

From the desk of Catherine Cooper, Executive Director of SMEC

HAPPY NEW YEAR! While 2022 hasn't quite started off the way we'd all hoped, I am still optimistic that we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. The tunnel is just a little longer than we'd originally thought.

SMEC, like almost every business and agency in the country, has been hard hit this past year by the work force crisis and the number of current Covid positive cases in our community since the holidays has exacerbated our daily coverage concerns. Every day, we are faced with what seems like a never-ending game of Jenga trying to figure out where we can pull out one block and then put it in a different spot that won't make the whole tower topple over. But through that struggle, we also see the genuine care and dedication of our staff who are doing everything they can to make sure that we are keeping our students and consumers safe, engaged, learning, and moving forward. Our program directors and staff have done an amazing job of working together to be flexible and think outside of the box to make sure that we are able to continue to offer in-person services and I am confident that this current surge will end soon so that we can get back to a more comfortable and positive place.

We're hiring! Tell your friends! Current openings include positions for paraprofessionals and licensed school adjustment counselors, as well as direct care positions in our adult programs for job coaching and residential services. Soon, we will be advertising vacancies for additional teachers, therapists and other support positions to expand our school services for the next school year. If you know of anyone who wants to work in a supportive, rewarding environment, please have them check the careers page on our website, www.smecollaborative.org.

SMEC is also happy to announce a partnership with the Old Rochester Regional School District to offer a series of family engagement virtual workshops for SMEC families and the families of other students from our member districts. Please see the enclosed information on registering for one or more of these sessions; I think you will find them of interest and a valuable use of your time.

Keep the faith! We will all get through this together. We are grateful to our students, consumers, and families for their patience and understanding as we work together to get through this challenge.

Stay safe!
Catherine

SAIL EMPLOYMENT

With everything swinging back into motion we have some highlights on the Employment Departments end that we feel are worth sharing. The Employment Department is always buzzing with energy.



Martin Newby

Martin has been working for Target for over 15 years. They were wonderful enough to have the employees sign a card and give Martin a certificate for working for 15 years. Martin has truly shown such dedication and has great attendance. Target enjoys having Martin as a part of their team.



