

RSS MONTHLY NEWS

May, 2012



By this time of the year, we are all eager for some summer warmth, spring flowers, and the opportunity to work in our gardens. And we start counting down the days till the end of the year. But before the year ends, we have a lot of important work to do and a lot of fun activities to enjoy. Check out the calendar for May for just a few of our events and check out the rest of the newsletter for more information.



Calendar Notes for May:

May 2 – ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously); Staff Meeting
May 5 – Cinco de Mayo
May 11 – Walk-A-Thon
May 13 – Mother’s Day
May 18 – Talent Show
May 25 – Prom
May 28 – Memorial Day (no school)



From the Speech-Language Corner...

Mary Alice will be conducting hearing screenings for staff members on May 23rd from 1:30-2:30 in recognition of Better Speech and Hearing Month.



Autism Awareness Videos

As we move away from April and Autism Awareness Month, we don’t want to move on without noting some of the incredible videos online relating to autism and other spectrum disabilities. Check out just these few examples of the many that are online.

Autism Every Day

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDMMwG7RrFQ>

The 7-minute version of this famous and controversial video from Autism Speaks.

Temple Grandin – The World Needs All Kinds of Minds

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/temple_grandin_the_world_needs_all_kinds_of_minds.html

Temple's talk at the TED Conference filmed in February, 2010.

Autism Reality

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLOCYubVc7g>

A 10-minute documentary about autism and Asperger's by a film director who has Asperger's Syndrome.

Daniel Tammet - The Boy With The Incredible Brain - part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbASOqcq1Ss>

Part 1 of a 5-part series on YouTube taken from the British documentary about Daniel Tammet and others with savant abilities.

Documentary About Asperger's Syndrome

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfWfsop1e0>

A short documentary about one man with Asperger's syndrome which was shown on television in 2005.

The Woman Who Thinks Like A Cow - part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46ycu3JFRrA>

From 2006, this 10-minute video is just the first of a 6-part series on YouTube taken from a BBC documentary about Temple Grandin.



Autism Websites and Blogs

One fun part of Autism Awareness Month was the opportunity to explore blogs and websites that we had not seen before. You may be familiar with some of these, but some may be new to you, too!

Autism After 16 < <http://www.autismafter16.com/> >

A great site for issues related to transition, postsecondary opportunities, housing, health issues, some great life skills issues, etc....and all about adults on the autism spectrum. So if you or a member of your family is older and on the spectrum, this can be a very helpful site.

Disability Scoop < <http://www.disabilityscoop.com/> >

This is a site that gathers disability news from all kinds of sources and puts it together in one spot. This is about all disabilities, not autism specific. But there is an "autism" tab on the page that will take you to a gathering of all the latest news about autism.

Look Me In The Eye < <http://jrobison.blogspot.com/> >

The blog for John Elder Robison. It contains all of his blog postings plus links to his books, research sites, and other autism spectrum sites.

Thinking Person's Guide to Autism < <http://thinkingautismguide.blogspot.com/> >

A blog that features a wide variety of guest posters....professionals, parents, and individuals with autism.

If you haven't checked out these three, give them a try!



iPad Support

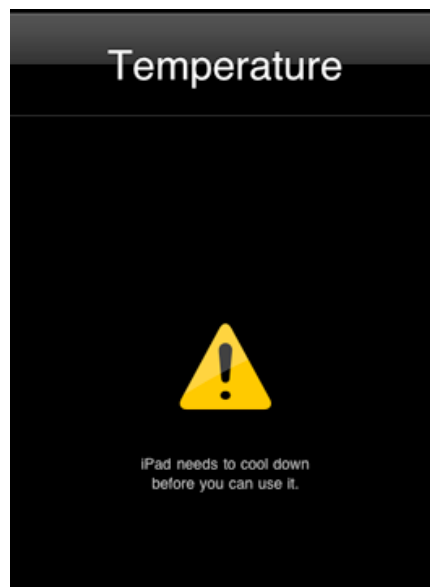
More and more of our staff and students have iPads at home. And the evidence continues to grow showing some of the successes of using the iPad for individuals with disabilities. But there is much to learn! So here are a couple of tips for this month...

We all know we can swipe the screen to move to the next screen or tap an icon to open an app. But there are so many variations and options to the gestures you can make on the iPad. For example, are you familiar with the five-finger pinch? Or the three different variations of the four-finger swipe? Or how about the slow zoom using the three-finger slide? For instructions on all of these, check out these two sites...

<http://gigaom.com/apple/how-to-use-ipad-multitasking-gestures-and-why-you-should/>

<http://apple-ipad-tablet-help.blogspot.com/2010/03/zoom-in-ipad.html>

The other tip for this month is about temperature. And no, I'm not talking about the rumored overheating of the new iPad. That issue seems to have died down in the news and to not be a real problem. However all iPads can run the risk of overheating. This can happen if you leave your iPad in the car on a hot day or if you use it in direct sunlight for extended periods of time on a really hot day. If your iPad starts to overheat, you may experience a number of issues such as the screen dimming, the cell signal weakening, etc. And you might get this warning on the screen...



If you experience any of these symptoms, turn your iPad off and give it time to cool. For more information on overheating issues, visit < http://support.apple.com/kb/HT2101?viewlocale=en_US&locale=en_US >



River Street Events

April was a busy month at River Street! We had Colorful Shirt Day, the Autism Walk, Sports Team Day, a visit from the clowns from Barnum & Bailey, and much more! If you haven't checked out the **eight** new photos albums on our Facebook page, go take a look!

< <http://www.facebook.com/pages/River-Street-School/236658113792> >



The RSS Monthly News Team