

Director's Letter
Larry Sauer

Welcome, students, parents, and guardians to the 2010-2011 School Year.

Although, being a 365 day program, we never truly close, we still view September as the beginning of the school year and it is an exciting time for our students. While summer is sometimes a quieter time of year, this summer has been a very busy one at Cushing. Most notable, are the number of new students who joined us this summer and who will be joining us in September. About half of these new students are joining us from outside of Massachusetts and even outside of the United States. Cushing will be starting this school year with more students than we have had for several years. While this is great news for the program, it does require making some moves residentially and opening new classrooms in the day programs. It will take a little time for the students to settle into their new environment and for the older students to adjust to all the new faces. We are all looking forward to a very strong year for all of the Cushing programs.



Another important addition to our program this summer was the hiring of our new Clinical Director of Student Services, Michael Berardo. Michael comes to us with a wealth of experience working in the adult world as well as developing a school to work transition program with a number of school districts on the North Shore. He has also had experience overseeing clinical service departments in other organizations. Michael is now responsible for overseeing our Clinical, Student Services, Specialist Services, and Health Services. This reorganization puts all of the student related services under one umbrella. Michael has spent his first two months getting to know the programs and meeting every student and staff person he can. Michael has brought a new energy to Cushing and is very committed to providing students with the best possible services. He has also displayed his skills on the softball field in our student/staff softball game in August.

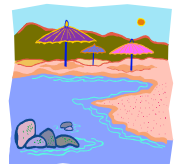
SAVE THE DATE!
Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2010 6th,
beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Meet the Clinical Director of Student Services
PAC Elections
Planning for the Year

Family members, guardians and anyone else who is interested in meeting Michael, will have an opportunity at our first Parent Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 28, 2010. This will also be an opportunity for me to meet some of the new families who I have not had a chance to meet yet. In addition to meeting Michael and me, we also need to hold an election for officers. We are hoping that many of the new families will be interested in participating in our PAC and will help to infuse it with enthusiasm. If you are interested in serving as an officer, please contact me and I will put your name in nomination. The PAC officer positions include president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. This PAC meeting will also be an opportunity for families to have input on topics they would like to presented at the PAC meetings. For those of you who are new or who have never attended a PAC meeting at Cushing, they are held at least quarterly and each meeting usually has a particular focus. In the past we have had our psychiatrist talk about medications, our CEO talk about transition to adult life, attorneys discuss Special Needs Trusts, and a host of other topics. If there is something you think would be an interesting topic for our families, bring your idea to the PAC meeting or send it to me through e-mail or by phone. I can always be contacted at lsauer@coletta.org or at (781) 829-1202.

I hope that all of you had a happy, fun, and safe summer and I look forward to seeing all of you and working with you children throughout the coming school year.



CALENDARS

You can find our School and Recreation Calendars on-line at:

<http://www.coletta.org/CARDINAL/calendar/calendar.htm>



Education Program Outside Art

This summer the theme in the Education Department was 1000 places to visit in Massachusetts. Students study Massachusetts history, geography, and current events. Thursday August 19th, 2010 was “Outside Art Day” for the staff and students. Our Art Teacher, Randy made an outline of Massachusetts out of rope.



The staff and students drew pictures with designs that represented Massachusetts. State symbols were drawn, colored, and placed on the map.



Here's the finished product!

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Doug Frazier

Another summer has sped by and we welcome a new school year. I would like to share with you some news from our department over the past few months.

The students in the Project Forward program will be returning to Cape Cod Community College the week of September 13th. We will be sending a total of nine students this year – six returning students and three new students. The returning students will be specializing in their career interest – Hospitality, Horticultural/Maintenance, Child Care, Communication and Café Operations. We wish all of them best and will be supporting them throughout the year.



Due to our growing number of students we added an additional classroom for the coming year. When it started this summer we initially called it Voc Prep 3, but have changed the name to Transitional Skills 1 in order to better reflect the curriculum and



goals for the students in that classroom. The classroom is located in the Kennedy Building across from my office.