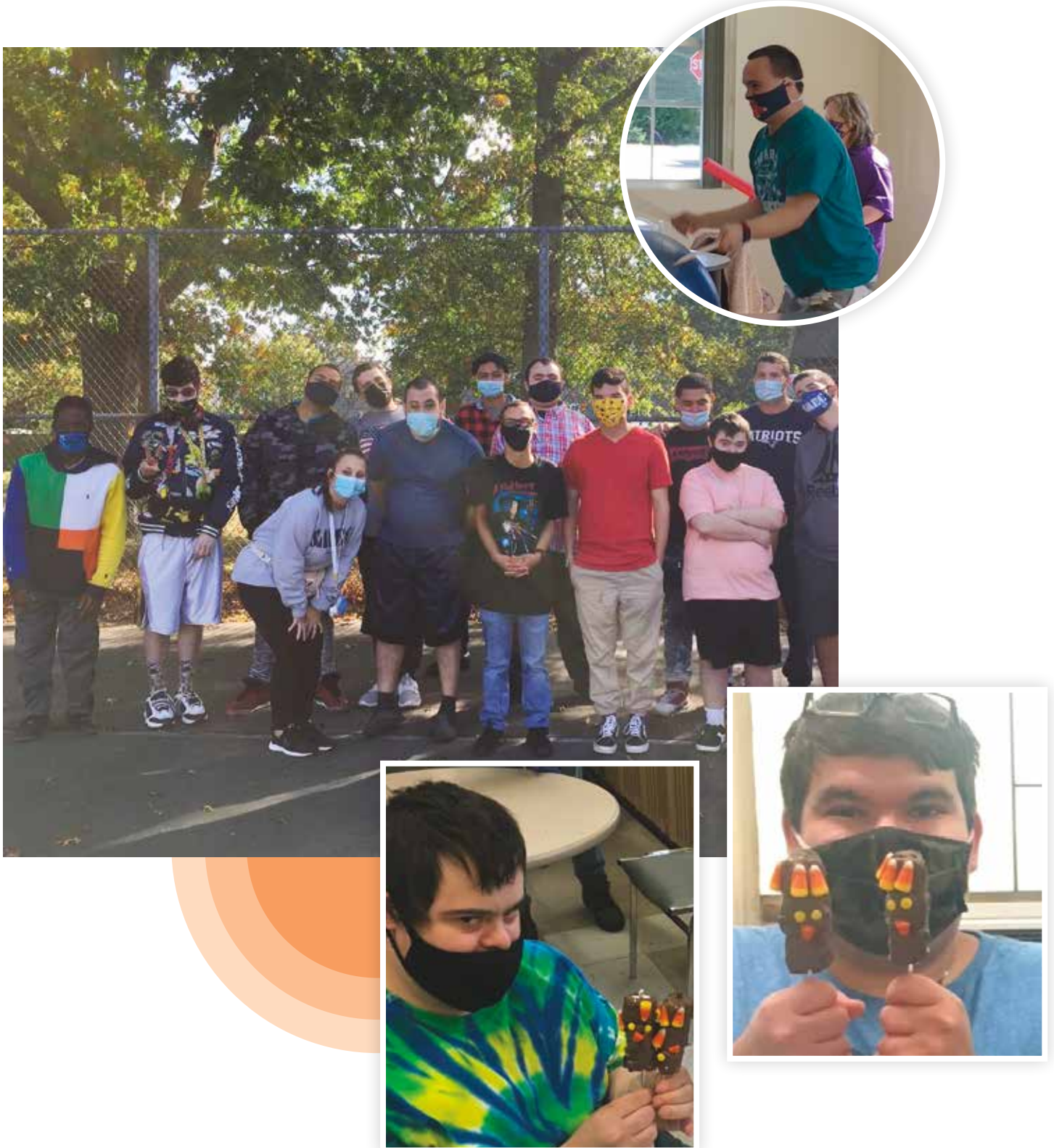
Samantha Demello

Samantha has completed 3 years of being employed at Buffalo Wild Wings. The Employment Department has had the privilege of watching her grow and flourish in her position. Samantha has expressed wanting to work more hours at Buffalo Wild Wings because of how much she enjoys working there. Her coworkers and managers treat her with the utmost respect. Congrats Samantha for your hard work and commitment!

ADH & TSP

ADH and TSP combine programs to do a Guys Group. The men from ADH get to spend time with TSP for some much-needed male bonding and activities. The group meets once a month and is run by Will Hoffman, the TSP Extended Day teacher. This group has been a popular activity at ADH.

Sharon Donovan



PLP - Primary Learning Program

PLP has been engaging in many community outings this fall. We are excited to get back into the swing of things after a long year. The student's have learned about fire safety, life skills, sharing, and ADL's. We hope to have a festive winter!



ADH & TLC

ADH and TLC combine programs once a week to participate in a big Drums Alive group. The TLC staff assists their students with the drumming moves while the ADH staff runs the activity. Both the members and students enjoy playing the drums together. This activity has been a great experience for both programs.

Submitted by Sharon Donovan



MLC—Multidisciplinary Learning Center

Friends and staff at MLC have had a busy Fall! Students had fun with letter of the week and core word activities. Our friends who Zoom from home joined in on some of our fun as well. We worked on letters R, S, T, U, and V along with the core words read, stop, turn, under, and very. For sensory activities, we explored apples and pumpkins by investigating their attributes. Our students had fun using their five senses to investigate many fall objects.

Submitted by Meg Gagnier



T is for turn on Alexa.



U is for under.
Let's Do the Limbo Rock!

V is for volcano!

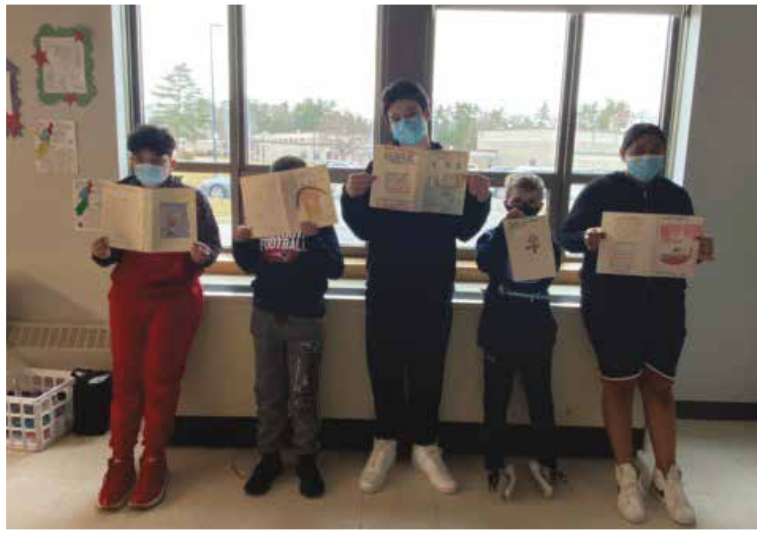


V is for vacuum.

ALC 1

Students have finished reading the novel "Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry. They have participated in a number of activities: defining unfamiliar vocabulary through context clues, answering comprehension and inferential questions, identifying plot elements with an emphasis on character traits and theme. The students ended the unit by designing book covers which included illustrations and plot summaries.

Students have also enjoyed participating in the Zoom art classes and many have chosen to display their work within the classroom.



ISP 1

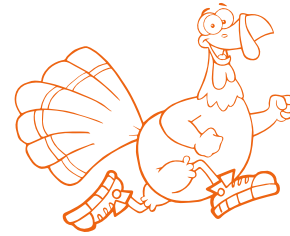
ISP I enjoyed some winter fun! The students were nice and cozy on these cold wintery days, they enjoyed wearing their PJ's and watching a movie. Our students also enjoyed some indoor winter fun. They went to Enchanted Village where they had a blast doing indoor tubing and the polar express mom ride! They all had a great time, their big smiles showed how much fun they had!



