
**MAINE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
THE GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

TO: THE SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: O.J. LOGUE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT – AUGUST 2017

Academic - East End Community School Program (EECS)



This year brings many new changes for the EECS program. With increased enrollment, we will be welcoming 15 students this fall. The program will now be under the direction of Karen Hopkins, Director of Early Childhood Education. Two new teachers, four of our returning ed techs and new support staff will be working with our students. We will be re-developing this program this year to follow the bilingual bimodal programming that is presently used in preschool. Karen will also be working with the administration at EECS this summer to integrate our programming and create a culture of one collaborative elementary school. She will be joining the leadership team of this school so that our staff and students will be fully immersed into all aspects of the school community. EECS has been incredibly welcoming to all of us. We are so fortunate to be in such a diverse school that welcomes us and is encouraging us to embed our culture and the unique aspects of our students and program into EECS to be one community.

Business Operations

Business Office

It's been a crazy summer as we work hard to close out FY17 and prepare for the audit. We expect the audit to begin late August/early September to meet our October 15th deadline. Doreen Spear, our HR Generalist, has been posting and recruiting for over 17 positions. Many have been filled. The positions still open are posted on our website. It truly is a team effort for all those involved, so we thank everyone here this summer that helped us hire some wonderful new staff for this next school year.

Maintenance Department

Summer is a good time for cleanup and that is just what our Maintenance Department has been doing. Have you noticed less branches and brush around the island? They have been removing vegetation from around the sewer pump station and other locations, putting down landscape cloth, and covering it with ¾” stone. A new parking area is being prepared across from Carter Hall and we are hoping it will be available for parking soon. You may also notice that the bench outside the mansion has had a new face life. Stop by and check it out! The old sand shed attached to the garage is being repaired and will be repurposed to store seasonal equipment. New desks have arrived for new positions that have been added and the guys have been hard at work assembling them. Now, we all know that smoking is not allowed on island so there is no need for a designated smoking area. Instead, we have a Designated Garden Area, for our Monarch Butterflies!!!! Thanks to our little helping hands in making our beautiful sign near our front entrance. Didn't they do a great job?!

IT

Rich has been busy this summer coordinating the MLTI laptop purchases and preparing that equipment for distribution. With new staff come new set ups and equipment needs. Sometimes it's hard to keep up the pace!

Public School Outreach

K-12 Summer School

Summer school (July 11 to August 3) was a quick 4 weeks. We had eight students in grades K-5 and six students in grades 7-11. Along with our daily focus on reading, writing and math, we had weekly lessons with Jill from the Ogunquit Museum of Art. The students were able to explore the combining of colors through a variety of art activities. On the last day of school, students took a special field trip to the Ogunquit Museum of Art and enjoyed the artwork on display.

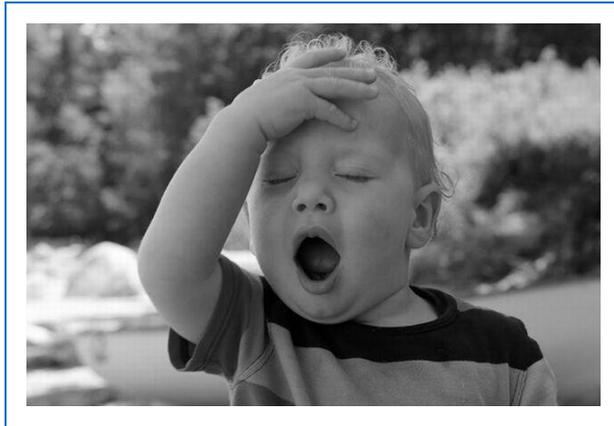
Younger students started their day relaxing with some yoga to prepare them to focus on learning time. The theme of being a “detective” and developing good problem solving skills was woven throughout the reading, writing and math activities done throughout summer school. Many interactive lessons created plenty of opportunities to reinforce clear communication and to improve skills.

The older students enjoyed starting each day journaling and then sharing their stories through ASL about the day's events to support clear communication. Literacy work focused on reading English and expressing what they had read in ASL. Math review took place daily.

Before leaving every day, the students enjoyed a communal lunch and social time. It was a productive time for all.

Staff also began sorting through all the resources located in the library and selected materials to bring back to their classrooms in Portland.

Early Childhood Education and Family Services



What a summer we have had here in Maine! The ECFS team has been exceptionally busy this summer, one of our busiest!! As our early intervention team travels around the state to support families and their young children, they have enjoyed seeing the beauty Maine offers in the summer. I hope you enjoy some of these pictures taken by staff member Cathy Glover.

