

From The Heart

A Quarterly Publication from Mooseheart Child City & School, Inc.

www.mooseheart.org

Spring 2017



As a member of this great Fraternity we all share the privilege and responsibility to applaud efforts toward our common goal of Enter to Learn – Leave to Serve. Since 1913, each Mooseheart student has been provided a chance to succeed. We have upheld the founding principles that every student is entitled to an education, vocational training, and Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps involvement.

Over 103 years have passed since our founder James J. Davis began this great mission and today, it remains true to those ideals. Mooseheart school has educated over 12,000 students from all over the United States and abroad. Many of our students have not had much stability in their home lives or educational placements. Mooseheart has consistently provided a quality education to students and worked with those who may lack the initiative and desire to push themselves to learn.

In preface to National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 7-12), please remember to “thank” teachers/educators who give so much. We value both professionals from the past and those who currently serve at Mooseheart. They pave our way and pass on the storied tradition of education. I am proud of the work these individuals collectively accomplish, giving HOPE to students!

I understand completely that accomplishment comes with a price ... hard, demanding, and exhausting work. However, Mooseheart school has always been known for dedication and commitment to the educational process. Mooseheart teachers are not just educators, they are professionals whom students can emulate and aspire following in their footsteps.

Our teachers are always there to help students improve themselves, and to enrich those with whom they share this task. This bond is often perceived as a “second family” that experiences life together. Our teachers demonstrate relentless attitudes and unwillingness to give up, even when times are challenging. They are professionals who inspire, share experiences and wisdom, and have true passion for educating the whole student. They are caring, patient, selfless, and love unconditionally, presenting kindness in difficult situations.

It is an honor to celebrate American Education Week at Mooseheart. We appreciate and value each teacher/educator who has impacted the 19 seniors who will graduate as the Class of 2017 on June 3 at 9:00 a.m.

From my heart to yours,

— Gary Urwiler, Mooseheart Executive Director

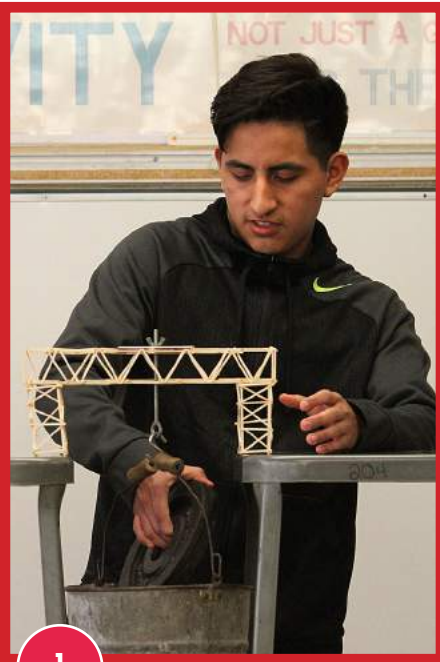


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By The Numbers



1

2017 marked the 30th annual Mooseheart Physics Class Bridge Building contest. The students usually have a few class work days before and after Christmas break and are encouraged to work on building their bridges over break. Each student receives 15 feet of thin balsa wood strips and can use any type of glue they want. The 2017 Winner was Gregorio Hernandez. The “all time record holding bridge” was built by Adrianna Tezanos-Pinto (class 2007) which held 72 lbs.



2

Fitness in February was a HUGE hit again this year with hundreds of fitness hours being logged by the Mooseheart students. The Washington girls were the winners by logging 15,000 fitness minutes together as a home.



3

For the second year in a row, Girls Scout troops decorated the Mooseheart school cafeteria with a valentines theme to surprise the Mooseheart students. Four troops and 30 scouts plus adults were involved. The favorite decorating piece the girls made was a paper chain which was over 125 ft. long!



4

A roller skating event was made possible for the entire Mooseheart campus. It was great to see our youth enjoying fun, food and friends! Over 750 slices of pizza was served as well as 250 drinks and bags of cotton candy for dessert!



5

The Canteen group sponsored a second “fun day” for our Mooseheart campus. The girls enjoyed the return of “Spa Time” and all enjoyed roller skating, an amazing catered lunch, car racing and a very cool photo booth. Over 2,000 volunteer hours were donated to make this event a HUGE success!

Exciting Events



Fitness in February

While winter sometimes sticks around a little too long in the Midwest, February is a month for getting active at Mooseheart. Fitness in February is an annual month-long event at Mooseheart each year and includes activities like dodge ball, dance, zumba, yoga, sports, and more! Congratulations to Jenneville from Washington Home for having the ‘most minutes active’ in February!



