



THE

MIDLAND

MONTHLY

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Holiday Express was back to share the joy of the season with our students and staff. Everyone gathered in the multi-purpose room to watch an hour long video of music and everyone was able to get up and dance, clap and sing along. It made our students so happy to also receive a generous gift bag from Holiday Express. Thank you for bringing the holiday spirit, smiles and fun to Midland.



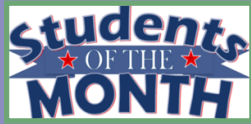
School News

The multi-purpose room was lit up with smiles during the socially distanced Holiday Express virtual show! Everyone was feeling the spirit dressed up in holiday attire and showing their school pride for School Spirit Day!

Holiday School Spirit Day!



The Choice is Yours



**The December Social Skills theme is:
Understanding/Expressing Emotions Appropriately**

209 – Gavin

217 – Keyla

218 – Astrid

219 – Andrew

220 – John



The January Social Skills theme is: Being a Good Friend & Showing Kindness

School News



Please join us in welcoming Thomas and his family to Midland! Thomas will be joining Room 510.

Please join us in welcoming Bianca and her family to Midland! Bianca will be joining Room 219.

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.”
On December 17th, that is exactly what the choir members did during the Holiday Concert.



- 1 Jingle Bells (1:46)
Solos: Maddie, Astrid, Blake, Sean A., Jessie
- 2 When Will the Holidays come? (2:05)
Solos: CJ, Cameron, Aneta
- 3 Deck the halls (2:16)
Solos: Isalah, Elaina, Connor, Isabella
- 4 Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel (1: 45)
Solos: Andrew
- 5 Silent Night (3)
Solos: Sean C., Diana
- 6 Santa Claus is coming to town (2 min)
Solos: Sadhika, Aidan B., Shaylesc, Bella
- 7 12 days of Christmas with the Speech Department



Santa's arrival lights up smiles after the chorus finished singing "Santa Claus is coming to town".

LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Midland School is presenting a Learning Institute and you are invited:

Medicaid, SSI and Other Important Entitlements

Presented by: Paul Prior, Esquire
Hinkle Prior & Fischer, P.C.

When: Monday, January 10, 2022
6:30—8:00 P.M.

Where: Live Virtual Webinar via Zoom
(Register by the link below*)

Attaining eligibility for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and Medicaid is important as your child turns 18 and is critical in qualifying for adult services and programming. In addition, there are other supports to which you are entitled that may not be readily evident. Being aware of available services and navigating the steps to gain them can be a challenge. This workshop will orient you in detail to these various government resources and guide you as to how to get them.

*If you plan to attend this very informative event, please register in advance by this link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlceisqzMrEtCOwJwA85aSatI90c9A0Jjb>

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you on January 10th! Hopefully this will be a great way to start the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Tom Enos
School Psychologist
enos@midlandnj.org
(908) 722-8222 x111



“Shaylese is a helpful, loving, and a caring young woman,” her family shares. “We are so proud to see how far she has come since attending Midland. She is learning to master so many skills and has grown into such a positive and happy person,” they add.

Shaylese joined Midland in 2013 at the age of nine. In addition to working on prevocational activities such as sorting, assembling and packaging items, Shaylese enjoys Midland’s Girl Scouts and the Milers program.

She also participates in so many wonderful community activities such as Top Soccer, Special Olympics, being a mascot for her sister’s sports teams and therapeutic riding at Centenary “TRAC”. She is so close to reaching her goal of riding off lead and trotting independently.

“We all face challenges in settings outside the home, but we have always taken Shaylese with us wherever we had to go. Because of this, Shaylese is comfortable in different settings and learned appropriate social expectations,” her family adds.

“Shaylese sense of humor keeps us smiling,” shares her classroom teacher, Mrs. Smith. “She has made great progress attending to tasks, voluntarily helping her peers and engaging in conversations with peers and adults. She even loves to celebrate various occasions and initiates making ‘I miss you cards’ for those absent for the day. She is mindful of others all the time and displays a sweet disposition.”

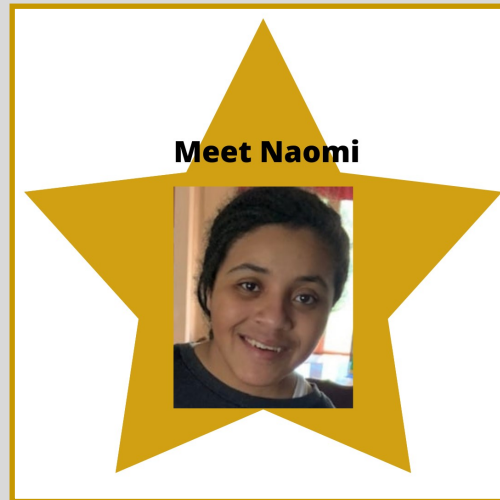
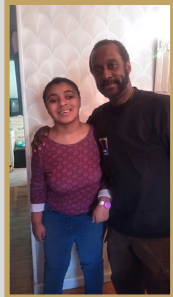
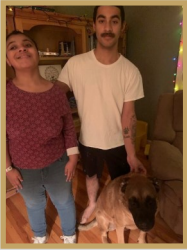
“Shaylese is an enthusiastic and hard worker,” says her Occupational Therapist, Mrs. Munro. It makes me happy to see how motivated she is to practice new skills and to complete her work. She continues to show improvement in her keyboarding and scissor skills. Her independent and activities of daily living skills are one of her strengths”.

