

COMMUNITY TRANSITION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



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By Thelina O'Daniel

Greetings Families and Friends!

The school year has flown by! This has been an exciting and challenging start to the school year. We have pulled together and faced those challenges as a strong and united school community. I look forward to the second half of the year and all that will bring with it.

We will be embarking on another trip to our State Capitol in February to practice self-advocacy skills we will send out the information on that trip so that families may join us.

The Community Transition Program is so fortunate to have the school community that we do. Thank you for being a special part of our family! Happy New Year to each and every one of you!!

My name is Li-Ching 麗靜. I'm originally from Taiwan. I love learning different languages and cultures so much that I started my around-the-world journey in 2010. I moved to Portland from New Zealand in 2015. This interesting and cycling-friendly city brought me and my husband here and I totally fell in love with this lovely city. Now I call Portland my third home.

When I taught in a special education school in Taiwan, I always wondered what's next for my students after they graduated from high school? I had no good answers back then. I'm so grateful that I was given the opportunity to join the CTP team to learn more about the bridge that we are building between school and the community for the students with special needs. I look forward to learning and growing with our awesome staff and students of CTP together in 2018.



WISH LIST

If you have any of the following in safe working condition, we'd love your donations!

- Standard Wheelchair
- Art Supplies
- Full Size Refrigerator
- Basic cooking supplies (flour, sugar, salt, bouillon...)
- Grocery Store Gift Cards for Cooking

Vocational Education at CTP : News from the Vocational Support Team

By Victor Cummings

36 CTP students have been participating in Fall 2017 Supported Internships, in addition to classroom-based work activities and Work Life classes. Work experience opportunities allow students to explore a variety of work interests as well as develop "soft skills" such as traveling in the community, grooming, and workplace communication skills needed for paid employment readiness.

CTP Internship offerings this Fall include: Greenhouse, Fresh Starts, Landscaping, Coffee Cart, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Meals On Wheels, Walgreens, PPS Mail Services, and Good Samaritan Hospital. All student Interns receive written evaluations for their Vocational Portfolios, which provides valuable assessment information for IEP teams and future service providers such as Vocational Rehabilitation and job developers. As 1st Semester finishes up in Jan. 2018, students will have opportunities to participate in different Supported Internships for 2nd Semester.

With CTP support, many students are also beginning to access Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services, and continuing to learn about other vocational training programs and services through PCC, PSU, WorkSource, and other community agencies. A number of CTP students are already in paid employment and/or attending college classes, and learning to manage their school/work schedules.

This Fall, the Vocational Support Team welcomed 2 new Internship Trainers: Shelly Kellams who previously served as a CTP classroom Para, and Phillip Hale who is new to CTP. Both Shelly and Phillip bring a wealth of skills from their school and business experience, and provide a high level of workplace coaching to our students.



Ready for a CHALLENGE????

By Kristin Havermann



During the three years with the Community Transition Program we often ask students and staff to stretch their comfort zones and try new things. This year was no different! The returning students and staff from the PSU classroom challenged the incoming students and new staff to a Bike Challenge: bike around the waterfront!!!! The whole class rented surrey bikes (seats 6) at the waterfront and rode all the way around- ramps and all!!! Teamwork was the name of the game! No one left without helping in some way! It was a great start to the year! But the challenge doesn't stop there....since this was so successful the class has a new challenge on the table: Polar Plunge!!!! Stay posted to see if the PSU class can convince their teacher to take the plunge this February!!!