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*The
Belle
Center*

"All Children Can Learn and Play Together"

eNews

December 2007

Greetings Angie,

Welcome to [Belle Center's](#) first issue of eNews! In our quarterly e-newsletter, you'll read how we're improving the lives of children with disabilities and their families. eNews will also highlight Belle's upcoming events, as well as include community resources for people with disabilities and their families. We hope you learn something new in every issue!



Regards,
Belle Center Staff

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It's not too late to donate to our Annual Appeal. [Make a gift online!](#)



1. Belle wins Stellar Agency Award

Our Center-Based Preschool Program has a lot of exciting news! We recently won a Stellar Agency Award in the daycare category from [Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis](#). The award reflects our commitment to promoting full inclusion for children with disabilities. Belle is the only agency, out of more than 80, to receive the award in the daycare category.

2. Our preschool moves to University City Children's Center



In August our [Center-Based Preschool Program](#) moved to a wonderful new home at [University City Children's Center](#)(UCCC). Belle's partnership with UCCC, a nonprofit childcare center, provides our children with a full inclusion, year-round preschool experience. Our preschoolers enjoy learning in UCCC's nurturing classrooms, as well as making new friends of all ages!

As with previous partners, Belle maintains a 1:4 ratio of special ed teachers to children with disabilities. Our teachers and therapists modify activities so that all children can fully participate in UCCC's literacy rich curriculum.

To tour our program or to receive information on extended day options, contact us at 314.721.0939 or at info@bellecenter.com. At this forward-looking time, we also thank Zelda Epstein Learning Center. Although Zelda closed this past summer, Belle will always be grateful for our ten years of partnership. We also thank our first partner organization, Developmental Child Care, with whom we partnered with from 1985-1997.

3. Steven Jackson hosts Belle event to raise scholarship funds



Have you or your kids ever wanted to meet Rams player, Steven Jackson? Now is your chance! At "A Family Affair with Steven Jackson", you'll bid on silent auction items and watch the star host his LIVE radio show. Receive his autograph, and take a photo with him!

A Family Affair with Steven Jackson ([Check out our invite!](#))

Tuesday, December 11

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

J.Buck's in Clayton

Donation: \$20/adult, \$5/child (12 and younger).

Includes hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar.

100% of the proceeds will benefit the Dennis W. Lamme Jr. Scholarship Fund at Belle. This fund will help families afford Belle's services. RSVP now by calling J.Buck's at 314.725.4700! The entire community is invited, so [forward this to a friend!](#)

4. Purchase "posh" holiday gifts & support Belle

Still need to start your holiday shopping? Check out [Posh Papers](#)! From whimsical stationery to custom children's placemats to elegant address labels, Posh Papers has a holiday gift for everyone on your list. Fifty percent of the profit will be donated to Belle!

Simply order by Dec. 25, and type "Belle" into the comments section at checkout. Please check [ordering info](#) for holiday delivery dates. Visit <http://www.poshpapers.net/> or email [Christine Mattson](#), owner and Belle parent.

5. Alumni success story

Henry Workman, a former Belle preschooler, recently won two 1st place awards in the national Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest! Henry's well-written and brightly illustrated story, "Henry and Grace Go to the Museum" won first place for both the story and illustrator award in the 2nd grade category.

To read Henry's story, visit the [KETC Channel 9 Web site!](#)

6. Community resources

Although Belle serves children from birth to 13 years, we remain a resource for families as "our kiddos" grow up. Here are links to other local organizations that serve individuals with disabilities of all ages:

[Recreational Council of Greater St. Louis](#): The council ensures that individuals with "disABILITIES" are aware of and have access to activities and programs of their "choice."

[Network of Care](#): This Web site provides information about developmental disabilities services, laws, and related news, as well as communication tools and other features.

[Kids Enjoy Exercise Now \(KEEN\)](#): This national nonprofit provides one-to-one recreational opportunities for children and young adults with mental and physical disabilities at no cost. KEEN Sports programs are open to kids ages 5-17.

About Belle Center

[Belle Center of St. Louis](#) is a nonprofit organization that provides early intervention

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services for children with disabilities and their families. Founded in 1984, Belle's preschool program is the Midwest's **first full inclusion preschool** where children with and without disabilities learn and play together. Our mission is to ensure that all children with disabilities are fully included in school and community life. Belle's three programs annually serve more than 250 children with disabilities and their families.

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