



Monthly Moments-October 2019

Campbell Library's Newest Volunteers

Providing our students with meaningful opportunities to foster independence is an important component of Morgan Autism Center's programming. One way we do this is by teaching vocational skills. Recently, two of our students were given the opportunity to apply their skills in an important community setting. Twice a month, they travel to the Campbell Library via light rail where they perform tasks alongside librarians. They clean books that have been returned and prepare them for re-shelving. While they visit, the librarians teach them other skills such as how to take care of books and where to put them once they are finished reading. Through partnerships like this, our students are able to learn valuable skills that will help them be more independent and participate in the community.



Field Day, Friendships and Fun!

For over 30 years, Morgan Autism Center has developed many partnerships with local private schools as part of our reverse mainstreaming program. Students from these private schools come visit with us and the interactions are unique and inspiring. Our students are given the opportunity to interact with neurotypical peers while the other students learn about differences and acceptance.

Recently, one of these schools, The Girls Middle School in Palo Alto, organized a fun Field Day for our students complete with face painting, an obstacle course, photo booth, and handmade snow cones. Through these activities and interactions, our



students had the opportunity to practice important skills such as communication by requesting their preferred snow cone flavor or colored balloon they wanted painted on their face.

Our students had a great time playing games with their peers and making new friends.



We are so thankful to The Girls Middle School for planning such a fun day and for creating a culture of acceptance.

Meaningful Moment Between a Mother and Son

Meet Gavin. Like all of our students, Gavin has a variety of functional goals he works on throughout the year. One of these goals is to write letters and deliver them to the mailbox at school. His letters usually go to a favorite staff member, but on one particular day, he wanted to write to his mom. His teacher, Claudine, took a photo of his note and sent it to her. It read, "Dere Momy, I want to play." Gavin's mom, Vanessa, was thrilled to receive the note and wrote back so Gavin would know she was thinking of him, too. She wrote, "Dear Gavin, I want to play too! Let's get balloons! Love, Mommy."

That following weekend, Gavin and Vanessa went to a birthday party where they played and even went out to buy balloons. We are thrilled when our students initiate communication with meaningful partners, especially family. We know our families experience so much joy out of these little, but all-important moments.



Halloween 2019

