

BIG News - March '09

**Big Brothers
Big Sisters of
Centre County**



In like a



...out like a



March Activities

Space is limited, so call 814-237-5731 to sign up!

**Come make Ice Cream and
have fun with
residents of The Village**

Thurs., March 19th
4:00-5:00pm
at the Village

We always have a great time at the Village.
Consider joining us this month!



**Easter Party with
Delta Theta Sigma**

Saturday, March 21st
3:00-5:00pm
Pollock Rec Room on
PSU Campus
(ages 13 and under only)

Safety First!

Children have the right to be safe at all times. The safety of the children in our program is our #1 priority. We expect everyone associated with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau to support children's safety and well-being.



JOKE TIME!

What do you call a fake rock
in Ireland? *A sham rock!*
What type of bow can't be tied?
A rainbow!



These guys know how to ROCK! From February's Guys Night Out!



Glys and Mary from our Mary Kay Ladies Night Out. Looking good ladies!



Please visit our website at
www.ccysb.com/bbbs.htm
We are updating it regularly
with new stuff, so check it out!

March is the month to celebrate reading!

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child." - Dr. Seuss

March 2 – the birthday of Dr. Seuss – marks the 11th anniversary of “Read Across America” – the day when the National Education Association calls for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult. So why not try to incorporate a fun activity with books into a match meeting this month?

Some kids might groan and grumble about reading. And while there’s no magic wand we can wave to make kids want to read, there are certainly things that we as adults can do to help the children in our lives get at least a little bit more excited about books. As a mentor and a role model to your Little, you have the ability to encourage reading and to even make it fun!

Reading with kids is actually extremely important in supporting their healthy development. In fact, research has established that youth are more likely to grow up healthy when they are exposed to experiences that promote reading for pleasure. Reading is the cornerstone for a child’s success in

school and throughout life!

So what can you do to celebrate reading this month? First, turn off the TV, video games and computer. Next, encourage kids to read almost anything they can get their hands on – including newspapers, comic books and age-appropriate magazines. And third, remember that reading absolutely does not have to be a solitary activity...it can actually be a really fun shared activity!

With younger children, you can spend time reading a fun book aloud to them, and with older children you can share your favorite stories, magazines or comic books with them, and then have a conversation about the content. Reading can even generate other fun activities to do together. For instance, with younger children, perhaps you can draw your favorite characters or work together to come up with an alternate ending to the story. With older kids, maybe sharing a story on a certain topic will spark an interest in doing more hands-on research – for instance, it might spur you and your

Little on to explore a new sport, interest or hobby.

And don’t forget the valuable resources we have in Centre County in all of our great local libraries. The libraries in our community will celebrate “Read Across America” with an array of fun-filled activities, but they also offer many wonderful opportunities for all ages of kids all year round. Now is the perfect time to take your Little on a trip to the local library, and open his or her eyes to the wonderful – and fun – world of books!

~Written by Jodi Morelli,
Program Coordinator for BBBS of
Centre County



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A Very Special Thank You Message... from BBBS to the AAUW!

BBBS of Centre County is very grateful to receive a grant from the American Association of University Women (AAUW), State College Branch. This grant is being used to form a “Girls’ Circle” group, consisting of adolescent girls involved in BBBS.

Girls’ Circle meets twice a month to discuss issues girls face growing up, and members attend activities and events that help to educate, strengthen and empower young women. Without the generosity of the AAUW, this would not be possible.

BBBS of Centre County sends our utmost gratitude to AAUW for partnering with us to better serve kids.

The AAUW is truly a shining star!



The March 2009 BBBS Ambassador is Kyle Rapposelli!



Big: Kyle **Little:** Richard

1. How long have you been matched with your Little? Did you get off to an easy start?

We have been matched for just about a year now. When we first started hanging out it was hard trying to get to know him but it wasn't long before he opened up to me and I began to consider him more of a friend than anything.

2. What are some of the qualities you admire most in your Little?

The qualities I admire most about my Little are his kind heart and great attitude. He is always

smiling and is a great kid to hang out with. I also admire him for overcoming and dealing with many adversities and challenges he has had to face.

3. Have there been any rocky moments? If so, how did you handle them?

The hardest thing is finding a time when both of us are able to meet. Besides that, we have a great relationship without rocky moments.

4. What is a typical activity like with your Little? Any favorites?

We often go see movies or go to sporting events. Some times we just hang out, watch TV or talk. One of my favorite things we did was hike Mt. Nittany together on a beautiful day last spring.

5. Why would you recommend BBBS to a friend?

It is a great program that builds and creates lasting friendships.



BBBS thanks Kyle and sends him many Congratulations!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Luree Schnitzler (Mary Kay Activity), **Anita Thies** (basketball tickets), **Calvary Baptist Church** (hosting events, Blessing boxes), **Easterly Parkway** (for Helping Hands invitation), **Mad Mex** (for room space)

Welcome new Bigs!

Cynthia Berger, William Carlsen, Chris Romagni, Jennifer Pear, Ally Frericks, Saletia Stokes, Andrew Cheshire, Stephanie Smith, Joe Dulaney, Katie Giampa, Adam Duff, Melissa Troop, Mary Rohrer-Dann, Julie McGinn, Katy Robison, Stacy Newburg, Jennifer Howard, Brittany Grabois

Cool pic of the month!



Nicole and Sabrina make some very crafty pigs. Nice work ladies!
Keep sending those pictures Bigs!

Happy Anniversary!

ONE YEAR

Kyle R. and Richard
Kelly H. and Julia

TWO YEARS

Rebecca I. and Kylie
Lisa L. and Ashley

FOUR YEARS (wow!)

Sarah F. and Charmaine

They say it's your BIRTHDAY!

Ron Smith
Nicole Vella
Danielle Wallick
Dan Kaczka
Kelly Howard
Jackie McCawley
Meg Handley
Haven Alexander

Ask a Case Manager!

(A new feature to answer volunteer questions. If you have a question you'd like to have answered, email bbbsnews@ccysb.com)

I have been matched with my Little for 3 weeks and I'm having trouble getting him to open up. He is quiet and a little shy but I thought by now he would be comfortable talking to me. It's like pulling teeth to get him to talk to me! What should I do?

Staying calm and being yourself goes a long way in helping your Little to be comfortable with this new relationship. Just as you probably feel nervous or anxious when you make a new friend, so does your Little.

Plus he doesn't have the experience that you have when it comes to developing relationships. It takes awhile for some kids to open up and be themselves - Be Patient!

In the early stages of the relationship your Little wants to gain your approval and impress you. He probably doesn't want to make a mistake or say something that you might not like. The best thing you can do is continue to be consistent. If you continue to show up, as promised, your Little will learn to trust you and it will be easier for him to start talking.

Once you feel like he is starting to warm up to the idea of communicating, try asking open-ended questions. These are questions that you can't answer with a "yes" or "no". They require more information!! For example, "What are your 3 favorite board games?" or "What do you like to do on rainy days?"

If you feel like you need more training in the area of communication skills, please let our staff know. We would be happy to offer a training session specifically on Communication Skills to all of our Bigs.

But for now, just remember to relax and have fun!!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre County

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