

Summer 2010



The Vista Outlook

2010 Vista Golf Tournament a huge success!

Thank you to all who participated in the 2010 Vista Golf Tournament, held Saturday, May 22, 2010 at the Manada Golf Course in Grantville. 228 golfers played over the course of the full-day event, which was supported by countless sponsors and volunteers from the Vista community.

While the PTO's Finance Committee and Golf Tournament Committee are still crunching the numbers, early estimates indicate that the event generated approximately \$19,000. Profits from the tournament will be allocated for the school's use by the Vista PTO Executive Board at its next meeting on June 17, 2010.

Thanks to all Vista families, staff and friends who made this event a huge success!

Planning for the 2011 tournament will begin this Fall. Contact Tournament Chair, Amy Hudson, at 717-540-9239 or alhudson01@verizon.net for more information.

ESY Picnic

July 28th

Hoffer Park

Middletown, PA

12:00—2:00



Make-up Days

Who can forget the Vista flood of 2010?



This emergency event put to test our staff's emergency response skills (which were, of course, fantastic), the usefulness of the One Call Now alert system, and even rallied together emergency response services from the Hershey, Palmyra, and Campbelltown Fire Companies. To say the least, it was an exciting morning and an event that led to Vista students missing 3 days of school. All parents should have received a revised school calendar via backpack mail and it is also available on our website at www.thevistaschool.org. For an at-a-glance rundown take a look below.

Thursday, June 17 = full student day

Friday, June 18 = no students/staff in-service

Monday, June 21 thru Wednesday, June 23 = full students days

Thursday, June 24 thru Friday, July 2 = summer break

Monday, July 5 = first day of ESY

Growing our Funds...

The Vista PTO sponsors several easy fundraisers that benefit staff and students alike and all are encouraged to participate. Check these out:

- ☑ Ink Cartridge & Cell Phone Recycling Program—send your depleted ink cartridges and old cell phones to Vista to be recycled and the school will earn money—Coordinator Becky Huhn: 717-560-2199 or k_huhn@msn.com
- ☑ Boxtops for Education—clip Boxtops for Education coupons from any General Mills products and send those coupons into school—Coordinator Carole DeInnocentiis: 610-670-6423 or deinnopa@msn.com
- ☑ Giant Gift Cards—purchase your groceries at Giant using gift cards purchased through Vista and our school earns cash. Contact Sabrina at 717-835-0310 or sbodmer@thevistaschool.org

2010-2011 PTO Officers

President

Beth Fine
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bethcfine@verizon.net

Vice President

Libby Ogden
717-503-1245
rscooner@aol.com

Treasurer

Helena Colon
717-469-4265
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Secretary

Diane Powell
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Administrative Representative

Kirsten Yurich
717-835-0310
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- ☑ Giant A+ Rewards Program—this program has ended for the current school year and Vista will be receiving a check in the amount of \$2,060 from Giant. Registration forms for the 2010-2011 school year will be sent home in September—Coordinator Beth Fine: 717-975-0459 or bethcfine@verizon.net



Yummy gluten-free
recipe on page 4!

About the PTO...

The purpose of the Vista PTO is to foster a sense of support, pride, and enthusiasm among the Vista community. The PTO uses fundraising activities, such as The Vista School Golf Tournament, as well as by encouraging volunteerism and sponsoring student, staff, and family activities such as the ESY picnic.

All families and staff are members of the Vista PTO and are permitted to attend the two general annual meetings each year; one in September and one in May (at which election of officers is conducted).

The work of the PTO is coordinated by its officers and board members, supported by the general membership. The PTO Board meets monthly—this is an open meeting to which all PTO members are invited.

Fostering Green Thumbs!

Several area businesses have donated plants to The Vista School for our students to establish a garden on the grounds as a leisure activity. Many thanks to Stauffer's of Kissel Hill and Highland Gardens for donating flowering plants and to Ashcombe's for contributing flats of vegetables to be planted on the school grounds.



Thank you Vista Staff

Thank you to all of the Vista staff members who provided child care for our students and their siblings so that parents could enjoy an afternoon of respite on May 1st, sponsored by the Vista PTO.

Vista staff providing care to 27 of our children were Kristen Basehore, Jennie Baumgardner, Stefanie Chmiel, Dane Ganse, Brittany Kater, Michelle Kratz, Rebecca Mazzara, Kristen Miller, Trish Naughton, Kate Neiswender, Joel & Jasmine Perez, Mandy Pryzblowski, Jocelyn Toothman, Rob Weimer, Megan Young, and Jessica Zenz.

Many thanks to all who gave of their time on a beautiful Saturday afternoon to give our parents a break!

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Did you Know?



The Vista School celebrated its 8th birthday on February 4, 2010!!! It was only 8 years ago that we opened our doors to our first 4 students in a one-room school in the Hershey area. Today, Vista serves 63 students from multiple communities across Central PA.

VISTA HAS A ROYAL FAMILY!

Recently, in preparation for a super-charged Vista Spirit Day, Vista staff were asked to nominate their favorite choices to hold the royal titles of King and Queen of Spirit! Many were nominated and the voting was close but one male and one female staff reigned supreme.

