



WOODSEGE HOWL

WoodsEdge Learning Center
PARENT NEWSLETTER

Staff Spotlights



Jason with the legendary Dr. Temple Grandin

Jason Ervin is WoodsEdge's Behavior Support Specialist. He supports all classrooms in the area of behavior, both reducing challenging behaviors and increasing appropriate, positive, and functional behaviors. He also serves as a member of the PBIS team (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), the School Improvement Team, and works as an instructor for CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) training.

After receiving his degree in behavioral psychology from WMU, Jason worked for fourteen years in Van Buren County before coming to Woodsedge four years ago. He is currently working on a master's degree in applied behavior analysis.

Jason plays guitar and poker, enjoys pyrography (the art of wood burning), fishing, and the sublime mixture of chocolate and peanut butter. His wife, Lisa — a special education teacher — and 7th grade step-daughter Ella are the center of his “small, but wonderful family,” which also includes three cats and an “airedoodle.”

“I enjoy watching the students learn new skills that enable them to become more independent within the school and their community, even the smallest successes warm my heart. I enjoy working with the staff because of the way everyone works as a team and supports each other, they go above and beyond for their students and their team members.”

- Jason Ervin, Behavior Support Specialist



Millie is WoodsEdge's Off-site Behavior Support Specialist. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Central Michigan University and a Master's Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Western Michigan University. Her grad school practicum was done at Croyden in the preschool program. Millie and her family lived in California before deciding to come back to Michigan. She began working for KRESA in the fall of 2015. Ten plus years after completing her practicum, she now works with some of those same students, they are just much older now.

For KRESA, Millie supports the Autism Spectrum Disorder Off-site classrooms, Deaf/Hard of

Hearing classrooms, and the Young Adult Program. Millie loves spending time with her husband and kids and enjoys hiking, gardening and being outdoors. She also knows how to ride a unicycle.

"One of the things I like most about my position," she adds, "is being able to see students make gains throughout their time in school. A perk of this position is that I support classrooms at all levels so I am able to watch them grow through the years and see the progress that they make I also enjoy working with so many teachers and support staff. There is so much to learn from each teacher or provider that I learn something new all the time!"

-Millie Mwayi, Off-site Behavior Support Specialist

Important Dates:



December

- 1 - Kalamazoo Recorder Players Concert
- 6 - Dress Rehearsal for Holiday Program
- 7 - Holiday Program in Cafeteria 10am
- 8 - PAWS Meeting 1:30-2:30
- 12 - Santa visiting WoodsEdge
- 13 - Santa visiting WoodsEdge
- 23 - HALF DAY

24-30 - NO SCHOOL, Winter Recess

School Resumes January 9th

ULS Focus



For the month of December, students will learn about different holiday traditions. Much of the curriculum focuses on Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa.

We will begin the month with a holiday music program at 10:00am on December 7th. Please contact your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions. We hope to see you there! Happy Holidays!

Parent Information



Hello Parents!

The holiday season is a great time to spend with your family. Here are some student friendly activities going on around town this holiday season.

Celebration Cinema has Sensory showings on December 3rd (Moana) and on December 31st (Sing). These showings start at 10:30 AM on both dates.

On December 5th from 4:00 – 7:00, Kalamazoo Sky Zone will be having a Sensory Friendly Event.

Also, click [here](#) for a day-by-day schedule of fun events and activities throughout the month for kids

of all ages.

Snow Days



Snow is right around the corner, and for the safety of our students, sometimes that means we must close. School closing announcements are carried on local radio & TV stations the day of closing.

When Portage Public Schools are closed, WoodsEdge Learning Center is closed. This is also true for fog delays.

If your local district is closed but Portage is not, buses will not pick up your student and they are not required to attend on that day, but you are welcome to bring them in if it is safe for you to do so.

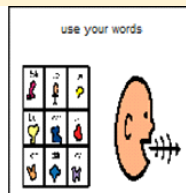
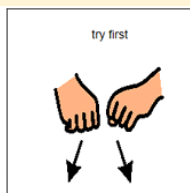
Transportation

For transportation questions or problems on existing routes, please call your **District Transportation Office** first.

If you require additional assistance, or for transportation questions or problems with a new route or a new student's busing, please call Stephanie Reschka at 250-9411.



PBIS Around WoodsEdge



December: Community Based Instruction

WE ARE SAFE: Stay with the Group

WE ARE INDEPENDENT: Try First

WE COMMUNICATE: Use Your Words

Warm Kids

The Warm Kids Project is a non-profit organization in Kalamazoo County that provides winter apparel to students who might otherwise have to stay home because they do not have the proper cold-weather attire. Warm Kids has been doing this since 1986 and has partnered with our School Social Worker, Emma Bentley, this year to provide coats and boots to a handful of our students who are in need.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Keeping Kids Warm at WoodsEdge





©2016 Kalamazoo RESA |

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by [Mad Mimi®](#)
A GoDaddy® company