

Semester 1 - Quarter 1 Report

November 23, 2006



The Functional Skills program at Carson Graham Secondary this year has consisted of group classes in the Functional Skills classrooms and integrated classes throughout the school. This means that not all students will have participated in all classes. We are continuing our one to one ABA and Natural Environment Teaching (NET) program and will build on it throughout the year. All students have individual goals for every class, including communication, behaviour, social and academic areas.

IEP Computers - Block A/Day 1 (Ms. Palmer)

Our students have become very independent in following their individualized computer programs. All students are working on Discrete Trial Trainer and most also complete Money Skills. We also use Mavis Beacon typing and our new voice recognition program SpeechTech. A few of our student also have an intensive teaching session during this block.

IEP Physical Education - Block A/Day 2 (Mr. Harrington)

One of the most important aspects of our class is the emphasis placed on having a healthy lifestyle. We have been walking/running outside as well as playing outdoor soccer for the last two months and have just recently moved indoors on cold and rainy days. We have seen an enormous improvement in the fitness levels of our students and their awareness of how good being active feels. A small group of students are also using the gym during lunch break on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are having a great time playing basketball. We are hoping that the Phys Ed department will be able to accommodate our students with a block of PE time during next semester

IEP Science/Living Skills - B Block/Day 1 (Ms. Palmer/Mr. Harrington)

The class have been working on Time Skills during the first quarter. Students are at a variety of levels which range from labeling a variety of clocks and their parts to learning about sunrise and sunset. Each student has individualized goals and we used a variety of teaching methods including discrete trial, computer assisted instruction, workbooks and our favourite was a team learning situation using our LCD projector and web-based games.

As well we have continued our very successful small group language instruction program called Language for Learning. Students work in groups of two or three to rehearse following directions, labeling pictures, and speaking in sentences. All have made progress through the program.

IEP Humanities/Social Studies - B Block/Day 2 (Ms. Palmer)

We started the year by identifying picture symbols for different locations in the school and finding out who worked in each area. We also went on Treasure Hunts in the community and found birds, houses, cars and other interesting items. We used our new Sound picture cards and CD where students have to identify what make a particular sound. It was great fun and everyone became able to ID a sneeze, singing and a baby crying.

IEP Functional Academics- C Block (Mr. Harrington/Ms. Palmer)

Students are divided into two groups. Group 1 works on an individualized intensive program based on the Verbal Behaviour method with an SEA for half the class and completes an independent routine based on TEACCH for the other half. Skills practiced may include matching, completing a puzzle, setting the table, folding socks and completing math equation. Group 2 students begin with Skillbuilders which are Edmark Functional Words during this semester. They work independently with assistance from adults as required. They practice the skills they know but more importantly rehearse how to work quietly and independently in a group setting. We have reviewed basic numeracy (place value and addition) by working in small groups with "counting rods" Students are learning one to one correspondence and the concepts of "more than" and "less than". In English students are continuing the Stevenson Spelling program and are working on the "a_e" and "ay" sounds. Students reading and comprehension levels have been assessed and they will be starting the Reading Milestones program shortly.

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IEP Work Experience - D Block/Day 1 (Mr. Harrington)

We have been working on employment related skills - signing a time sheet; being a self-starter; working independently and in groups when required. Most days the class arrives and are ready to begin working when the bell rings with very little adult prompting. We have also worked hard not only on telling time but also following a schedule throughout the class. Time management skills are very important.

We have three in-school work experience activities this year. We recycle cans, bottle and boxes, collect paper, and take care of the Outside Courtyard. Students are divided into teams and work with a supervisor. Following a routine, taking direction, completing tasks and getting along with team members are important skills which are rehearsed along with sorting and matching.

Community Skills

Students rehearse community skills daily. They push their chairs in when they get up. They know how to form a line and walk through the school halls or store without disturbing others. Most students go bowling every other Friday. A number of students swim at the West Vancouver pool on Thursday afternoons. As well students rotate through doing the class laundry at the laundromat and returning cans and bottles to the Recycling Centre. Students continue to eat lunch in the cafeteria. We are very excited that we have been able to have students attend both the Halloween and Grade 8 dance accompanied by Carson peer counsellors. Everyone involved had a great time and we hope that we will be able to expand these opportunities in the future.

IEP meetings will be completed soon. We are considered changing to spring IEP updates so that everything will be in place for September. We would love to hear your thoughts on this idea.

If you have any questions about your child's program or progress please feel free to contact us by email jan.palmer@nvds44.bc.ca or tharrington@nvds44.bc.ca Alternatively you may reach us at (604)903-3555 or by sending a note in your child's agenda book.

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