What an exciting time to be part of the South Bergen Jointure Commission. We are certainly a district on the move with a laser-like focus to empower each and every child to live independent and successful lives. Though this is a very ambitious goal, the SBJC has partnered with Felician University and No Barriers USA to help make our vision a reality. We opened our new school year convocation with Erik Weihenmayer, co-founder of No Barriers USA and the first blind person to climb Mount Everest. Erik challenged our teachers and staff to see the art of possibilities and to always remember, “What's within you is stronger than what's in your way.”

To this end, we know that this goal of least restrictive environment cannot happen without you. The SBJC leadership team is currently planning a Parent Academy that we will be introducing in March. We will be notifying you of dates by February 28th. Your participation is essential for us to be successful. On the following page, I have listed a number of initiatives that we have implemented since my arrival in July 2018. It is our sincere desire to add a worthwhile and supportive Parent Academy to that list. Feel free to contact me with suggestions, questions, or concerns at mkuchar@njsbjc.org or 201-393-0475, ext. 236.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Kuchar
SBJC students place third in...SBJC partners with Felician University’s International Center for Autism and Disabilities Research & Education. In 2018-19, John Burke of Felician University led district wide professional development using ABA/PRT strategies. In 2019-20, SBJC opens three classrooms at Felician University to accommodate for growing preschool program, and SBJC and Felician form a Veteran Membership Program between our students and Felician veteran students.

Rebecca Holland is a recent graduate from the South Bergen Jointure Commission and has made a smooth transition from her educational setting to the workforce in her local community. Rebecca attended the SBJC for eighteen years and graduated from the Lodi MS/HS in 2018. Since then she has been employed. Rebecca has maintained an active social life and stays engaged with her hobbies. When asked what he would be up to since graduation, Rebecca responded: “I enjoy doing many things with my family and friends. I really like technology, video games, and I spend time walking my dog, I really like technology, video games, and I spend time walking my dog.”

First-ever districtpet therapyvisits (pictured above) occur at our three SBJC campuses.

Rebecca Holland
SBJC Alumni Spotlight

Reiji George
Supervisor of Outreach

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SBJC STARs practice volunteerism

Students have been performing volunteerism and community service at the Bergen County Housing, Health, and Human Services Center in Hackensack this past winter. From cooking to organizing to serving and cleaning up, students prepare meals and provide lunch for Bergen County residents.

“Our students are learning that volunteerism is an important component of life,” says Dr. Hughes, SBJC Director of Special Projects, Outreach, and Related Services. “They are learning important life skills while also understanding the significance of serving others in our community.”

Parent Resources

Author and professional speaker, Kerry Magro is an individual on the Autism Spectrum who has used adversity to his advantage. He hosts a Facebook page called “A Special Community,” giving a platform for those impacted by a diagnosis to share their stories: www.fb.me/aspecialcommunity.

Located in Hackensack, Marble Jam Kids a center for creative arts therapy provides options for children, youth, individuals and their families through therapeutically supported arts programs. Visit www.marblejamkids.org

A Day in our Shoes is a site dedicated to helping parents navigate the overwhelming IEP process. They provide resources on everything IEP, from what should be in the document, to having effective IEP meetings, and even ideas for IEP goals. Visit www.adayinourshoes.com

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