

From the desk of Catherine Cooper, SMEC Executive Director

After a rainy spring, we are finally enjoying some wonderful summer weather. Inside this issue of the Spotlight, you will see a lot of the fun and educational activities that our students and consumers have enjoyed during the end of the school year and the beginning of the summer season.

We had an exciting spring with the opening of our new intensive Early Childhood Program serving students in PK-K at our Acushnet Avenue location. We are also making plans to expand our MLC program to the high school level and continuing our efforts to recruit and hire talented staff members to join our team. Please help us spread the word! SMEC is growing and hiring and is a great place to be!

It is my hope that over the rest of the summer, everyone is able to slow down a bit and enjoy the outdoors, spend time with family and friends and take advantage of everything that summertime is about. We tend to go, go, go all year long and when we finally emerge from the dampness of New England spring, it is time to take in all that our beautiful Southcoast area has to offer.

Be safe, relax a little (or a lot!) and enjoy.

Catherine

What's Inside This Issue



**TSP Students
Wrap Up the
School Year at
Fort Phoenix**



**TSP & ISP II
Students Go To
PROM!**

SAIL Community Program



Throughout the month of July, the SAIL Community Program is learning all about our different heritages! While we celebrated our nation's independence on July 4th, staff worked with individuals all month long to dive deep into the various cultural backgrounds which make our country so interesting and unique. From research groups exploring the histories of other countries, to fun arts and crafts projects with different national flags and their significance, there's been something new and exciting to learn about everyone's country of heritage.

Also in July, SAIL and ADH programs will get together for a day of international sports to show off their skills in soccer, golap tagar, jogo da Malha, and more! No celebration of cultural diversity would be complete without a sampling of favorite dishes from the variety of places we can trace our heritages back to, so we're closing out the month of July with a multinational food court, with dishes from around the world!

As we learn more about both ourselves and our peers, it's easy to appreciate all the wonderful aspects of each other's heritages and how it makes us all better friends through our cultural contrasts and similarities.

ISP I Summer Spotlight



SMEC's ISP I class did a learning walk at Elements Learning Collaborative in Dartmouth. The students learned about different types of weeds, natural remedies, farm systems, and processes. They enjoyed visiting and feeding the animals. They learned the roles of plants and animals on the farm. All students enjoyed the visit and we look forward to going again! Thank you to Elements and Miss Cristy for hosting us!

ISP II: A Heartfelt Thank You for an Amazing School Year



What a great year we had here at ISP II! Our students have enjoyed their academics along with some fun activities and field trips. As we say goodbye to the school year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to SMEC for their unwavering support in helping our students succeed throughout the year.

We are also immensely grateful to our dedicated support staff who work tirelessly with our students; they truly are the best.

Lastly, a big thank you to all the parents for their continuous support and involvement. You truly are a crucial part of our community.

We look forward to another successful year ahead!



TSP & ISP II Students go to PROM!

Our Ocean Waves Prom Night 2024 was a huge success. On June 7th, students from ISP II and TSP got all dressed up and danced the night away. Students had the opportunity to have their hair styled, feasted on a buffet dinner, and were able to show off the dances moves they have been practicing.

Thank you to all of the staff that donated their talents and time to make this night a success!

TSP Spotlight: Outdoor Fun!

TSP students ended the school year with yoga and a cookout at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven. The day started with yoga in the park with Ms. Nikki. Students then ventured to Fort Phoenix and enjoyed a cookout and various games and activities. It was a beautiful day celebrating the end of a school year.

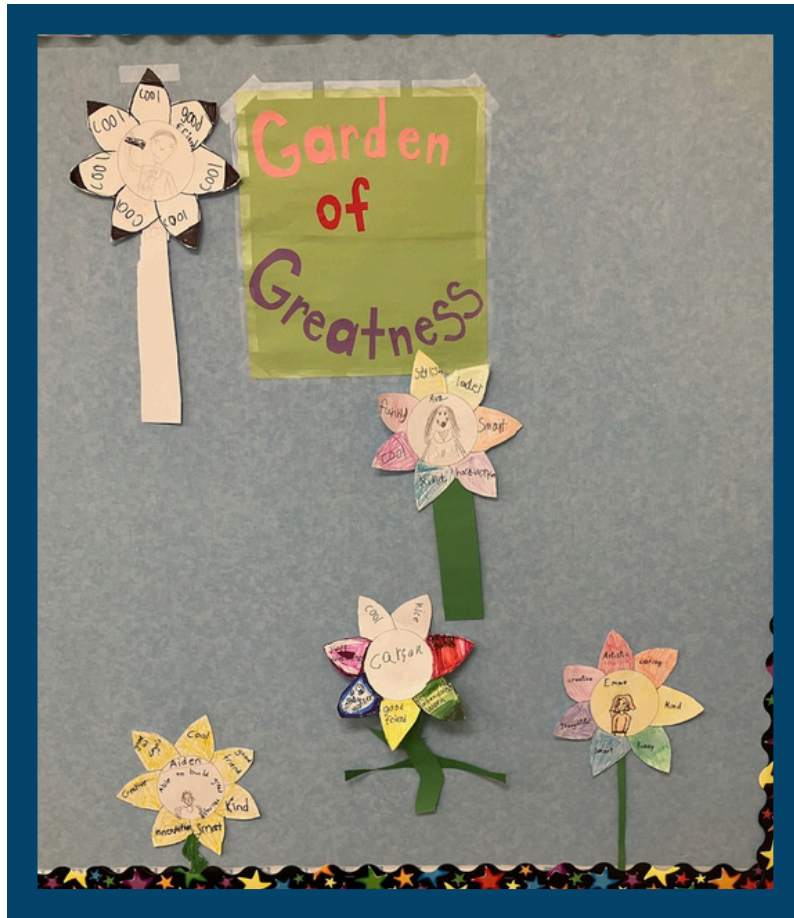




ALC II Volunteers for the Special Olympics

ALC II students volunteered at the most recent Special Olympics. Some students were assigned a classroom and helped the other students in each activity. The students encouraged their group to participate and most times did each activity with them. Afterwards, the ALC II students discussed the Special Olympics and how they felt about the event. Students all agreed that it was not about them but it was about seeing the younger students happy and trying their best!

TLP Garden Counselors



The SMEC Therapeutic Learning Program students created their Flowers for the Garden of Greatness, an activity meant for building self esteem. Students came up with positive words they can use to describe themselves, as well as things that they are good at, make them feel important, and things that make them feel unique and special. Then, they picked their favorite words from the list and added them to the petals of their flowers and decorated their flowers how they chose.

TLC April/May/June Spotlight



Our students learned about the function of ecosystems and energy flow and discovered nature in the environment around our school.



We also read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. We held group discussions, wrote about characters, and created our own chocolate factory. All of our students improved their reading skills and some students increased an entire grade-level.



TLC coordinated activities with other SMEC programs (TSP, MLC) incorporating art, music, sports and practiced our learned social skills. We studied poetry, Asian Pacific American Heritage month, Earth Day, and summer safety. We competed in the Tabor Academy Special Olympics day and all students did a great job! Students also participated in weekly music therapy, art therapy, and social skills groups.

