

Science Fair

LEARNING

Last Friday, April 25th, Spaulding Academy was alive with excitement, curiosity, and creativity as students filled the halls for the 2025 Science Fair. It was a fun-filled morning with no shortage of talent and technique on display, as students proudly showcased their hard work and scientific exploration.

The Fair buzzed with energy as visitors navigated through a colorful maze of displays and demonstrations. Projects ranged from imaginative drawing robots and ice melting projects to fascinating bacteria experiments and hands-on lessons in magnetics. Each project reflected the students' dedication, curiosity, and growing understanding of the world around them.

Families, staff, and community members were on hand to witness the ingenuity and passion that our young scientists brought to the table. From hypothesis to conclusion, each presentation told a story of experimentation, problem-solving, and learning – and every student had the chance to shine.

As always, the Science Fair was a fantastic day for Spaulding Academy. Events like this highlight not only our students' academic growth but also their confidence and creativity. We are incredibly proud of every student, and we look forward to the next opportunity to celebrate their achievements.

Nicole Keefe
Board Liaison & Communications Specialist



Tempera Paint

STUDENT ART

We have been very busy working on paintings and posters in the art room this month! Our students have been working with tempera paint to create bright vibrant posters of their favorite characters and animals. This photo shows a beautiful work of art from one of our students, great job!

Robyn Allen,
Art & Music Teacher



May is Pediatric Feeding Disorder Month

NUTRITION

When working with children with Pediatric Feeding Disorders, (PFD), the child must feel comfortable in their environment, in their experience with food and have a way to “escape” the experience if it becomes overwhelming.

The key to helping a child with PFD is to allow them to become more comfortable around food without the expectation of eating that food. As their anxiety lessens, the food becomes less feared and their confidence and willingness to experience that food will improve.

Tips for working with a child who has PFD:

- Offer ways to experience foods without the expectation of eating (e.g., serving others, cutting fruits or vegetables, using cookie cutters or other kitchen tools)
- Encourage the child to look at, touch, smell, or lick foods
- Expose the child to different food-based smells
- Continue to put connection and safety above everything - regulation comes before eating
- Follow a child-centered approach that lets the child make choices about food exploration, without external pressures of consumption
- Avoid the expectation of eating that food; allow the child to come to that on their own

We often need to remember that expanding the diet for these children is a marathon rather than a hundred-yard dash. Sustainable change takes time to develop.

Lesley Robie, RDN, LD, CNSC
Registered Dietitian



feeding matters

ARE MEALTIMES A STRUGGLE?
It could be pediatric feeding disorder (PFD).

PFD impacts 1 in 37 children. It is more prevalent than autism and cerebral palsy.

Reference: Fennell K, Rein, SM LD, Bhagwansingh P, Kummerowicz S, Sklar A, Gentry PS. Pediatric Feeding Disorder: A Nationwide Prevalence Study. The Journal of Pediatrics (2022), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2022.07.047>

Spirit Week

HAPPENINGS

Spirit Week is right around the corner, and we can't wait to see students and staff show off their creativity, enthusiasm, and school pride! From Monday, May 5th through Friday, May 9th, each day will bring a unique theme designed to bring our community together and spark some fun as we head into the final stretch of the school year.

Here's the Spirit Week line up:

- Monday: Pajama Day
- Tuesday: Formal Wear - wear your fanciest clothes
- Wednesday: Wacky Wednesday - the sillier the better
- Thursday: School Spirit Day - wear your Spaulding gear
- Friday: Hawaiian day (options will be provided at school Friday morning)

We will be topping the fun off with a Choose Love Luau on the Quad on Friday, May 9th, 11am - 12:30pm with crafts, games, treats and fun!

Nicole Keefe,
Board Liaison & Communications Specialist



Continuing Education Training

CLINICAL



Clinicians have reached the season of CEU (Continuing Education Unit) credit trainings! We, as a team, have had the amazing opportunity to immerse ourselves in various trainings that promote the continued growth and learning of our department and thus our clients. When a member of our team attends a training, we convene as a team shortly after to learn about key takeaways and further the ever-happening discussion on how we can grow as a team and as an organization.

