



BOBCAT BEAT

Fall 2016

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Growing WHERE THEY ARE Planted

There is an intrinsic relationship between gardening and hope. The act of planting a seed requires hope. The action of imposing that sense of hope onto someone is where a personal journey begins.

For all of recorded history, gardens have been viewed as places of wonder, and an escape that is capable of restoring the emotional health of those who enter. Today, science and insights are baring the truth for all—that the natural world truly does influence the mind, body, and soul of the individual in remarkable ways.

Thus begins the Richardson School's new therapeutic garden at its Beloit campus.



The garden features raised garden beds, sunflowers, student artwork, and vegetables that allow students to add healthy options to their lunchtime salads.

“All of the students at The Richardson School are responsible for planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting the garden,” says Craig Brimacombe, Day School Director in Beloit. “The garden allows our students an opportunity for increased exercise,

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The Richardson School



BOBCATS

Our Mission

The Richardson School is devoted to educating students with diagnoses of developmental/ neurological disabilities and behavioral or emotional issues that significantly interfere with their learning process and ability to learn in a more traditional educational setting.

The Richardson School individually tailors services to each child with an emphasis on re-integrating the child back to the home school setting as soon as possible.

The Richardson School strives to provide an optimal therapeutic environment, and therapeutic behavioral interventions in conjunction with highly individualized curriculum approaches.

RichardsonSchool.com



From the Director's Desk...

WELCOME STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND DISTRICTS TO THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR!

We had amazing weather this summer in Wisconsin. I am hopeful you took some time off, relaxed and got outdoors to enjoy it. In the meantime TRS has been hard at work not only preparing our Beloit, Brookfield and West Allis locations for the students to return, but also working diligently on our newest school, **TRS-Madison!**

I am very excited to announce gaining approval of our school offering by the Madison Planning Commission on August 29, 2016. With the approval secured we are now moving steadily forward with renovations, improvements and updates to the building

getting it ready for our students. Pending any unforeseen hurdles we will open TRS-Madison at the end of October or early November. We are excited to bring our educational expertise and levels of support to a new region.

Opening in Madison will fill a much needed gap in alternative educational supports to that region. We are very excited to partner already with 1 district for enrollment and looking forward to many more to come! We are located at 2802 International Lane and will host an open house soon after opening.



Thanks for taking such wonderful care of all the *Bobcats* during the summer, we are very excited to have them back, in their desks and getting the school year off and running!

**TRS-Madison
2802 International Lane**

Paris, mon amour!

BOBCAT BISTRO

A New Coffee Shop Arrives In Town



Last year, you may have seen TRS-Brookfield students serving beverages and desserts at the Bobcat Bistro for special events. We are excited to announce that this year, we are expanding the services of the Bobcat Bistro to include more food and beverage options and increased hours.

Additionally, we are looking forward to serving more customers by opening it to include families, school districts, and community members. As the school year starts, some features to look forward to include:

- Monthly themes
- Outdoor, "drive-through" service
- Delivery
- Increasing hours

Bistro, but also the management responsibilities. The Bobcat Bistro will foster authentic experiences for all students including money management, customer service, and marketing, just to name a few.



Watch for mail invites and announcements via social media for our Grand Opening for the 2016-2017 school year!

Students will have the opportunity to experience not only the food preparation needed to run a

STUDENT Highlight

Alex An Array of Possibilities

Just three short months ago, graduation season was upon us. Caps and gowns were ordered, ceremonies and celebrations were planned by schools and families. Carefully-crafted plans and dreams were on the cusp of becoming reality. For one TRS student, all of the hard work of an academic career was about to culminate with a well-earned diploma, and many congratulations.

When Alex entered the TRS-West Allis gymnasium on June 8th for his commencement ceremony, he was greeted enthusiastically by family, staff, and fellow students.

His teacher, Mr. Bauman explained to those in attendance, “To say that Alex has made incredible strides since coming to the Richardson School would be an understatement. Over the last two years Alex has become a model student—always eager to participate in class, enthusiastic about the material, and positively influencing his peers by showing a great attitude every single day.... I think Alex’s greatest accomplishment, however, has been his ability to find confidence in himself—a confidence which has allowed him to open up to others; to show off his intelligence, amazing wit, and caring personality.”

What followed was a celebration that recognized a great accomplishment, and pointed to an even greater future.

Alex, now a graduate with his days of sitting behind a desk in his rear-view mirror, has wasted no time embracing that future. He has moved on to meaningful employment, and is living in an apartment supported by Homes for Independent Living, a sister company of TRS. His transition has been very successful. Alex loves his new apartment, and says the best thing about it is getting to cook on his own, and having the freedom to leave for walks whenever he wants to.



He is also excited about learning to use the Waukesha Metro Bus System so that he can go more places.

To borrow Mr. Bauman’s final words at the graduation,” Alex you should be proud of what you’ve accomplished, proud of how bright your future is, and proud of the lasting impact that you’ve had on your peers, the staff, and the Richardson School as a whole.”

For more information about Homes for Independent Living, go to www.hil-wi.com.



Did You Know?

The Richardson School has a subscription to TumbleBooks that can be used at home by families. TumbleBooks is an online resource that provides access to countless books for all ages, readability, and interests. Whether your child wants to read a trade book or a novel, non-fiction or fiction, there are options to fit. TumbleBooks makes the text interactive by adding sounds, animations, and even reading the text aloud! To log on to our account, please visit www.tumblebooklibrary.com Username: richardsonschool Password: reads



**"Always do your best. What you plant now,
you will harvest later."—Og Mandino**

Upcoming Events

September 30

**Bistro Event-Brookfield
Families & Districts Invited**
*Watch for monthly invites,
more dates and details.*

October 15

**Walk Now for
Autism Speaks
BMO Harris Bradley Center**

*Mr. Robert "Bob" Cat will be
attending events, field trips
and cooking/Bistro events, as
well as making appearances at
TRS locations and sister
companies. Follow the weekly
adventures of
Mr. Bob Cat on Facebook.
#BobVoyage
#ItsAGreatDayToBeABobcat*

**Check out the school
calendar on our website!**

Beloit

321 Olympian Blvd.
Beloit, WI 53511
608.473.3244

Brookfield

175 S. Barker Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53045
262.468.0700

Madison

2802 International Ln.
Madison WI 53704

West Allis

6753 W. Rogers St.
West Allis, WI 53219
414.540.8500

New TRS-Beloit Therapeutic Garden, Continued From Page 1

gardening knowledge and skills, and begins getting everyone to think about healthy eating."

By giving each student an opportunity to care for the garden, they will practice and gain social skills, have meaningful engagement, and increased learning opportunities.

Students are also stimulated through each of their senses. This stimulation occurs courtesy of the plants as they engage the students' senses of sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound. These types of gardens are beneficial to both children and adults who have sensory processing concerns, including autism and other disabilities. Kids who have sensory

processing concerns tend to have extreme reactions to sensory stimulation—in that they can either be stimulated too much, or too little.

There are many reasons that gardening is considered therapeutic, including evidence for physical, cognitive and social benefits. However, there seems to be something in gardening associated with providing hope for those that just need a little boost in their day.

Adds Brimacombe, "It is certainly possible that providing that hope may be the most beneficial aspect of gardening therapy."



The Richardson School

175 S. Barker Rd.
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