Toy Box and Sky Zone

Toy Box Connection Children’s Charity raises money each year to provide an activity for the Mooseheart youth. Pictured with the Mooseheart youth are the IUEC (Illinois Union Elevator Constructors) and Clark Family who were two primary donors for a fun-filled day at Sky Zone.



March Madness

The Big/Little program at Mooseheart matches a younger youth with an older youth on campus to give the older youth the chance to mentor the younger kids. In March, the Big and Little Brothers played a series of games in their very own March Madness. There were a few rules but it was mostly fun being had by the boys and crowd alike!



Read Across America

During the Read Across America week, our elementary youth got into character to honor Dr. Seuss. Pictured are the kids from 5th grade.



Spring Fling

During Spring Break, the Mooseheart youth who were on campus got together and participated in some fun activities; the youth played tug of war, bags, parachutes and more!

From the Mouth of a Child

Mooseheart students share their thoughts on Mooseheart School and all it offers.

On Wednesday March 1st Executive Director, Gary Urwiler, introduced his first “Mooseheart Community Gathering” The gatherings will occur on a quarterly basis and serve as an opportunity to recognize, celebrate and encourage the Mooseheart staff and children for the successes and accomplishments of the past 3 months. One of the highlights of these assemblies will be the presentation of awards to Mooseheart’s students of the quarter. The recipients of the initial awards had these inspiring words to share after receiving their honors.

YES!!!



I felt surprised when I won the award. I know that I’ve come a long way and improved a lot. All of the encouragement from my Family Teachers and peers has really helped me. Seeing my friends doing well makes me want to do better.”

— *Suriah Randolph, 9th grade*
Most Improved
High School Student of the Quarter

Keep up
the great
work!



“I felt a little scared when I won my award because of the big crowd. Then I felt good about winning. My Family Teachers have taught me a lot about being good and doing my best.”

— *Evan Tull, 3rd grade*
Most Improved
Elementary Student of the Quarter



“When I won I felt happy. I’m happy to be doing so good in school. My Family Teachers are helping me learn about what is right and wrong.”

— *Amanda Kerkulah, 1st grade*
Elementary Student of the Quarter

Awesome!



“I was shocked to win the award. I see so many people doing so much at Mooseheart. It was a real surprise to me. I was relieved to know that others notice all the things I’m doing here at Mooseheart. Zach and Melissa (my Family Teachers) have always helped me through hard times and they are helping me plan for my future. I’ve stayed motivated to spend time with my Mooseheart little brother and help him get ready for his future.”

— *Steven Foy, 12th grade*
High School Student of the Quarter

You are a
Rock Star!

Rambler Roundup

Visit facebook for the full collection of Mooseheart photos.



Anderson Animal Shelter

Even though the homes at Mooseheart do not get to have puppies, the kids are always welcomed to play with puppies from Anderson Animal Shelter, located in Elgin, IL. The animal shelter regularly brings puppies to play with them.

Joey McCrea

Mooseheart's very own Joey McCrea was the grand prize winner of a contest sponsored by Chris Grabenstein; he won books for not only himself, but also the Mooseheart Library! Chris Grabenstein is an author who writes for young readers and has co-authored books with James Patterson. Way to go, Joey!



Juniata Home

The Juniata Home in Baby Village has come up with a new tradition: every month the home gets dressed up and has a nice dinner on china and with place settings. This month the dinner theme was "Beauty and the Beast." How fun!



Illinois Home

The Illinois Home girls went to serve at the "Support the Homeless" food drive at the Sterling Moose Lodge in January. All of the Mooseheart High School youth are working toward at least 25 service hours a year. What a great opportunity to give back!

National Breakfast Week

A representative from the University of Illinois Extension visited the Mooseheart cafeteria to celebrate National Breakfast Week. She brought food for the youth to sample including a trail mix with grapes, pretzels, cheese, and dark chocolate chips. The kids loved it and many asked for seconds!



Enter to Learn ... True stories of two families' paths to Mooseheart



Harriet grew up with an abusive stepfather and left home at a young age. After a failed attempt at living with her biological father, she ran away and found herself pregnant at 16. Before she turned 20, she was raising two children as a single mother. Before 30, she was a mother of four children. Harriet balanced three jobs to make ends meet for her and her children. Things went well for a few years between her and Tom, the father of her two youngest children. Eventually, the continual financial strain led him to take a job that required a great deal of travel. While on the road, Tom developed a drug habit that

further damaged the family's financial health, led to physical altercations with Harriet and ultimately ended their relationship. Tom remained nearby and visited the children sporadically. Desperate for help supervising her children, Harriet agreed to allow Tom to stay in her home when she would work long hours late into the night. Over the next several months, Harriet discovered that Tom was stealing from her home and continuing to use drugs. As family problems for Harriet and the children became obvious to those that knew them, a school counselor shared what she knew about Mooseheart with the family. Harriet would see all of her children benefit from time in the Mooseheart program and allowed her to focus on getting back on her own feet."

