

Volume 3, Issue 3

Spring 2016



**SPEED**  
SCHOOL DIST 802

SPEED S.E.J.A. #802

# SPEED Newsletter

## The Academy Shows Off at Open House

The Academy for Lifelong Learning now has more of what it needs to continue to train students to lead more independent lives at its site at 410 Ashland Ave., in Chicago Heights.

There are new classrooms with SMART Boards, an instructional kitchen and a simulated apartment with a bedroom, bathroom, living room, kitchen and laundry room.

ALL recently hosted an open house to showcase the work done by Planera Architects and Complete Construction Resources to turn the former window store and garage into a state of the art facility for SPEED's transition age students.

There was food and beverages, and a performance of an uplifting medley of songs by the ALL Choir. Board members, parents and community members were able to learn more about the site through student-run tours.

We are always appreciative of the support of our Governing Board and would like to thank the following Members for helping us celebrate The Academy's new look: Ms. Juanita Jordan, #144, Ms. Tammy Jones, #168, Ms. Huckabee, #161, Ms. Edwards, #194, and Board President Ron Bean, #162.



## Go Eagles!

SPEED Independence students have excelled this year. They participated in the Chicago Area Alternative Educational League. This year our Jr. high students were Division Champs, taking first place in the basketball Tournament. Our high school team was terrific too, taking 2nd place in their division. Our Jr. High Football Team won 1st place as well. The teams travel to other schools and host games here at SPEED, under the leadership of Coaches Anderson and Silkowski. It's an important opportunity to practice self-regulation, collaboration and good sportsmanship, skills they use throughout their lives.

## Independence Happenings

To celebrate African American History month, our students at Independence performed dances, skits, and songs in a whole school assembly on February 26th. Parents, guests and fellow students were entertained while learning about the important contributions African Americans have made to our country.

Independence students who demonstrated self-control and good behavior also attended a field trip to the DuSable Museum in Chicago.



# SPEED Celebrates African American History

The Early Learning Center students were able to learn more about African American history with performances brought throughout the month of February.

The Homewood Flossmoor High School Gospel Choir and the HF Steppers performed, as well as the Thornridge High School Marching Band and the Thornridge High School Drill Team. Project Bound Dance and band Triple F Productions were able to share their talents with the students.

In addition to performances, children in ELC also learned about different aspects of African American history at the Black Expo. Children learned about art, textiles, music and technology, among others. The students also learned about African American history in their classrooms where they created posters and banners to carry in the African American History Kickoff Parade.

Local businesses, including Aurelio's Pizza in Homewood, Bambino's in Steger, Dolzeli's Pizzeria in South Chicago Heights, Domino's Pizza in South Chicago Heights, KFC in South Chicago Heights, and Little Caesar's Pizza in Chicago Heights, were able to provide food for the performers.

Ultra Foods in Chicago Heights provided all of the food for a staff and student lunch for the month's culminating event, ELC's Taste of Soul.



## SPEED Connections Program Benefit

SPEED started a new program within our schools this year: Implemented 4 Classrooms at PAL & ELC with a shared team of professionals addressing the needs specific to students with autism and pervasive development disabilities. Ms. Laura Elton, a SPEED parent who along with her father, Frank Elton, who works with Bambino's Family Restaurant in Steger will hold a Fundraising Day for our SPEED Connections Program. It will be held April 17th from 11:00am—8:00pm, with proceeds being donated to SPEED, specifically to support autism programming.

**AUTISM BENEFIT**  
Sunday, April 17 11am - 8pm

Spaghetti Dinner  
Includes Salad & Pop  
**\$10 Donation**

Raffle  
55" Visio Smart TV  
And MUCH More!!!

AUTISM AWARENESS

100% of ALL proceeds go to SPEED  
Special Education Joint Agreement Serving Districts 184, 208 and 13 other school districts

**Live Entertainment**  
Bambino's • 37 E. Steger Rd • 708-756-6200

## Spread the Word

Students at SPEED recently participated in Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

It is an effort by the Special Olympics and friends to raise awareness about using the R-word as it is hurtful and disrespectful to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Students and staff watched a video and afterward pledged their support to "end the word."

This year's theme is "Respect City: Population Everyone."

More information about the campaign is available online at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org).



## Student Awards

Alphonso Moffett, a student at the Academy for Lifelong Learning, was selected by Exceptional Children's Charity in Steger to receive an iPod Touch, carrying case, and communication software. The device will help him in clarifying his communication when others do not understand his verbalizations.

A student whom SPEED provides services for in Homewood #153 was selected by Infinitec for an Assistive Technology Award. In support of Infinitec, SPEED purchased a table for the fundraising award dinner, and our staff was grateful to have Board Member Ms. Juanita Jordan attend with us.

