

## *Founder's Corner*

Dear Friends,

We're blooming! It's been an amazing first year filled with daily examples of the growth that happens when kids are in an environment that works for them. I'm filled with gratitude for our team of talented educators and therapists for pioneering a strengths-based school that literally is bringing light and laughter to kids who were struggling and falling through the cracks in other programs.

We believe that the first and most important step is to form trusting relationships between the Learner and Learning Guides. We focus our intentions on truly getting to know each child and creating a safe and nurturing environment as the precursor to academics. It is heartwarming and hopeful to see this critical part of our educational model come to life. Once a child feels comfortable and supported, the barriers to learning are minimized and often disappear. The growth in many areas that follows is remarkable.

In fact, a study of more than 270,000 students who participated in social/emotional learning (SEL) programs found an 11 percentile-point gain in academic achievement compared to students who did not have this focused type of education program. Other positive long-term outcomes include positive social behaviors and attitudes as well as valued life skills such as empathy and teamwork. (For more information, visit: <https://casel.org/impact/>)

Our approach supports social and emotional growth and is rooted in the tenants of child development and aligned with Dr. Stanley Greenspan's DIR/Floortime approach. Our goal is to help each Learner bloom into the best version of themselves. We nurture the whole child and prioritize their social and emotional wellbeing.

We are all inspired by our brave inaugural class of Learners who are realizing their strengths, stepping out of their comfort zones and blooming!

We are thrilled to welcome new families to our community who are seeking a whole-child, developmentally-based education option for their child. Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is open.

Please reach out if you have questions, would like more information about our program or would like to schedule a tour.

Happy Spring!



Laura Rauman  
Founder and President



Please visit our website to see a video tour of our unique space: [www.bloom360.org/video-tour/](http://www.bloom360.org/video-tour/)

# Bloom360 in Action

**Can You Feel the Force?** – Building on the success of our recent catapult project, Learners designed, built and tested wooden race cars to further their understanding of motion and force. Each Learner had their own objectives for this project which ranged from decorating their car to making modifications and collecting/analyzing data based on the changes that were made. Learners planned and constructed the test ramp with aluminum siding they purchased at Home Depot. The demonstrations and Q&A session were a fun community-building activity for everyone.



**Understanding Me** - Learners are becoming familiar with the five core elements of human development: emotional, body, social, spirit and mind. These elements are represented in the five leaves on our Bloom360 tree. The driving question is: How can I grow in each of these elements during 2018? Each Learner is choosing one practice in each of the elements and then creating a visual to share their intentions.

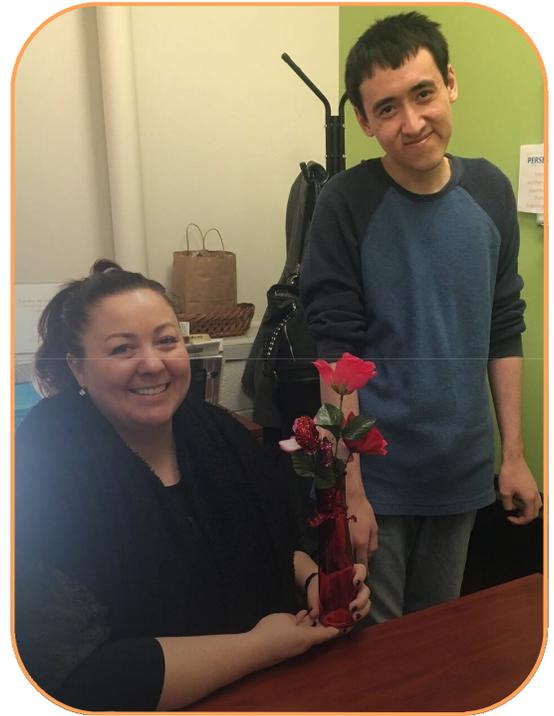


**Cooking for our Community** – The kitchen at Bloom360 is a favorite spot for Learners to experiment, create and share the fruits of their labor with an eager team. One Learner has branched out from making her favorite cookie recipe to trying new, complex recipes and even creating monthly lunches for everyone in the building. Pancakes and Pajamas was a recent treat and a fun way to enjoy a wintery school day.



# Project-Based Learning

**Expanding Interests** – A new talent for one Learner is creating seasonal floral arrangements and sharing them with members of the team to brighten their offices. This Learner has a passion for art and design that could open up a career path in his future. We are working at his pace to help him create and explore this interest.



**The Rhythm of Blooming** – The hallways at Bloom360 often are a scene for rhythm and movement. Recently, our Occupational Therapist, who has 35 years of dance experience and has taught adaptive tap dancing classes, offered a tap dancing opportunity to much excitement from two Learners. The Learners were even more excited when two additional Learning Guides joined in the fun. This group can be found creating rhythmic beats around the school on any given day.

**A Pageant with Heart** – A twist on “A Charlie Brown Christmas” included a Learner-led holiday play with a few Learning Guides and staff from Vista360. The project included creating the storyboard, choosing the cast members and inviting her family to watch the final production. Learning Guides and friends from Vista360 participated in a lively performance filled with movement and the Learner delivered the memorable monologue that Linus proclaimed in the Peanut’s special about the true meaning of Christmas.



# With Gratitude

**Giving Tuesday Results** – Thank you to everyone who participated in our Giving Tuesday and Year -End matching campaign. We are thrilled to report we raised \$5,250 that was matched by Vista360, LLC for a total of \$10,500.



**Ale Station Grand Opening** – We truly appreciate the support from the East Troy community. We enjoyed the Grand Opening of the new Ale Station restaurant and appreciate their generous donation. The food and company was fabulous!

**Business of the Month** – Bloom360 recently was the Business of the Month at the PyraMax Bank in Mukwonago. We also will be the featured business at the Third Ward branch in June.

## Create-it Studio and Music Therapy

Our Learners look forward to art, woodworking and music sessions each week. We are very grateful for the time and talents of our art volunteer, Kathy Effinger; our music therapist, Jess Giese and woodworking volunteer, Craig LaCour.



**Save the Date** – Bloom Open Golf Outing and Benefit Dinner – Oct. 4, 2018



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