



Main Street Miracles: *The Collins Brothers*

Max and Liam Collins attended Main Street Pre-School at 3 years old. Max is now a 17 year old senior at CNS High School, and Liam is a 15 year old freshman at the North Syracuse Junior High. Max's teachers were Tami Barnhardt-Doody his first year, Cindy LaPierre his second, and Phil Cleary in the summer sessions. Liam had Cindy both years and also had Phil in the summers.

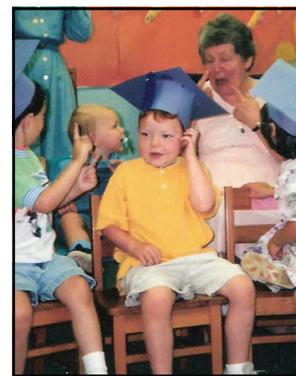
When Max first started it was quite a struggle. He hated getting dressed and getting ready to go. Tammy would have to make sure he was distracted before she could sneak out of the classroom. His first teacher was Tami Barnhardt-Doody, and she was awesome for him! She was very patient and helped him come out of his shell. While he was there he was also able to receive OT for fine motor skills. Max was big for his age and OT was very helpful for him. We also found out he had a sensory condition called Tactile Defensiveness. He would only like wearing certain fabrics, he had to have all tags cut out and as soon as he got home he would take all his school clothes off and play with a blanket wrapped around him. Because of Main Street we were able to help him with this. We would brush his skin every day with this special brush, so he could become more accustomed to the sensations and feeling that different fabrics or material would have on him when he was dressed. His teachers also helped us understand that because he was able to keep himself all together in the classroom each day, when he got home

we needed to be a little more patient with him as he might fall apart then.

That helped us immensely, as he would have some eruptions on occasion after he got home. The two years he attended were extremely helpful to Max and us, as he was already getting OT before attending elementary school, so he got a two year head start on it. He is now a senior with an 89 GPA looking at many colleges for this fall. We still have to cut the tags out of some shirts, but there are no more OT issues and he wouldn't be where he is today without the start he got from the Main Street Staff.



Liam Collins on the playground



Max Collins with Gert Osborn

Liam was quite attached to his mother in the mornings as well, but it wore off quickly. He was already well known around the halls of the school,

Our Mission

The Friends of the North Syracuse Early Education Program (FNSEEP) is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the North Syracuse Early Education Program. We are a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ PTO Mtg. 1/10 7:00 pm
- ◆ FNSEEP Mtg. 1/12 6:30 pm @ NSEA
- ◆ PTO Fundraiser- Gertrude Hawk 2/6- 2/10
- ◆ PTO Mtg. 2/7 7:00 pm
- ◆ FNSEEP Mtg. 2/9 6:30 pm @ NSEA
- ◆ School Spirit Week 2/27- 3/2
- ◆ PTO Mtg. 3/13 7:00 pm
- ◆ FNSEEP Mtg. 3/15 6:30 pm @ NSEA
- ◆ Therapy Ball 3/29 6:00-10:00 PM

Message From Friends of NSEEP President~ *Jacque Owens*

Last year we saw lots of changes in the world and in our little neck of the woods. Fortunately for us, 2011 turned out better than we thought for Main Street School. Instead of imminent closer, we are seeing people step forward to help us gain a better footing.

The Boenheim Foundation awarded the Friends of NSEEP \$10,650 toward a year long improvement of Main Street's snack program.

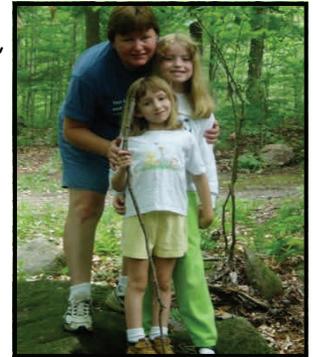
Throughout 2012, preschoolers will have the opportunity to sample a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, cheese, and whole grain snacks. Include in the grant are funds for speech therapists to continue their cooking program. Our speech therapists use food and cooking to reinforce not only sound production, but also language concepts, counting, self-help skills, and social skills. The therapists work with classroom teachers to create a cooking activity that goes along with the weekly theme. The Friends of NSEEP is grateful to the Boenheim Foundation for this opportunity to enhance our snack program and give the

children at Main Street a nutritious BOOST to their day!

Just starting to grow is our tile fundraiser. To create a large size version of the school logo for display in the lobby, Friends of NSEEP is selling square tiles that build the logo like a giant puzzle! All the donors will be named on a plaque mounted next to the logo.

For 2012, we first want to thank all of you who contributed to the Main Street School in time, money, or your story. We will be working to build on all of our successes last year to grow bigger and better! You are all part of the Friends of NSEEP family!

Sincerely,
Jacque
President, Friends of NSEEP



Jacque Owens with daughters Rosie and Maddy at Cranberry Lake.

Message From the Principal NSEEP at Main Street ~ *Dawn Hussein*



When communities rally together, mountains can be moved. ***Two local community organizations that have impacted the North Syracuse Early Education Program during the recent holiday season are the North Syracuse Lions and Lioness Club.*** These local

volunteer chapters, which came into existence in the late 1950s, center around a core belief that ***"community is what we make it."*** As service clubs, their mission is to empower volunteers to serve communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding. These organizations make donations to help out many local organizations and have also gone international with the recycling of eyeglasses and hearing aids to third world countries. Under the guidance of the Onondaga County Health Department, the local Lioness Club has become well-known for screening children's eyes, particularly those between the ages of 3 and 6 in the North Syracuse School District.