Due to the retirement of Cindy Erbe this past spring and the additional classroom, the Vocational Education Department added two additional teachers. Bill Anderson will be heading up the Voc Prep 2 classroom. Bill comes from Brockton schools and he is working on his masters of special education at Bridgewater State University. Allison (Ally) Welch comes from Rockland schools and is also pursuing her masters of special education at Bridgewater State University. She will be in charge of the new Transitional Skills 1 class. We welcome them to the Cardinal Cushing community!

On a sad note we lost a very dear employee this summer – Terry Schwotzer passed away unexpectedly in July. Terry had work for the organization for almost forty years. He will be missed.

We look ahead to this fall with new ideas and challenges. If you are on campus please stop by and say hello and visit our wonderful vocational sites.

HEALTH CENTER HAPPENINGS “Your child and OTC meds, etc.”

Recently, the Health Center was asked why over-the-counter meds, vitamins, minerals, food supplements, and creams cannot just be “given” to a student. It seems like a simple request, however, by law (through the Department of Public Health) we may not give any of the above medications, medical treatments, or supplements without a written or faxed doctor’s order. All medications must be confirmed by a written order or a fax signed by the doctor. Even if there is a change in your child’s dosage, this too needs a written or faxed doctor’s order before it can be changed.

If your child get’s sick while home or on vacation and is prescribed a medication, such as an antibiotic, the Health Center will need a doctor’s note with the diagnosis and treatment, plus whatever medication was prescribed.

There are certain commonly used medications which we have permission to administer through your signature on the Medical Consent Form and in conjunction with our consulting school physician and nurse practitioner. These include Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Robitussin, Antacid, Bacitracin, Hydrocortisone cream, etc.

As always, should you have any questions, the nursing staff at the Health Center will be more than happy to answer them.

ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL Ron Shepherd



Braintree St. Coletta Day School students and staff enjoyed a very busy and fun summer and I am sure ready to get back to school this week. We are looking forward to welcoming new students and staff throughout the upcoming school year and look forward to our programs continuing to grow in the 2010-2011 school year.

Plans are being made now for our annual Family Day festivities tentatively planned for mid October. Also the Parents Advisory Committee will be holding a car wash here at St. Coletta’s time and date TBA.



If you have not done so already please return any updated student medical and consent forms to Beth Laughlin.

Many thanks to Steve Hughes and Ben Di Bona for all their hard work in making our school sparkle over the vacation break. Things look great!

STAFF PROFILE

This is a new feature to the newsletter that we hope to do more of in the future, so that families and others get to know our staff a little better. Our first staff profile is of one of our Evening Residential Supervisors, Loretta Coughlan, or “Retta” as many of our students have nicknamed her.

Loretta is one of two supervisors who cover the evening shift and oversee the general operation of the campus. I am sure many parents have spoken to Loretta either in person or on the phone.



Loretta is beginning her fourth year with Cardinal Cushing School. She started her career here as a Residential Life Skills Instructor and was promoted to an Overnight Supervisor. After a year in that position, Loretta moved on to become an Evening Residential Supervisor. She has been in this position for about six months. Loretta came to Cushing with experience as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). That’s great experience for dealing with the variety of situations that she might run into on any given evening at Cushing.

Loretta really “Loves her job,” and sees it as a “life long calling.” She is the parent of a child with special needs, Tommy, so really is able to relate to the parents of our Cushing students. Loretta also has a married daughter, Melissa. Loretta loves reading, going to the beach, and traveling, especially to Aruba. She is very family oriented and loves spending her time off with her family and friends.

Loretta is someone who is always there when she’s needed. Communicating with families, students, and staff is one of Loretta’s top priorities and staff throughout the organization will tell you that she is very good at it. Loretta is a very compassionate person and really feels that teamwork is an important part of her job. “It’s all about the Team,” Loretta said, “and I’ve got great support.”