

# potential

p.g. chambers school | november 2023

## GIVING TUESDAY IS TOMORROW!

November 28th is Giving Tuesday, an annual day of giving. With your financial support, P.G. Chambers School can continue to provide exceptional programs and therapies to children with complex disabilities. **Please consider making your gift today: [www.chambersschool.org/donate](http://www.chambersschool.org/donate)**

To learn more about the impact that P.G. Chambers School has on the lives of the children it serves, read a short story about Iris Cohen, a current student at the School.



Iris joined the Cohen family in 2018 and was welcomed by parents Lauren and Joel and older sister Josephine. Immediately they recognized her joyful personality and her love for others. But they knew quickly that something was not right. Iris was diagnosed with an ultra-rare thyroid receptor disorder when she was 11 months old. She is the youngest person to have ever been diagnosed with this rare disease. For her parents, it meant they quickly had to become advocates to ensure their daughter was getting the best care she could receive.

As Iris grew older, a doctor asked Lauren and Joel, "Where will Iris go to school?" At the time, they didn't know there were schools for kids like Iris that could provide both therapy and education under one roof. After researching schools for six months, Lauren and Joel were guided to P.G. Chambers School through recommendations from a special education professor and Iris' therapist.

During a tour of the School, Principal Heather Gilliland emphasized that Iris would be a pre-school student first and foremost, which was the defining factor that convinced Lauren and Joel to choose the School. At School, she would go to learn like every other child her age.

During her time at P.G. Chambers School, Iris made significant advances in movement. Her joy and sense of independence have only increased as well. From army crawling to walking, she's now able to steer herself and go around the entire school, waving to her teachers and classmates as she goes. There's absolutely nothing that can stop Iris from pursuing her dreams with perseverance and courage, and P.G. Chambers School is only accelerating her growth.

## SENIOR SLP WINS NATIONAL AWARD!



Congratulations to Jennifer Jacobs, a Senior Speech Language Pathologist at P.G. Chambers School, who was selected as the National Association of Private Special Education Centers' (NAPSEC) Related Service Provider of the Year!

Ms. Jacobs is a graduate of Penn State University, where she focused her research on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). She joined P.G. Chambers School directly after graduation and has provided excellent therapy to children with special needs for over 16 years. As a lifelong learner, Ms. Jacobs continues to develop and maintain her expertise in the AAC field. She will be honored at the 2024 NAPSEC Annual Leadership Conference in Savannah, GA on January 16, 2024.

## FALL FESTIVAL BRINGS FUN TO P.G. CHAMBERS SCHOOL

On November 8, the Middle School students at P.G. Chambers School hosted a Fall Festival in the Learning Park! Activities for children included pumpkin picking and decorating, a photo booth, sensory storytime, finding eyeballs in haystacks, making a musical instrument, and corn hole games. Certificates were also awarded

to the best decorated pumpkins. We are grateful to all the school staff and parent volunteers who helped make this event a success for our children, and to Mark Hunter of Hunter Design and Beau Ortman of Hickory Tree Landscaping for the pumpkins, haybales, and cornstalks.



# NJ SYMPHONY PRESENTS: PETER AND THE WOLF

In November, the New Jersey Symphony performed the story of Peter and the Wolf for all of the students at P.G. Chambers School. The performance included five instruments: the flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, and french horn. During the performance, students listened quietly as each instrument represented a different char-

acter in the story. Each class also had a chance to meet the symphony performers in private class performances and ask questions including, "What age did you start playing an instrument?" A big thank you to the NJ Symphony for visiting our students and uplifting their spirits with an engaging story!



## STUDENTS TRICK OR TREAT AT EMBASSY SUITES

On October 27, the students at P.G. Chambers School participated in Trick or Suites for another year at Embassy Suites Parsippany. From Taylor Swift and Spiderman to witches and pumpkins, dozens of costumes were on display as the children visited suites to trick or treat. Many thanks to Embassy Suites for organizing and hosting the event and to all the suite sponsors!



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