



April 2017

A Message From

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Executive Director



Springtime - A Time of Renewal

With springtime comes renewal. As I consider our work at AchieveKids and the work of our school systems, I reflect on the foundation of what makes a strong place of learning. Great schools begin with great teachers and development of a learning community.

May brings Teacher Appreciation week. It is often a profession of great sacrifice and little thanks. Deeper than that, it is a profession dedicated to improving our communities, and one that requires individuals to be experts in human development, learning, and social dynamics. Teachers are called upon not only to instruct young people, but also to help develop them into contributing citizens within our communities.

As Autism Awareness month ends, I am proud to watch our teachers and educators meet the challenges presented to them. Tasked with working with our communities' most challenging and complex learners, our teachers act as problem solvers to develop highly specialized learning plans for each student. Our students, many of whom are on the spectrum, come to us after not having success in school and learning, and often with significant challenges to accessing traditional curriculums. AchieveKids' students are most at risk to struggle with being a contributing member of the community. This makes our role in education that much more important. Our teachers act as both subject matter experts in teaching, as well as generalists understanding language development, behavior analysis, social-emotional learning, and sensory integration to develop learning plans appropriate for each individual student. I am humbled by the extraordinary work our teachers contribute to our community on a daily basis.

This time of renewal provides an opportunity to thank our amazing teaching staff for the difficult work they do, and for inspiring us all to make our communities a better place for all individuals. It also offers us the chance to continue to raise our standards, so that we can continue to help all of our students develop the skills necessary to find success within our communities, beyond the doors of AchieveKids.

Together We Can Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.

Executive Director



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



6th Annual **Reach for the Stars BBQ**
Saturday, June 17th, Palo Alto Campus
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
STAR award honoree: **Leland D. Levy**

Student Spot Light



Fernando is a smart meticulous young man. His primary disability is autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Like many individuals with ASD, Fernando likes to have things done in a certain way or order. This may include making sure a certain spot on the ground is touched when he walks by or reading his favorite movie titles in a particular order.

Fernando learns best when there is an order and step-by-step process. This includes having a visual schedule so that he can see what he has to do for the day. Many of his problem behaviors are reduced as a result of knowing when he can access preferred items and activities. He loves calendars. When an activity is not available immediately or even on that day, he is assured when he sees it scheduled on the calendar. In addition to having a schedule, Fernando is able

to learn new skills when he understands the steps needed to complete the task. As a result, Fernando does really well with math, which he can learn quickly if he sees the pattern he needs to take to get his answer.

Fernando flourishes when there are routines and consistency. However, life is not always consistent. He continues to work on being flexible with change and understanding that certain expectations are held even when change occurs. Fernando is currently developing skills to transition into adulthood. He is learning to apply his new skill set so he can be more independent in the future.

For more information on how you can sign up for a school tour or to learn more about our program please contact: Karin Klarreich, Director of Development at 650.213.5286 or kklarreich@achievekids.org

WEBSITE

FACEBOOK

