



December 2009

Dear Friend,

As 2009 comes to a close, in TWLS tradition, reflection is in order. What a great privilege it has been watching our students find happiness in life and in learning. It is amazing to see all the accomplishments each child has experienced in just one year's time.

You may remember reading about Annie in our recent annual appeal request letter. As her teacher for many years, I have had the wonderful opportunity of witnessing her remarkable transformation. Once, failing to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, she is now a self directed learner who has taken on leadership roles in and out of school. Annie is a happy, confident 15-year old young woman. She is a contributing citizen, both at TWLS and in her personal and global community.

The work done here changes the lives of children and families. It provides the opportunity for remarkable stories of transformation. Your support of TWLS makes those stories possible. In this challenging economy we know it can be hard to give, but please know that your gift, no matter the size, makes a huge difference in the life of a child with special needs. You help our children write a chapter in their story of triumph over adversity when you give to TWLS. Thank you for anything you can do to help our students and our school...**Reach our Potential.**

Sincerely,

Ann Rooney
Head of School



Sensory Integration and Exercise

Using Movement to Enhance Learning



Have you ever had a day where you were bursting with so much energy that it interfered with your ability to sit and study? Or one where you got out of bed and felt sluggish, as if your mind and body hadn't realized that you were supposed to be awake?

Our students have the same kinds of days, so each morning we go through warm-up exercises to get them ready to learn, and we ask them to use those exercises to manage their own energy levels – and thus their concentration and ability to learn – throughout the day.

Read more & watch our video on our blog at <http://www.twls.org/sensory-integration-exercise/>.

Hands-on Help Needed



Looking for more ways to help kids? TWLS is seeking volunteers to assist with monthly art projects and other special projects. And we always need volunteer photographers and videographers to help us capture our special moments on film.

If you get a lot of cool new presents this holiday season and need a home for your gently used video camera, paper shredder or metal storage cabinets, consider TWLS.

TWLS also always needs school supplies such as pencils, pens and dry erase markers. We also appreciate donations of Culligan 5-gallon water bottles (available at Home Depot), stamps and new novelties kids love to help stock our school store.

Billboards...and YOU Will Help us Reach Our Goal of 25 Students Next Year

Friends of TWLS have helped TWLS secure digital billboard space around the Twin Cities Area. Throughout December and into January you can see our school message up on digital billboards around town at 18 locations including 494 & Pilot Knob, 394 & City View, 494 & Baker Rd South Face, Hwy 7 & 101 and several downtown locations.

Please help us continue to spread the news about TWLS. Bring yourself and a friend to a Possible Dreams Tour. Tours are held the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m., the third Tuesday at 5 p.m. and by appointment.

