

# Boston College Campus School

*Inaugural Newsletter ~ Spring 2008*



## What is the Campus School All About?

The Boston College Campus School (BCCS), a private, non-profit, publicly funded special education day school, is an integral part of the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. Our program derives many benefits from collaboration with University faculty, staff and students. Founded in 1970, we provide services to students ages 3-21 with severe multiple disabilities. The students present with significant physical challenges, lack functional speech, have sensory limitations of low vision and/or hearing impairment, cognitive deficits and an array of complex health care needs. BCCS utilizes a trans-

disciplinary approach to meet the educational, therapeutic and health care needs of the students enrolled in the program. Recognizing the benefits of collaboration, the service delivery team addresses total student needs across all environments throughout the day. Engaging in reflection, planning, implementation of evidence-based practices, as well as informal and/or formal assessments, the staff strives to provide a learning environment responsive to students' needs. Emphasis is placed on learning through active and meaningful student participation, balancing access to the general education curriculum and

curricular relevance.

We welcome all inquiries about our program and encourage those interested to visit our website for further information or please call us at 617-552-3460 to arrange a visit.



## **Elin Howe, DMR Commissioner, visits Campus School**

Cynthia Perrone, Co-Chair of the Campus School Parent Advisory Council, invited the newly appointed commissioner of the Department of Mental Retar-

dation, Elin Howe, to visit the Campus School on April 15<sup>th</sup>. She spoke about the work within DMR and with legislators to increase support and

funding for programs for adults and children with disabilities. Parents and staff were encouraged to send letters requesting support for funding of DMR programs.

Spring, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Campus School Research Study Presented at the National Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference

In 2006, Boston College Campus School began collaboration with Dr. Susan Bruce in an exciting research study, "Applying a Trans-disciplinary Approach to the Assessment and Systematic Instruction of Pivotal Milestones." Dr. Bruce is the Boston College faculty coordinator of the graduate studies program in Severe Special Needs and Deaf/Blind Education. She is also Teacher of the Visually Impaired for BCCS. This study focuses on the experience of children with severe disabilities in achieving the following pivotal developmental milestones: object permanence, joint attention, imitation,

means-end, self-recognition, and discrimination-categorization. These milestones are considered "pivotal" because of their importance in cognitive, social, and language development. Teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service professionals participate in both the assessment and instruction phases of the research study. Dr. Bruce has developed structured informal assessment tools for each of the milestones, and the research team is currently analyzing how ten commercial assessment tools cover these same milestones. The study aims to support children in achieving these pivotal milestones as well as posi-

tively impacting development in other areas of learning.

Dr. Susan Bruce, Rena Sikarova (BCCS Speech and Language Pathologist), Meghan Sullivan and Sara Davidson (BCCS special educators), presented this important research at the National Council for Exceptional Children conference in Boston in April 2008.



## Campus School Volunteers of Boston College donate \$132,000.00

Campus School Volunteers of Boston College (CSVBC) is an organization comprised of over 300 university undergraduate students dedicated to working with and for the Campus School. An important part of the mission of the CSVBC is to promote friendships and learning within the classroom. "Classroom Buddy" and "Literacy Buddy" programs allow volunteers to spend time with individual Campus School students reading books, listening to music, and other age appropriate activities during leisure/recreation

times. In addition, other university volunteers contribute to our program through special events, fundraising, publicity, and other committees that promote the mission of the Campus School. A large crowd of celebrating students, staff, volunteers, football play-

ers, cheerleaders, band members and coaches gathered in the plaza outside of Champion Hall showing enthusiasm and support for BC's football team before the Florida State game. As part of this celebration, the CSVBC presented a check to the Campus School in the amount of \$132,000.00. The funds donated were the result of fundraising events including the Broom Hockey Tournament, the annual Golf Tournament, Boston Marathon runners and the proceeds of the BC Dance Ensemble's annual shows.



## BCCS Physical Therapist wins Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools Award



Carol Dove is presented a bouquet of flowers from Laura Hines, Assistant Program Director.

We are very proud to announce that Carol Dove was awarded the Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools (MAAPS) 2008 Albert E. Trieschman Memorial Award at the MAAPS 30th annual conference on May 9, 2008. This award was presented for Exceptional Direct Service to children. Due to the high esteem in

which she is held by her colleagues, BCCS nominated Carol for this award. Along with the award, Carol received a \$100 grant from MAAPS toward continuing professional education.

# EagleEyes News: Technology, Free Downloads, and Abroad

EagleEyes is an assistive technology that enables an individual with limited motor skills to access a computer through eye gaze or head control rather than the conventional keyboard. Researchers at Boston College developed two devices, the EagleEyes electrode box and camera mouse systems, to deliver this technology.

The software for the camera mouse technology is available as a [free download](http://www.cameramouse.org/) at <http://www.cameramouse.org/>. This technology can be used on a desktop or laptop computer with either a video or web camera connected to the computer,

and is currently being downloaded at the rate of 3,000 per month.

Boston College recently signed a licensing agreement with "The Opportunity Foundation of America" of Salt Lake City, Utah, to build EagleEyes electrode boxes and distribute them to organizations at no cost.

In November 2007, Maureen Gates, EagleEyes Coordinator and BCCS teacher, traveled to Cork, Ireland, to the School of the Divine Child. Through an invitation from Joan Crowley O'Sullivan, Ireland's National Coor-

dinator of Special Education, Maureen trained the staff at the school in the use of camera mouse technology. Ms. O'Sullivan is anticipating that the School of the Divine Child will serve as a national assistive technology center for the Republic of Ireland.



## MCAS Drop-in Center

On April 16, the Campus School was one of fourteen regional Drop-in Centers for MCAS Alternate Assessment portfolio review. Laura Hines, Assistant Director of the Campus School, in her role as an MCAS-Alt. Teacher Consultant for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (formerly DOE), was available to answer questions about MCAS-Alt. and to provide feedback to teachers across Massachusetts for portfolios in progress.

[www.bc.edu/campusschool](http://www.bc.edu/campusschool)

## Visit Our New Website

We invite you to visit our newly designed website at:

[www.bc.edu/campusschool](http://www.bc.edu/campusschool)

Our new and improved website offers general information about the Campus School, services and support, news and highlights, upcoming events, and how you can support the mission of our school.

## "A Night Under the Stars"

BCCS upperclassmen hosted the Eleventh Annual Spring Semi-formal on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, supported by the CSVBC Special Events Committee. The Spring Semi-formal affords our high-school-age students the opportunity to participate in an experience enjoyed by their typical peers. Boston College student volunteers joined BCCS staff and families in the festivities, and a night of dancing was enjoyed by all!



Introducing Kierstyn...



Freddie dancing with the stars



The McDonald family



Erin and gal-pals

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Realizing the  
Potential in all  
Students

To receive this newsletter by email please send your request to  
The Campus School at [odonnesn@bc.edu](mailto:odonnesn@bc.edu).

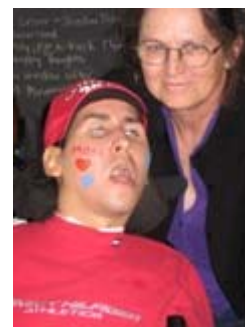
*We are pleased and proud to present our 2008 graduates...*



Rosie with Campus School  
bunny, Alex.



Patch: always a laugh and a  
smile.



Michael, with his favorite  
nurse Betty.



Tony and his buddies



Freddie and friends