

# This Month in TDS

## WELCOME BACK!!

As always, we're delighted to welcome back all of our students, their families, and our staff to another year in The Day School and to meet our new students, families, and staff as well.

It's been a busy summer for everyone, and we're sure we have a great school year



## FROM OUR LAND TO IRELAND AN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT



We are excited to announce a joint project with the Foyle View School in Northern Ireland! The students in Ms. Pollard's classroom will meet via video conferences and email with a group of students in the Foyle View school.

This program is designed to raise our students' awareness of themselves and the world around them. It begins with exploration of our own community, and extends outward.

In addition, our students will be encouraged to think about how to communicate their ideas to others using video and text. develop skills in the use of digital photography and video, and meet and become friends with students in another country.

Another major goal of the project is to increase each student's self-awareness through exploration of his or her likes, dislikes, interests, etc., and communicate, share and compare those interests with peers in another country.

Communication will be a major focus of the project, with emphasis on questioning others to get information, providing answers to questions, preparing a "Tourist Brochure" of our area, and developing a broader perspective of "My Town" to share with the students at the Foyle View School. Those students, of course, will do likewise in relationship to their town.

## Amazing Kids, Amazing Place

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**IMPORTANT  
REMINDER!!  
DON'T FORGET  
THE DAY SCHOOL  
OPEN HOUSE  
THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 25,  
6:30 TO 8:00 P.M.**

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## Inservice Days and IEPs

As you'll note from The Day School Calendar, there are two Inservice Days in September.....Friday, September 12th and Friday, September 29th.

These days are set aside to provide time for our classroom teams to begin the process of developing draft IEPs for our students. It's our goal to develop integrated IEPs, and we allow time for our Occupational, Physical, and Speech Language Therapists to meet with classroom teachers to discuss the strengths and needs of our students.

At the IEP meetings, the complete IEP team, including the parents or guardians, school district representatives, and

other attendees will have a draft "starting point" for discussion to create an appropriate program for each of our students. We stress that the goals and objectives our staff bring to the IEP are DRAFTS, and subject to change, additions, deletions, or other modifications by the IEP team.

As one can imagine, dealing with over 60 school districts and families of 178 students can present considerable scheduling challenges. Because many school districts have placed more than one student in The Day School, we make every effort to minimize the number of days school district representatives need to attend meetings here.

It is also of primary importance that meetings be held at a time that is convenient to parents and families.

We appreciate your cooperation and your willingness to keep the appointment scheduled for you unless a change is ABSOLUTELY necessary.

Every change requested by a family requires multiple changes in schedules of teachers, therapists, school district representatives, and The Day School administrators. These changes can also interfere with therapies for students, so we appreciate your help in keeping them to a minimum.

## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION ANNUAL PICNIC

Save the date! This year, the annual PTO Family Picnic will be on Sunday, September 21. As always, we can expect good food, interesting entertainment, and an exciting selection of auction items.

The picnic will be held in The Children's Institute Main Dining Room from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m..

Watch for more details from the PTO!



### SCHOOL PICTURES DATES SET!

The PTO has arranged for this year's school pictures to be taken on Monday and Tuesday, September 22 and 23.

Watch for more information to come from your child's classroom teacher.

### View This Calendar Online!

For those of you who prefer to read this monthly newsletter in color, it is available online on The Children's Institute website, [www.amazingkids.org](http://www.amazingkids.org). Simply visit the site, click on the "Day School" banner, and click "The Day School Newsletter."

### PTO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH

The Day School at The Children's Institute Parent Teacher Organization Board Meets this month on Tuesday, September 9th, at 1:00 p.m.

Remember that all parents are welcome, and members present may vote on whatever issues come before the PTO Board at the meeting.

### EDUCATING OUR STAFF

This summer has been particularly busy for our staff in terms of continuing education. We had over 15 staff members attend the National Autism Conference at Penn State in August! In addition, during this year's first week of inservice training, we've offered training in Tube Feeding, Response to Seizures, Feeding, Lifting, Positioning, CPR, First Aid, Positive Behavior Support, and more!