



# JOWONIO

## School News

Volume 23, Issue 3

June 2019

## Thoughts From The Director

This time of year always brings mixed emotions me. It is a time of transition, as some of our families prepare for their children to head to kindergarten in the fall, and others for moves or life changes that will take them out of day to day contact with the school, and some of our staff prepare to move on to other jobs or life adventures. Change, however positive, is always hard. We have come to know you and your children, you have become part of the school "family", and we will miss seeing you every day. We hope you will stay in touch, by stopping by to see us and by participating in our events. We also hope you will continue to share the milestones of your children's lives with us as they grow and move on. We have loved having them with us, and you and they will always be in our hearts.

Mixed with the sadness, for me, is a sense of celebration and gratitude. The celebration is for the connections that have been made, the joy and laughter we have shared, and the incredible growth we have witnessed in your children. It always amazes me how much the kids grow and change over the course of the year, whether that is physical growth, expanding communication skills, development of friendships and social problem-solving skills, or growth in pre-academic skills. Our classroom graduation ceremonies are joyful celebrations of our year together; we hope you will join us and bring your family members and friends.

My gratitude is for all the ways you have supported us as parents. Your choice to enroll your child with us is a leap of faith, and your good "word of mouth", encouraging friends and neighbors to consider our program, helps us continue to maintain stable enrollment. Knowing the folks who come to us helps to ensure a match in philosophy and approach, and supports effective partnerships between parents and staff. And those of you who have been able to volunteer in classrooms and with special projects make an important contribution to the life of the school. We so appreciate your efforts.

And some of you have become involved in the school as a whole, through the Jowonio School Board, the Friends of Jowonio Board, and participating in various fund development efforts. This has been an incredible gift of time and skill, from both families who currently have children enrolled with us and from families who have continued to support us as their children have grown and moved on. Jowonio has benefited from your wisdom, problem-solving abilities, targeted skills, financial support and connections, and time and effort. Working with the Boards and parent volunteers throughout the leadership transition this year has been a particularly validating and supportive process for me, and I am so grateful.

Jowonio was started by a group of parents almost 50 years ago, and the fact that it continues to thrive is testimony to the commitment, effort, and skill of staff members and families alike. Thank you!

~Lori

### Dates to Remember

6/12	Staff Appreciation Luncheon NO AFTERSCHOOL AVAILABLE
6/10- 6/21	Classroom Graduations see page 4
6/21	Last day of school all classrooms Dismiss at 11:15
7/12- 8/9	Jowonio Summer Session
8/5	Jowonio Golf Open

## Graduation Dates



Join your child's classroom for their graduation ceremonies. This occasion gives us a chance to acknowledge each student's growth and celebrate the friendships that have been made within the class. The teachers have put thought into an event that will help our children and families remember their time with us this year. The teachers will let you know the details...

6/10	Koala 5:30 pm
6/12	Dragonfly 6:00 pm
6/13	Earth 1:00 pm
6/14	Star 1:00 pm
6/18	Ocean 1:00 am, Waterfall 6:00 pm
6/19	Butterfly 10:00 am
6/20	Kangaroo 10:00 am, Treehouse 12:00 pm Sunflower 6:00 pm

## Summer at Jowonio

Jowonio runs for 6 weeks from July 1 to August 9. Most of the staff are folks who have worked with us during the school year. While we have a schedule similar to that of the school year, we take advantage of the good weather and our great space to be outdoors every day and have special events like the Secret Garden Carnival. Children have to be registered with Connie to attend during the summer session.

## Classroom Placement

As anyone touring Jowonio can see, each of our classrooms has a personality of its own. This unique tone reflects the age, personalities and passions of the students; the way in which the curriculum, environment, and materials are organized; and the philosophy, interests and teaching styles of the adults. Parents ask how we place children in a particular room. Here is how we think of it. There are a number of factors we consider:

- ◆ A match between a child's learning style and the classroom approach;
- ◆ Insuring diversity in each class re gender, race, age, first language, and needs;
- ◆ Maintenance of relationships with adults and friendships with peers; and
- ◆ Parent input/request.

Our goal is to have classrooms that balance the strengths and needs of all the children. We usually maintain children in their same room unless a child is changing the length of day they are attending or if parents request that their child be moved to a different room. Conversations with parents focus on goals for their child and the kind of classroom structure that will be a good fit. We are not always able to guarantee parents' first choice, but we try to share information and be responsive to parental concerns. Our class lists are not finalized until the summer. If you have questions or comments, talk with the teaching and/or office staff.

## Fall Enrollment

At this time of year, we receive many questions from families with children on our interest list, including current families who have siblings on that list. We have a lot of interest in enrollment for the fall! We know many families have questions about our process, and are anxious to know when they will be

## Fall Enrollment cont.

notified if their child has a spot. This year has been particularly challenging, as we have a large number of children moving from our half day to our midday and full day classrooms, and a very limited number of spaces available for new children coming in, including siblings of children who are currently enrolled. Rest assured that we have been working diligently to get as many children in as we can, and to get you answers as quickly as possible.

