



# MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

## The Mid-State Messenger

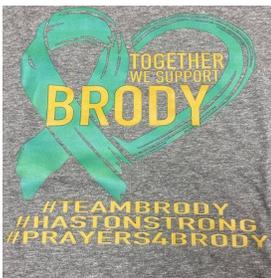
November 2022

### National School Psychology Week



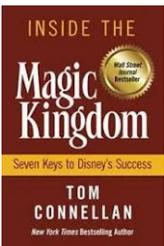
Let's celebrate and thank our school psychologists: Amanda, Kassi, Kristy, Lisa, Lucas, Meg, & Tricia! We couldn't do what we do without your expertise, contributions, and dedication! YOU make a difference in the lives of so many! Happy National School Psychology Week!

### #TEAMBRODY



Brody is now in his third set of Friday chemo treatments and will be completing numbers 7, 8, & 9 by mid-November. Please keep the prayers and positive thoughts for Brody and the Haston family flowing! Kristy says they are working!

### November Book Study



There is still time to order your book and earn 10 PD hours during November. Barb Daugherty is excited to lead this interesting book study, *Inside The Magic Kingdom*, which includes seven lessons that can be implemented in any organization to emulate Disney magic or "pixie dust." Register at no cost at [midstatespec.org](http://midstatespec.org).

### Congratulations to Dana White!



After completing 40 hours of online coursework, weeks of on the job training, and lots of test preparation, Dana White successfully passed the required assessment to become Mid-State's first certified Registered Behavior Technician through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board! We are very proud of Dana's accomplishment and excited to have her applying

her years of experience and knowledge to support students and teachers in our 13 member districts.

### DHH Social at the Park



Our DHH teachers, Michaela Hartley and Chloe Foppe, organized a weekend picnic for students and families across our member districts to come together in a central location. Approximately 30 participated including eight children with hearing loss from five of our districts. Especially in our rural areas, many children are unaware of the existence of other children with hearing loss as he or she may be the only child in the entire town or surrounding area. Mrs. Foppe, shared that her heart was melting when she overheard one little boy say, "Hey dude, I like your hearing aid." They are planning additional social gatherings, so please share if you are aware of any community organization who may consider contributing to funding an event as part of their service mission.

### Leadership Learning



During our October Leadership, special education administrators had the great fortune to spend the morning with attorney Brandon Wright learning, discussing, and collaborating. We took a deep dive into the list of 14 questions and scenarios along with problem-solving around additional challenging and ongoing situations in our schools.

## Sharing Knowledge



Kassandra Charles, MSSE School Psychologist, took time out of her busy schedule to attend the Morrisonville Child Development class and share her profession with the class. Kassi explained what a school psychologist does and how academic and cognitive testing of a student gives parents and staff a better understanding of how a student learns. Hopefully, Kassi's discussion has sparked some interest in the field of school psychology!

## ES-TEAM (Emotional Support Team)



Litchfield School District has been blessed with the opportunity to increase their emotional support services to students. This year, Litchfield has hired an additional board certified behavior analyst, a licensed clinical social worker, a counselor intern, and has paired with St. Francis Way (a subsidiary of Macoupin County Public Health) to provide yet another counselor for services. These new staff members are working closely with existing emotional support staff from Litchfield School District and Midstate Special Education to ensure that students throughout the district who are experiencing emotional difficulties are provided with the support they need. The team meets regularly to discuss how to meet the needs of all of the students. In addition to the already existing counseling and social work services, they have created a district-wide social/emotional curriculum, social skills groups, and streamlined a process to ensure all students who have a need are seen. Team members include: Karen Cress, High School Counselor, Nancy Roasio, School Social Worker, Paula DalCanton, Middle School

Counselor, Mae Wells, Social Worker, Shelby Curtis, St. Francis Way Counselor, Sarah Huber, Behavior Analyst, Kaylie Ripley, Counselor Intern, Brenda Elvers, Elementary Counselor and Lucas Altenberger, School Psychologist. Thank you to the ES-Team for all of their hard work!

## The F.A.I.R. Behavior Tool

F.A.I.R approach to behavior, developed by BCBA Jessica Minahan, can help a student who is oppositional, withdrawn or anxious thrive in the school setting. A F.A.I.R. plan changes the behavior of students and the perspective of staff. This plan identifies the **F**unction of the behavior, necessary **A**ccommodations, effective **I**nteraction strategies, and helpful **R**esponses. Jessica does a great job of explaining the positive supports that can be put in place to help a student be successful. To learn more about this innovative and effective approach to addressing challenging behavior go our website <https://www.midstatespec.org/resources/educators/> and scroll down to Behavior Tools. You will find a brief summary of the F.A.I.R. approach under the Tips section.

## Halloween Fun!



J.D. Colt Staff



SLP, Madi Whittington

## Senior Conference Success



Congratulations to Joan Saatkamp for hosting another successful Senior Conference at LLCC in Taylorville. Nine seniors from Edinburg, South Fork, Morrisonville and Panhandle participated in this valuable experience to prepare for their transition to post secondary life.