

Parents as Teachers of Hanover  
Quarterly Report  
January- March 2009

Parents as Teachers (PATH) of Hanover Community Schools is committed to providing a safe, caring and supportive learning environment through the earliest years of a child's life. This **voluntary** program is designed to enhance child development and school achievement through parent education and support. The PAT *Born to Learn* curriculum translates the latest neuroscience findings about early learning into concrete *when, what, how* and *why* advice for parents. With a universal approach, the **free** program is accessible to all families in Hanover Township and Center Township in Cedar Lake.

Parents as Teachers of Hanover have serviced 112 families and 144 children so far this year. The children have received 656 personal home visits where time appropriate information on the specific age of development is explained by educators trained in early childhood development. The parents and children have also enjoyed 43 group activities where structured activities to promote knowledge related to parenting and child development were offered in a community setting. The waiting list consists of 47 children and 32 families.

On January 23 with the help of Advisory Board members Mr. B.J. Hubbard and Mrs. Aimee Beauchamp, Hanover PAT received a special visit from Mrs. Shelli VanDenburgh, Indiana House of Representatives. Mrs. VanDenburgh accompanied Program Coordinator Vickie Rainwater on a home visit of a 5 year old boy and 4 year old girl. Mr. Hubbard also went along to answer any question of the dynamics of a home visitation program. Mrs. VanDenburgh stated that Parents as Teachers is essential for all children and parents to make sure the information for child development is transparent and each child has the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

January was also the kick-off of a unique and powerful presentation of child development and parenting skills titled, "What to do When Your Kid Drives you Crazy!" presented in three sessions by Ms. Kathy Cox, a Certified Parenting Instructor from International Network for children and Families. Ms. Cox directs parents on effective strategies for today's adult/child relationships that can make parenting a lot more fun; with the purpose of bringing peace to your situation and to assist in creating cooperative, loving, confident, violent free children. Intervention Staff offered free on-sight childcare.

*Jane Ball Seedlings and Parents as Teachers* staff will be monitoring and assessing preschool age children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2009. The program we will be using is **STAR Early Literacy**. The assessment will be conducted the last week of January or first week of February. Before Star Early Literacy, oral questioning and traditional paper-and-pencil tests were the standard means of assessing pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and other emerging readers. These traditional assessments are time-consuming, inefficient, and expensive. STAR Early Literacy is an easily administered, web-based assessment tool that provides immediate feedback on the development of the

students' literacy skills. STAR Early Literacy can accurately and reliably assess 41 skills in 7 content areas. Experts consider these content areas essential for their critical role in literacy development. With this information educators can empirically analyze the onset, rate of development, point of maturation, and sequence of development of literacy skills relative to other skills, age, or school grade.

Cedar Lake Kiwanis held the first annual "Winter Ball" on February 21 at Great Oaks after Four Club. It was a night of dinner dancing and socializing. The proceeds were divided between Parents as Teachers, Cedar Lake Softball and Cedar Lake Little League. Each group received \$50.00.

Headstart in Cedar Lake hosted a Parent Day on March 6. Program Coordinator Vickie Rainwater, was invited to speak to the group on getting your children ready for Kindergarten. Vickie spoke of the importance of early childhood education from the time of birth, as well as, the key indicators of school readiness established by the Hanover kindergarten staff. She also stressed the importance of being involved in your child's classroom and open communication between parent/caregiver and teacher.

### **Time Line:**

#### January

- Congressional Representative, Shelli VanDenburgh went on a home visit with Project Coordinator Vickie Rainwater on January 23, 2009. She also visited the Parents as Teachers office at Jane Ball Elementary and was introduced to the staff.
- Purchased books from Usborne Books for the Family Kits, birthday books and Bunnies In and Out, Colors All About group meeting. Funds provided by the Indiana Department of Education.
- Certified Discipline Instructor, from the International Network for Children and Families, Kathy Cox, held the first of three workshops on discipline. Spoke to our families about effective ways to handle those dreaded power struggles. Ms Cox will present on three individual sessions, continuing in March.
- Parents as Teachers staff trained for Early Star Literacy Assessment.

#### February

- We began the second semester of our 2-year-old program entitled "Bunnies In and Out, Colors All About." This program began on Monday, February 2 and ran for six weeks ending on March 16. About 15 children and their parent/caregiver attended the meetings where they learned color words, animal names and sounds, counting, songs, and finger play. Matching books for all children will be distributed at the last group meeting in March.
- Our 0-5 year-old Playgroup also began on February 4th and ran for six consecutive Wednesdays through March 11th. About 20 children and their parents/caregiver attended these group meetings each week, where they were able to play with an array of developmentally appropriate toys, engage in songs and finger play and social interaction.

- Cedar Lake Kiwanis held the first annual Winter Ball at Great Oaks after Four Club.
- Parent Educators meet with supervisor Vickie Rainwater for reflective supervision.
- Parent Educators implemented the Star Early Literacy Testing. Star Early Literacy is a pilot project. This pilot will start with the children that are actively enrolled in Jane Ball Seedlings and Parents as Teachers that will enter Kindergarten in the fall of 2009. This evaluation will longitudinally track children as they proceed in school with the Accelerated Reading Program. Star Early Literacy can accurately and reliably assess 41 skills in 7 content areas. Experts consider these content areas essential for their critical role in literacy development.

### March

- Coordinator Vickie Rainwater worked on grants to Dollar General, Target and Early Reading First for sustainability for our program.
- On March 5<sup>th</sup> Kathy Cox held her second workshop on discipline. This workshop consisted of enhancing children's self esteem. She demonstrated 10 methods of discipline while still instilling high self esteem.
- Parents as Teachers Coordinator Vickie Rainwater did a presentation to parents of Headstart to discuss Kindergarten readiness and skills required from Hanover Community School Corporation and Mac Arthur Elementary.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> was the final workshop held by Kathy Cox. This workshop held from 6 – 7:30 p.m. and covered how to handle their children's feelings. Parents learned how to use developmental information and understand the mistaken goals of power and attention to make this difficult time easier.
- Early Intervention Committee meeting was held on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The January & February meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.
- Parent educators continued visiting families and leading group meetings. The month went by smoothly and quickly, ending the month with spring break.