We maintain two separate interest lists - one for children with special needs, and the contact person for that is Emily Vercelloni; and one for children without, and the contact person for that is Jen Petrie. With both lists, our process starts by having families of currently enrolled children fill out a pre-registration form indicating their interest in having their child continue with us next year. That form includes a line for families to indicate whether there is also a sibling they would like to enroll. We understand that this has caused some confusion - Please be aware that adding a sibling's name to the form does not guarantee they have been added to our interest list. If you have a sibling you would like to enroll for next year or any future year, please fill out an interest form and return it to the front desk.

Once we know the number of open spaces we will have available for the following year, we begin touring families, starting with those near the top of the interest list. We tour all families, and make sure we have an opportunity to meet their children, even if the family is already familiar with our program. This process gives families an opportunity to see current classroom styles and consider the full range of program options, and it gives us an opportunity to get a sense of the child and think about the best classroom match. We don't tour families until their name is near the top of the interest list, so that we are not getting people excited if there is not likely to be a spot available for them.

We consider children for placement based on the date on which they were first placed on the interest list, or qualified through their school district for the special services we offer, but reserve the right to prioritize children of staff members and siblings of children who will be attending concurrently. We also consider a number of factors when placing children, in order to be sure that we are able to create balanced classrooms that can meet the needs of all who are enrolled. This year, we want you to know that, due to the overwhelming number of requests we have received for siblings to attend, we are no longer able to guarantee spaces to siblings who will not be enrolled concurrently. We will be looking at those requests in the order in which children came onto our interest list. If it becomes clear that we are full, and will not be able to accommodate your request, we will notify you. Otherwise, we are just taking time to work through the process. But we encourage you to think about alternate options just in case we fill before we get to your child's name on the list.

When we can confirm that we have an available opening for your child, you will be given a registration packet to complete. If a staff member confirms an opening for the 2019-2020 school year and gives you a registration packet, please complete and return it to Connie in the office as soon as possible. In order for your son or daughter to enter school, we must have a physical form indicating that your child has had a physical within 12 months of our September start date and that immunizations are current. So, if needed, make an appointment for a "well child" visit with your pediatrician or family physician over the summer. If we already have a current physical/immunization record on file, you do not have to send another copy in. Always make sure your records are up to date with us. Call us at 315-445-4010 if you have questions regarding the forms.

## Kindergarten Transition

The move to a new school can be challenging for parents as well as children. There are tasks that will smooth the way for both you and your son or daughter. While transitions are the natural order of things, they bring with them anxiety about the unknown. Any way that we can reduce the surprises and engage ourselves in the positives will help make the changes more manageable.

- Visit the school (be alert to notices about a "visiting day" or "Kindergarten Orientation")
- Over the summer use opportunities to play on the playground of the new school, practice the walk or ride route from home to the new school, if possible meet the new teacher.
- Take pictures of the new school and any of the people working there to make a book (Jowonio staff can help with this)
- Make a Social Story about going to the new school (again Jowonio teachers can help)
- Be sure you have completed all the school paperwork and gotten copies there (e.g. physical forms from your doctor, Jowonio reports if you want them passed on)
- Listen to your child's fears and suggest strategies for addressing them (e.g. "ask your teacher or another student if you are not sure what to do")
- Give your child opportunities to talk about anything that worries him/her, and be positive and reassuring (remember that there was a first day at Jowonio too)
- Set up playdates with children going to the same school
- Engage your child in getting things ready...buying a backpack, lunchbox or new school clothes if needed (however, remember that for some kids the old and familiar may help them feel more secure), putting name labels on things
- Get clothes ready for the first day and let your child have some say in what he wears...so that it is comfortable (e.g. tags are cut out and any new clothes washed)
- Use Jowonio memorabilia (e.g. photos) to talk about how much your son/daughter has grown and also to reassure him/her that relationships with preschool friends can continue, that you can come to the Jowonio playground, and visit the classrooms and teachers. You are always welcome back!

### Social Story about Going to Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a lot like Jowonio. It is a place where children learn new things while they work and play. A teacher helps the children learn.

In kindergarten children meet new friends and teachers...just like at Jowonio.

In kindergarten children learn to read and write...just like at Jowonio.

In kindergarten children learn to count and solve problems...just like at Jowonio.

In kindergarten children go to the gym, the library, the art room, and the playground ... just like at Jowonio.

Many things in kindergarten will be like Jowonio. But some things will be new.

I can have fun trying new things. It is exciting going to kindergarten!

# Children's Books About the Transition to Kindergarten

Look for books that talk about the transition and focus on several features:

Transitions can be both scary and exciting.

There is much to be proud about as you grow and move on to a new school.

Many children have the same feelings.

Talk with your local librarian about available books. After you read a book, ask your child about the events, the feelings of the characters, what worried the child in the book, and what helped her feel better. Some books you might want to check out include:



Countdown to Kindergarten (McGhee)



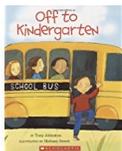
Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!  
(Carlson)



Will I Have a Friend? (Cohen)



A Place Called Kindergarten (Harper)



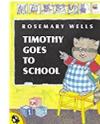
Off to Kindergarten (Johnston)



The Kissing Hand (Pena)



Welcome to Kindergarten (Rockwell)



Timothy Goes to School (Wells)

## Everything I needed to know about life I learned in Kindergarten

By Robert Fulghum

**These are things I learned:** Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before eating. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some, and draw and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap in the afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup—the roots go down and the plant goes up, and nobody really knows why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup—they all die. And so do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: Look. Think of what a better world it would be if we all had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations always to put things back where we found them and clean up our own messes.

