

December 2021

Hello Mac Families. This month, we are dedicating our newsletter in honor of Moshe, our MAC student who passed away in October.



A note from Moshe's family:

Moshe was a very happy, loving teenager. He loved Baby Einstein, Thomas the Train and his iPad. Moshe was like a fish in the water and so fond of the pool and jacuzzi. We have many lovely memories, how he enjoyed playing in the water.

Three years ago, Moshe developed tonic clonic seizures. Please be aware that up to 30% of kids on the spectrum will develop seizures/epilepsy in their lifetime. It often occurs with onset of puberty. When your loved one develops seizures, they have to be under constant supervision around any water source! Bathtubs, jacuzzi, pool, ocean or lakes can become a drowning hazard.

When Moshe passed away, we got an immense comfort in the fact that we were able to donate his tissue, bones, vessels, heart valves and cornea. It will help up to 75 people to live a normal life again. Moshe was a trooper, we donated his brain to Autism Research and it will help to shed light on autism.

Thank you again, for all of the outpouring love and kindness. It gave us so much comfort during this difficult time in our life. Moshe was truly loved. We will be eternally grateful that we could enjoy him for nearly 16 years.

We love you Moshe.

Papa, Mama and Joshua

Parent Group Meetings

Our staff appreciation catered events have been a great success. In September, your staff appreciation donations were used to provide a fruit/salad bar lunch for staff. We also provided a barista for the month of October, as well as a catered Thankful Soups lunch for the month of November.

Your family donations were able to cover the cost of these events. Catered lunches have typically run at approximately \$2000 and barista events usually cost roughly \$500.

Please remember that families can provide donations for staff appreciation by sending a check to the office or by using the school donation link and specifying "Staff Appreciation" in the Gift Notes section.

<https://morgancenter.org/donate-bay-area-morgan-autism-center/>

Parent group meetings will continue to be held via zoom, until further notice. This will also be due to efforts to minimize outside covid contact. We look forward to having in-person parent group meetings again in the future.

Starting in January, we will begin utilizing room parents for parent communication and outreach. These designated individuals will also reach out to new families to provide welcoming and support. We are seeking a single volunteer from each classroom to be the designated "classroom parent." Please contact your classroom teacher if you would like to volunteer as the designated parent.

All parents and caregivers are invited to join our Facebook Parent Group, if they have not already done so. To join, search for "MAC Parents/Primary Caregiver Group."

Event Calendar

Parent Group Meetings

Date	Time	Location
Wed, Feb 2	9:30AM	Zoom
Wed Apr 6	9:30AM	TBD
Wed Jun 1	9:30AM	TBD

Staff Appreciation Events

Date	Event	Family Contributions
Wed Dec 15	Barista	Donations Welcome
Wed Jan 19	Pasta & Salads	Donations Welcome
Wed Feb 16	Salads & Sweets	Donations Welcome
Wed Mar 16	Baked Potato Bar	Donations Welcome
Wed Apr 13	Barista	Donations Welcome
Wed May 18	Burrito Bar	Donations Welcome
Wed Jun 22	Barista	Donations Welcome

**Events subject to change*

School Fundraisers

Date	Event	Family Contributions
May 7, 2022	Starry Night	Committee Volunteers, event attendance, referring potential sponsors, donations

Spotlights

Staff Spotlight



Jamilah Miller has made an incredibly positive impact on my son Gavin's life during the short time he's been in her class. He transitioned into her class when returning from 'shelter in place' in April 2021, and has accomplished something I never thought I'd witness - she helped him learn how to wait his turn! Waiting for anything has been a struggle for Gavin, especially if it's something he really wants. She worked closely with him for months on this, and did so using activities he enjoys such as sports and outdoor games.

One recent weekend afternoon while we were swimming, he jumped out of the water and ran towards the line of kids waiting for the diving board. I knew what was going to happen - he'd cut in front of the line unless I got there first and redirected him to wait at the end of the line.

But this time was different - he went to the back of the line and waited!

I owe this to Jamilah and her months of working with Gavin on waiting for 'your turn'.

Jamilah's concern for the well-being of the children in her class goes far beyond anything I've ever experienced at any other school. There was an issue with bus transportation when our school districts changed from middle to high school this fall, and Gavin was left stranded at school without a bus ride. Jamilah offered to drive him back to his group home! To say I felt relieved and grateful to Jamilah for this incredible act of kindness understates the positive impact she has had on my son and everyone who is blessed to know her. To know that my son is safe, supported, and loved so much every day that he goes to school is on the short list of things I'm most grateful for in my life.

Thank you Jamilah! You are truly a wonderful teacher and overall human!

Student spotlight

We are asking that parents/staff highlight kind or noteworthy staff comments, actions, or accomplishments. Please send your short (1-4 sentence) staff spotlight suggestions to us at macparentsgroup@gmail.com.

Game Corner

Word Search

Y L F V L A K H H K
C X Z T C K L O H H
D R Q A H W O L F A
E O V M R A M I A N
C W S V I N I D M U
E Z B N S Z S A I K
M A X S T A O Y L K
B A N N M A K S Y A
E H W O A B A F P H
R B Q W S X F E S X

christmas
omisoka

hanukkah
kwanzaa

december
family

holidays
snow

In Memory of Moshe



In Loving Memory

Moshe William Zhengkao Ren

November 9, 2005 - October 24, 2021

Just close your eyes,

The sun is going down

You'll be alright,

No one can hurt you now

Come morning light,

You will be safe and sound.