“I love working with Shaylese!” says her Speech Therapist, Mrs. Casucci. “She is so fun and works hard. I have seen her grow into a thoughtful and kind young woman”.

“It is a joy to have Shaylese in class and we love having her here at Midland,” adds Mrs. Smith.



Shining Star Student



“Naomi has a smile that can light up a room. She is happy to be back in school,” says her teacher, Mrs. Tauscher. Naomi loves being with her friends and teachers as a Super Senior. Naomi started at Midland in 2009 at the age of nine.

“Since the pandemic began, Naomi has surprised me at how well she has adapted to at home learning,” adds her mother. “What I thought was going to be a nightmare has turned out to be a turning point in our relationship it was wonderful to see for myself how happy Naomi is while interacting with her teachers and therapists. I really am thankful that a challenging situation during the pandemic resulted in a positive outcome.”

Her physical therapist, Daniel Villavicencio remembers the first time Naomi didn't want to walk up the stairs. “She stared at me blankly, so I said ‘wait a second, are you tired?’ She cracked up laughing. We struck a deal from that point on to keep her motivated. Naomi is a negotiator. She clearly communicates when she doesn't want to do something, and always accepts a fair deal. She gets a kick out of her bargains and holds her end of the deal. Her sense of humor is refreshing. She really is an amazing person.”

“Naomi loves to dance and shake her musical instruments when we march during her sessions in OT, says her therapist Suzanne DeGerolamo. “Music, praise and silliness is motivating to help show Naomi's true colors.”

“Naomi enjoys participating with her class in many group activities,” adds Mrs. Tauscher. “She is eager to assist the classroom aide after lunch to get everyone in line for their specials. We are all proud of Naomi!”

Celebrations!



Students

Catherine
Brandon
Lauren
Aidan
Salvatore
Marco
Holden

Staff

Mr. Sweetman
Mrs. Argiro
Mrs. England
Mrs. Serrano
Mrs. Renz
Ms. Stram
Mrs. Wettstein
Mrs. McCarthy
Ms. Chiu
Mr. Layton



Midland BCBA

Premack Principle

“Grandma’s Rule”

In the field of Applied Behavior Analysis, the Premack Principle is used to increase the probability that individuals will complete undesired/difficult tasks by providing reinforcement after the undesired/difficult task is complete. Another name for this strategy is called “First/Then”. The most popular example used to explain this strategy involves eating your veggies in order to get dessert. More examples include:

“First take out the trash, then you can watch TV.”

“First make your bed, then you can go outside.”

“First brush your teeth, then I’ll read you a book.”

One of the most important aspects of the Premack Principle is following through with the undesired/difficult task and withholding reinforcement until the task is complete. At times, it can be very difficult to follow through, especially when aggressive behaviors occur. It’s important to work with a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to implement this strategy correctly and safely. The example below demonstrates how important it is to follow through in order to decrease problem behavior and increase desired behavior in the future.

Premack Principle
"Grandma's Rule"

Premack Principle occurs when a preferred activity is used as reinforcement for a non-preferred activity.

First
LOW-probability behavior
OR
Something that the child **NEEDS** to do.

Then
HIGH-probability behavior
OR
Something the child **LIKES** to do.

The use of Premack Principle or "first/then" language increases motivation and establishes the contingency that reinforcement is available following engagement in a non-preferred activity.

"First eat your veggies, then you can have a cupcake."

First (broccoli icon) **Then** (cupcake icon)

NOTE: Ensure that the high-probability (preferred) behavior remains reinforcing by restricting access to the item or activity.

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Kathy and her family are about to sit down for dinner. Kathy asks her mom if she can have a cookie. Kathy's mom says "First eat your dinner, then you can have a cookie." Kathy yells "BUT I DON'T LIKE BROCCOLI AND YOU KNOW IT! CAN'T I JUST EAT THE CHICKEN?" Kathy's mom says, "No, you have to eat all of your chicken and all of your broccoli before you get a cookie." Kathy begins to scream, cry and throws her drink on the floor. At first, Kathy's mom stands her ground and reminds Kathy that if she wants a cookie she has to eat all of her dinner. Kathy continues to scream and cry. Kathy's little sister, Jackie, starts to get upset because of Kathy's screaming. Kathy's mom has had enough and says to Kathy, "FINE! STOP CRYING AND JUST FINISH YOUR CHICKEN, THEN YOU CAN HAVE A COOKIE!" Kathy stops crying, finishes her chicken and receives a cookie.

The next night, Kathy's mom tries to use the same approach to get Kathy to eat her green beans, but Kathy screams, cries and throws a green bean at her....

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 3rd

School Re-opens

January 11th

**“Scarf Day”
(Help kick-off the annual Student
Council service project)**

January 17th

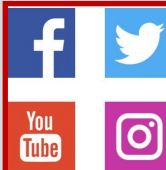
**School closed
Martin Luther Kind Day**



**SNOW much to
learn this winter!**

Check us out on social media and subscribe today! We will share news, feature some exciting school activities and communicate events.

Facebook: @The Midland School



Twitter: @MidlandMessages

YouTube: Midland NJ

Instagram: Miland_School_NJ