



The Mid-State Messenger

April 2022

April is Occupational Therapy Month



Every April, we celebrate Occupational Therapy Month to honor this vital profession and the meaningful differences it makes in the lives of students. We are blessed with a great group of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants to help

students meet their goals. These outstanding therapists are: **Kathy Wassink, Brittany Reynolds, Carol Babcock, Katie Larson, Carol Grapperhaus, Jennifer McDonald, Jennifer Stark, Beth Hunter, Amber Schulze, Ashley Blankenship, Maria Dodge, Amy Jones, Amy Paul, Diana Patterson, and Amanda Settles.** Please be sure to thank these wonderful therapists when you see them in your buildings!

Read Across America

Mrs. Hall, Elementary Special Education Teacher at Mulberry Grove, was a good sport as she

dressed up as The Cat in the Hat during Read Across America week.



April is Autism Awareness Month



April 2nd is “World Autism Day” and the entire month of April is “Autism Awareness Month” or “Autism Acceptance Month” depending on which organization you follow. Either way, it is time to celebrate differences and to spread information to people everywhere that all individuals have different abilities and we should strive to become more accepting and more accommodating. How can you help promote Autism Awareness Month?

What it looks like: promote Autism by wearing Autism ribbons, reading a book about Autism, puzzle piece pens, Autism-related shirts, sharing resources with staff, getting students involved

What it sounds like: modeling an accepting attitude to fellow staff and to students

What it feels like: warmth, understanding, and people coming together with a common cause of wanting more acceptance in our world.

IPA Nomination

Mr. Wooters, principal at Brownstown High School, nominated Gracie Norris for the "Outstanding Student and Citizen" award at the IPA breakfast that took place at Greenville University. Gracie is a senior at Brownstown High School. She plans to attend college and continue in the medical field. Gracie has participated in FFA and maintained employment since she turned 16.

Camp Panther

Camp Panther opened its doors last summer for the first time. Litchfield School District served a little over 100 students in grades pre-k through 4th grade. Campers spent their days focusing on Literacy and Writing and enjoying some fun and educational enrichment activities. The day started with breakfast, reviewing the day's schedule and reciting the camp cheer. Next, students worked on some hands-on and fun literacy and writing activities. Lunch was served each day, followed by an hour of engaging enrichment activities that were provided by the YMCA and the University of Illinois Extension Office. Campers also had an opportunity each week to visit the camp store to spend the "panther bucks" they earned throughout the week based on behavior and participation. Litchfield School District is excited to announce that Camp Panther will be returning in 2022 for another summer. The dates for Camp Panther will be June 6th - 24th from 8:00 to 1:30 pm daily. This year our camp theme is "Around the World at Camp Panther". Every Friday, students will have the opportunity to engage in some sort of extracurricular activity or event such as a field trip to a local establishment or group assembly. We have received great support and encouragement from our community and local businesses, and are grateful for all that they do for our students and schools.

Students Hard at Work!

Mrs. Welsh, Tori and Devon

CV Coffee Shop



Drake, Isabella & Christopher

Practicing Public Transportation



Kaylee and JoBeth

Panhandle library student helpers

Panhandle library helpers

Paloma and Mrs. Terneus



Nathan, Tyler, and Chandler Hillsboro Cookie Sales