Clinical Supervisor, Brian Horn, has worked in tandem with Behavioral Supervisor, Jess Fairweather, to find new and innovative ways to promote our inter-disciplinary team approach. This roll-out has allowed clinicians, permanency specialist and behaviorists to connect with one another based on shared cases/shared cottages to garner new ideas and offer peer support to one another on our shared cases. This addition comes with the continued goal to bridge our three professional departments in a way that best supports client and family growth.

Liz Lowrey, M.S. CMHC
Behavioral Health Clinician



Step By Step

BEHAVIORAL



In Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), task analysis is all about taking a big, complex skill or activity and breaking it down into smaller, manageable steps. This way, learners can focus on one tiny piece at a time, mastering each step before moving on to the next!

Why is Task Analysis Important in ABA?

1. Makes Learning Easier - By tackling one little step at a time, complex tasks become much simpler.
2. Encourages Independence - This process helps learners build the confidence and skills they need to complete tasks on their own.
3. Reduces Frustration - Breaking tasks into smaller chunks can minimize frustration and challenging behaviors, making learning more enjoyable.
4. Ensures Consistency - A structured and consistent approach to teaching is a key ingredient for success in ABA!

Some Fun Examples of Task Analysis in ABA:

- Dressing Skills: We can break down getting dressed into steps like "put on socks" or "button your shirt."
- Eating: There are steps involved in using utensils, chewing, and swallowing that can be taught one at a time.
- Academic Tasks: We can simplify tasks like reading or writing by breaking them into smaller actions that are easier to learn.

Wrap-Up:

Task analysis in ABA is super important for making learning clear, organized, and effective. By focusing on those small, achievable steps, we're helping individuals build new skills with confidence and ease!

Nicole Hilliker,
Behavior Specialist



Graduation

With the public school year coming to an end, our permanency workers have been hard at work coordinating end of the school trips, special school events and, for some of our clients, GRADUATION! One of our clients is graduating high school with honors after countless hours merited to academics and a renowned robotics program. After much hard work from this client and his dedicated team, this young man will be attending Boston University this fall on a full ride scholarship. His team has expressed so much pride in this client for their hard work, dedication and pride in the fact that he was able to experience his senior year while residing with us in placement. When talking to his permanency worker, she admitted that she will not be able to hold back the tears when she attends his graduation in May. This is another testament to the work and care our permanency workers put into their clients throughout the duration of supporting their cases.

Liz Lowrey, M.S. CMHC
Behavioral Health Clinician

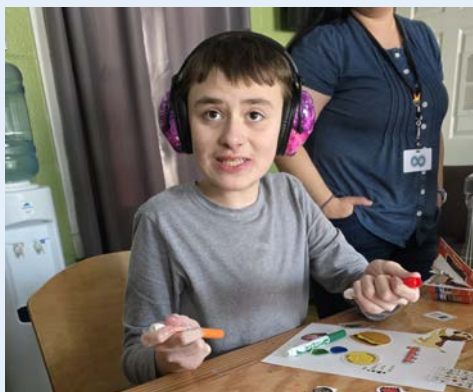
PERMANENCY ♥



Choose Love

Choose Love has continued to grow throughout campus and is accessible in all houses and promoted during weekly after school activity sessions. This has been a great way to provide the curriculum to both staff and students in a way that is tangible and specific to the house. Throughout this blossoming program, we have gotten to see the Choose Love mission grow in ways we never imagined and feel lucky to witness. One great way we 'call out' the awesome behavior of staff and students is through Duck Bucks. These are dollar bill-looking cards that identify the Choose Love pillar that the client or staff engaged in and can be redeemed for prizes. Our kiddos love them and have been able to earn enough to redeem them for a whole house wide party!

Liz Lowrey, M.S. CMHC
Behavioral Health Clinician



RESIDENTIAL ♥