And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the worked, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

## Friendship for and with all kids

Kate Smith



There were lots of reasons why we chose Jowonio for our kids, but the most significant is how incredibly important it is that all kids be included in school and in the community. We want our typically developing kids to grow up knowing that everyone belongs; Jowonio was the obvious place to start.

My kids have been learning with kids of all sorts of abilities and disabilities since they were 3 years old. I'm happy to say their participation in inclusive classrooms continued into Elementary school. Having kids who learn differently, communicate differently, get around differently, or behave differently in their classrooms is normal to them.

In his second-grade year, my son started talking about a new friend. His friend's mom emailed me when I had forgotten to RSVP to his birthday party; she told me how much they hoped my son could attend because her son talked about him a lot at home. She then mentioned to me that her son has Autism and that making friends hadn't always come easily, so she hoped we could support their friendship. And obviously I was thrilled to support it! Our boys are now really good friends. I didn't do anything special to make that happen. He did not have to try hard to make it happen; it just did. I'm not sure if my son knows his buddy has a disability, but I'm pretty confident that it doesn't matter; he knows everyone belongs.

Later, we discovered that our boys had been at Jowonio at the same time, though never in the same classroom. Maybe it was that foundation that inclusivity, acceptance and understanding that brought them together, but now they are just two 8-year-old boys who love to talk and play.

## SU Social Work intern

By Angela Gallina

This year I had the pleasure to intern at Jowonio School, a school filled with laughter, compassion, and unity. I interned specifically with Emily and Melissa, the two social workers in the Family Support Suite. As a social work intern, I learned not only about how Jowonio supports their children, but also their families. The social workers on staff aid the needs of families who have/had children at Jowonio whether that be by providing transportation, ordering equipment or supplementing a family with basic necessities such as food. Aside from monetary needs, these individuals also provide a consistent and liable support system for families to express their concerns and worries.

As many are aware, Jowonio School is an inclusive pre-school for children aged 2-5, but what many do not know is how inclusive they are with their staff and families. As a intern, I was welcomed into this new environment and included in almost all staff activities and functions. The staff at Jowonio can make one feel accepted and included no matter one's age, race, and ability. I think that is one of many aspects that make Jowonio School and their staff so special.

# Family Support

## FAMILY SUPPORT CORNER

It's been a busy spring for Jowonio families!

We continue to enjoy a collaborative partnership with our neighbor across the street, **Nottingham High School**, and its talented students and faculty. In March we continued our annual tradition of taking a school-wide walking field trip across *Genesee Street* to attend an exclusive performance of Nottingham's spring musical. All but one classroom attended *Guys and Dolls*, and for several weeks later we could still hear kids singing some of the classic catchy tunes from the show. Thanks to the **Syracuse police department** and members of the **Sigma Beta Club** for helping us walk safely to the high school, and to the **Nottingham theater department** for sharing their great show with us!



Thank you to **Pam McGrath**, massage therapist, teacher, dance instructor, and wellness specialist, for providing us with an energizing and relaxing self-care staff inservice in April. She reminded us of the importance of taking care of our physical and mental health, as teachers and therapists, and to remember to breathe! It was great to have Pam back at Jowonio with old friends and colleagues!

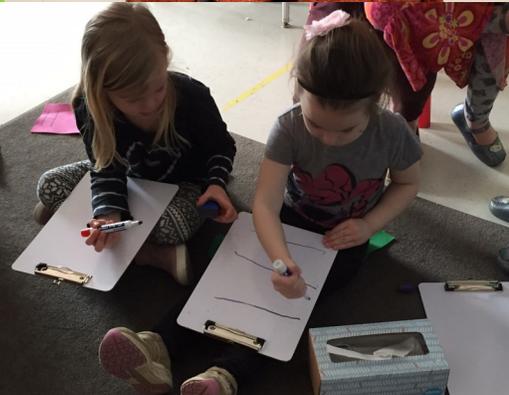


Thanks to Maria and **Maxwell's Restaurant** for helping us to host our annual **Couples' Night Out**, sponsored by OPWDD, where couples spent the evening dining and catching up with other Jowonio parents and grandparents.

