

ds schoolpress



Mason Heights Elementary School has received the DSAGC 2009 Education Award.

In 2009, the DSAGC recognized **MHES** for their inclusive educational practices. The selection committee believed that this school went beyond merely placing children with disabilities in a general education classroom. They embraced each child's contribution and valued the uniqueness that each learner brings to the classroom. Mason Heights has demonstrated committed leadership, supportive culture, engaging and relevant curriculum and responsive instruction. They have created an environment in which every student, including those who do not have disabilities, has the opportunity to flourish. **Principal Eric Messer** made this comment about the classroom of third grade teacher, **Shannon Vasconcellos**, "Shannon is always going above and beyond when it comes to serving our students with special needs. Shannon creates a warm, caring atmosphere where all children feel welcomed. Shannon's classroom is a room of respect, tolerance and a sense of community. Shannon is a leader and is passionate about what she does and believes." Mason Heights Elementary serves half of Mason City Schools' second and third graders. The Mason Heights staff is committed to the maximum educational success of students by recognizing and providing for their academic and developmental individuality.



Nominate your school for the DSAGC 2010 Education Award!

DSAGC EDUCATION AWARD

If you know of a school that values and promotes inclusive opportunities for their students with disabilities, please contact sally@dsagc.com to learn more details.

The winning school will receive recognition at our Annual Awards ceremony.



Charlotte Broeg poses with her student, Donovan Goetz.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE WHAT KIDS WITH DS CAN DO!

Charlotte Broeg, Speech Language Pathologist with 25 years of experience, knows how competent and successful kids with Down syndrome can be and she is happy to let you know. Charlotte has been working with 4 year old Donovan for 2 years at River Ridge Elementary School in Kenton County. She recently met with his transition team to help ease the move to his kindergarten class next year. "I just want his teachers to know that Donovan knows almost all the letters and their associated sounds. **Pretty awesome for ANY preschooler!** When I first met Donovan's mom, Nancy, she told me that her son could read using a photo/flash card method known as the Learning Program. She got out flashcards and showed me what she meant. I think my jaw dropped! He has exceeded my expectations in many ways. His parents have done a phenomenal job."

Nancy hopes that he can build on his success next year at Ft. Wright Elementary. "I am so happy that he has been able to absorb, retain and recall what he has learned on his journey in learning to read."

Charlotte adds, "Donovan loves to interact with his classmates. He is a bright spot in our day."

For more information on the Learning Program visit <https://www.dsagc.com/>



BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR BENEFITS DSAGC

Please mark your calendar for the weekend of June 11, 2010. A portion of the proceeds from all purchases made at any Barnes & Noble store or online, will benefit the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati's Lending Library. The code number to enter for your online purchase as well as any in-store purchases is **10216828**.

In-store purchases can be made from **June 11 through Sunday June 13**. Online purchases can be made from **June 13 through June 18**.

Stop by and visit the West Chester store to purchase books from our Wish List that can be donated to the DSAGC Library and for children's story time!

JAKE'S DREAM

Jake

I Have a Dream

My dream for the world in the future is that everyone

would understand Down

syndrome the way that I do.

People with Down syndrome learn differently and are

sometimes not as fast.

A lot of people with Down

syndrome use sign language.

People with Down syndrome have

feelings just like us and should

be treated nice.

be Jake



Jake Atkinson, bottom, shown with his brother Luke is a second grade student at John XXIII Elementary School in Middletown, OH.

Jake's dream for the future is a world where people with Down syndrome are treated with respect and kindness.

DSAGC

The DSAGC was formed in 1981 by a small group of dedicated parents who envisioned better opportunities for their children. Today we provide a wide variety of programs and services for over 1,500 families in the Greater Cincinnati area. Our mission is to empower individuals, educate families, enhance communities and together, celebrate the extraordinary lives of people with Down syndrome.

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Ohio Legal Rights in collaboration with Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD)

“Tied Up and Pinned Down: Seclusion and Restraints in Ohio Schools”

Presenter: Susan Tobin, Chief Legal Counsel with OLRS will discuss current/proposed rules on the use of restraints at the state and federal level.

When: Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Where: Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development
Scarlet Oaks East Wing, Room 200
3254 Kemper Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45241

Visitors should enter Door 3 and show valid photo ID

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM (No Lunch provided)

Register: Parents and educators are invited to register for this free training on this website www.ocecd.org

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PLEASE
PLACE
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