her in connecting with other families. "I have a unique dual perspective of supporting differently abled children both as provider and parent," Denise shared.

It was the inclusivity and highly supportive environment at P.G. Chambers School that made coming to work here an "easy decision," according to Denise.

When Denise is not working, she enjoys running, most recently participating in the 2019 Chicago Marathon, and is slated to take on this year's NYC.

Marathon in November. Please join with us in welcoming Denise. We are so happy to have her on the team.



"The opportunity to work with such passionate and driven educators and therapists, to support them in their efforts to meet the learning and overall life needs of our students, and to partner with the whole school community to promote positive and progressive changes in our students' and families' educational experience, is a dream fulfilled."

COMMUNITY PARTNERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES HONOR STAFF WITH HOLIDAY TREAT

The P.G. Chambers School Board of Trustees took time to spread some holiday cheer and thank our hard-working staff for all they've done this past year with a delicious, catered lunch. Board Members enjoyed serving our staff and connecting with those who make the magic happen every day at P.G. Chambers School.



"The Board of Trustees wanted to treat the P.G. Chambers Staff to something special because we think THEY are so special! We are thankful and grateful for all of you and wish everyone a happy and healthy 2023!" – Lauren Jacobs-Lazer, Board Member and Parent of P.G. Chambers School student, Benji



SHARING THEIR TALENTS TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

Our staff and their families go above and beyond when it comes to making a difference in our students' lives. Kevin Moore, husband of one of our Occupational Therapists Dominique Moore, displayed his wood-working skills in designing and building the Leadership Group CRUMBS Cart. This uniquely designed cart makes a statement and above all makes our students proud as they manage their weekly CRUMBS business. Kevin couldn't be prouder to be a part of something so special, and we couldn't be happier with the work Kevin put in to making their business cart come to life. Thank you, Kevin!



Thanks to Mark Hunter of Hunter Design, our Halko Drive entrance was transformed into a beautiful holiday display for all to enjoy. This is not the first time Mark has generously spruced up our grounds for the holidays. Mark also generously donated gorgeous mums to help decorate this year's fall festival in our learning park. We are so grateful to Mark and Hunter Design for helping us provide a festive and welcoming environment for our students, families and staff. Thank you, Mark!



"It is inspiring to hear stories of the work they all do to guide and develop the students' skills. It was an honor to be a part of this and a pleasure to work with Jen, Giovanni and Samir to make it happen!" – Kevin Moore

"The pleasure is all mine. It's been a delight to be of assistance and share my gifts with the P.G. Chambers Community." – Mark Hunter, Hunter Design

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

PATRICK FALCO, CLASS OF 2014



Patrick Falco makes us proud! Patrick currently attends Caldwell University and was recently featured in a Caldwell College website news article which highlighted the impact he's made on his classmates in his "Intro to Sports Management" class. While we were not surprised to learn of his positive impact on others, we are so proud of his success and growth as a college student and young adult as he pursues his bachelor's degree in the Sports Management Certificate program.

Patrick is an avid sports fan and is very knowledgeable about sports history and statistics. He has an internship with a sports broadcasting company and a part time job at an insurance company and is eager to learn all aspects of both industries. Patrick's mother, Jeanmarie Falco, reflects on where it all began.

"Patrick had a great experience at P.G. Chambers School. His teacher, Linda Cook, was phenomenal. She gave him the confidence he needed to excel in high school and now in college. He's conscientious, dependable, social, and hardworking. Even at a young age, Patrick never let his needs for accommodations stop him from pursuing his dreams."

P.G. Chambers School Director of Occupational Therapy, Dawn Hearne, remembers Patrick well.

"I met Patrick when he was in elementary school and worked with him in middle school. Even back then, he was all about sports. It didn't matter what we talked about -- he was able to bring our conversations back to sports, especially the New York Giants. He was always positive and willing to give it his all. We knew then as we do now, never underestimate Patrick's abilities to soar."

While attending P.G. Chambers School, Patrick learned to master specialized technology to build his communication, social and mobility skills. This training helped maximize his communication skills and his physical capabilities in using his power wheelchair to actively participate in the world around him and pursue his career goals.

We are so excited for Patrick and all that he's accomplished. We look forward to watching you continue to thrive in school and in life. Keep in touch and never stop pursuing your dreams, Patrick!



Patrick and his classmates at Caldwell University.

Click the image above to read Patrick's story on the Caldwell University website.

FOREVER FORWARD

SUPPORTING YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY JUST GOT EASIER!



Since 2006, the current IRA charitable rollover allows taxpayers age 70 ½ or older to make charitable gifts up to \$100,000 per year directly from their IRAs to eligible charities like P.G. Chambers School. In December 2022, the new Legacy IRA Act became law enabling individuals to make donations from traditional IRAs through life-income plans, such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts with a one-time limit of \$50,000. The rollover cap of \$100,000 and the one-time limit will be adjusted annually to reflect inflation starting after 2023. For individuals who are not in as position to donate their retirement income during their lifetime, this new law gives philanthropists another way they can support their favorite charity after their death.



We thank you in advance for supporting our children. Your generosity changes lives and we are incredibly grateful for your partnership. Join us!

- Donate to the P.G. Chambers School Fund for Excellence via check or credit card at www.chambersschool.org/fund-for-excellence.
- Donate stock or securities.
- If you're 70 ½ or older, make a donation through your IRA as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).
- Consider joining us as a monthly donor when you make your gift on-line.
- Make a tribute gift to honor a loved one.
- Consider including P.G. Chambers School in your will or as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy.

For more information on any of the above, contact Kathleen DeSantis at desantisk@chambersschool.org or 973-829-8484 or go to www.chambersschool.org/ways-to-give

SAVE THE DATES!

Save the Date

P.G. Chambers School

28th Annual

Menus for the Mind

Featuring Sparsh Shah

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023
6:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
PARK AVENUE CLUB
FLORHAM PARK, NEW JERSEY





Save the Date



P.G. Chambers School

Golf Classic

Monday, May 22, 2023

Rockaway River Country Club
Denville, New Jersey

Stay in Touch!



To learn more about P.G. Chambers School visit our website and follow us

We're Hiring!

Are you interested in helping our students reach their unique potential? Join us! Click this image to view employment opportunities.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact info@chambersschool.org.