In my first week as principal of the Early Education Program (August 2011), I was visited by a representative of the Lioness Club, Emily Sharpe, who was wondering how her organization could help our Main Street School. I was invited to attend a dinner meeting in October where I was asked to talk about the school and what needs we might have. As a result of that dinner, our school was selected to participate in the holiday "Adopt-a-Family" service project. The family that was suggested by one of our teachers was a single mother of three children. The North Syracuse Lioness group provided an abundant amount of food for a holiday meal, four gifts of clothing for each of the children, and toys for all three children. The gifts were beautifully gift wrapped and delivered to the school where the family arranged for pick up. What a tremendous display of humanity!

Because of our established relationship with the Lioness Club, we were also contacted by the North Syracuse Lions Club who further extended the holiday cheer to other families in need at Main Street. The Lions asked us to select an unlimited amount of families from the North Syracuse area who were in need of as-

sistance during the holidays. Again our teachers brought forward four families that they thought could benefit from some additional support. The four families were provided a holiday food basket and one toy for each child, which were donated by Toys for Tots. In these four families, fourteen children were served!

Main Street Miracles (Cont. from p.1)

due to Tammy being very involved in Main St. PTO for the 2 years Max was attending. He used to be called "The Mayor of Main Street", because at 3 years old, he knew most of the staff already. Cindy was great for him, and he loved coming to school. Liam had a mild stutter and had trouble with pronouncing the letter R. He was able to get speech assistance at school. He was able to reduce and then eliminate his stutter. Liam was given 10 different types of drinking straws to strengthen his tongue and help with the R sound. This was a new program for speech therapy and it did help him. He continued to receive speech assistance in elementary school, without the start at Main Street he would have had to take it much longer and would not have gotten speech therapy until kindergarten. Liam now has no problems speaking. He is active with the drama department at school, starring in three plays including playing the Cowardly Lion in "Oz" and the king in "Cinderella". He also is a member of CSPA

During the holiday season, kindness and compassion can take on many forms. These two organizations have touched the lives of many families here at the North Syracuse Early Education Program. We thank them for all that they do and look forward to future interactions!

~ Dawn Hussein

drama program, which he has played Rooster in "Annie", Horton in "Seussical", and the Ghost of Christmas Present and Marley in "A Christmas Carol".

We both know that without the start our boys had at Main Street, they would not be where they are today. When there were funding concerns, we both wrote letters to the board of education and gave speeches to the board to show how important Main Street and early education is to the development of our youth. We both made sure to take part in the PTO, Tammy was a president for a few years, and we had a great time at all the events. We have encouraged many friends to enroll their children there, and all have come away with the same great stories.

Thank you Main Street! We couldn't have done it without you!

Nikos & Tammy Collins

The Friends 4th Annual Therapy Ball- Thursday, March 29th

The Friends of NSEEP will host it's 4th Annual Therapy Ball on Thursday, March 29th from 6:00-10:00 PM at Barbagallo's Restaurant 6344 E. Molloy Rd. in East Syracuse. Join us for a fun-filled, casual evening of food, entertainment, great auction items and raffles!

Items are still being accepted for both the auction and raffles right up to March 29th the day of the event. Items that might be donated include dance lessons, fitness classes, karate classes, art classes, movie tickets, gift cards to restaurants, florists, salons, bookstores or home improvement stores, or themed baskets including a Movie Night, Scrapbooking, Game Night, Gardening, Arts & Crafts. Home Party baskets are also nice- Pampered Chef, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Thirty-One, etc. SU

memorabilia is always popular! (Even more so this year!) The possibilities are endless!

Presale tickets will be available for \$10.00 in the Main Office beginning in February. They will be sold at the door for \$12.00 the evening of the event. The Therapy Ball is a major fundraising event for the Friends. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated!

Please contact Jill Coleman, our Therapy Ball Chairperson, at 458-0924, if you would like to volunteer to help plan the Therapy Ball or help out that evening, or if you would like to make a donation.

Contact Jill Coleman at 458-0924 to volunteer or donate an item to The Therapy Ball!



FRIENDS OF THE NORTH SYRACUSE
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Friends of NSEEP Board of Directors

Hal Breon, Kathi Esposito, Jacquie Owens, Al Stirpe

NSEEP PTO and Friends of NSEEP: A Cooperative Link

The NSEEP Parent-Teacher Organization provides a link between parents and the school with the mission to raise funds that are then used to provide requested educational items to the program, above those the school budget provides for, and sponsoring fun, educational events for the students. Though they may differ only in terms of timeframe, the goals of the PTO and FNSEEP are similar and complementary in that they both work to support the teaching and therapy staff with needed resources and work for the end result of helping to build the program and enrich the experience of each student.

As such, the organizations also work cooperatively to provide pools of volunteers for each other's events, such as the PTO's Family Fun Festival or the popular Friends' Therapy Ball. This works out well for the purpose of building familiarity with the mission of the FNSEEP so that as children graduate from Main Street, the parents that have witnessed the supportive, caring, and academic environment well-disguised as fun and play for their children, can maintain their connection to the school through joining the Friends. Enthusiasm for the FNSEEP is easy to find. Outside of the school a local Lioness chapter has committed volunteers to assist in fundraising, and in wanting to leverage that generosity, the PTO readily found within its ranks eager members to form a FNSEEP-PTO joint committee to initiate a fundraiser to add to the already flourishing roster of Friends' annual fundraising events. The PTO hopes and strives for a successful year in helping the FNSEEP accomplish its mission so that current and future students realize the benefits of this very special program.



Senator John De Francisco reads to NSEEP children and their families at the PTO-sponsored "Cookies with Santa" in December.

~ Stacie Brough, NSEEP PTO President, 2011-2012