KING CHAD



QUEEN FLO



The first day of a new school year is always an exciting time for parents, students and staff. This fall we will have 10 times the excitement +1. That's right! Vista is still growing and we'll be adding another classroom this 2010-2011 school year. This will bring us up to a total of 11 fabulous classrooms, serving 68 students! We couldn't be happier to welcome our new students and parents into the Vista familial fold in August. Don't forget, the first day of the new school year is Thursday, August 26th.

FYI!

School swimming outings
Friday, July 16th, 23rd, and 30th.
Save the dates!



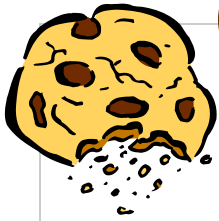
Summer Therapeutic Activities Program

Vista's STAP is designed for individuals with higher functioning forms of autism, who need to improve pro-social behavior when interacting with adults, peers, or while keeping themselves appropriately occupied but who have the language and self-regulation skills to respond to small group instructional models. This program, as with Vista's school program, also utilizes Applied Behavior Analysis as its philosophical foundation. Vista's STAP program, which serves adolescents (non-Vista students) between the ages 13-21 was created in response to an identified community need related to a growing population of adolescents on the autism spectrum.

Vista's STAP program, which is in its 3rd year, will run from July 12th through August 20th, with a break the week of August 2 for the National Autism Conference in State College, PA. During the 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. instructional day, students will participate in large group activities such as cooking and sports, as well as drama games, problem solving & social skills activities, field trips and creating individual yearbooks. The location of this year's camp will be at the Chambers Hill United Methodist Church in Harrisburg.

Vista's STAP is supervised by Kendra Peacock, and partially staffed by Autism Itinerant Support staff from our Outreach program.

Wednesday, July 28th * ESY Picnic * Hoffer Park



Cashew & Peanut Butter Cookies

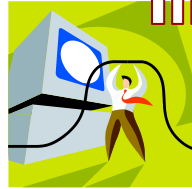
Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup salted natural peanut butter
- 1/4 cup cashew butter
- 1/2 cup gluten-free casein-free margarine
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 cup corn flour (not cornmeal)
- 1/2 cup tapioca flour
- 1/4 cup potato flour

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° degrees. In a medium bowl, mix together the margarine, sugars, and egg until smooth. Stir in the peanut butter, and cashew butter. Combine the baking soda, corn flour, tapioca flour, and potato flour; stir into the batter to form a dough. Roll the dough into teaspoon sized balls and place them 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes in preheated oven. Allow to cool for several minutes before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

This and other gluten-free recipes are available at www.allrecipes.com



Information Systems News at Vista

In our ongoing effort to enhance our experience for our students and staff alike, we are pleased to announce the arrival of James Koons, Vista's new Information Systems Administrator. James will be adding immediate value to our organization by maintaining and improving our technology system integrity, advancing our website and public domains, identifying and developing new applications and hardware/software solutions, training and educating staff, and teaming with Vista leadership (from a technology perspective) to support our strategic vision.

James brings to Vista a wealth of Information Systems knowledge and experience. His 20-year Information Technology journey officially began while stationed in Stuttgart, Germany with the United States Army, followed by several years of IT support for Lufthansa and RyanAir, and their customers across Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

Upon returning to the United States in 2001, James applied his considerable skills supporting and leading Information Technology efforts for such organizations as Staples, Ross Stores, Unisys, Amazon.com, Bath Saver, and Full Circle Solutions Group in Elizabethtown, PA. He is also an adjunct instructor of Information Technology for Kaplan University in Harrisburg, PA.

Thanks to everyone for their patience and understanding during our exhaustive search process. Please find an opportunity to meet James and officially welcome him to Vista. ~~~Rod McAllister

We thank you!

Many thanks to the Vista PTO for the delicious, catered luncheon on Friday, May 28th. Your continued support and outward displays of appreciation for the Vista staff are terrific reminders of how lucky we are to be part of the Vista family. WE LOVE OUR PTO!



ESY Picnic

Vista families and staff are invited to the ESY Picnic at Hoffer Park in Middletown. This year's picnic is scheduled from noon until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28th.

Hot dogs and drinks will be provided by the Vista PTO. Families are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

Directions to Hoffer Park and more details about this event will be forthcoming in student backpacks closer to the date. If you'd like more information, please contact Beth Fine at bethfine@verizon.net or 717-975-0459.

Hope to see you there!



Family Fun at the Movies!

The AMC theater at 5114 Jonestown Rd. in Harrisburg has begun to offer sensory-friendly showings of movies for autistic children and others who have difficulty with loud environments. At these showings, the volume is kept low and the lights are only partially dimmed. Families are permitted to bring their own snacks. All shows are Saturdays at 10 a.m. and the cost is \$4 per person. See below for upcoming movies and dates.

June 26th — Toy Story 3

July 17th — Despicable Me

August 7th — Cats and Dogs 2

September 25 — Guardian Gahooli

October 9th — Zookeeper