## SPO Pancake Breakfast

**PEED PARENT ORGANIZATION'S**  
**2nd Annual Community Pancake Breakfast**  
**Saturday, April 23, 2016**  
**8:00 a.m. — Noon**  
 SPEED Academy for Lifelong Learning  
 410 Ashland Avenue  
 Chicago Heights, IL 60411

**Advanced Tickets NOW ON SALE!**

Adults \$6.00 & Children (under 12) \$3.00  
 (CASH payment MUST be returned with RSVP form below)

**DEADLINE FOR RSVP: APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Contact Debbie Krause with questions (708) 672-1123

(Advance purchase tickets will be sent home with the child on April 21st)

**YES** I would like to attend the SPO 2nd Annual Community Pancake Breakfast!

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Program/Service Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adult Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$6.00 each = subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Child Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3.00 each = subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED (Cash only please): \_\_\_\_\_

(Tickets will be sent home with the child on April 21st)

## DHH Parent Night

### DHH PARENT NIGHT

5:30-7:30pm

SPEED S.E.J.A. #802  
 1125 Division Street  
 Chicago Heights, IL 60411

April  
 11th,  
 2016

Ms. Tina Childress  
 Presents  
**"TherAPPy Tools"**  
 6:15-7:15pm

Use your tablet or  
 smartphone to discover  
 APPs for DHH Individuals

Come meet other DHH parents,  
 see what resources are available  
 to you and your child.

= Door prizes, raffles and much  
 more!  
 (Light supper will be provided)

Questions? contact  
 Kristina Prete-Stewart at  
[kprete-stewart@speed802.org](mailto:kprete-stewart@speed802.org)

### Agencies Attending:

- = Guide By Your Side
- = University of Chicago
- = DSCC
- = Choices for Parents
- = ICODA
- = Hands and Voices
- = Lurie Children's Hospital
- = DCFS
- = Chicago Hearing Society
- = ISRC

Register by April 1st  
 2016

Complete the attached registration form  
 and return to Sarah Knezevic at  
[sknezevic@speed802.org](mailto:sknezevic@speed802.org)

\*\*\*Childcare will not be provided\*\*\*

## SPEED Racers Basketball

The SPEED Racers Basketball team finished its season with a 12-6 record.

The student athletes practiced with coaches twice a week for two hours, and worked on player development, drills, conditioning and plays — all of their hard work paid off at game time. The team played tough and showed resilience during the season.

Racers continue to work with Special Olympics Coach John Lewis. PAL teacher Rebecca Bruckner was added as Special Olympics Assistant Coach. She also ran the home game concession stand. Home games were refereed by PAL staff member Randy Tracy.

ALL teacher Dana Palmer assisted with uniforms, paperwork and stats. PAL P.E. Coaches John Maurek and Sean Carls helped the team by starting pre-practice conditioning sessions. The coaches helped in the strengthening and conditioning of the athletes. ALL Case Manager Jenna Wouters provided emotional support, and SPEED teachers Sabrina Kerbo and Don Iosou scrimmaged with athletes at practice. PAL staff member Lynn Cervantes ran the score board at all home games.

The Racers are appreciative of all of the staff support, especially the maintenance staff who helped set up the gym and bleachers for home games.

Track and field season is starting soon. Parents who were interested in having their Special Olympics athletes participate in Spring Games attended an informational meeting from 4 –5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, on the PAL Patio.

Practice for Spring Games will be 4-6 p.m. on Wednesdays starting on April 6th.

## Staff Successes

Congratulations are in order to SPEED's Director of Programs & Services, Ms. Kristin Elliott! She is a recipient of a James V. and Dorothy B. Moon Scholarship from the Illinois School Administrators (IASA) Foundation for Education. This will help her in her pursuit of a Doctorate in Education.

Dr. Jack Chavez, a new teacher at Independence High School this year successfully defended his dissertation this month and earned his doctorate.

Dean Patrick Rock of Independence was selected to referee at National Junior College Athletic Association Basketball Tournament games.

## Important Dates

- **March 25—April 1, 2016 Spring Break**
- **April 4, 2016 School reopens**
- **April 15, 2016 Half-Day School Improvement Day—Early Dismissal 11:10**
- **April 29, 2016 Half-Day School Improvement Day—Early Dismissal 11:10**
- **May 13, 2016 Staff Half-Day In-service — Early Dismissal 11:10**
- **May 25, 2016 IND Graduation**
- **May 26, 2016 PAL Graduation**
- **May 27, 2016 School Improvement/Records Day—1:10 p.m. Dismissal**
- **May 30, 2016 Memorial Day — No School**
- **June 2, 2016 Last Day of School for Students (without emergency days used) 1:10 p.m. Dismissal**
- **June 9, 2016 Last Day of School for Students (if emergency days are used) 1:10 p.m. Dismissal**



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