... Leave to Serve



On October 12, 1988 Lynn Lisby, along with her two younger siblings, took the short trip from Aurora, IL to be enrolled as a student at Mooseheart. Home life had been turbulent and unsafe for the children and so their father, a member of **Batavia, IL Lodge 682**, found the help he needed at Mooseheart. Lynn remembers feeling a sense of shock shortly after her admission. The strong 8th grader was used to playing the role of caregiver for her siblings and her new surroundings seemed odd. However, one of her first memories of life at Mooseheart was the kindness she was extended from her houseparents. This kindness was welcomed by Lynn and as she grew more comfortable in her new home, she experienced a sense of peace as she realized that she was not alone in her family struggles. The stable environment and wealth of activities at Mooseheart opened doors for Lynn that she had not experienced before and she succeeded in nearly everything she tried. Lynn was named student council president, was a part of an undefeated volleyball team and earned her cosmetology certificate before graduating high school. Those who knew her described her as a leader and good student. In reflection Lynn added, "Mooseheart was a place where I could finally be a kid. There are so many things I would have never done had I not come to Mooseheart." Lynn graduated as an honor student in Mooseheart's class of 1993.



Lynn entered college but found her stride in a sales career, earning an assistant management position before she turned 20. Lynn started a family at the age of 21 and never forgot her call to serve others. Lynn's volunteerism included serving through the Lions Clubs, participating in camps for grieving children, an active membership in her local PTA and advocating for the homeless. Following the Sept. 11 conflict, she was present in Saudi Arabia where she served local residents in need. Her work ethic has spoken for itself over the years and has led her in raising three children and surviving cancer all while manning 3 personal businesses.

Lynn's passion is people. She presently has two self-help books in process and works as a business coach. She also serves as a regular motivational speaker, sharing her message of hope and forgiveness. "My purpose is to make a difference and Mooseheart played a huge role in that," she said. And to all of you card-carrying Moose members she adds, "Whatever the reason for your Moose participation, I appreciate it. Thanks for showing up as a Moose. I could never explain the full ripple effect (that your investment in Mooseheart is making). I'm an extension of you and I'm so grateful for that."

On the Web

Our top news on www.mooseheart.org



Mooseheart, IL January 12

There was a point when it seemed that Greg Hernandez really had built the bridge that couldn't be broken – at least not with the weight on-hand at Mooseheart's 31st annual Bridge Breaking Contest, which took place Jan. 6.

Hernandez's bridge used all the weights available and then used some additional weights added by Mooseheart physics teacher Curt Schlinkmann. Ultimately, Hernandez saw his bridge break while more weight was being sought, but not before he reached 58.2 pounds, the second-most in the history of the contest. The record remains Adrianna Tezanos-Pinto's 2007 bridge, which held 71 pounds.

<http://www.mooseheart.org/2017/01/12/bridge-breaking-contest/>

Mooseheart, IL April 8

Always a popular event at Mooseheart, over 5,000 took advantage of near-perfect weather to attend the campus' 7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday.

Children aged 1- through 8-years old participated in the collection of plastic eggs, pencils, plush toys and books from the campus' artificial turf football field. Afterward, children and their families stayed to enjoy pony rides, a petting farm, face painting and free photos with the Easter Bunny. A free hot dog lunch was served in the Mooseheart field house.

<http://www.mooseheart.org/2017/02/03/easter-egg-hunt/>



Mooseheart, IL April 12

When the name of the event is "Miss Amazing" and the events that take place are incredible, the word "amazing" gets used a lot.

That's how it was on Saturday, when Mooseheart sent 30 high school students to Illinois Miss Amazing, a pageant for girls and women with disabilities, which took place at the Yellow Box Community Christian Church in Naperville.

Mooseheart's students participated in a variety of roles for the pageant, which "provides opportunities for girls and women with disabilities to build confidence and self-esteem in a supportive environment." Some of Mooseheart's cosmetology vocational students styled hair and applied makeup. Others were "buddies" to contestants and partnered with them throughout the day. In addition, five Mooseheart Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps students were on-stage escorts during Saturday's Final Show.



<http://www.mooseheart.org/2017/04/12/miss-amazing-pageant/>