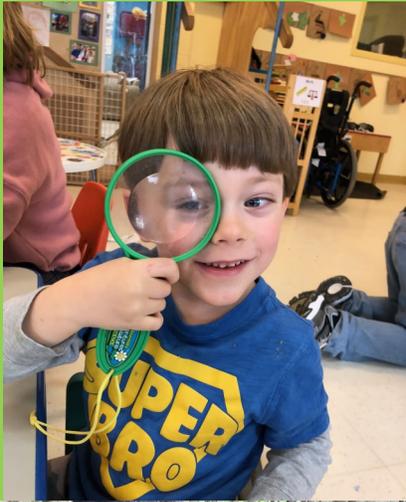
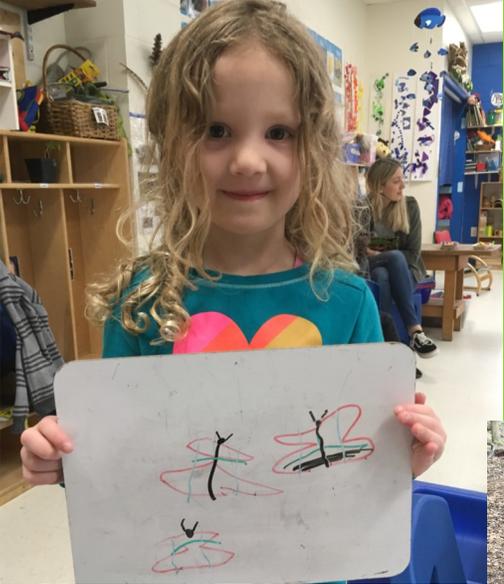
**The Lions Club** donated their time and equipment in April to offer **vision screenings** for all Jowonio students and families. This is a service we have greatly appreciated every year and enabled us to provide 106 screenings for Jowonio students this spring.

Thank you as always to **Panera of Fayetteville** for donating their unsold baked goods to Jowonio every Monday for our families and staff to enjoy and a huge **THANK YOU** to **Scott Floyd** and **Mark McKeon**, who transport the bread to us every week!

# Whats Happening...



# Whats Happening...



## Board Update

Ann Marie Myers, President

It is hard to believe this school year is coming to a close already. In my seven-plus years of connection to Jowonio, I have yet to meet anyone associated with the school that does not have a fondness for the place and an appreciation for the tremendous work that goes into each school year. This year's work included some construction and I want to thank you for your patience as we work to update our facility.

While Jowonio has always been known for its excellent inclusive education program, it also has a well-deserved reputation for being a warm and value-oriented environment. Without a doubt, the unmistakable commitment of the Jowonio parent body and its dynamic staff has had an enormous impact on the school's success. It is the staff's partnership with you, the Jowonio parents, that is the very backbone of the school and the administration counts on this partnership in order to successfully foster our innovative educational setting where children of all abilities are full participants, encouraged to reach their potential.

As you head off into summer, some of you leaving Jowonio for your next adventure, you are now among hundreds of families that have come through Jowonio's doors and have amazing stories of how Jowonio has assisted your child as well as yourselves. We would love for you to share your story with us to be featured in one of our "Tribute Tuesday" posts on Facebook.

Fortunately, the options for continuing to support Jowonio are plenty: you can volunteer to help in the classrooms or the office, you may lend your time to one of the many committees run by the Board, you may volunteer at one of the Fundraising events for the school, participate in our 50th Anniversary event planning, or you may even be interested in joining the Board. The Board is currently looking for members with fund development skills, finance knowledge, or just an energy around and commitment to Jowonio's mission. Whatever your interests or time constraints, Jowonio has a place for you. We want all of you to be involved in growing our wonderful school.

"Tribute Tuesday" stories or Board interest can be sent to [board.member@jowonio.org](mailto:board.member@jowonio.org).

Thank you and Enjoy Your Summer!

## Ticks and Lyme Disease: How to Keep Yourself Safe!

**What is a tick?** A tick is not an insect. Some ticks are soft and squishy, like a dog tick. Others, like deer ticks, have a very hard shell. Ticks feed on the blood of animals, including humans. Ticks are very small, about the size of a sesame seed. Young ticks can be even smaller! Once a tick has bitten you it can stay attached to your skin for several weeks if you don't remove it.

**What if a tick bites you?** Immediately remove the tick with a pair of tweezers. **Do NOT** use your fingernails. Use the tweezers to grab the tick close to your skin and gently pull straight out. **Do NOT** grab the tick by the body and **Do NOT** twist the tick out. Save the tick and place it in a jar of alcohol to kill it. Clean the bite with alcohol. Watch the bite for the next few weeks to see if you get a circular rash. If you see a rash or feel sick, go to the doctor. Don't forget to show the tick to your doctor. He can tell you if it's the kind of tick that can carry Lyme disease. Ticks like warm, dark places. Good places to look for them are the back of the knee, thighs, belly button, armpit, ears, hair, or the back of the neck.

**What can I do to stay away from ticks?** Ticks like to live in shady, wooded areas. They can be found in tall grass, Spanish moss, bushes, low tree branches, and sometimes even lawns and gardens. They especially like warm weather, so you should be extra careful during summer. ***If you play in the woods, be sure to:*** Always wear closed shoes (like sneakers and boots, not sandals) Tuck your pants into your socks so that ticks can't get inside your clothes and Spray clothes with bug spray.

