



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What a GREAT September we have had at Glenwood School! Reflecting on my years at this school, I would definitely say, this was the smoothest and most successful September start up that I remember. Our students adjusted to many changes, as they will in life, in an outstanding way. Many of our students moved into different classrooms, with different teachers, EAs and classmates. Other changes include some new programming occurring school wide in our Life Skills and Leisure Program, team teaching in some of our rooms and welcoming a new Communication Disorders Assistant to the school. Over the years, we have focused on our students TRANSITION skills and they demonstrated those skills exceptionally well this September. The success of our start up was also due to the AMAZING staff we have at Glenwood, our drivers, community partners and our families. The gains in student LEARNING and ACHIEVEMENT are incredible as we all work TOGETHER!

Over this month, I hope you have connected with your child's classroom teacher and are engaging with them in the development of their Individual Education Plan. First term IEPs will be finalized by mid October, but your ongoing input is always welcomed. I also want to say a huge thank you for working with us in completing our School Packages and the various Plans of Care needed to support your child. If any changes occur over the course of the year, please contact your classroom teacher to ensure we have the most up to date information. Please enjoy reading our October Newsletter. And **THANK YOU ALL** for making this such a successful September 2019.

~ Todd Graves, Vice Principal

# **A New Look to our Lifeskills Program**

## ***Skills and Leisure!***

Our life skills program taught by prep teachers, Katy Gurman and Penny Parry, has a new look this year. As we are always looking towards the future of our students, we want to prepare them with a strong skillset. Whether your child will be living at home, in a residential program, receiving respite or attending day program activities in the future, we want to prepare them. The focus this year is to provide students with opportunities to experience many activities found in a similar settings.

Students will participate in a variety of activities such as cooking, music, group gatherings, crafts, sensory experiences, basic domestic tasks and a wide variety of leisure activities. The program is designed to allow students to practice self-regulation and social interaction in a very positive and structured environment. Our students appear to be enjoying this next step in their learning.

~ Katy Gurman and Penny Parry, Prep

## **Shopping, Music and a Little Guacamole!**

Our class is off to a great start to the new school year! We have established our weekly routines and I think everyone is comfortable with the expectations for each day. We have started a number of new and exciting programs this year and we hope to expand on them as the term progresses. We have introduced the guitar to our weekly music program and we've started a classroom "store" to practice using money to make purchases. The recipes in our cooking class vary in popularity, but so far we have practiced making pizza, guacamole and roasted cauliflower. I have been very impressed with everyone's academic abilities and I am excited to explore their potential. We have a fantastic team of Amanda, Magdhi, Pat and Sharon (EAs) and we look forward to working together with you this year!

~ Dave Campos, Room 11

## **Zooming into Fall!**

We have had an excellent start to the year, getting to know each other better through our "All About Me" activities. We have learned about each others' likes (preferences), dislikes, families and favourite songs to name a few. We are really starting to gel as a class and work together as a team. We have started our gross motor programming and will continue to make mobility and physical activity a priority this year. We stay active through our daily walks, bike rides, gym activities and neighbourhood excursions in this beautiful fall weather. Remaining active will continue to help Room 4 be the best they can be each day. We are excited for this year ahead and for all the growth and learning to come!

~ Sherri Beckerson, Room 4

## **Ready, Set, Go!**

It's been a busy start to the school year in Room 3. We are glad to have Kim back in our room and also a new member to the EA team, Ryan! We've appreciated all of the consistent communication from families in helping us get to know our students, any changes that might have happened over the summer, and building routines. We hope and continue to encourage communication (ie phone, email, communication book) through the school year as we develop and build your child's programming together.

~ Ivan Quach, Room 3

## **On The Move!**

Room 10 has seen a lot of movement (transitions) this year! For most of our students, this means moving into a new classroom this year and even to a different part of the school! The adjustments have gone great! We have been spending the first few weeks of school getting to know each other and learning to learn together - staff are learning more and more about each student, students are getting more comfortable with staff and other students and all of us are learning our schedules. Every day we include some movement and physical activity, whether that means using the gym, going outside or into the courtyard, or maybe even riding an exercise or adaptive bike. We really are on the move! A big thanks to our great EA team of Hunter, Jackie, Melissa and Luz.

~ Ken Cameron, Room 10

## **CDA**

I would like to introduce myself, I am Katrina Prabucki. I will be taking the place of Lucia in the role of Glenwood's Communicative Disorders Assistant (CDA). I will be working under the supervision of the school Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), Monica Knott. On Days 1, 2 & 3 I will be at Glenwood and working with Autism and Neurodevelopmental Services Days 4 & 5 off site.

~ Katrina Prabucki, CDA

## **The Most Wonderful Time of the Year**

The special group of students in Room 1 have demonstrated through their hard work and good spirit that Summer Vacation was long enough and they are happy to be back at school. There is a great sense of optimism in the classroom. As a class, Abdi, Jackson, Marko, Nikki, Obsa and Zach have focused on returning to familiar school routines as well as embracing some new ones. For our students this is a completely new grouping of classmates so it's extremely impressive to see the care and thought they exhibit towards one another. Commonly shared goals for the month of September have included lessons on toileting and grooming. The students have shown growth already and with the continued support of the incredible educational assistants, I am confident that their skills will continue to grow. The sky is truly the limit for these students this year!

