



# Spotlight on P169@P102

May 2010

## News

### Cooking with Ms. Erin



Students with autism may have major problems with both speech and nonverbal communication. They may also find it very hard to interact socially. For these reasons, speech therapy is a central part of treatment for autism. Speech therapy can address a wide range of communication problems for people with autism and improve overall communication. This makes it possible for people with autism to improve their ability to form relationships and function in day-to-day life.

Our speech therapist, Ms. Erin Reilly has been cooking with our students for the past two years. She started making waffles with the kids last year and has since made ice cream, brownies and pizza. Each class cooks at least once a week. Ms. Erin uses a combination of speech devices and visual prompts throughout each lesson to ensure that the students are actively communicating and are aware of their specific jobs. Each lesson is accompanied by a game that reinforces the skills that were practiced during the session.

### Staff and Parent News

- Congratulations to the following staff members that are graduating this month:  
Neelu Mishru - Doctorate in Physical therapy.  
Lynda Weis - Second Masters in Urban Education.  
Bree Carnovale - Second Masters in Early Childhood Education  
Iwona Kowalczyk - Masters in Special Education
- Ms. Erin held a feeding workshop for our parents on April 28<sup>th</sup> and it was a great success.
- Many thanks to Mrs. Susie Miller, a P169 parent, who donated to a donorschoose.org project for Ms. Choon Lee and her class. Thanks for giving back!

### Did you know?

Which staff member was on a float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade? (*Answer in next month's newsletter*)

**\*Answer to last month's question\***

Who has the same birthday as Earth Day (April 22)? Ms. Finn

## Ask the Expert

### Iwona Kowalczyk, Art Teacher

**Q: How did you become interested in teaching Art?**

**A:** I have a background in Art and I have worked with young children.

**Q: What are some of the challenges you deal with on a day to day basis?**

**A:** My biggest challenge is the lack of supplies however donorschoose.org has been a huge help.

**Q: How do you think our students benefit from having an Art program?**

**A:** Art helps with sensory issues and with self expression. The kids have also learned how to work together which is a plus.

**Q: What did you do before you began teaching?**

**A:** I was working at a pre-school as a lead teacher.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4 NY Hall of Science	5	6 Swimming Y32/33	7
10	11 Ms. Sarah's bday	12 Mr. Jonathan's bday	13 Swimming Y30/31/34	14
17	18	19	20 Swimming Y32/33	21
24	25	26 District Arts Festival	27 Swimming Y30/31/34	28
31 NO SCHOOL  Memorial Day				