



StoryWalk:
Reading on the
move.

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SAVE THE DATE!
Eugene Morse
Gala Dinner and
Golf Outing, June 6,
2017

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Education... *for a Lifetime*

GPA today



News and Information
from Garfield Park Academy

Spring 2017

Statewide Winners

Two of Garfield Park Academy's educators have been recognized with statewide awards for their excellence by ASAHI, a not-for-profit organization comprised of more than 150 private schools that provide special education services to children with disabilities in New Jersey.

"Both of these women show outstanding commitment and dedication to their work and the students we serve," said Dr. Steven Morse, Superintendent of Garfield Park Academy. "We are honored that our peers and colleagues in the special education community recognize the excellence that these two professionals exhibit."



Beverly Thomas-Layton (receiving her award above) was selected as **Paraprofessional of the Year** for her

Tip Toeing Through Text:



StoryWalk

Imagine coming to school and finding a page from a favorite book taped to the classroom door. You read it, and as you walk down the hall, you notice another page. And as you make your way through the building, you discover you are reading a wonderful story.



StoryWalk, a concept created by Vermont educator Anne Ferguson, is a fun and innovative activity that places the pages from a children's story along a route in the community, on the playground, or inside the school building. It helps build children's interest in reading while encouraging healthy activity.

Earlier this year, students and staff at Garfield Park Academy enjoyed their first StoryWalk adventure. Early elementary-aged students, led by their teacher, Amy Matchett, walked around the building reading and acting out the story, *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, by Linda Williams. Students were learning about how to make predictions, so before reading, Ms. Matchett prompted her students to make a guess about what they thought might happen

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Tools for Academic Success

Did you know that GPA uses evidence based educational approaches for academics including:

- Wilson Reading Program
- FUNdations Reading
- DreamBox
- Apex Learning
- Journeys
- Brain POP

Statewide Winners *continued*

outstanding service and dedication. A twenty-year veteran of GPA, Beverly is certified in the Teaching Family Model and serves as a Peer Mediator in addition to her role as a classroom paraprofessional.



Sheri Roseman (receiving her award above) was selected as New Jersey's **Related Services Provider of the Year**. In 1995, she pioneered the art therapy program at GPA and has collaborated with leaders in the community to bring students' artwork to art galleries in Burlington and Camden Counties.



Jonathan Noriega Returns to GPA To Offer Advice and Perspective

Private First Class, Jonathan Noriega returned to Garfield Park Academy this winter. The 2012 graduate met with staff and students, reflecting on what he learned at GPA. He took questions about hard work, life in the military, and how GPA helped turn his life around.

"One of the things I learned here is that it is up to you to decide what you get out of life and what you do with it," said Jonathan. "This school helped me become a man - Now, I want to show others what "right" looks like."

Amanda Rossi, a behavior consultant in the Teaching-Family Model who worked

with Jonathan through his years at GPA, asked him to reflect on his two 'target skills' when he was a student. Target skills are cross-cutting skills that students work on over a long period of time.

"We choose target skills carefully, because we want students to internalize them and use them, not only here at GPA, but in the world so they can become successful."

"I have to say, my target skills - 'maintaining self control' and 'thinking before I act' - got me to where I am today," Jonathan concluded.

Video: Garfieldparkacademy.org/gpa-videos/



TIP TOEING THROUGH THE TEXT: STORYWALK *continued from cover*

in the story. The social worker in the classroom,

Maggie Masterton, helped students identify emotions in the story, and develop empathy with the characters.

"Students had a lot of fun with this book because there is a lot of action and movement in the story itself. Page by page, students clomped, wiggled, shook, clapped and nodded along with the story," said Ms. Matchett.

Brain science shows that physical activity and cognitive skills develop through a dynamic interaction, so it makes sense to find ways to move while reading.

"Every child learns differently, and for some of our students, the StoryWalk is a great way to get reluctant readers more engaged. It allows them to experience reading by moving through space," said Brittany Harmening, Reading Specialist. "Our students are looking forward to the warmer spring weather so they can enjoy outdoor StoryWalks."

RESEARCH SHOWS GPA'S INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK PRODUCES SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH

"produce significantly better outcomes" for youth post-discharge. "Short-term gains are relatively common, but for developing youth, shifts in long-term trajectories form the springboard for improved development, socialization, functioning and flourishing," write the study authors.

Who else has found the model to be evidence based?

- 2003** American Psychological Association
- 2008** California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC)
- 2016** National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP)

Garfield Park Academy was the first school-based program to be accredited by the international Teaching-Family Association in use of the model.

Many students are now ready for the next step – the keys to the car and behind-the-wheel learning.



**Education...
for a Lifetime**

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Middle States Association Accredited
Teaching-Family Association Accredited

Education... *for a Lifetime*



The Training Institute at Garfield Park Academy

The Training Institute at Garfield Park Academy offers free trainings to school leaders and other educators, with a focus on innovative, evidence-based approaches to serving students with social, emotional, learning and behavioral challenges. Learn more at:

GarfieldParkAcademy.org/the-training-institute-gpa/



Trainings on current topics
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2017 EUGENE MORSE GALA DINNER AND GOLF OUTING **LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION!**



Garfield Park Academy is a New Jersey state approved, not-for-profit school that provides effective, evidence-based special education services for students in grades K-12 who have a history of learning, social, emotional and behavioral challenges. Garfield Park Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association and accredited by the Teaching Family Association. For more information, please contact Garfield Park Academy or visit our website.

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