## Parent Testimonials

**Katie and Mike  
Rey Jowonio  
Board members  
and parents**

Every time I walk through the doors of the school, I feel a sense of energy and light. Our daughter, Josie, began her Jowonio journey this past September in the Butterfly Room; and we can't think of a more appropriate metaphor for how she's flourished. She's learning how to build friendships and interact with kids her age. She sings the "Goodbye Song" to everyone she sees. And, every time we ask her about her day at school she says, "Had fun at Jowonio." We love the experience as much as she does and cannot wait to see what the rest of the year holds for her.

I could write pages about how much Jowonio has meant to my family this year, what incredible changes we have witnessed in our daughter, how much this place so far exceeds any expectations one might have. But most of my feelings could be summarized in that one beautiful experience of the Jowonio Follies. We almost didn't go. It was likely our daughter wouldn't participate and we had another commitment at the same time. Emily tried so hard to support whatever decision we made, but it was obvious she hoped we could be there, so I went. From beginning to end, I was so completely overcome. I was simultaneously laughing and crying at the madness of the whole thing - the teachers so committed to the dance moves, children running the gamut from 0-10,000 on the enthusiasm scale, my baby standing tall and proud with a huge smile searching the crowd for her mama, but knowing she was so safe in the company of her Earth room family. But what struck me the most, what I could not stop seeing, is that Jowonio is exactly how God intended it to be. Every single person in the room has such tremendous value and worth and something so unique and important to offer the world. There is a seat at the table for everyone and the celebration is at its most beautiful when each of us is there. I still cannot think of that night without tears in my eyes. How fortunate we are to have had a taste of that kind of love. Thank you Jowonio for including us.

**Chelsea  
Randolph  
parent**



About 50 years ago a group of families got together because they wanted a more open and individualized approach to preschool services than they felt they could find in a public setting. The name Jowonio comes from the word in the Onondaga nation language which means "to set free." The school's founders chose this name because they believed that education should be freeing minds and emotions to learn and grow, freeing individuals from stereotypes and prejudices. The school has operated as a planful inclusive educational program where typical children and children with special needs can learn in the same classrooms since 1975. Jowonio is now regarded across the State as 'the' model for inclusive education.

As anyone who has spent a few minutes in leadership knows, it is easy to institute a model but much more difficult to institute a culture. Infused in the Jowonio culture is that learning is fun, lots of fun, more than fun, and that everyone belongs, no matter what, and that differences are part of being together and our accepted and honored as important and worthy of empathy and respect. These values ripple through the staff and services from teachers to social workers, to therapists, to the persons at the front desk, and even the janitor. It's truly remarkable, unique, and hard to duplicate

But Jowonio is not just good for kids with so called special needs. The values of respect and acceptance modeled in the classrooms and hallways are good for everyone. Jowonio takes the strangeness out of differences and encourages us all to be curious about each other. The Jowonio influence is indelible. A great example is the day I was in a gas station with my daughter when the young man at the register began smiling at her and doing some sign language. They were instant friends. He looked at me, gave me a warm smile, and said, "I went to Jowonio." He looked like he was about 18.

At Jowonio the parents cry more than the kids when its time to graduate to kindergarten. They don't want their kids to lose the experience but they don't want to lose their experience either. I recall a few mornings in the school when a young man in my daughter's class struggled at drop off with tantrums. The mother was beside herself but two Jowonio teachers gently guided her through managing the tantrum. The look in her eye was priceless. She felt supported and accepted the help. And you know, no one in the classroom flinched, even the kids. They just gave the boy his space.

Honoring Ellen Barnes and Jowonio is very personal to me. My two youngest daughters, Kaitlyn and Evelina, who happen to be diagnosed with Down Syndrome attended the school. Kaitlyn literally learned to walk at Jowonio thanks to their excellent PT services. When she walked, she walked around that school like she owned the place. As little as she was at the time, I really believe that she knew she belonged there, was cared about there, and accepted just for being Kaitlyn. Evelina spent her first 3 years in an orphanage in Eastern Europe and was very sickly and seemingly disconnected and only mildly responsive to the people around her when she got home to us. She was in her own world. Thoroughly in her own world but my wife and Jowonio just plain loved her right out of her shell. My wife and I will always be grateful to Jowonio for what our children and we experienced there. That is thoughtful planned out PT, OT, and Speech services, interested, caring and supporting teachers, and of course the exuberant love they bombarded our kids with. (we cried when they left)

Ellen Barnes has been with the school since the original families began to talk about starting it. She has been the leader, the role model, and the vision and keeper of the founding values of the school for nearly 50 years. If the staff are the flies she has been the light they have all been fluttering about.

I would like everyone to consider this award to Jowonio as a big thank you to Ellen for all of her years of service to inclusion. As some of you may know, Ellen stepped down as Executive Director last year. The school is now in the hands of Lori Salle and the rest of the staff who will do a great job I am sure. They will do a great job because they share the same values of the woman that brought it this far.

