

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

PAIRS Program at High School

Through a generous donation from SEPTA and tremendous support from *Garden City HS Principal, Nanine McLaughlin, Anne Cloghessy, High School Speech-Pathologist*, rolled out the **PAIRS (Promoting Acceptance and Inclusion through Recreation in School) Program** at Garden City High School in April, 2016. Since inception, the program has run daily, affording our students with disabilities the opportunity to socialize with their non-disabled peers. The in school program presents students with disabilities daily chances to meet, learn from, and inspire their non-disabled peers. The activities based program, which takes place during 5th period lunch in the cafeteria, creates social learning opportunities, allows for the creation of new friendships, and contributes to Garden City High School's overall positive school environment. As an added bonus, this year on Fridays, the PAIRS program has successfully transitioned to the new Library Makerspace! *Danny Leary*, student volunteer and PAIRS President states "I have gotten far more from the students in PAIRS than I have given. I am truly lucky." As for Mrs. Cloghessy, she plans to continue the program and believes that any opportunity that encourages student volunteers to focus on the positive attributes of her students is a win-win!

