DEAR SITE FAMILIES

Spring is upon us! It is hard to believe that there are only a few short months of school left. Please enjoy the latest edition of SITE Happenings.

February was a Busy Month for SITE Businesses!!

The month of February proved to be a busy one for SITE businesses! Celebrations spent the first half of February making and delivering over 1,000 chocolate covered pretzels for Valentine’s Day, in addition to their usual production of the Sweet of the Month Club dessert. Smashing Blooms was equally busy, creating and delivering 58 floral arrangements and 56 candy grams in the first two weeks of February.

Through these businesses, our interns learn a variety of skills that can transfer to other employment sites. In Smashing Blooms, interns learn not only how to make beautiful arrangements, but they learn how to measure the floral stems to fit in the vase, how to read an order form, and how to know when an order is complete and paid. In Celebrations, interns learn how to measure ingredients as well as packaging and safe food handling. They also learn the ins and outs of ordering.

Finally, in both businesses, the interns practice their social and communication skills when delivering their products in the community. Special thanks to business lead Heather Gebhart of Smashing Blooms and Donna Goetz of Celebrations for their hard work and dedication!

World Downs Syndrome Day March 21, 2023

March 21, 2023 is World Downs Syndrome Day, a day dedicated to acknowledging the rights of individuals with Downs Syndrome.

This year’s theme is “With Us, Not for Us”; a human rights-based approach that views people with disabilities as having the right to be treated fairly and have the same opportunities as everyone else, working WITH others to improve their lives.

All organizations are encouraged to include individuals with Down Syndrome in all decisions—big or small—that affect their lives, thus working WITH them and not FOR them.

Visit [https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/](https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/) to learn more and find out how you can support those with Downs Syndrome.

SITE Interns Aliza P., Lucas D., and Mason D. delivering flowers and smiles!
EXEMPLARY EMPLOYEES!

Throughout the school year, SITE staff meet and choose an Exemplary Employee. This intern is chosen based on the workplace character traits. Additional criteria can be showing great improvement in any area below or at a job site.

Help us congratulate February’s Exemplary Employees!!

Matthew Zoppi earned Exemplary Employee for showing Initiative, Tolerance and Respect at SITE and his internship placements.

Zeke Wiggins earned Exemplary Employee for showing Self-Control and Respect throughout all activities at SITE.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 2, 2023- Trip to UD Women’s Basketball Game

Sunday, March 12, 2023- Daylight Savings Time Ends- Spring Ahead!

Wednesday, March 15, 2023- No School, Professional Development Day

Wednesday, March 22, 2023- SAT Day, Regular, Full Day for SITE interns

Friday, March 31, 2023- No School, Professional Responsibilities Day

Adult Agency Spotlight
Mosaic Adult Residential Program

Mosaic Adult Residential Program provides services to individuals with intellectual disabilities in thirteen states, including Delaware. Mosaic offers services in the home and community to allow individuals to live as independently as possible.

Mosaic offers 24/7 individual or group residential services for those requiring personalized, around the clock care in a safe and secure environment. Mosaic staff assist with personal care and help individuals acquire, keep or improve upon their independent living skills.

For those who do not require assistance 24/7, Mosaic also offers support on an ‘as needed’ basis. They may assist with community participation, such as organized sports, worship services, community events and more. Individuals are encouraged to volunteer, self-advocate and interact with their neighbors and community.

Available in all settings, Mosaic also provides medical and nursing care to cover all individuals’ healthcare needs.

Mosaic also offers transition and employment services, as well as respite care. For additional information, please visit their website at https://www.mosaicinfo.org/ or call 302-456-5995

*For informational purposes ONLY. Neither SITE nor the Brandywine School District endorses any specific adult agency. Families are encouraged to tour and research agencies to best fit their needs.
March Pay Day Activities
The following Pay Day activities are on the calendar for March:

03/03/2023: YMCA AM, Bowling PM
03/10/2023: Top Golf, Mt. Laurel, NJ
03/17/2023: YMCA AM, Painting with a Twist PM
03/24/2023: Talley Day Park, Rita’s Water Ice
03/31/2023: No School, Professional Responsibilities Day

SITE Interns in the Press!
On February 22, 2023, SITE was featured on DelawareLive.com through an article on the program and an interview with two of our interns- Aliza P. and Nazim B. The article highlights the vocational aspect of SITE and outlines a typical day. Aliza and Nazim shared their experiences with SITE and what they have learned so far. You can read the article in its entirety here- https://delawarelive.com/brandywine-prep-special-needs-students-workforce/

SITE Expands to Include BSD High School Seniors
Beginning January 31, 2023, Seniors in the ILP classes at each of the district’s three high schools began spending three hours a week at SITE in the in-house businesses.

Led by SITE veteran Mary Fischer, ILP seniors come to SITE once each week and rotate through Celebrations, Graphics and Smashing Blooms. During this time, the high school interns learn vocational skills. The time spent also allows the interns to get to know SITE staff and become familiar with the building. SITE staff also get to know upcoming seniors, allowing an assessment of their skills and interests before they begin the program full time in the summer.

The hope is to create a smooth transition for BSD’s seniors into the SITE program, allowing them to hit the ground running and make the best use of their years with SITE. An additional benefit is allowing parents to become familiar with SITE and what their interns will be doing when they begin the program full time.

After one month, the program is off to a great start. The feedback from interns, parents and high school staff has been positive. SITE is looking forward to continuing the High School Expansion Program into next year and beyond.

Taking a Break & Checking In
In recent morning meetings, SITE has been focusing on Self-Control and Self-Regulation, including having interns identify ways they like to relax and strategies they can use when they feel themselves getting upset or anxious.

Through these lessons, it is hoped that interns will be able to start to recognize when they are feeling overwhelmed and apply some strategies discussed. The visual below (and can be found here- https://www.huffpost.com/entry/gps-guides_b_1632700) has been used to generate ideas and conversations around this.

Please feel free to use this to start conversations with your intern and find out which strategies they may have chosen. This may even be used as a guide of things you and your intern can do together to relax.

Thank you for reading and your continued support! We will see you in April!