



April is Occupational Therapy Month



It's time to promote and celebrate the wonderful Occupational Therapy staff! Ways to celebrate #OTmonth: 1. Share stories and successes our OT staff has had on students; share to people in person or celebrate these stories on social media! 2. Have

students/staff practice their fine motor skills by coloring an OT picture template found at aota.com. 3. Listen to OT podcasts occurring now at aota.com.

for life after high school. Blackburn and Beyond students made an EGGcellent lunch!! The transition students made Mickey pancakes and did an amazing job with using the skillet, cracking the eggs and even flipping them over! This lunch was enjoyed by all of the students and support staff.



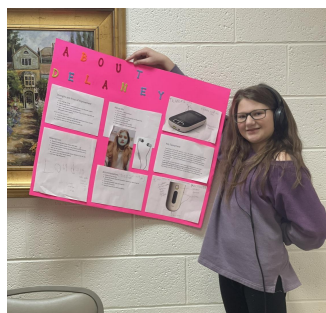
Vandalia One

Karen Bennett, School Social Worker, along with 4 other amazing and experienced counselors in the Vandalia School District, was honored in a new publication, *Vandalia One*. In the article, it was mentioned how Karen's life experience, education experience, and family have all helped her to be the empathetic counselor she is today. View the entire article here:



<https://www.vandaliaone.com/youareenoughyouareworthy?mibextid=ykz3hl>

Pictured below, Mrs. Tomlin's seniors from Edinburg visited the Aviation program at LLCC on February 14th. Jeffrey Martin, Placement Coordinator, gave the group a tour!



Transition

Panhandle student tells us all about her disability and how she overcomes it by learning new skills. She then goes on to tell us how she is preparing

Retirements Honored



At the Winter IAASE Conference in Springfield, Lyn Becker and Angie Armour were both honored for their upcoming retirement!

Random Acts of Kindness



In celebration of Random Acts of Kindness Week during February, St. Elmo Elementary School is creating a kindness tree to highlight random acts of kindness being demonstrated by students in the building. Both students and teachers can give shout outs to students for displaying

kind acts. The idea was implemented by the School Counselor, Celeste Stombaugh. **#RAK #BeKind #SpreadKindness**



In celebration of Random Acts of Kindness Week, Litchfield students were Tied Together with Kindness, where they wore ties, they Let Their Kindness Shine with something sparkly, were Wild about Kindness with camouflage, and were Powered by Kindness in their capes. Students also identified others who were “caught” showing kindness and were rewarded with a gift card. During imPACT hour, Litchfield high school students had the opportunity to “Drip Kindness.”

Building Capacity in Education



The Morrisonville Exceptional Child class had the opportunity to visit the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville. Melissa Davidson, Special Education teacher, and Michael Hartley, Deaf & Hard of Hearing teacher, made arrangements for this field trip as part of their efforts to expose high school students to the numerous career

opportunities in the field of education. Mrs. Hartley shared that direct exposure to ISD goes beyond any lecture, simulation or classroom explanation.

Senior Conference is a Success!

The Bond/Fayette seniors met at Kaskaskia College in Vandalia for their Senior Conference, on Friday March 24. 30 of the 46 seniors attended along with their case managers. Speakers were from First National Bank, with the teller, loan officer, and investment officer sharing the importance of having bank accounts and pointers for gaining good credit. Disabilities coordinators from Lake Land College and Kaskaskia College shared their information, how to utilize their website, and allowed the students to set up time to meet with them. The DHS adult counselor was in attendance to let the students know of resources and how to prepare for college, work, and life after high school. An insurance agent went over each type of insurance that the student will need to access as they become adults. Amanda Fritcher, Transition Specialist for Bond/Fayette schools organized this event. A big thank you to Kaskaskia College for allowing us to use their facility in Vandalia.



Celebrate Autism Awareness Month!



Ways to spread information and encourage acceptance during the month of April:

1. Wear Blue/Autism Awareness gear on Fridays
2. Discuss Autism to students and use it as a learning opportunity that it's ok to learn differently and to be different!
3. Celebrate those students with Autism and all their accomplishments!