## Cammie Nash

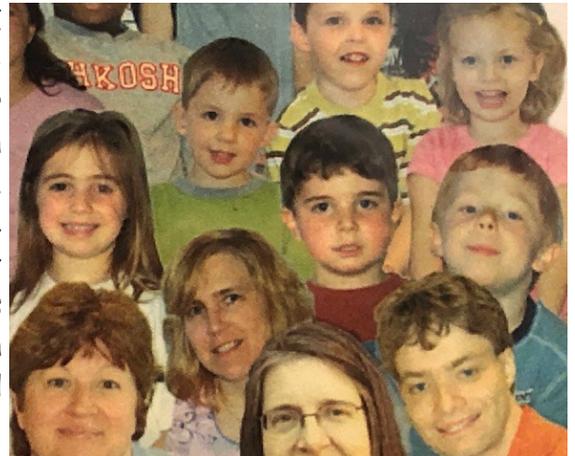


(Cammie- far left) Jowonio has a plethora of meanings to me, as I have had very different experiences during different times in my life. As a 2006 graduate, Jowonio provided me a place to fall in love with learning. A love that flourished as I continued my education through the Syracuse City School District. As a young person, I attribute a significant portion of who I am becoming to the skills and practices I learned at such a young age.

I later returned as a freshman in high school to participate in Lisa Neville's "Ballet For All" program. As a dance assistant I was quickly reminded of the strong sense of community that pours out of Jowonio. It was an eye opening experience in more ways than one. Although the focus was inclusive movement I learned so much more about not only the students, but myself. It was beautifully familiar being back in the secret garden every week. I continued participation through my junior and senior year.

The summer before my senior year at Nottingham High School I was perplexed about college, I had little to no idea what I wanted to do in life. All I knew was I wanted to work with people and have a job that was relatively hands on. My counselor recommended an out of the building internship to steer me in the right direction, and I immediately thought of Jowonio. With the help of Melissa Hyman I have been given the chance to explore a multitude of career paths all in one building. It amazes me how full circle my relationship with Jowonio has been. I am now discovering a whole different kind of passion for learning, learning about social work, professionalism, and the day to day life in a preschool.

Cammie- far left



Finally, Jowonio introduced me to some of the best people in my life. I am proud to say that when I walk the stage in June many of my nearest and dearest friends are kids I met while in the Rainbow or Kangaroo room. I would like to say thank you to Jowonio for the significant part it played in my childhood and the way it has continued to assist me through my youth.

*"The remarkable thing is, we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we embrace for that day."*

*--Charles Swindoll*

**James & Harmony  
Balintfy**  
**Proud parents of  
Izabella, Jowonio  
Graduate 2019**

Our family joined the Jowonio Family when our daughter entered EPK 3. Though we know she needed it, we were very concerned about how she would adjust to a full day school setting having had in-home Early Intervention since she was 7 months old. She was able to visit Ms. Jane and the other staff members of the Dragonfly Room to help adjust prior to starting school. The warm and welcoming atmosphere she experienced as a Dragonfly allowed her to flourish in ways we never thought possible. Her teachers and her therapists truly individualize learning for her to find success. This past year, she moved to the Treehouse Room and has continued to grow. She is excited every morning to go to school to see Ms. Katie, her other teachers, therapists and friends. To hear them speak so eloquently about how she interacts with her peers and how willing she is to take on a leadership role in the class, is simply amazing. To hear Ms. Carol talk about our daughter as a "gift," beyond warms are hearts. In everything we could have ever wished for her when she was diagnosed with Spastic Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy, we never imagined she would have found the success she has at Jowonio. Because of her Jowonio beginnings, our daughter is ready and willing to conquer the world. She is fierce, she is strong-willed and she has gained a confidence like no other. As a family, we have repeatedly stated, "If we won the lottery, there is no amount of money we could ever give to Jowonio to show our appreciation for what they have given her. We could never repay Jowonio enough for what they have done for our daughter." Because of Jowonio, she is ready for the next phase of her life. We are beyond sad to be leaving Jowonio, and like many other families, unsure how she will adapt to public school education. What we do know is because of the strong foundation for learning, exploring, testing, and risk-taking she experienced at Jowonio, she is well prepared for kindergarten. We are beyond blessed and grateful to say we are a part of the Jowonio family, and Jowonio is forever a part of ours. #OurJowonioFamily #JowonioBeginnings

In deep appreciation and gratitude

Our family has been a part of the Jowonio community for five years and it's hard to imagine not pulling up that driveway every day to pick up a happy, excited kid once our son Jamie moves on to kindergarten this Fall. Our Jowonio journey began when our daughter, Violet, entered the Dragonfly Room. We knew immediately that we were in a very special place, a place where our children would blossom, feel safe, and find real joy in learning about the world and themselves and how to truly care for others. My husband and I have also grown as members of the Jowonio community. I could not have imagined that a pre-school could help me become a better parent, and even a better person, but it has. Finding those moments when we can step back, look at our children or others, and recognize that behavior is just another form of communication is a powerful gift and one that we will carry with us long past our time at Jowonio. Thank you to all of the teachers, staff and clinicians who have positively impacted so many lives. We love you!

**Meghann  
Perillo , parent  
of Violet and  
Jamie**

*"There are two lasting gifts we can give our children:  
One is roots, the other is wings." —Holding Carter*

**Barbara Bova  
Grandmother of  
Calvin and Jack-  
son Mele**

There are some places that are truly special... and I will be forever grateful to those who envisioned Jowonio and the staff and parents who nurtured and protected it over many years so it would be there for families like mine.