TSP

TSP and TLC are collaborating to improve reading and social skills. TSP students have been working with some of our friends at TLC to be more confident in their ability to read. These young men are volunteering their time each week to help foster a love for reading.

Submitted by Jennifer Levasseur



Attention FOS Dance!!

Friends of SMEC will not be having a Dance in March but the good news is that we are looking to hold something for Spring/ Summer!!

For many years, the Greater New Bedford Track Club has hosted the Fairhaven Turkey Trot run on Thanksgiving morning from the historic Tripp School location on Bridge Street in Fairhaven. When SMEC moved into the Tripp School in 2016 we were very happy to continue partnering with the GNBTC to host the Turkey Trot from that location. This year, the GNBTC voted to present SMEC with a check for \$1,000 to use toward our program and student activities. We are very grateful to the GNBTC for their generosity and look forward to many more years of Turkey Trotting!

TLC

This quarter the students at TLC worked hard at their academics and enjoyed going on field trips. In Science they have been learning about weather. They studied many different areas of weather from learning about extreme weather to how to measure it. In math the students worked on multi-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping, then they made their way to multiplication and worked hard at answering problems with breakneck speed. In ELA the students dove into the first two books of The Chronicles of Narnia series and did a character research project at the end, while learning how to build a good paper in writing. In Art they have been working on how to shade and make their pictures come alive on paper. When they were not working on academic projects, the students enjoyed going to Drums Alive, playing basketball, learning about empathy, and working on puzzles during break.

Submitted by Brian McDonald



SMEC has been collecting items for Gifts to Give.

Many of our students and adults volunteer at Gifts to Give throughout the year and they have been longtime supporters of our programs. Thank you to all that contributed to the Holiday Collection.



TLP Spot Light

Students in the Therapeutic Learning Program (TLP) kicked off this school year with some fun hands-on projects while learning about ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Our classroom enjoyed celebrating fall holidays with Halloween festivities, pumpkin painting, and a turkey derby STEM project.

Elizabeth Swible



Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC) and The Old Rochester Regional School District & Superintendency School Union #55 will be offering the next two parts of our “Community Talks” series.

On Thursday February 10, 2022 - starting at 6:00p.m. - Mr. Jon Mattleman will lead a fun and engaging presentation for parents and caregivers called ***“The Secret Lives of Teens and Tweens”***. Mr. Mattleman will focus on what children in these age groups are really thinking, what they fear, why they do not share more, and how adults can effectively support the teens and tweens in their lives. This presentation covers areas such as depression and anxiety, social media and technology, suicide, ‘acting out’ behaviors, drug and alcohol use, and more.

On Thursday, March 10, 2022 - starting at 6:00p.m.- Mr. Mattleman will be back for a continuation of ***“The Secret Lives of Teens and Tweens”***. is excited to offer the next two parts of our “Community Talks” series.

To Register please call Sherri Tetrault @ (508) 998-5599, ex 130.

SAIL Holiday



2021 Virtual SMEC HOLIDAY SHOW!

Special Thank you to Lori-Ann Marie Valiquette for her hard work in planning, organizing, and creating the virtual SMEC Holiday Show. We hope you enjoyed the show.



ALC-2

The ALC-2 program at Dartmouth High School got the year off to a great start! The students worked hard academically, completing two novels, studying cells in Biology (using microscopes and some impressive art talents!), learning about ancient cultures in World History, and tackling difficult algebraic concepts like "system of linear inequalities." The novels they completed were "The Hunger Games" and "To Kill a Mockingbird." They were all very excited that they might be able to earn a trip to the Boston Opera House to see a live performance of To Kill a Mockingbird! I was very impressed with their algebraic skills, even the younger students who have recently moved up here from ALC-1! A teacher's job is always that much easier when the students come in foundationally strong, so kudos to the kids and especially their previous teacher :) They have studied everything that made up the original great civilizations, from Ancient Sumer, to Ancient Egypt, to the dynasties in China to the great civilizations that arose along the Indus River! As a group their attitudes have been great and their efforts good as well. We look forward to getting out for some field trips as winter gives way to spring! - Mr. S.

ISP-2

And just like that its School year 2021-2022 school year. This year we are gearing up for Zakurii's graduation in the spring.

Student's have been hard at work with their academics. We started our ELA class with the book, *The Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison and have just started reading *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. We also started a coding class, which students have picked up remarkably well.

In September, Students were pleasantly surprised when one of our walks to the track ended up with a visit from a helicopter in the field! Ms D's classroom from ORR invited us out to see the State Police's Helicopter sitting in the football field which was part of her community helpers unit.

We've had some field trips this year which included Fort Phoenix, lunch at Red Robin, the Cranberry Bogs at Gillette Stadium with a brief peak at the field.

We are looking forward to a fun filled year. We hope everyone enjoys the upcoming Holiday Season.

