

ERINOAKKIDS

Centre for Treatment and Development

Vol. 1 • No. 4

Summer 2014

School's out, summer programs are in!



Ayden had a great time at Park Day at Chinguacousy Park in Brampton – and he never suspected that his morning of playing in the sun also included therapy!

While the school year is wrapping up, ErinoakKids is ramping up with a wide range of summer therapy programs.

Summer programs, tailored for ErinoakKids clients, offer therapy, support and recreation in fun and unique environments. Here are just a few of the programs our clients will enjoy over the summer:

iCanBike teaches children with disabilities to ride a two-wheeled bicycle through the use of adapted bikes, a specialized instructional program and trained staff. Last year, 80 per cent of participants were riding conventional bikes by the end of the program. Thank you to GoodLife Kids Foundation for their support.

The Independent Living Program offers youth (age 16-19) a unique opportunity to live at the Sheridan College residence in a supported barrier-free apartment.

Participants learn essential life skills including directing their own care services, using accessibly transportation, meal planning and more. Participants set their own personal goals and work toward achieving them. Special thanks to Mississauga Community Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation and the May Court Club of Oakville for their support of this program.

Park Days take place in accessible community parks throughout our catchment area, where families learn how to incorporate therapy into play. ErinoakKids' clinicians support clients and their families in developing motor skills and encouraging play, safety awareness and social skills development.

Many of our summer programs depend on the donations and generosity of our community. Thank you to those that have helped make this year's summer programs possible!

Bridget Fewtrell
President & CEO



Excitement is growing at ErinoakKids as we make steady progress on our redevelopment project! Approved by the province in 2011, the project will allow us to consolidate our patchwork of mostly leased sites into three new facilities designed to support the care of children and youth with disabilities and special needs.

In April the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage of the project closed. This summer, ErinoakKids and Infrastructure Ontario will evaluate the submissions and select the team to design and construct our three new facilities. Following negotiations, we anticipate announcing the successful team in September.

We are also excited about community support for our \$20-million In My Dreams campaign. While the province is funding the land purchase, design and construction, ErinoakKids must raise the funds to fully equip our new facilities, which are more than doubling in size. Our campaign will also support vital programs and services that do not receive government funding.

To learn more about the campaign visit erinoakkids.ca.

Bridget Fewtrell

Twin toddlers enter a new world of sound

When twins Drina and Toma Dragicevic heard their first sounds in February 2014 at age 2, Drina cried in alarm. But her brother just looked around in surprise: *What's that?*

That day was a long time in the making. At 14 months, Drina had a hearing test at a private clinic. Although the results failed to detect a problem, Drina's mother Josipa was not convinced. "They weren't babbling," she recalls.



Christine Jones, left, works with Drina and Toma.

Further testing showed both children were profoundly deaf. After a referral to ErinoakKids, audiologist Mary Eros measured the extent of their hearing loss and Christine Jones, auditory verbal therapist and speech language pathologist, began preparing them for the next step: cochlear implants.

Cochlear implants are devices that can provide hearing to people with profound deafness. The devices bypass the damaged part of the inner ear, or cochlea, to directly stimulate the auditory nerve.

Drina and Toma received their implants at SickKids hospital in January. When the devices were activated and the twins heard their first sounds, they entered a whole new world. "That was one of the best days we'd had in a long time," says their father, Toma Sr.

It's vital that Drina and Toma learn to associate meaning with the sounds they can now hear so they can understand language and develop speech. Jones will continue to work with them and coach their parents to help the children make up for lost ground.

"We've gone through so many steps in the journey," says their father. "Now we've turned the corner and we're seeing results."

ErinoakKids' drama program lets clients shine



Forest Nymphs try to wake Snow White in the play, Snow White's Ever After.

The ErinoakKids Players' 2014 production, *Snow White's Ever After*, hit the stage on June 2, showcasing the innovative drama program at ErinoakKids.

This program provides a creative outlet that complements and enhances the therapy and support provided at the Centre. The play featured a cast of 13 clients, supported by 16 volunteers and backstage helpers.

A special thank you to our drama program supporters: State Street Foundation, Scotiabank, The Regional Municipality of Halton, as well as the many individuals who help support the program.

The EOK 5K was a success!

On April 27, more than 220 participants braved the chilly but sunny day to run, roll, walk and stroll in our signature EOK 5K event. Clients, families, staff, Board Directors and many more community partners came together to have fun and raise over \$25,000 for the ErinoakKids *In My Dreams* Campaign. What a wonderful day!



Many walked or strolled (top photo) and some rolled (middle), all enjoying the spring sunshine. Bottom photo: Mississauga Ward 3 Councillor Chris Fonseca joined us.

Upcoming Events

June 25: Annual General Meeting 6-7 p.m. at the South Millway site

October 24: 2014 Pride & Joy Awards at the Oakville Conference Centre