I did a class observation of a student at Jowonio for a course at SU back when Jowonio was on Bassett Street. It was my first glimpse of true inclusion and the miracles that can be wrought when a group of trained and caring professionals come together in a team to give children the space to grow into their best selves. Jowonio has a long waiting list and I did not expect my grandchildren to be able to attend...but life has a way of scrambling our expectations. My eldest grandchild experienced developmental delays, entered Early Intervention at the age of 20 months, and was diagnosed with Autism at age 3. Our family reached out and Jowonio was there.

From the day of our initial tour, we could tell this place would support and teach him with love. I wish the world were like Jowonio—everyone included and learning from each other, challenges paired with encouragement and strategies to meet them, differences honored, growth celebrated, and problems creatively addressed. In the five years my grandsons attended Jowonio I don't think I ever passed a staff member who didn't greet a child with an enthusiastic hello and welcoming smile. I never entered a classroom where children weren't active, engaged, and learning from each other. I never encountered a professional who did not do his/her best to meet the needs of a child.

Jowonio creates "family" in its community and classrooms and honors families in their efforts to nurture young children. My younger grandson entered Jowonio as a neuro-typical two year old. His teachers had some concerns and after evaluation he qualified for special education services. Jowonio makes every effort to keep siblings in the same "path" of classrooms—allowing therapists, teachers and parents to build close and constructive relationships between home and school.

Inclusion lies at the core of this community. Neuro-typical kids have opportunities to model for peers, learn and grow in empathy; they often go on to be class leaders in kindergarten. Social workers support families dealing with children with special needs with parents' nights out, an overnight camping experience, workshops on topics such as parenting skills, behavior challenges, transitioning to kindergarten. As a grandparent and caregiver, I was welcomed into these classes—each time grateful for best practices information and empathetic support from presenters and groupmates.

When I think of Jowonio, I picture the faces of each person who went above and beyond his/her job description to nurture my grandchildren. The gift each has given my family is beyond price. I love what Jowonio stands for, what it accomplishes in children's lives, the community it creates on its campus. How very far my grandchildren have come in the time they spent here! Wherever life takes them, these years will continue to be a blessing in their lives. Jowonio: a place where good things happen for kids. A very rare and very special place indeed.

*"Parents are like shuttles on a loom. They join the threads of the past with threads of the future and leave their own bright patterns as they go."  
--Fred Rogers*

## Waterfall Room visits the Art Park



## Jowonio Parent Survey...Please let us know what you think

Every year we survey families about the experience they and their child have had at Jowonio. We want your feedback in order to improve our program. In addition, we hope to develop data about the outcomes that will demonstrate our effectiveness. Please take a few minutes to complete the 2018-2019 survey. A hard copy has been sent home to everyone; you can also respond to it on a Survey Monkey format by typing in the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/parentrc2019> or going to the link on our website ([www.jowonio.org](http://www.jowonio.org)). Thanks!

## Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Our annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2019 from 12:30—2:30. This is a lovely tradition that honors our staff.

Each year we have wonderful parents who donate their time, energy and delicious food to celebrate our staff.

We will need help with: set-up, food donations and clean-up. More information to follow in a separate notice on how to sign up.

# CELEBRATE JOWONIO THANK YOU

To all the classrooms for taking the time to create the beautiful bird houses with the kids! Everyone loved them!

And to all the families who donated items & Gift Cards to the classroom baskets!



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

- Ameriprise Financial
- Appel Osborne Landscape Architecture
- ARISE
- Audi Family
- Barnes/Beard Family
- Bousquet Holstein
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Boyle
- Carnegie café & catering
- Dr. Joseph A. Catania
- CNY Autism Society
- Delmonico Insurance
- Druger Eye Care
- Emergent
- F.P. Kessler, Jr. & Associates
- Gardenview Diner
- Glazed & Confused
- Goetzmann & Associates
- Haylor, Freyer & Coon
- Herrick Family
- King + King Architects
- Little Jaws Big Smiles
- Mackenzie Hughes, LLP
- Candace & John Marcellus
- Scherzi Systems, LLC
- TJ Sheehan Distributors
- Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits
- Stafford Convenience Store
- Stickley, Audi & Company
- Syracuse Label
- Syracuse Linen Supply
- Tomkins Trust Company
- Wichmann Family

## CONGRATULATIONS

To our Signature Raffle Winners!

- The 2019 Stickley Console Table—Sarah Brown
- Wegmans \$300—Greg Hebblethwaite
- Target—\$200 Cynthia Johnson
- Tops—\$100 Jerry McConnell
- Amazon—\$500 Scott Kingsley

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Jowonio Open 2019**  
**Monday, August 5th**  
**The Links at Erie Village**

**18 holes of golf**  
**including cart, lunch & dinner**

**Captain & Crew Format, Golfer Gifts**  
**Mulligans, Raffles & Prizes**  
**On-Course Contests**  
**11:00 am Registration**  
**12:00 pm Shotgun start**  
**5:30 pm Dinner & Awards**

**Sponsorship opportunities available**  
**Contact [Sophia.meskos@jowonio.org](mailto:Sophia.meskos@jowonio.org)**

Thanks for being patient with us as we make some great improvements to the grounds & building this summer!