One way our ECFS Team works with the IEP process for children transitioning to preschool services is to provide eligibility evaluations and observations. These observations often take place in a child's daycare, playgroup or natural environment. This summer, the consultants provided observations that documented the needs of the children in many different places (including a field trip to a lake). Not many teachers of the deaf can say they observed a child, documented language samples and watched children interacting, while standing in a lake with a clip board. Our staff are so flexible and supportive of the needs of Maine's Deaf and hard of hearing children!



Our 0-5 early intervention model will once again be highlighted at the national level. Karen Hopkins was approached by the Clerc Center at Gallaudet University to be one of five presenters at their national outreach conference this year. This is a virtual conference so Karen will be able to stay in Maine while presenting to other states. We

are excited that the Clerc Center recognizes the value of our model which promotes collaborative family-centered and evidenced-based early intervention.



The ECFS team is supporting the Maine Hands & Voices Conference this year. Cathy Glover and Karen Hopkins are on the board for Maine Hands & Voices and are excited to share that the third annual conference will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on Sept. 29. We have a great line up of presenters this year! Amy Szarkowski from Boston Children's Hospital will be presenting on Language and the Brain and Social Emotional Development of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. MECDHH staff members Conrad Strack and Patty Cook-Stewart will share information about the MECDHH Kids Like Me Program. Mindy Meyers and Cathy Lushman will be presenting with Jenn Kesaris, a parent of three deaf children on Deaf Culture and how to support family engagement with the Deaf community. We also have presentations on: literacy by four Maine speech pathologists who work with deaf children, safety for deaf children, families talking about etiology of their deaf children and a parent/young adult panel. Sue Gibbons, Nicole Salamy and Sarah Thomas from Boston Children's Hospital will be offering a three hour short course on the cochlear implant process and how professionals can support families. We hope you will plan to join us. It will be a great day!



Mackworth Island Preschool

The preschool program had its largest summer program ever this summer with an enrollment of 18! The children enjoyed learning through play both inside our beautiful classrooms and out on Mackworth Island exploring nature. The learning centered on various summer themes such as "The Great Outdoors" and "The Ocean". This allowed

for carry-over of the language. We are so fortunate to be housed on this beautiful island!

This summer we have been preparing for various changes in the preschool program. Some staff members are changing roles such as Cathy Lushman and Amy Spencer who are moving to the ECFS teams. We have been doing lots of interviewing and trying to find the best candidates for our vacant positions.

Our biggest news for preschool is our NAEYC accreditation! We are so thrilled to receive this honor. The preschool team worked incredibly hard to get to this point. It took three years of continuous work redeveloping our program and documenting in two amazingly in-depth portfolios. This accreditation puts our program in the highest caliber of early childhood programming in the nation.

The early childhood team is excited to welcome Kim Spencer as our new Administrative Assistant. Kim comes to us with a wealth of administrative experience that will be a true asset to our programs. This summer we have also had the administrative support of Abbie Plimpton. Kim and Abbie have been a fabulous team!

Administrative Updates

I was pleased to be able to spend the month of June with David Sherry to orientate myself to this new position and to become acquainted with the MECDHH community. During this time, I was able to meet all of our current students enrolled in the Portland schools and visit the Spurwink residence. On June 8th, I attended the Portland High graduation along with John Jones and David. On June 27th, over 50 were in attendance for a reception that was held to meet and greet the new Executive Director and to bid farewell to David Sherry.

The Percival Baxter Foundation's new members will soon be meeting to solidify its membership and to strategically develop fundraising goals and events. More information and updates will follow.

Preschool enrollment continues to grow with an anticipated enrollment of over 30 children. Enrollment at East End School and Portland High School remain steady. At this time, we have one student at the Lyman Moore Middle School. The Outreach program also continues to grow and is presently supporting over 500 students in different school districts throughout the state.

This summer we had 14 students enrolled in the K-12 Extended School year programs, three of which were able to stay at the Spurwink residence. Preschool had 18 students in attendance.

At the next board meeting, I will present a complete profile of the new staff we hired over the summer. My thanks go to those who graciously gave of their time to interview candidates and conduct reference checks. We are looking forward to welcoming our new staff and introducing them all of our other talented staff members here at MECDHH.

The new leadership team comprised of: Traci Drake, Angie Bruno, Karen Hopkins and myself have been working well together to create a fluid and smooth transition in operating the school programs. This team meets regularly with John Shattuck and Michelle Ames to review school matters such as hiring decisions and leases. Joanna Spano has been effective in her role as administrative assistant to the Executive Director.

I would like to close with a heartfelt note of appreciation to David Sherry and John Jones for their years of dedicated services as well as patience in transitioning myself to this new position.