



# TWLS Connections

The Monthly Newsletter of The Whole Learning School



April 2010

Dear Friend,

Warm weather has welcomed us to the great outdoors, and to our great upcoming spring events - the Possible Dreams Luncheon and the Spring Spectacular. Here's the news:

- **We held a special pottery class** before spring break, where [our kids got to play with clay](#) and learn about how they can create beautiful, long-lasting things with their hands. Their creations ranged from plaques to bowls to tiny but beautiful sculptures (picture at right).
- **Plan for your child's future** with tips from a seminar given by Melissa Morris and Maura Steblay. If you couldn't make it to the seminar, [don't miss these tips!](#)
- **Becoming a vibrant part of the community** is a key part of being a fulfilled, independent adult. Read more about TWLS students [giving back to their community.](#)
- **Smashing Success at the 1st Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser!** We raised exactly \$1500 to support our end-of-year prom, so that our teenage students can enjoy a traditional high school experience while learning how to handle social situations with aplomb. Thanks to the over 200 of you who attended, and a round of applause to all of the volunteers who cooked, bussed tables, washed, and worked to make this event possible.



### Quick Links

[Our Website](#)  
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### Mark Your Calendar

TWLS students will be performing their Spring Drama Showcase on Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

### Reach Our Potential Final Update

Our Reach Our Potential Campaign hit \$60,000, exceeding our goals! Thanks to everyone who gave so generously of their time and money to keep TWLS providing great teaching to great kids.

### In Pictures: Learning differently at TWLS!

## A Parent's Story:

### What's it usually like to learn differently?

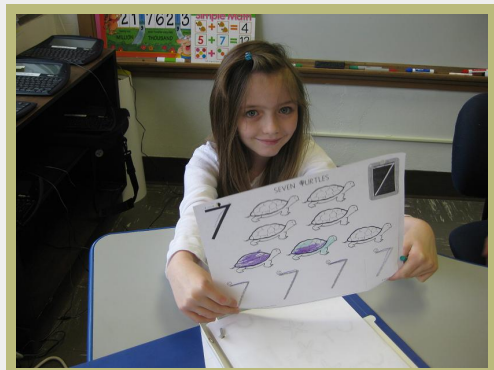
Parent Susie Fry had the chance to find out what it's like to have dyslexia on one of our tours. Here's her experience in her own words. "[Head of School] Ann Rooney asked us to read a short story in the way a dyslexic child might see words in a story. The words and format reminded me of French class 101. While we struggled to read the story, Ann was uncharacteristically terse and impatient with our attempts. We all failed miserably. I watched our guests use distraction, humor and silence to cope with their failures. Once Ann announced that we'd all get up and tour the school, the whole group said a silent 'Thank Goodness'!

[We're adults] and have tools to handle our uncomfortable emotions, but what about our kids who struggle with learning difficulties, anxiety, impulse control and medical issues? All of the students have felt these emotions and so many more outside the walls of TWLS."

### How is learning at TWLS different?

Susie Fry continues: "Annie, one of the oldest students, had difficulty just looking people in the eye prior to her arrival at TWLS. Now, every time I see her, she looks at me with a huge smile on her face. I've witnessed her talking freely in class and laughing with her friends. Fenn, who is one of our newest students spent the first days at TWLS anxiously pacing the floor. I saw him Wednesday waving to Sierra and Maddie as he left a room. The teachers tell me how much they appreciate his humor."

TWLS is looking for more success stories...who do you know that should learn about our special school?



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**Thank you for being a part of The Whole Learning School community!**

The Whole Learning School - 12325 State Hwy. 55 - Plymouth, MN 55441 - (763) 231-2700