Thanks to James, Matt and the entire summer crew

# Thank You



We have all learned and grown so much over the course of the school year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the families for sharing their amazing and inspiring children with us. We appreciate family support, donations, fieldtrips and involvement. We will miss the kiddos headed off to kindergarten; please come visit! Thanks for a wonderful school year.



A special thank you goes out to all the Earth Room Families. You make it possible to do the things we do! You greet us with smiles and enthusiasm each day and you support our efforts with your own time and resources. We have thoroughly enjoyed this year and we thank all of you for sharing your beautiful children with us. We will certainly miss them all! Be sure to come back and visit us!



The Star Room would like to thank our wonderful families for sharing their amazing children. We appreciate all the parent involvement and availability when we need you. We will miss those transitioning on to Kindergarten and welcome those returning! Thank you for a great year.



The Dragonfly Room teachers would like to thank the Dragonfly parents for their help this year. Thank you for coming on field trips and for participating in our classroom activities, Thank you for sharing your delightful children with us. It has been a pleasure to be a part of their young lives.



The Kangaroo Room teachers would like to thank our families for their support & generosity throughout the year. You have provided us with toys, donations and with ideas for attending events out in the community. We have had a wonderful and fun year with your children and we can't thank you enough for your trust and support.



The Ocean teachers would like to thank all of our families for sharing and entrusting your precious children with us. They have made such progress this year and it has been wonderful watching them grow. We want to thank all of our families for their participation and donations throughout the year. It has been a fantastic year!



Thank you to all the Butterfly Room families for entrusting us with your amazing children. They have all grown in so many ways. We are going to miss them as they move on. We could not have asked for a better year!!

*You never leave a place you love;  
Part of it you take with you,  
Leaving part of you behind.*

## Thank You cont.



The Bunny Room teachers would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our parents for sharing and entrusting us with your child this past year. It has been wonderful getting to know everyone, and to watch all of the children grow. We also want to say thank you for the many generous donations given to the Bunny Room and Jowonio. THANK YOU!



The Waterfall teachers would like to extend a warm thank you to all of our families for sharing their wonderful children with us this year! Your children have learned through play, interaction, problem solving, exploration and discovery - and we have had so much fun! We appreciate SO very much the support, contributions of materials, supplies and other donations, as well as joining us for events and field trips! We hope you will keep in touch. "Make new friends, but keep the old - one is silver and the other gold!"



Sunflowers would like to thank all our families for the gift of their children and for all the ways each family has contributed to make this year a remarkable one. Thanks to all our families who have donated money & materials, their time and for joining us on fieldtrips. A big thank you to our families who have come into present, demonstrate or discuss their family traditions. You have helped to make our classroom what it is today.



The Koala Teachers would like to thank all of our Koala families for a wonderful year. Thank you for all your support, attendance on field trips, donations to our classroom, but most of all your beautiful children. We all thank you for sharing them with us. It has been a great year, but only because of your child. If you're not with us this summer, please stop in for a visit. We'd love to see you all and stay connected.

Bellevue

The Bellevue Heights Jowonio teachers would like to sincerely thank all of our families for partnering with us this year. Your generosity, support and kindness goes unmatched. Most of all, thank you for sharing your beautiful children with us everyday. They have come so far this year and their potential is unlimited.

# Thank You

*If you teach children what you know, they may remember enough to follow in your footsteps, but if you teach children how to learn, they can go anywhere.*



**Jowonio**

3049 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13224

Phone: 315-445-4010  
Fax: 315-445-4060

"Our children are living in a multi-cultural world where the distance between nations and cultures are decreased and the need for bridges increased. We want Jowonio students to be comfortable with differences and be willing to approach others with empathy, kindness, and respect. We want them to be comfortable when meeting peers and adults who may look, speak, and act in different ways. We hope they will be kind and tolerant and find in themselves an openness and interest in others. We have the opportunity in our classrooms and homes to help make this happen". Ellen Barnes

Children are always listening, watching and learning from us. We all share a responsibility to model kindness and acceptance, especially when children are nearby. It takes a village to raise a child.

amazon

**AmazonSmile!**

You Shop, Amazon Gives to Jowonio!

Choose Jowonio School as your charitable organization

Remember, always start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.



<http://smile.amazon.com>

**Designate Jowonio as Your United Way Beneficiary**

Please consider designating Jowonio as a recipient of your United Way contribution. Simply write "Jowonio School" on the line provided on the donor card. We typically use the United Way dollars for our annual scholarship fund; it is a way to continue to support students who otherwise could not afford to attend Jowonio.

**United  
Way**



1. Register your AdvantEdge Card and designate Jowonio at the Guest Services desk at your local Price Chopper or using their online form at [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com).
2. The program runs July 2019 through March 2020. All eligible purchases using your AdvantEdge Card will be automatically credited to Jowonio.
3. Every dollar spent at Price Chopper earns us one point. Purchase Price Chopper brands and we receive double points!

**Jowonio School Code 39798**