~ James Empringham, Room 1

## **So Great Getting to Know Your Children**

It has been an exciting start to the new school year in our Multiples class! We have two fabulous EAs in our class (Mamie and Sam) as well as our ever-hardworking support staff Tom. Our first week we did “It’s Okay to be Different” stories, songs and art tasks. Soon after, we began to work on preference assessments as part of getting to know your children so that your son/daughter can communicate choices to us during work and leisure times. And of course during the entire month of September we have been busy establishing routines and working on goal-setting for Term 1 IEPs. Thank you so much for your hard work at home that has going into working with your children to get them into new school year routines. I appreciate the notes I have received in Home Communication Books. They are an important part of communication between home and school to assist with their potential and success. Even the smallest piece of information or telling us about one of your son/daughter’s new interests can be helpful!

~ Angela Saccomano, Room 2

## **Kickin’ Off the School Year on the Right Foot!**

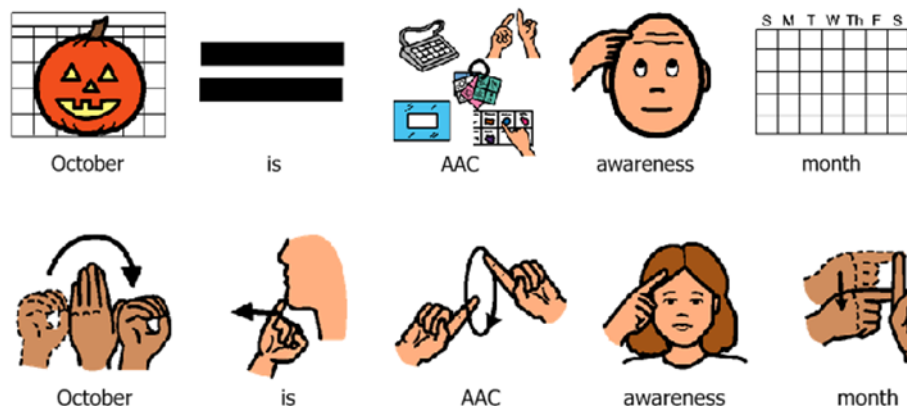
Room 14 has started off on a great roll this September! Our 6 friends have been welcomed by myself, Rob, Jo and Melissa (our EAs). The students in Room 14 are a combination of some students from 3 different classes from last year. They have come together so smoothly. Room 14 is big on being a **team**. We have been working on transition as a team (ie lining up in a single file line when going outside, inside, to the gym, lifeskills, etc). Our routine consists of starting work tasks after outdoor transitions (ie after getting off the bus in the morning, and after morning or afternoon recess). Our classroom community has also enjoyed learning about step by step recipies at the beginning of the week and having the recipies come to life at the end of the week by making the food themselves – yum! The team is absolutely excited to continue the school year learning and exploring new foods as a classroom community!

~ Jamie Aromin, Room 14

## **Moving and Communicating Together!**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the team working with the students in Room 12 this year. My name is Duncan Martin. I am a new teacher to Glenwood. Prior to Glenwood, I worked as an ESL Itinerant, Learning Resource and a classroom teacher. I am excited to join the Glenwood team. I look forward to getting to know the students, families and community partners. Our classroom team includes an experienced group of Educational Assistants. Heather, Brent and Tim all have extensive experience working in a special educational environments. Even within just a month of school, we are so excited about the gains our students are making with their communication and transitioning skills!

~ Duncan Martin, Room 12



Here at Glenwood, we see AAC systems all around us, all the time. The vast majority of our students use AAC Systems to get their point across. As staff, we can't read minds. We're pretty amazing, but we haven't developed that ability yet. That's why we're working with our students, developing their skills in AAC so they can communicate exactly what they're thinking when their verbal skills just aren't enough.

### So what is AAC?

AAC is Augmentative and Alternative Communication. It is a large variety of ways that people communicate aside from spoken language. Everybody uses AAC on a daily basis, without even realizing it, to support their communication; washroom signs, street lights, menus, photos of the food on menus, the text message symbol on your phone and much much more.

There is a large variety of AAC use going on at Glenwood. Here is just a small list of what we use daily:

iPads with a variety of communication apps including Proloquo2go

Big Mac Switches      Step-by-step Switches      Supertalker multi-message devices

Picture Communication Symbols (PCS)      Sign Language

Visual Schedules      Visual Transition Cues      PCS Choice Boards

Picture Exchange Communication Systems (PECS)      Real Picture Labels

Are you relying on your mind-reading skills at home with your children? Are you curious about how to support your child's use of AAC at school? Do you have something that works really well for you at home; that you think would be helpful for us to know at school? Remember you can always contact us, we're here for the same thing you are, to allow your children to be the best they can be and show the world their best too.

~ Katrina Prabucki, CDA



# October



	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> National Custodial Work- ers Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b> Day 4 Activity Turkey Fest	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>14</b> Thanksgiving 	<b>15</b> Day 4 Activity Fall Craft	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b> Bus Driver Appreciation Day Day 4 Activity Pumpkin Carving	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Day 4 Activity Halloween Festivities	